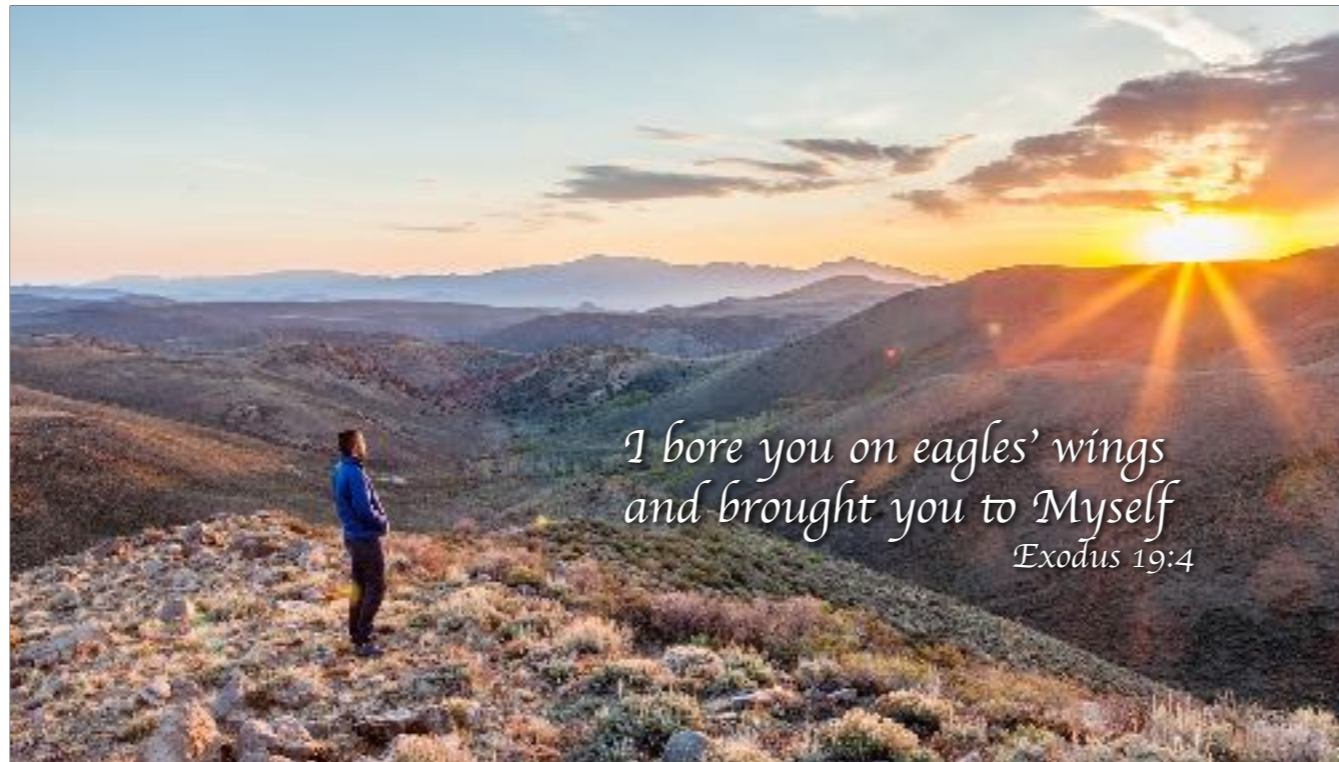
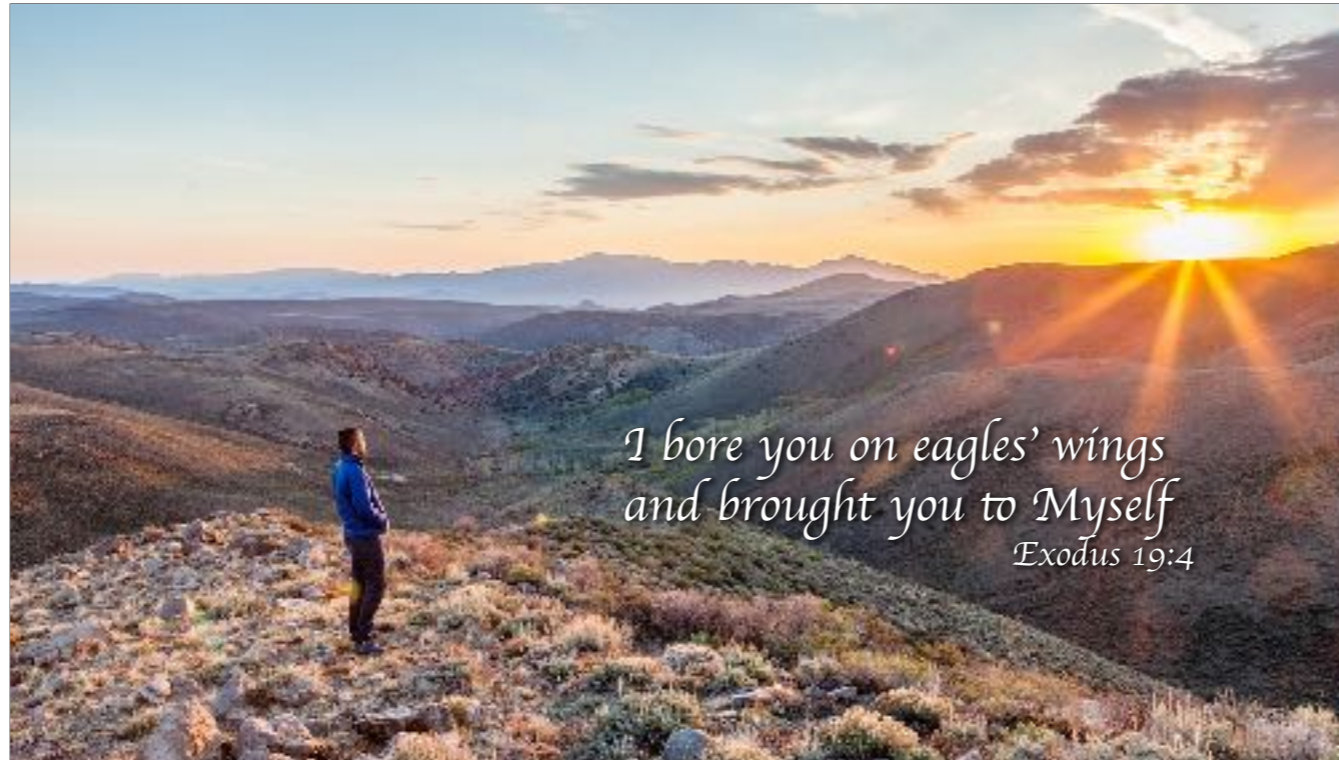


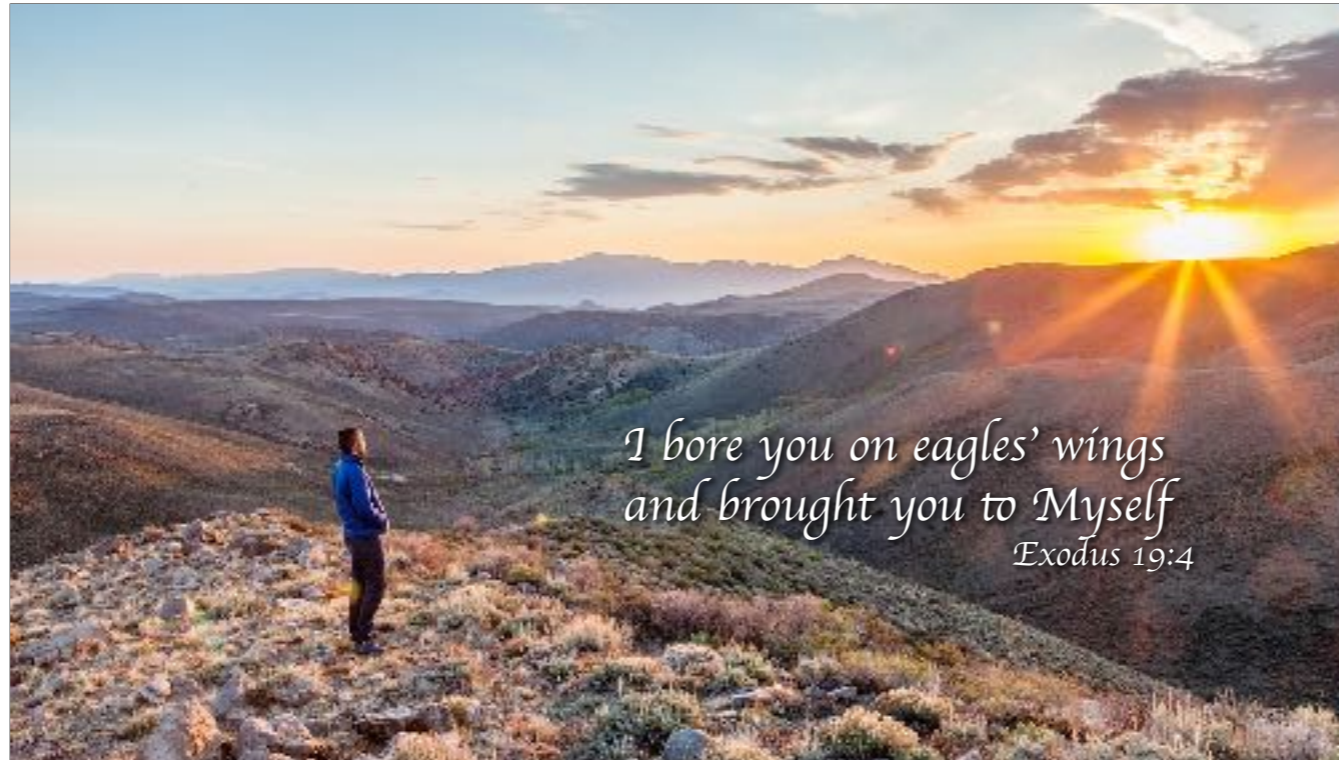
- Exodus 19:4-25



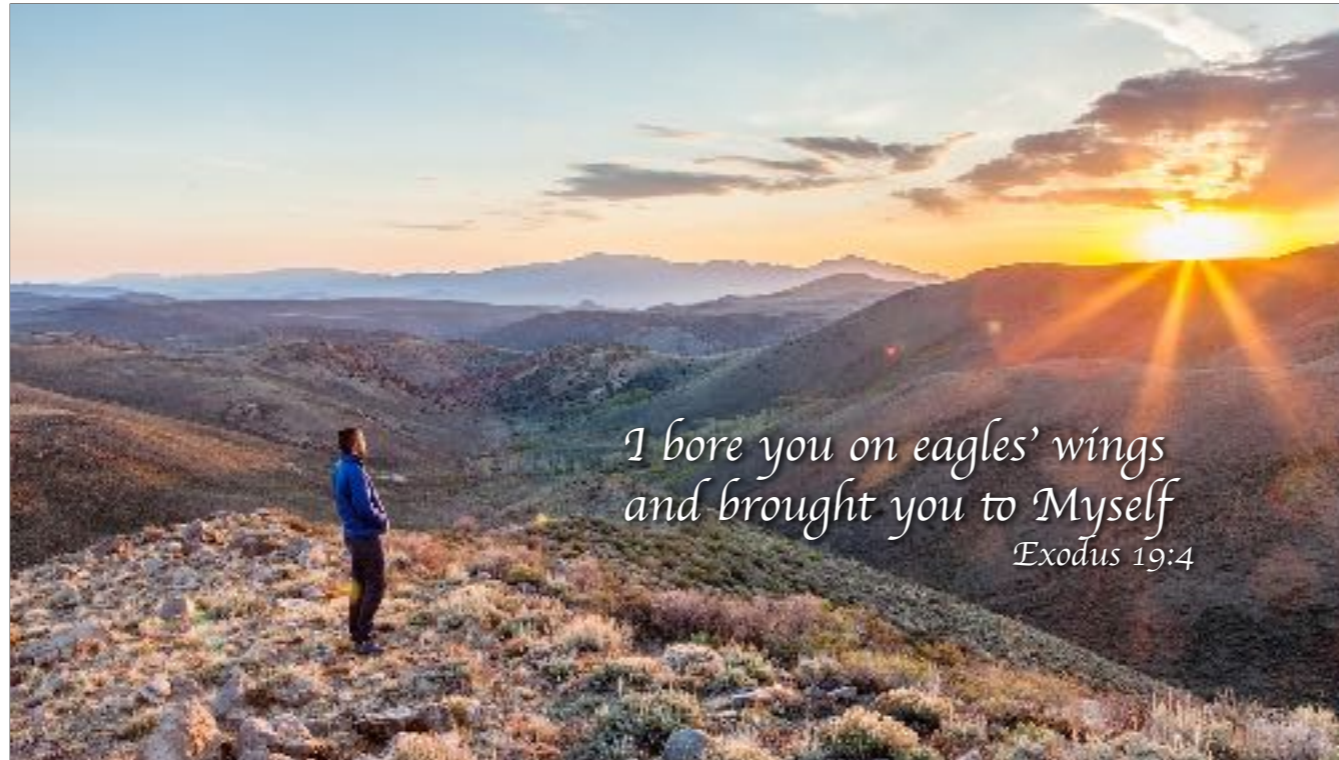
- Having left Egypt about 3 months ago, the Israelites arrive at Mt. Sinai
 - A mountain in the wilderness
 - Did they wonder why God had led them here instead of to the land of promise?



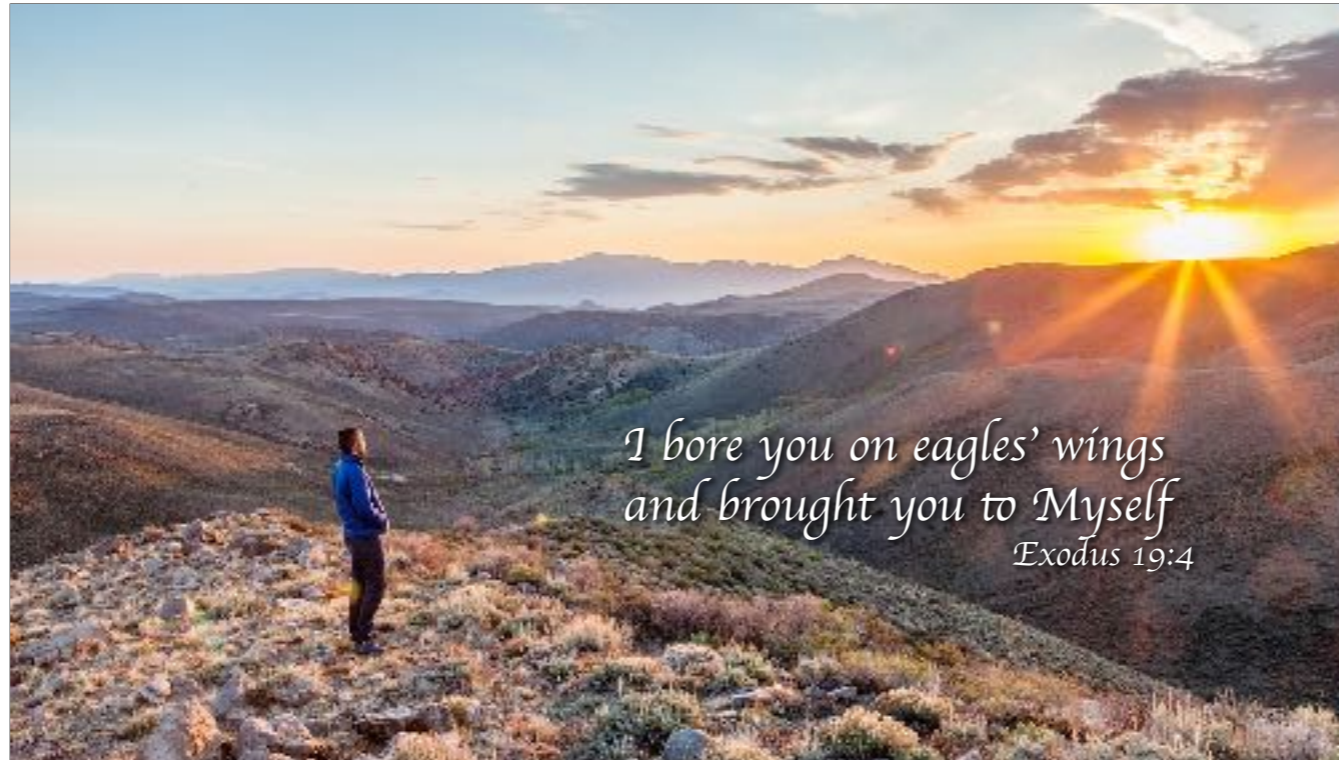
- God tells Israel when they arrive at Mt. Sinai that He “brought you to Myself” (4)
 - He has great plans for them
 - my treasured possession among all peoples (5)
 - you shall be to me a kingdom of priests (6)
 - a holy nation (6)
 - Consider the significance of this change.
 - Slavery, oppression, killing of children
 - God’s treasure, priests, nation
 - It would be hard to comprehend. Really true?



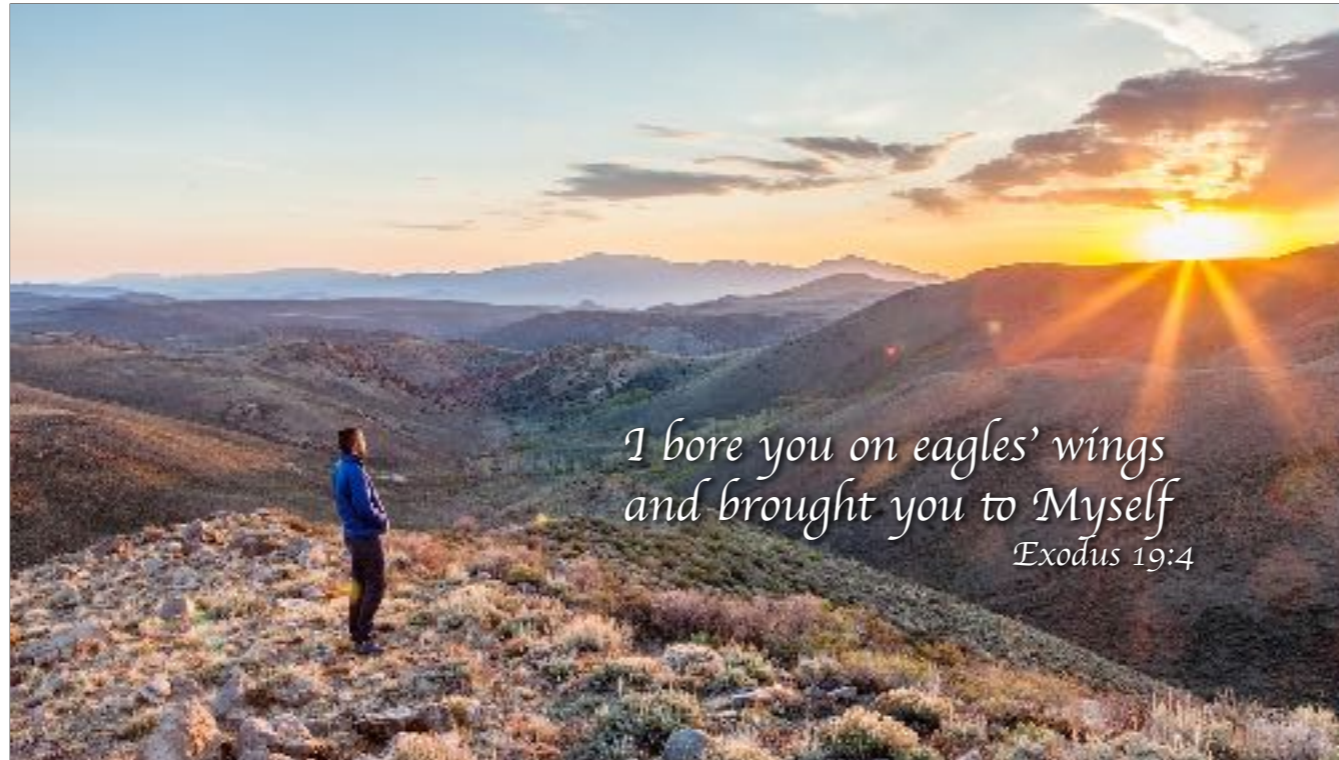
- God needs to make sure that the people know all this is real, listen to what Moses says because it comes from God (9)
 - So He appears on Mt. Sinai in a way that impresses on them his majesty and greatness
 - Warns them not to touch the mountain, consecrate themselves



- Exodus 19:16 On the morning of the third day there were **thunders** and **lightnings** and **a thick cloud** on the mountain and **a very loud trumpet blast**, so that all the people in the camp trembled.
- Exodus 19:18 Now Mount Sinai was **wrapped in smoke** because the LORD had **descended on it in fire**. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and **the whole mountain trembled greatly**.

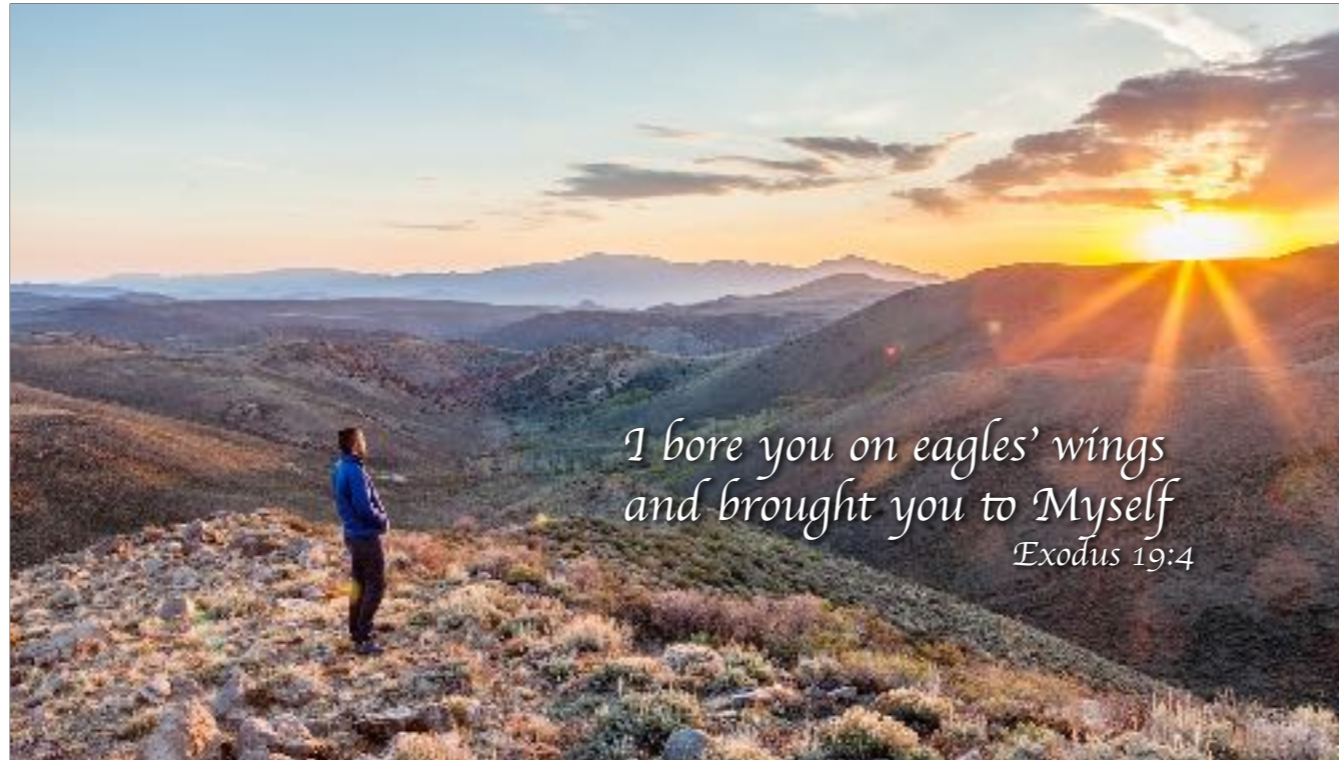


- God gives the people the 10 commandments
 - (deeper meaning: love God, love neighbor)

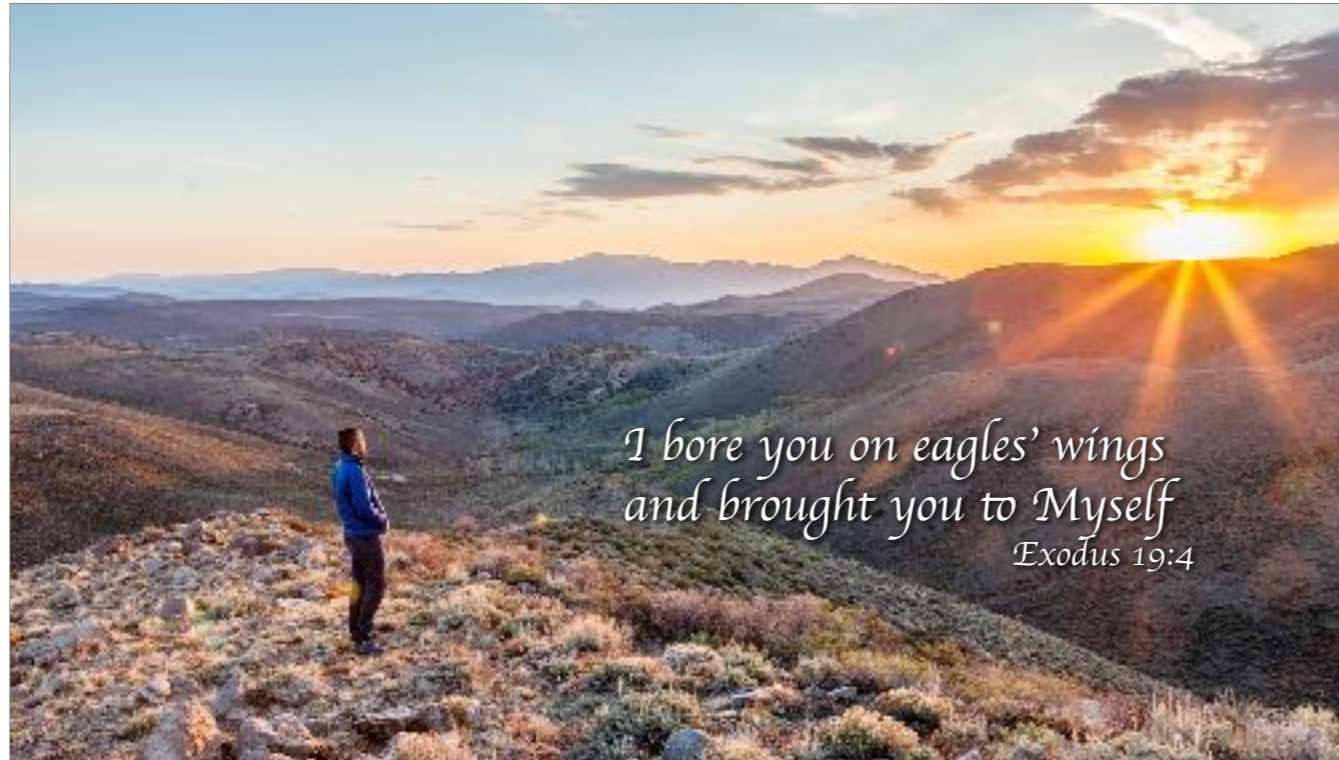


- Exodus 20:18-21

- 18 Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking,
- the people were **afraid** and **trembled**, and they **stood far off**
- 19 and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but **do not let God speak to us, lest we die.**"



- 20 Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.”
- 21 The **people stood far off**, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.



- Two NT passages refer to these events: 1 Peter 2:4-10; Hebrews 12:18-29



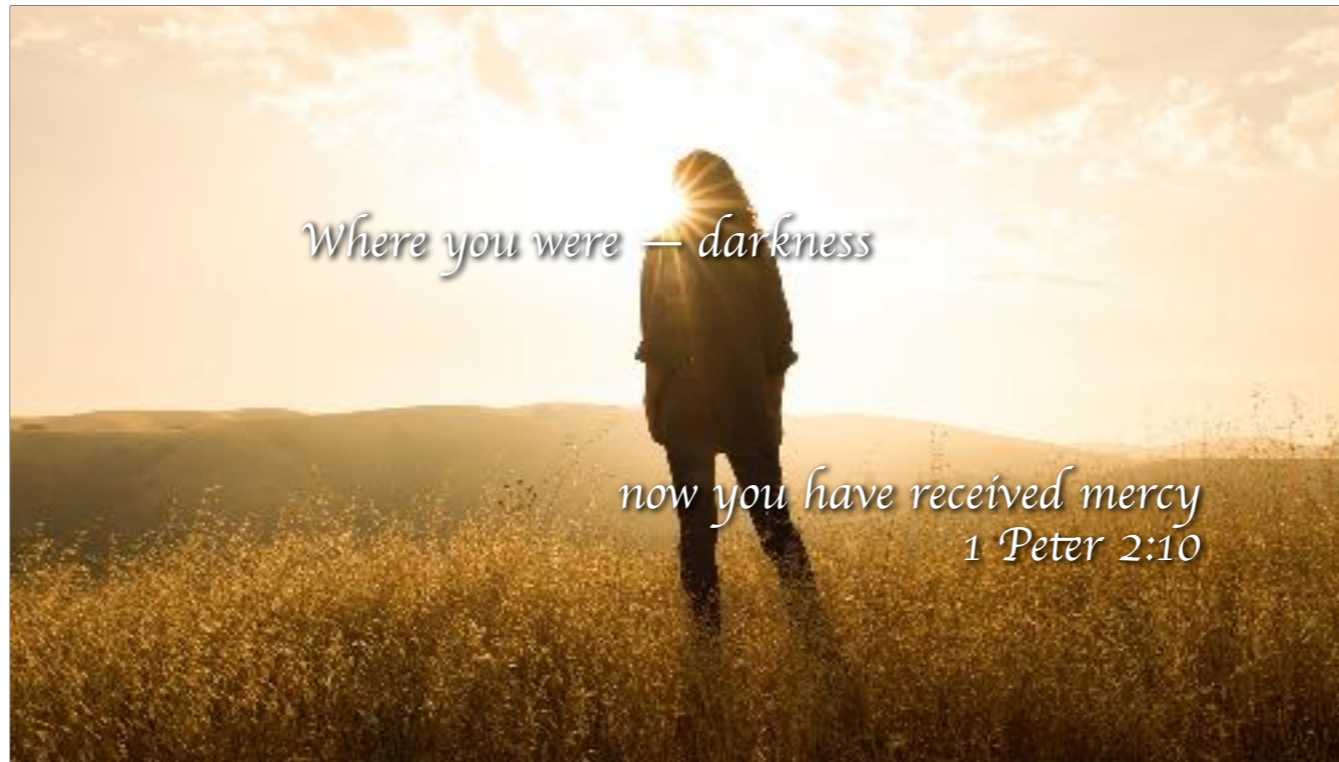
- Where you were
- 1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
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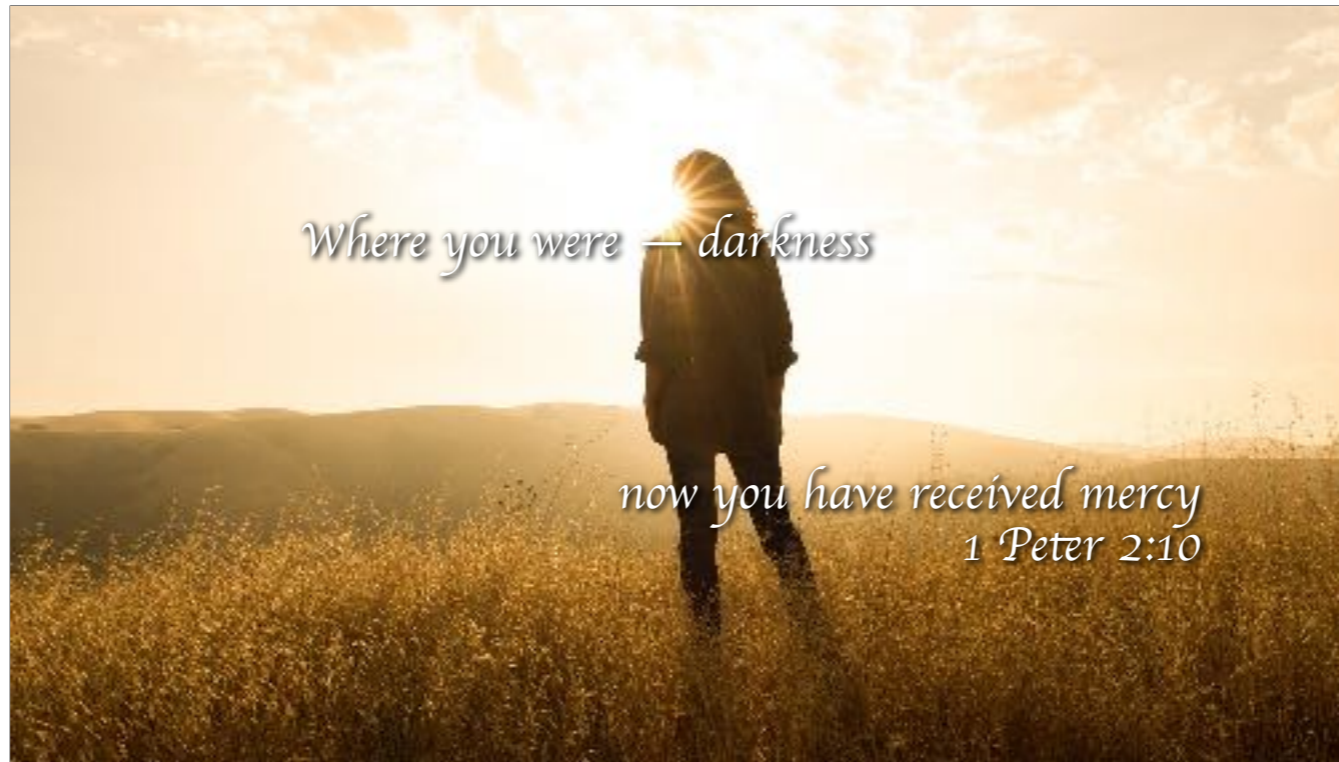
- For Israelites, it was literal slavery, oppression:
 - Their lives were miserable, no hope
 - Exodus 2:23 During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God.



- Today, the darkness is spiritual and the result of sin, and evil
 - We see the reality in the world: the world is miserable, and there's not much hope.
 - Personally, our sin is often our deepest darkness
 - Proverbs 4:19 (ESV) 19 The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.

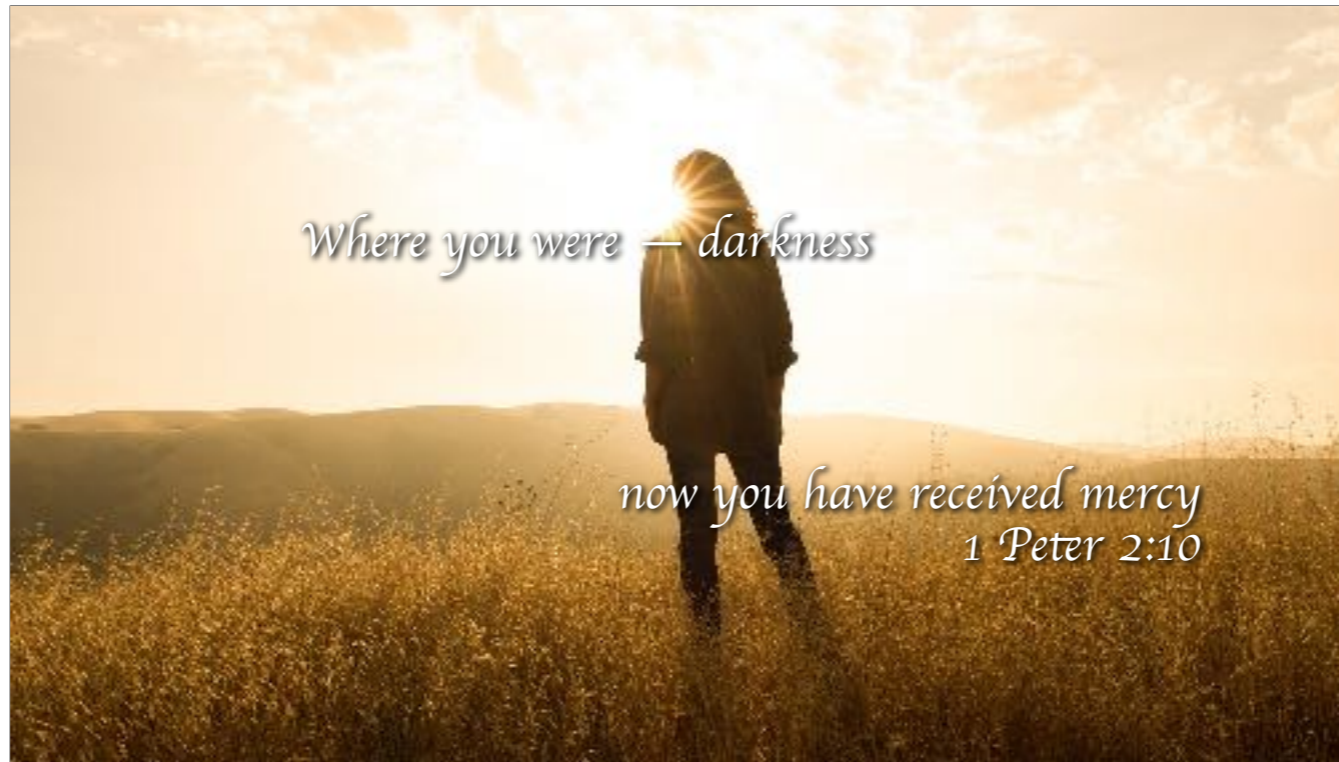


- 1 Peter 2:10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.



• Israel:

- Exodus 2:24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.
- Exodus 3:7-8 (ESV) 7 Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, 8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey



• Us:

- Ephesians 2:4-6 (ESV) 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,



- 1 Peter 2:4-5 (ESV) 4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Peter 2:9 (ESV) 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- Consider the beauty of each of these: individual and yet collective.



- 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house
 - one of the amazing things about this is that Peter first speaks of Jesus as being a “living stone”
 - precious and chosen
 - living stones ... a spiritual house



- Ephesians 2:18-22

- For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.
- 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,
- but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
- 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,



- 21 in whom the whole structure,
 - being joined together,
 - grows into a holy temple in the Lord.
 - 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.



- 5 to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 9 a royal priesthood
- Moses: “a kingdom of priests” (Ex. 19:6)



- A chosen generation (NKJV) (“race” in most, but the connotations surrounding that word in our society is distracting)
- Focus on the idea of being chosen ...
 - Romans 8:33 (ESV) 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.



- Colossians 3:12-17 (ESV) 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



- A holy nation (9)
 - nation is the same word often translated as “gentile”.
 - holy emphasizes that we are God’s nation, set apart, to him.
- John 18:36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”



- a people for his own possession (9)
 - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (ESV) 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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A Holy Nation - 1

Exodus 19:4-25

Synopsis: Through the wilderness, Jehovah brought his people to him at Mt. Sinai with amazing plans for them. Through Jesus, our Father brings us to himself so that we can be his people and proclaim him.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”