



Distress & Discontentment



*Psalm 120
Higher Ground Series*

Psalm 120

1 I call on the Lord in my distress, and he answers me. 2 Save me, Lord, from lying lips and from deceitful tongues. 3 What will he do to you, and what more besides, you deceitful tongue? 4 He will punish you with a warrior's sharp arrows, with burning coals of the broom bush. 5 Woe to me that I dwell in Meshek, that I live among the tents of Kedar! 6 Too long have I lived among those who hate peace. 7 I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war..

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road through a dense forest. Several cars are visible on the road, including a white car in the upper left, a dark car in the lower right, and another white car further down. The text 'SONGS FOR THE ROAD' is overlaid in a large, bold, orange font, centered over the road. The text is enclosed in a thin orange rectangular border.

SONGS FOR THE ROAD

The Psalms of Ascent



1 How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord Almighty! 2 My soul yearns,
even faints, for the courts of the
Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God. *(Psalm 84)*



TROUBLE

A landscape of rolling hills and a field under a starry night sky. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

IN THIS WORLD
YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE
BUT TAKE HEART
I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD


JOHN 16:33



IN MY DISTRESS
I CALLED TO THE LORD
AND HE ANSWERED ME

PSALM 120:1

2 Save me, LORD, from lying lips
and from deceitful tongues.



“Deliver me from the liars,
God! They smile so sweetly
but lie through their teeth.”
(Psalm 120:1b)

L I E S & D E C E I T

Deceitful: *treacherous*

9 Not a word from their mouth can be trusted; their heart is filled with malice. Their throat is an open grave; with their tongues they tell lies.

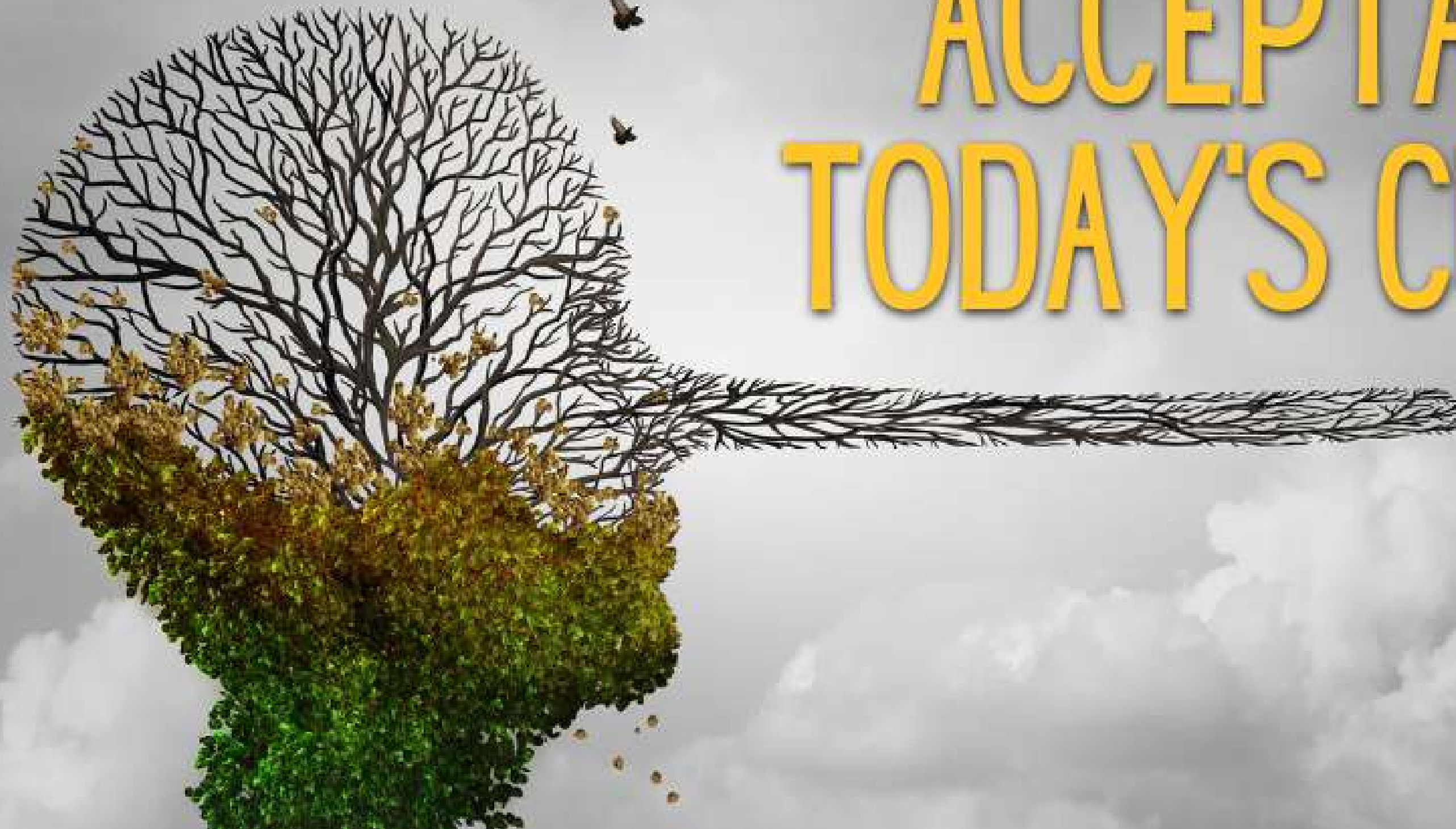
(Psalm 5)

3 They make their tongues as sharp as a serpent's; the poison of vipers is on their lips.

(Psalm 140)



HAS LYING BECOME
ACCEPTABLE IN
TODAY'S CULTURE?



SAVE ME,



O GOD



1 I call on the Lord in my distress, and he answers me. 2 Save me, Lord, from lying lips and from deceitful tongues.

(Psalm 120)



THE LORD'S SEVERE JUDGMENT

Psalm 120

3 What will he do to you, and what more besides, you deceitful tongue? 4 He will punish you with a warrior's sharp arrows, with burning coals of the broom bush.
(Psalm 120)

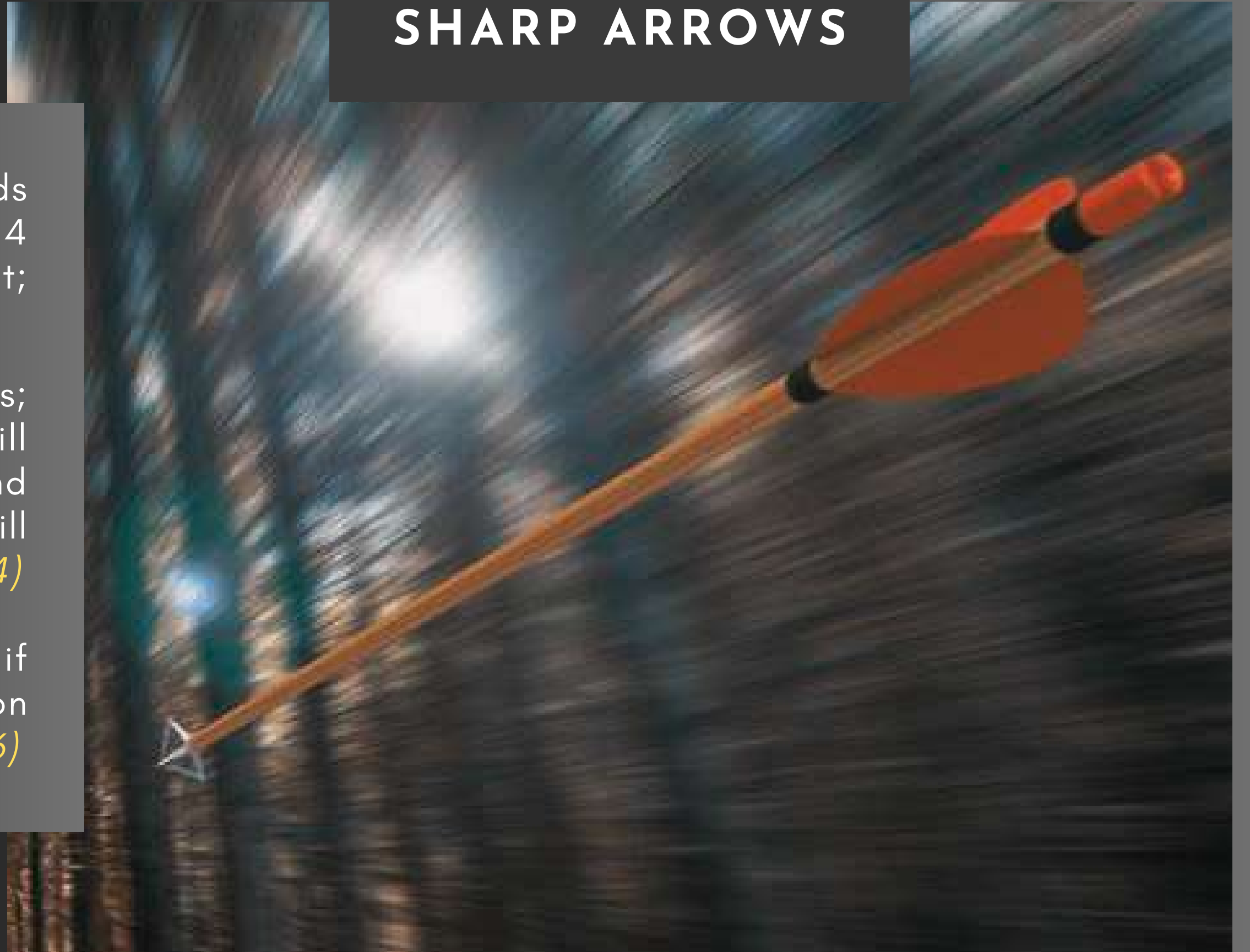


WARRIOR'S SHARP ARROWS

3 They sharpen their tongues like swords and aim cruel words like deadly arrows. 4 They shoot from ambush at the innocent; they shoot suddenly, without fear.

7 But God will shoot them with his arrows; they will suddenly be struck down. 8 He will turn their own tongues against them and bring them to ruin; all who see them will shake their heads in scorn. *(Psalm 64)*

27 Whoever digs a pit will fall into it; if someone rolls a stone, it will roll back on them. *(Proverbs 26)*



BURNING COALS



9 Those who surround me
proudly rear their heads;
may the mischief of their
lips engulf them. 10 May
burning coals fall on them;
may they be thrown into
the fire, into miry pits,
never to rise.

(Psalm 140)


EUGENE PETERSON

Rescue me from the person who tells me of life and omits Christ, who is wise in the ways of the world and ignores the movement of the Spirit. The lies are impeccably factual. They contain no errors. There are no distortions or falsified data. But they are lies all the same, because they claim to tell us who we are and omit everything about our origin in God and our destiny in God. They talk about the world without telling us that God made it. They tell us about our bodies without telling us that they are temples of the Holy Spirit. They instruct us in love without telling us about the God who loves us and gave himself for us.



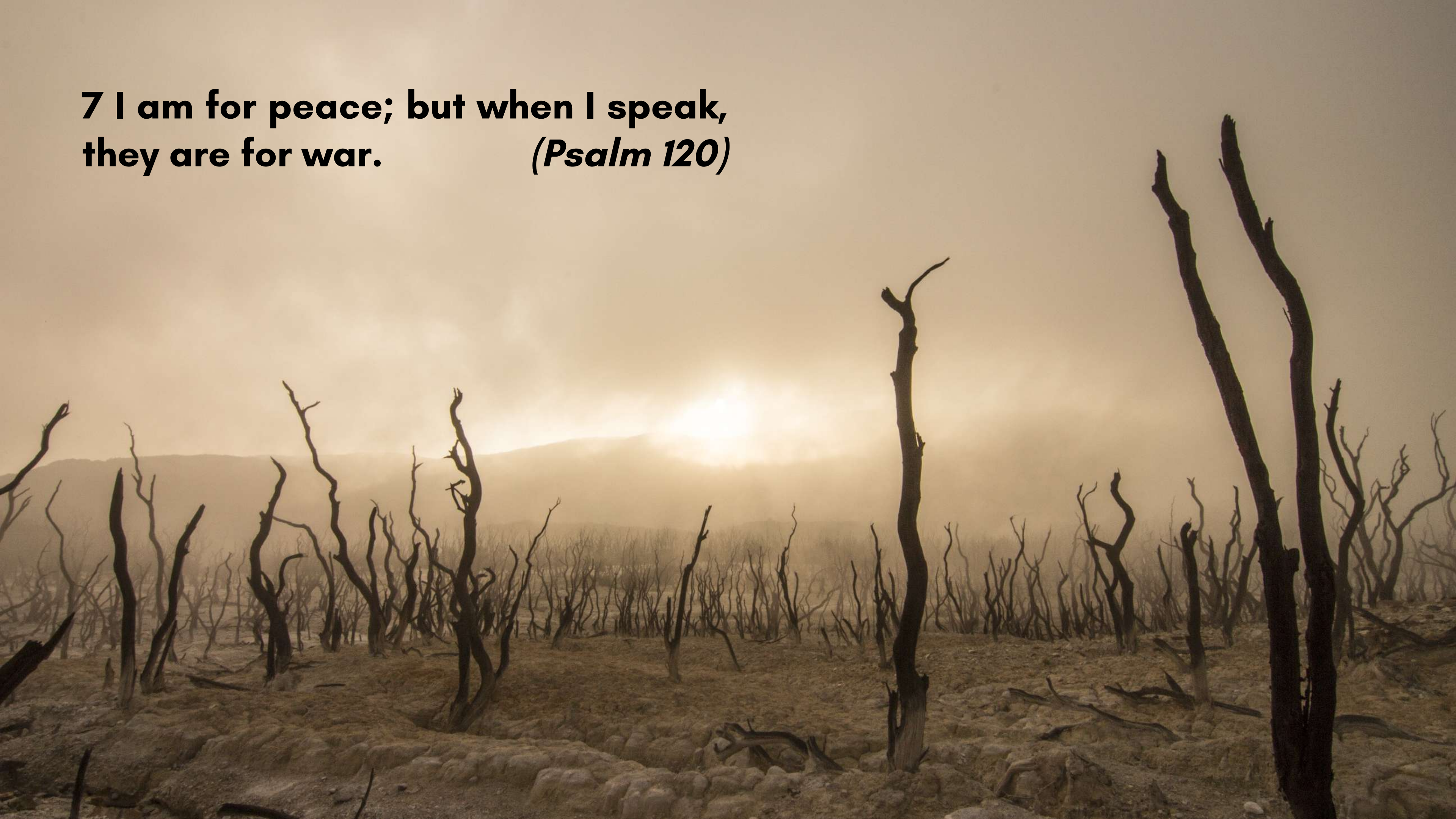
5 Woe to me that I dwell in Meshek,
that I live among the tents of Kedar!
6 Too long have I lived among those
who hate peace. 7 I am for peace;
but when I speak, they are for war.

(Psalm 120)



DISCONTENTMENT

**7 I am for peace; but when I speak,
they are for war. (*Psalm 120*)**



MORGAN

“Contentment in the place where deceit is practiced, and strife is loved, is base contentment. Men of faith must there find the distress which inspires the cry to God.”

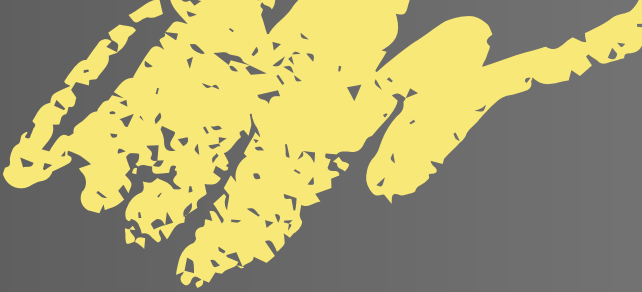




My home is in Heaven. I'm just
traveling through this world.

Billy Graham

quote fancy



16 They are not of the world,
even as I am not of it.

John 17

20 But our citizenship is in
heaven.

Philippians 3



18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.
19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

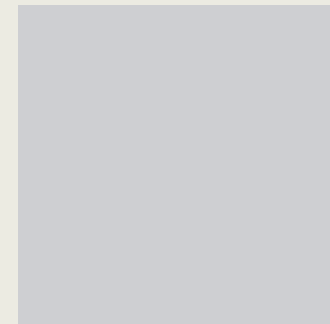
JOHN 15

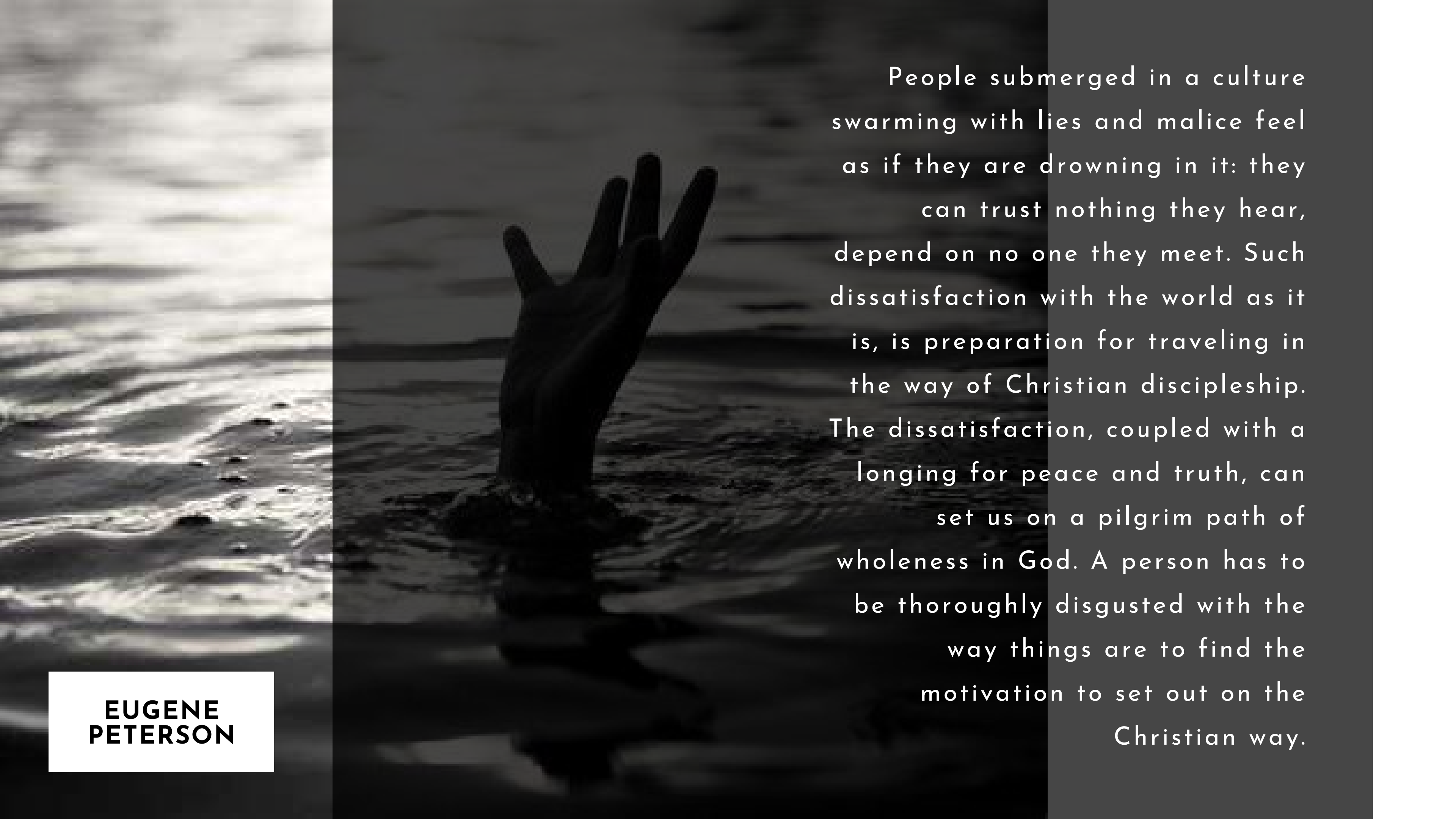
THE WORLD HATED

JESUS, FIRST

- JOHN 15:18-19 NLT -

Baronelle Stutzman



A black and white photograph of a hand reaching up from the water, set against a dark, moody background. The hand is the central focus, with fingers spread, reaching towards the top of the frame. The water around the hand is dark, with some lighter, rippling areas. The overall atmosphere is somber and contemplative.

People submerged in a culture swarming with lies and malice feel as if they are drowning in it: they can trust nothing they hear, depend on no one they meet. Such dissatisfaction with the world as it is, is preparation for traveling in the way of Christian discipleship. The dissatisfaction, coupled with a longing for peace and truth, can set us on a pilgrim path of wholeness in God. A person has to be thoroughly disgusted with the way things are to find the motivation to set out on the Christian way.

**EUGENE
PETERSON**

A person is walking away from the viewer on a wide, sandy beach. The beach is wet, reflecting the sky and the person's path. In the distance, there are mountains under a clear blue sky with a few clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and evocative of a journey.

GOING HOME

A FAITH JOURNEY WITH GOD TO GOD

Hebrews 12

8-10 By an act of faith, Abraham said yes to God's call to travel to an unknown place that would become his home. When he left he had no idea where he was going. By an act of faith he lived in the country promised him, lived as a stranger camping in tents. Isaac and Jacob did the same, living under the same promise. Abraham did it by keeping his eye on an unseen city with real, eternal foundations—the City designed and built by God.

13-16 Each one of these people of faith died not yet having in hand what was promised, but still believing. How did they do it? They saw it way off in the distance, waved their greeting, and accepted the fact that they were transients in this world. People who live this way make it plain that they are looking for their true home. If they were homesick for the old country, they could have gone back any time they wanted. But they were after a far better country than that—heaven country. You can see why God is so proud of them, and has a City waiting for them.



**FROM
HERE
TO
THERE**

THE SONGS
OF ASCENTS