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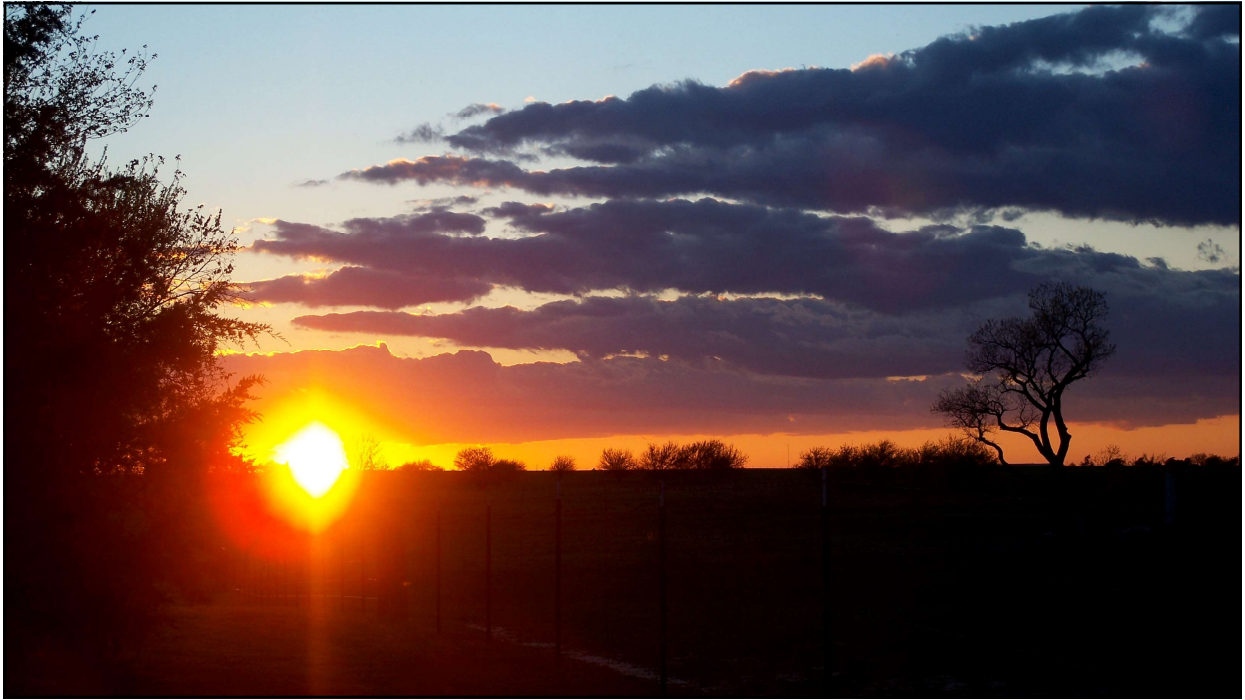
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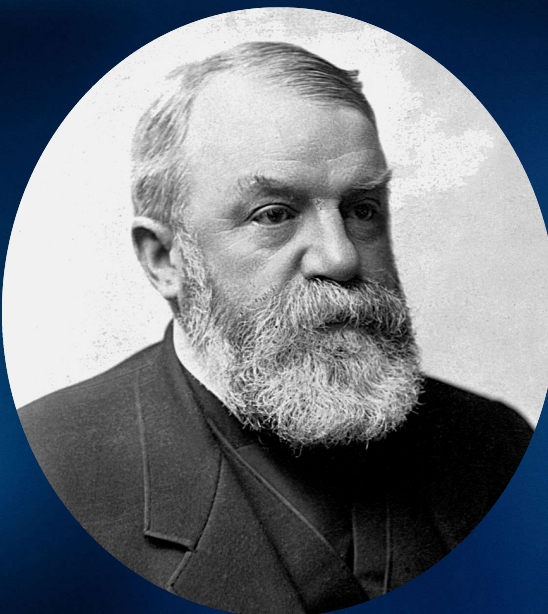
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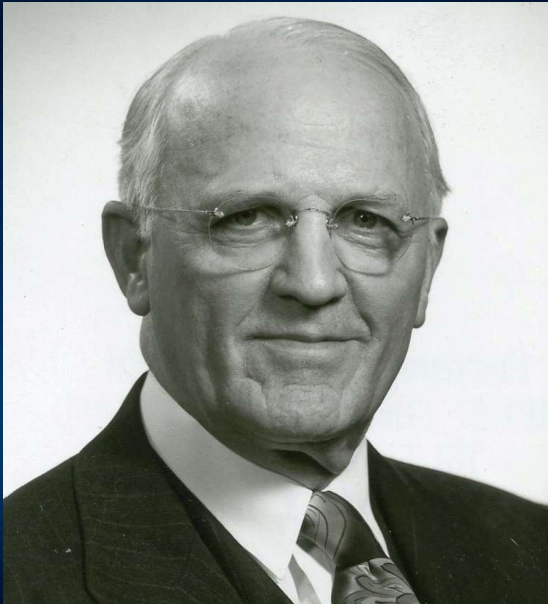
10

A circular, black and white portrait of D.L. Moody, an older man with a full white beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit and tie. The portrait is set against a dark blue background.

In 1899, D.L. Moody said:

“Is this dying? Earth recedes. Heaven opens before me. Why this is bliss. There is no valley here. I have been within the gates. Earth is receding; heaven is opening; God is calling; I must go.”

11

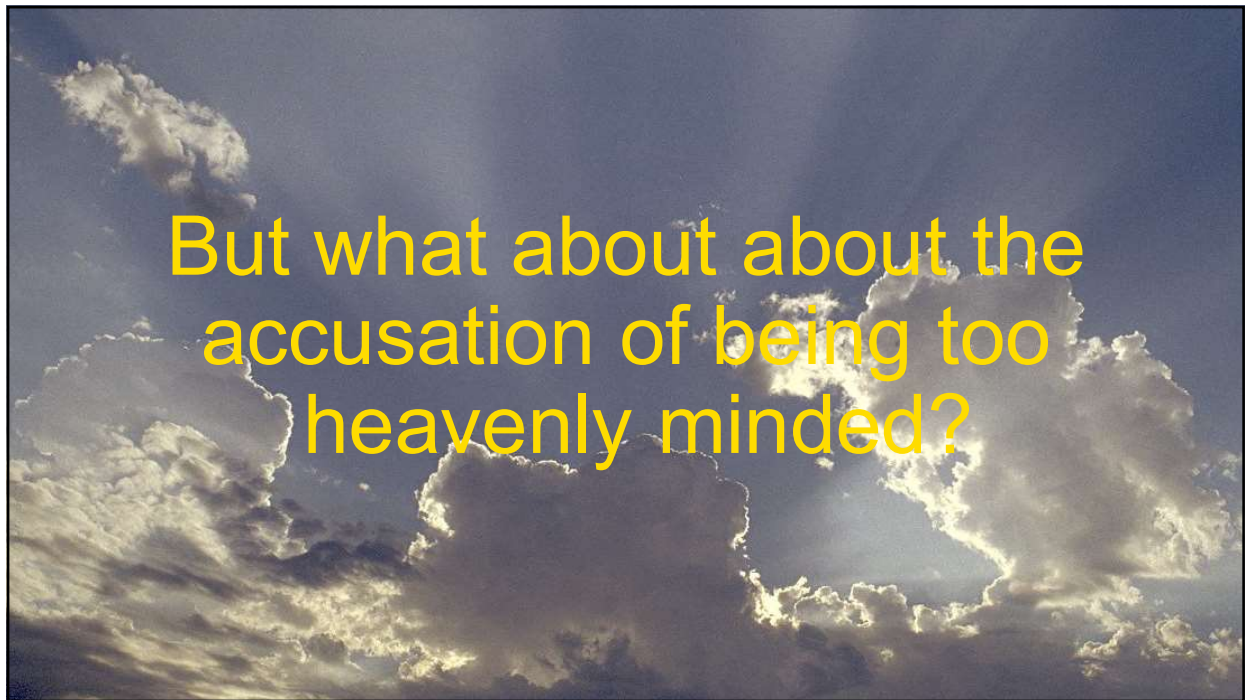
A black and white portrait of R.G. Lee, an older man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. The portrait is set against a dark blue background.

“I missed it! I missed it! Heaven – I missed it!”

“Tell them that heaven is so wonderful that they should ignore everything I ever said concerning it. What I said was so far from the mark, nothing I said even comes close!”

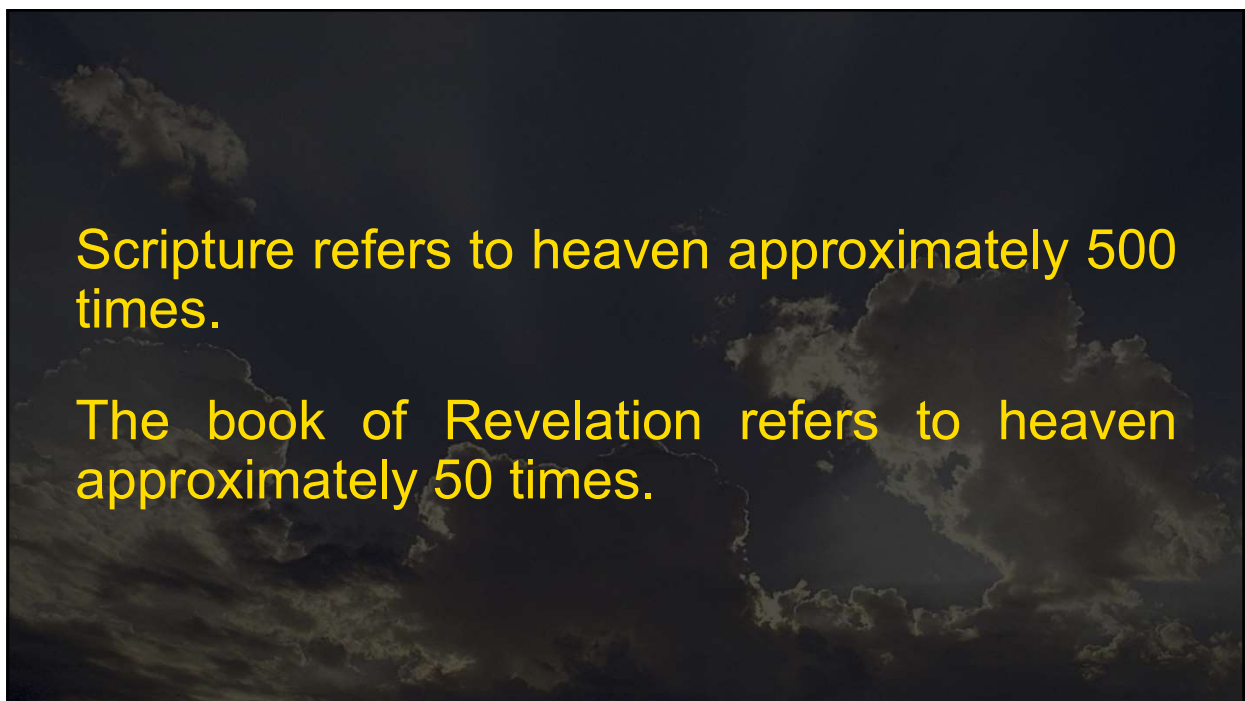
R.G. Lee

12



But what about about the
accusation of being too
heavenly minded?

13



Scripture refers to heaven approximately 500
times.

The book of Revelation refers to heaven
approximately 50 times.

14

Believers have always been preoccupied with heaven:

Ps 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.

Heb 11:13,16 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ... But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

15

We cannot allow ourselves to focus on this world

Js 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

1 Jn 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16

Why should we focus on heaven?

Col 3:1-2 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Phil 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

17

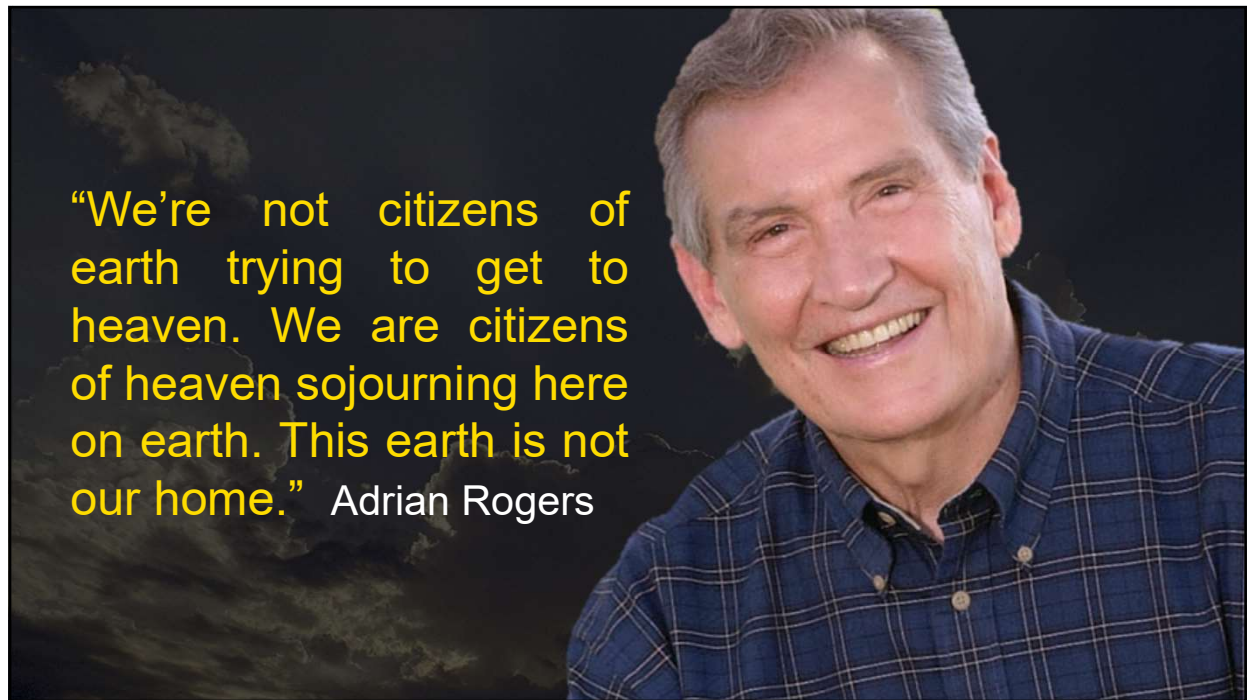
This world is not our home.

1 Chron 29:15 For we are aliens and pilgrims before You, as were all our fathers; our days on earth are as a shadow, and without hope.

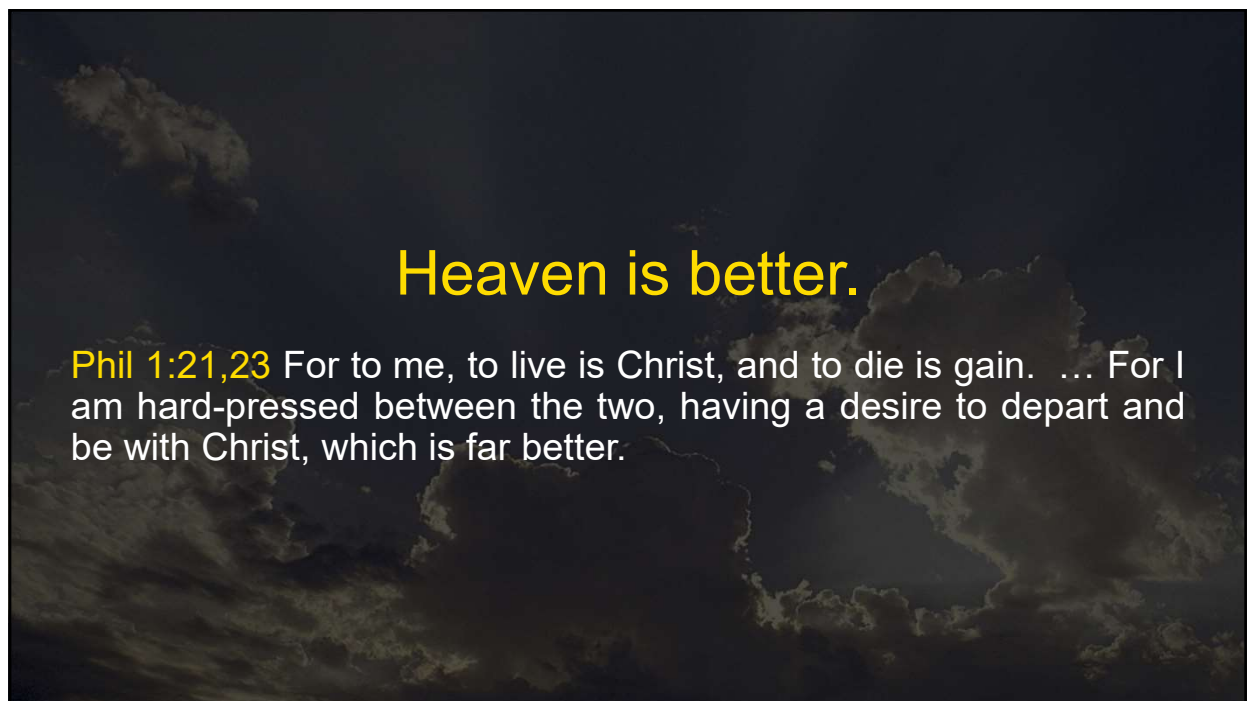
Ps 119:19 I am a stranger in the earth; do not hide Your commandments from me.

1 Pet 2:11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

18



19



20




Longing for heaven aids our spiritual growth.

Lk 12:34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Heaven puts life's trials in proper perspective.

2 Cor 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory

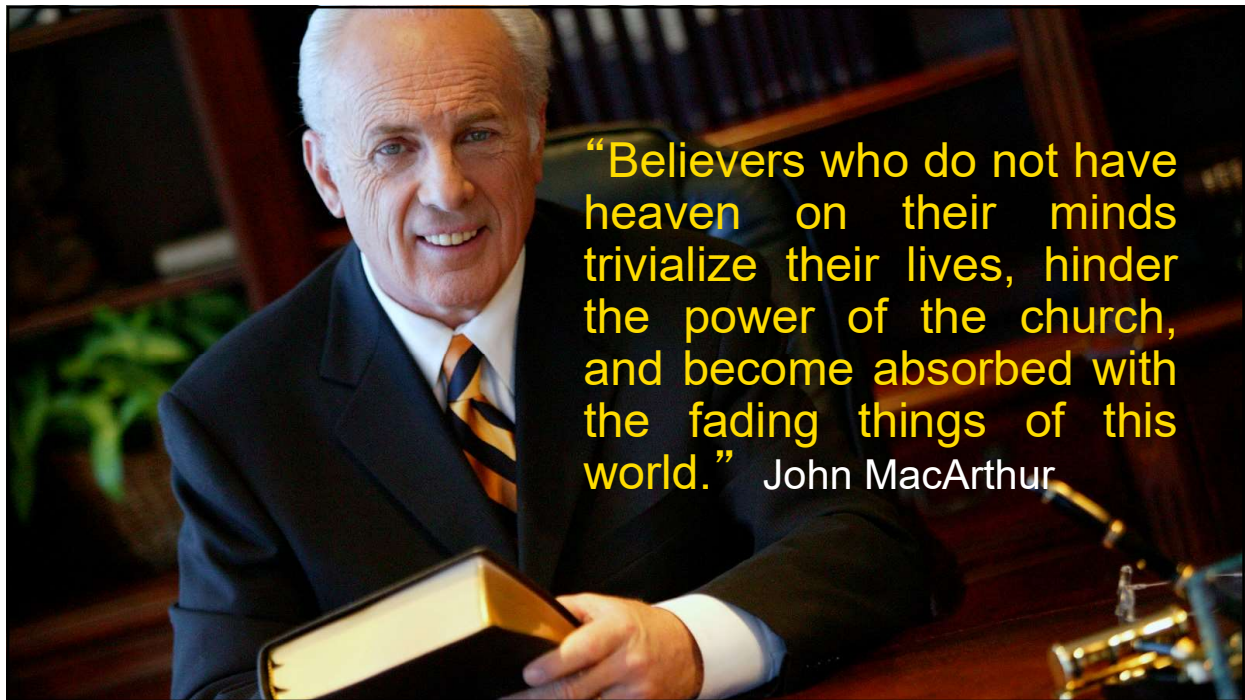
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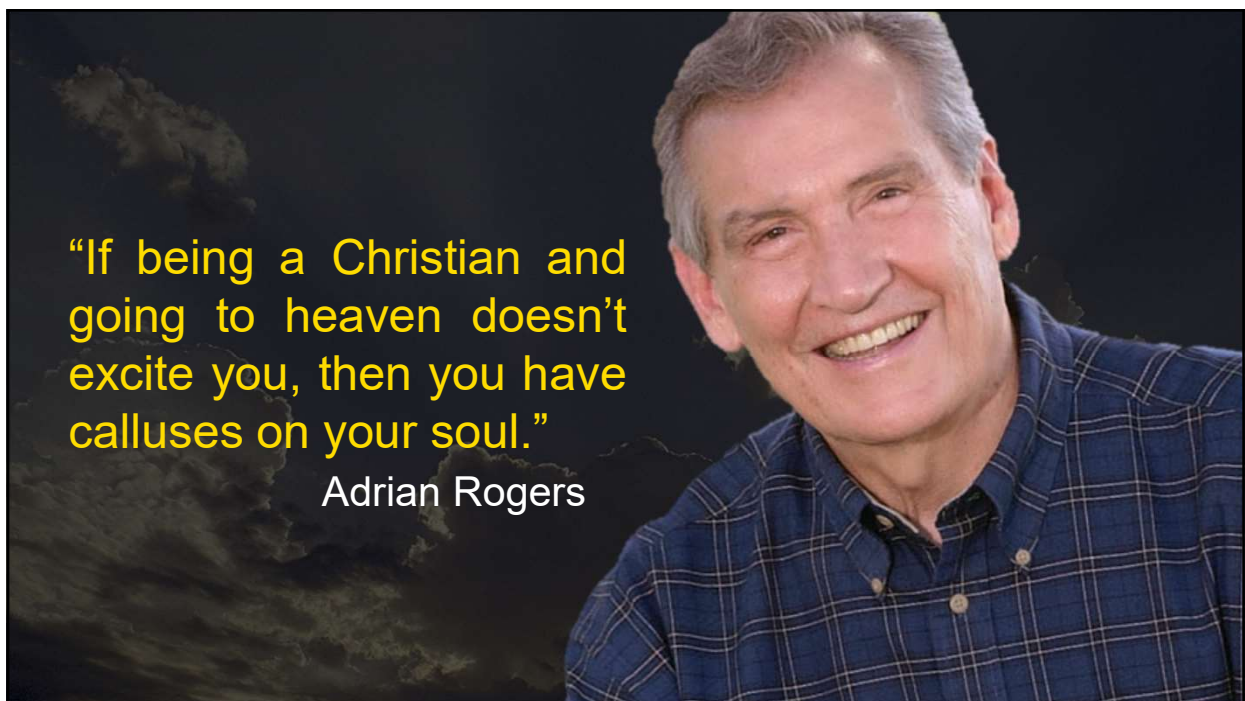
Setting our minds on heaven makes us less vulnerable to temptations.

Rom 8:5-6 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

22



23



24

Heaven will be great because it is built by Jesus.

Heb 11:10,16 for he [Abraham] waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. ... ¹⁶ But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Jn 14:2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

25

Rev 21:1-5 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

26

Rev 22:1-5 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴ They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. ⁵ There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

27

1. Things not there

28

- No more **curse**
- No more **sea**
- No more **tears**
- No more **sorrow**
- No more **pain**
- No more **death**
- No more **temples**
- No more **shut gates**
- No more **night**
- No need of the **sun** or **moon**
- Nothing that **defiles**
- No **abominations**

29

Is 53:3-5 He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

Gal 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us

30

2. Things new there

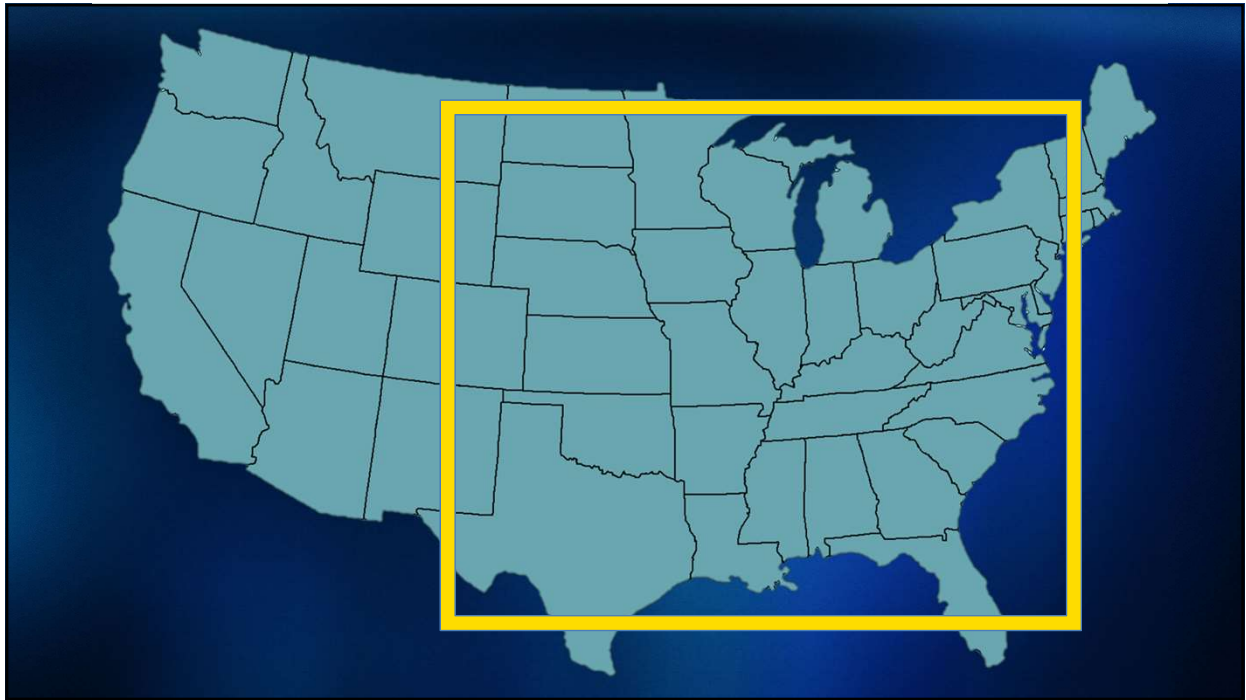
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Rev 21:4b-5a for the former things have passed away.”
⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.”

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- A new **heaven**
- A new **earth**
- The New **Jerusalem**
- **All things** new
- A river of **water of life**
- The tree **of life**

32



33

3. Things now there

34

- Our **names** are there
- Our **inheritance** is there
- Our **treasures** are there
- Our **rewards** are there
- A **full understanding** is there

1 Cor 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

1 Jn 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

35

4. Those now there

36

- The **Father** is there
- **Jesus** is there
- The **angels** are there
- Our **loved ones** and **friends** are there
- All of the **saints** are there

2 Cor 5:6,8 absent from the body, present with the Lord.

Rev 14:13 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. ... that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.'

37

5. Those not there

38

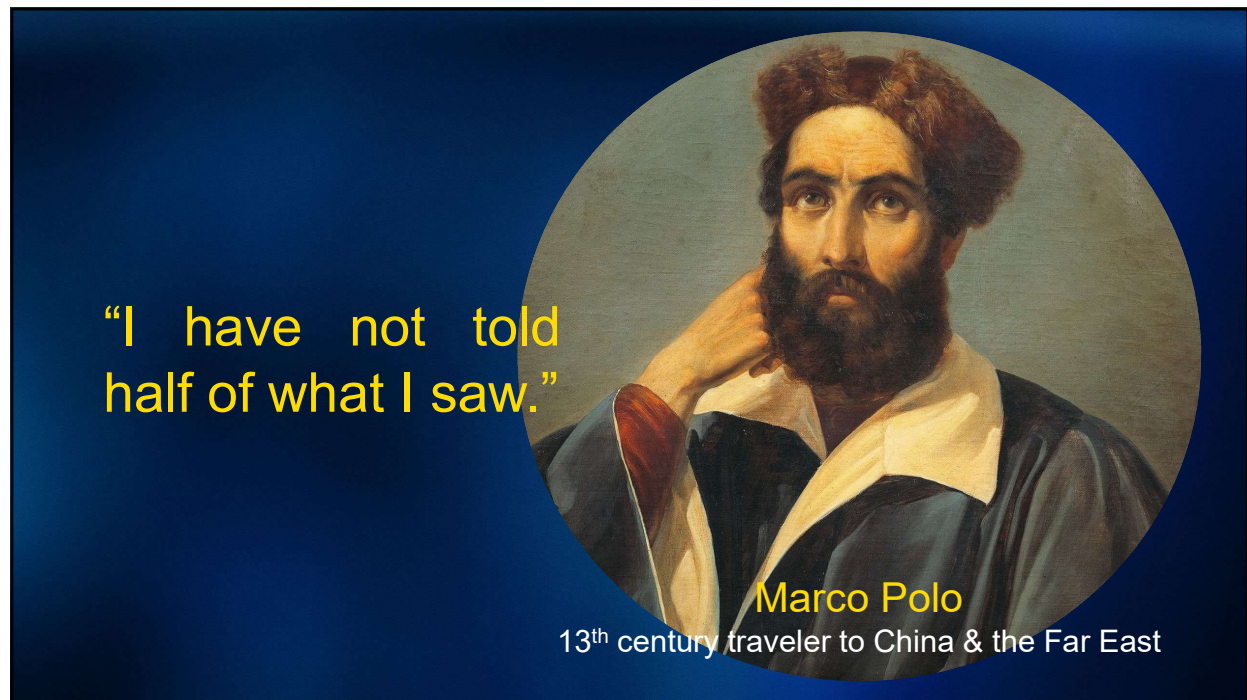
21:8,27 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone ... ²⁷ But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

22:15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

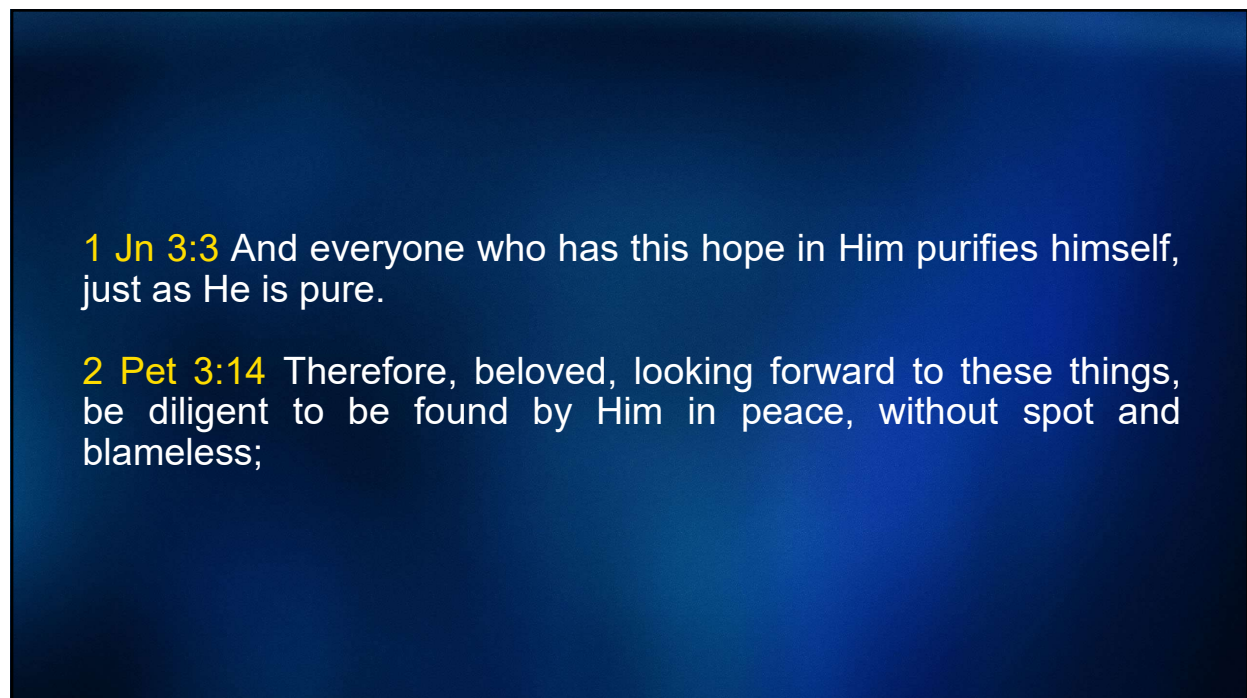
39

“The Devil gives the best first and the worst last, but the Lord saves the best for last.” Adrian Rogers


40



41




42



To produce a pearl , the
oyster has to be:
Wounded, suffer, and die

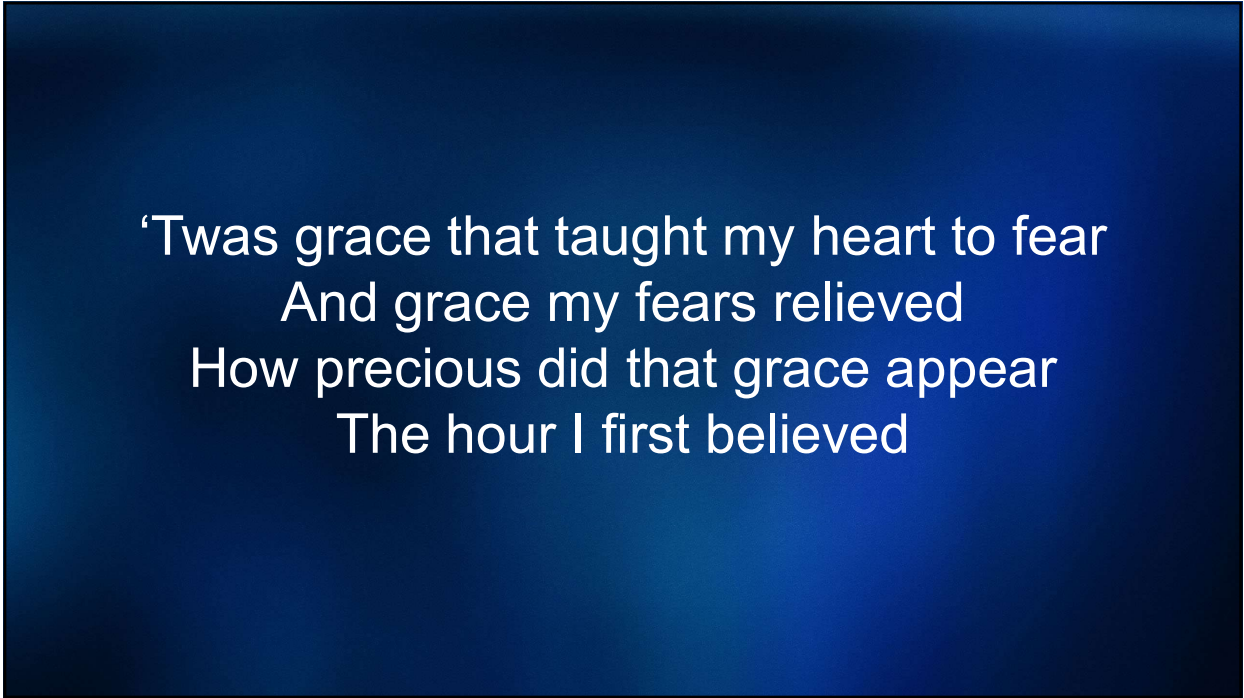
Mt 13:45-46 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, ⁴⁶who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

43



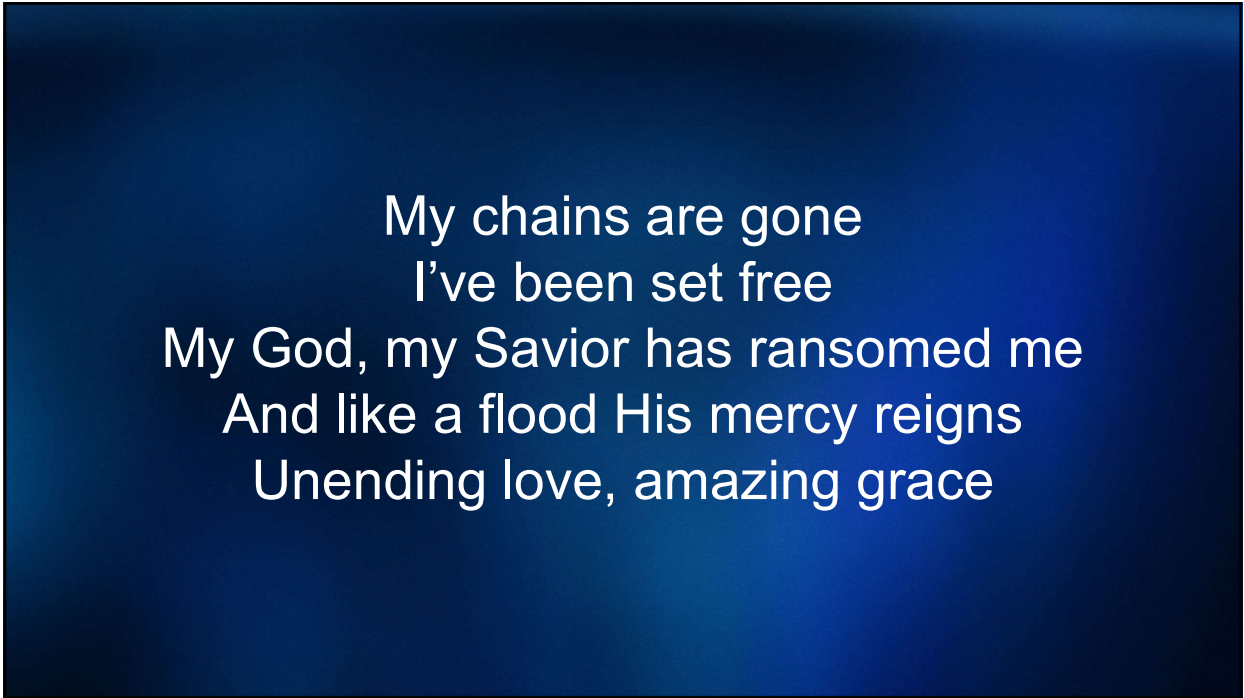
Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

44



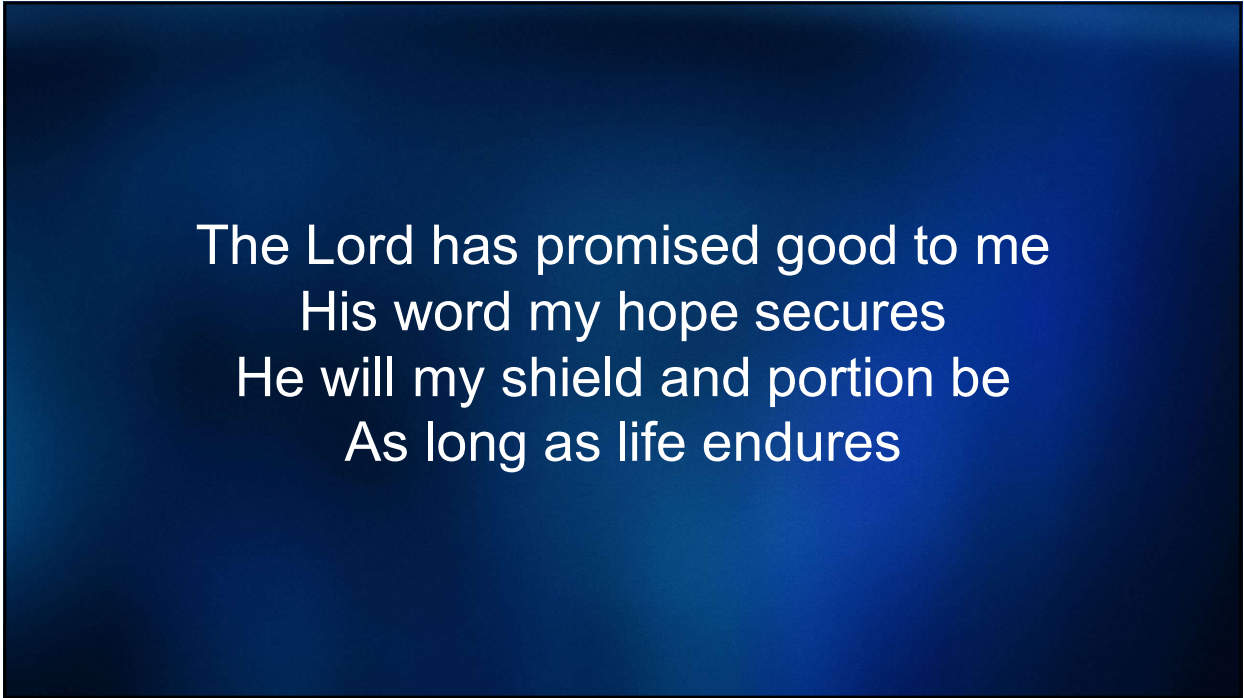
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

45



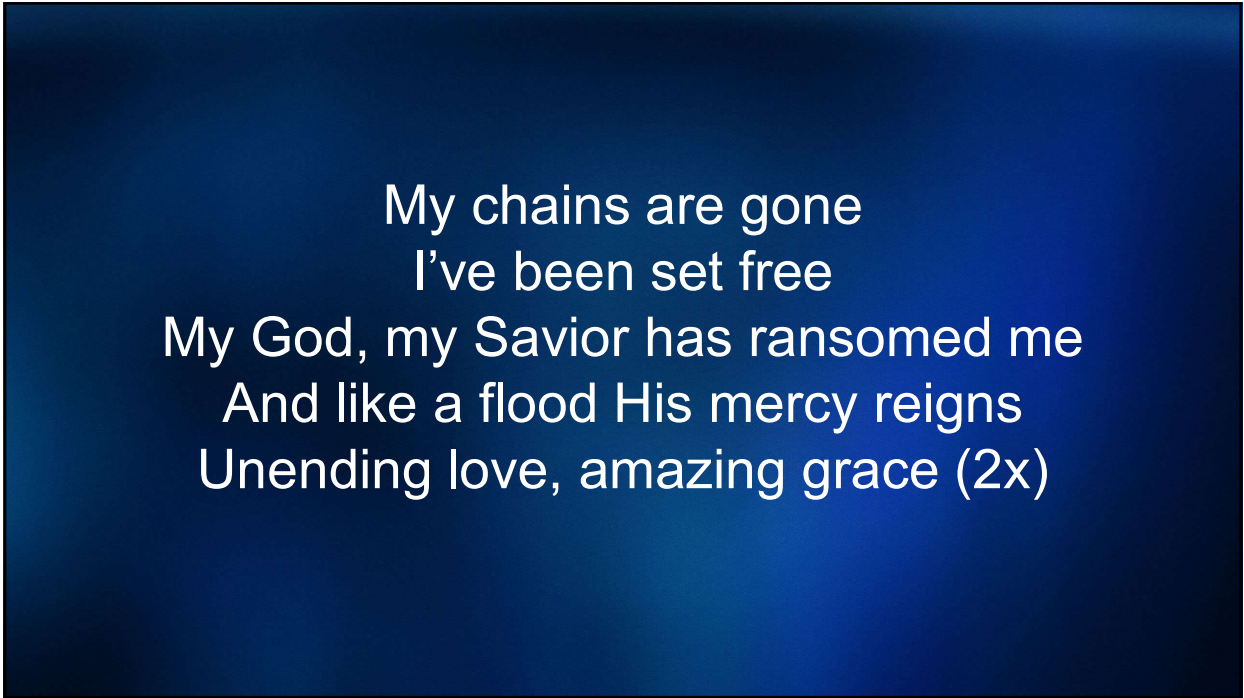
My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace

46



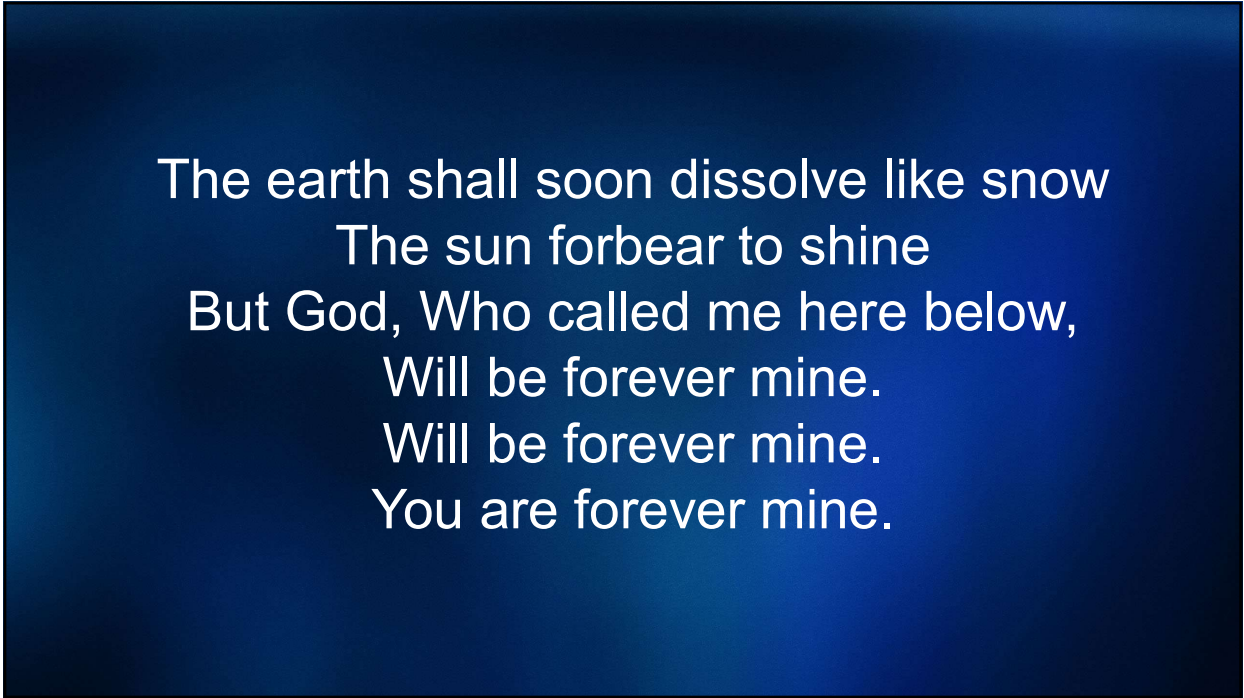
The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

47



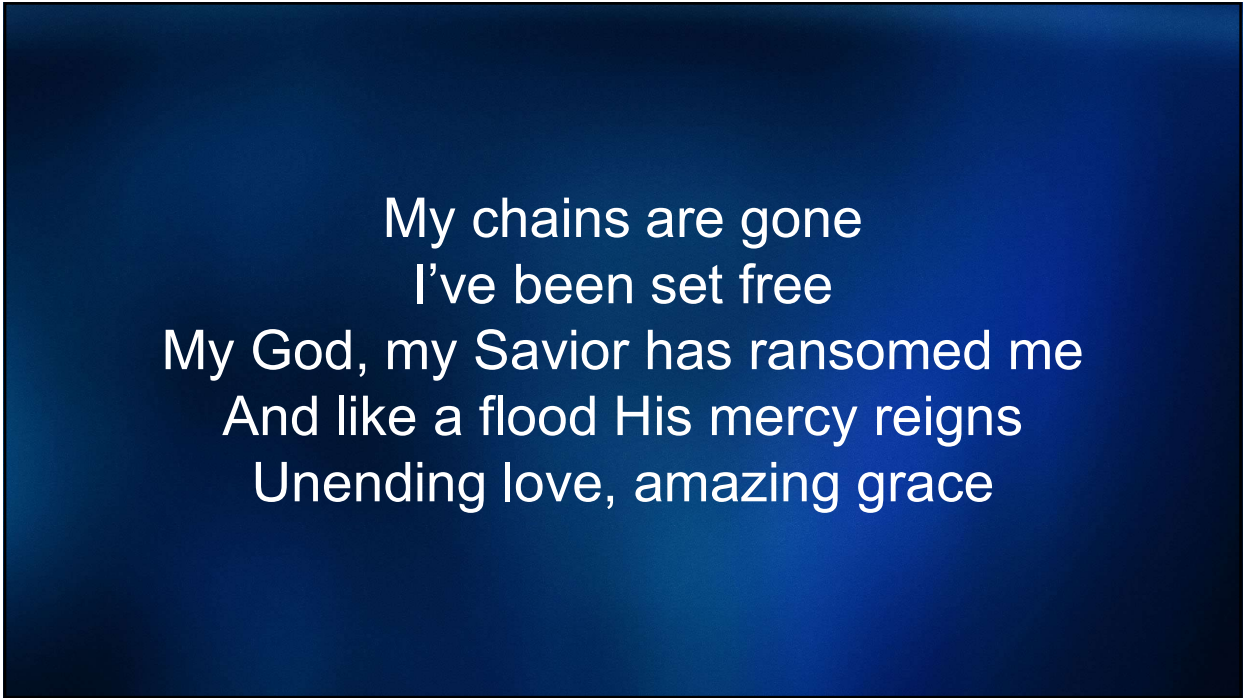
My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace (2x)

48



The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, Who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.
Will be forever mine.
You are forever mine.

49



My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace

50