



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

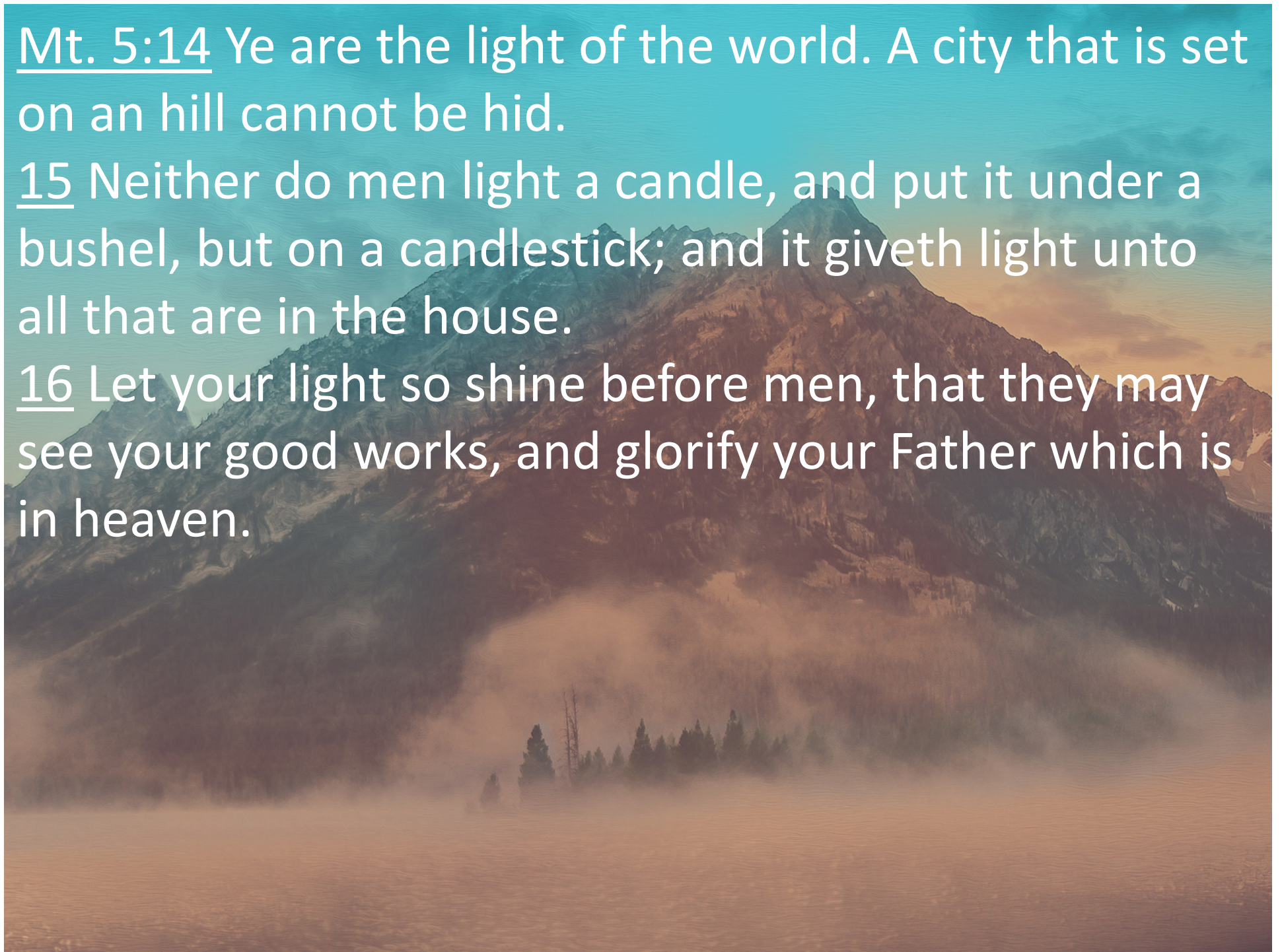
Mt. 5:14-16

“The Light of the World”

Mt. 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.



Review

Several weeks ago, we began the exegesis of this great sermon preached by the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BLESSINGS, 5:1-16

A. The Setting, 5:1-2

B. The Sayings, 5:3-12

1. What We Are, 5:3-5

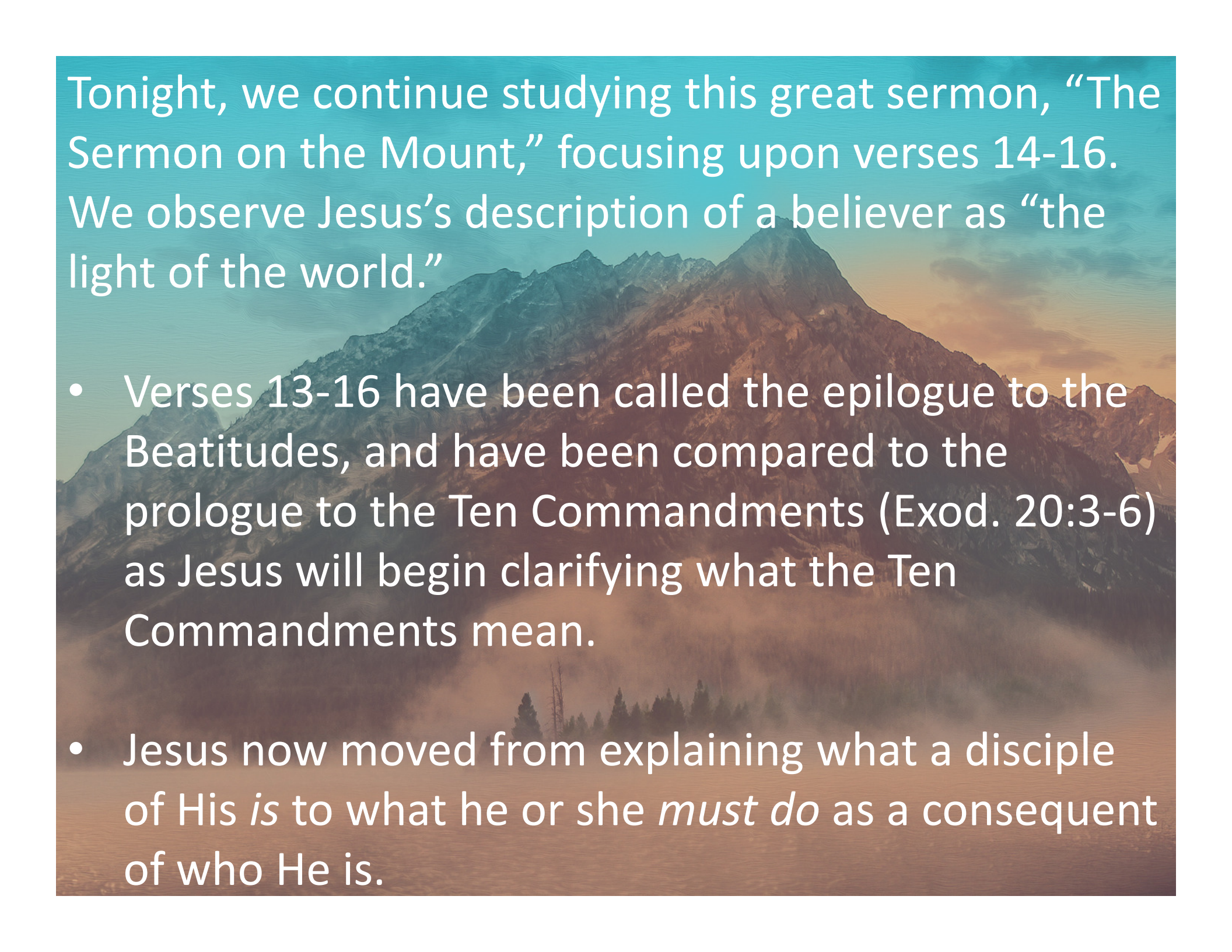
2. Where We Aim, 5:6

3. Ways We Act, 5:7-9

4. What We Accept, 5:10-12

C. The Sequel, 5:13-16

1. Resisting Decay, 5:13

A scenic view of a mountain range at sunset or sunrise, with a teal overlay at the top containing text. The mountains are rugged and covered in some snow, with a forest of evergreen trees in the foreground. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

Tonight, we continue studying this great sermon, “The Sermon on the Mount,” focusing upon verses 14-16. We observe Jesus’s description of a believer as “the light of the world.”

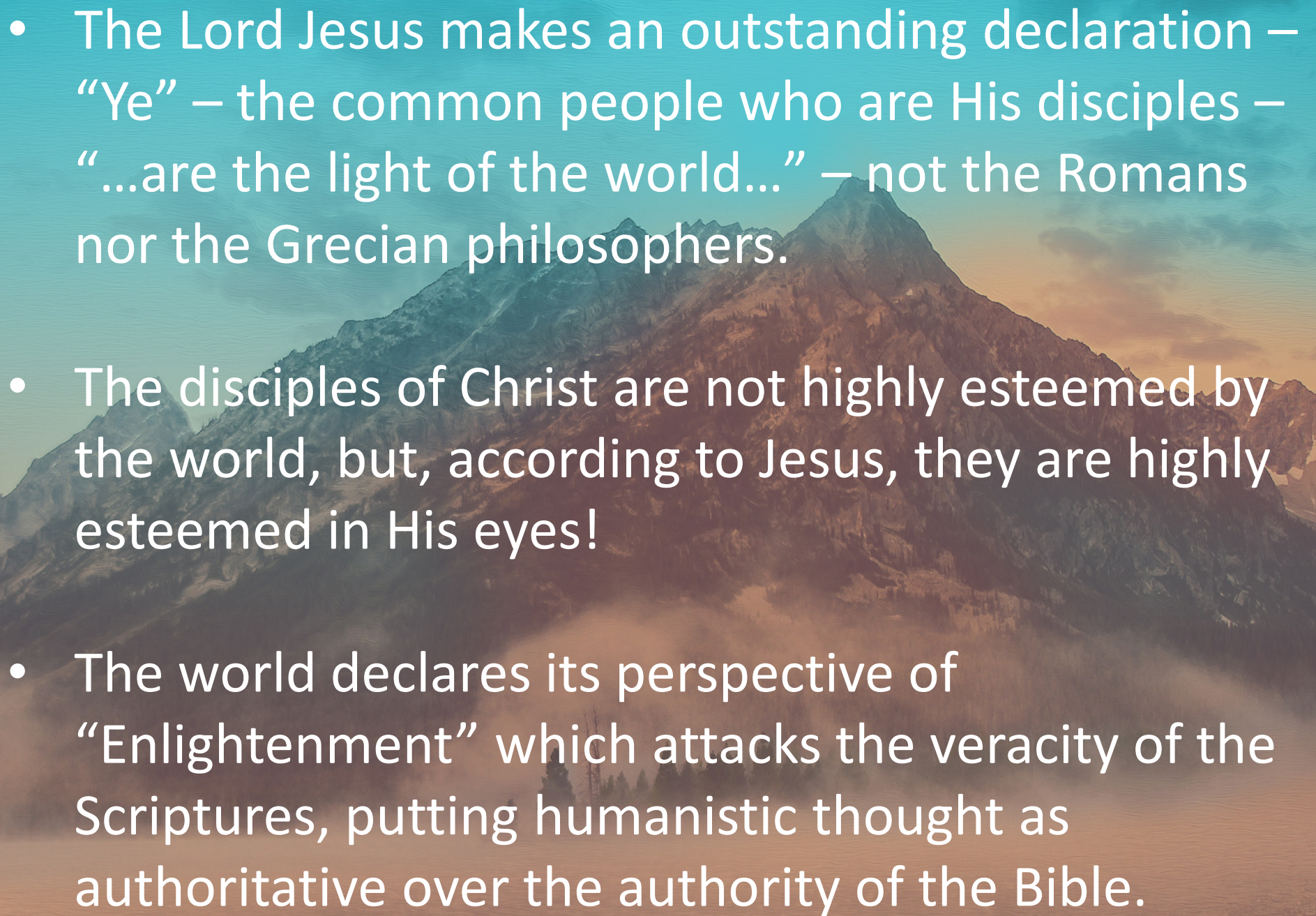
- Verses 13-16 have been called the epilogue to the Beatitudes, and have been compared to the prologue to the Ten Commandments (Exod. 20:3-6) as Jesus will begin clarifying what the Ten Commandments mean.
- Jesus now moved from explaining what a disciple of His *is* to what he or she *must do* as a consequent of who He is.

- Jesus said that believers are both salt and light.
- Salt relates to character, and light relates to conduct.

2. Removing Darkness, 5:14-16

a. The Position of the Light, 5:14

Mt. 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

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- The Lord Jesus makes an outstanding declaration – “Ye” – the common people who are His disciples – “...are the light of the world...” – not the Romans nor the Grecian philosophers.
 - The disciples of Christ are not highly esteemed by the world, but, according to Jesus, they are highly esteemed in His eyes!
 - The world declares its perspective of “Enlightenment” which attacks the veracity of the Scriptures, putting humanistic thought as authoritative over the authority of the Bible.

- Jesus has declared and designated His disciples as the truly “enlightened” ones!

1 Cor. 1:27 But **God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise;** and **God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;**

- Note the contrast – Jesus and His disciples are “light” while the world is in darkness:

Jn. 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

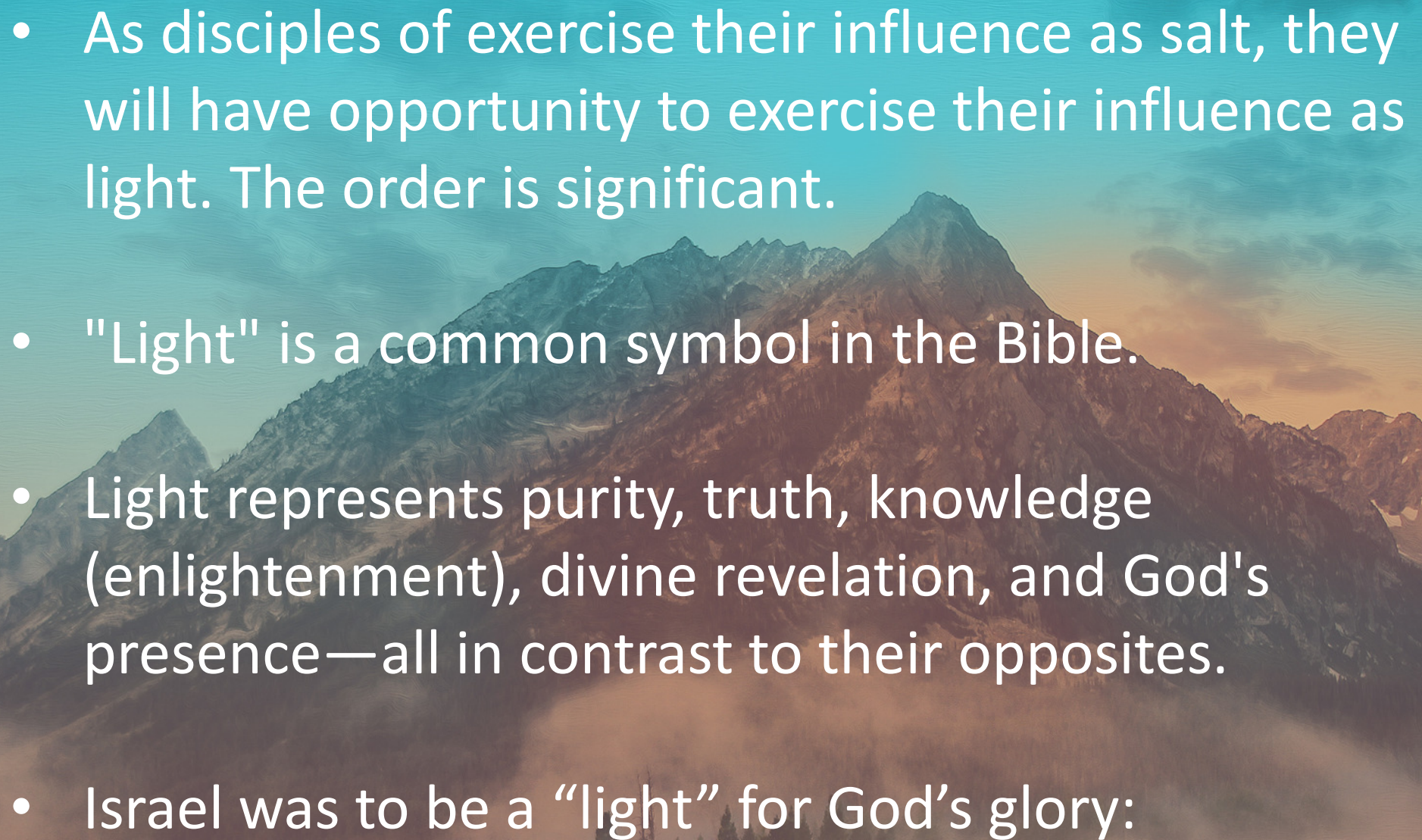


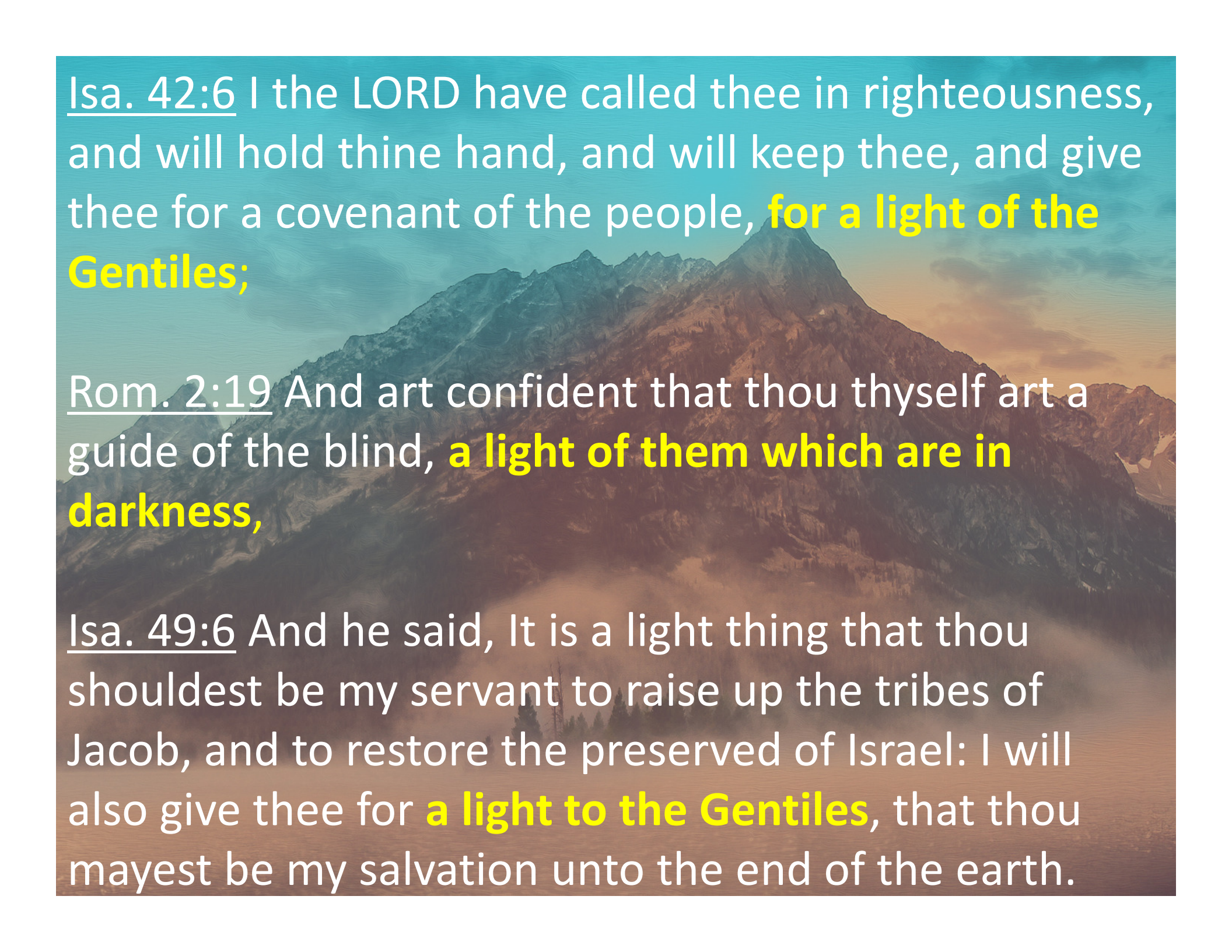
Eph. 5:8 For **ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:**

- Jesus' disciples are to identify with Him, piercing the darkness with shining testimony.

Jn. 12:46 I am come a **light into the world**, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in **darkness**.

Jn. 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that **light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil.

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- As disciples of exercise their influence as salt, they will have opportunity to exercise their influence as light. The order is significant.
 - "Light" is a common symbol in the Bible.
 - Light represents purity, truth, knowledge (enlightenment), divine revelation, and God's presence—all in contrast to their opposites.
 - Israel was to be a "light" for God's glory:

A scenic view of a mountain range with a valley below, overlaid with text. The mountains are rugged and brownish, with some snow patches. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text is white and yellow, with some words highlighted in yellow.

Isa. 42:6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, **for a light of the Gentiles;**

Rom. 2:19 And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, **a light of them which are in darkness,**

Isa. 49:6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for **a light to the Gentiles**, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.



Mt. 4:16 **The people which sat in darkness saw great light;**
and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death
light is sprung up.

- As light-bearers, we represent Christ to unbelievers, and should bring them the light of the gospel.

Phil. 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, **the sons of God**, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, **among whom ye shine as lights in the world;**

16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.



Prov. 4:18 But **the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more** unto the perfect day.

2 Cor. 4:6 For **God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness**, hath shined in our hearts, **to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

- Believers, as light, are unequivocally different, and separate from darkness.

2 Cor. 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and **what communion hath light with darkness?**



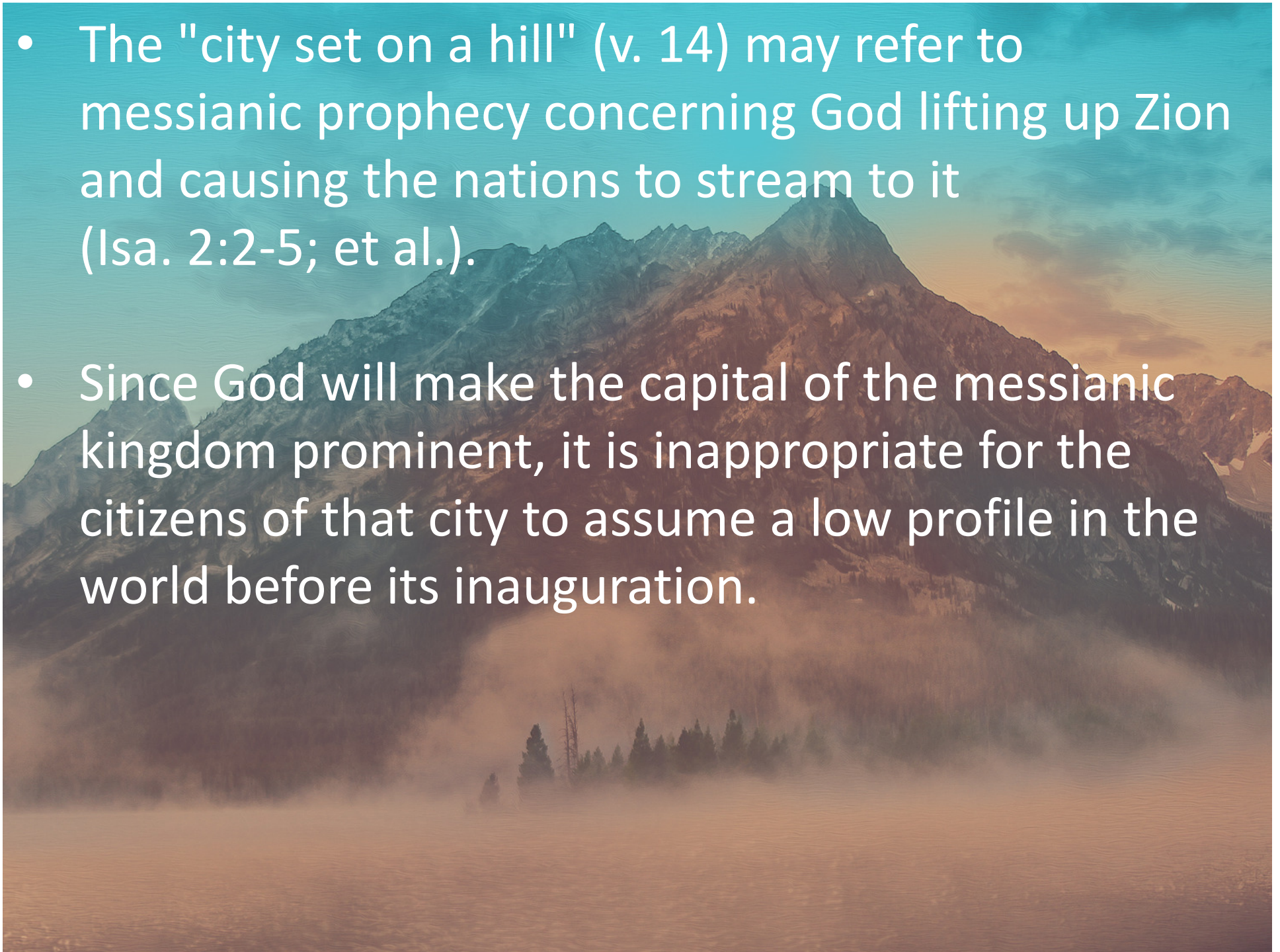
Eph. 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, **against the rulers of the darkness of this world**, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

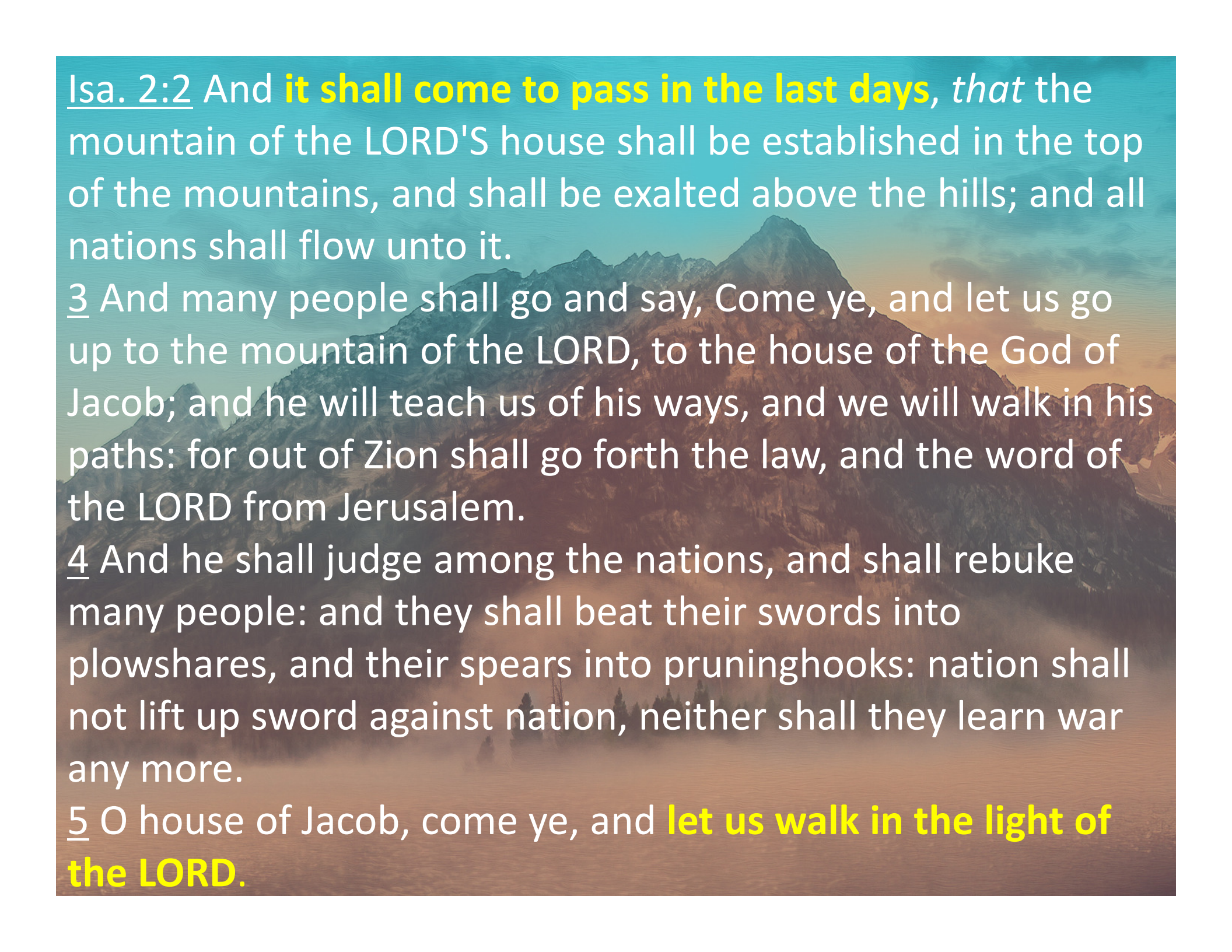
1 Thess. 5:5 **Ye are all the children of light**, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, **nor of darkness**.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober.

1 Pet. 2:9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of **him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light**:

- The "city set on a hill" (v. 14) may refer to messianic prophecy concerning God lifting up Zion and causing the nations to stream to it (Isa. 2:2-5; et al.).
- Since God will make the capital of the messianic kingdom prominent, it is inappropriate for the citizens of that city to assume a low profile in the world before its inauguration.





Isa. 2:2 And **it shall come to pass in the last days**, *that* the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

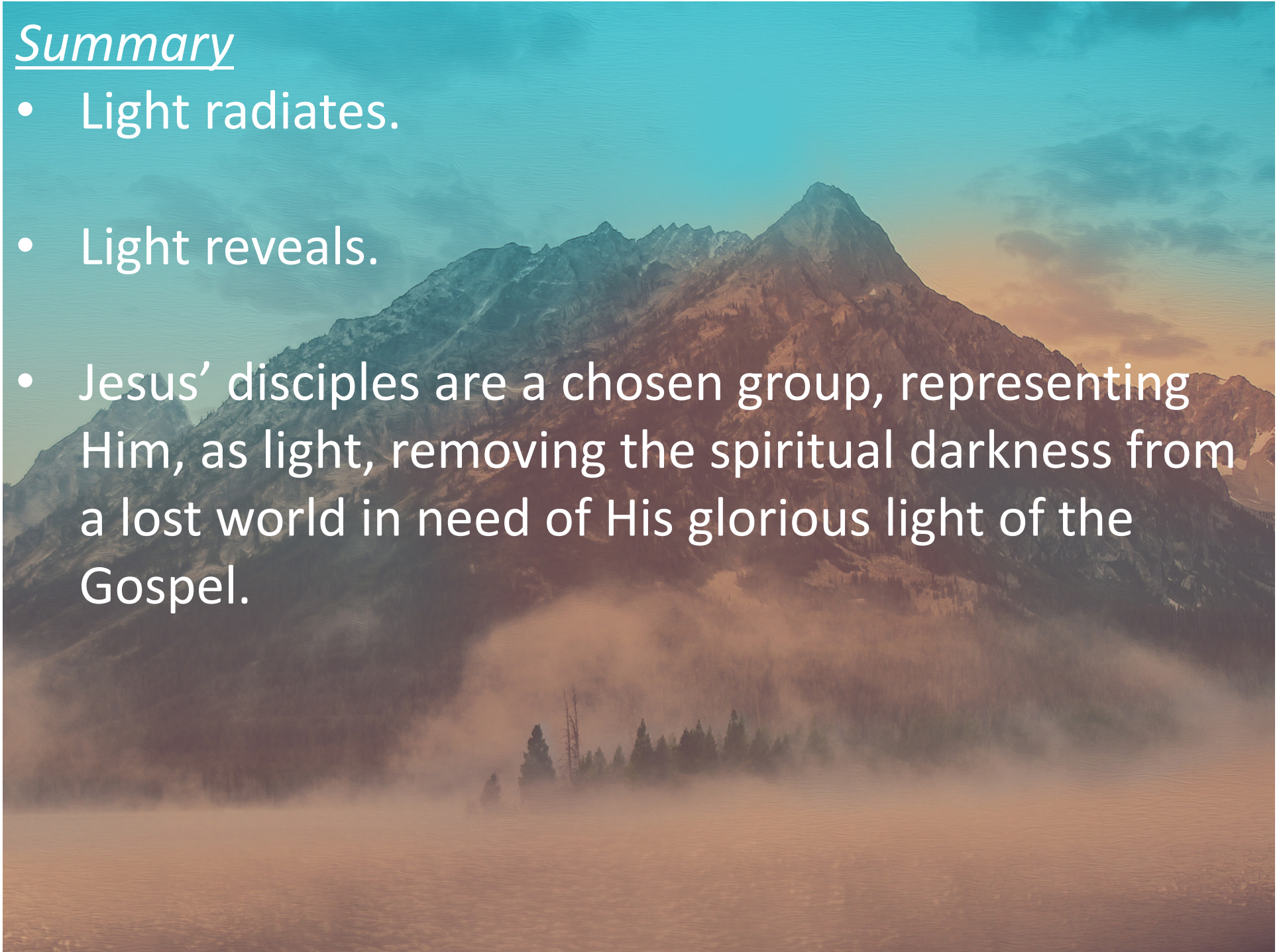
3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

5 O house of Jacob, come ye, and **let us walk in the light of the LORD.**

Summary

- Light radiates.
- Light reveals.
- Jesus' disciples are a chosen group, representing Him, as light, removing the spiritual darkness from a lost world in need of His glorious light of the Gospel.



Conclusion

1 Jn. 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.**

6 **If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie,** and do not the truth:

7 But **if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another,** and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.