



1



2

Where there is no vision [revelation], the people perish [cast off restraint]; but happy is he who keeps the law. Prov 29:18

3

- People are counting on our vision
- Vision opens our eyes to traditions that hold us back
- Vision opens our eyes to new truths that push us forward
- Vision makes us responsive to the will of God

4

## Joseph

**Gen 37:2,5** Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. ... <sup>5</sup> Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more.



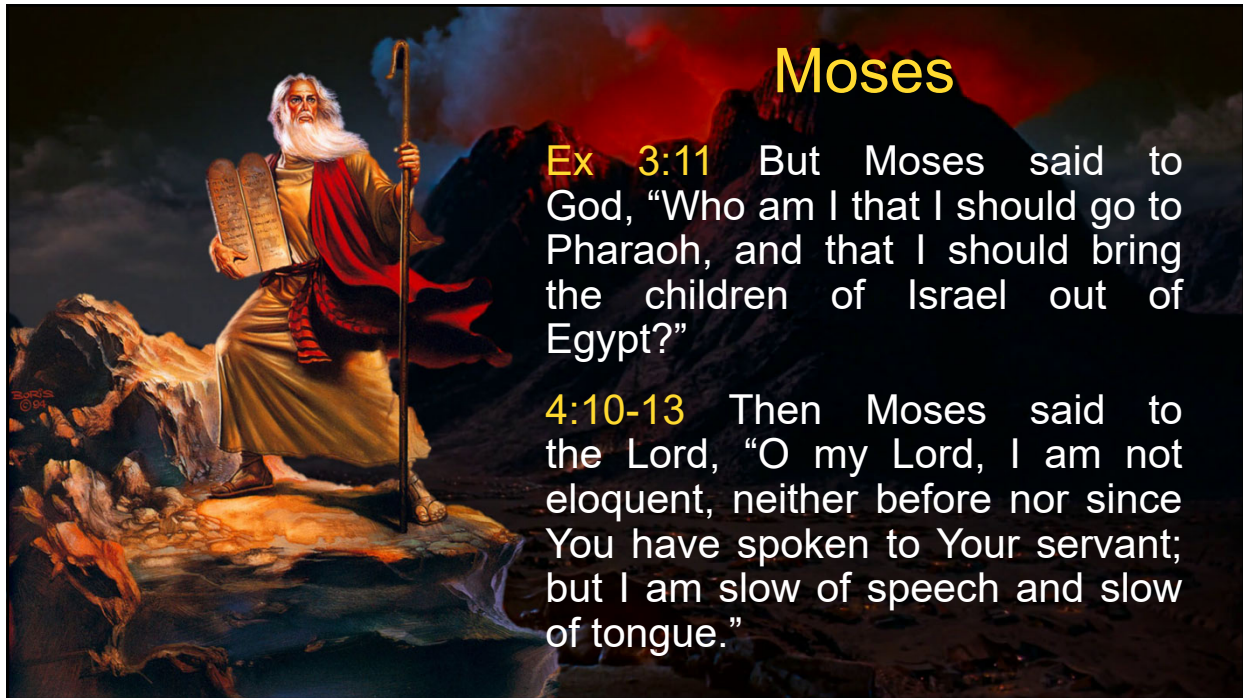
5

**37:23-24** So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him. <sup>24</sup> Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.



6



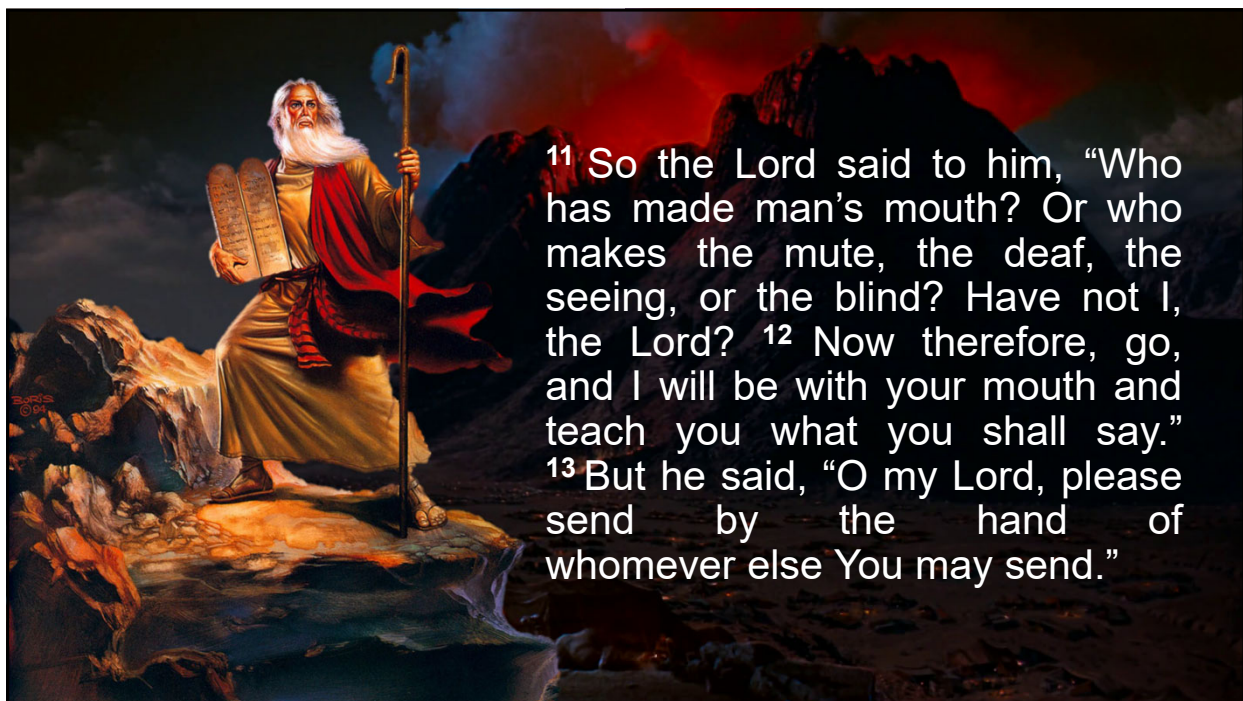


## Moses

**Ex 3:11** But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

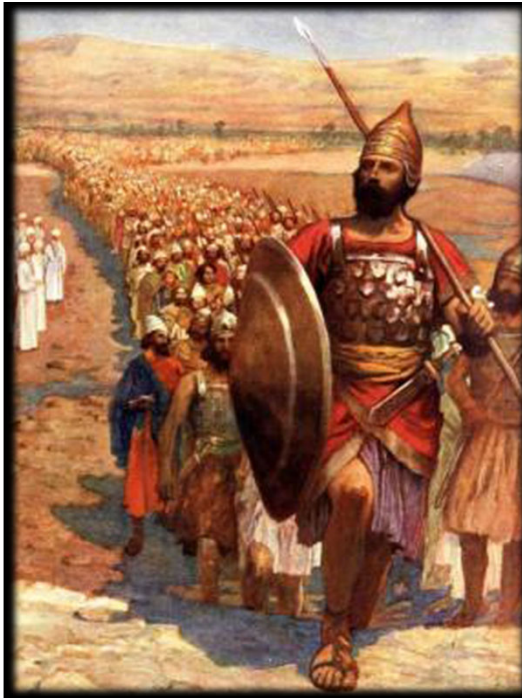
**4:10-13** Then Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

7



<sup>11</sup> So the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? <sup>12</sup> Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say." <sup>13</sup> But he said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send."

8



## Joshua

**Josh 1:5-6** No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. <sup>6</sup> Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

9

## David

**1 Sam 16:11** And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep."

**Ps 17:8-9** Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings, <sup>9</sup> from the wicked who oppress me, from my deadly enemies who surround me.

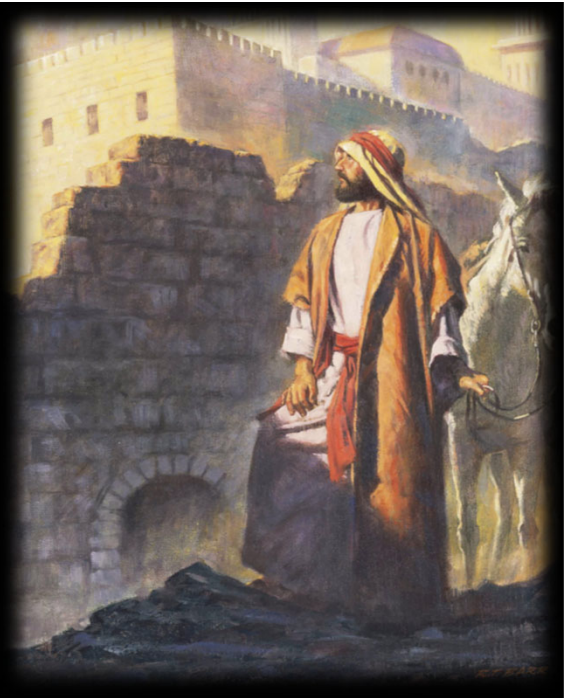


10



## Nehemiah

**Neh 1:4,11** So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. ... <sup>11</sup> O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." For I was the king's cupbearer.

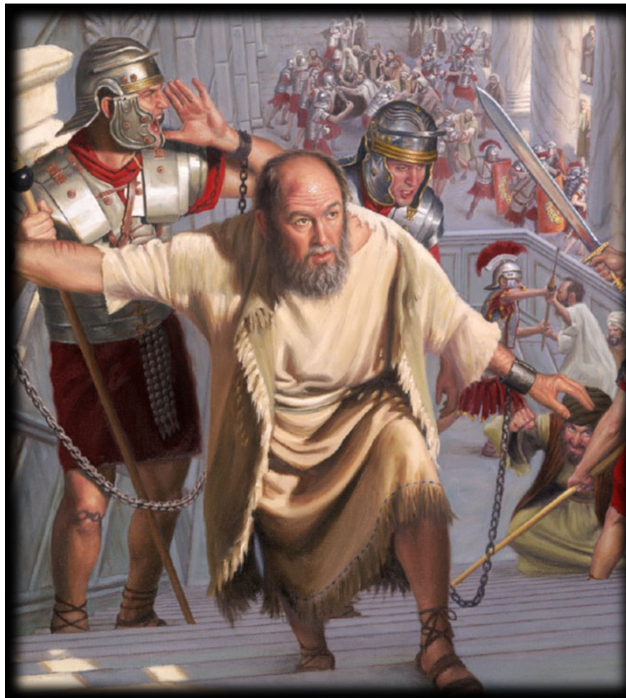


11

## Paul

**1 Cor 2:3** I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom,

**2 Cor 10:10** "For his letters," they say, "are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible."



12

What could possibly have driven  
these people to such great feats?

A clear, inspiring vision of God's  
will for their lives

13

## 1. Vision results in God's glory

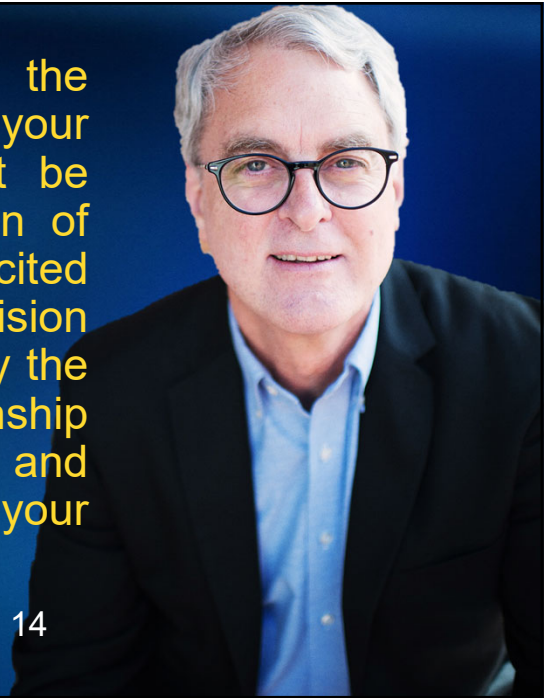
- This is its absolute goal
- Knowing God is the fuel that drives vision

14



"I believe that as you grasp the vision He has prepared for your service, you cannot help but be humbled by that demonstration of His concern for your life, excited about the opportunities His vision will open for you, challenged by the depth of the ensuing relationship between Master and servant, and ecstatic to be able to commit your life to that vision for ministry."

George Barna, *The Power of Vision*, p. 14



15

## 2. Vision reflects a realistic perspective

- Dreams shun reality – vision builds upon it.
- Vision stretches our abilities – including our ability to dream, but it is not pie-in-the-sky daydreaming.
- Instead of being a wild-eyed scheme, vision is a conviction of what could be – but it is always deeply rooted in reality.

16



### 3. Vision requires knowing yourself

- Vision is not an exercise in promoting yourself, your dreams, or your needs.
- But to have vision, you must have a good knowledge of your own abilities, gifts, limitations, values, and desires.
- Knowing yourself involves integrating your personal abilities and limitations within God's plan.

17

### 4. Vision recognizes relevant circumstances

- Although God will not allow your circumstances to limit your potential, He is the God of reality, consistency, and order.
- His vision for you is sensitive to the operational environment He had called you to influence.
- You must have a grasp on existing and potential needs, conditions, competition, opportunities, barriers, and potential

18

## 5. Vision reaches further than we ever would on our own

Without it ...

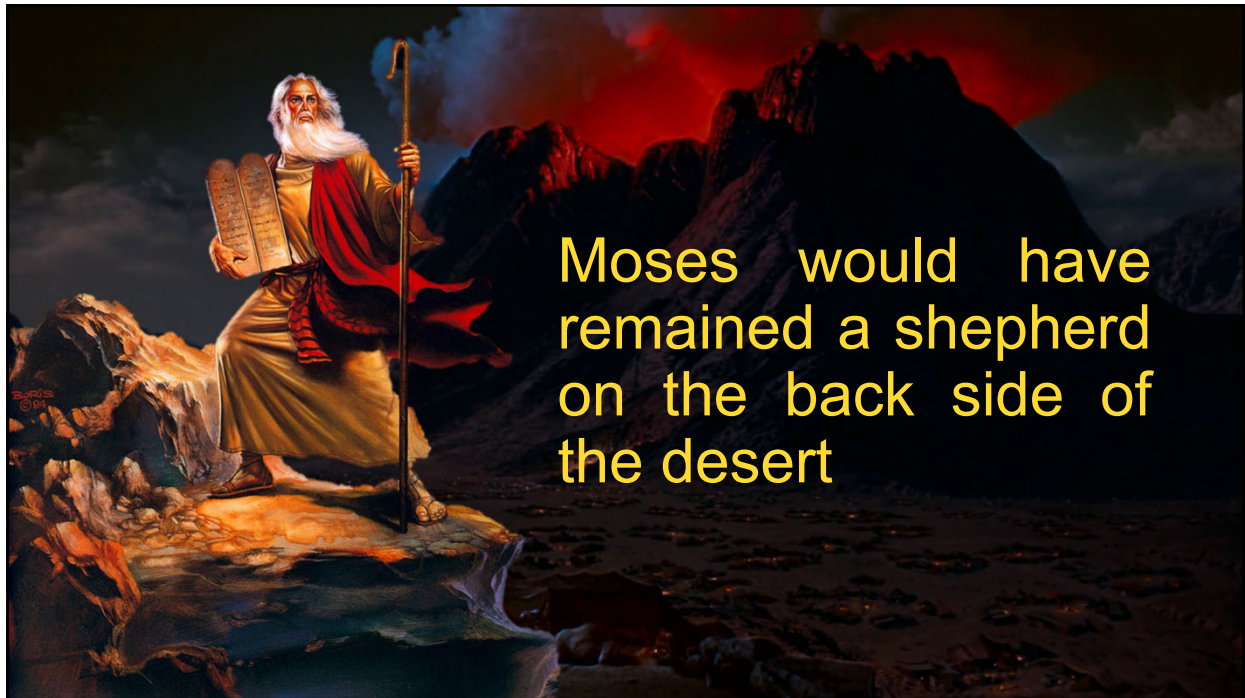
19

Joseph would have  
remained only 1 of  
12 brothers raising  
their father's sheep.



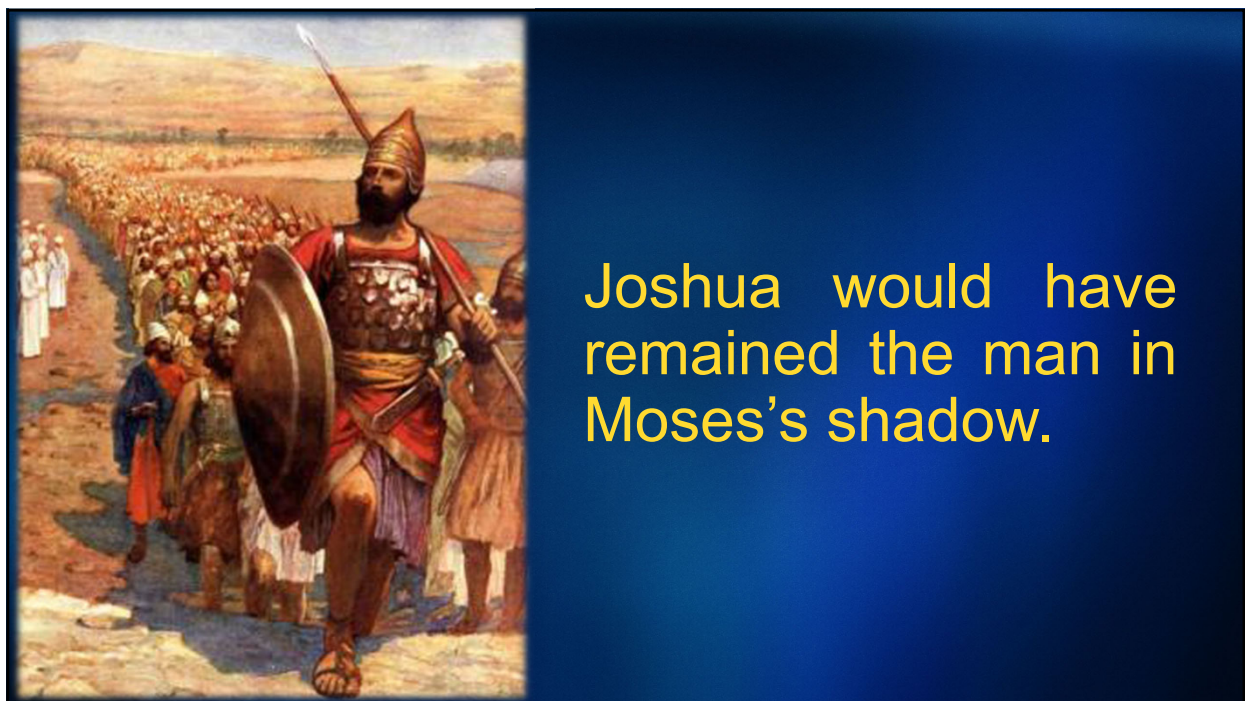
20





Moses would have  
remained a shepherd  
on the back side of  
the desert

21



Joshua would have  
remained the man in  
Moses's shadow.

22



David would have remained a forgotten shepherd boy and a fugitive from the law.

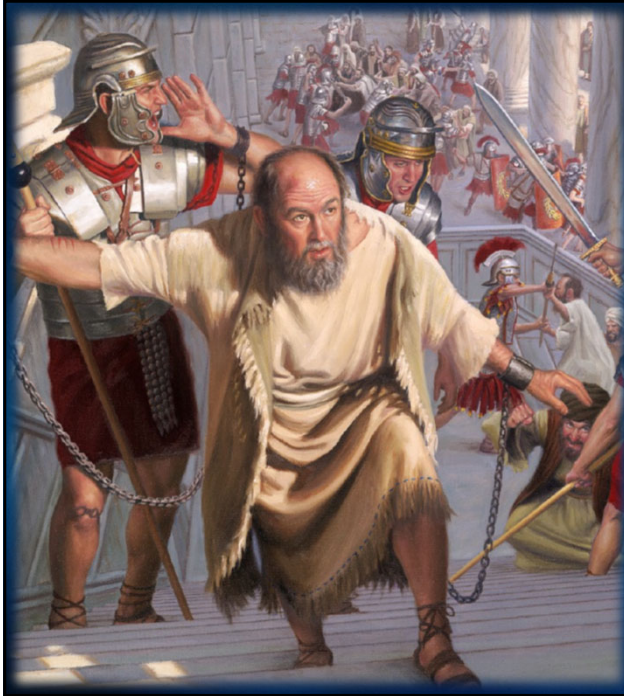


23

Nehemiah would have remained an unknown cup-bearer exiled in a foreign land.



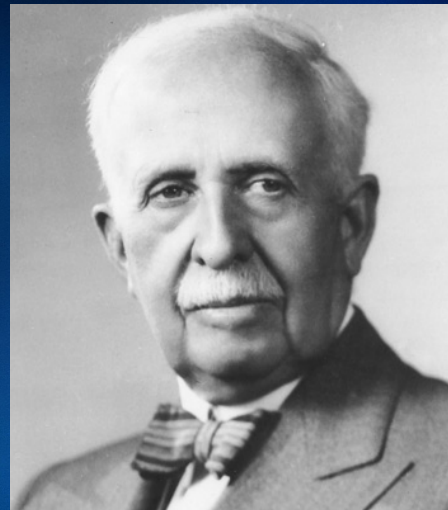
24



Paul would have  
remained a  
rejected and weak  
Apostle.

25

“Give me a stock clerk  
with a goal and I’ll give  
you a man who will  
make history. But give  
me a man without a  
goal and I’ll give you a  
stock clerk.” J. C. Penney

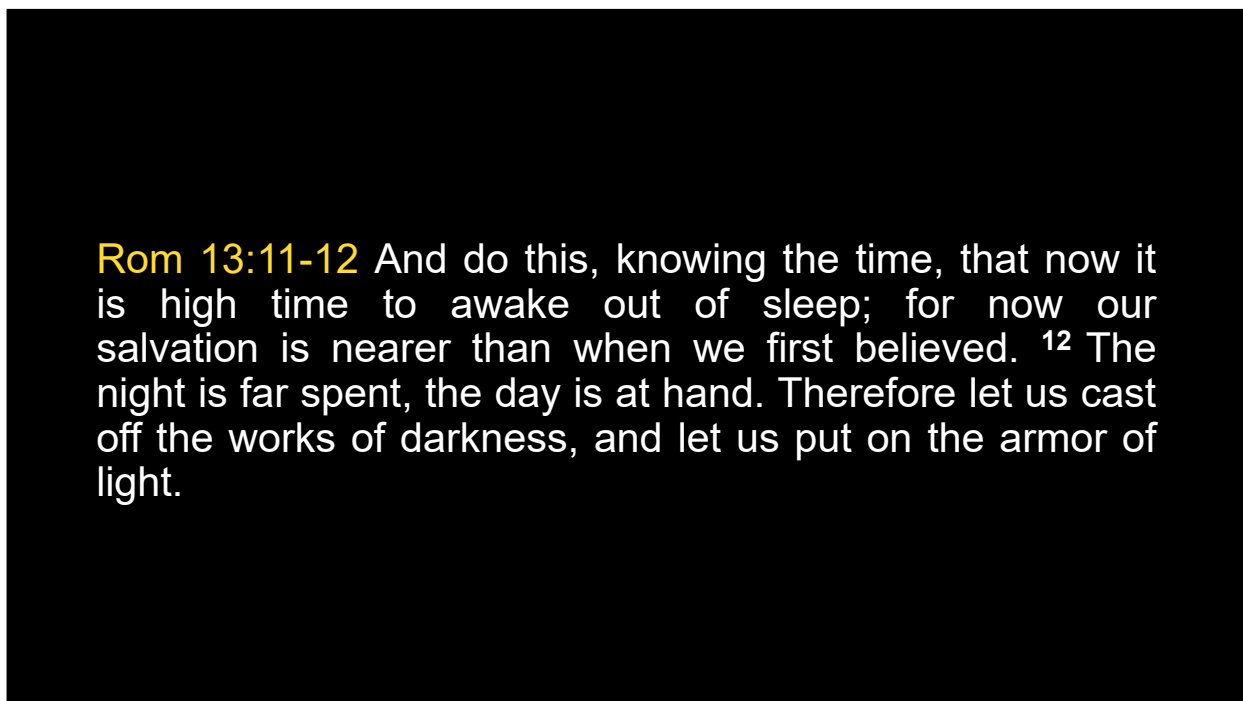


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