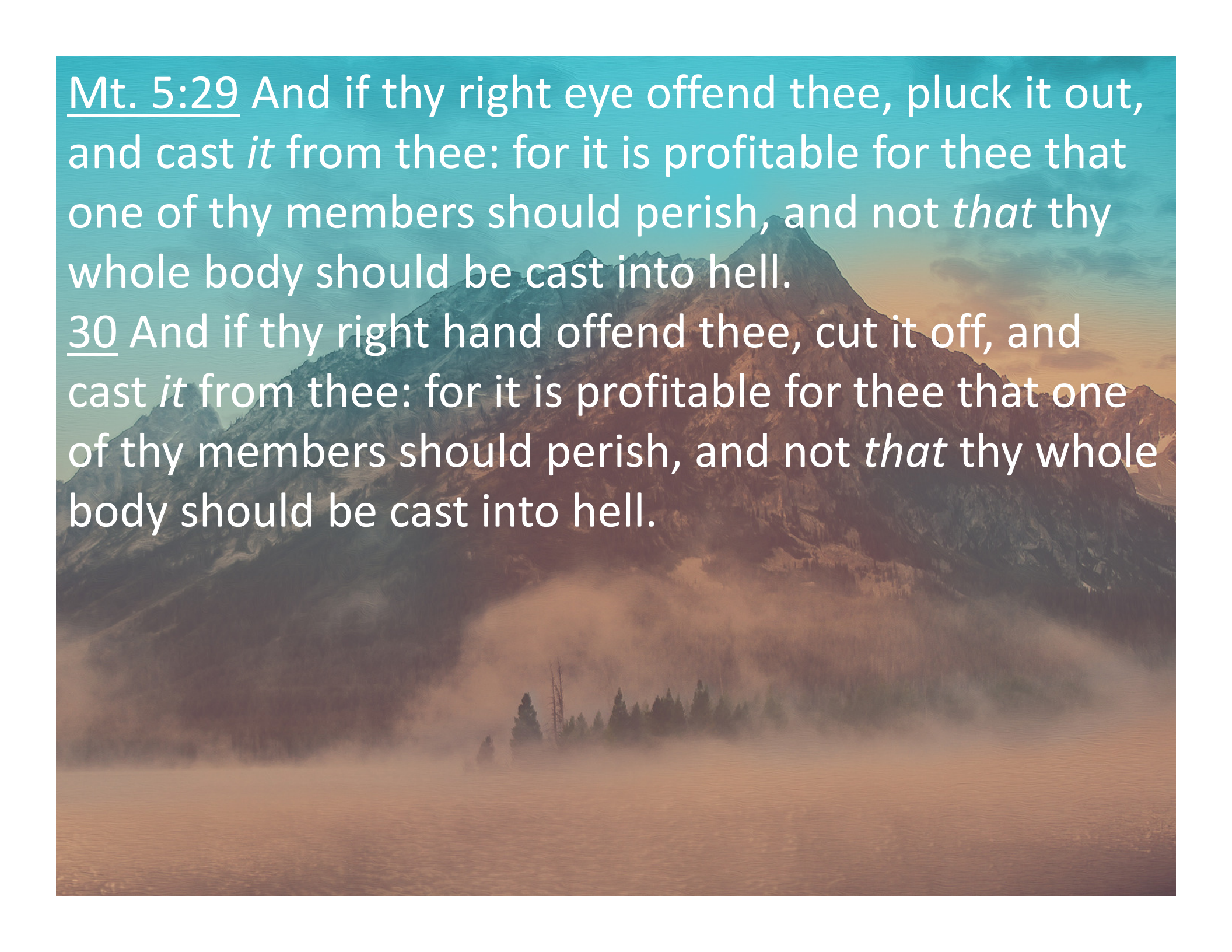




THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Mt. 5:29-30

“The Question of Injuring Lives”

A scenic landscape featuring a large mountain range in the background, partially shrouded in mist. In the foreground, a calm lake reflects the surrounding environment, with a line of evergreen trees along the shore. The sky is a mix of soft blues and oranges, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

Mt. 5:29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell.

30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell.

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

C. The Sequel, 5:13-16

II. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BELIEFS, 5:17-20

A. A Personal Appreciation of God's Law, 5:17-18

B. A Personal Application of God's Law, 5:19-20

III. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BIBLE, 5:21-48

A. The Question of Injuring Lives, 5:21-24

1. The Murder and Its Consequences, 5:21
2. The Motive and Its Consequences, 5:22
3. The Moral and Its Consequences, 5:23-24
 - a. Recollection, 5:23
 - b. Reconciliation, 5:24

B. The Question of Invoking Law, 5:25-26

1. A Wise Course, 5:25
2. A Woeful Consequence, 5:26

C. The Question of Indulging Lust, 5:27-32

1. A Defiled Marriage, 5:27-30
 - a. God's Condemning Law, 5:27
 - b. Man's Corrupting Lust, 5:28-30
 - (1) A Wrong Look, 5:28



Early in the “Sermon on the Mount” the Lord Jesus emphasized His concern regarding “righteousness.”

Mt. 5:20 For I say unto you, That **except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

Last we began looking at the passage that is most relevant for 2021, regarding moral purity and God’s plan for intimate relationship between a man and a woman via marriage. We continue with the premise and its seriousness by looking at the severity of the examples in Mt. 5:29-30.

(2) A Wrong Life, 5:29-30

1. Dealing with Wrongful Input, 5:29

Mt. 5:29 And if thy right **eye** offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into **hell**.

- The Lord Jesus indicated that believers can hinder themselves – “offend” – and must take precautions NOT to do so.

Rom. 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts thereof.**

- The seriousness of prevention against stumbling is emphasized by imperative verbs “pluck” and “cast” – “if thy right eye offend thee”

Original Word: σκανδαλίζω

Transliteration: skandalizó

Definition: to put a snare (in the way), to cause to stumble, to give offense

Usage: I cause to stumble, cause to sin, cause to become indignant, shock, offend.

skandalízō – properly, *set a snare* ("*stumbling-block*"); (figuratively) "to hinder right conduct or thought; *to cause to stumble*" – literally, "to fall into a trap" (*Abbott-Smith*). <https://biblehub.com/greek/4624.htm>

- You have an “eye problem?” You may have a greater problem...HELL!

Original Word: γέεννα

Transliteration: geenna

Definition: Gehenna, a valley west and South of Jerusalem, also a symbolic name for the final place of punishment of the ungodly for evil.

géenna (a transliteration of the Hebrew term, *Gêhinnōm*, "the valley of Hinnom") – *Gehenna*, i.e. *hell* (also referred to as the "lake of fire" in *Revelation*).

Gehenna ("hell"), the place of *post-resurrection* torment (judgment), refers strictly to the everlasting abode of the *unredeemed* where they experience divine judgment *in their individual resurrection-bodies*. Each of the unredeemed receives one at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev 20:11-15), i.e. a body that "matches" their capacity for torment relating to their (unique) judgment.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1067.htm>

- Jesus spoke more often about hell than He did heaven:

Isa. 66:24 And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for **their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched**; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

Mark 9:43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into **hell**, into **the fire that never shall be quenched**:

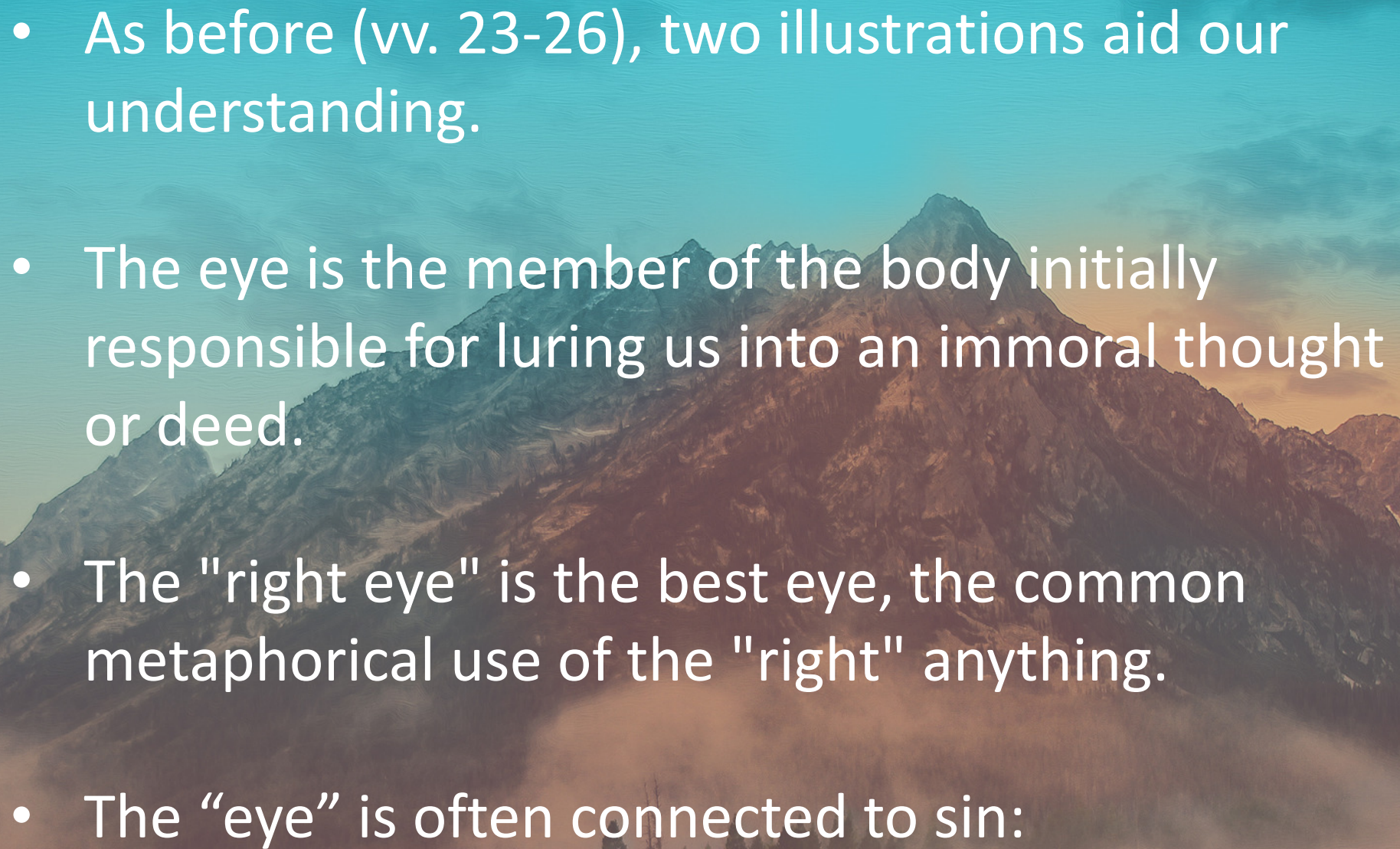
44 Where their worm dieth not, and **the fire is not quenched**.

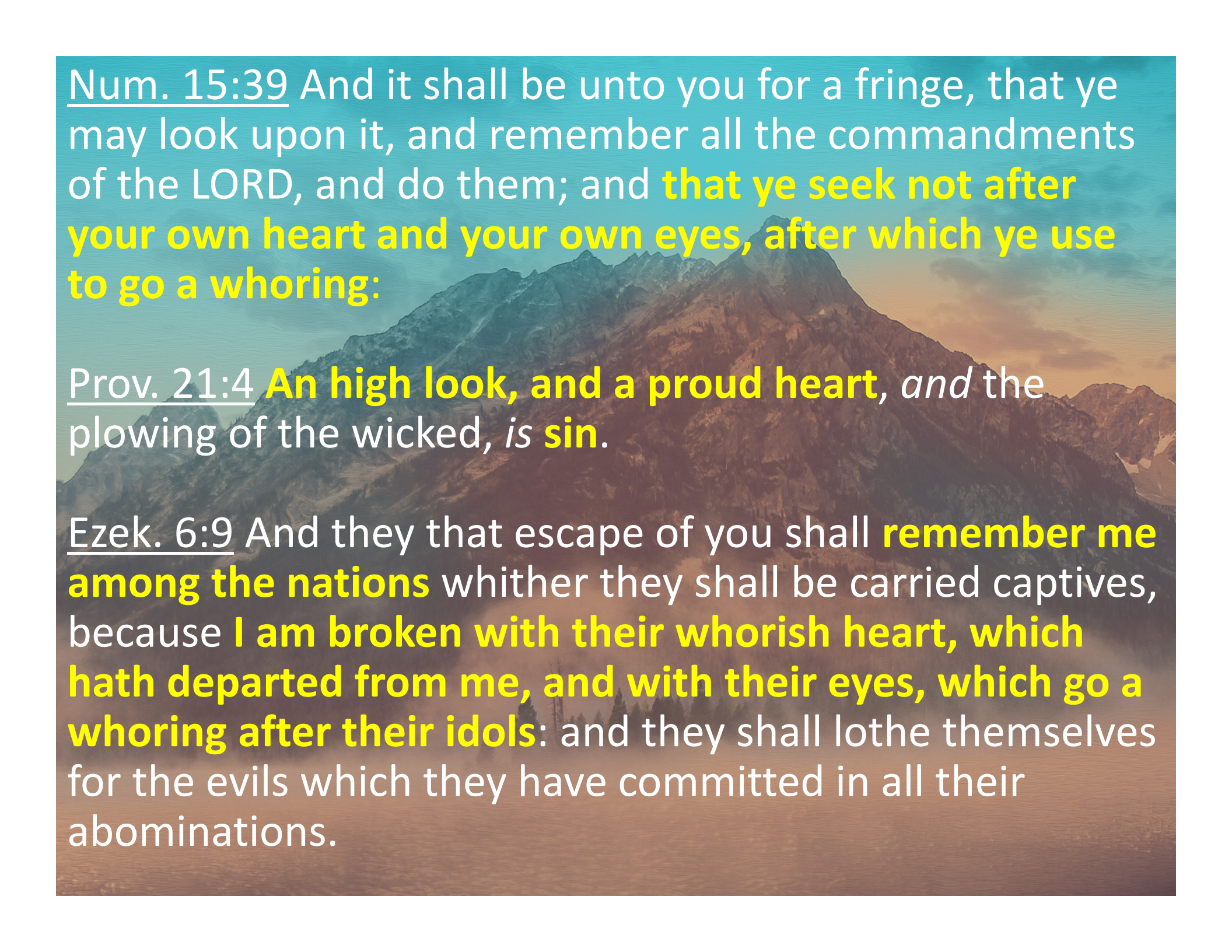
45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into **hell**, into **the fire that never shall be quenched**:

46 Where their worm dieth not, and **the fire is not quenched**.

47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into **hell** fire:

48 Where their worm dieth not, and **the fire is not quenched**.

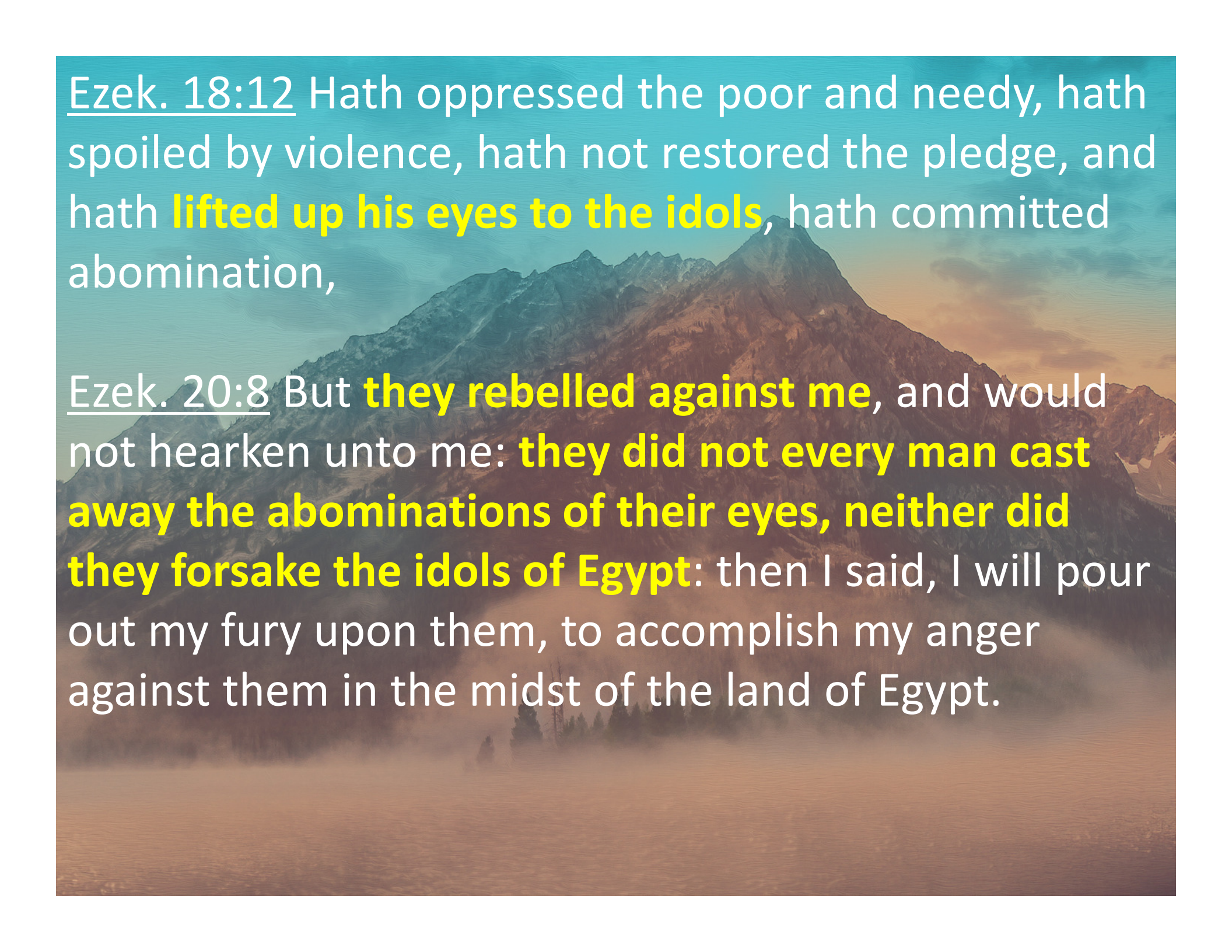
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- A scenic landscape featuring a large, rugged mountain range in the background, partially shrouded in mist. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the surrounding environment. The sky is a mix of soft blues and oranges, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is serene and majestic.
- As before (vv. 23-26), two illustrations aid our understanding.
 - The eye is the member of the body initially responsible for luring us into an immoral thought or deed.
 - The "right eye" is the best eye, the common metaphorical use of the "right" anything.
 - The "eye" is often connected to sin:



Num. 15:39 And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and **that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring:**

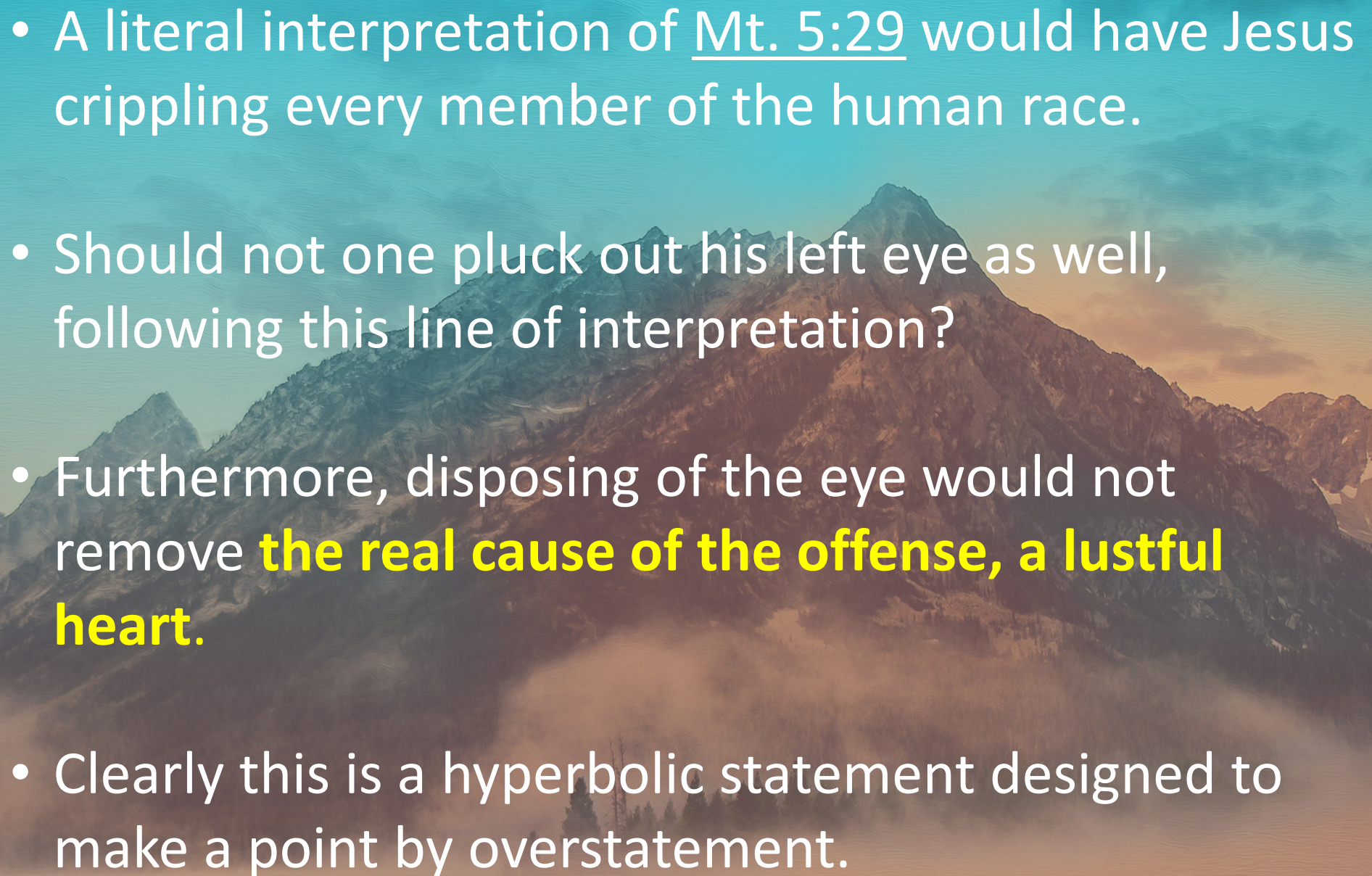
Prov. 21:4 **An high look, and a proud heart,** and the plowing of the wicked, is **sin.**

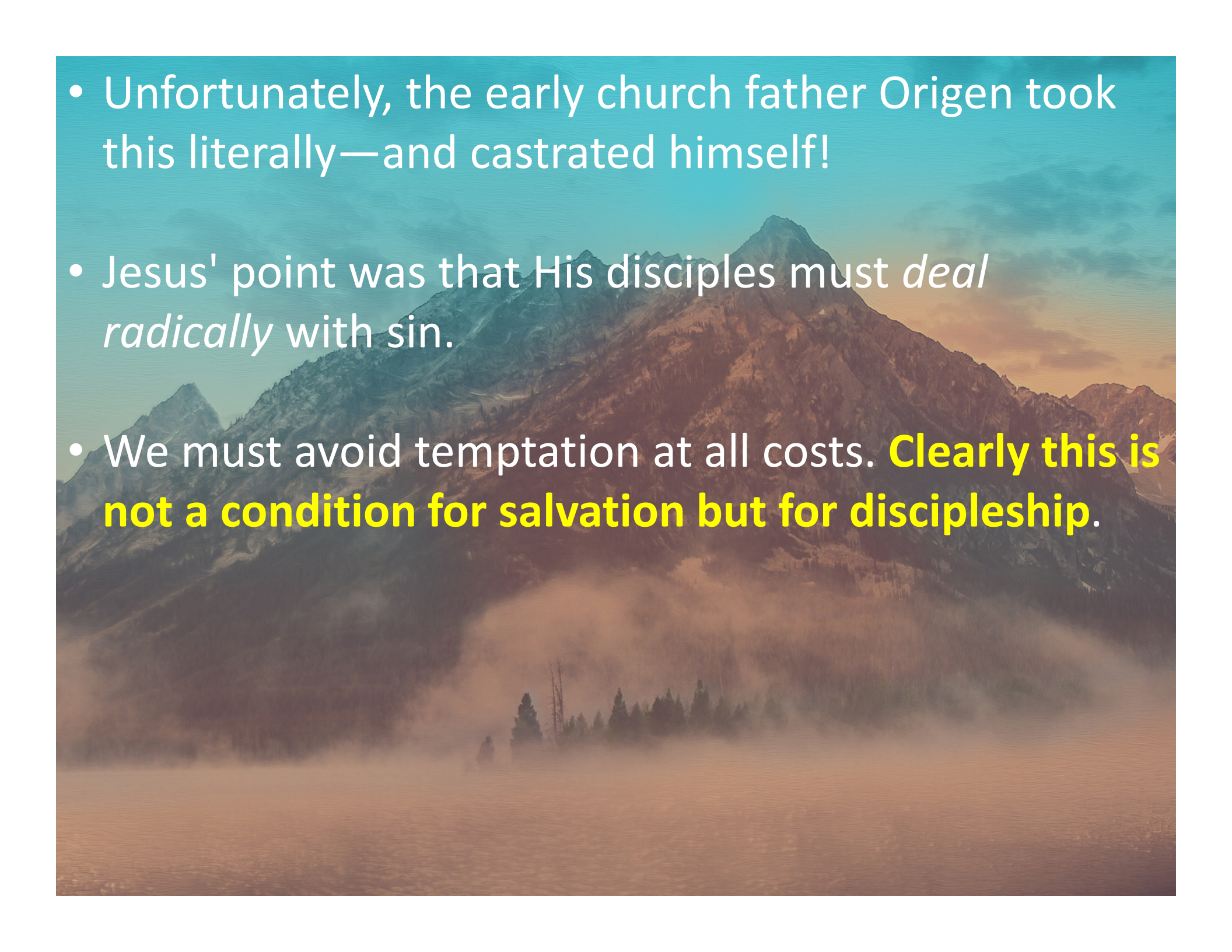
Ezek. 6:9 And they that escape of you shall **remember me among the nations** whither they shall be carried captives, because **I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols:** and they shall lothe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations.

A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains in the background, with a lake in the foreground. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text is overlaid on the image.

Ezek. 18:12 Hath oppressed the poor and needy, hath spoiled by violence, hath not restored the pledge, and hath **lifted up his eyes to the idols**, hath committed abomination,

Ezek. 20:8 But **they rebelled against me**, and would not hearken unto me: **they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt**: then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

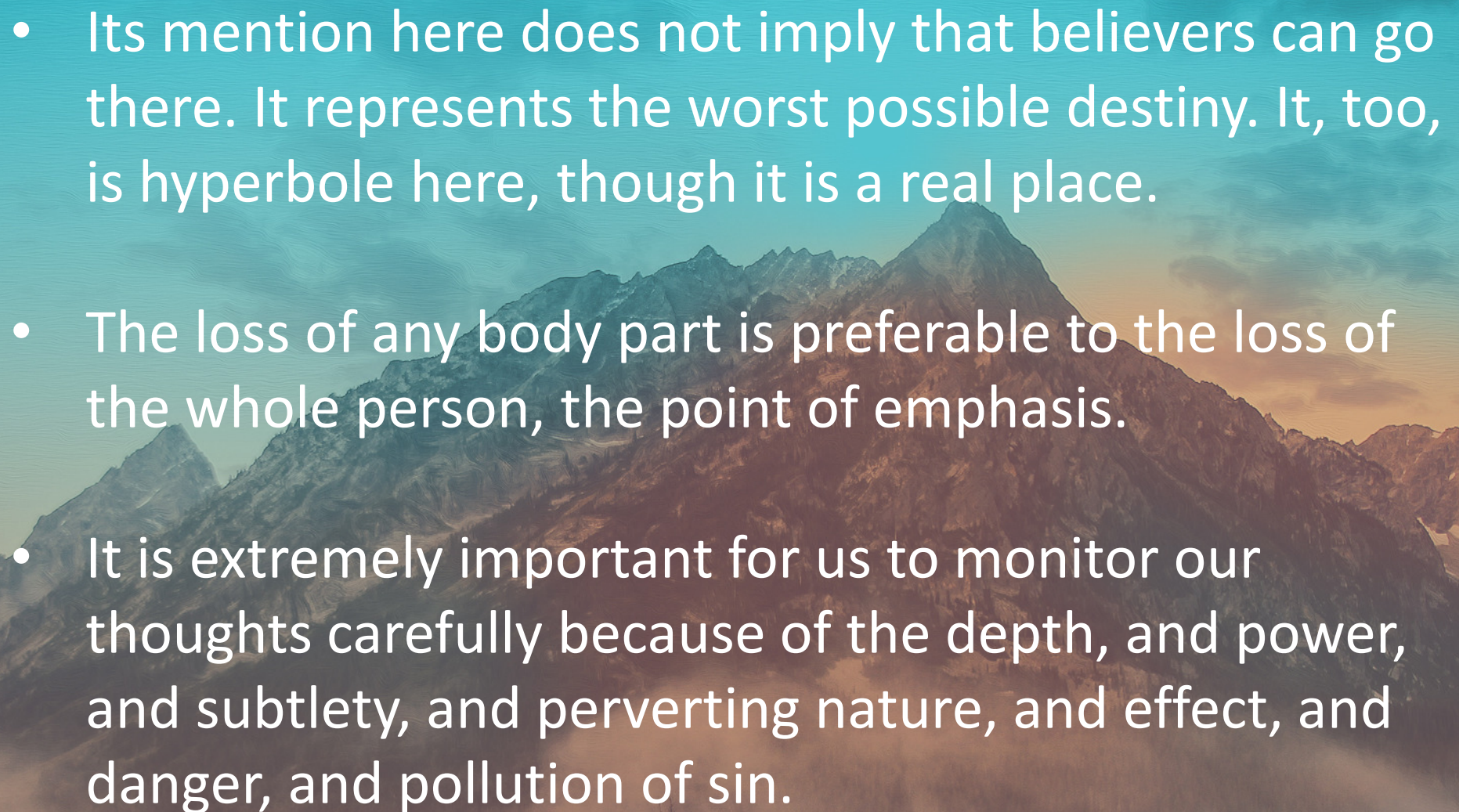
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- A literal interpretation of Mt. 5:29 would have Jesus crippling every member of the human race.
 - Should not one pluck out his left eye as well, following this line of interpretation?
 - Furthermore, disposing of the eye would not remove **the real cause of the offense, a lustful heart.**
 - Clearly this is a hyperbolic statement designed to make a point by overstatement.

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- A scenic landscape featuring a large mountain range in the background, with a lake in the foreground. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The water in the lake is calm, reflecting the light from the sky. The overall mood is serene and majestic.
- Unfortunately, the early church father Origen took this literally—and castrated himself!
 - Jesus' point was that His disciples must *deal radically* with sin.
 - We must avoid temptation at all costs. **Clearly this is not a condition for salvation but for discipleship.**

2. Dealing with Wrongful Output, 5:30

Mt. 5:30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell.

- The reference to cutting off the "right hand" (v. 30) is also metaphorical.
- "Hell" is Gehenna, the same in verse 29, the final place of punishment for all the wicked.

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- A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains in the background, with a lake in the foreground. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The water in the lake is calm, reflecting the light from the sky. The overall mood is serene and majestic.
- Its mention here does not imply that believers can go there. It represents the worst possible destiny. It, too, is hyperbole here, though it is a real place.
 - The loss of any body part is preferable to the loss of the whole person, the point of emphasis.
 - It is extremely important for us to monitor our thoughts carefully because of the depth, and power, and subtlety, and perverting nature, and effect, and danger, and pollution of sin.

A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains with a prominent peak in the center. The foreground shows a calm body of water reflecting the sky and mountains. The sky is a mix of light blue and soft orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall tone is peaceful and majestic.

Rom. 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but **if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.**

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Col. 3:5 **Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth**; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Job 31:1 I made a **covenant with mine eyes**; why then should I **think upon a maid?**

Summary

- Believers can hinder (“offend”) themselves by not disciplining themselves.
- The seriousness of adultery, a violation of the seventh commandment, of God’s plan for marriage, is intensified by the Lord Jesus in giving these two examples: pluck out your right eye – cut off your right hand = do what you need to do to help yourself!

Conclusion

Rom. 8:12 Therefore, brethren, **we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.**

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Col. 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains under a sunset sky, with a calm lake in the foreground reflecting the light. The text is overlaid on this background.

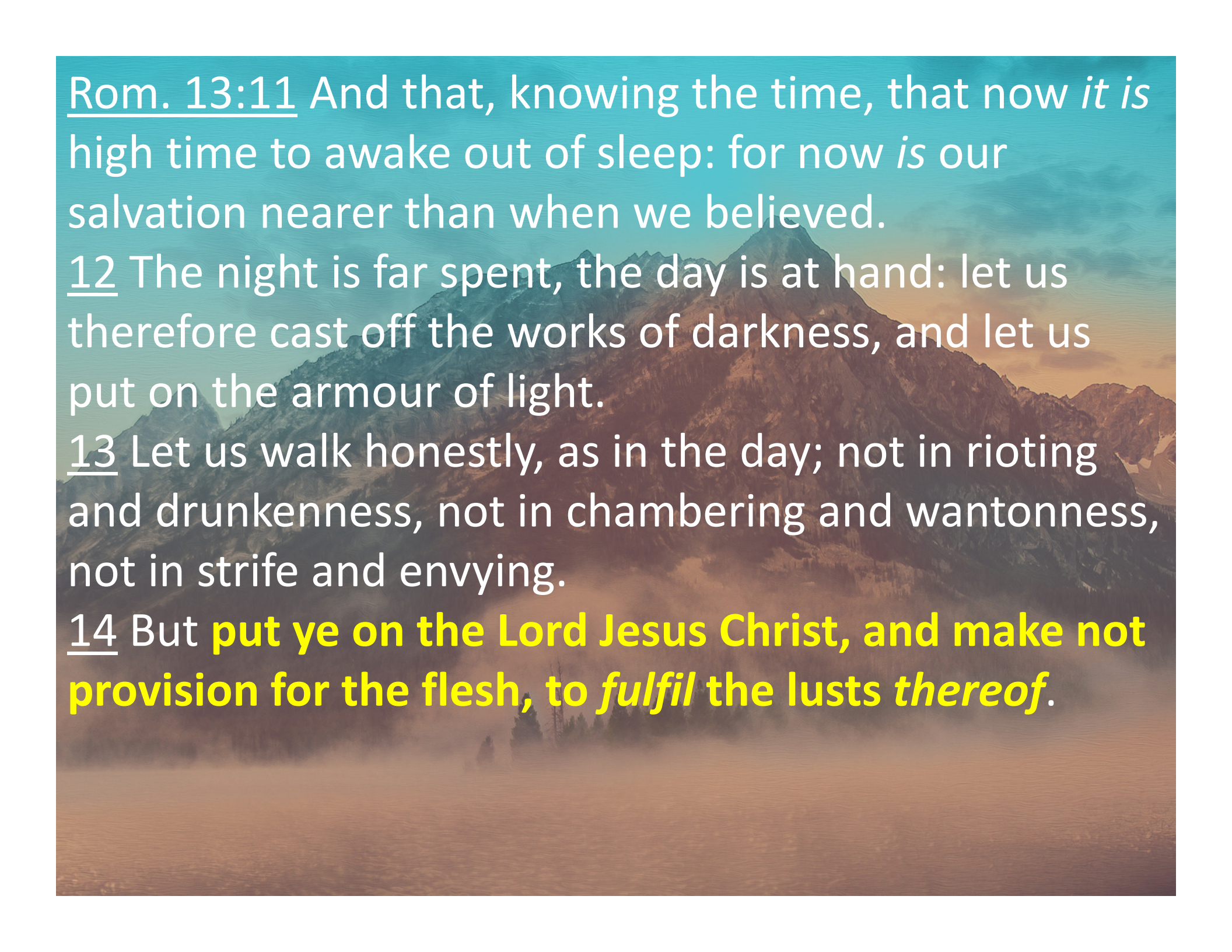
3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

5 **Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth**; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.



Rom. 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed.

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14 But **put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.**