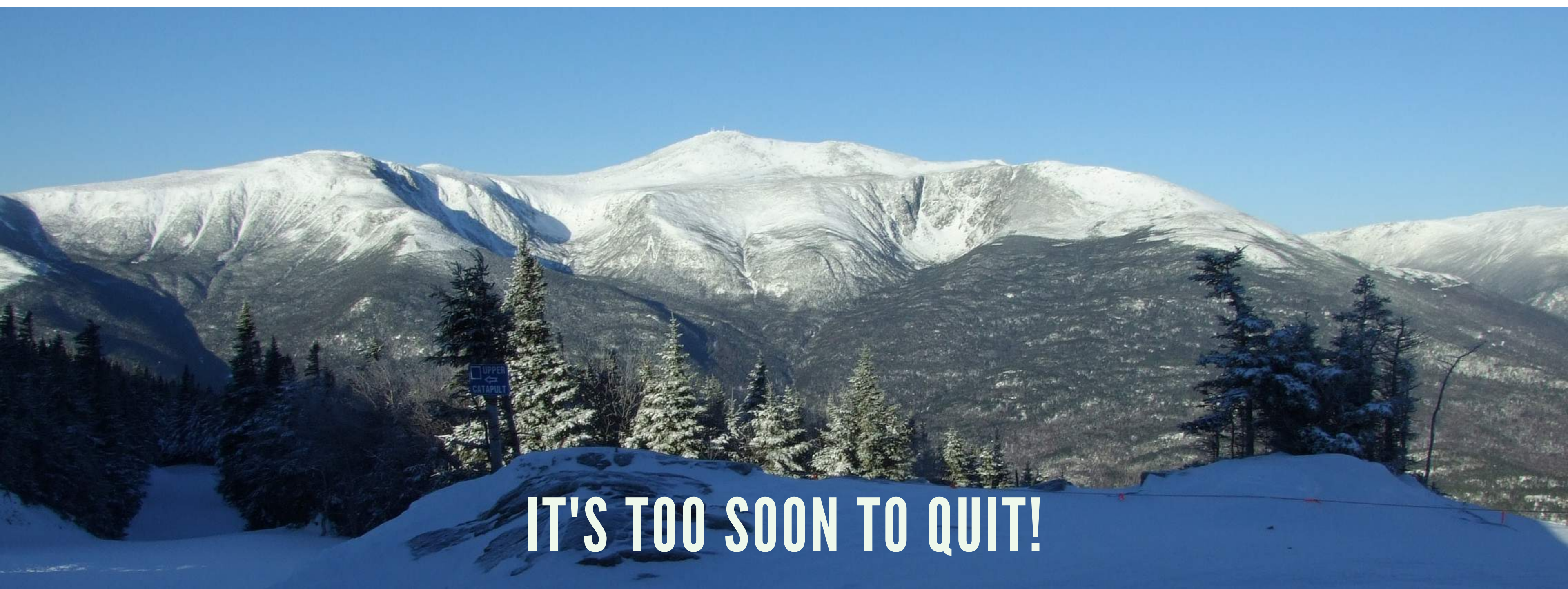




# CAN YOU COMPETE WITH HORSES?

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Jeremiah 12:1-15



**IT'S TOO SOON TO QUIT!**





**I have had enough, Lord!**

# The Weeping Prophet

## JUDAH'S SIN

11 Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols. 12 Be appalled at this, you heavens, and shudder with great horror," declares the Lord. 13 "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

*(Jeremiah 2)*



**SORRY I'M  
NOT LISTENING** 📡

## JEREMIAH 12

**6 Your relatives, members of your own family — even they have betrayed you; they have raised a loud cry against you. Do not trust them, though they speak well of you.**

A hand holding a bundle of grass in a field with a sheep in the background. The text "LIKE SHEEP TO THE SLAUGHTER" is overlaid in white.

# LIKE SHEEP TO THE SLAUGHTER

**18 Because the LORD revealed their plot to me, I knew it, for at that time he showed me what they were doing. 19 I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; I did not realize that they had plotted against me, saying, "Let us destroy the tree and its fruit; let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more."**

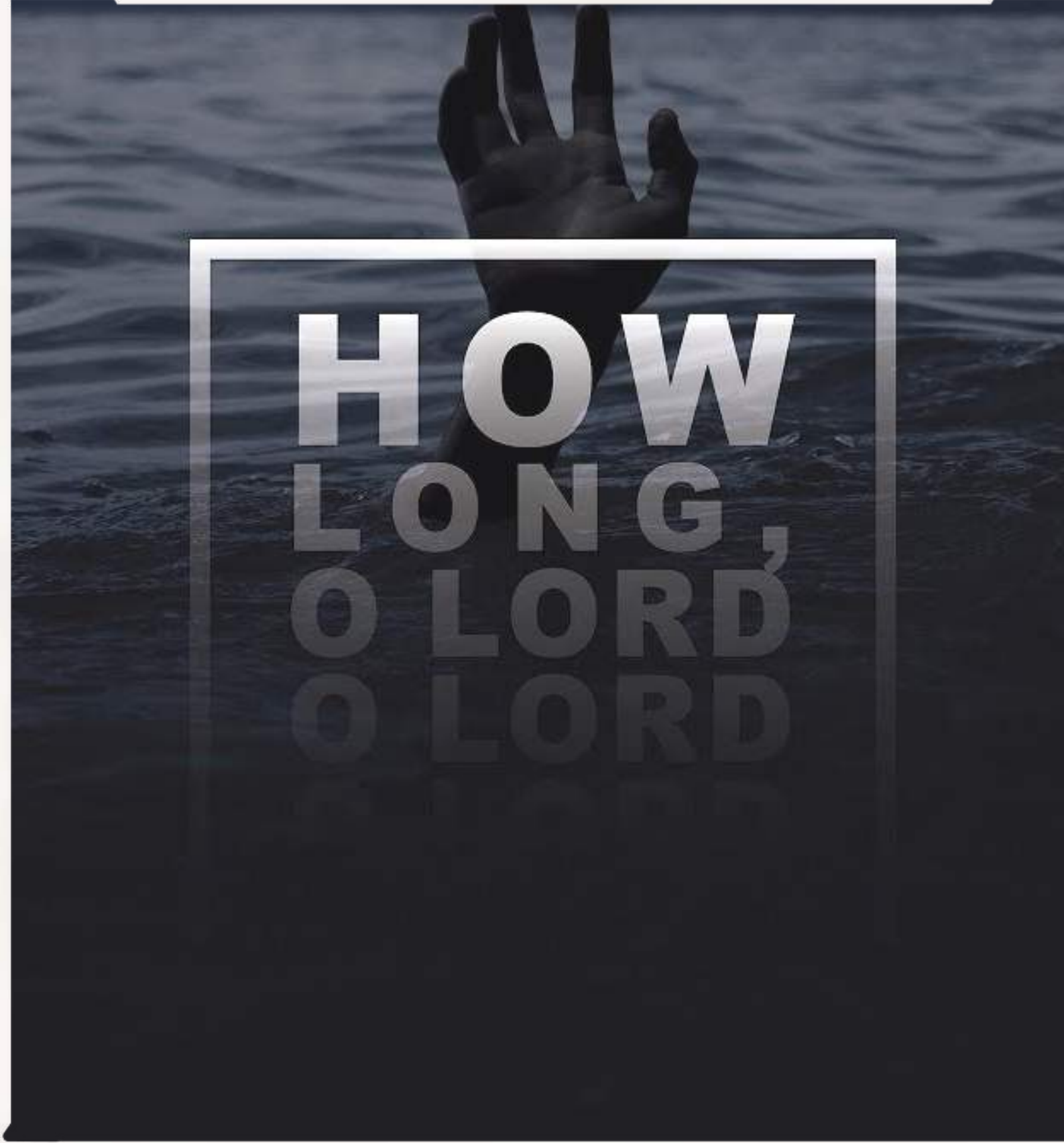
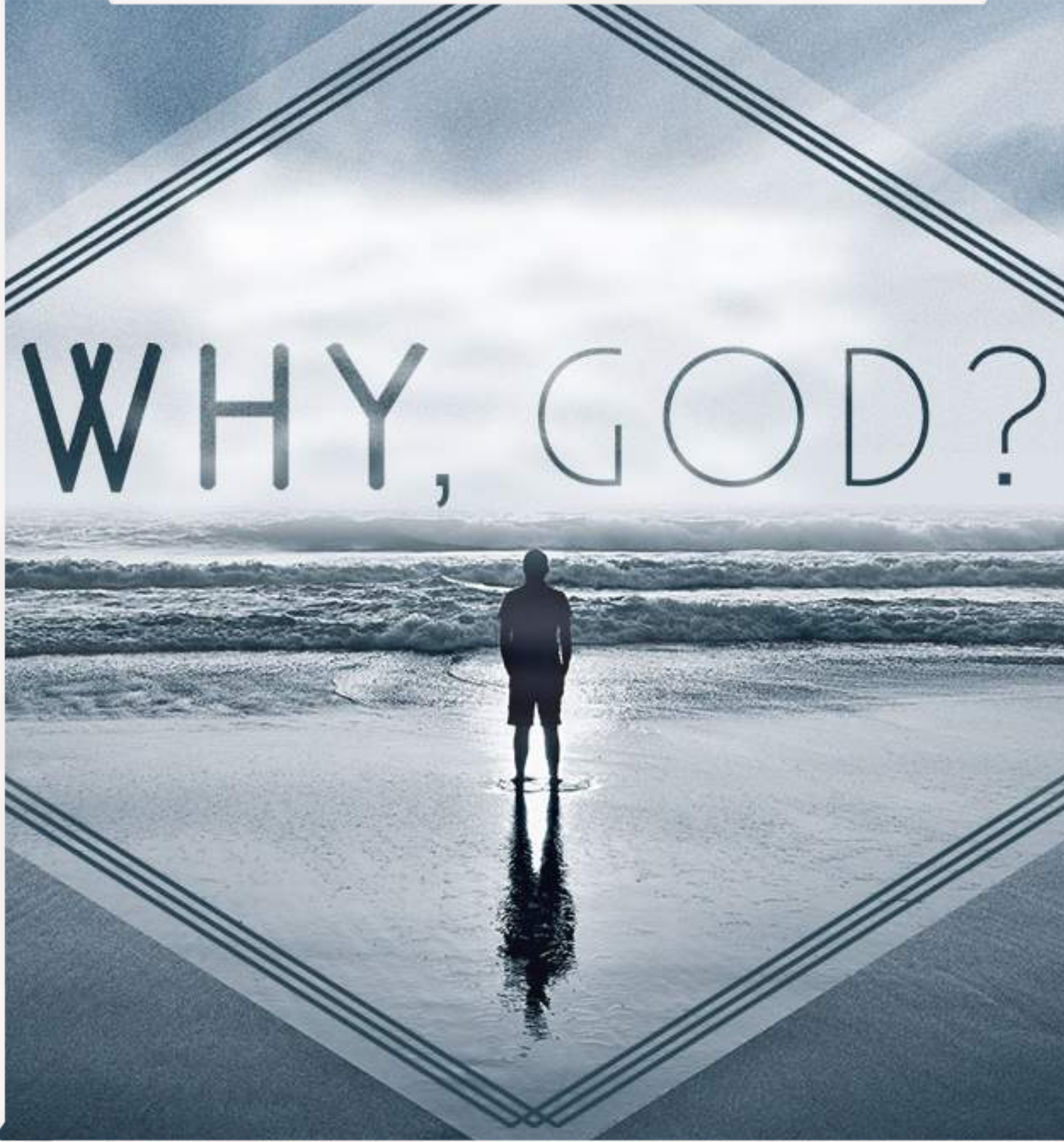
*(Jeremiah 11)*

# Perplexed

**1 You are always righteous, Lord, when I bring a case before you. Yet I would speak with you about your justice: why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all the faithless live at ease? 2 You have planted them, and they have taken root; they grow and bear fruit. You are always on their lips but far from their hearts. 3 Yet you know me, Lord; you see me and test my thoughts about you. Drag them off like sheep to be butchered! Set them apart for the day of slaughter! 4 How long will the land lie parched and the grass in every field be withered? Because those who live in it are wicked, the animals and birds have perished. Moreover, the people are saying, 'He will not see what happens to us.'** *(Jeremiah 12)*









# God's Unexpected Answer

5 'If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?

*(Jeremiah 12)*

Huh?



*Land of Peace*

**19 'Like a lion coming up from Jordan's thickets  
to a rich pasture-land,  
*(Jeremiah 49)***





## Eugene Peterson

Life is difficult, Jeremiah. Are you going to quit at the first wave of opposition? Are you going to live cautiously or courageously? ... At the first sign of difficulty you are ready to quit. If you are fatigued by this run-of-the-mill crowd of apathetic mediocrities, what will you do when the real race starts, the race with the swift and determined horses of excellence? What is it you really want, Jeremiah, do you want to shuffle along with this crowd, or run with horses?

# Building resilience



# God's Game Plan

We have to outlast the footmen first, before we can compete with the horses. We have to endure the lesser first, before we can endure the greater.



**If you see God wanting you to run with horses as the over-exacting demands of a mean God who wants more and more of you, then this can sound like an awful thing. But imagine for a moment, if you could have the stamina and ability to run with horses and keep up – imagine a wide plain and you’re among a team of wild horses, and as they run into the horizon, you run along with them. Would that not be a thrilling, exhilarating experience? Only in your wildest dreams could something like that happen ... and God wants that for you ... but he says that there is a process to get there. You have to endure the little first, before you can endure the greater.**

***(Eric Hamilton)***



If you fall to pieces in a crisis, there wasn't much to you in the first place. *(Message)*

## **Proverbs 24:10**

*If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. (KJV)*



**ASKING THE  
RIGHT QUESTIONS**

**Warren Wiersbe**

The easy life is ultimately the hard life, because the easy life stifles maturity, but the difficult life challenges us to develop our 'spiritual muscles' and accomplish more for the Lord.

**EASY WAY OUT**





# **BOUNCE BACK**

16 for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes. *(Proverbs 24)*



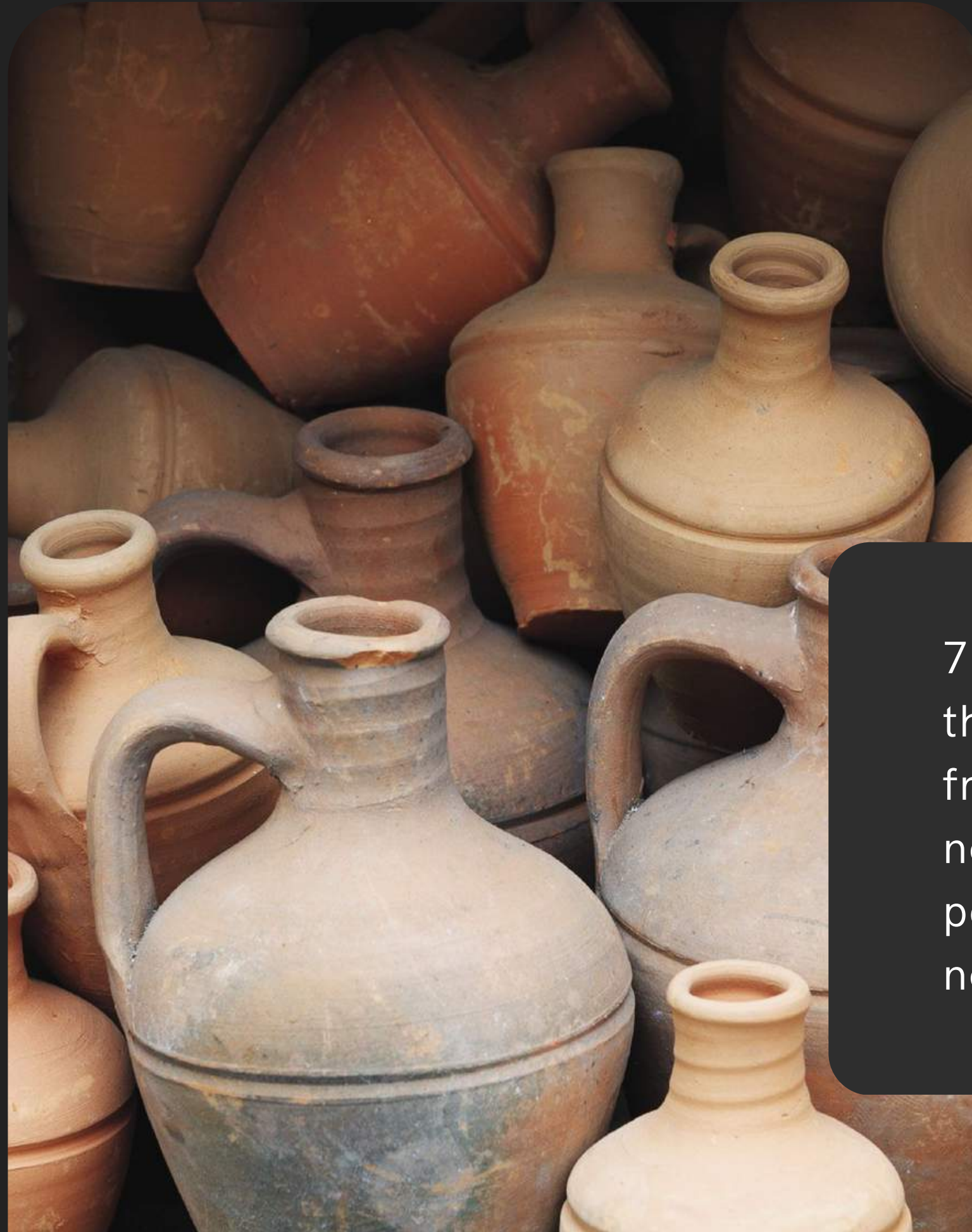
# Union Pacific Railway



# 4 Rs

We want to become spiritually healthy disciples of Jesus Christ who have an interactive relationship with God; with the qualities of being **rooted**, **resilient**, **radiant**, and **reproducing** through the process of learning, training, and growing individually and in communities; achieving exponential growth by “Each one Reach one Teach one and Multiply.”





7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

*(2 Corinthians 4)*