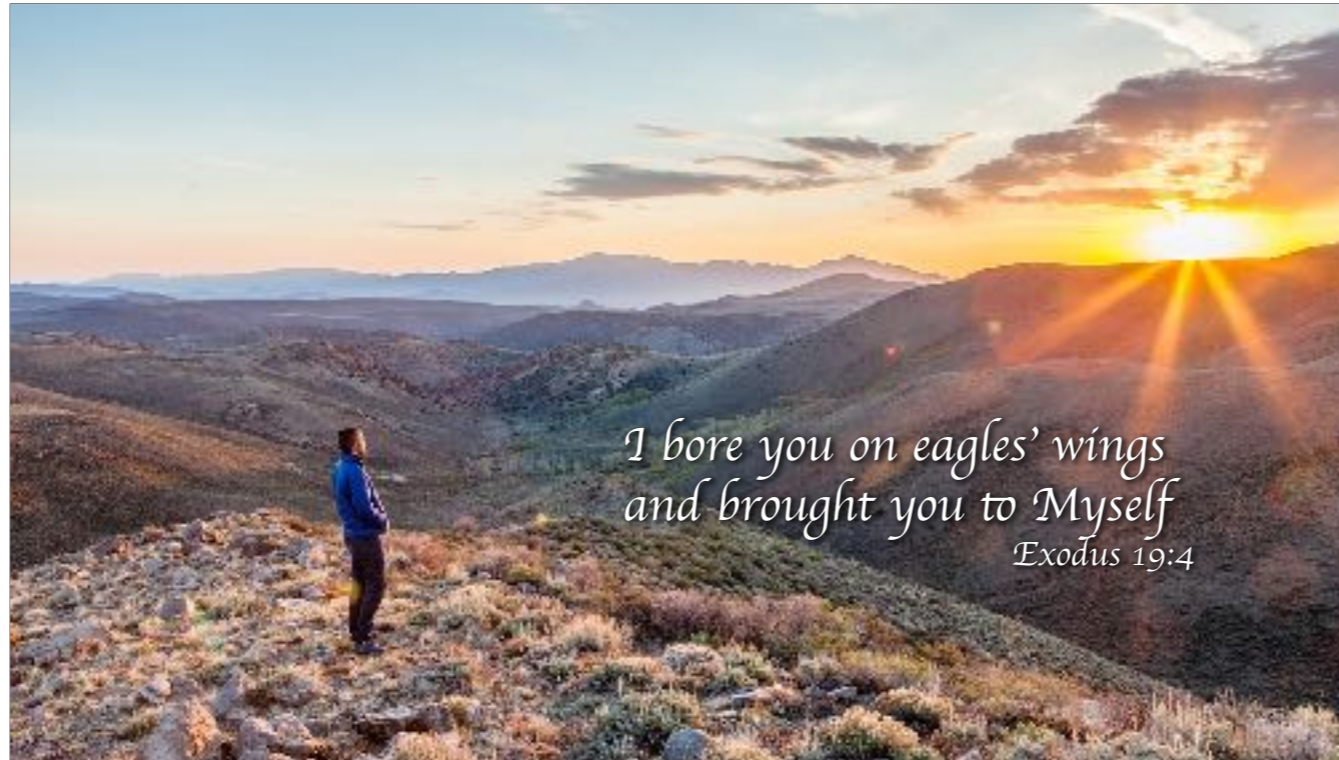
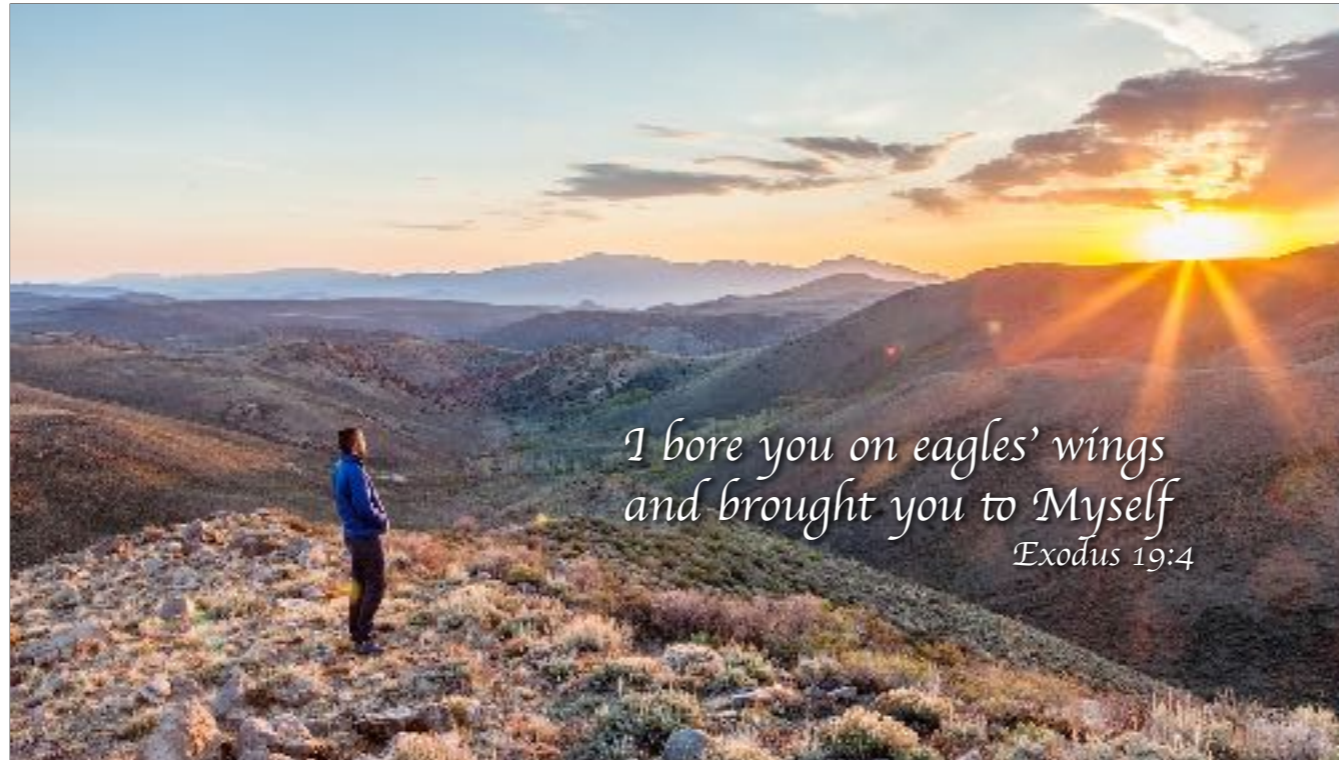


- Exodus 19:4-25



- 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?

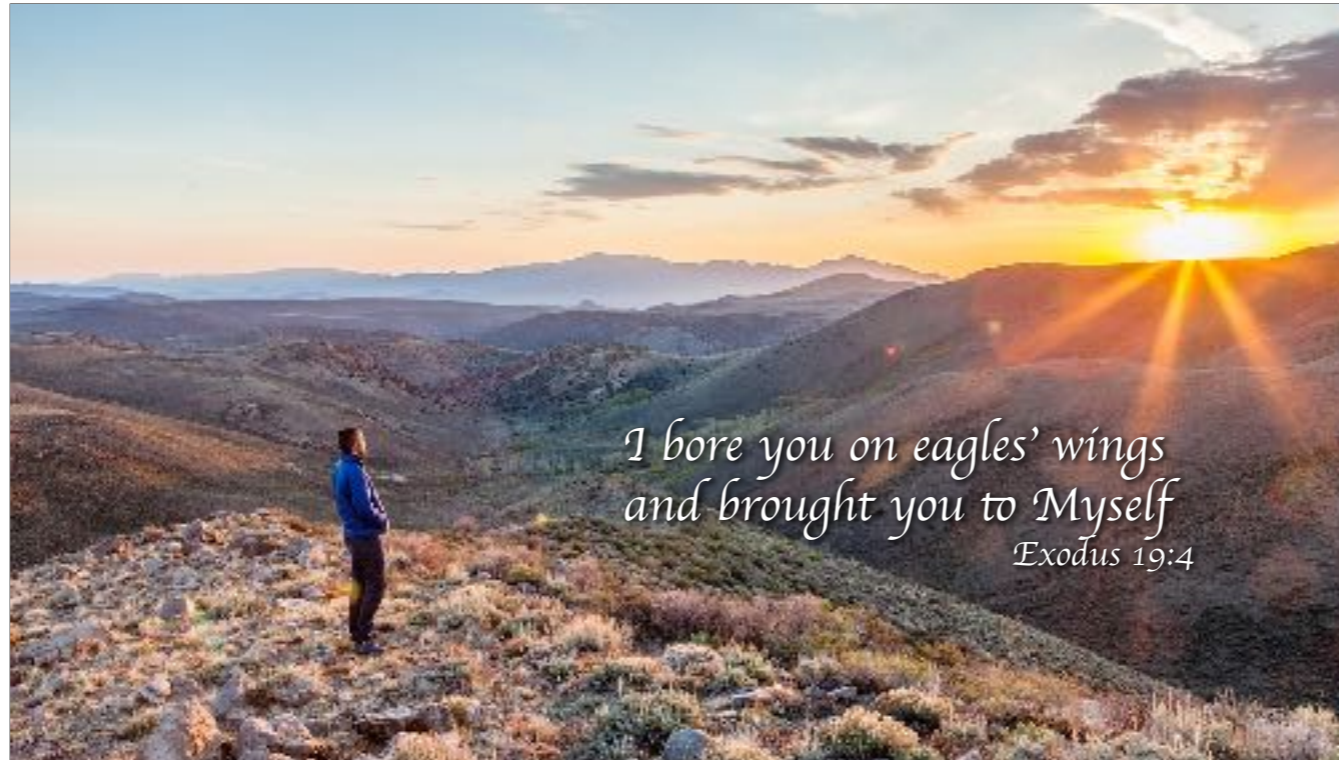


- Exodus 19:16 On the morning of the third day there were **thunders** and **lightnings** and **a thick cloud** on the mountain and **a very loud trumpet blast**, so that all the people in the camp trembled.
- Exodus 19:18 Now Mount Sinai was **wrapped in smoke** because the LORD had **descended on it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



- 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.**"



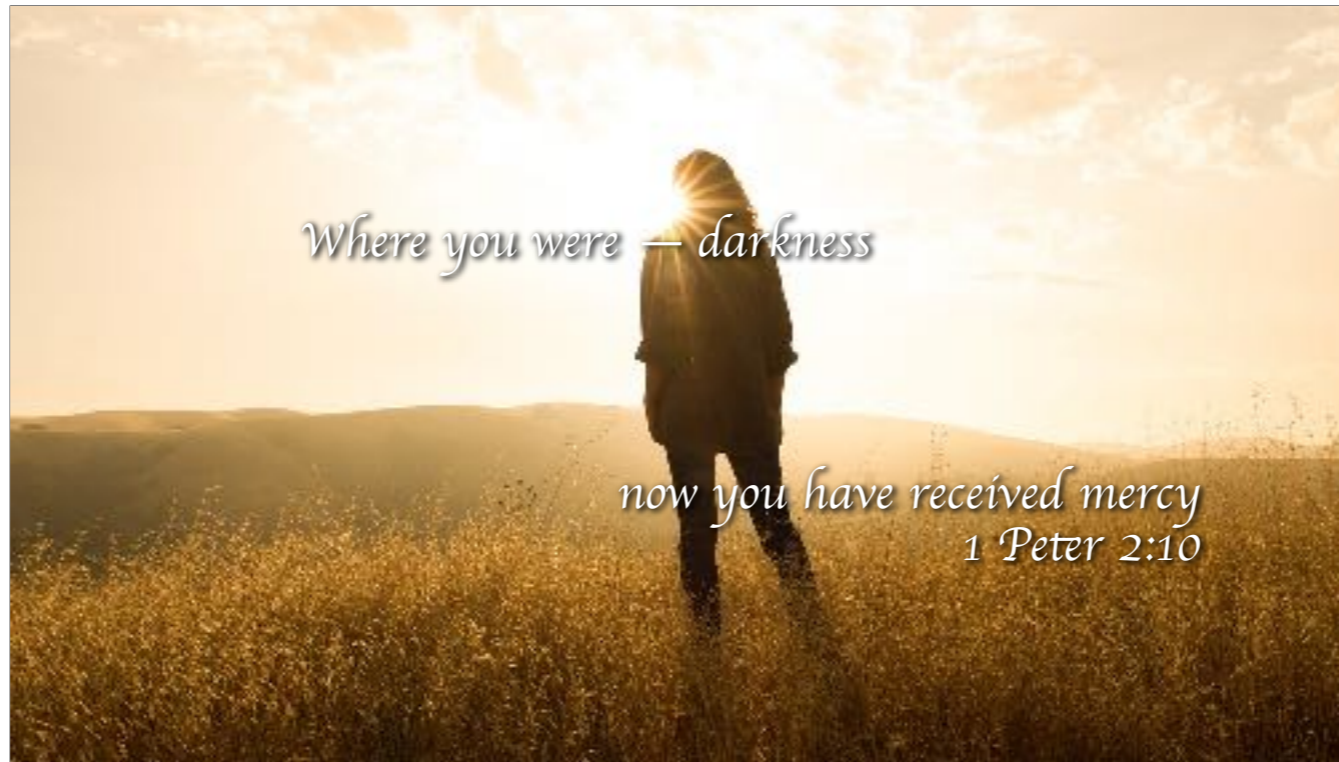
- 20 Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.”
- 21 The **people stood far off**, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.



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

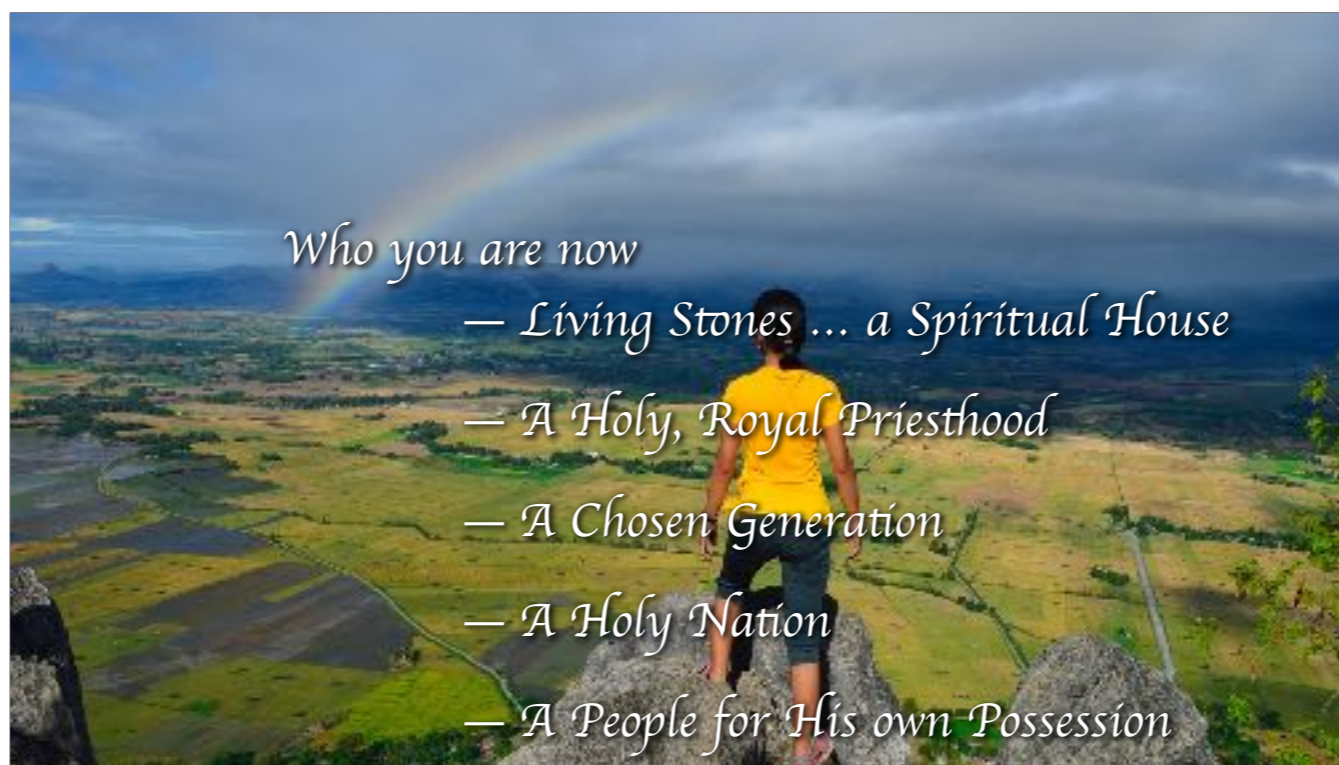


- Where you were
- 1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.



- 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.





*Who you are now*

*— Living Stones ... a Spiritual House*

*— A Holy, Royal Priesthood*

*— A Chosen Generation*

*— A Holy Nation*

*— A People for His own Possession*

- 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.



*Who you are now*

*— Living Stones ... a Spiritual House*

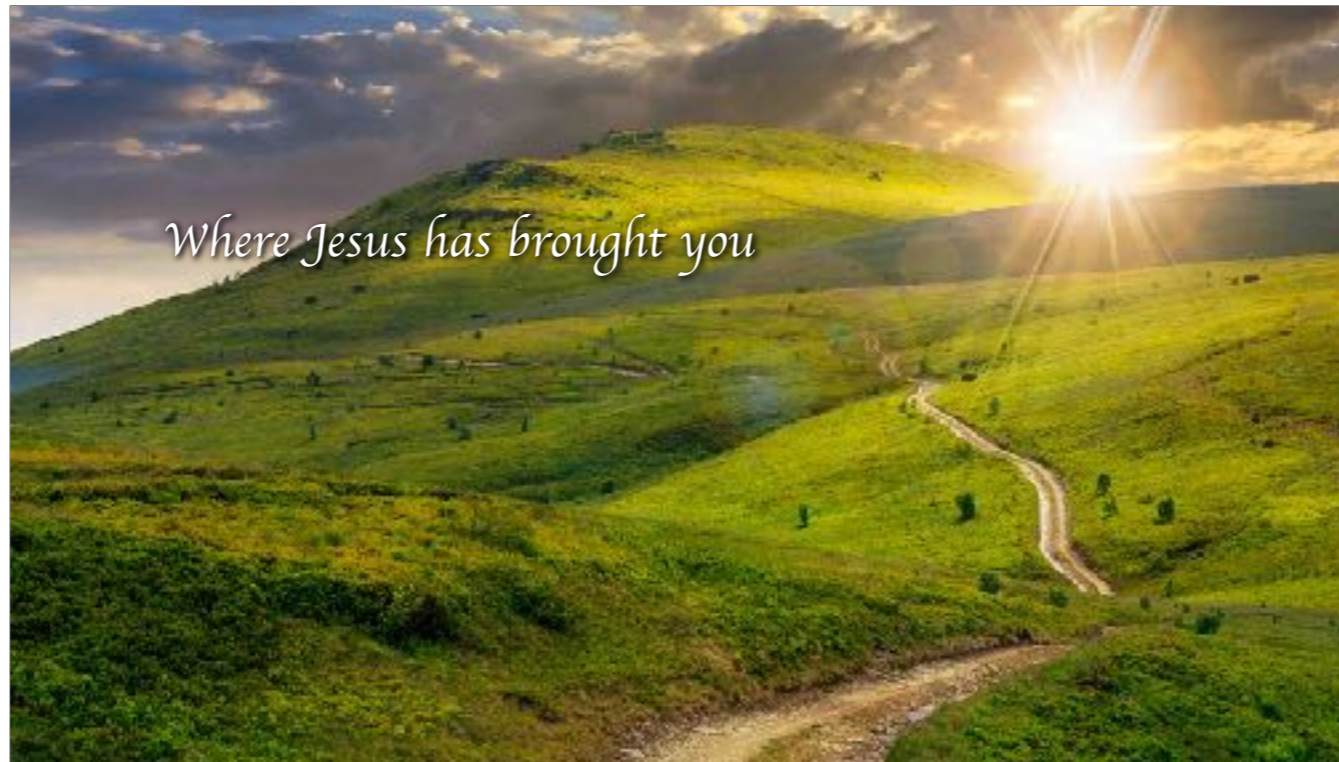
*— A Holy, Royal Priesthood*

*— A Chosen Generation*

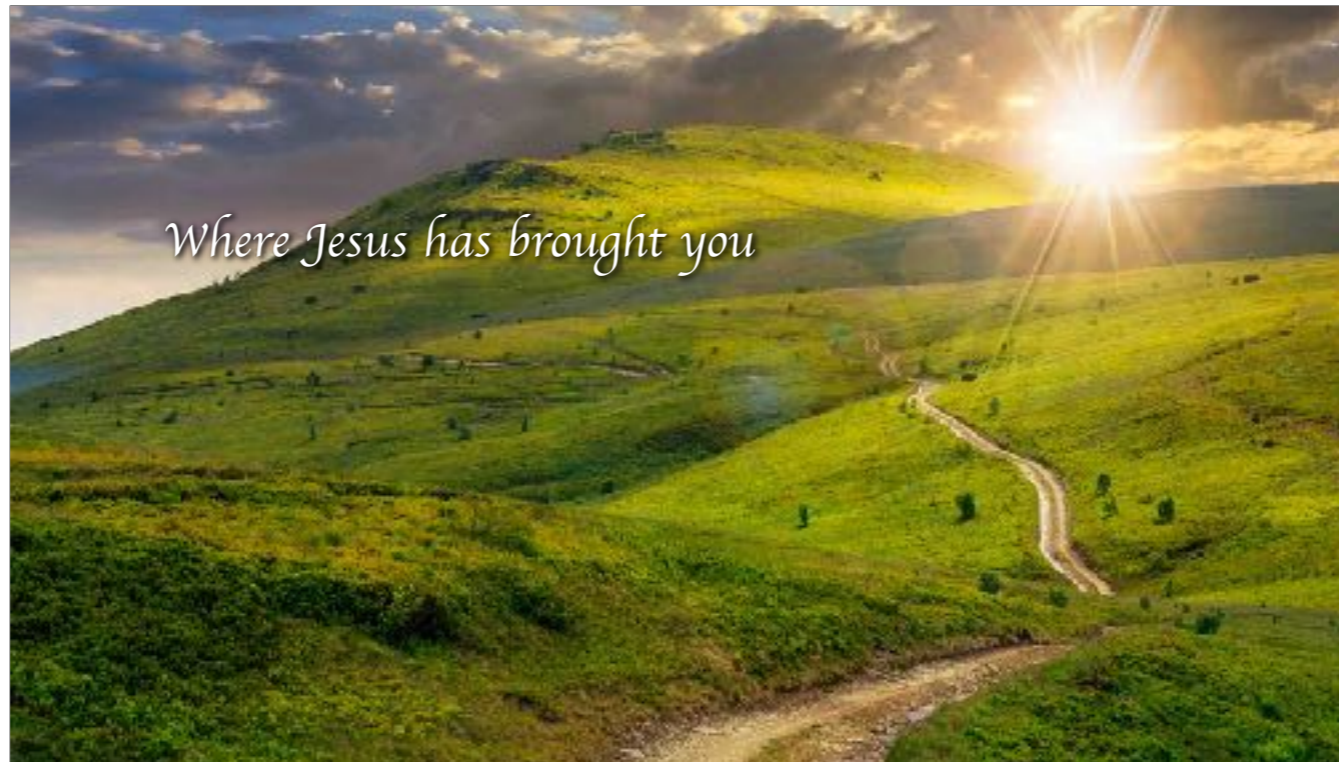
*— A Holy Nation*

*— A People for His own Possession*

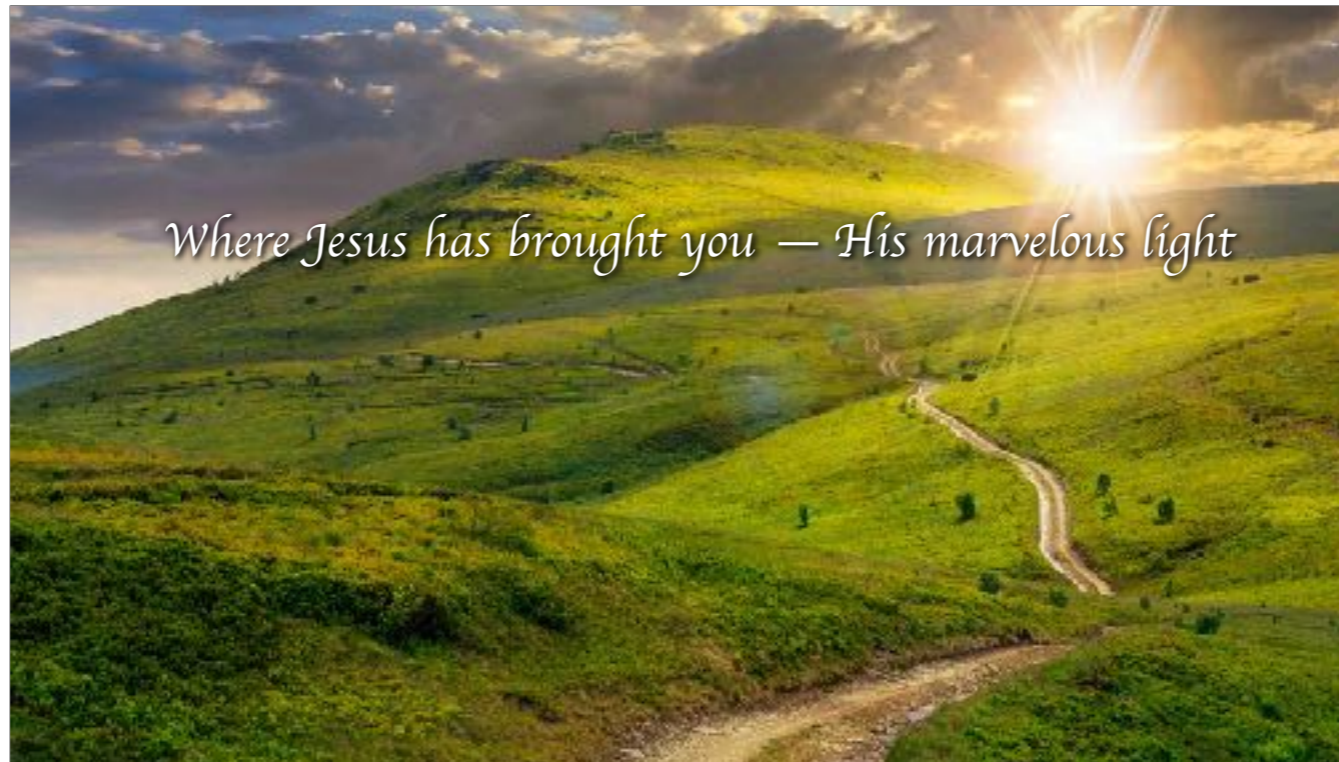
- It was important for God to be clear with the Israelites that they were special to him.
- Having been slaves for generations, they might look at their past and consider themselves still unworthy, still less than deserving, still not worthy or loved
- So God needs to let them know just how special they are.
- We need this reminder also
  - sometimes we let the darkness of our past, our guilt and shame to prevent us from enjoying the love, forgiveness and grace God richly gives to us
- You are special to God.



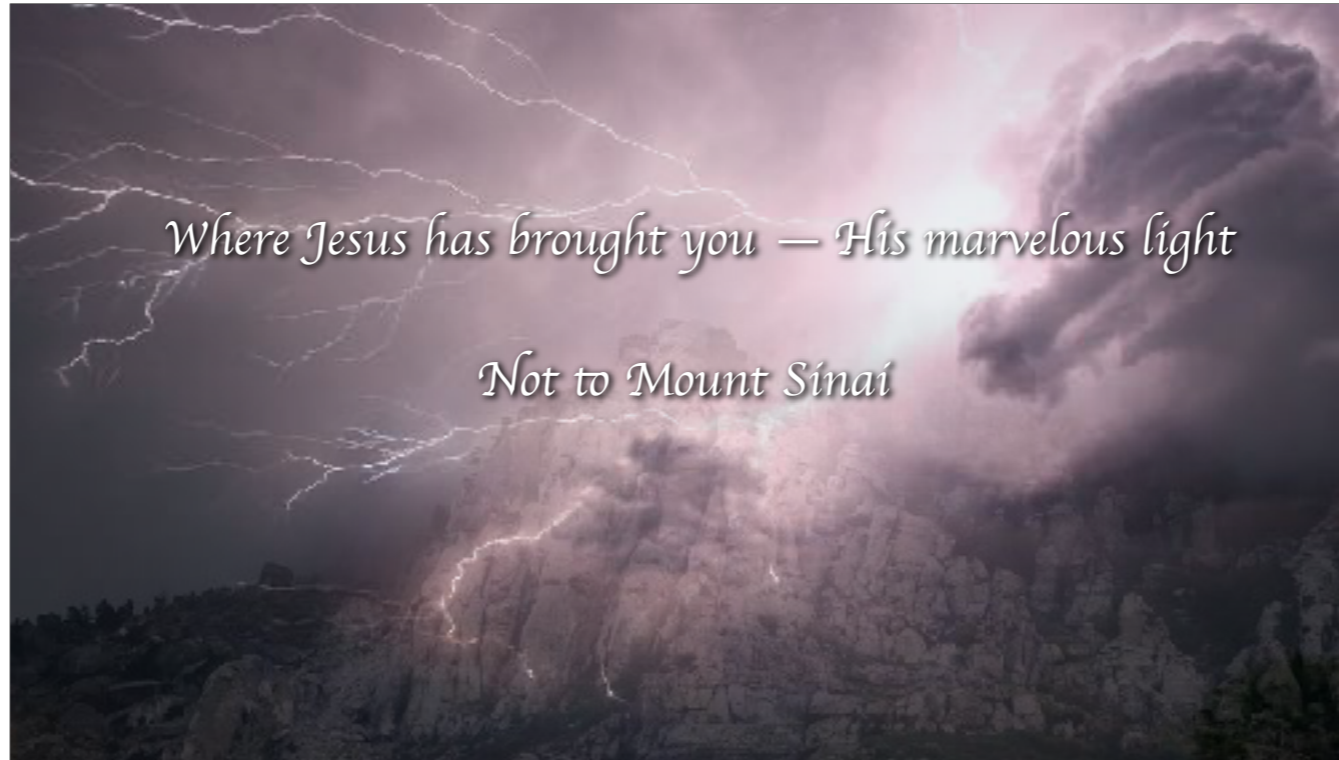
- God brought the Israelites to himself at Mt. Sinai.
  - What did they find there?
    - What would they expect from their experience with the so-called Egyptian gods?
      - priests?
      - rituals?
      - condescension?
    - Did they actually expect to see God, or evidence of God's actions, or hear God's voice?
  - Eventual to land of promise, flowing with milk and honey.



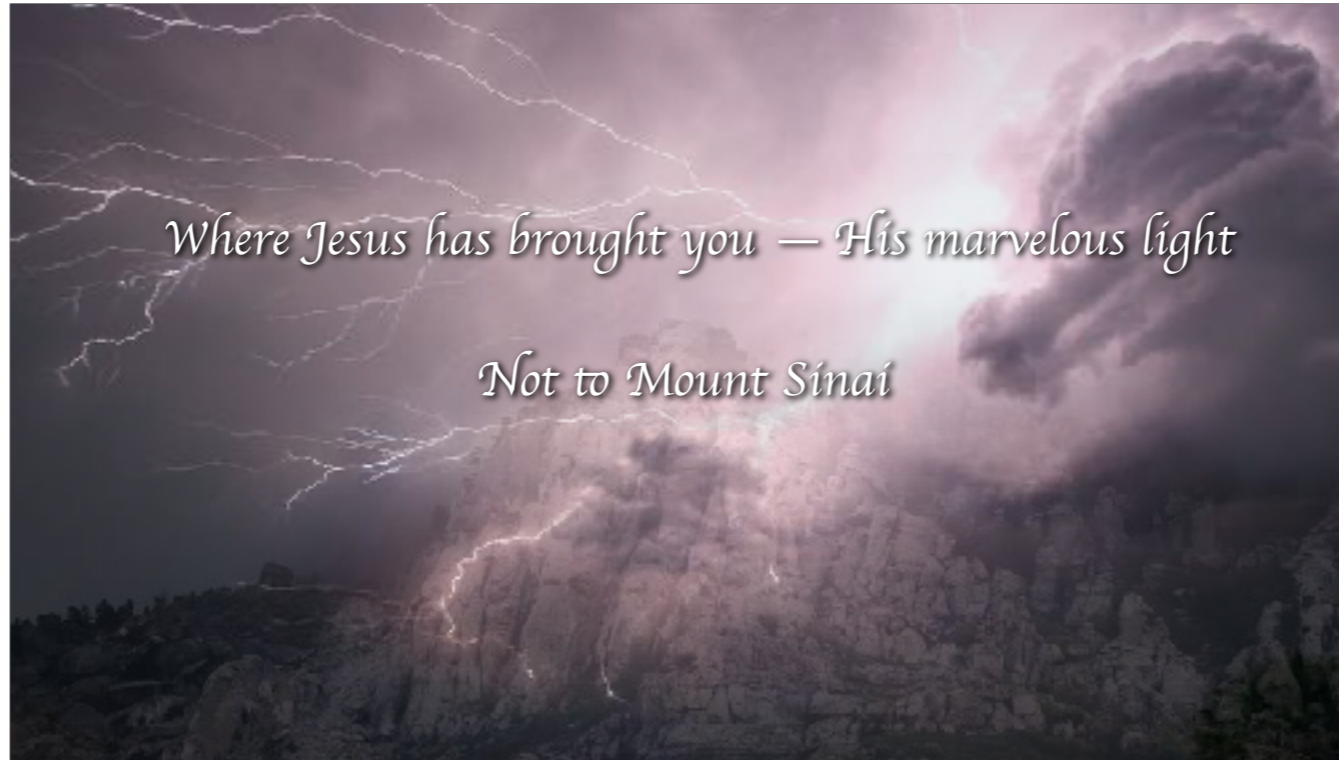
- 1 Peter 2:9 that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- Hebrews 12:18-24 (ESV) 18 For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest 19 and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. 20 For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." 21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.



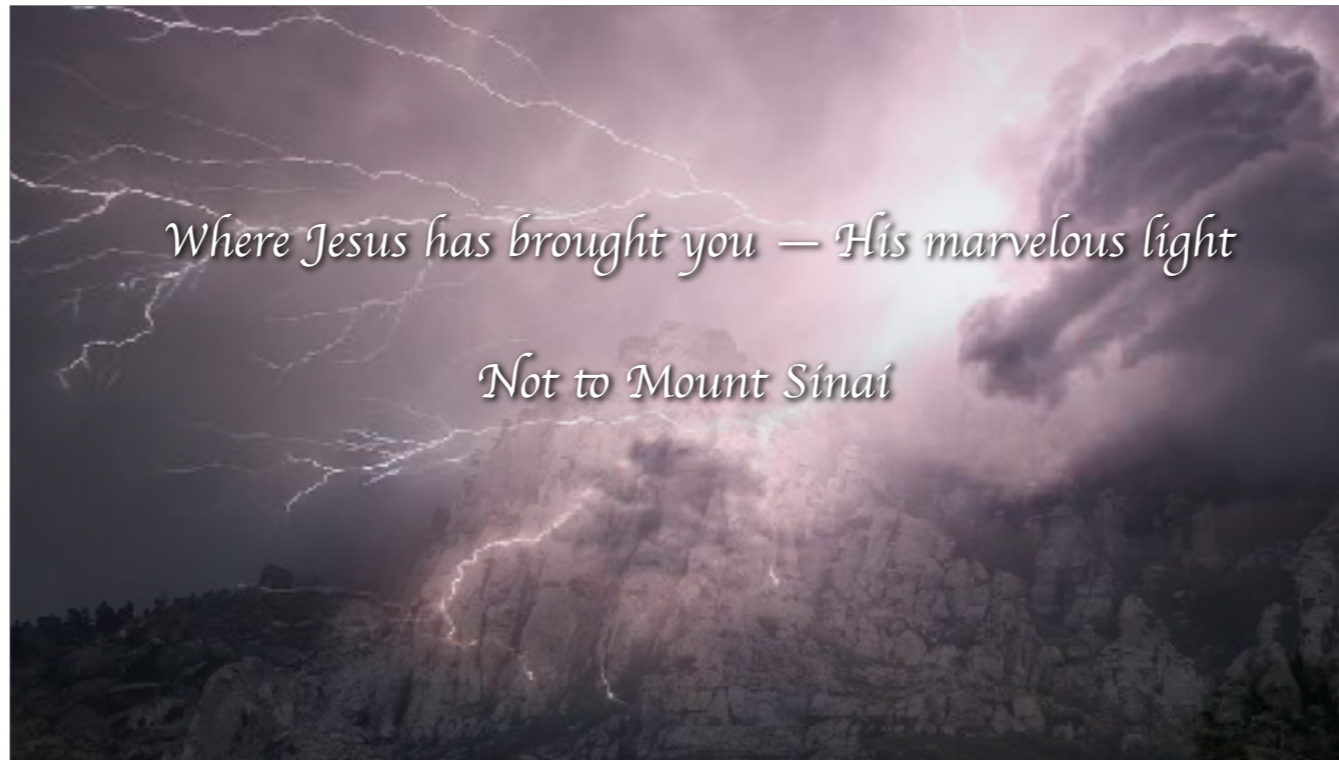
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  - Terrifying
  - Fear

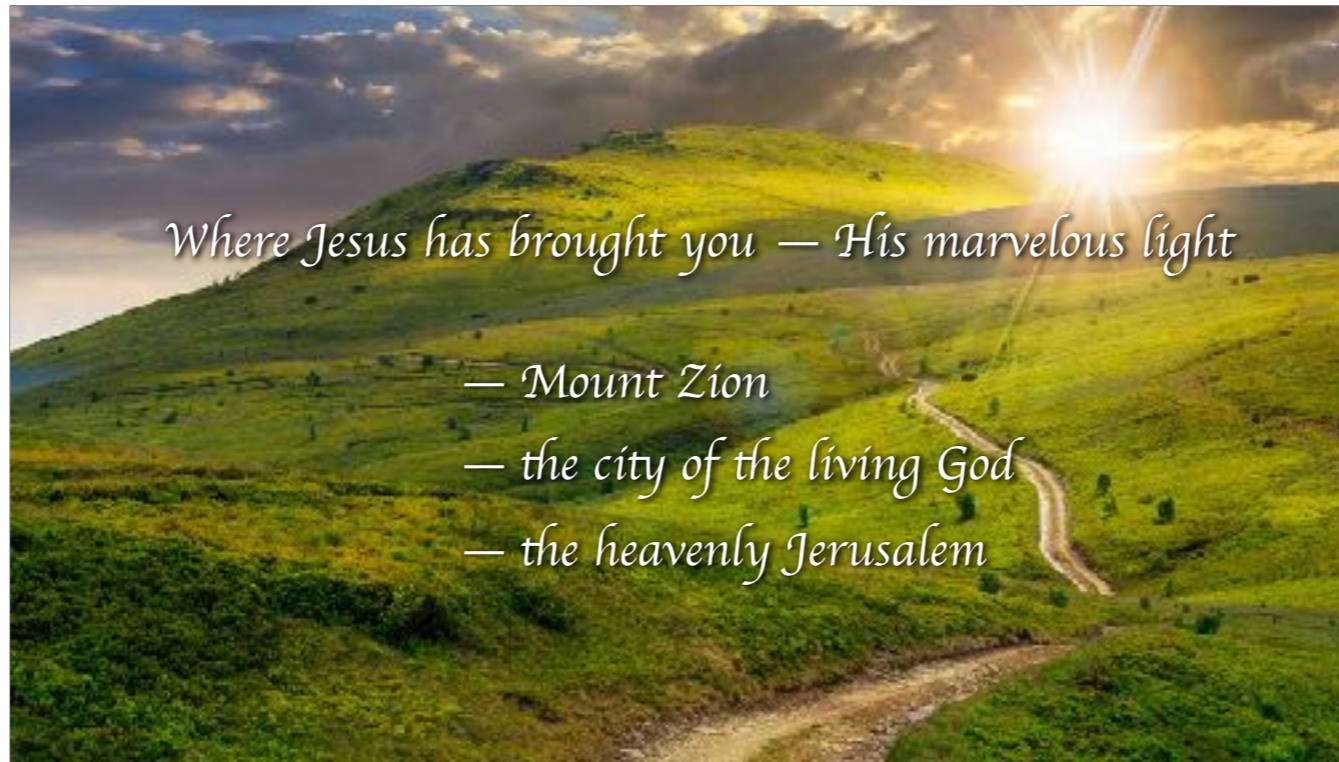


- Sadly many are taught and trapped in seeing Jesus' kingdom as one of fear.
  - They are constantly afraid that they will sin, go to hell
  - All that they do is because they fear that if they don't do everything exactly right, God will punish them.

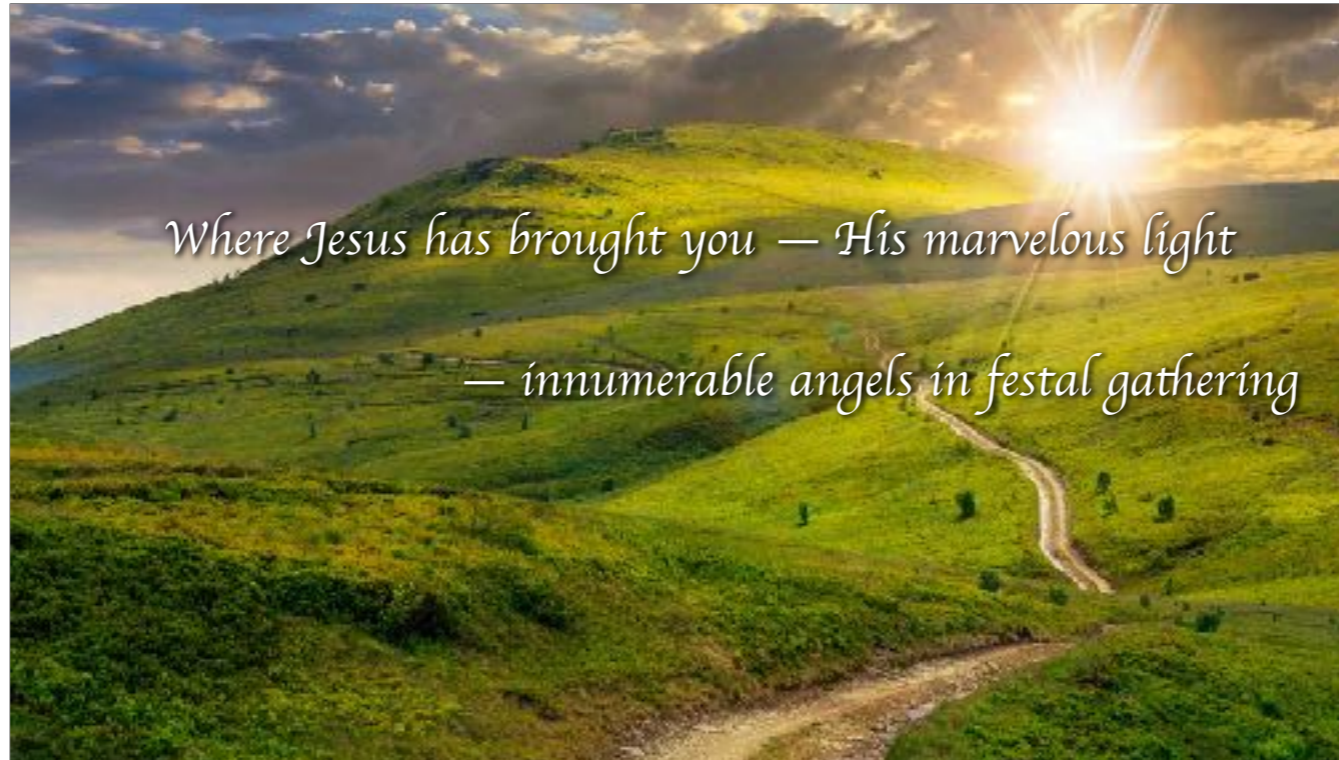


- Hebrew writer shows a completely different picture: beautiful, majestic, glorious
  - It's a place we should want to be...
    - Psalms 84:1-2 (ESV) 1 How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! 2 My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.
    - Psalms 84:10 (ESV) 10 For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

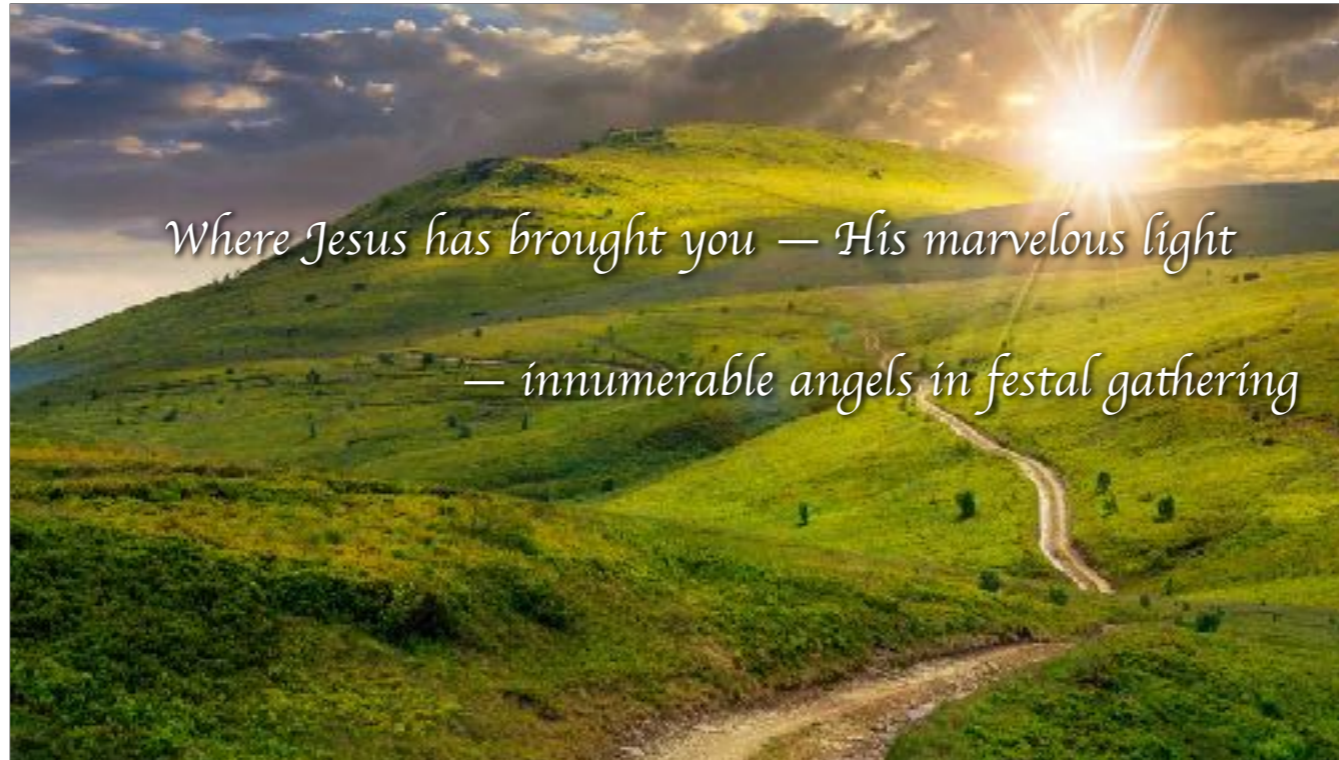




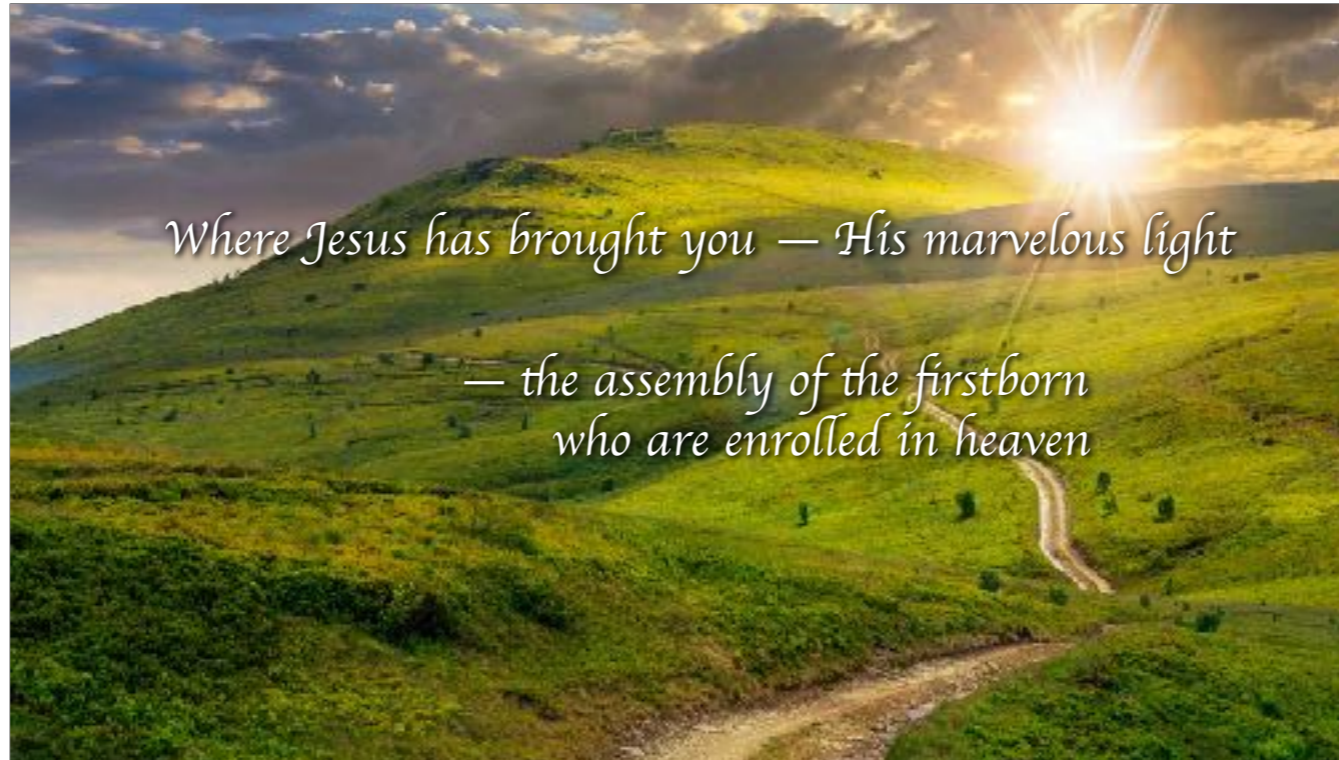
- 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem
  - Heavenly vs. Physical
  - Galatians 4:24-26 (ESV) 24 Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.



- 22 to innumerable angels in festal gathering
  - Not angels in judgment
  - Mt. Sinai:
    - Acts 7:53 (ESV) 53 you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”



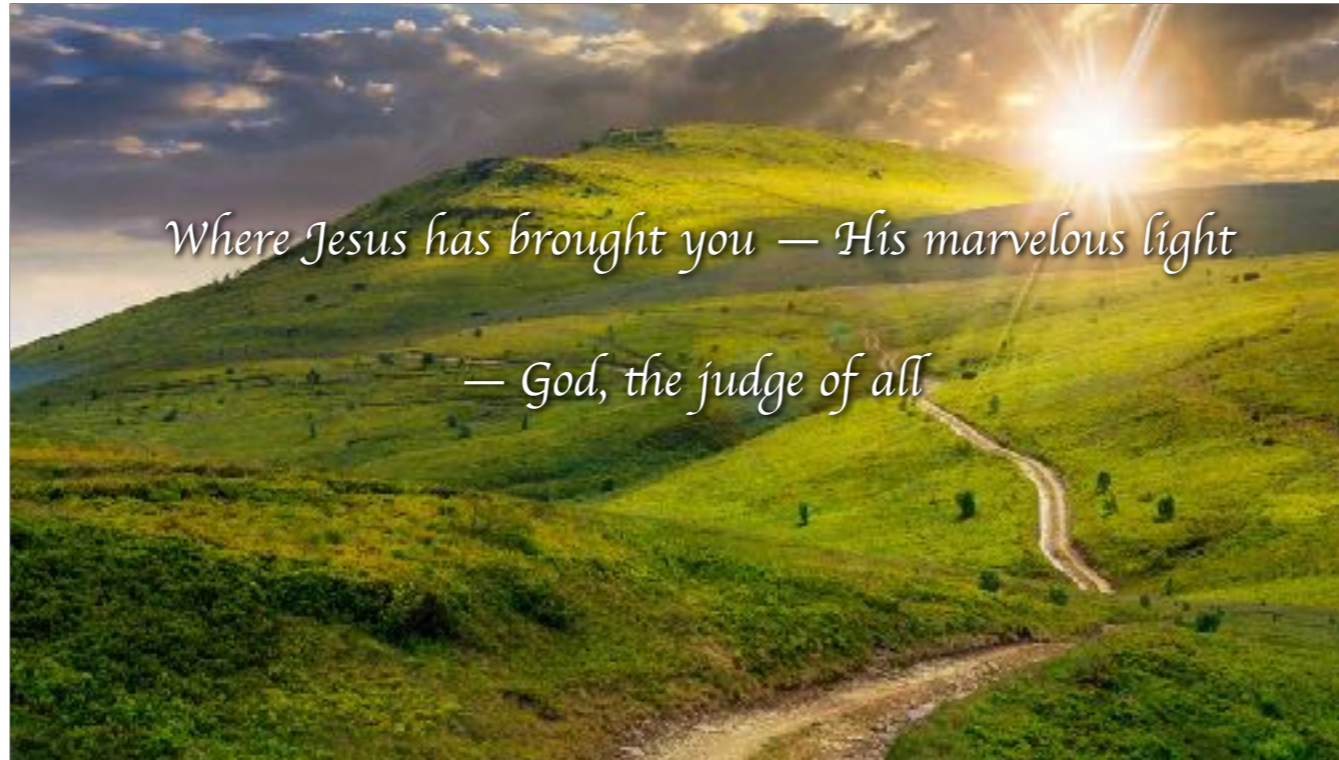
- Luke 15:10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”
- Revelation 5:11-13 (ESV) 11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” 13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”



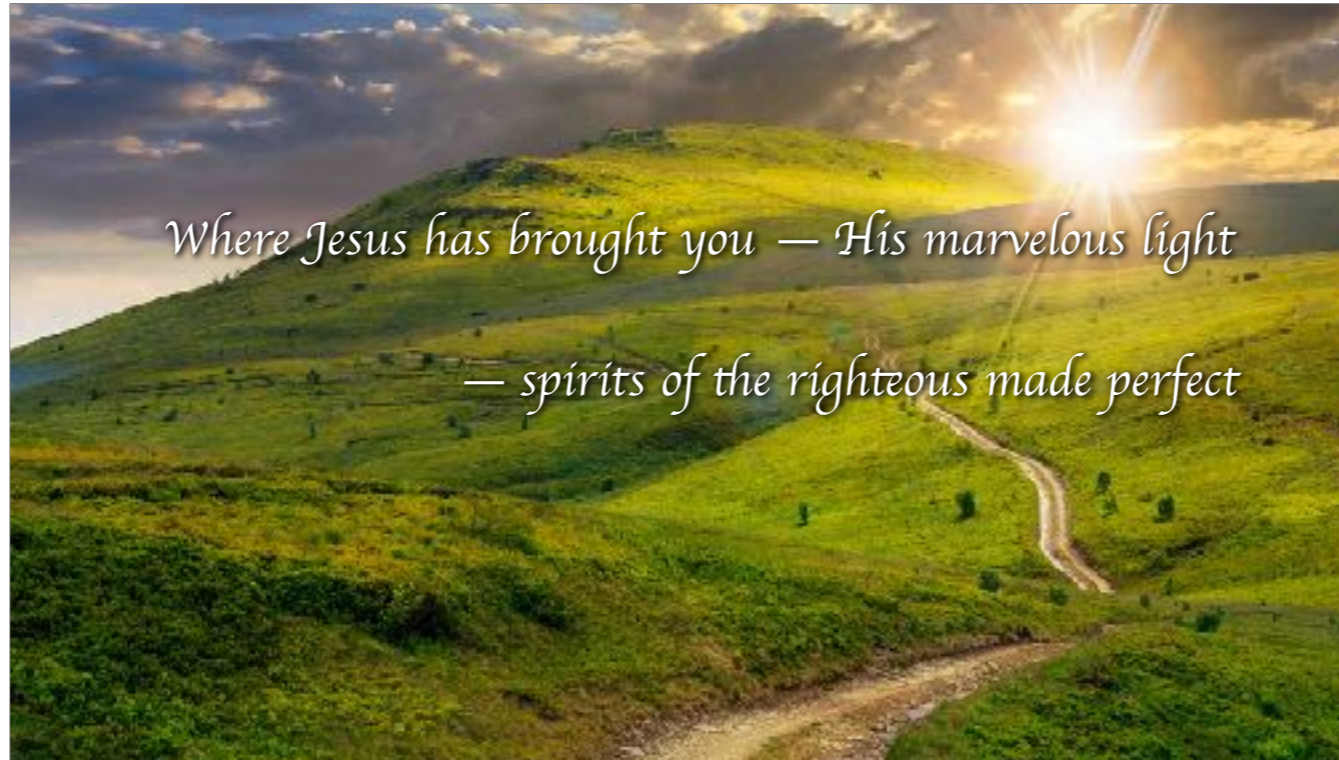
*Where Jesus has brought you — His marvelous light*

*— the assembly of the firstborn  
who are enrolled in heaven*

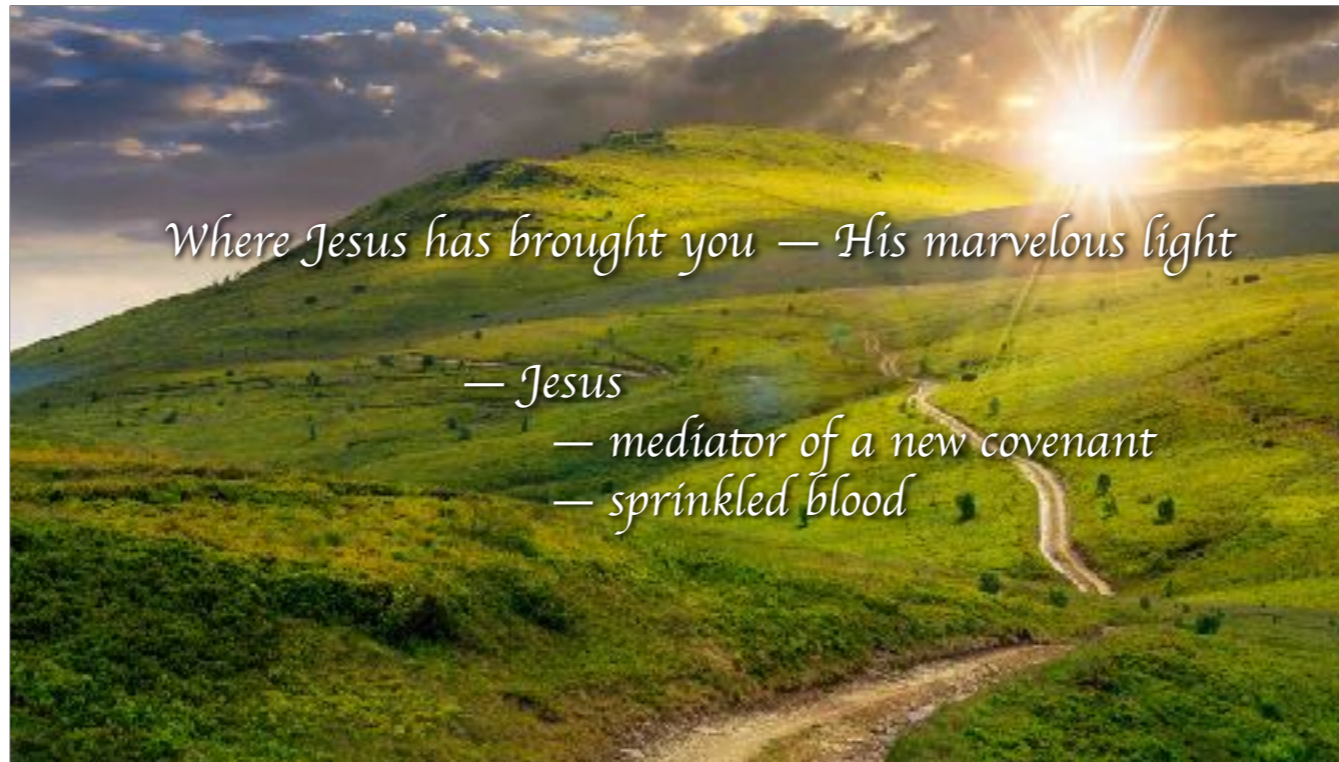
- 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven
  - assembly = ekklesia (often translated church)
  - All those who have been saved in Christ
    - Psalms 32:11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!



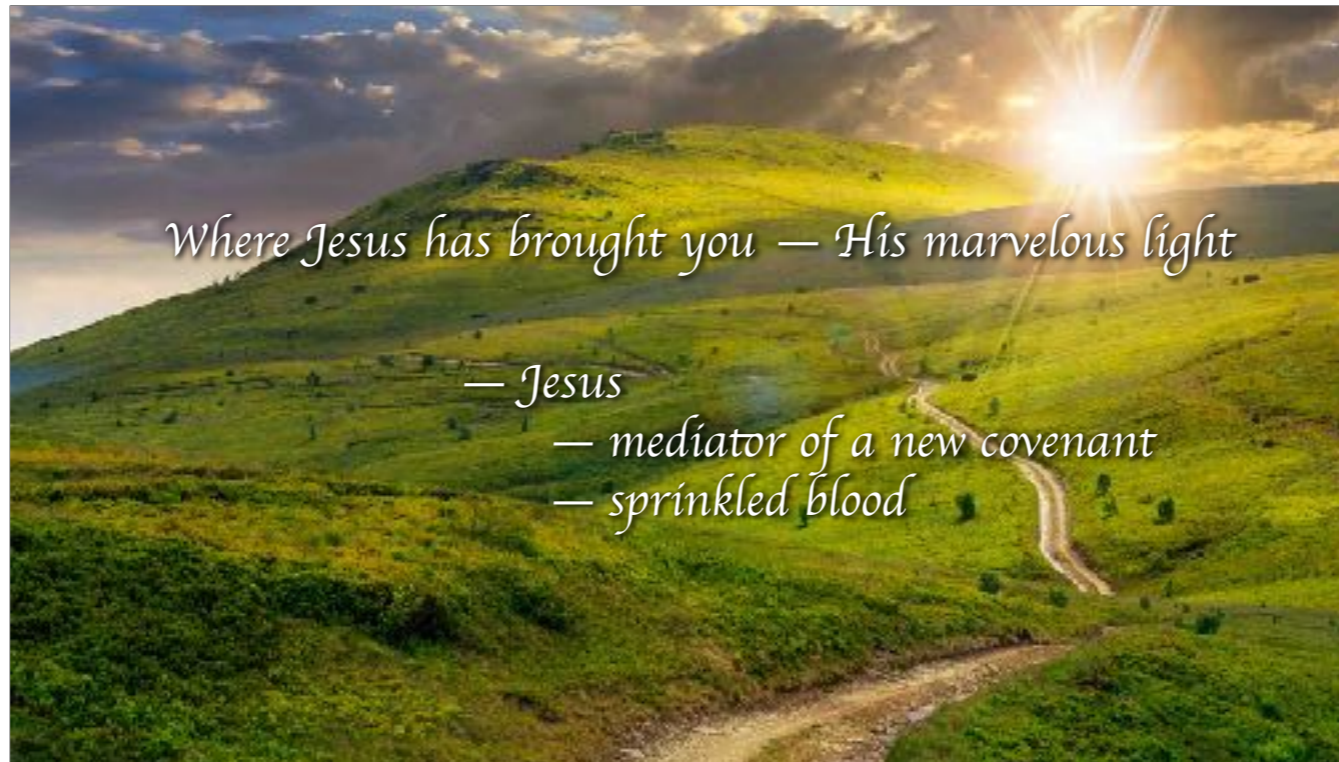
- 23 God, the judge of all
  - We tend to fear that judges are against us
  - Psalms 7:8 (ESV) 8 The LORD judges the peoples; judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness and according to the integrity that is in me.



- 23 to the spirits of the righteous made perfect
  - possibly refers to all those righteous who died before Christ
  - Hebrews 11: Abel, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David
    - Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,



- 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
  - Our Savior, who loved us so much.
    - Death
      - Ephesians 5:2 (ESV) 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
    - Life
      - Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?



- Hebrew writer has painted a beautiful picture of the church, our hope, our salvation, our joy
  - It doesn't mean that we won't suffer, face persecution, trials nor temptation.
  - Yet this picture of our relationship with Jesus and God must be acknowledged, embraced and constantly remembered.
  - It also informs how we live before God daily.



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

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

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## A Holy Nation: Where Jesus Has Brought You

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.”**