

P S A L M 1 2 3

GOD HAVE  
**MERCY**



1 I lift up my eyes to you, to you who sit enthroned in heaven. 2 As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master as the eyes of a female slave look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till he shows us his mercy. 3 Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us, for we have endured no end of contempt. 4 We have endured no end of ridicule from the arrogant, of contempt from the proud.

PSALM 123





PSALMS OF

# ASCENTS

3

TRIUMPH

2

TRUST

1

TROUBLE



SPRINGBOARD FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

# UNENDING SUFFERING

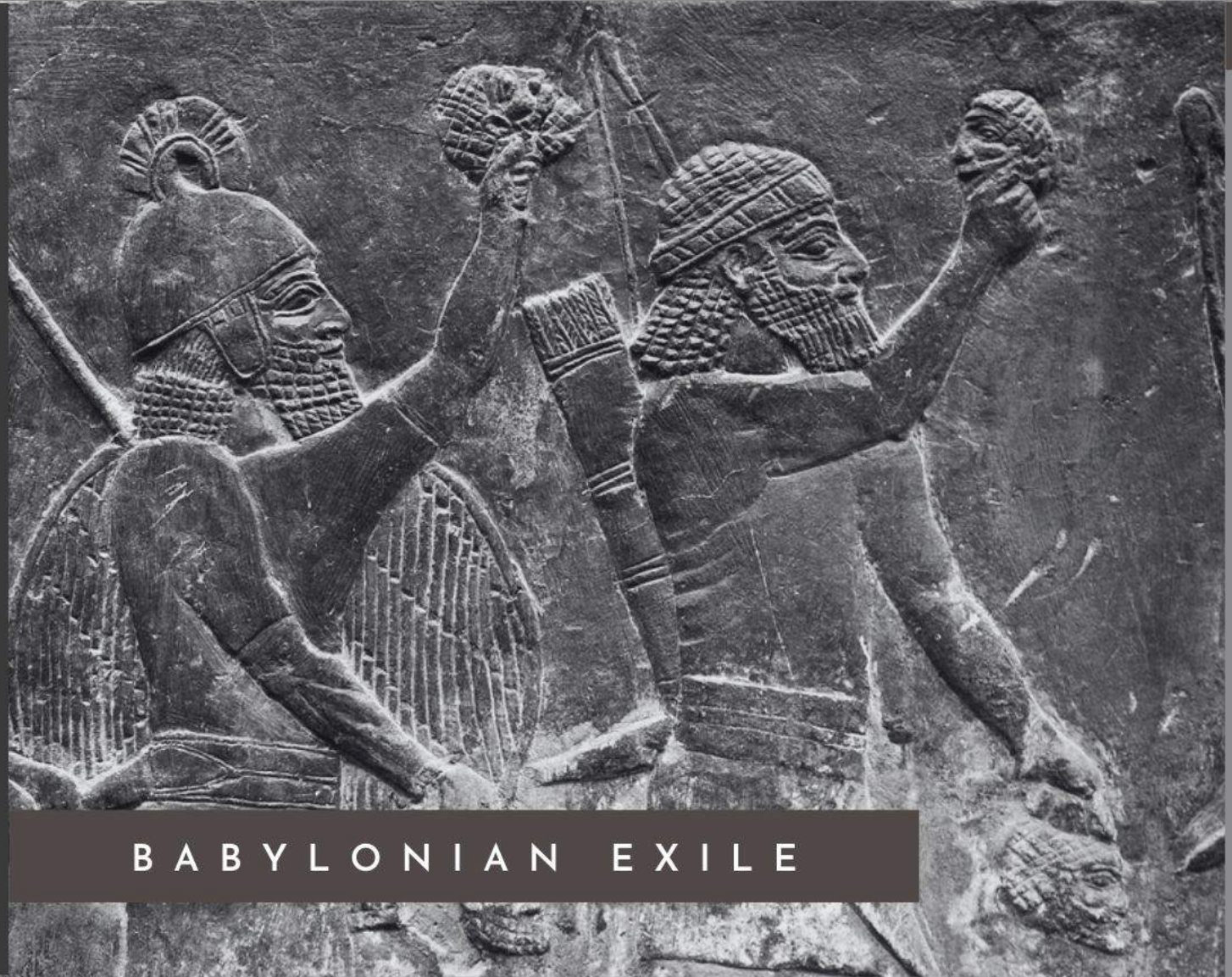
3 Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us, for we have endured no end of contempt. 4 We have endured no end of ridicule from the arrogant, of contempt from the proud.

PSALM 123



## PSALM 137

1 By the rivers of  
Babylon we sat and  
wept when we  
remembered Zion. 2  
There on the poplars  
we hung our harps, 3  
for there our captors  
asked us for  
songs, our tormentors  
demanded songs of  
joy; they said, "Sing  
us one of the songs  
of Zion!" 4 How can  
we sing the songs of  
the Lord while in a  
foreign land?



B A B Y L O N I A N E X I L E

## NEHEMIAH 4

1 When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, 2 and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?"

3 Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, "What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!"



POST-BABYLONIAN EXILE



WHERE CAN THE

DESPISED & HUMILIATED

FIND RELIEF & CONSOLATION?

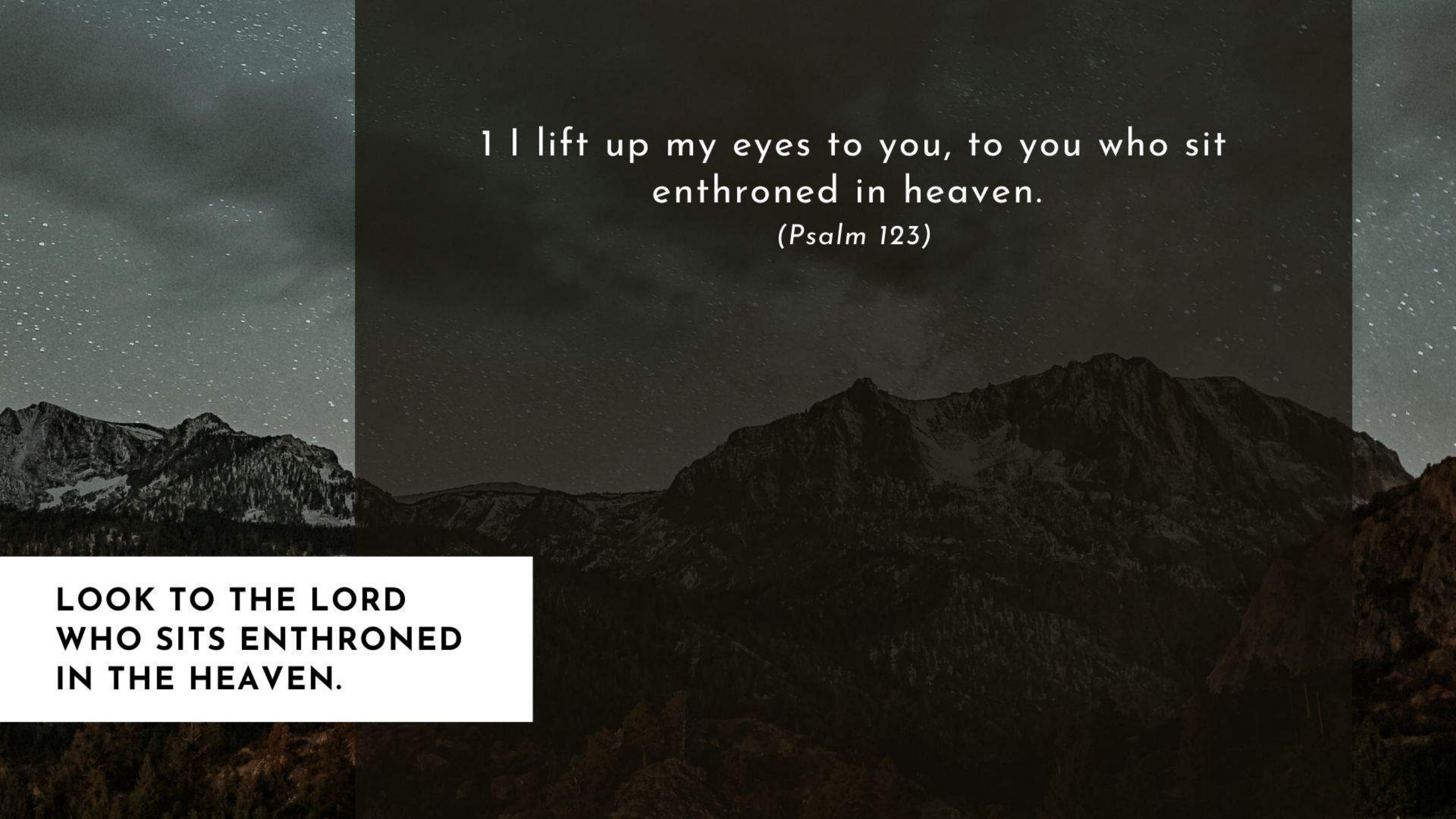


**THE UPWARD  
GLANCE OF A  
PATIENT AND  
HOPEFUL FAITH.**

SAMUEL COX



Lift Up Your Eyes

A dark, starry night sky over a mountain range. The mountains are silhouetted against the starry sky, and the foreground shows a dark forest.

I lift up my eyes to you, to you who sit  
enthroned in heaven.

*(Psalm 123)*

**LOOK TO THE LORD  
WHO SITS ENTHRONED  
IN THE HEAVEN.**

17 'ΑΗ, SOVEREIGN LORD, YOU HAVE MADE THE  
HEAVENS AND THE EARTH BY YOUR GREAT POWER  
AND OUTSTRETCHED ARM. NOTHING IS TOO HARD  
FOR YOU.



JEREMIAH 32

# Sovereign

2 Why do the nations say, 'Where is their God? '3 Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.

*(Psalm 115)*





**LOOK TO THE LORD AS  
A SERVANT LOOKS TO  
HIS MASTER.**

2 As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master as the eyes of a female slave look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, ...

*(Psalm 123)*

“...the eye which waits, and hopes, and is patient, looking only to Him, and none other, for help.”

# A SERVANT'S ATTITUDE

## BE ATTENTIVE

Our eyes must be fixed on the hand of God, absorbed in watchful expectation of some sign or gesture, however slight, which may indicate His divine will.

*(Samuel Cox)*



# A SERVANT'S ATTITUDE

## WAIT PATIENTLY

For in that he defers his help, he does it not because he will not hear us, but to exercise and stir up our faith, and to teach us that the ways whereby he can and does deliver us are so manifold and miraculous that we are never able to conceive them. Therefore, let us think that the thing which we ask is not denied but deferred, and assure ourselves that we are not neglected because of this delay.

*(Martin Luther)*





Have  
mercy  
UPON US,  
O LORD.

PSALM 123:3

LOOK TO THE LORD AS  
A MERCIFUL SAVIOUR.

3 Have mercy on us, Lord,  
have mercy on us, for we  
have endured no end of  
contempt. 4 We have endured  
no end of ridicule from the  
arrogant, of contempt from  
the proud. (Psalm 123)



# MERCY

## EUGENE PETERSON

The word mercy means that the upward look to God in the heavens does not expect God to stay in the heavens but to come down, to enter our condition, to accomplish the vast enterprise of redemption, to fashion in us his eternal salvation. Servitude is not a vague wool-gathering in the general direction of God and certainly not a cringing, cowering terror under the lash of God. Servitude is specific in its expectation, and what it expects is mercy.





# Grace To The Humble



34 He mocks proud mockers but shows favour to the humble and oppressed. *(Proverbs 3)*

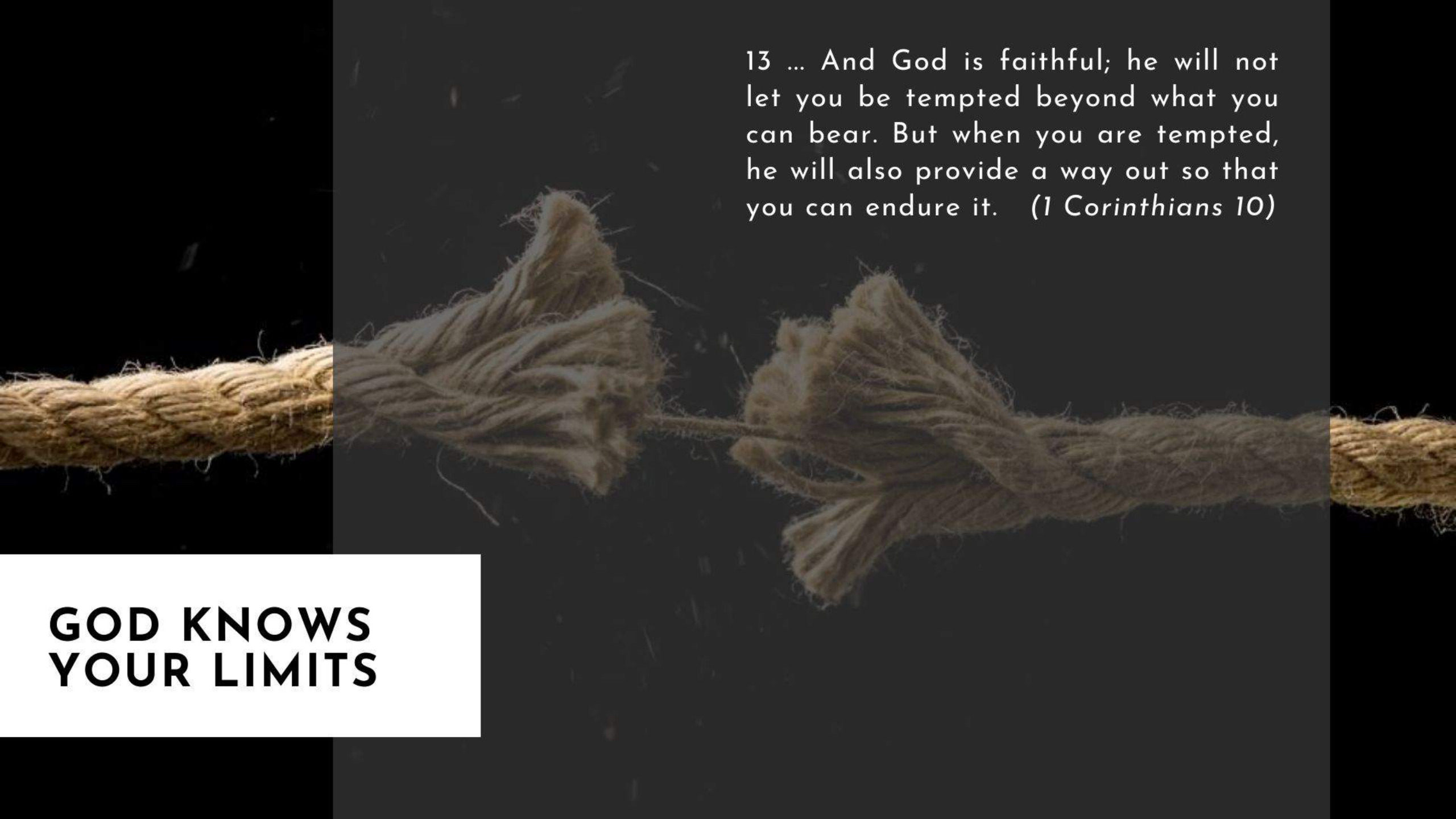
6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: 'God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble.' *(James 4)*



**GOD SEES  
AND CARES**

7 The Lord said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

EXODUS 3



13 ... And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. *(1 Corinthians 10)*

**GOD KNOWS  
YOUR LIMITS**



**PSALM 123**

“the deep sigh of a pained heart.”

Martin Luther



RICH IN

**MERCY**