

Rest, the Lord Is Near

Psalm 23:1-6



Psalm 23:1-6 (Jerusalem Bible)

¹ Yahweh is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² In meadows of green grass he lets me lie.

To the waters of repose he leads me; ³ there he revives my soul.

He guides me by paths of virtue for the sake of his name.

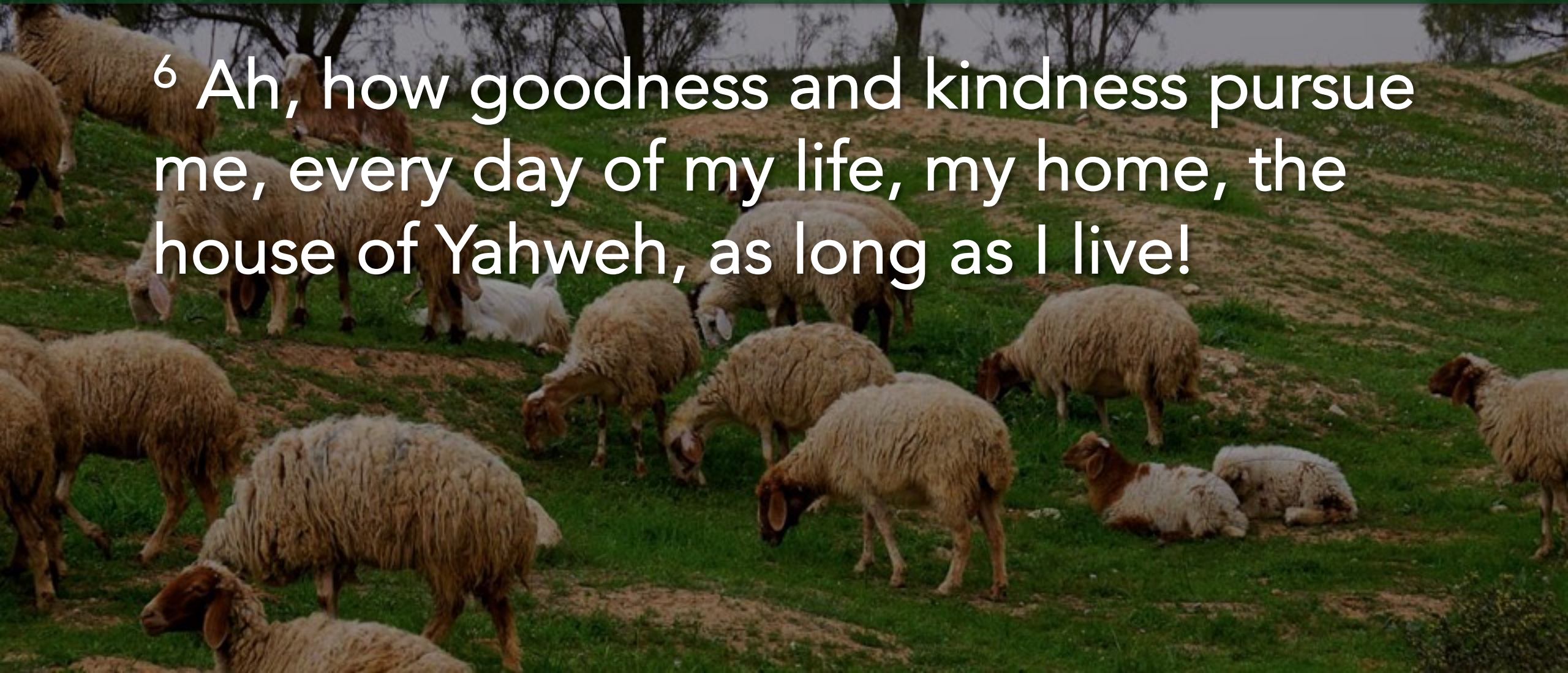
Psalm 23:1-6 (Jerusalem Bible)

⁴ Though I pass through a gloomy Valley,
beside me your rod and your staff are there,
to hearten me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me under the
eyes of my enemies; you anoint my head
with oil, my cup brims over.

Psalm 23:1-6 (Jerusalem Bible)

⁶ Ah, how goodness and kindness pursue me, every day of my life, my home, the house of Yahweh, as long as I live!



Introduction

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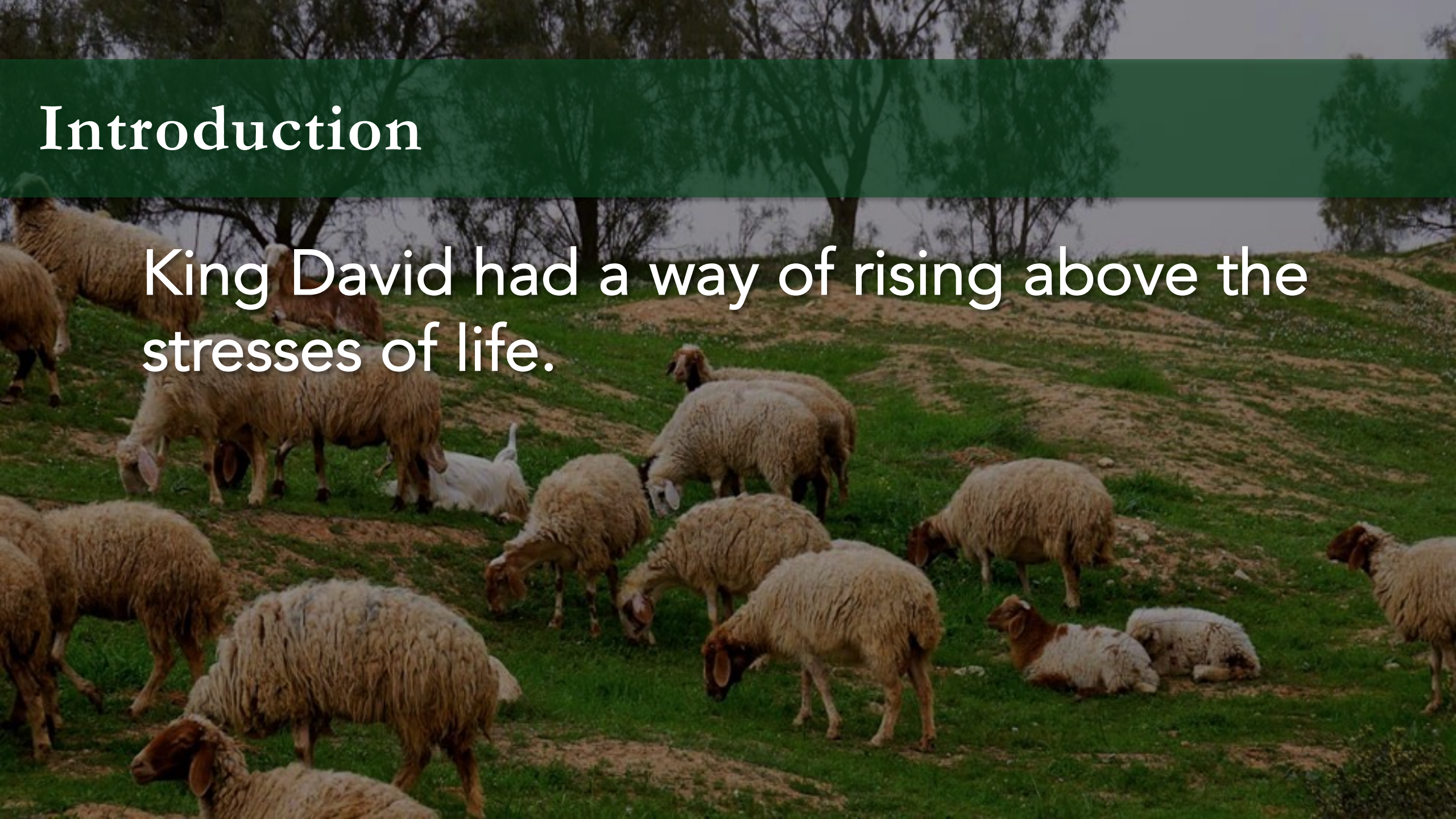
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The Top 10 Life Stressors...

Introduction

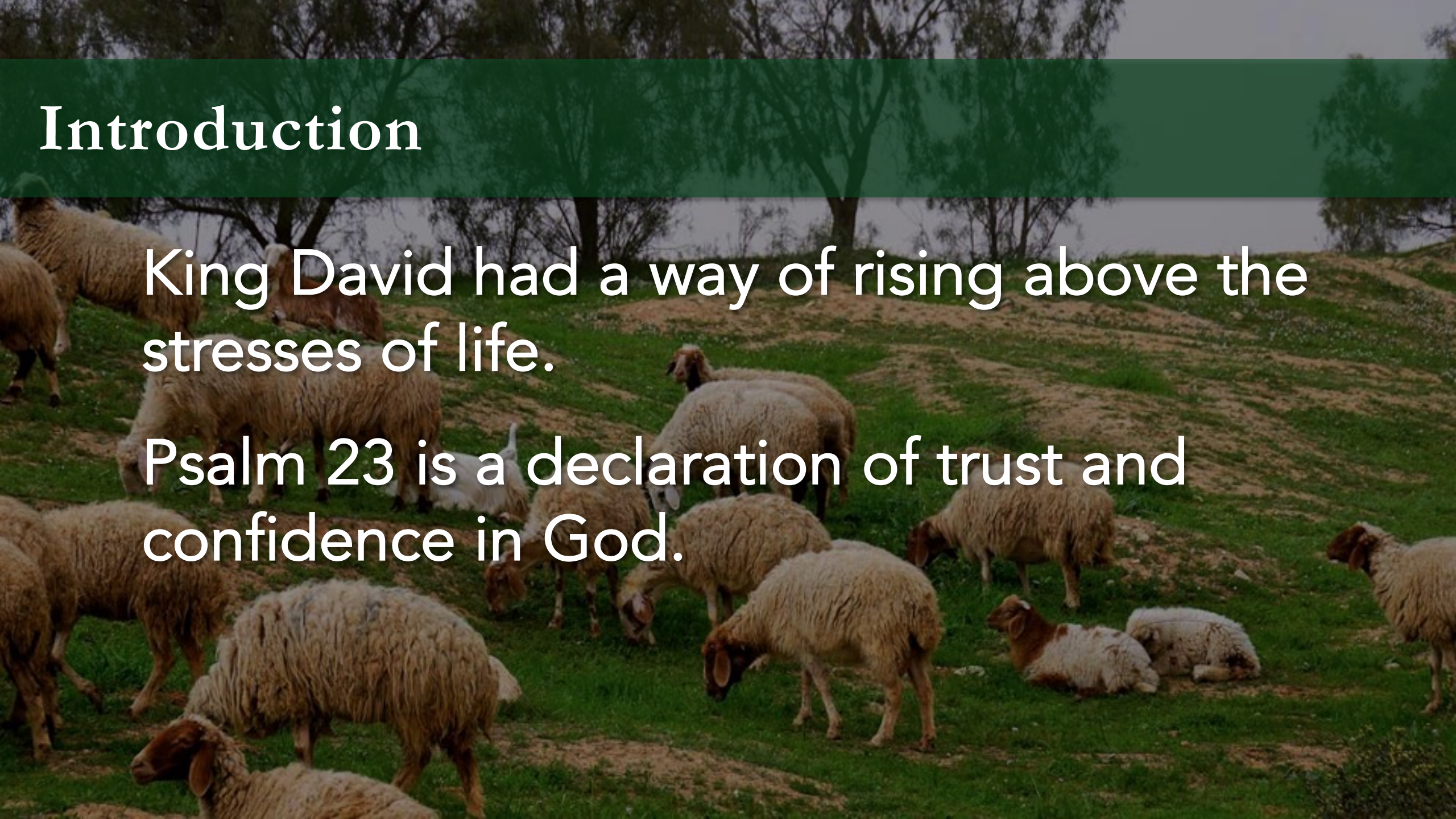
King David had a way of rising above the stresses of life.



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Psalm 23 is a declaration of trust and confidence in God.

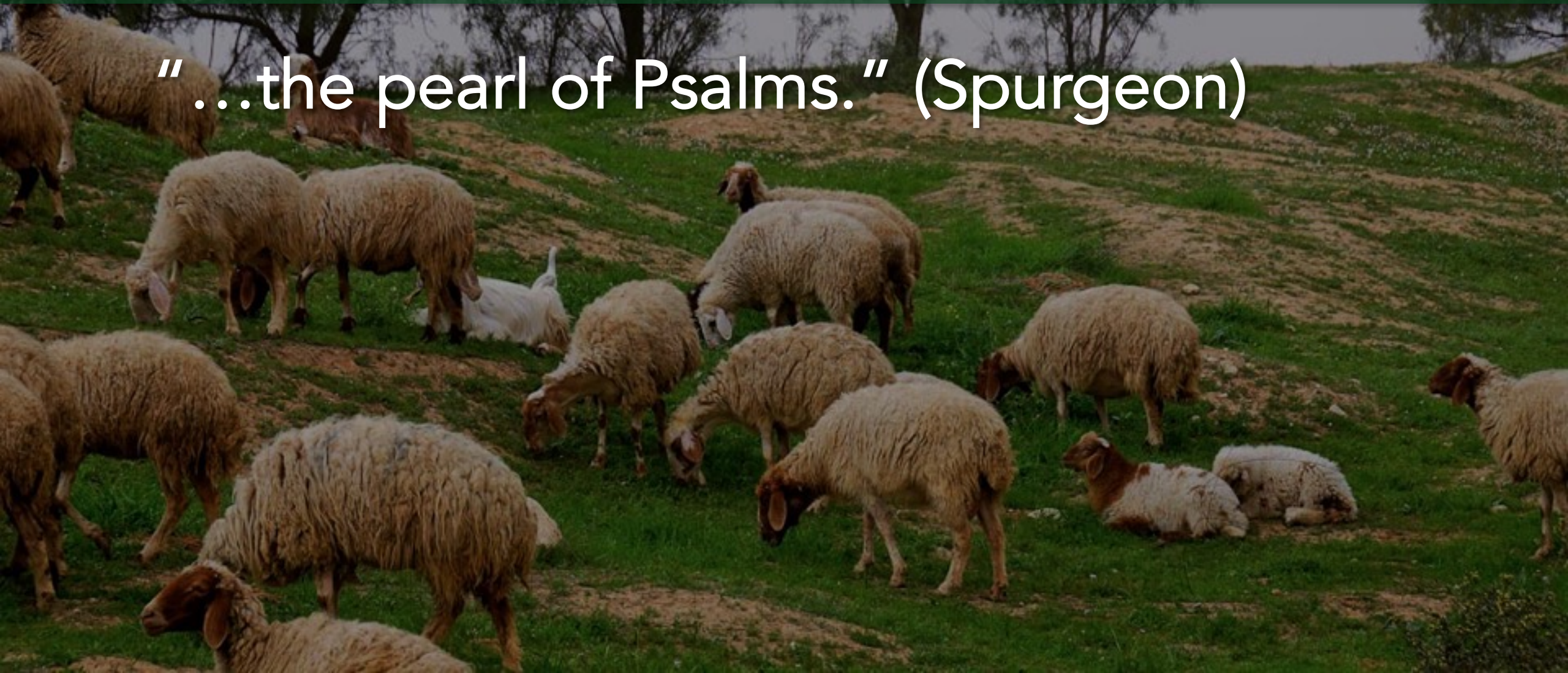


Preliminary Comments



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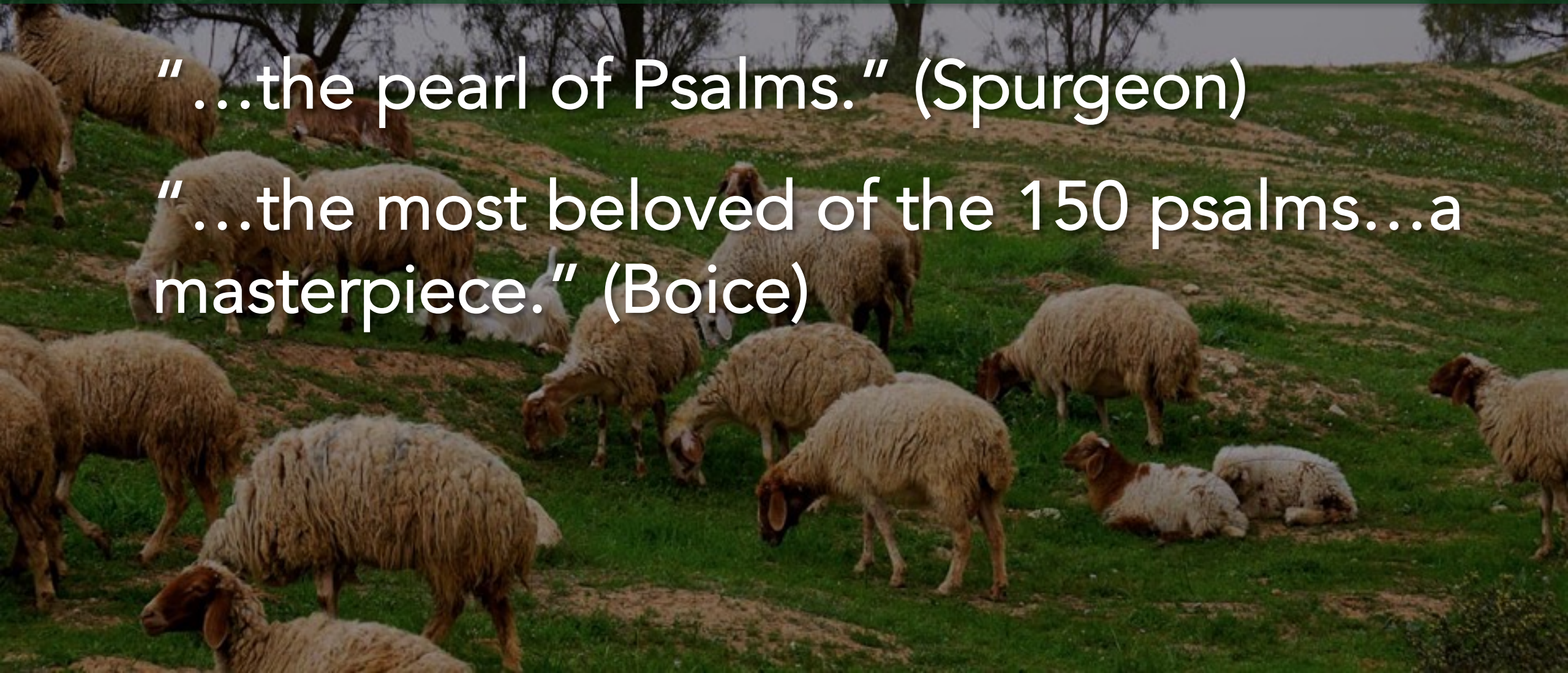
“...the pearl of Psalms.” (Spurgeon)



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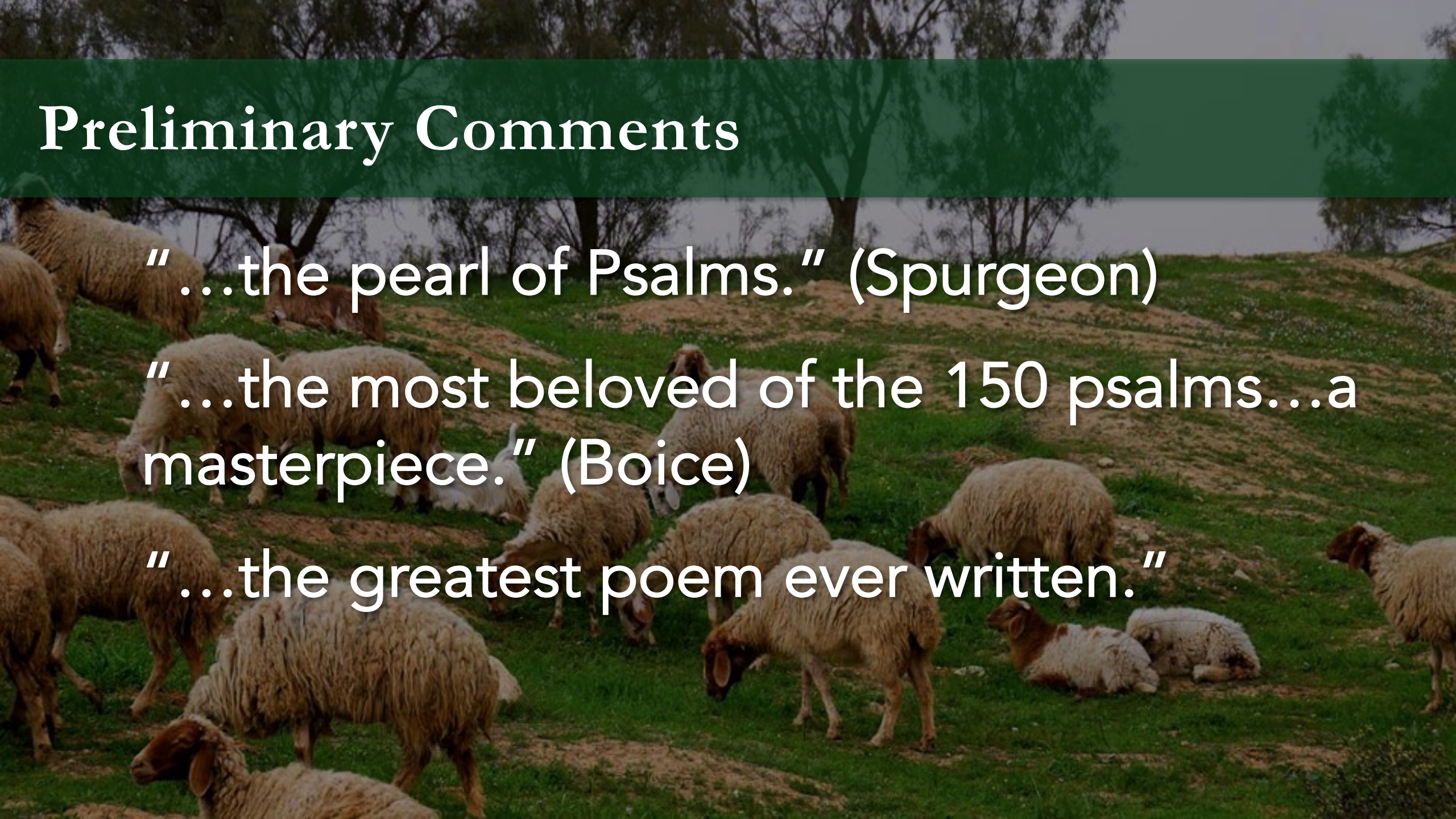


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What do we learn about God in Psalm 23?

Preliminary Comments

The Two Main Metaphors in Psalm 23:

God as David's Shepherd (vv. 1-4)

God as David's Gracious Host (vv. 5-6)



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The Two Main Metaphors in Psalm 23:

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God is the ultimate Shepherd-King to his people. People are the sheep of God's flock and the guests of God's kingdom.

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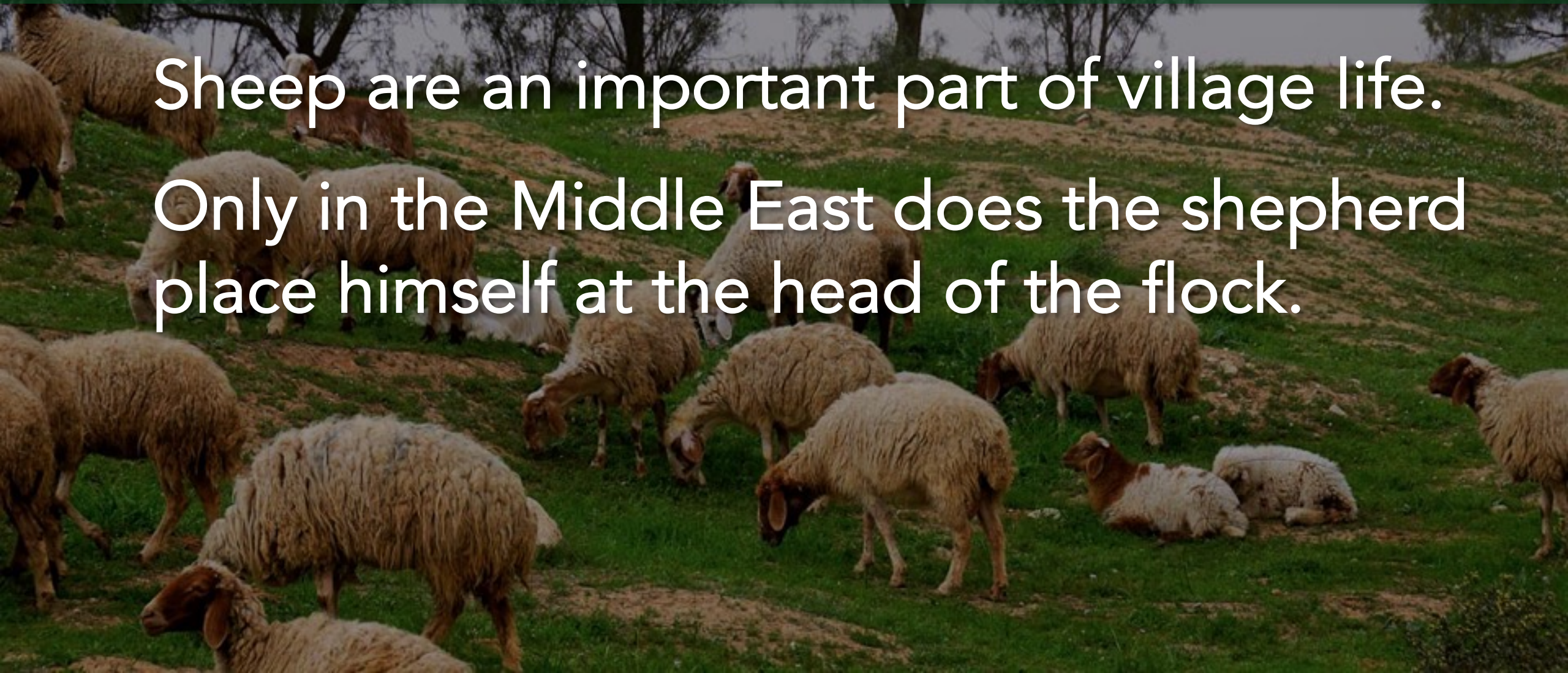
Sheep are an important part of village life.



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Only in the Middle East does the shepherd place himself at the head of the flock.



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Sheep are an important part of village life.

Only in the Middle East does the shepherd place himself at the head of the flock.

Sheep are essentially helpless and not particularly bright.





Preliminary Comments

Sheep are vulnerable to a wide variety of afflictions.



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Shepherding is a “hands on” vocation.

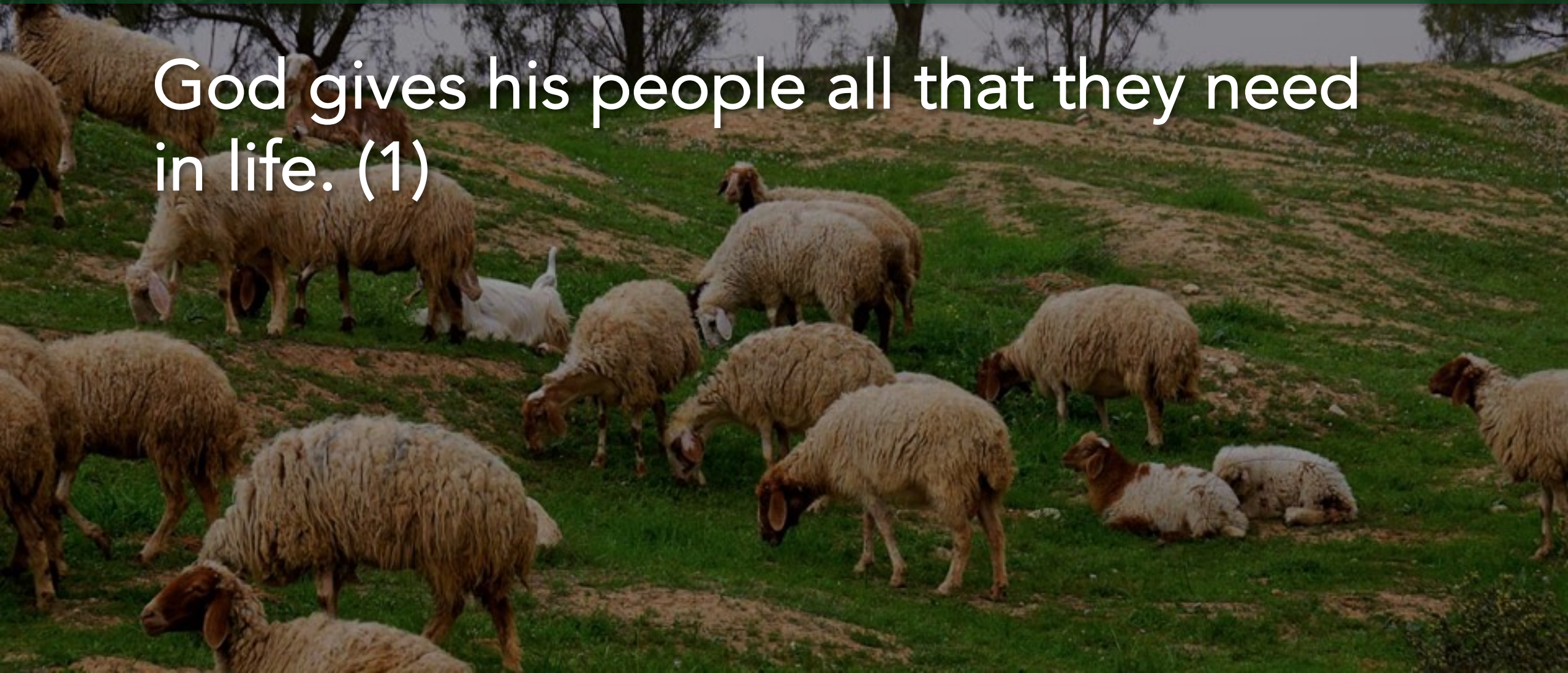


Rest in the **PROVISIONS** of the Lord. (1-3)



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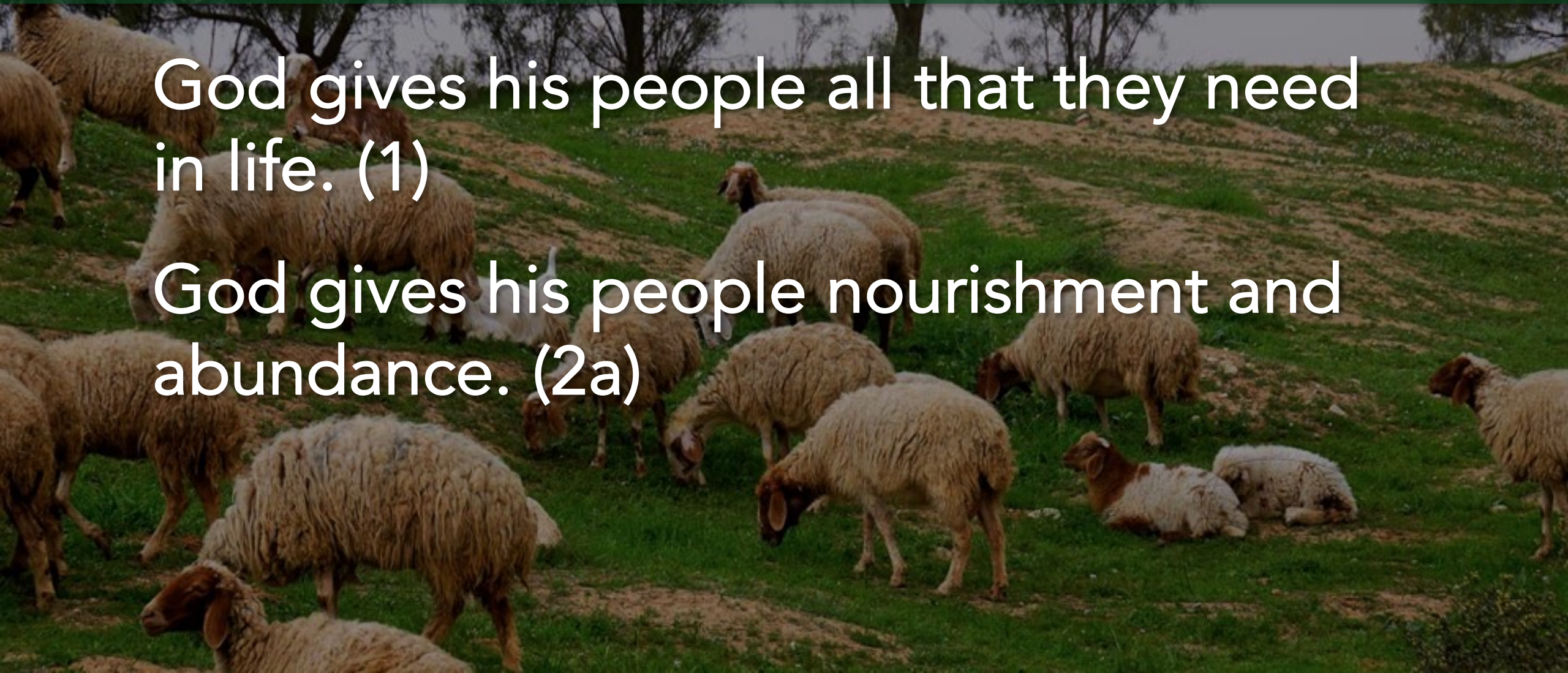
God gives his people all that they need
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God gives his people nourishment and abundance. (2a)

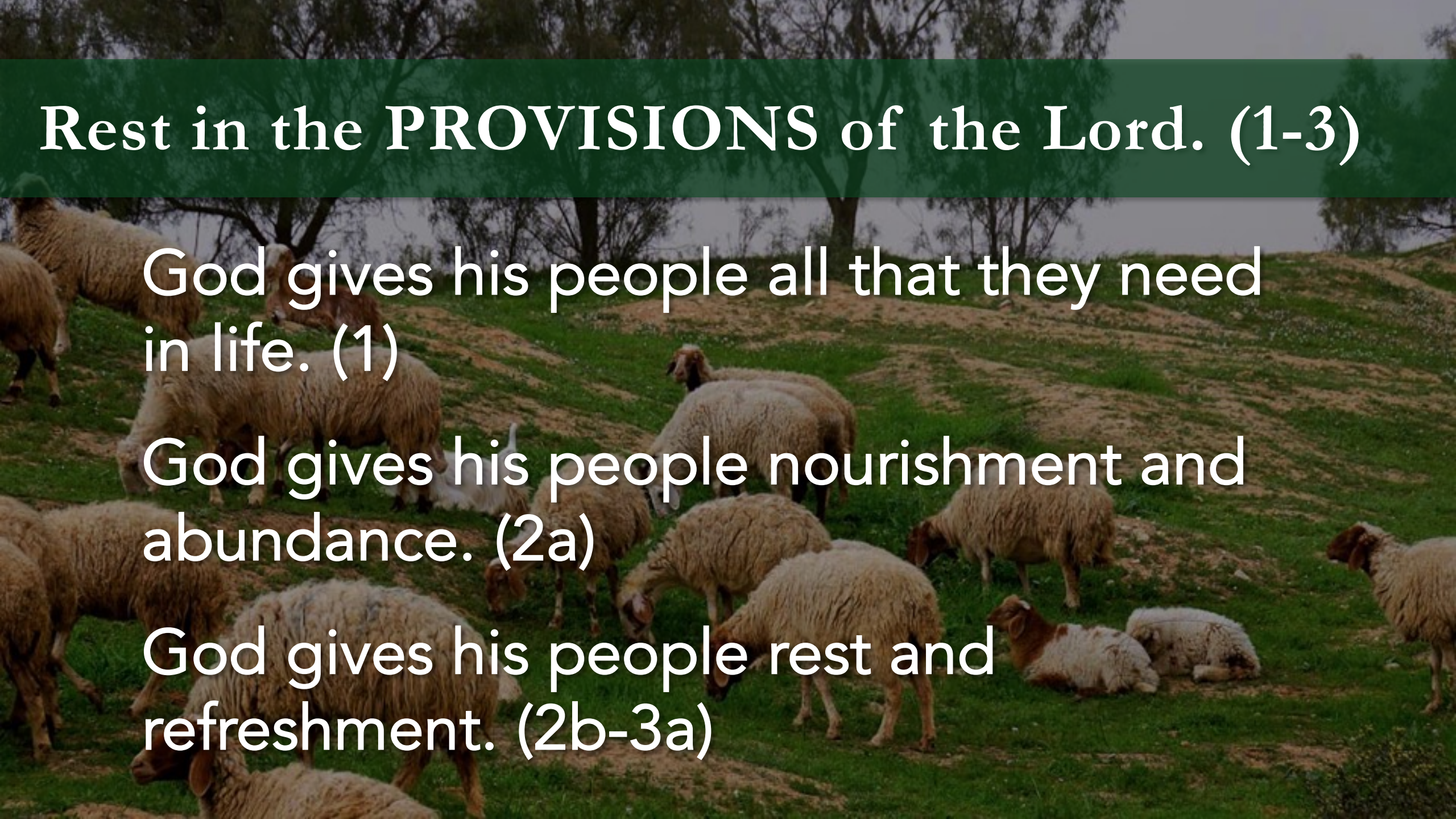


Rest in the PROVISIONS of the Lord. (1-3)

God gives his people all that they need in life. (1)

God gives his people nourishment and abundance. (2a)

God gives his people rest and refreshment. (2b-3a)



Rest in the PROVISIONS of the Lord. (1-3)

God gives his people guidance in his ways. (3b)

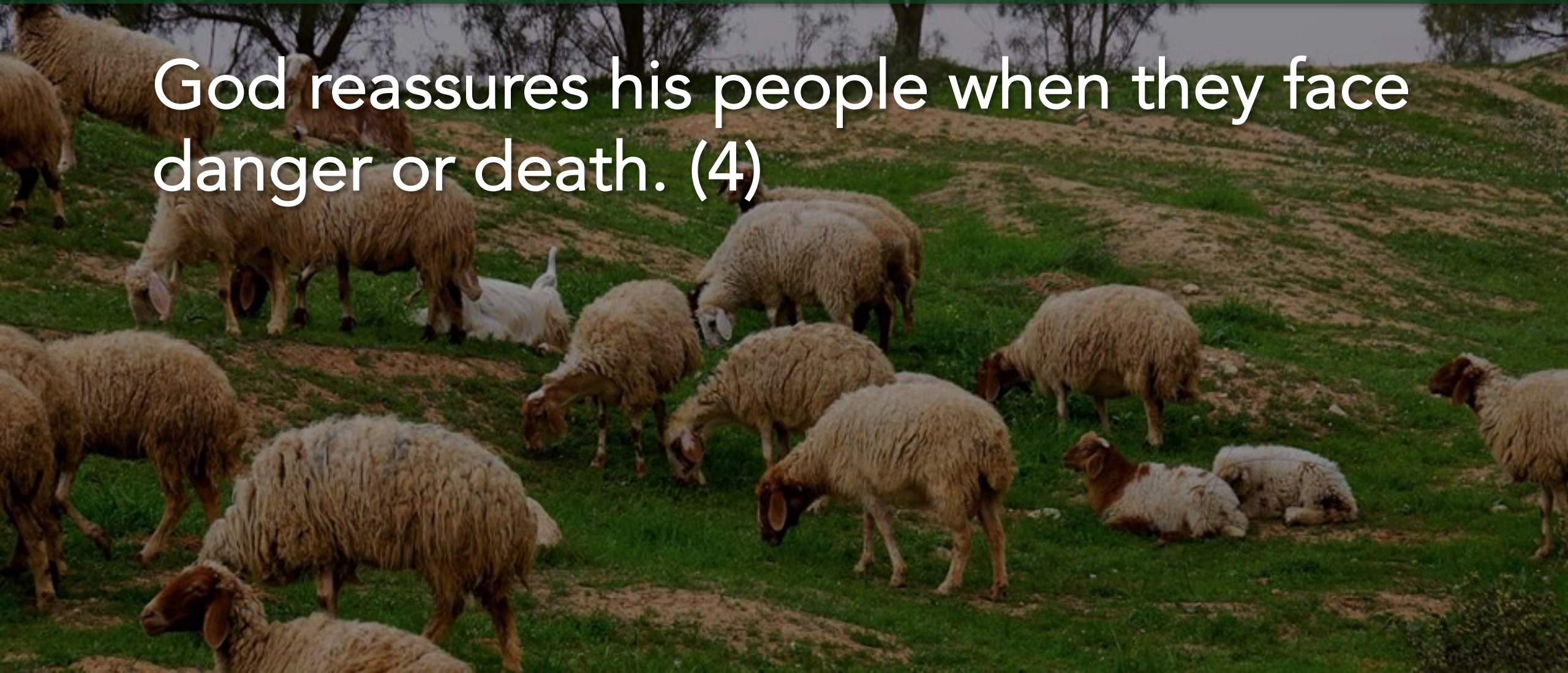


Rest in the **PRESENCE** of the Lord. (4-5)



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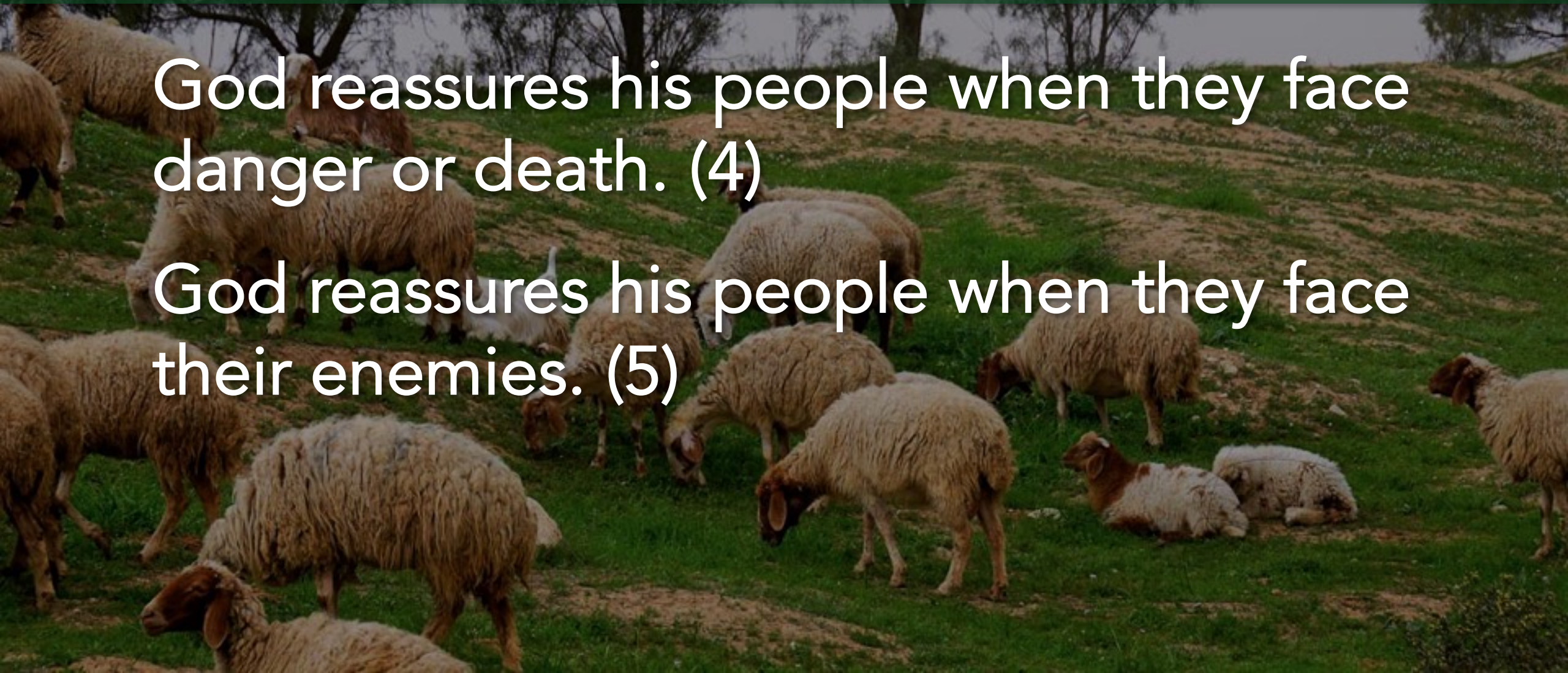
God reassures his people when they face danger or death. (4)



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God reassures his people when they face danger or death. (4)

God reassures his people when they face their enemies. (5)

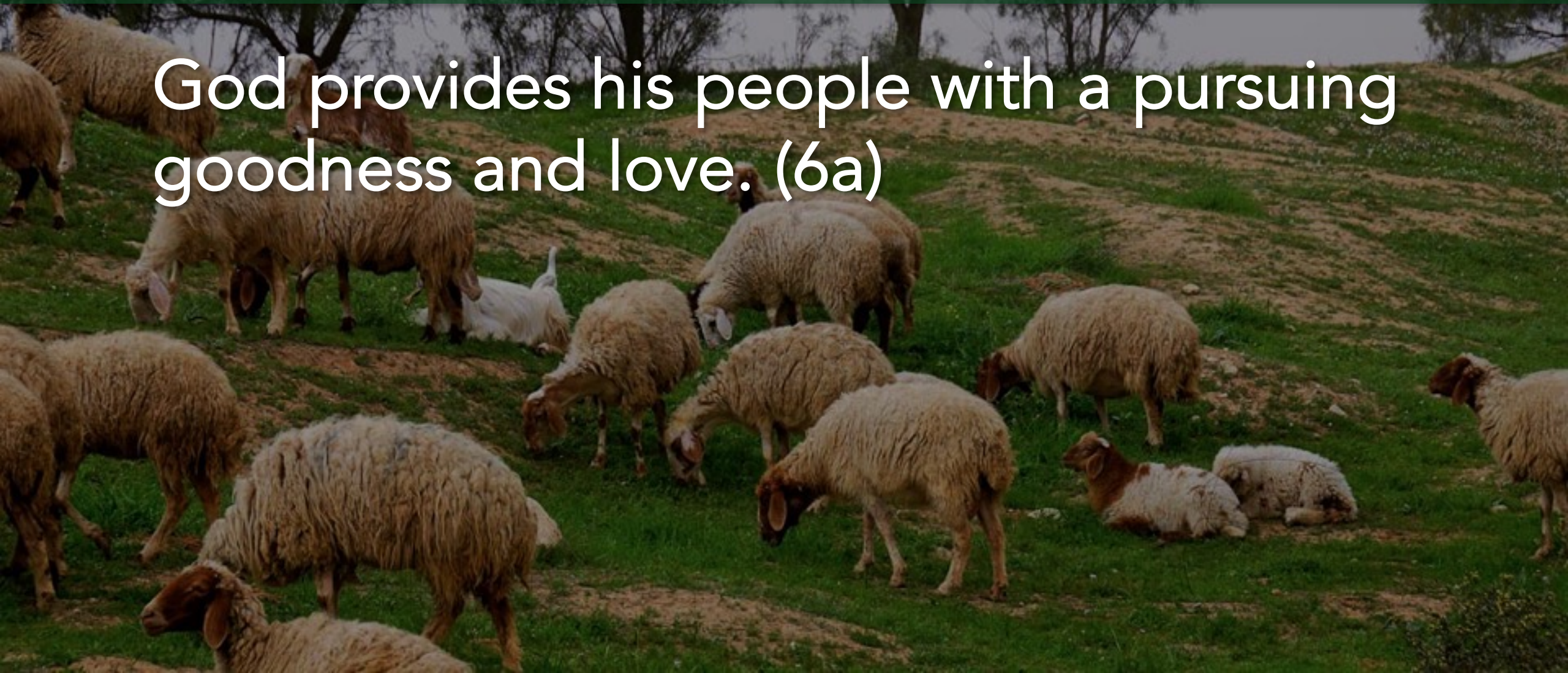


Rest in the **PROMISES** of the Lord. (6)



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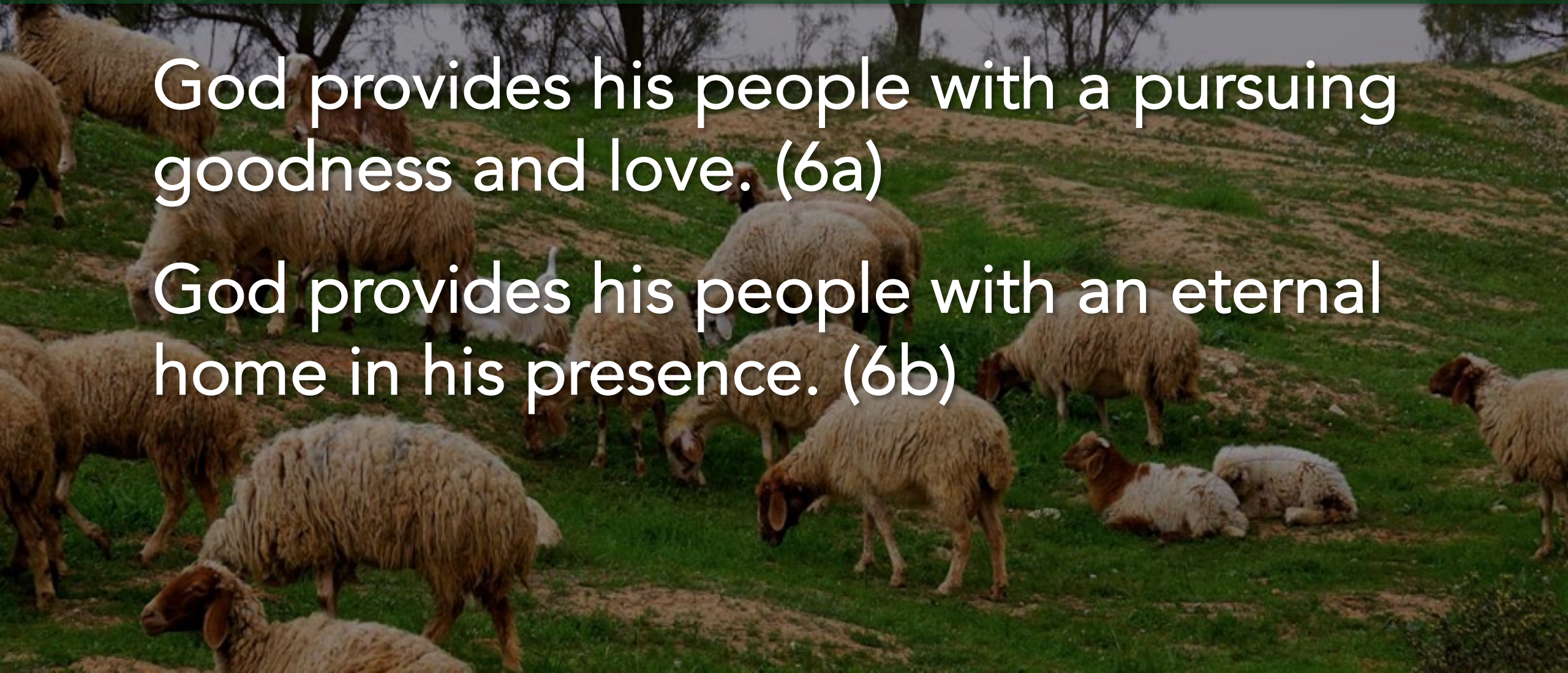
God provides his people with a pursuing goodness and love. (6a)



Rest in the PROMISES of the Lord. (6)

God provides his people with a pursuing goodness and love. (6a)

God provides his people with an eternal home in his presence. (6b)





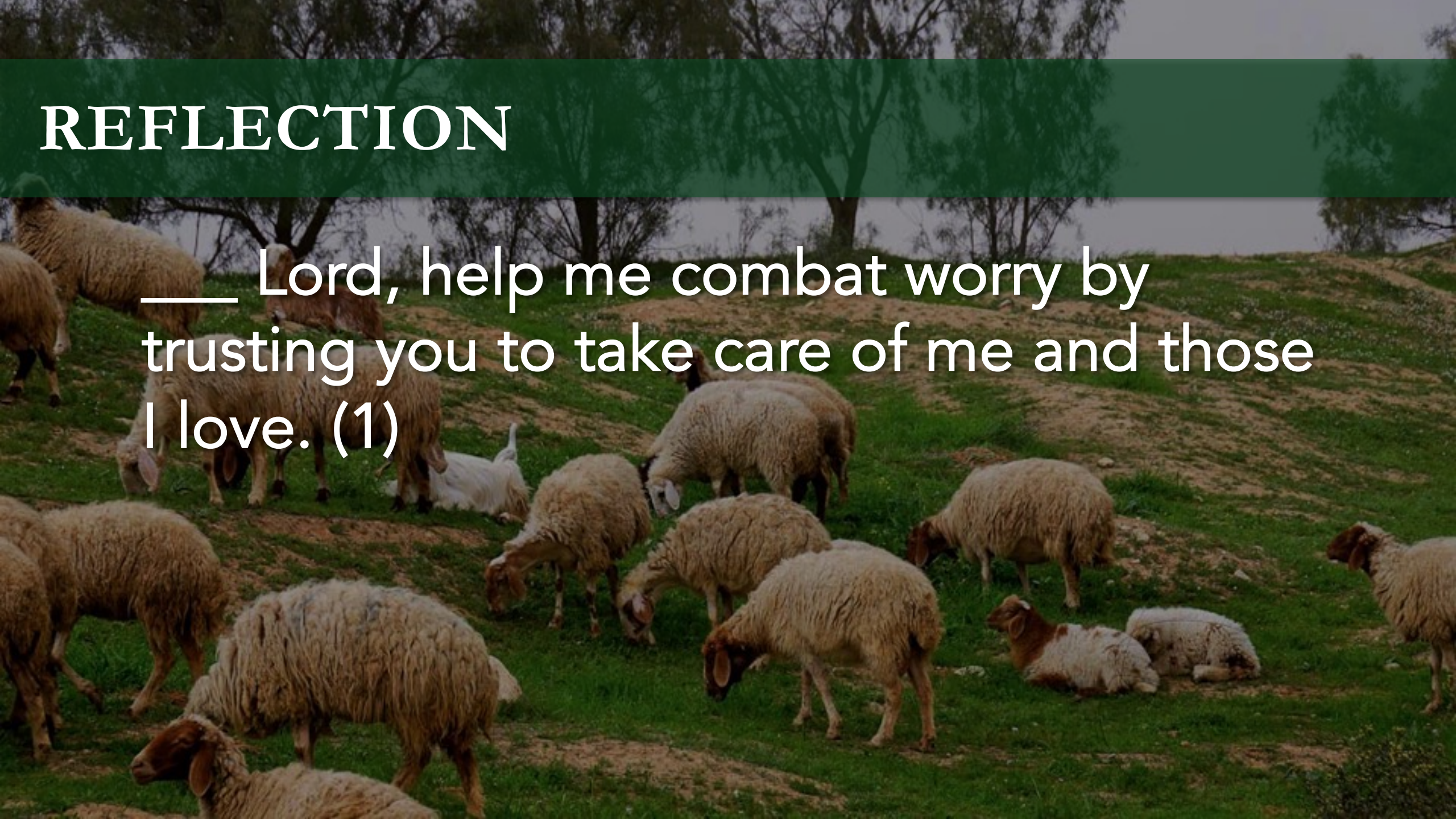
*Rest in the Lord who is with
you and good to you.*

REFLECTION



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___ Lord, help me combat worry by trusting you to take care of me and those I love. (1)



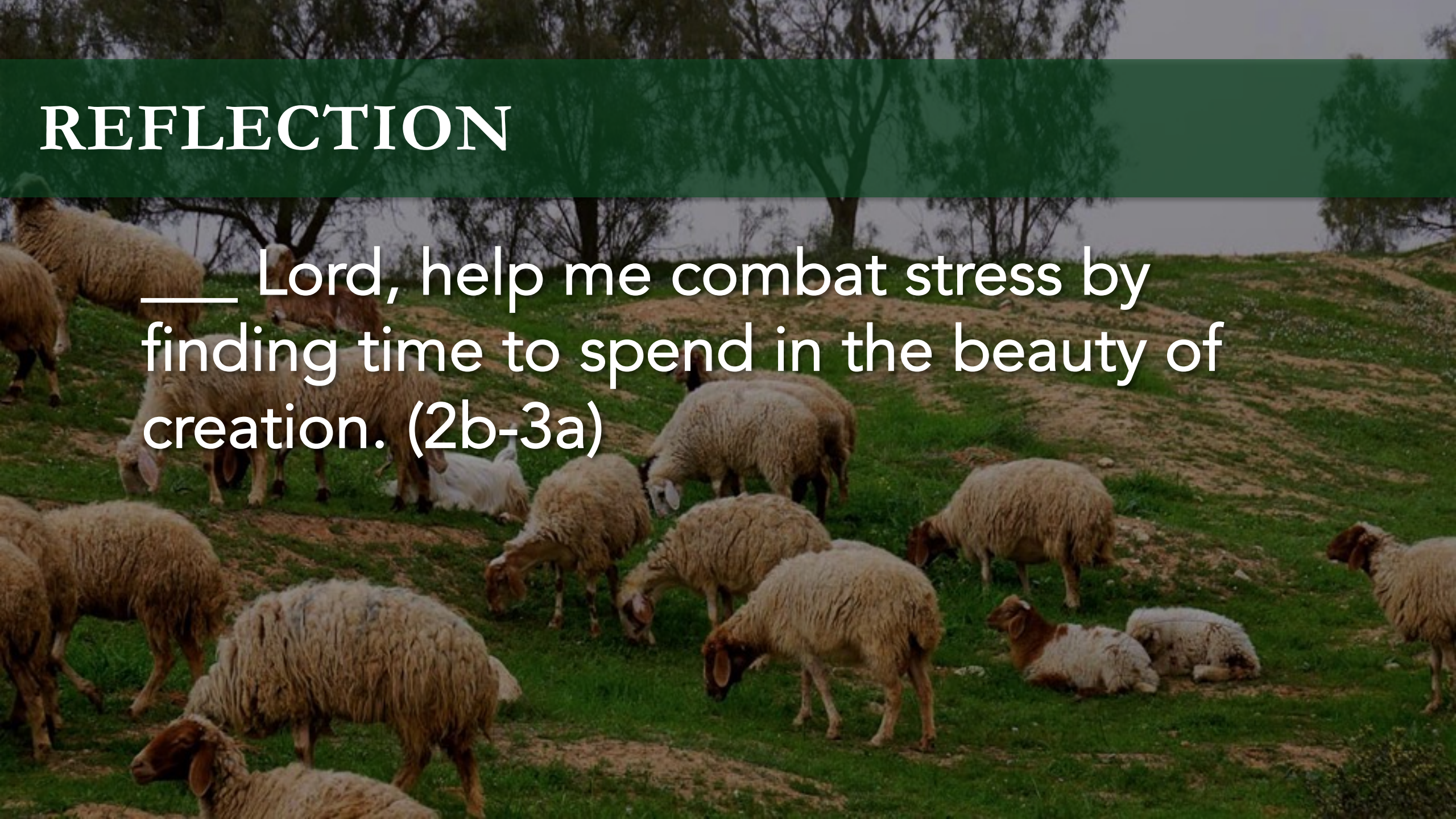
REFLECTION

___ Lord, help me combat worry by trusting you to take care of me and those I love. (1)

___ Lord, help me combat hurry by taking time to enjoy a regular Sabbath rest. (2a)

REFLECTION

___ Lord, help me combat stress by finding time to spend in the beauty of creation. (2b-3a)

A photograph of a flock of sheep grazing in a green field. The sheep are of various colors, including white, brown, and black. They are scattered across the field, some standing and some lying down. In the background, there are several trees and a clear sky. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

REFLECTION

___ Lord, help me combat stress by finding time to spend in the beauty of creation. (2b-3a)

___ Lord, help me combat the pressure of choice by regularly asking you for wisdom. (3b)

REFLECTION

___ Lord, help me combat the challenges of life by leaning into your abiding presence. (4)

A photograph of a flock of sheep grazing on a grassy hillside. The sheep are of various colors, including white, brown, and black. They are scattered across the slope, some standing and some lying down. The background shows a line of trees under a dark, overcast sky. The image has a dark green overlay at the top where the text is located.

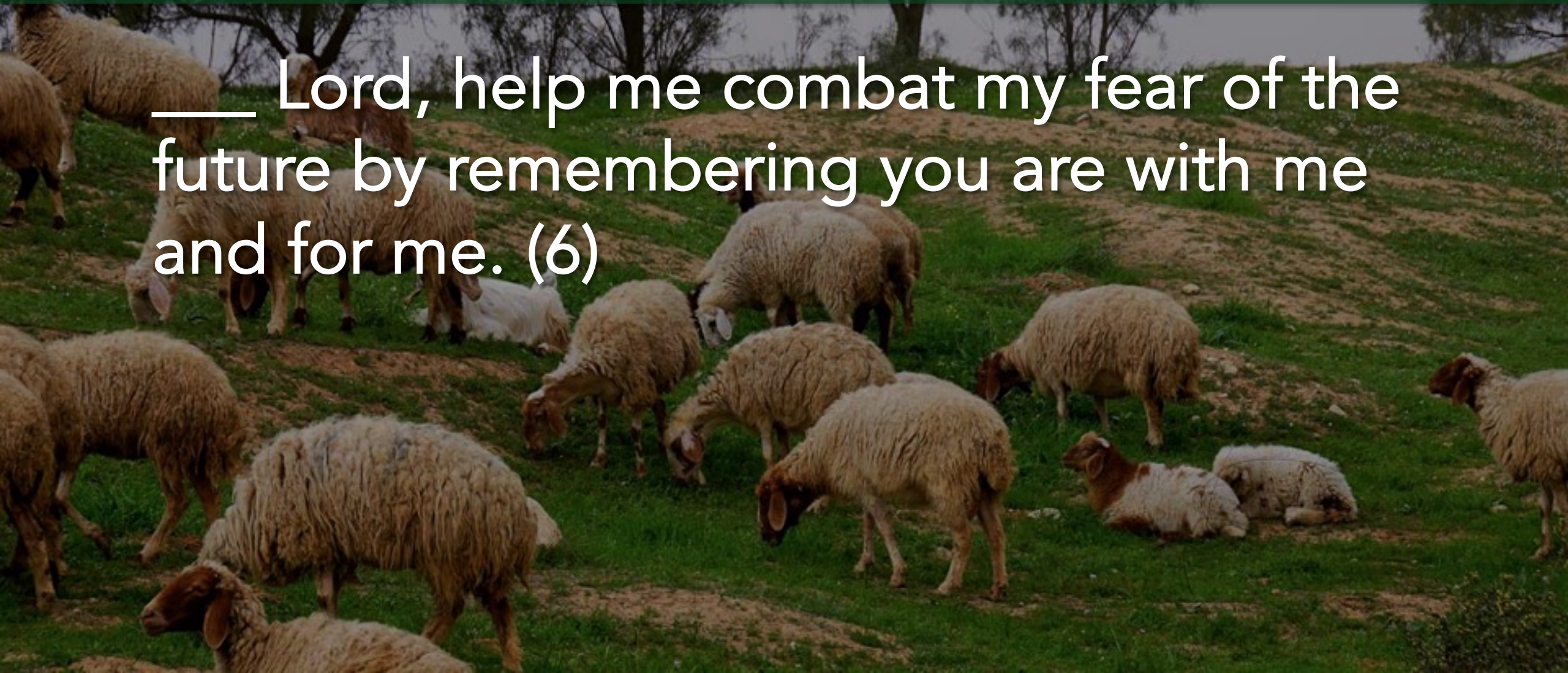
REFLECTION

___ Lord, help me combat the challenges of life by leaning into your abiding presence. (4)

___ Lord, help me combat attacks and harsh criticism by letting you deal with difficult people. (5)

REFLECTION

___ Lord, help me combat my fear of the future by remembering you are with me and for me. (6)



You will keep in perfect peace
those whose minds are
steadfast,
because they trust in you.
Trust in the Lord forever,
for the Lord, the Lord himself, is
the Rock eternal. ~ Isaiah 26:3-4

A flock of sheep is grazing in a lush green field. In the background, there are several tall, leafy trees under a clear sky. The sheep are of various colors, including white, brown, and black. Some are standing and grazing, while others are lying down. The overall scene is peaceful and pastoral.

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