

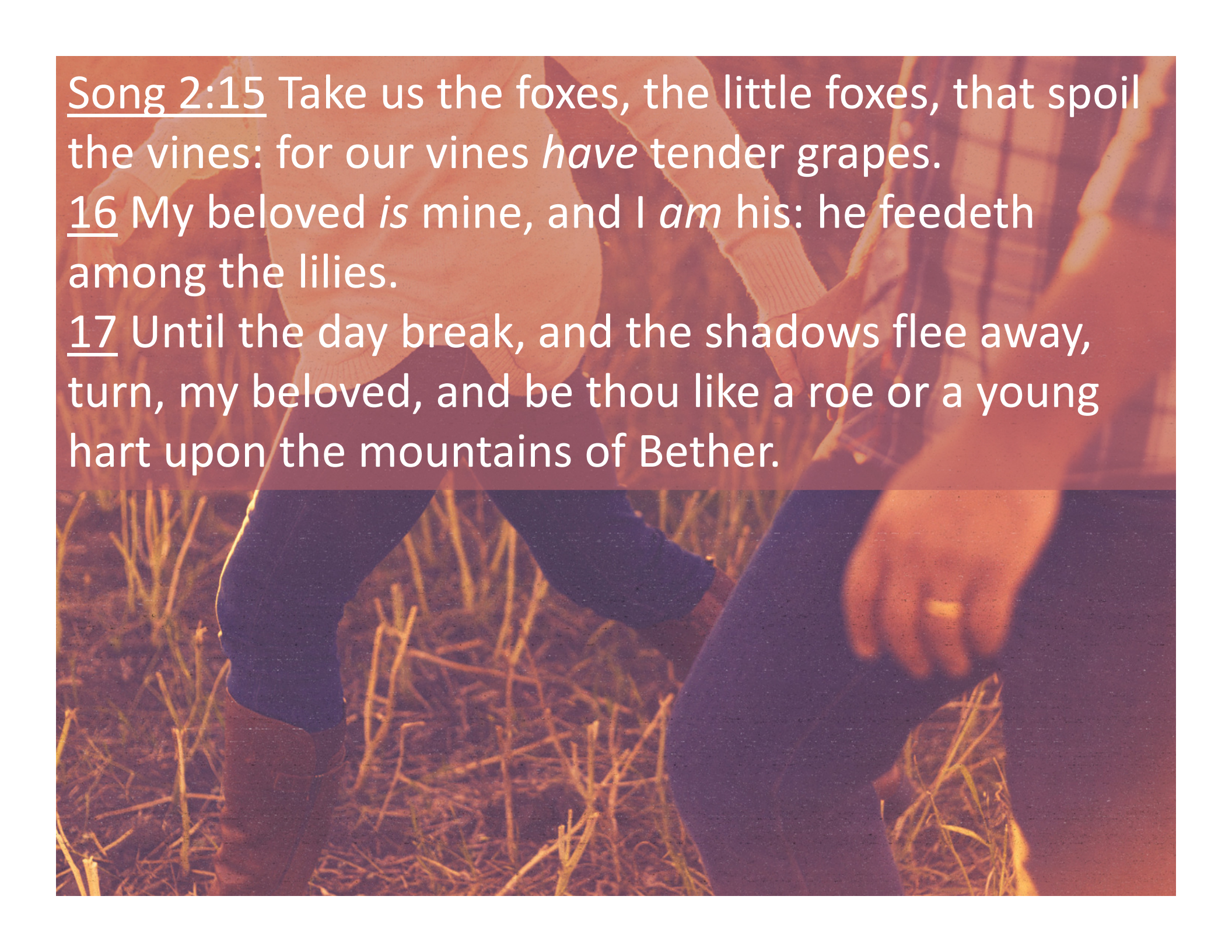
A photograph of a couple walking through a field of tall grass at sunset. The woman is on the left, wearing a light-colored sweater and dark pants, holding the hand of the man on the right, who is wearing a plaid shirt. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light.

Love Story



A STUDY OF THE SONG OF SOLOMON

2:15-17



Song 2:15 Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines *have* tender grapes.

16 My beloved *is* mine, and I *am* his: he feedeth among the lilies.

17 Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Bether.



Let's review what we have covered thus far in this wonderful book of the Song of Solomon.

I. AN HOUR OF TROUBLE, 1:1-8

Introduction, 1:1

The Shulamite remembers:

- A. The Fervor Her Beloved Had Shown toward Her, 1:1-2
- B. The Fragrance Her Beloved Had Shed upon Her, 1:3-6
- C. The Freedom Her Beloved Had Shared with Her, 1:7-8

II. AN HOUR OF TEMPTATION, 1:9-11

- A. A Word of Praise, 1:9-10
- B. A Word of Promise, 1:11

A romantic scene of a couple holding hands in a field at sunset. The woman is wearing a white sweater and a black skirt, and the man is wearing a plaid shirt. The background is a warm, golden-orange glow from the setting sun over a field of tall grass.

III. AN HOUR OF TENDERNESS, 1:12—2:7

A. Love's Bravery, 1:12-14

B. Love's Beauty, 1:15—2:2

C. Love's Bounty, 2:3-6

D. Love's Boundary, 2:7

IV. AN HOUR OF TRUTH, 2:8—3:5

A. The Love of the Shepherd, 2:8-14

1. The Coming of the Shepherd, 2:8-9

a. How the Shulamite Describes Him, 2:8

(1) She Remembers His Voice, 2:8a

(2) She Remembers His Vigor, 2:8b

b. How the Shulamite Discerns Him, 2:9



2.The Call of the Shepherd, 2:10-14

a.Volitional: to the Will – The Call to Recognize a New Lord, 2:10

b.Logical: to the Mind – The Call to Receive a New Life, 2:11-13

(1)The Past, 2:11

(2)The Present, 2:12

(a)Beauty, 2:12a

(b)Bliss, 2:12b

(c)Blessing, 2:12c

(3) The Prospect, 2:13



Tonight we continue the exegesis of this wonderful book in chapter two.

B. The Love of the Shulamite, 2:15—3:5

1. A Hindered Love, 2:15-17

- The Shulamite appears to have three areas that hinder her love:
 - (1) A protective family – “the parents and siblings”
 - (2) A prohibitive society – “the watchmen”
 - (3) A permissive atmosphere – “the daughters”

a. Her Problem, 2:15

Song 2:15 Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines *have* tender grapes.

- Little problems can become the catalyst to destroy relationships.
- Perhaps the Shulamite is concerned about literal problems, or other females.
- The “tender grapes” express vulnerability.
- The “little things,” like termites, eat at relationships to their destruction unless exterminated.

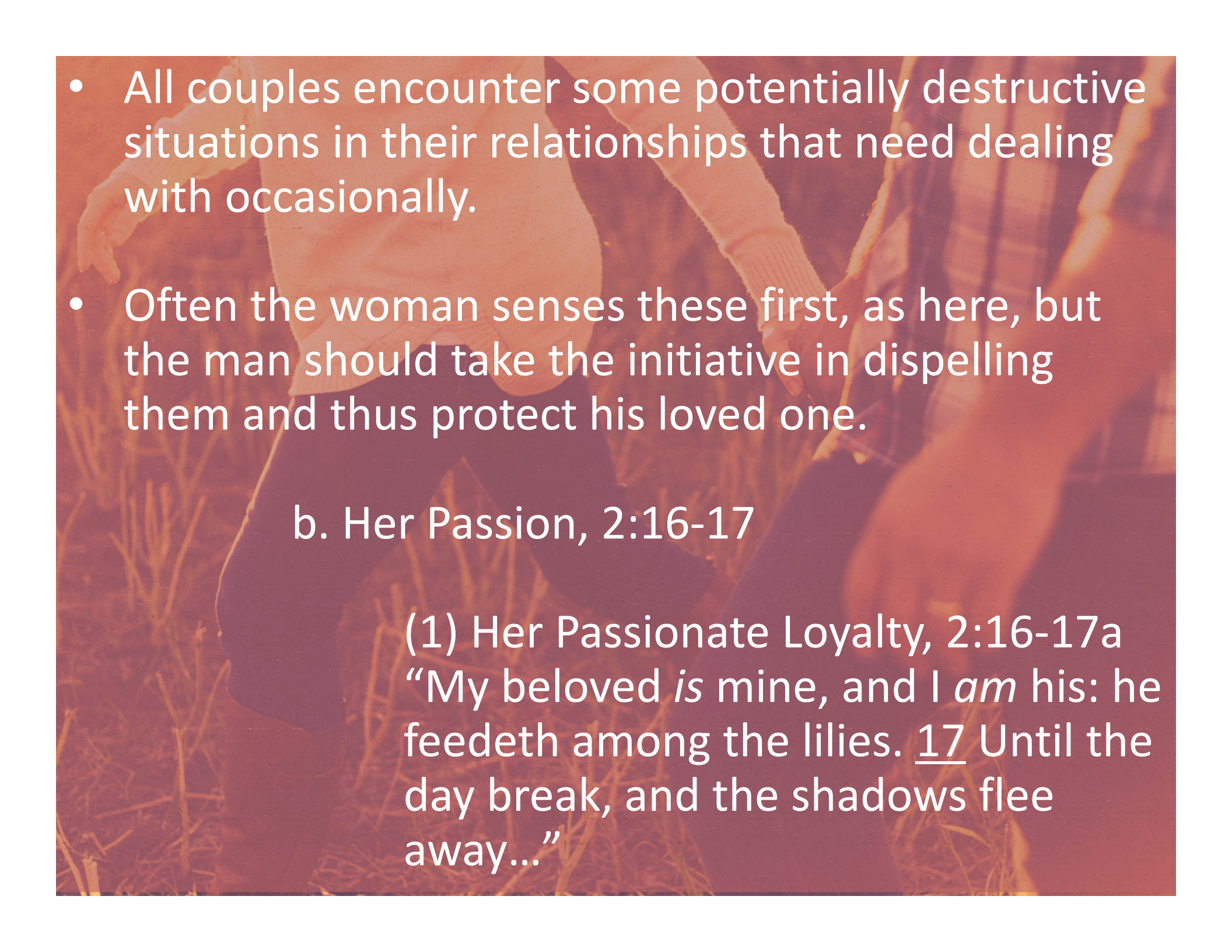
The image is a composite. The top portion shows a close-up of two hands, one in a light-colored sweater and the other in a plaid shirt, with a warm, golden light. The middle section is a teal gradient background. The bottom section shows a desert landscape with a paved road winding through sand dunes and sparse vegetation under a clear sky. The quote is centered in white text on a dark red background.

Little things affect
little minds.

Benjamin Disraeli

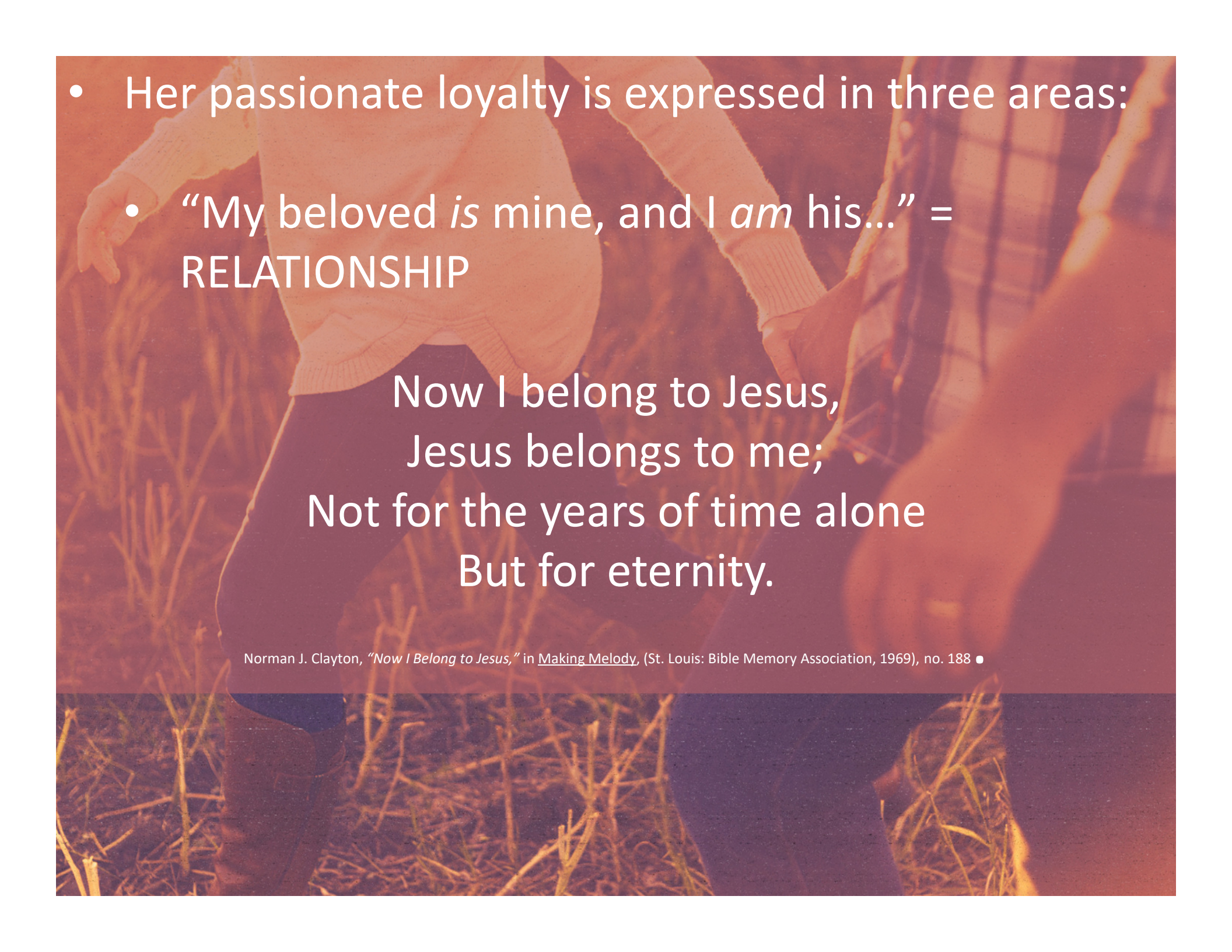
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<https://quotefancy.com/quote/771566/Benjamin-Disraeli-Little-things-affect-little-minds>

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- All couples encounter some potentially destructive situations in their relationships that need dealing with occasionally.
 - Often the woman senses these first, as here, but the man should take the initiative in dispelling them and thus protect his loved one.

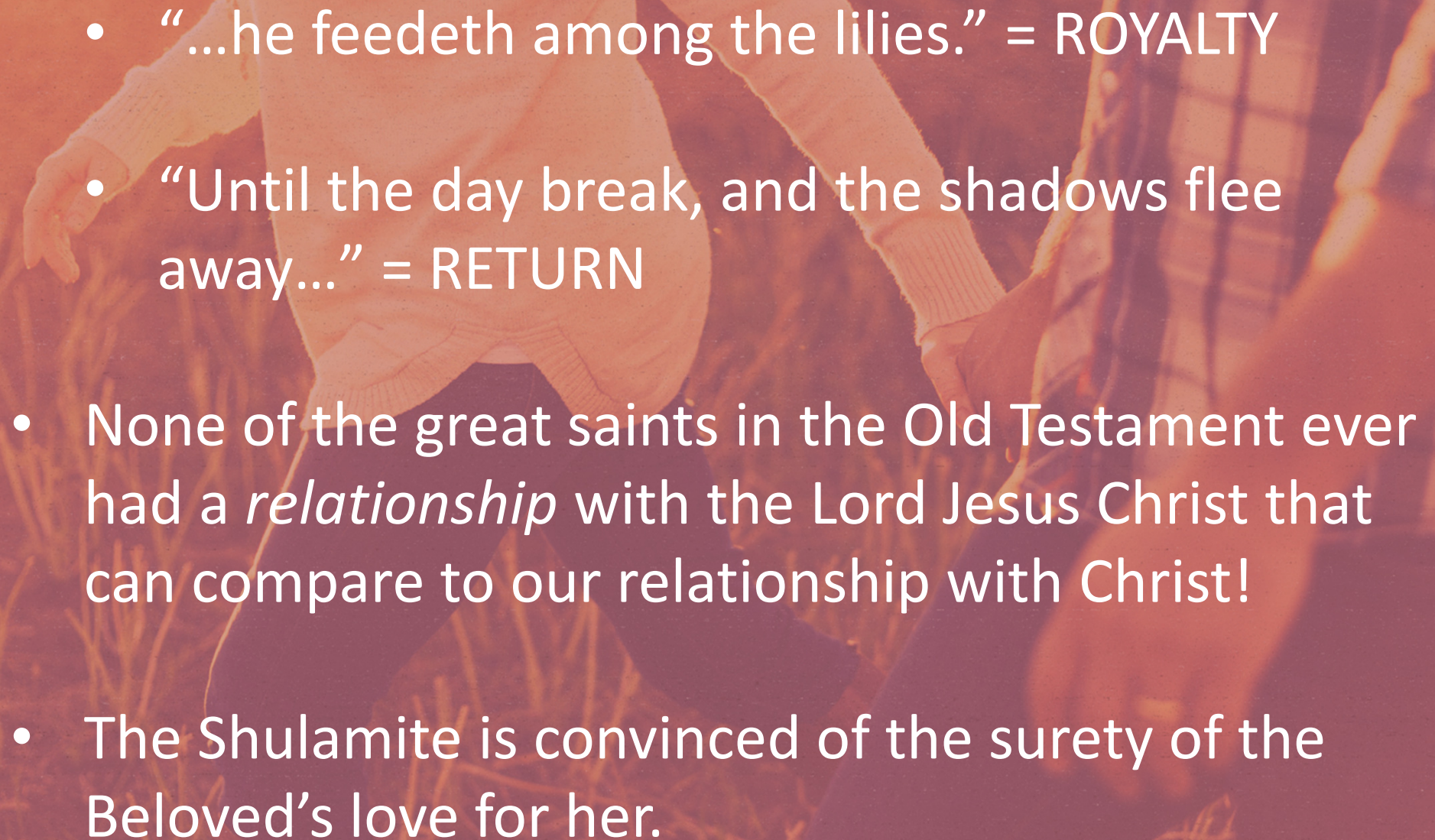
b. Her Passion, 2:16-17

(1) Her Passionate Loyalty, 2:16-17a
“My beloved *is* mine, and I *am* his: he feedeth among the lilies. 17 Until the day break, and the shadows flee away...”

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- Her passionate loyalty is expressed in three areas:
 - “My beloved *is* mine, and I *am* his...” =
RELATIONSHIP

Now I belong to Jesus,
Jesus belongs to me;
Not for the years of time alone
But for eternity.

Norman J. Clayton, “*Now I Belong to Jesus*,” in *Making Melody*, (St. Louis: Bible Memory Association, 1969), no. 188 ●

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- “...he feedeth among the lilies.” = ROYALTY
 - “Until the day break, and the shadows flee away...” = RETURN
 - None of the great saints in the Old Testament ever had a *relationship* with the Lord Jesus Christ that can compare to our relationship with Christ!
 - The Shulamite is convinced of the surety of the Beloved’s love for her.

Rom. 8:35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...

37 Nay, in all these things **we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

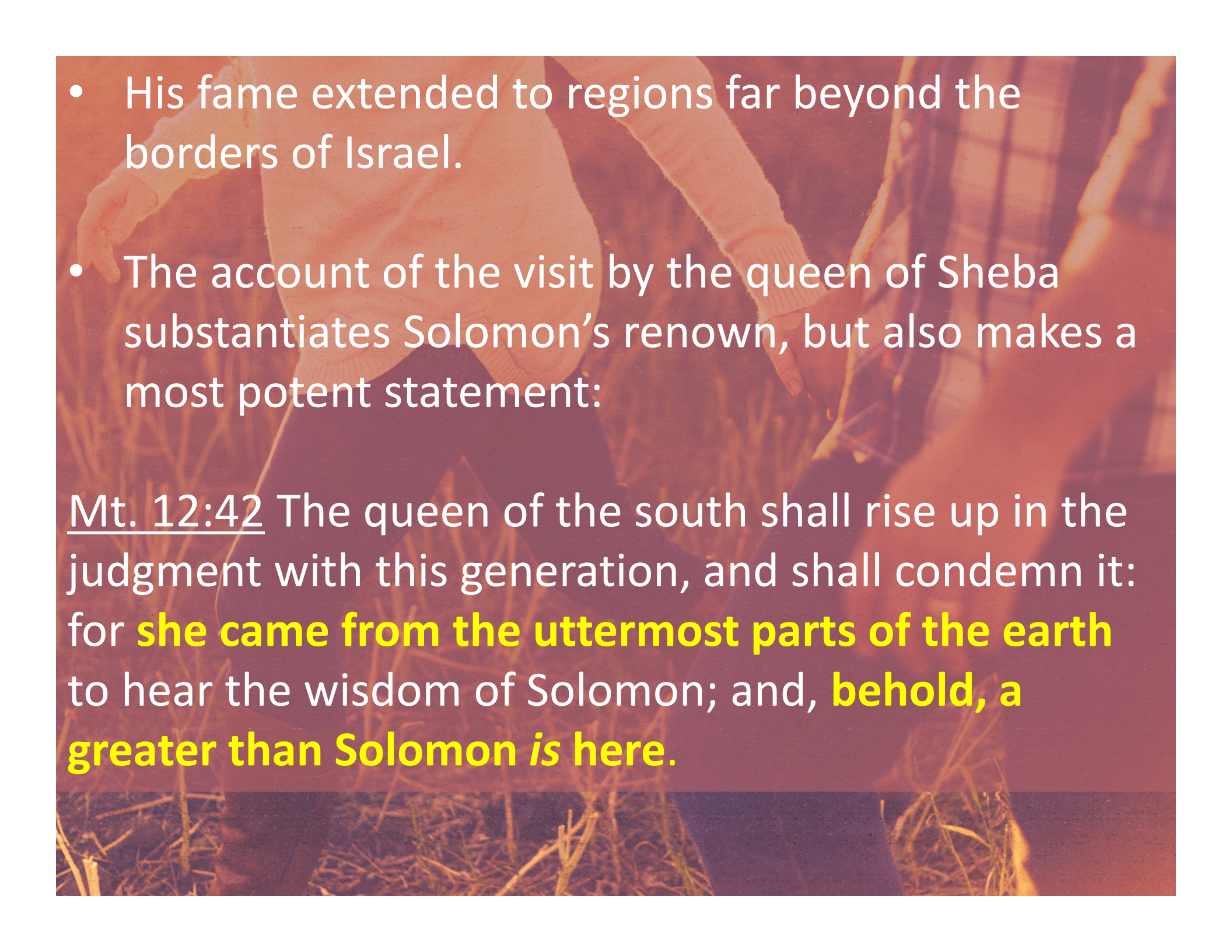
- The Shulamite is continually fretting about things outside of the relationship that may impair her relationship with the Beloved.



1 Jn. 4:18 **There is no fear in love**; but perfect love casteth out fear: because **fear hath torment**. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 **We love him**, because **he first loved us**.

- Christ is always true to the believer, but believers' love wavers, and is constantly being challenged.
- Another aspect to consider is the *royalty* of the Beloved – “...he feedeth among the lilies.”
- Solomon's reign was like no other's in the history of Israel.

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- His fame extended to regions far beyond the borders of Israel.
 - The account of the visit by the queen of Sheba substantiates Solomon's renown, but also makes a most potent statement:

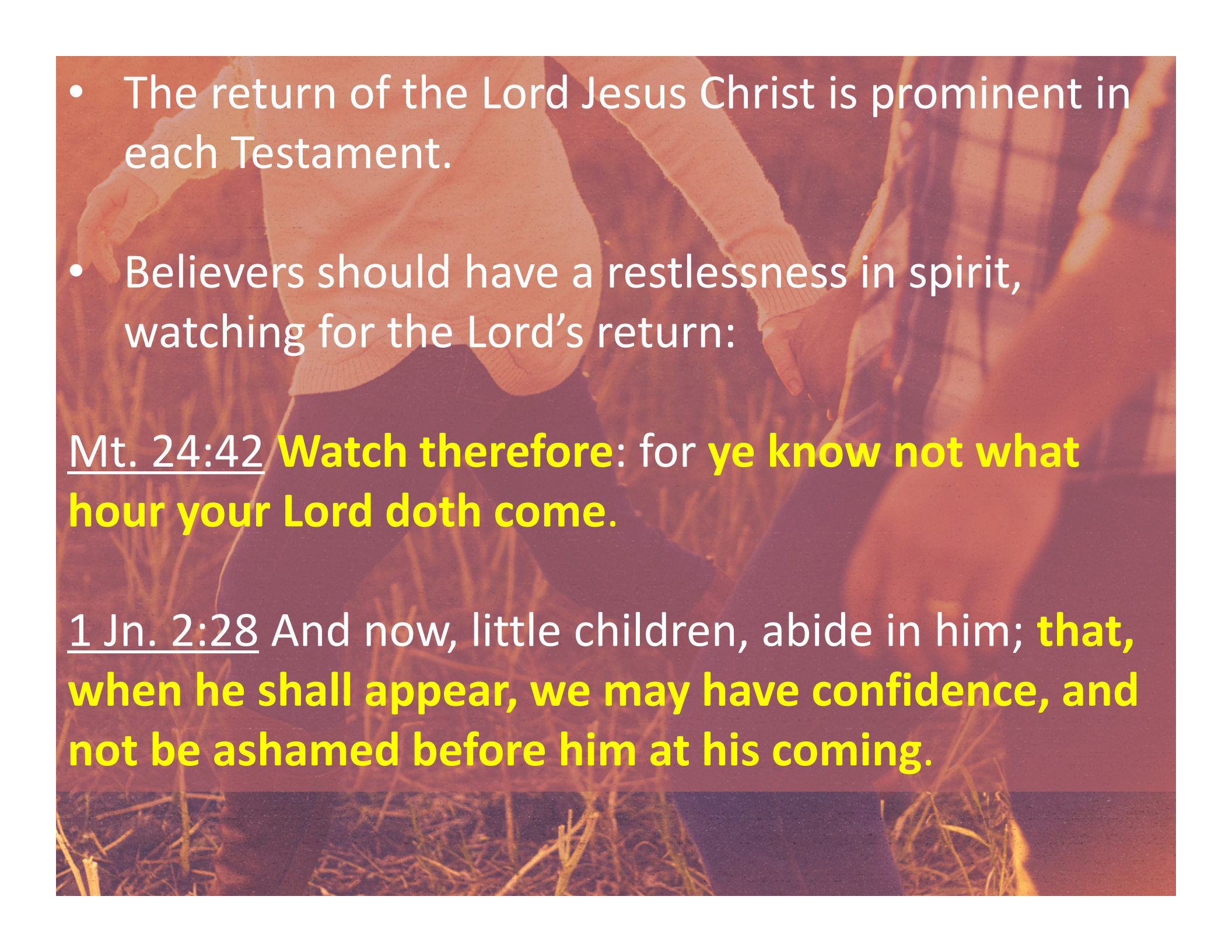
Mt. 12:42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for **she came from the uttermost parts of the earth** to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, **behold, a greater than Solomon is here.**

- The Shulamite is restless, waiting for the *return* or the Beloved – “Until the day break, and the shadows flee away...”

Joel 1:15 **Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand**, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

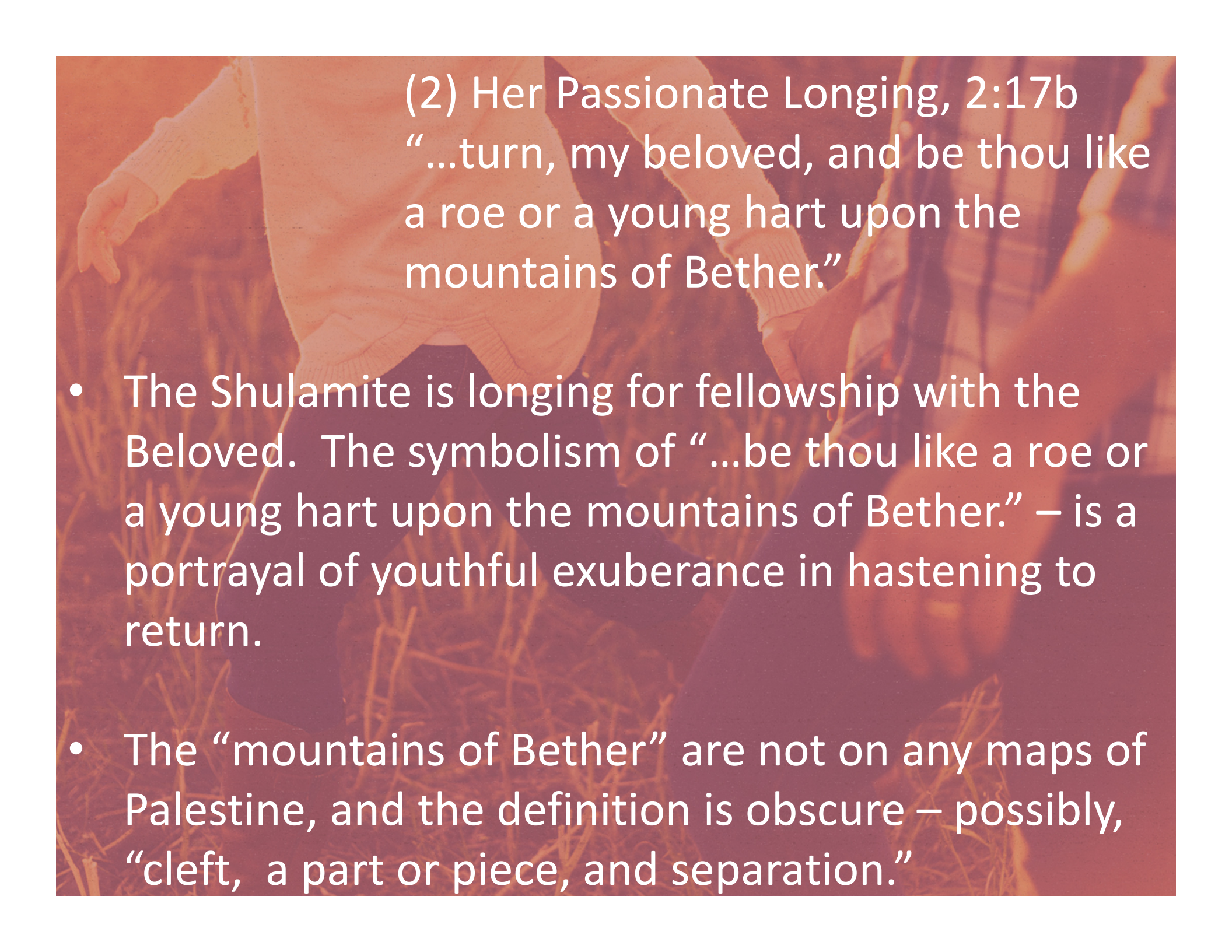
Joel 2:1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for **the day of the LORD cometh**, for *it is nigh at hand*;

Joel 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for **the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision**.

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- The return of the Lord Jesus Christ is prominent in each Testament.
 - Believers should have a restlessness in spirit, watching for the Lord's return:

Mt. 24:42 **Watch therefore:** for **ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.**

1 Jn. 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; **that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.**



(2) Her Passionate Longing, 2:17b
“...turn, my beloved, and be thou like
a roe or a young hart upon the
mountains of Bether.”

- The Shulamite is longing for fellowship with the Beloved. The symbolism of “...be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Bether.” – is a portrayal of youthful exuberance in hastening to return.
- The “mountains of Bether” are not on any maps of Palestine, and the definition is obscure – possibly, “cleft, a part or piece, and separation.”

- The desire of the Shulamite is symbolic of a faithful believer's expectation of the Second Coming:

2 Pet. 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Rev. 22:12 And, **behold, I come quickly**; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. ...

16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star.

17 **And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come.** And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. ...

20 He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**



Conclusion

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.