



CORE

A Life Transforming Experience

What is CORE?

9-Month Mission Training School
Based In Pennsylvania
18-30(ish) Year Olds
Work Study Options

CORE

What is CORE?

Bible Work

Literature Evangelism

Digital Media Evangelism

Health Evangelism

Organic Agriculture

Overseas Missions

CORE

What is CORE?

Mental Health
Practical Christianity
Public Speaking
Etc.

CORE

Can't come the full 9-months?

Consider Track 2

January 6-June 1

CORE

Track 2

The type of person we are looking for;
committed Christian, passionate about
your faith, have a burden to help your
local church.

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Track 2

Prerequisites-

At least 21 years old.

SDA member in good standing.

Letter of recommendation from pastor.

Complete our online course.

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Still wrestling with the time
commitment?

Check out our CORE Intensives.

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CORE Intensives

Take 4 days to grow your faith and learn from some of the best teachers our church has to offer.

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Who Is Teaching?

Dwight Nelson-Preaching

Steven Grabiner-Daniel/Revelation

Skip MacCarty-The Covenants

Don Mackintosh-TCI/Health

Who Is Teaching?

Randy Siebold-True Education/Leadership
Rob Benardo-Romans/Everlasting Covenant
John Kent-Preparing For Overseas Missions

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Who Is Teaching?

Nathan Renner-How To Study The Bible

Jay Rosario-Apologetics/Gaining Decisions

Israel Ramos-Campus Ministries

Steve Toscano-Church History

Rico Hill-Health

Paul Coneff-Mental Health

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Who Is Teaching?

Chad Bernard-Youth Ministries

Bill Brace-Christ Centered Public Evangelism

Chris Matts-Digital Media Marketing

Dale Leamon-Abiding In Christ

Dee Casper-Discipleship/Adventist Doctrines

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Own Your Faith
Find Your Calling
Change The World
paconference.org/CORE

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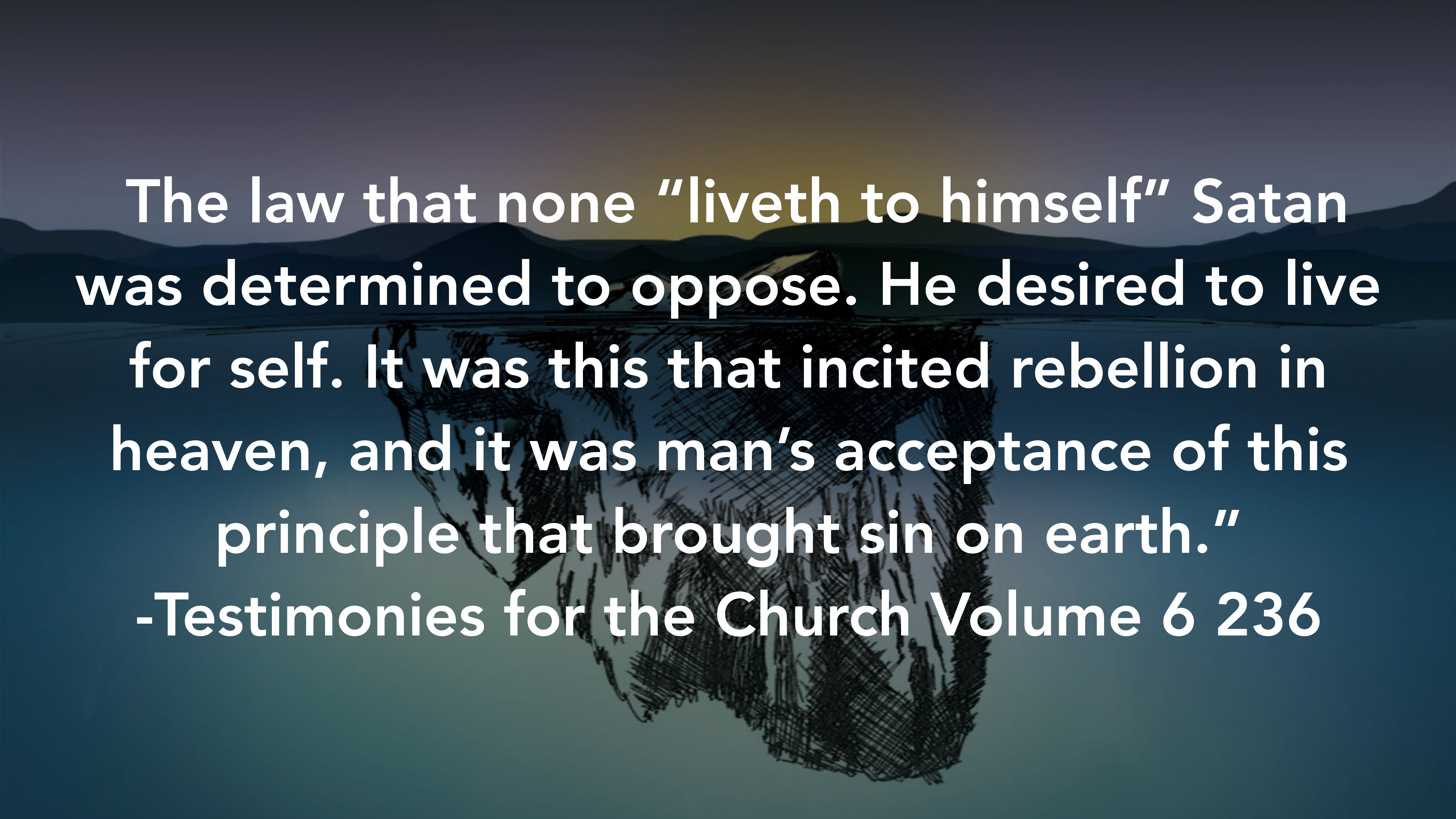
Want more information?
Text your name, email, age to
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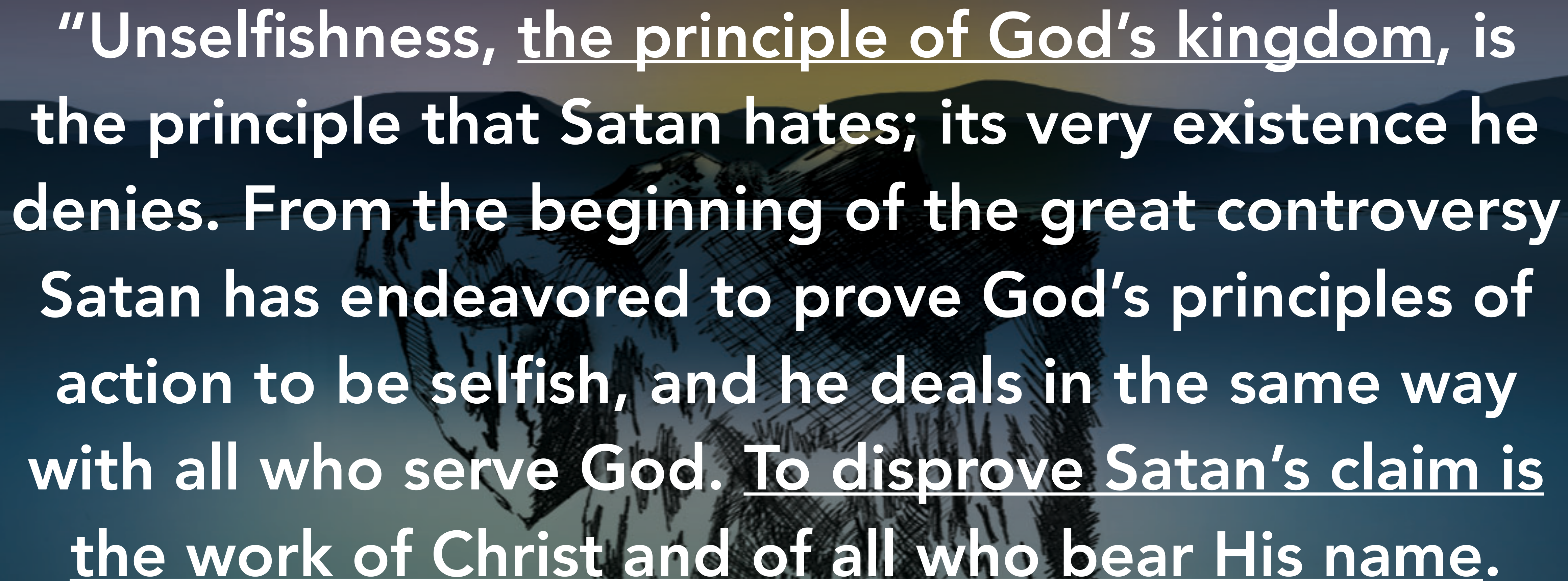
The Sabbath: A Memorial And A Battlefield

Dee Casper
paconference.org/CORE



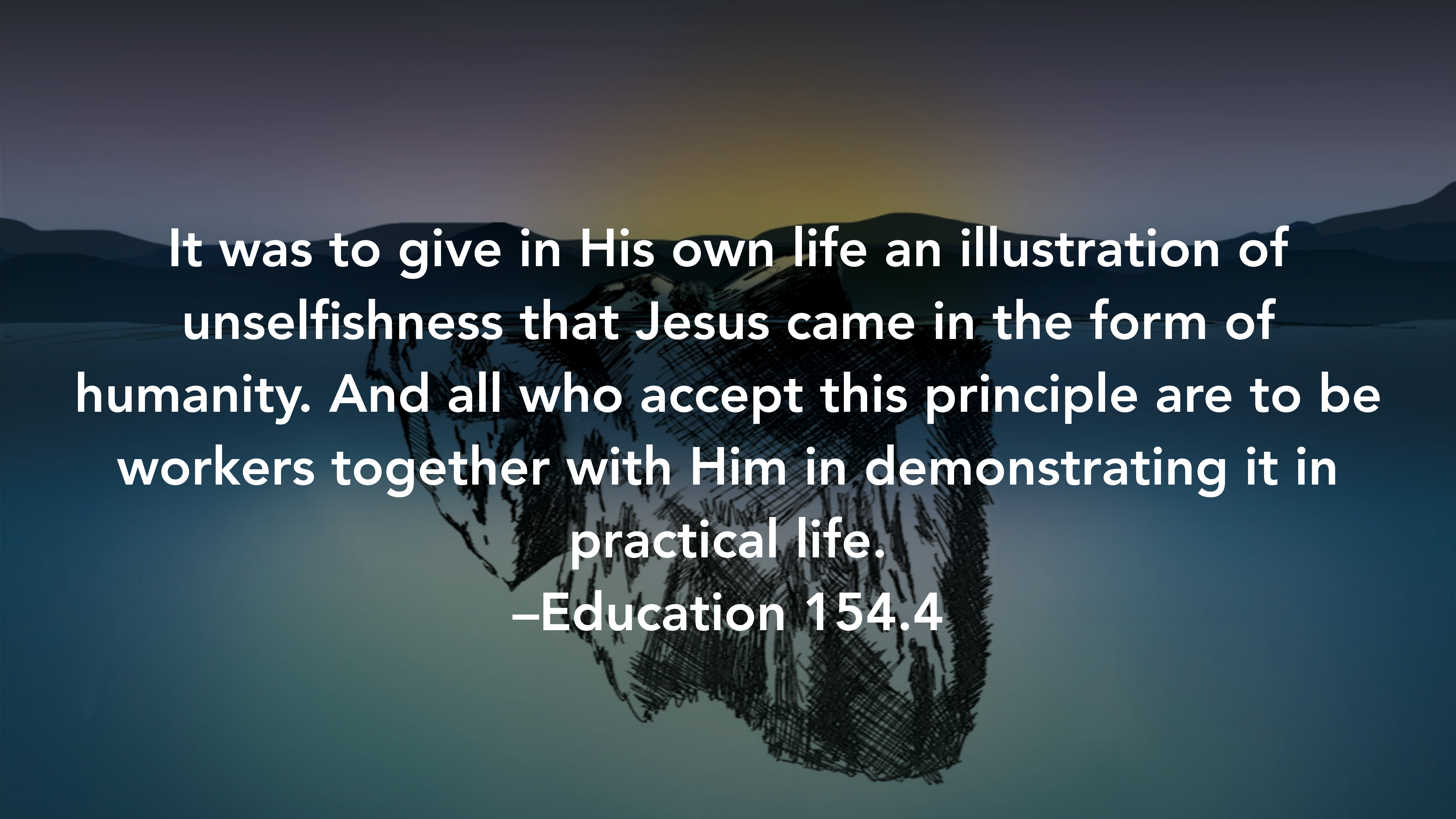
The law that none “liveth to himself” Satan was determined to oppose. He desired to live for self. It was this that incited rebellion in heaven, and it was man’s acceptance of this principle that brought sin on earth.”

-Testimonies for the Church Volume 6 236



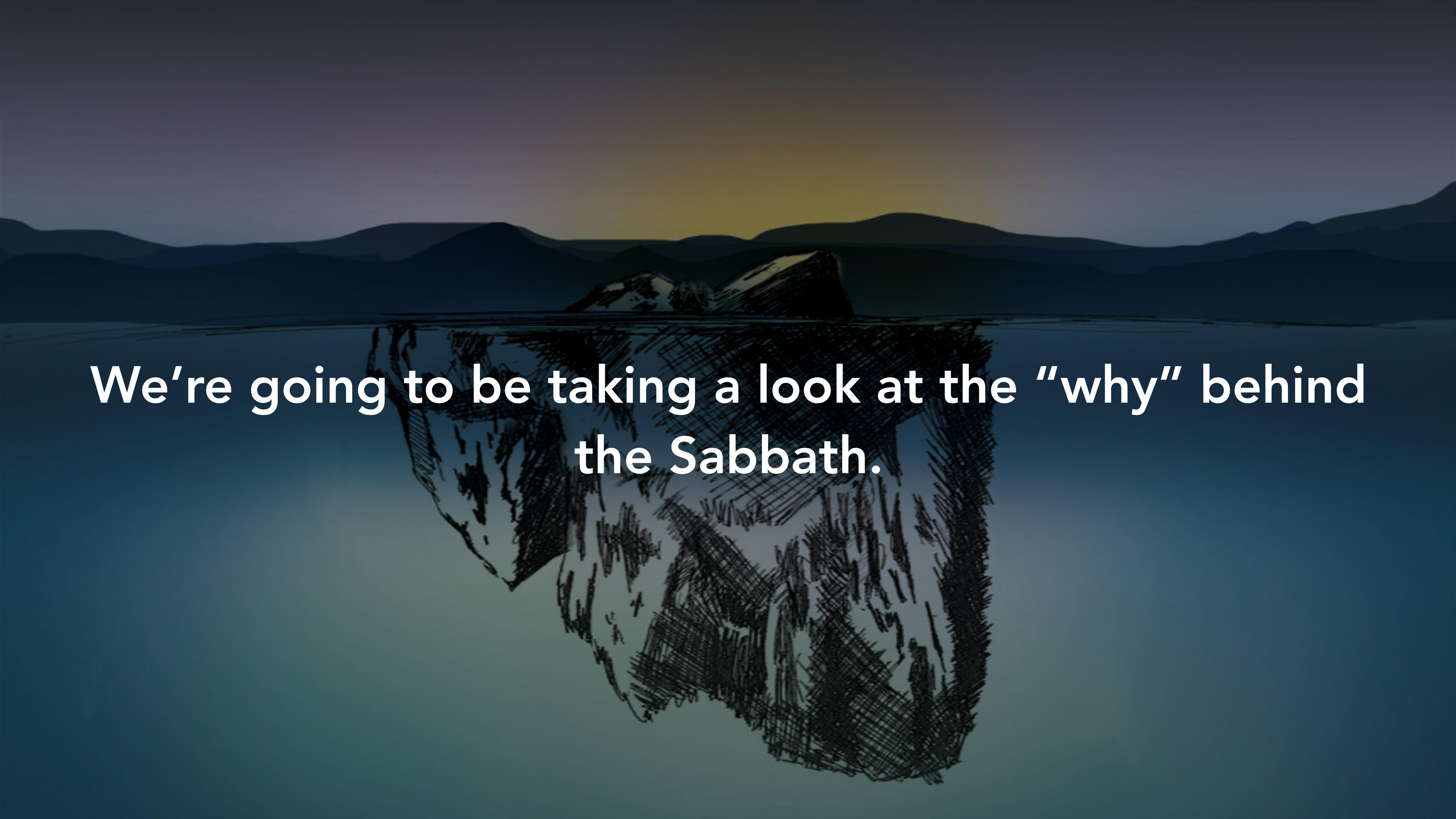
“Unselfishness, the principle of God’s kingdom, is the principle that Satan hates; its very existence he denies. From the beginning of the great controversy Satan has endeavored to prove God’s principles of action to be selfish, and he deals in the same way with all who serve God. To disprove Satan’s claim is the work of Christ and of all who bear His name.

– Education 154.3

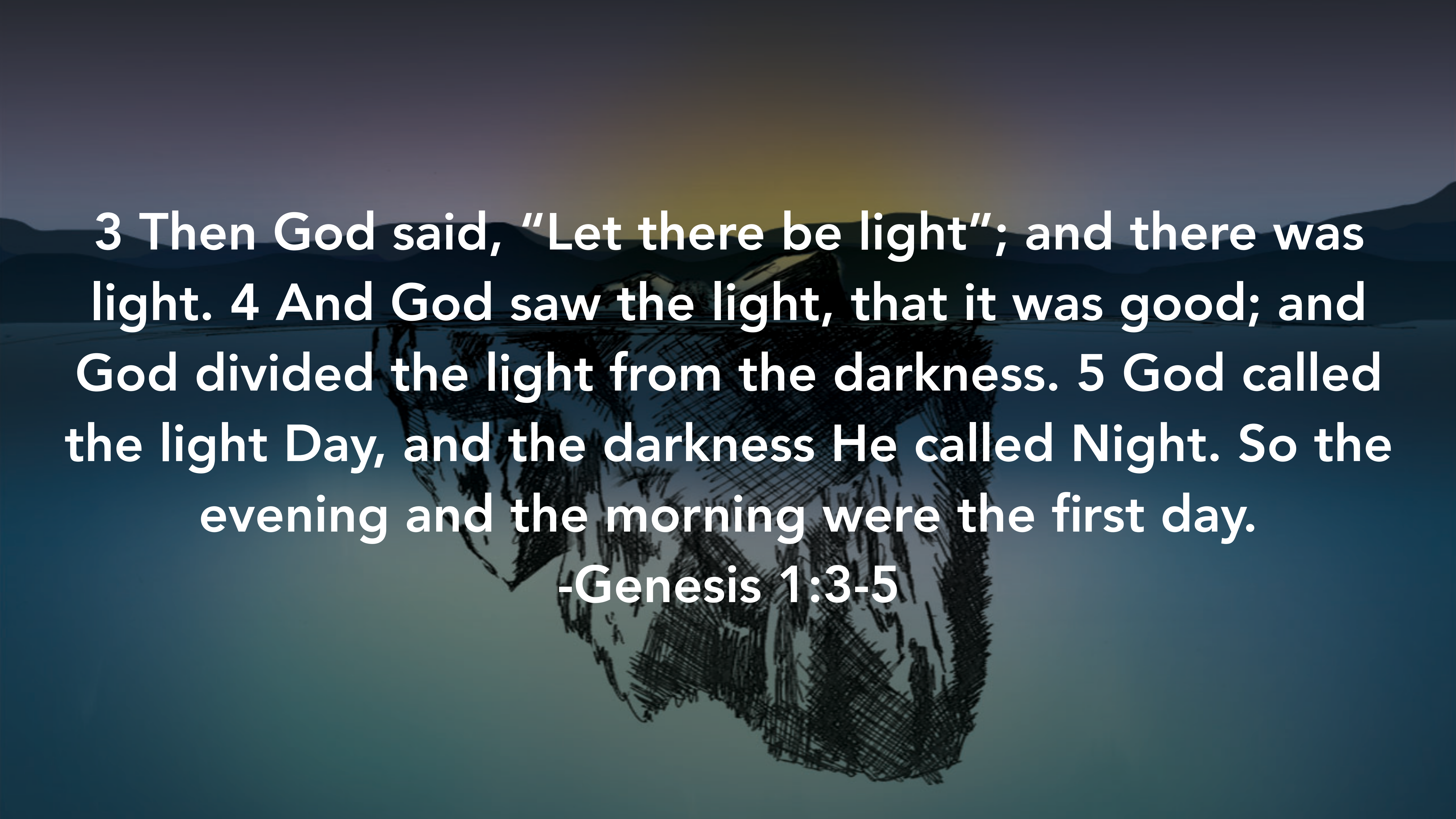


It was to give in His own life an illustration of
unselfishness that Jesus came in the form of
humanity. And all who accept this principle are to be
workers together with Him in demonstrating it in
practical life.

–Education 154.4

The background is a dark, atmospheric landscape. In the distance, there are silhouettes of mountains under a twilight sky with a hint of yellow light on the horizon. In the foreground, a large, dark, textured rock formation, possibly a sea stack or a large rock in a lake, rises from the water. The rock has a rough, craggy texture with some lighter patches. The water is dark and calm, reflecting the sky and the rock.

We're going to be taking a look at the "why" behind
the Sabbath.

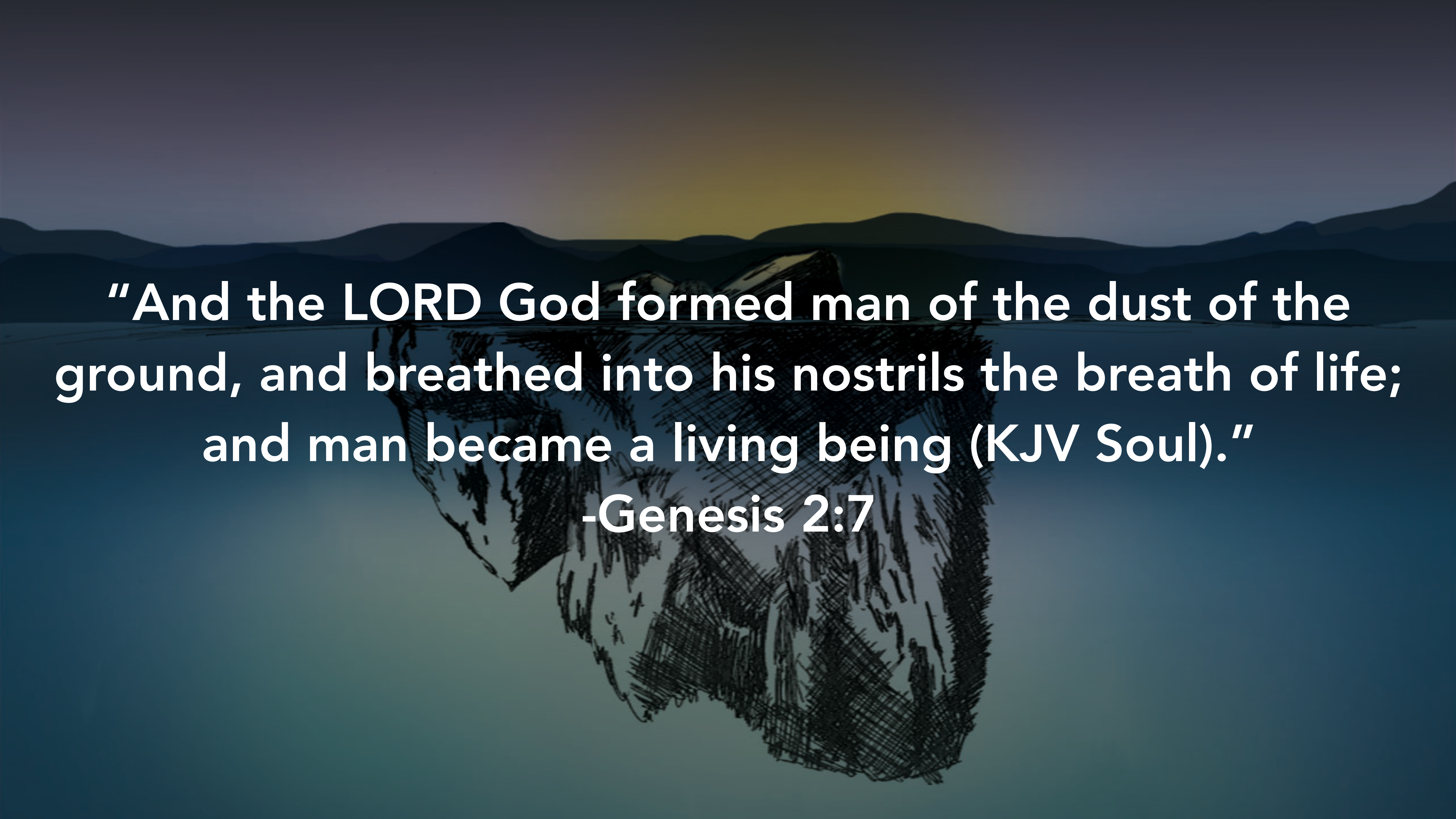


3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

-Genesis 1:3-5



Throughout creation week we see a theme. God speaks and "it was so." But when we get to Genesis 2:7 the narrative reads differently.

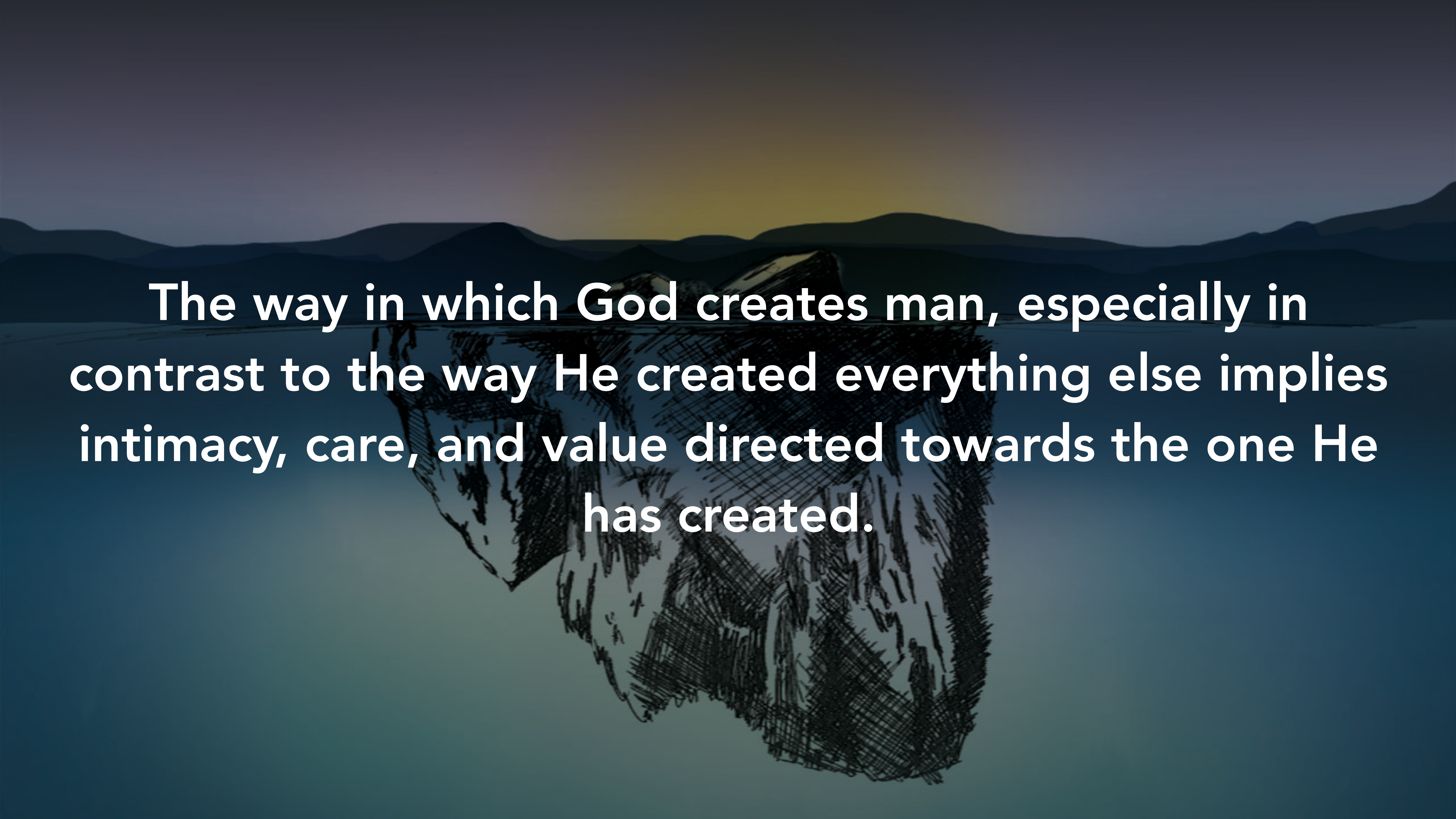


“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (KJV Soul).”

-Genesis 2:7



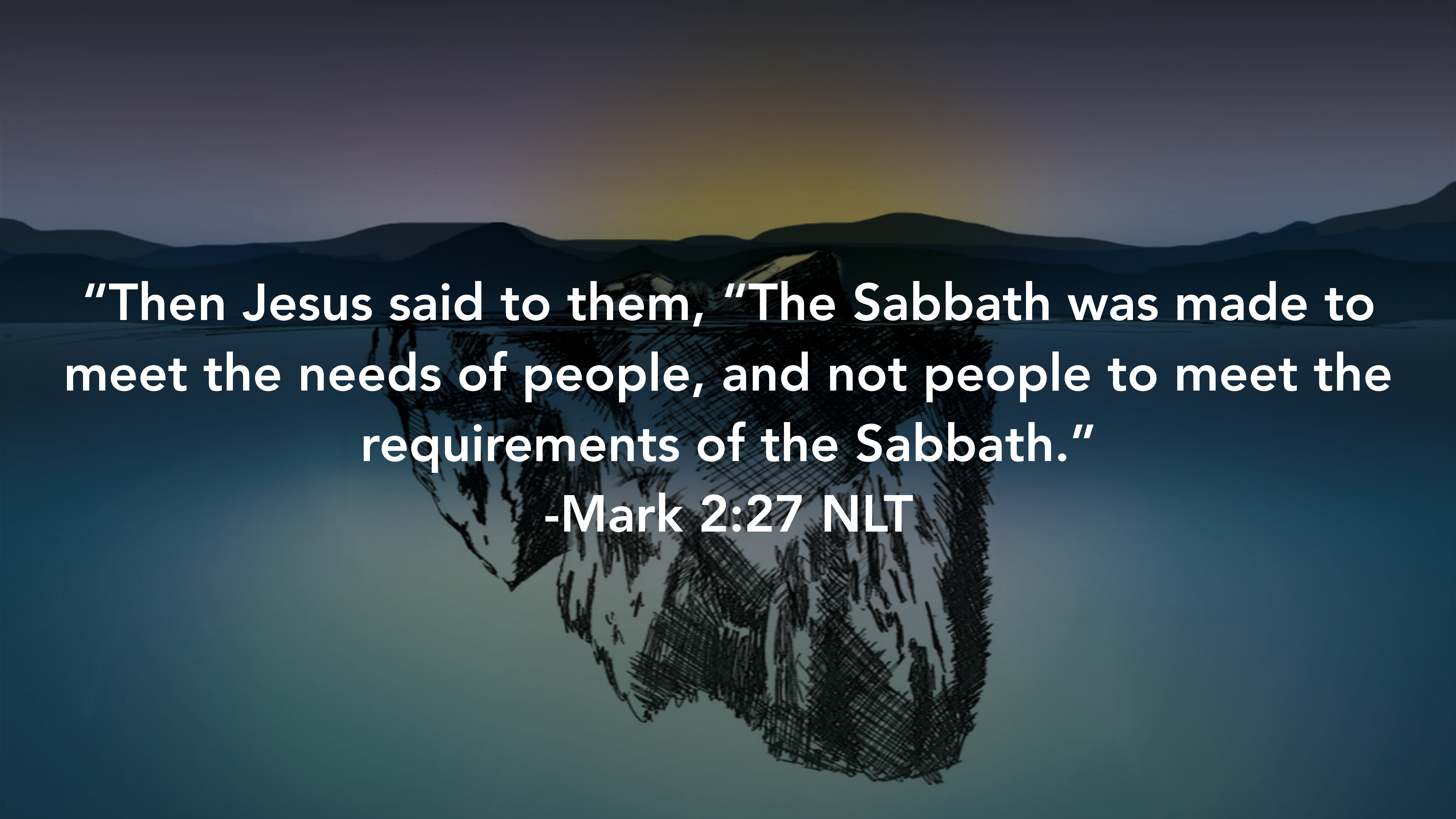
It doesn't read "And God spoke and Adam was so."
His means of creating is different.



The way in which God creates man, especially in contrast to the way He created everything else implies intimacy, care, and value directed towards the one He has created.

The background is a dark, atmospheric landscape. In the foreground, there is a large, dark, textured rock formation, possibly a cave entrance or a large rock, with intricate, dark, cross-hatched patterns. Behind it, a body of water reflects the sky. In the distance, there are silhouettes of mountains under a twilight sky with a hint of yellow light on the horizon.

It's in this context. A context of intimacy and value, that
the Sabbath is given to man.

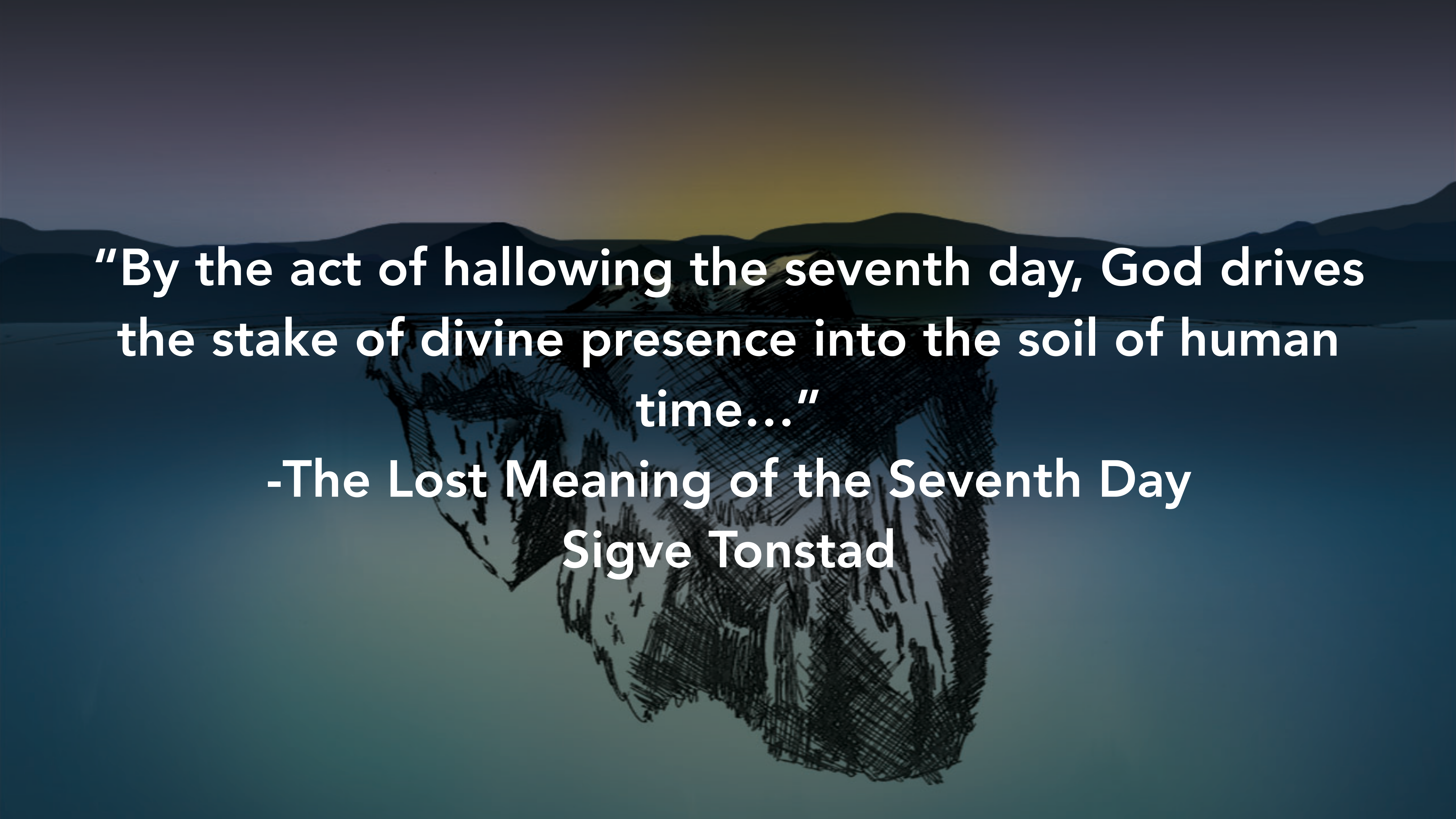


"Then Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath."

-Mark 2:27 NLT



So what God had in mind when He created Sabbath was not something to keep them busy, or to control them, but it was something designed to meet their needs.



“By the act of hallowing the seventh day, God drives
the stake of divine presence into the soil of human
time...”

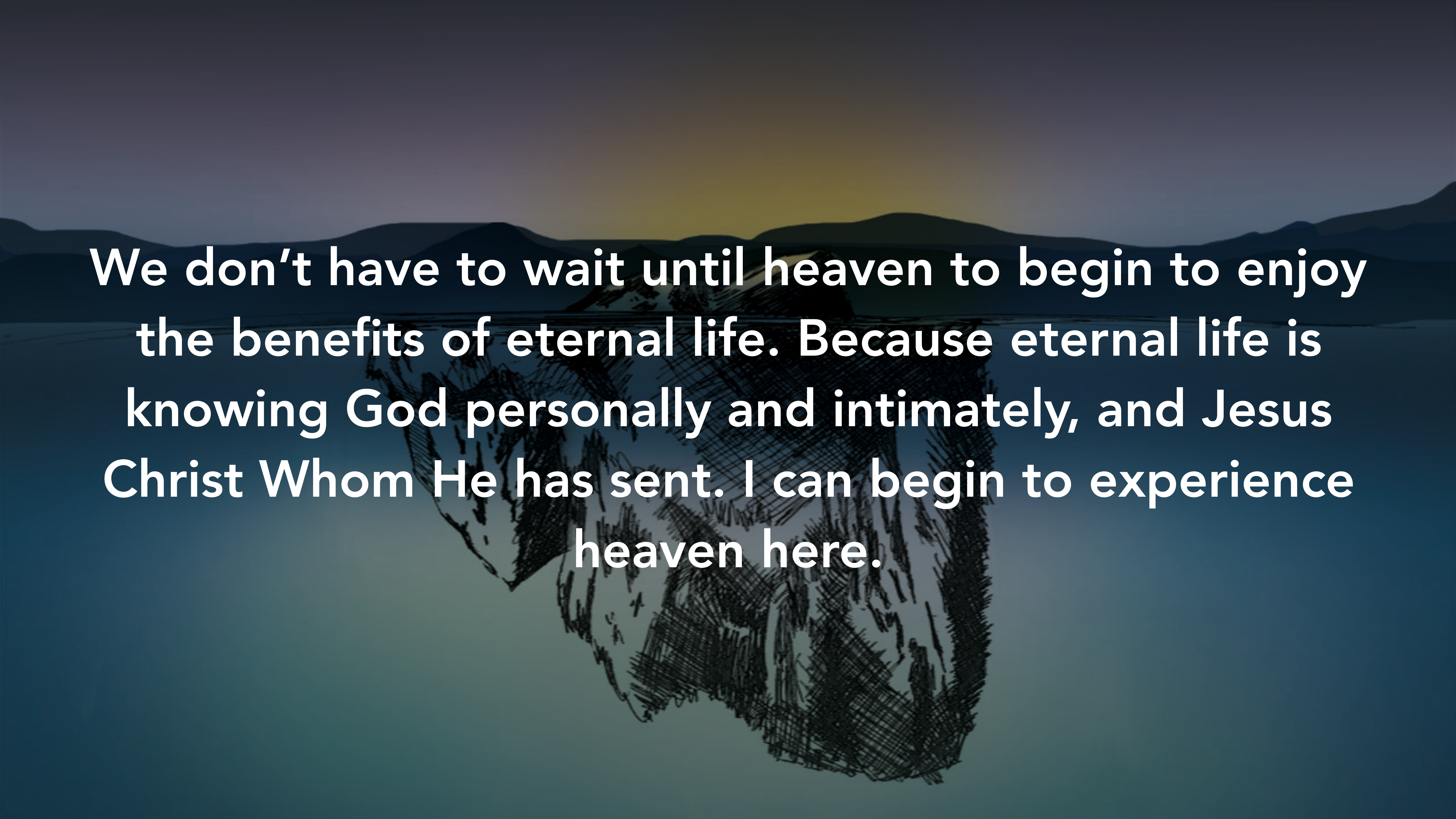
-The Lost Meaning of the Seventh Day
Sigve Tonstad



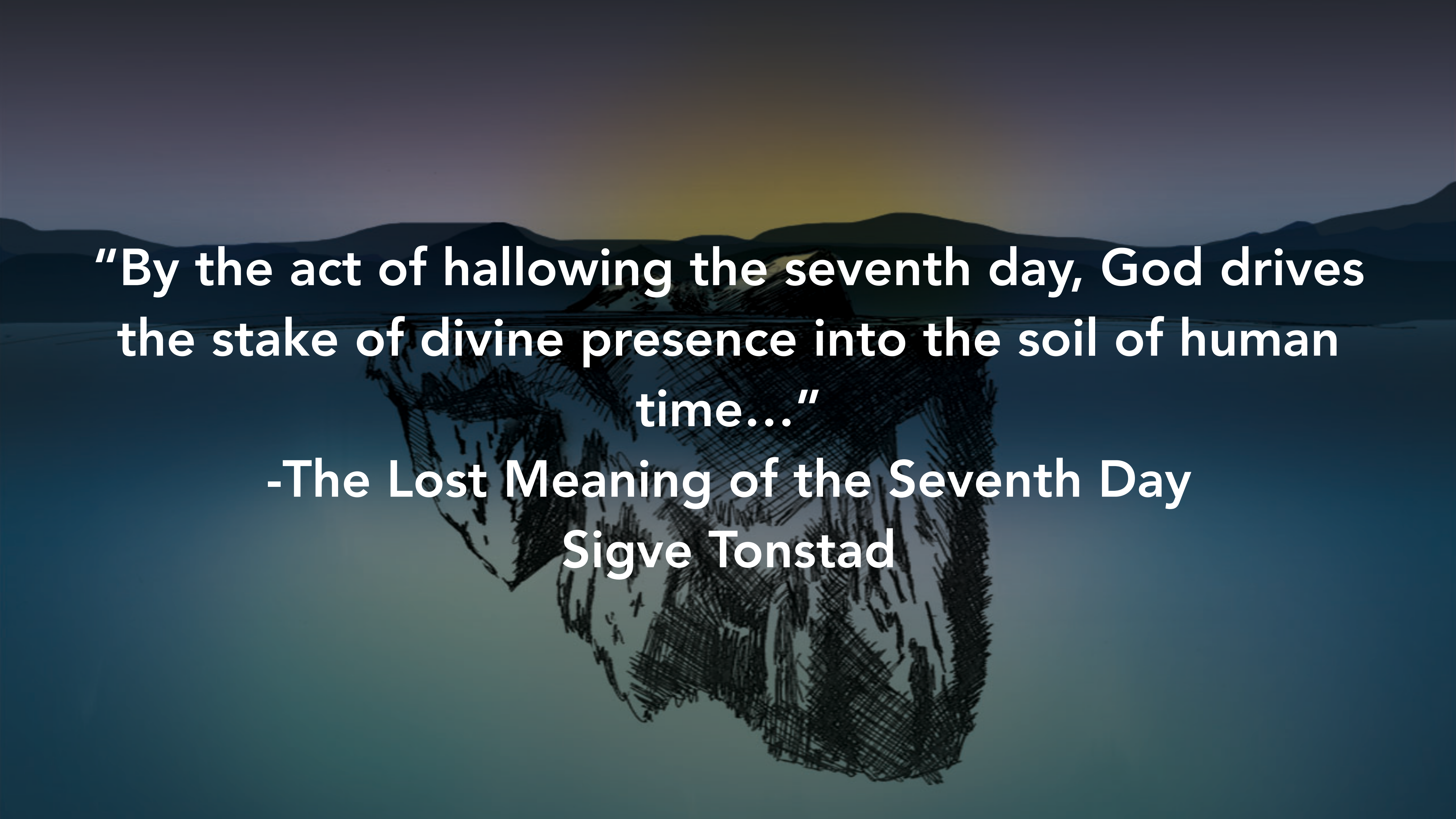
So in a very real sense God is bringing heaven to earth.

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

-John 17:3



We don't have to wait until heaven to begin to enjoy the benefits of eternal life. Because eternal life is knowing God personally and intimately, and Jesus Christ Whom He has sent. I can begin to experience heaven here.

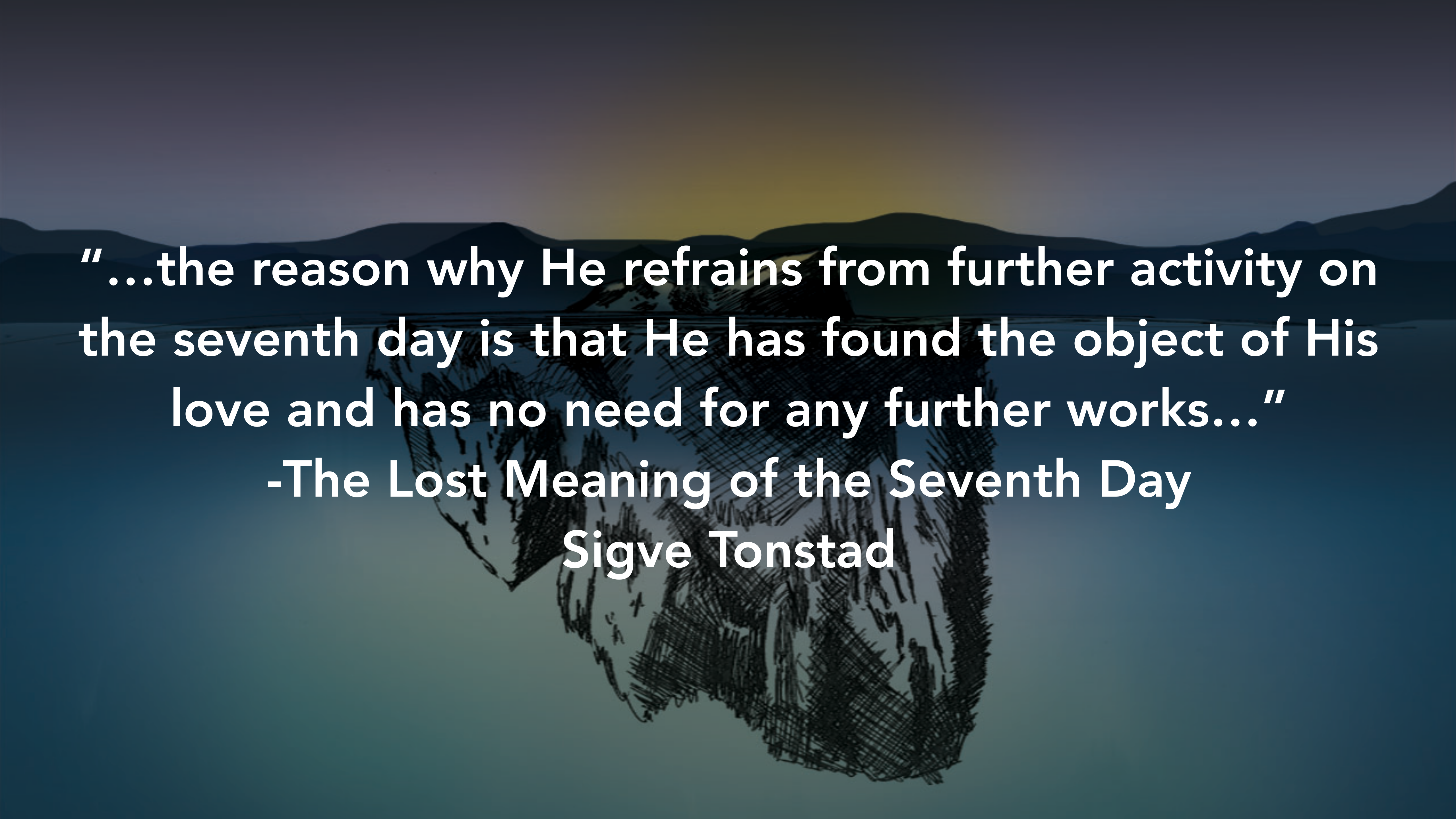


“By the act of hallowing the seventh day, God drives
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-The Lost Meaning of the Seventh Day
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The background is a dark, atmospheric landscape. In the foreground, there is a large, dark, textured rock formation, possibly a cave entrance or a large rock in the water, rendered in a sketchy, charcoal-like style. The middle ground shows a calm body of water reflecting the sky. In the background, there are silhouettes of mountains under a twilight sky with a soft yellow glow on the horizon.

God is inserting Himself into human time. He's making
Himself available in the space of human time.



“...the reason why He refrains from further activity on the seventh day is that He has found the object of His love and has no need for any further works...”

-The Lost Meaning of the Seventh Day

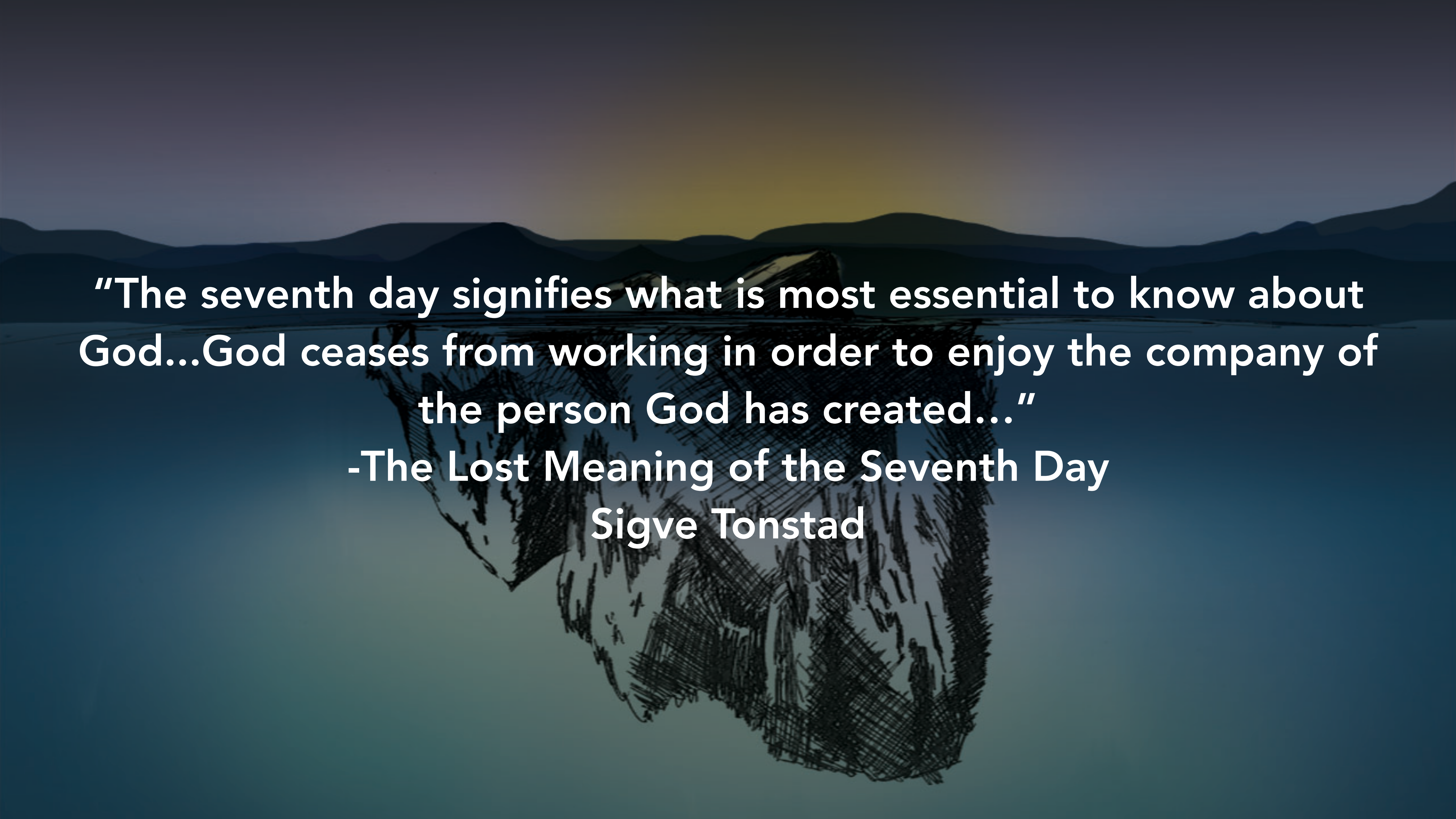
Sigve Tonstad



God found what He was looking for when He made us.
And in turn had no further need for further works.

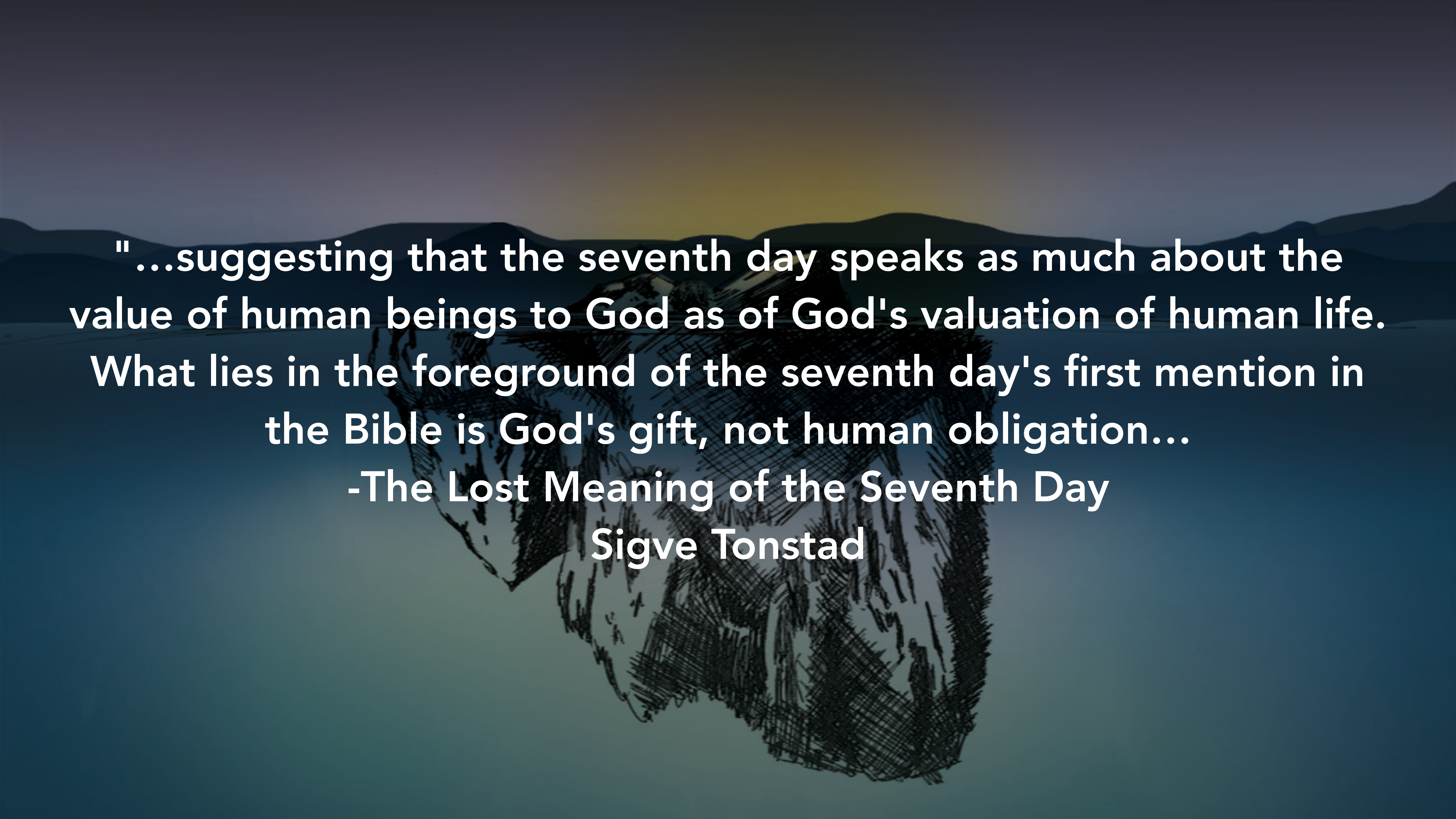


How does that make you feel about God?



"The seventh day signifies what is most essential to know about God...God ceases from working in order to enjoy the company of the person God has created..."

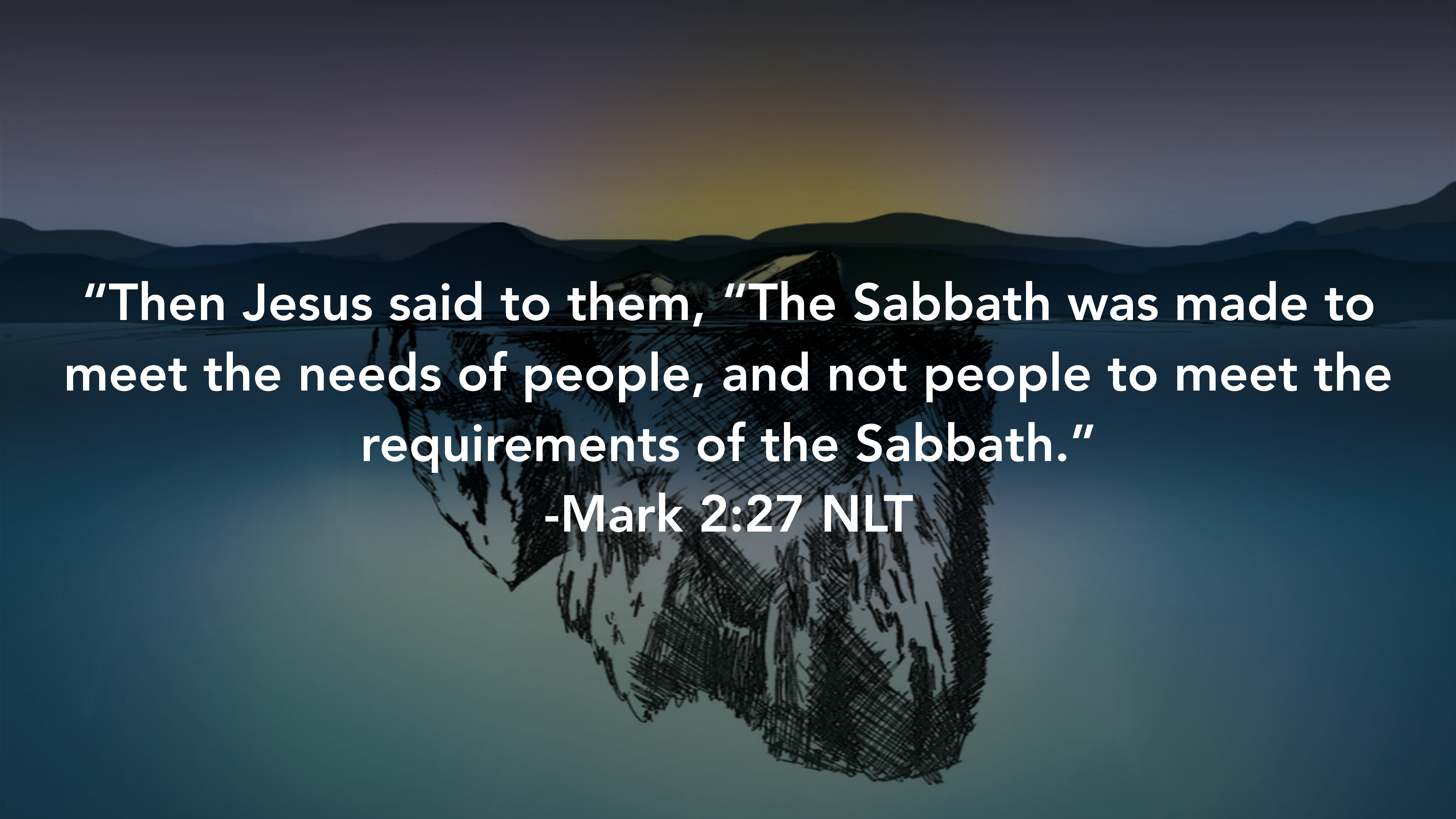
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"...suggesting that the seventh day speaks as much about the value of human beings to God as of God's valuation of human life. What lies in the foreground of the seventh day's first mention in the Bible is God's gift, not human obligation...

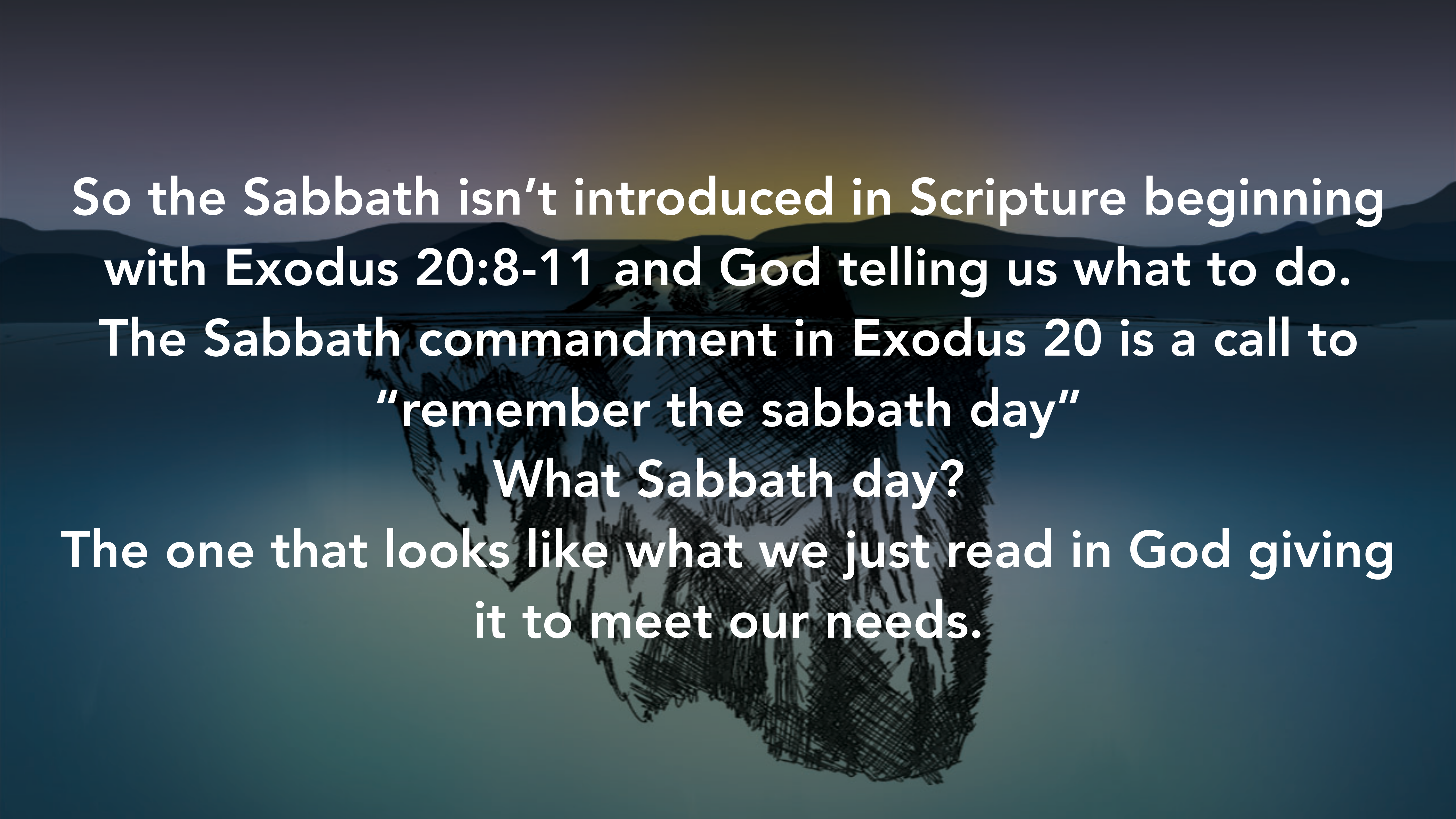
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"Then Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath."

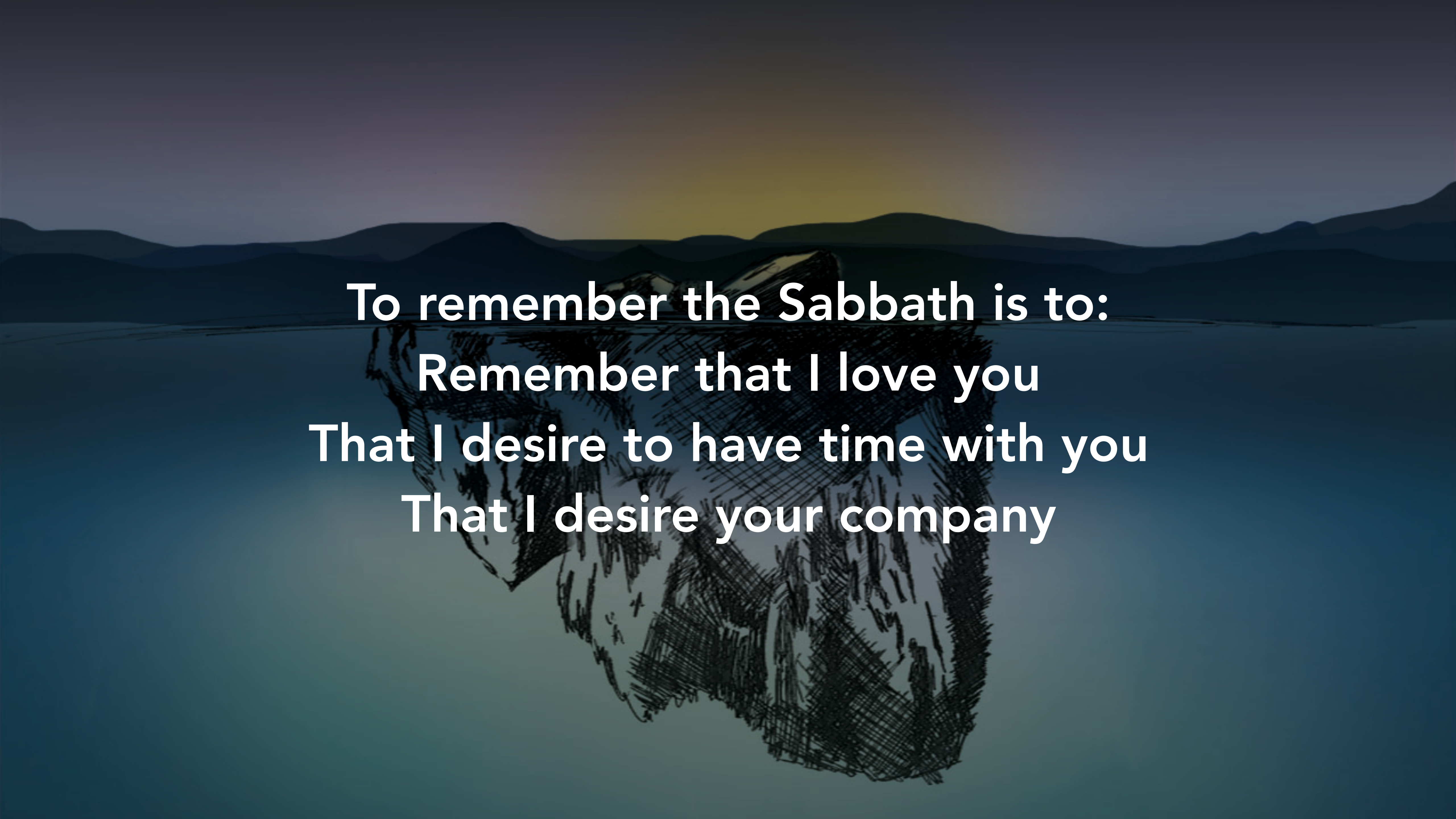
-Mark 2:27 NLT



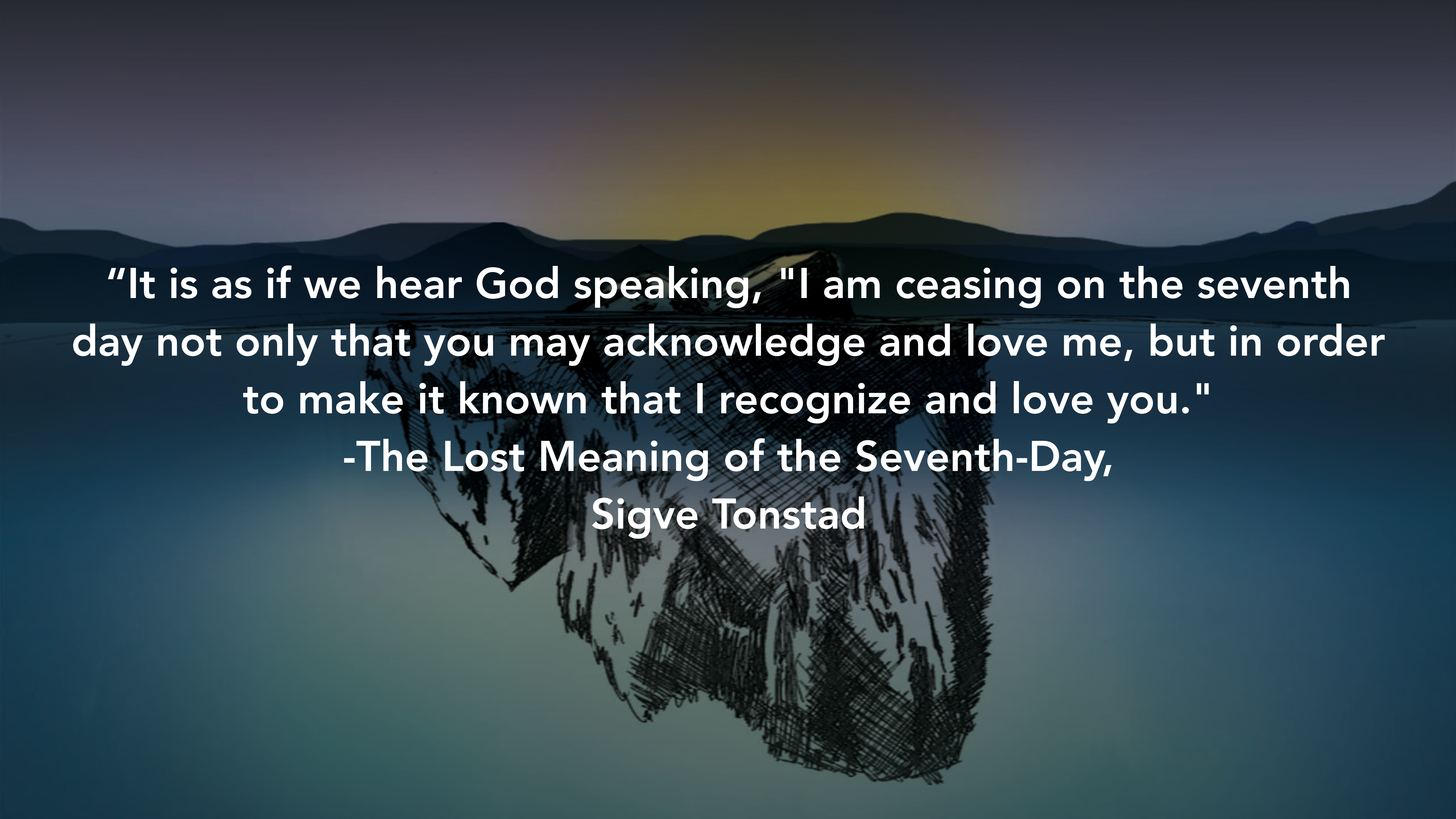
So the Sabbath isn't introduced in Scripture beginning with Exodus 20:8-11 and God telling us what to do. The Sabbath commandment in Exodus 20 is a call to "remember the sabbath day"

What Sabbath day?

The one that looks like what we just read in God giving it to meet our needs.



To remember the Sabbath is to:
Remember that I love you
That I desire to have time with you
That I desire your company



"It is as if we hear God speaking, "I am ceasing on the seventh day not only that you may acknowledge and love me, but in order to make it known that I recognize and love you."

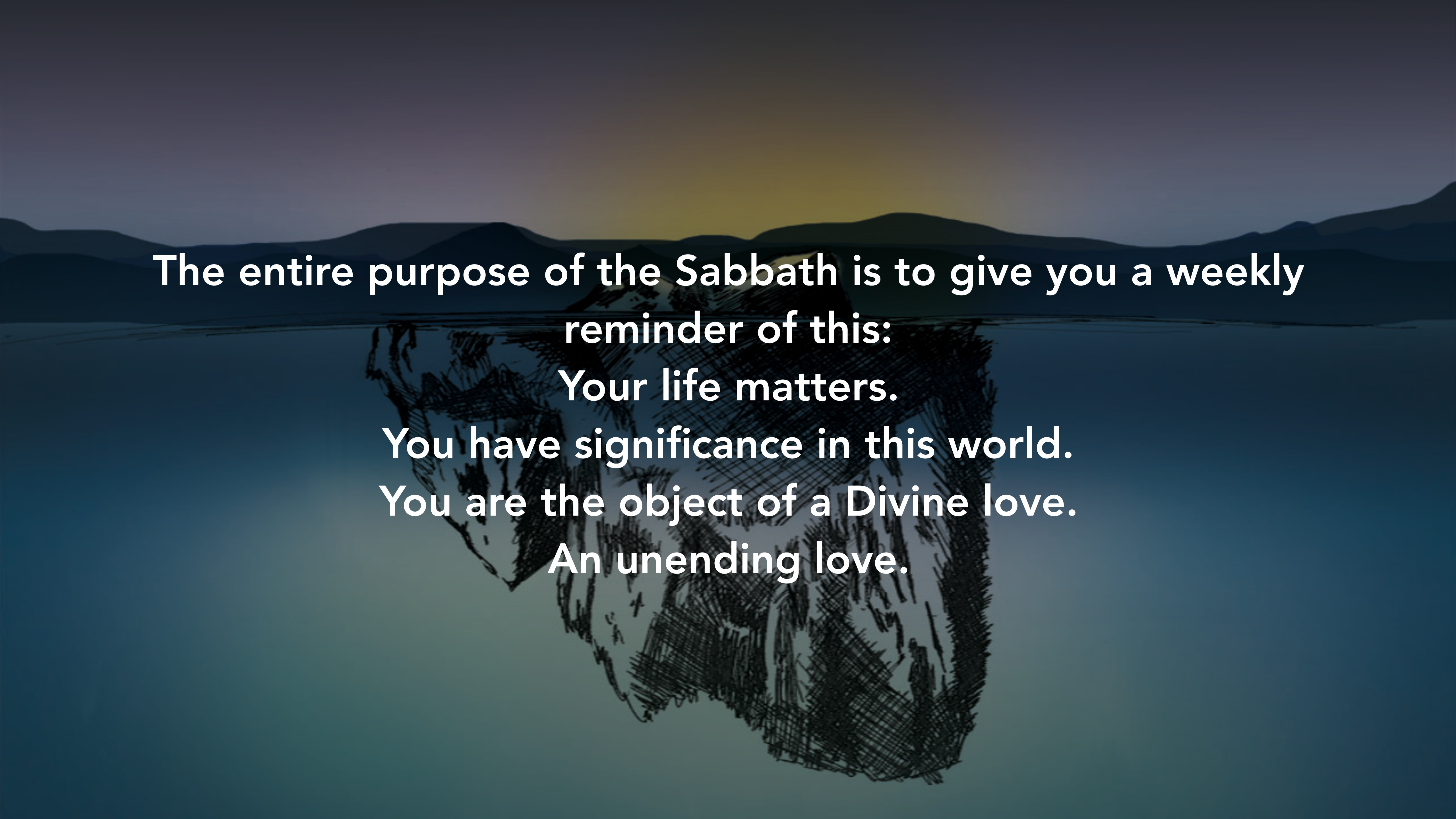
-The Lost Meaning of the Seventh-Day,
Sigve Tonstad

The background is a digital illustration of a serene landscape. In the foreground, a large, dark, craggy rock formation rises from the water, its surface textured with intricate line work. The water is a deep, calm blue. In the middle ground, a range of dark, silhouetted mountains stretches across the horizon. Above the mountains, a soft, warm glow of yellow and orange light suggests a setting or rising sun. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

How does that make you feel when you hear that?



This implies that Someone wants you.
Someone values you.
That's how you should feel every 7 days.



The entire purpose of the Sabbath is to give you a weekly
reminder of this:
Your life matters.
You have significance in this world.
You are the object of a Divine love.
An unending love.

A serene landscape with mountains and a body of water. In the foreground, there is a large, dark, textured rock formation, possibly a cave entrance or a large rock. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the mountains. The sky is a mix of blue and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The mountains in the background are dark and silhouetted against the sky.

This precious gift of rest is available to every human being.
Even after the fall we have access to this level of fellowship with
God.



This is one of the reasons that I am not a naturalist.

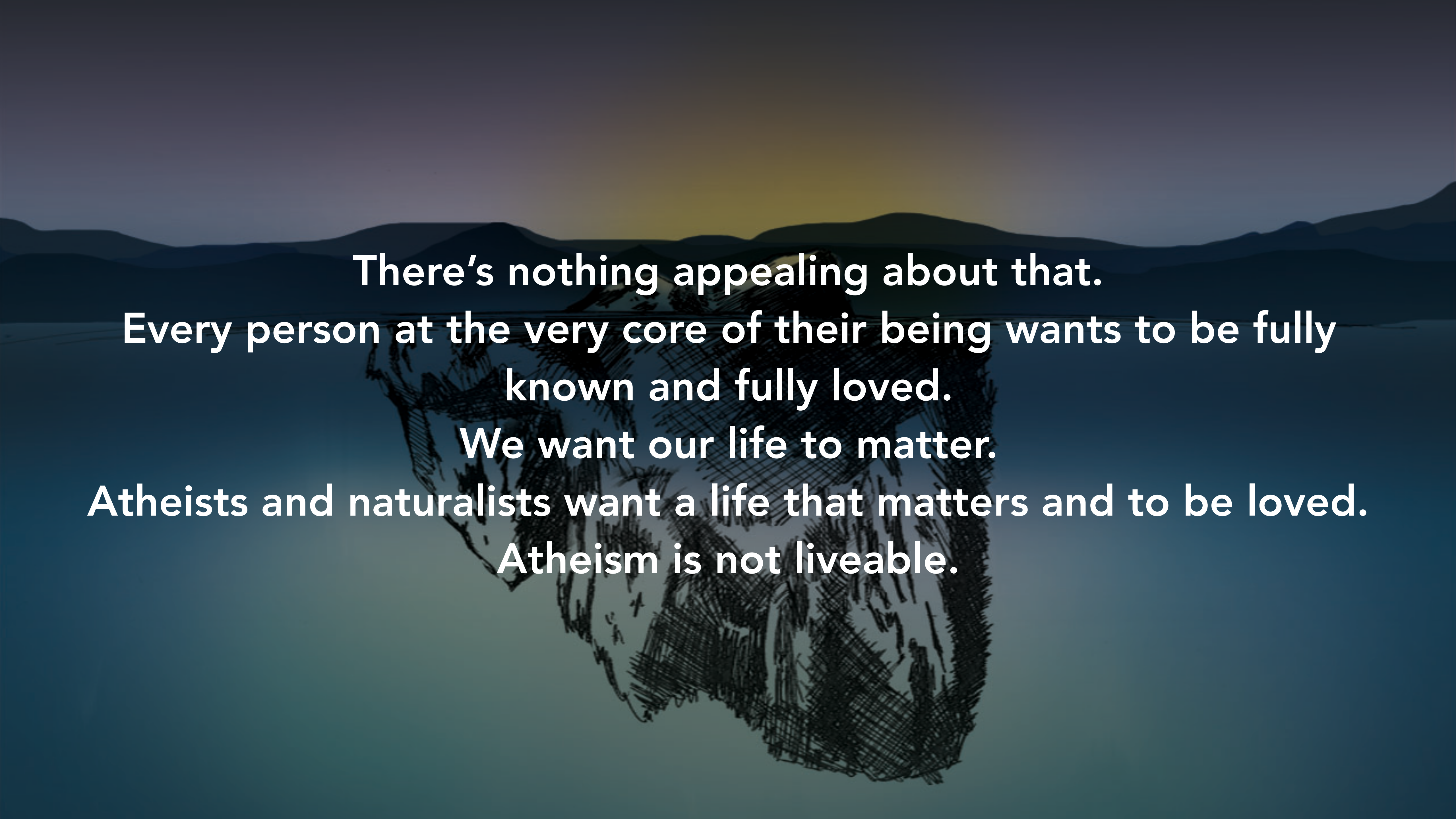


I am not some convenient biological mistake.

Some fluke of nature.

The product of many fortunate circumstance for few, many
unfortunate circumstances for most.

Lots of death, deprivation, destruction, and disease that
eventually leads to me having a life that won't matter at the end
of the day and I'll just return to fertilizer in the ground and no
one will care.



There's nothing appealing about that.
Every person at the very core of their being wants to be fully
known and fully loved.
We want our life to matter.
Atheists and naturalists want a life that matters and to be loved.
Atheism is not liveable.



But the Sabbath comes along and is a reminder that tells you that:

Your life does have significance.

You matter.

You are important.

You are loved.

You were hand crafted by a God of love.

There is no one like you in this world.

You are the only you available to God.

How you live your life matters.

Only you can do what you do for the glory of God.



Weekly we are reminded of this.

Why?

Because we are so prone to forget it.

And there is an accuser of the brethren who says you don't matter.

That you came from monkeys.

When it's all said and done no one cares, and it's all a waste.

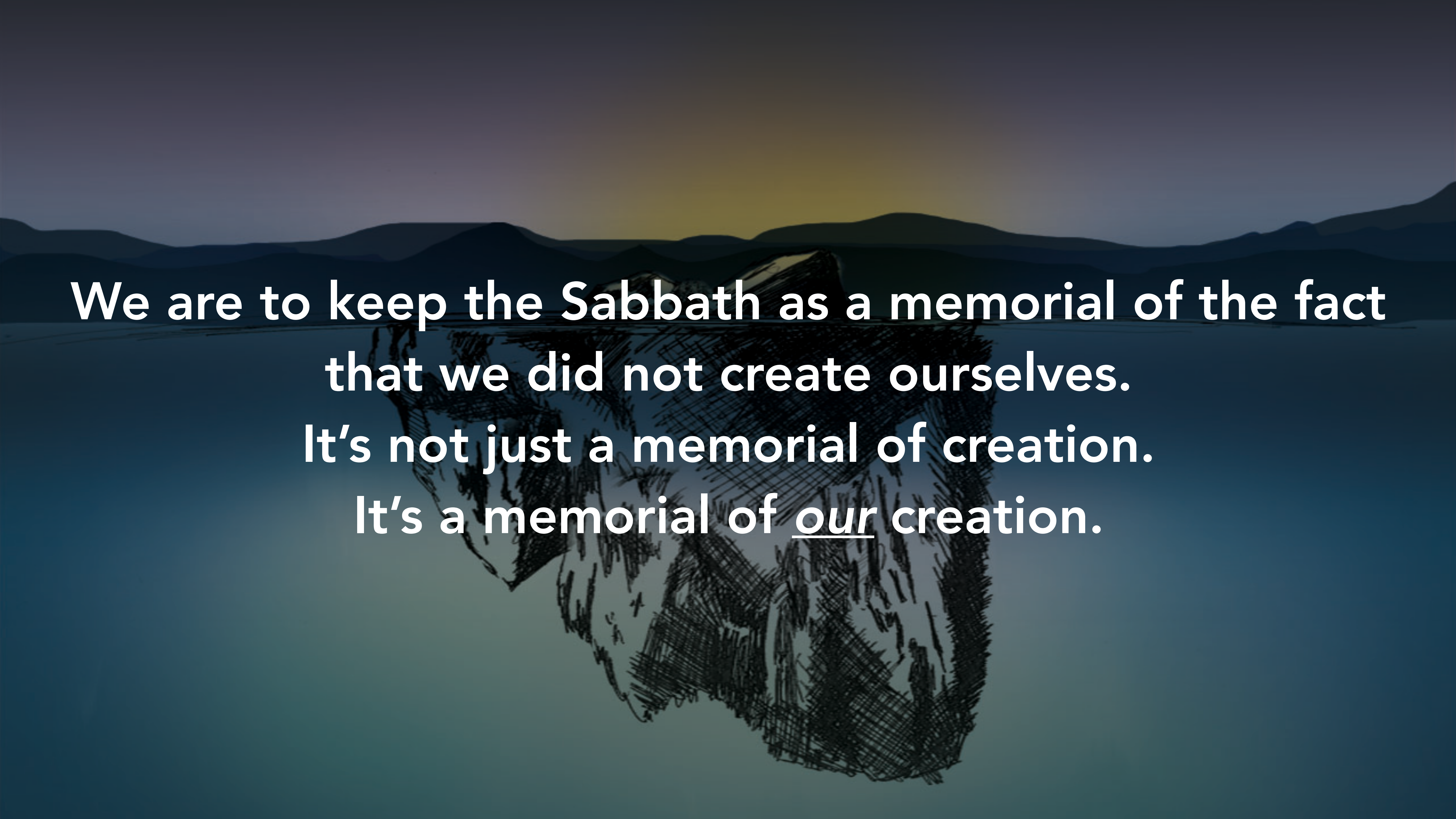
So do you, and get yours, cause this is all you get.



Exodus 20:8-11



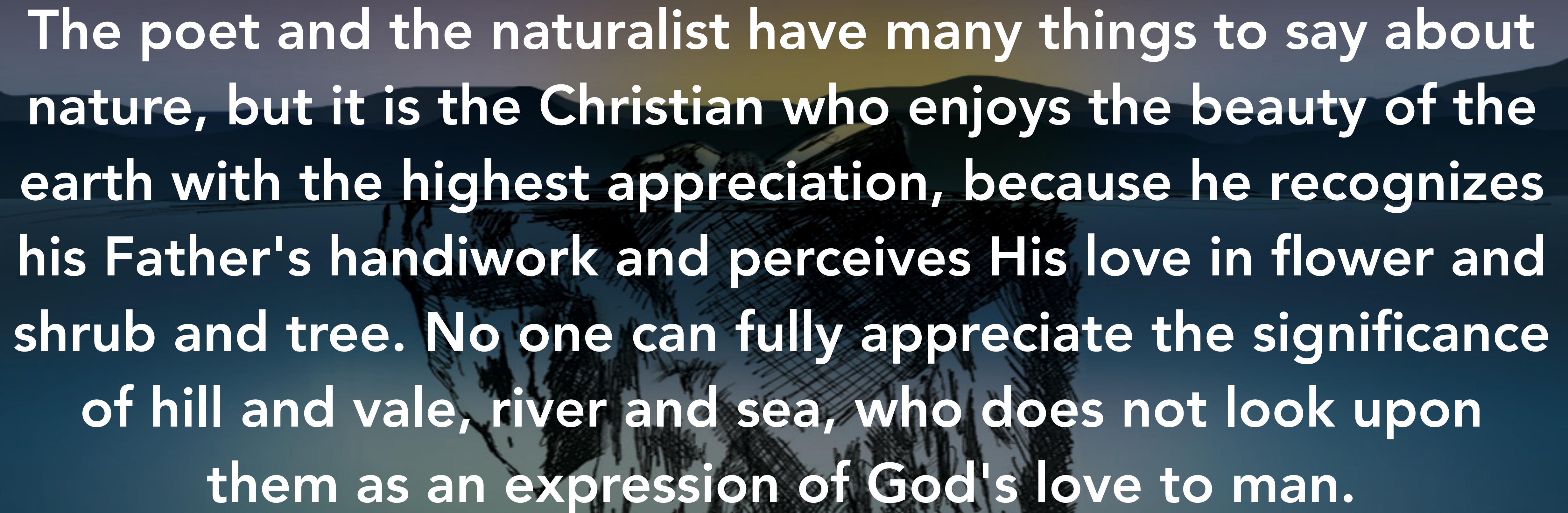
Why is it that God gave us the Sabbath according
to this verse?



We are to keep the Sabbath as a memorial of the fact
that we did not create ourselves.
It's not just a memorial of creation.
It's a memorial of our creation.

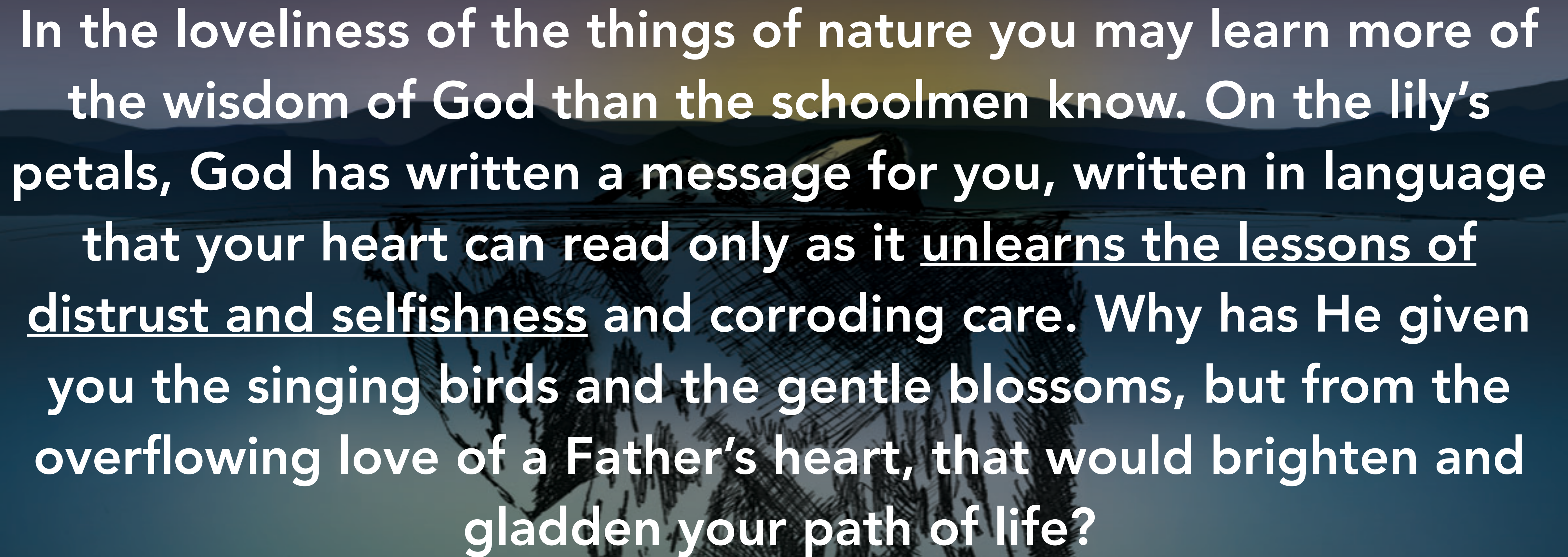


It's an opportunity to partake of the grandeur and
beauty of what God has done.



The poet and the naturalist have many things to say about nature, but it is the Christian who enjoys the beauty of the earth with the highest appreciation, because he recognizes his Father's handiwork and perceives His love in flower and shrub and tree. No one can fully appreciate the significance of hill and vale, river and sea, who does not look upon them as an expression of God's love to man.

-Steps to Christ 87.1

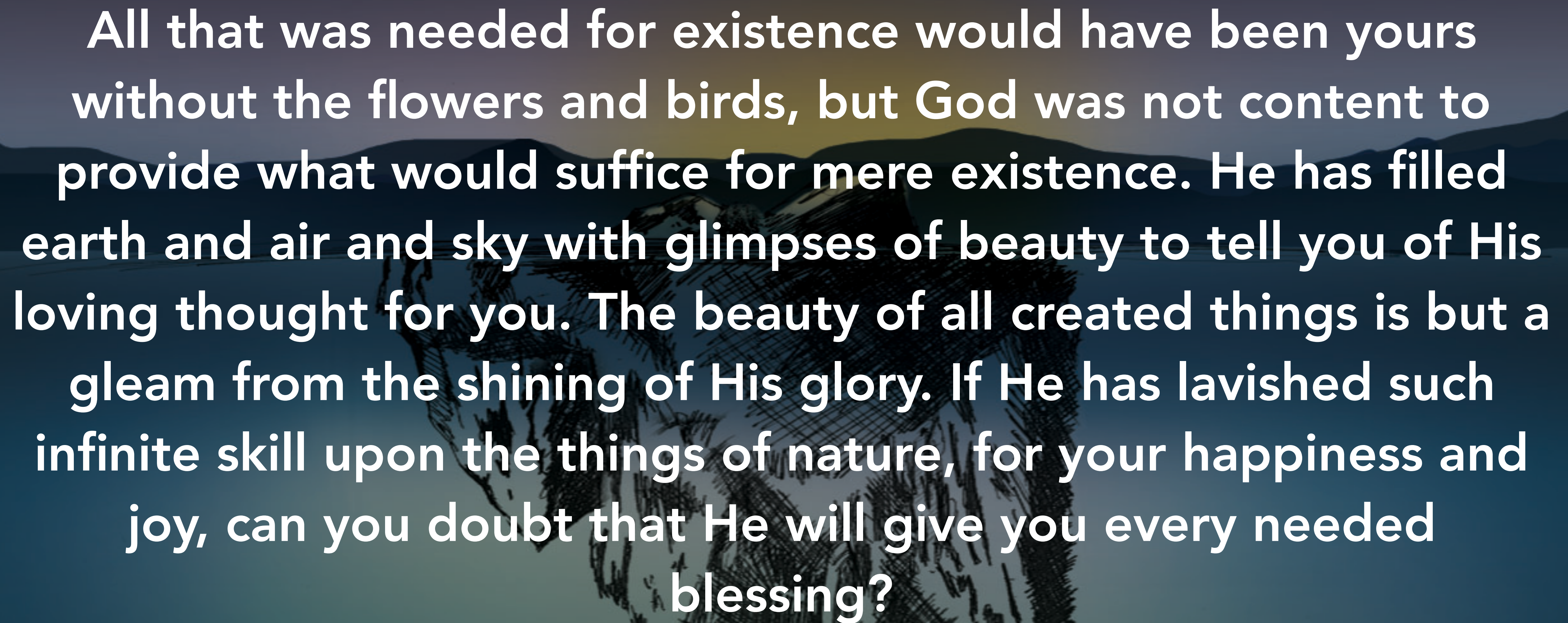


In the loveliness of the things of nature you may learn more of the wisdom of God than the schoolmen know. On the lily's petals, God has written a message for you, written in language that your heart can read only as it unlearns the lessons of distrust and selfishness and corroding care. Why has He given you the singing birds and the gentle blossoms, but from the overflowing love of a Father's heart, that would brighten and gladden your path of life?

-Thoughts From The Mount Of Blessing 96.1



So the Sabbath, and time in creation were meant to break the cycle and tendency of selfishness in our experience.

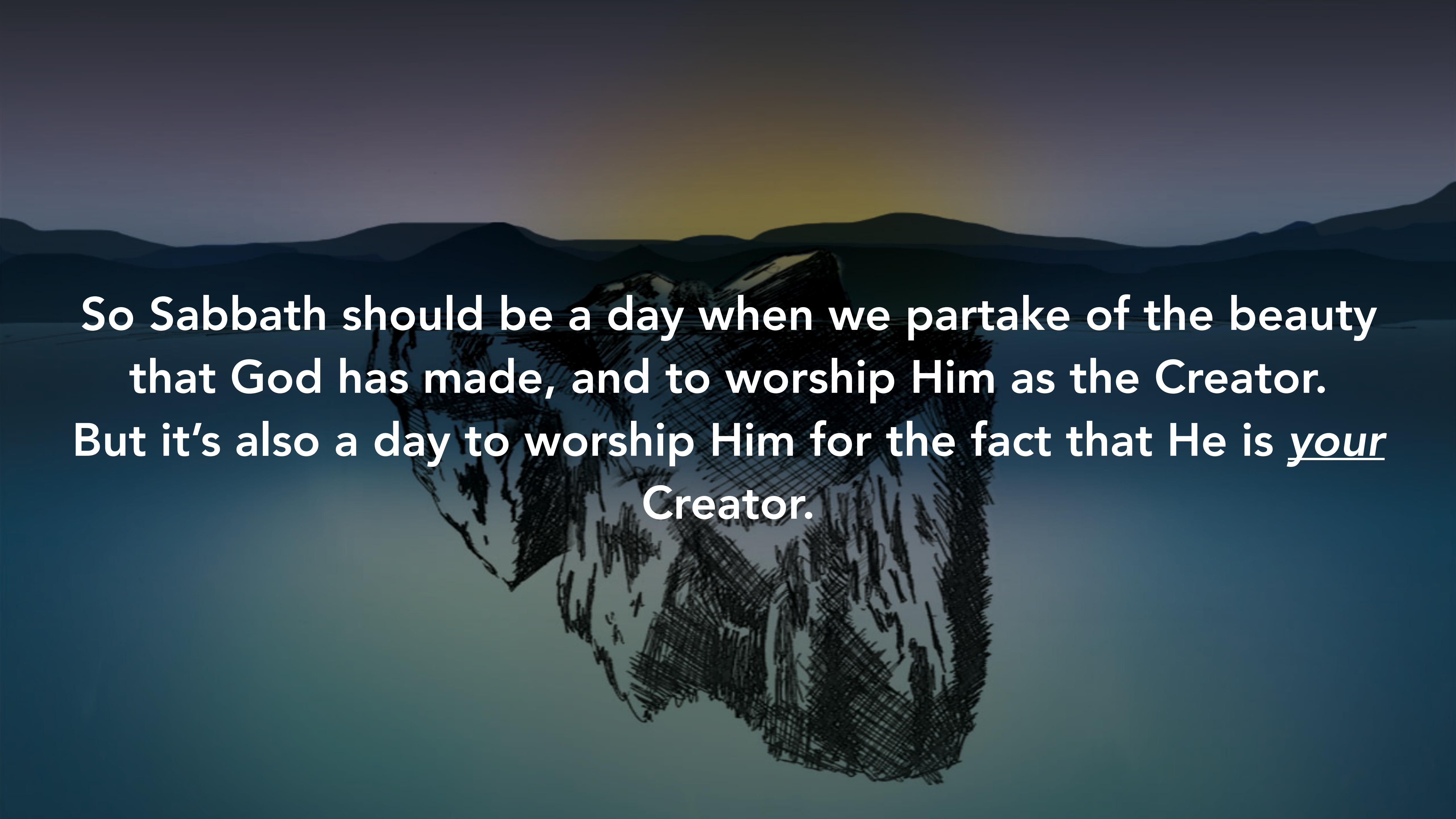


All that was needed for existence would have been yours without the flowers and birds, but God was not content to provide what would suffice for mere existence. He has filled earth and air and sky with glimpses of beauty to tell you of His loving thought for you. The beauty of all created things is but a gleam from the shining of His glory. If He has lavished such infinite skill upon the things of nature, for your happiness and joy, can you doubt that He will give you every needed blessing?

-Thoughts From The Mount Of Blessing 96.1



He didn't give us these things to ensure we can live.
He gave them to us to remind us that we are loved.



So Sabbath should be a day when we partake of the beauty
that God has made, and to worship Him as the Creator.
But it's also a day to worship Him for the fact that He is your
Creator.



He made me.

I'm not my own.

I should slow down, pump the brakes and take care of the
body that He has given me.

To not be so filled with the cares of this world that I forget the
fact I am special, and the object of God's divine love.

To not be so busy trying to prove myself and my worth to the
world around me and to receive and rest in the worth I already
have in Christ.

And that amazing God is longing for time with me.

The background is a dark, atmospheric illustration. It features a range of mountains in the distance under a twilight sky with a hint of yellow light on the horizon. In the middle ground, there's a body of water. In the foreground, a large, craggy rock formation or island is depicted with heavy, dark, textured strokes, possibly representing a cave entrance or a natural rock shelter. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

So Sabbath is a memorial of the fact that we did not create ourselves.



Deuteronomy 5:12-15

The background is a dark, atmospheric illustration. It features a range of mountains in the distance under a twilight sky. In the middle ground, there's a calm body of water reflecting the sky. In the foreground, a large, craggy rock formation or island is partially submerged, with its reflection clearly visible in the water. The overall color palette is dark, with shades of blue, grey, and a hint of yellow from the setting or rising sun.

Why is it that God gave us Sabbath according to this
verse?



It's a memorial of redemption.
That we can't save ourselves.



Paul alludes to Egyptian bondage and that it's a type of
our bondage to sin.



So Deuternonomy's charge is to keep the Sabbath
because we can't redeem ourselves.



We can't create ourselves, and we can't redeem ourselves.

Sabbath rest is entering into true and complete rest in Christ.

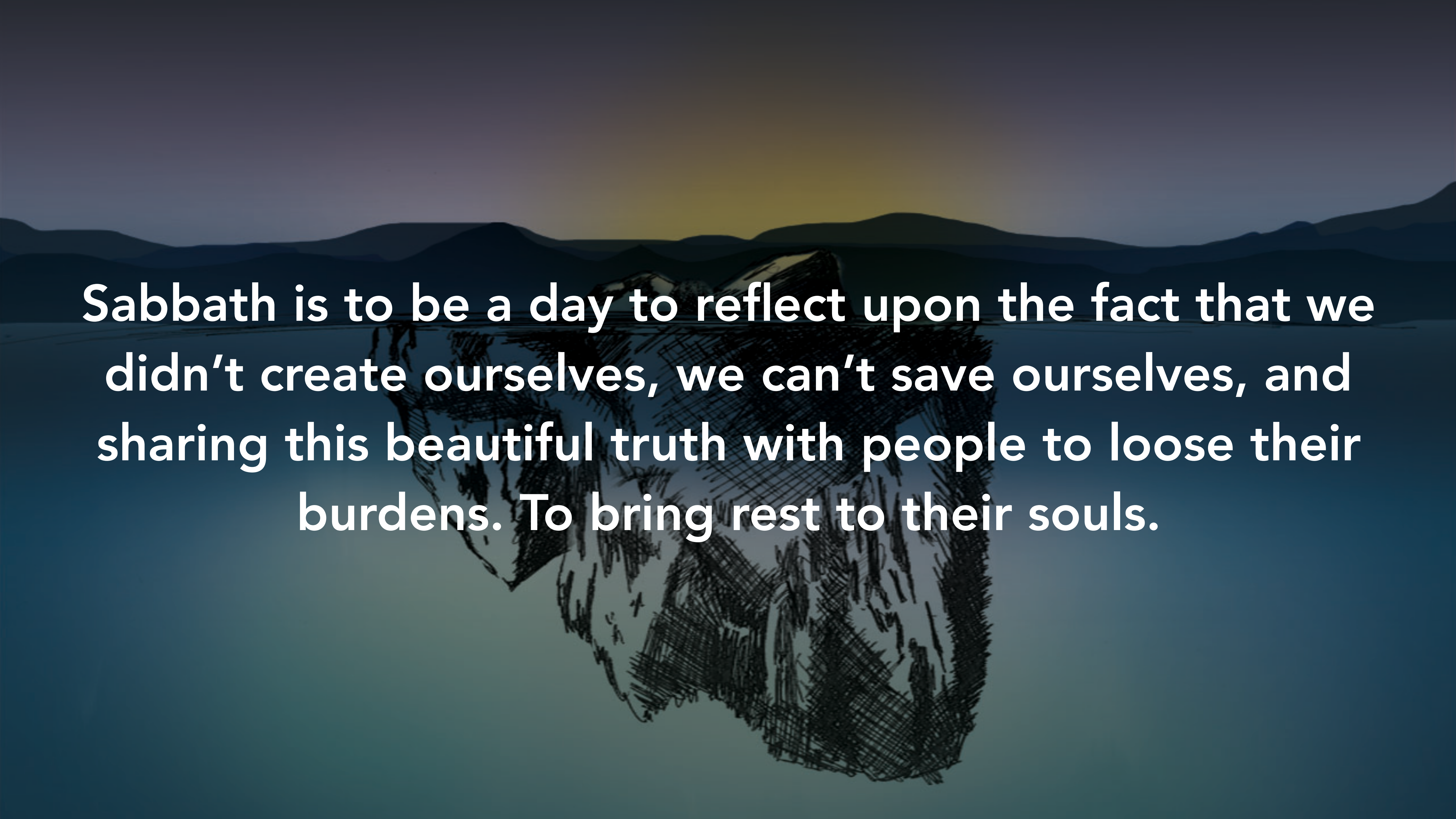
We're spending a day to acknowledge that, to enjoy that, and to reflect upon that.



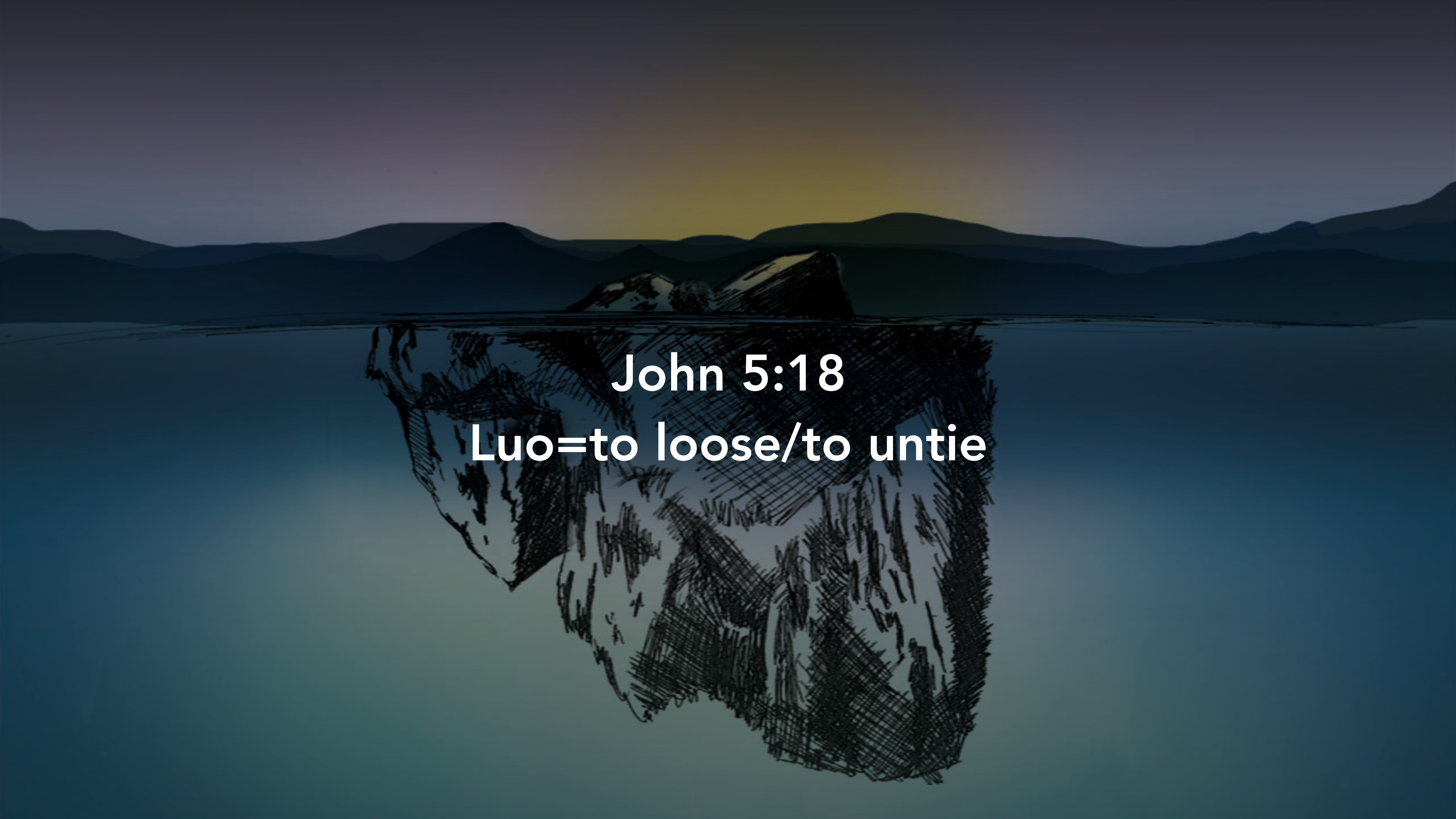
We would do well to reflect upon these things and not
just attend church.



It's possible to show up to Sabbath and to not do
Sabbath.



Sabbath is to be a day to reflect upon the fact that we didn't create ourselves, we can't save ourselves, and sharing this beautiful truth with people to loose their burdens. To bring rest to their souls.



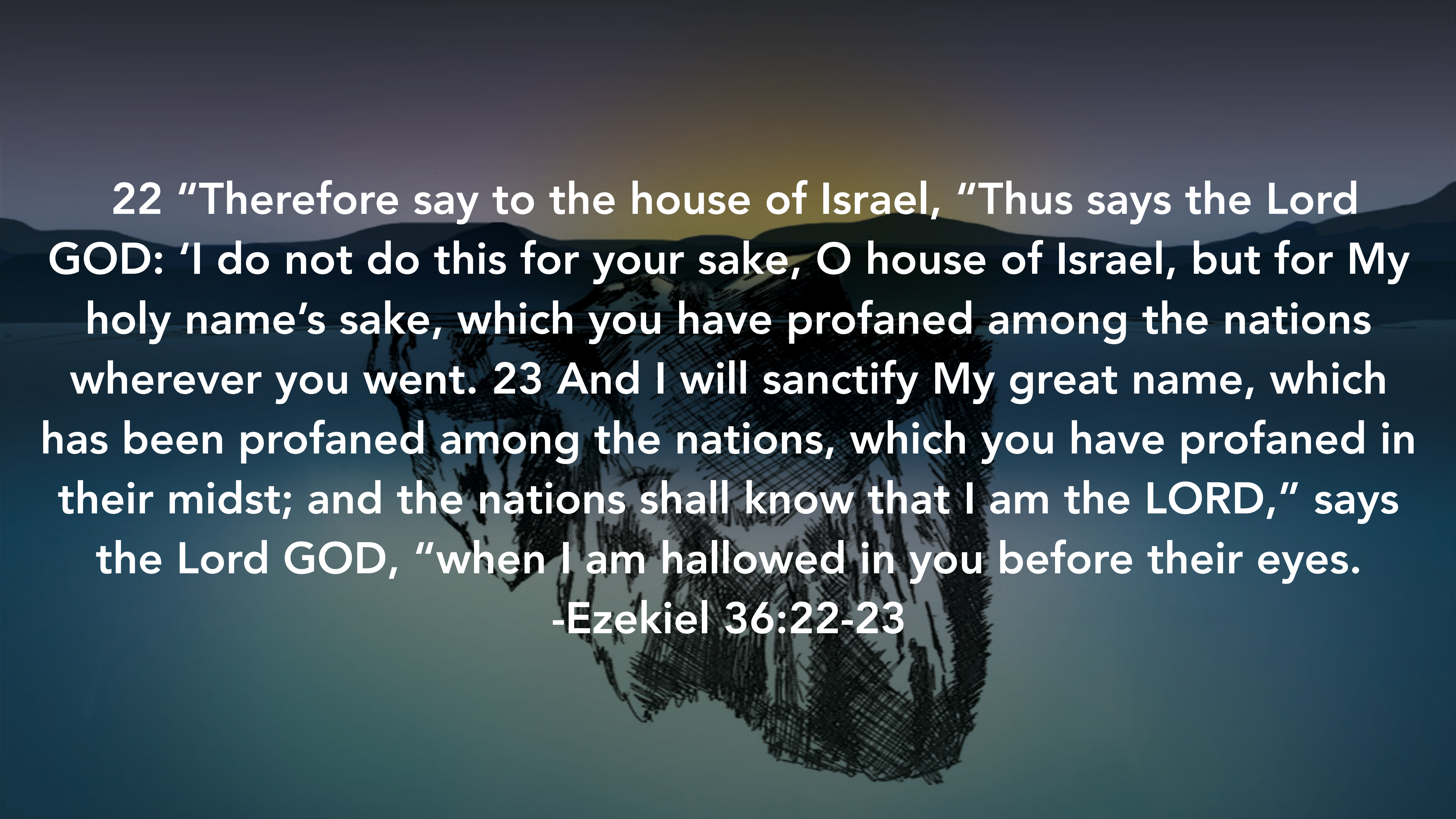
John 5:18
Luo=to loose/to untie



Ezekiel 20:12

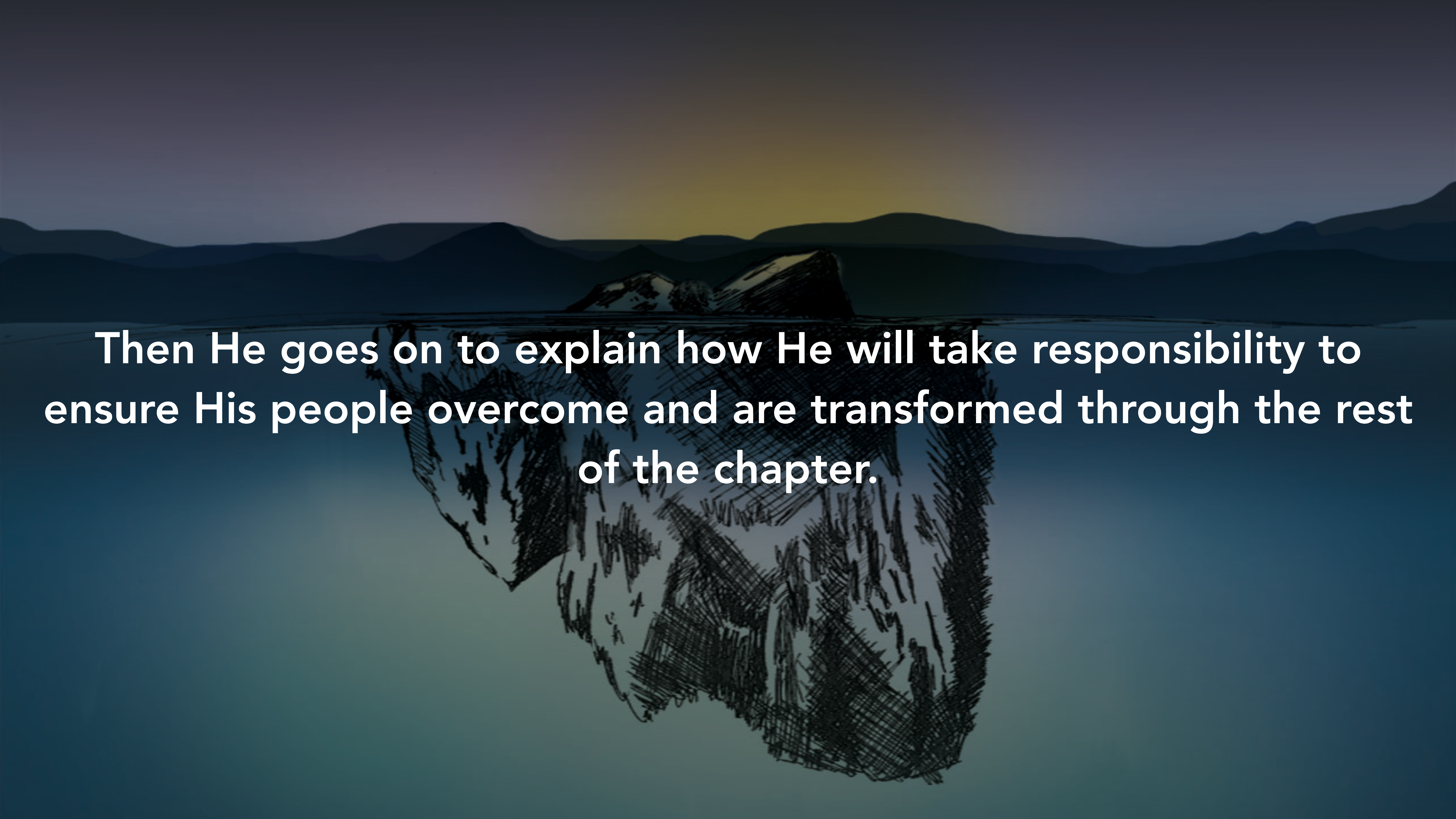


Sabbath is a sign that God is the one who has promised
to transform us and set us free from the burden of sin.

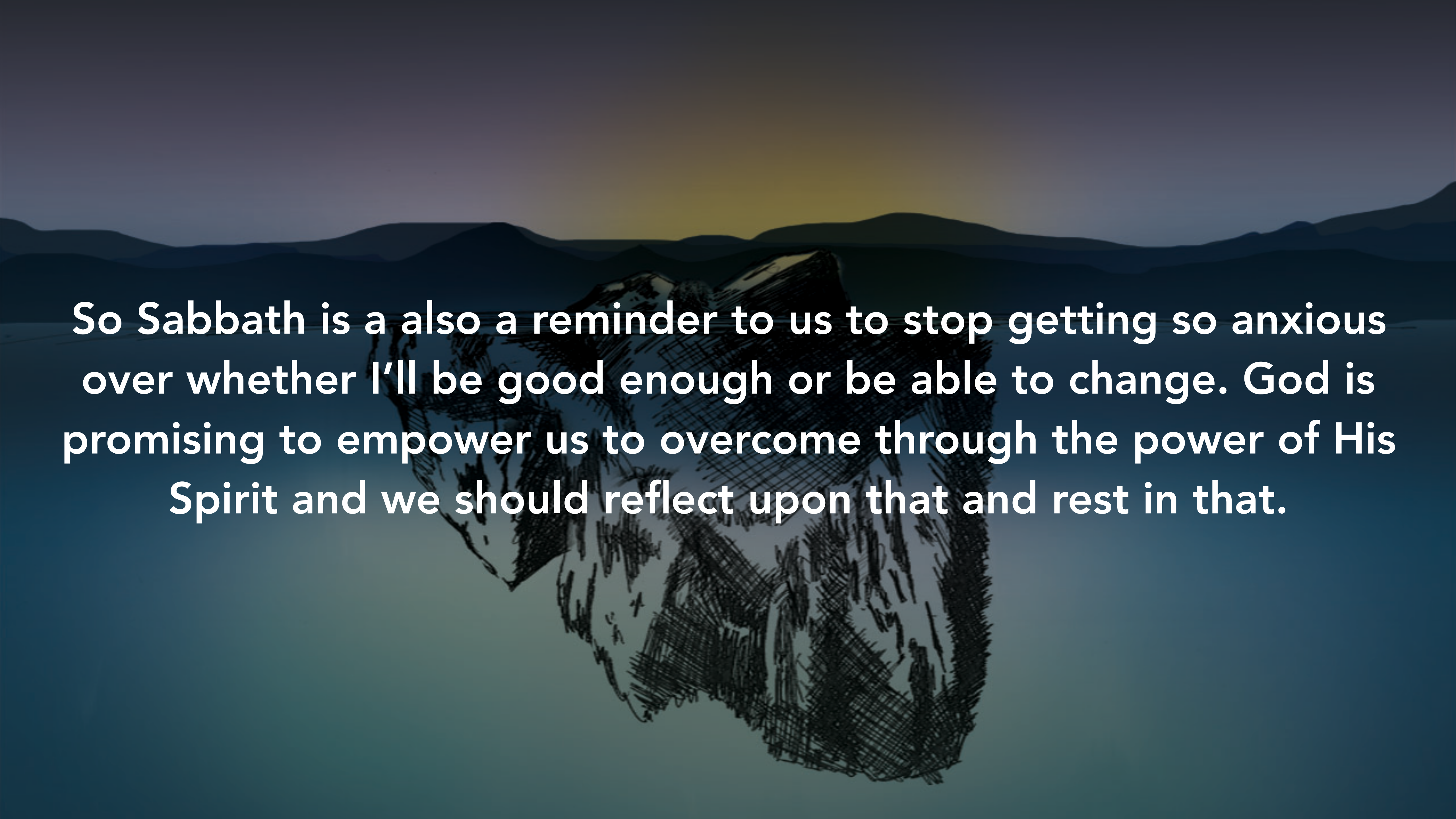


22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, "Thus says the Lord GOD: 'I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. 23 And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD," says the Lord GOD, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes.

-Ezekiel 36:22-23

The background image is a dark, atmospheric landscape. It features a body of water in the foreground that reflects the sky and the mountains in the distance. The sky is a deep blue with a hint of yellow near the horizon, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The mountains are dark and silhouetted against the sky. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

Then He goes on to explain how He will take responsibility to ensure His people overcome and are transformed through the rest of the chapter.

The background of the image is a dark, moody landscape. In the foreground, there is a large, craggy rock formation with a rough, textured surface. Behind the rock, a range of dark mountains stretches across the horizon. The sky is a deep blue with a subtle gradient, suggesting a twilight or dawn setting. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

So Sabbath is a also a reminder to us to stop getting so anxious over whether I'll be good enough or be able to change. God is promising to empower us to overcome through the power of His Spirit and we should reflect upon that and rest in that.



Sabbathing is our act of protest against the lies of Satan and his ideology that man can save himself, and that God is selfish.



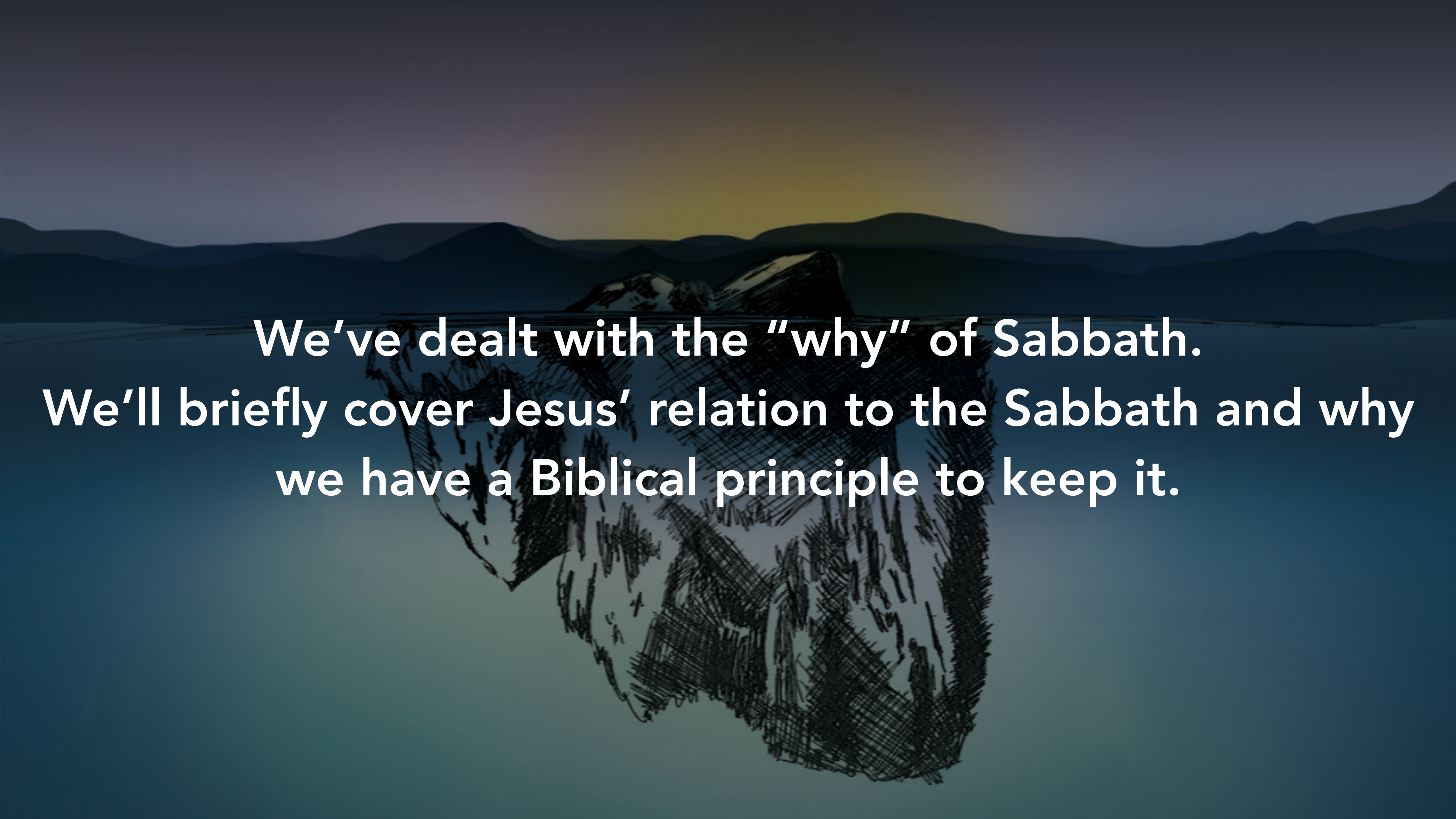
Nothing about this sounds like legalism does it?

We don't Sabbath to be saved.

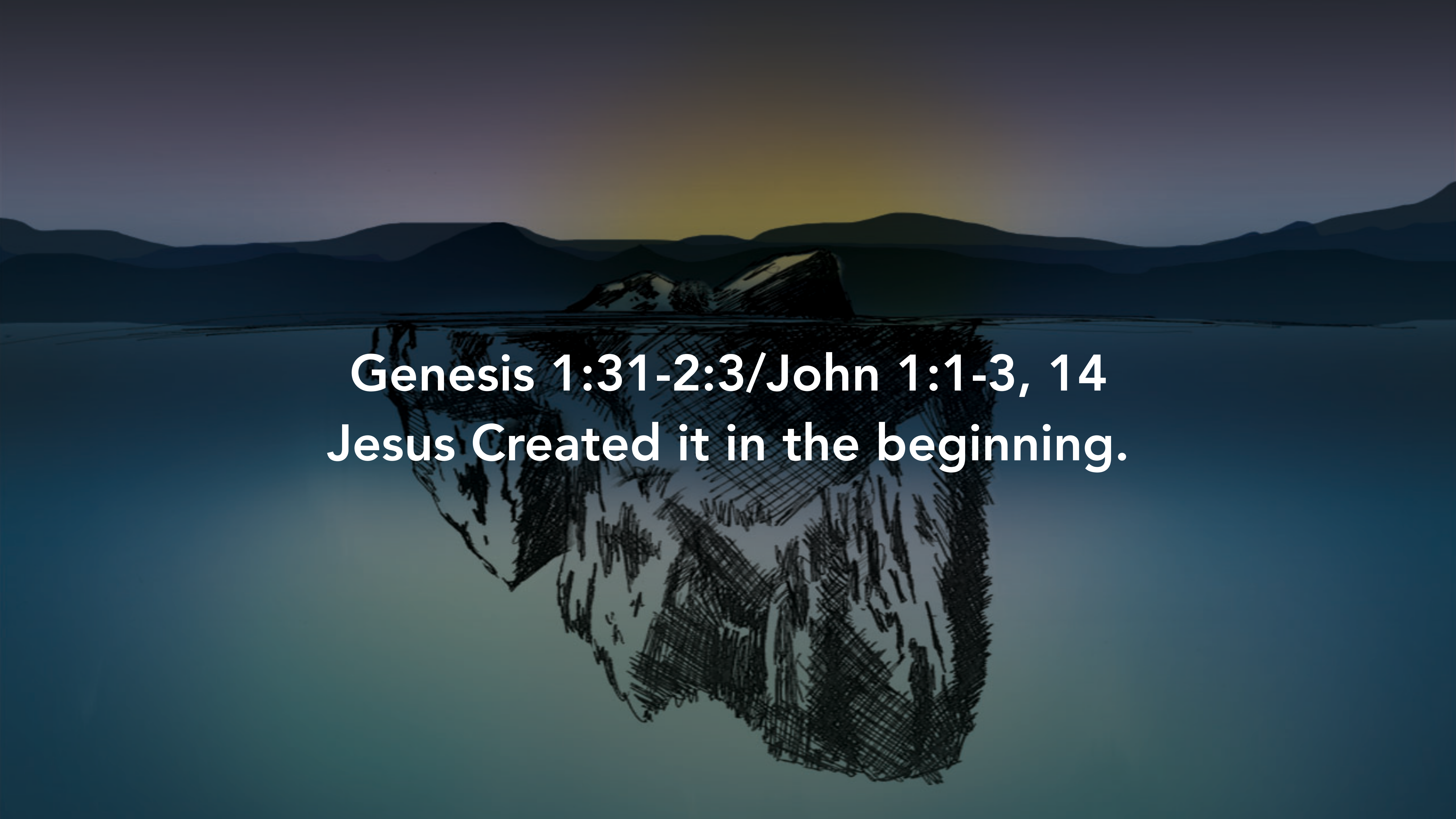
We Sabbath to rest in the fact that we are saved, and are
being transformed by His grace.



For many of us busyness is a Sabbath killer.
Satan loves this.



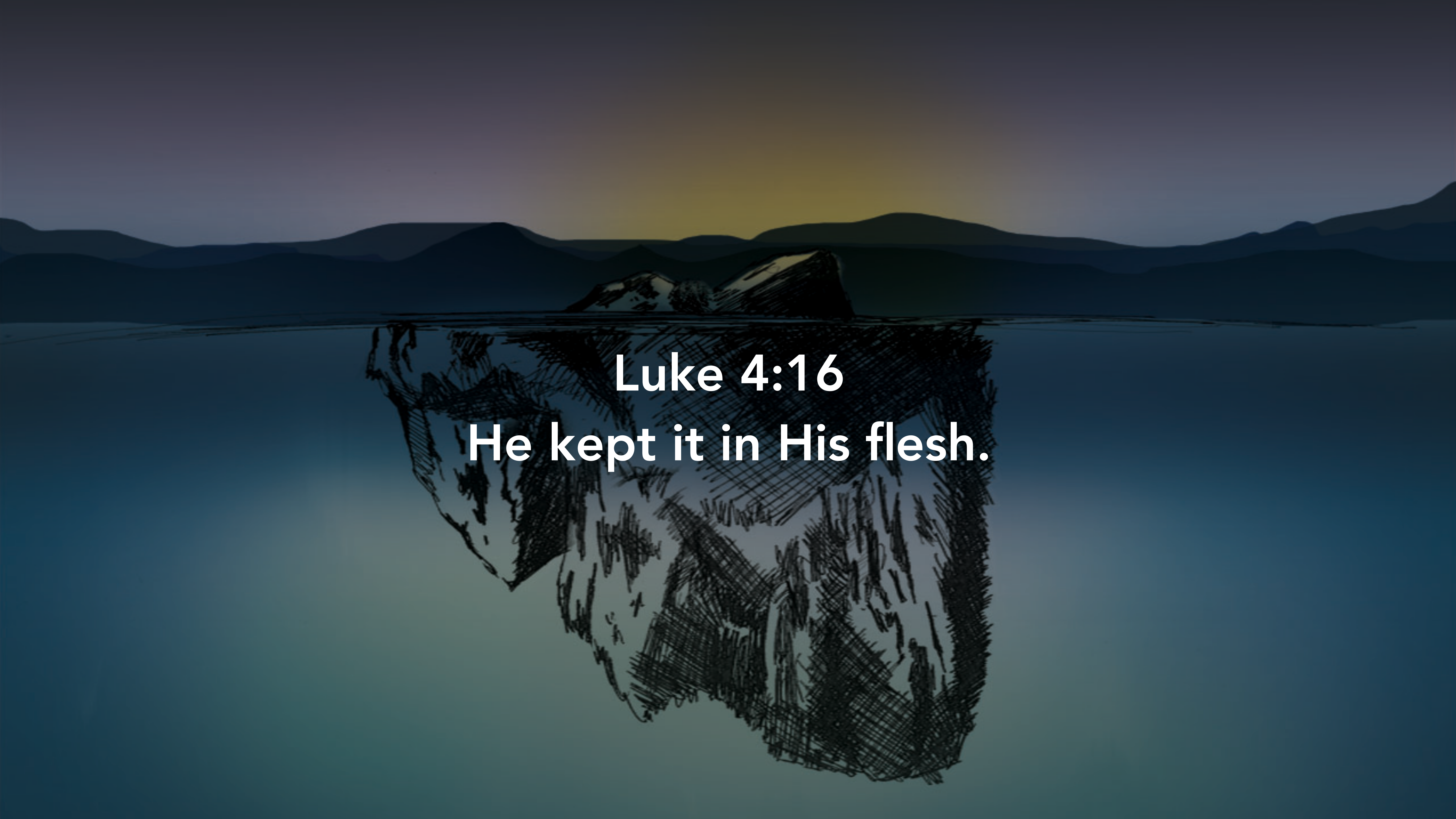
We've dealt with the "why" of Sabbath.
We'll briefly cover Jesus' relation to the Sabbath and why
we have a Biblical principle to keep it.



Genesis 1:31-2:3/John 1:1-3, 14
Jesus Created it in the beginning.



Exodus 20:8-11
He commanded it from Mt. Sinai.

The background is a dark, atmospheric landscape. In the foreground, a large, dark, textured rock formation, possibly a tombstone or a natural rock outcrop, is partially submerged in a body of water. The water is dark and reflects the light from the sky. In the background, there are silhouettes of mountains and hills under a twilight sky with a hint of yellow light on the horizon.

Luke 4:16
He kept it in His flesh.

Side note:

He didn't keep it because He was Jewish. There were many "Jewish" things that He didn't do just because it was a cultural norm.

Touching a leper
Associating with Samaritans
Ceremonial hand washing
Healed on Sabbath



Luke 23:53-24:3
He kept it in His death.



Luke 23:53-24:3

He kept it in His death AND His disciples kept it instead
of giving Him a proper burial the same day.



Matthew 24:20

He expected His disciples to be keeping it 39 years after
His death in AD70.



Acts 13:14-16, 37-39, 42-44

**Gentiles kept it after His death based upon Paul's
example and teaching.**



Isaiah 66:22-23

We will be keeping it throughout eternity in the new
earth.



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/c/deecasper



Dee Casper