



Even Now, Return to Me

Joel 2:11-13

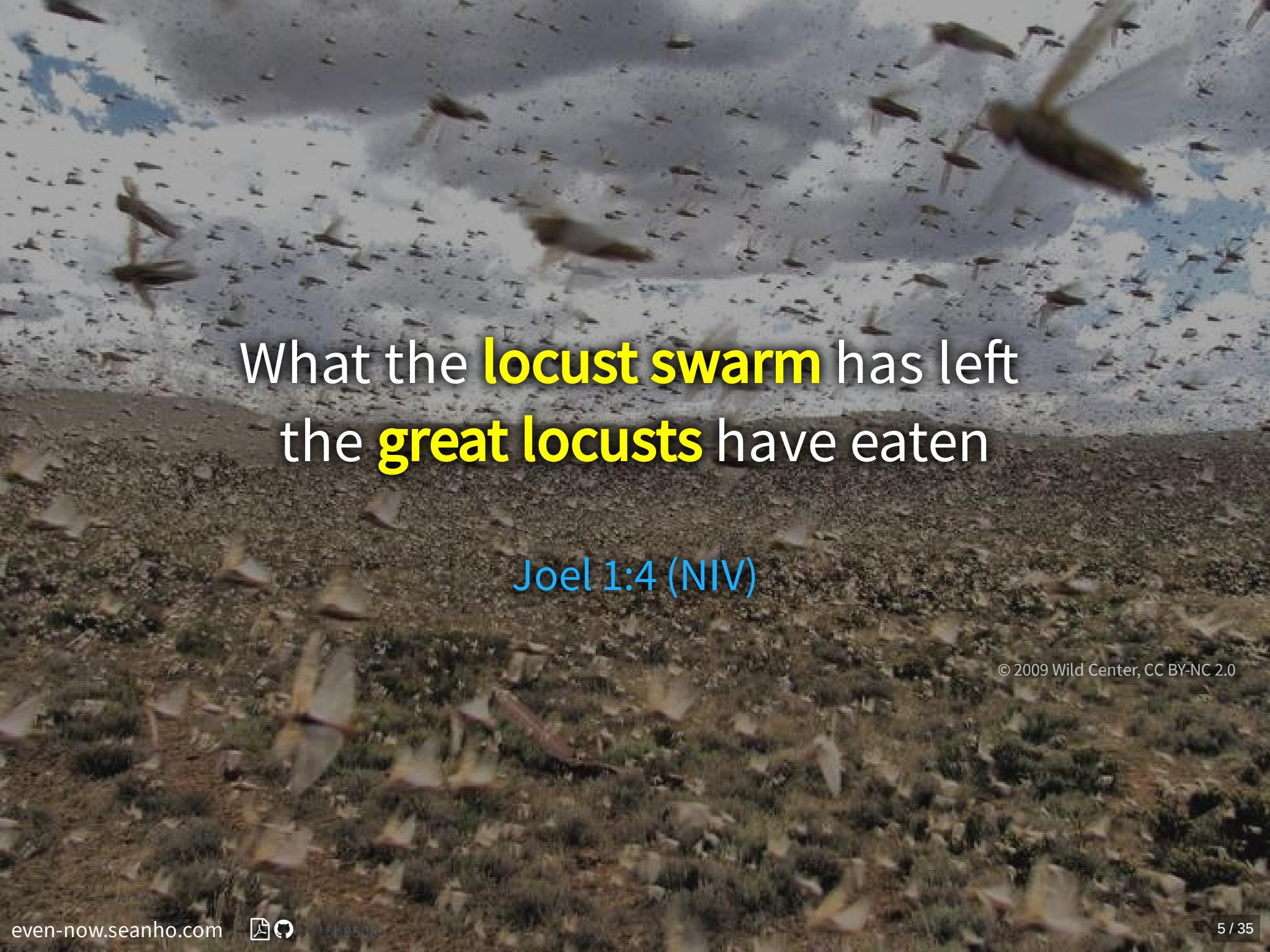
**Disaster
is upon us –
what do we do?**

Joel: Even Now, Return

1. **Ruin:** The Day of the LORD (1:1-2:11)
2. **Return:** The Call of God (2:12-17)
3. **Renewal:** The Promise of God (2:18-32)

1. The Day of the LORD

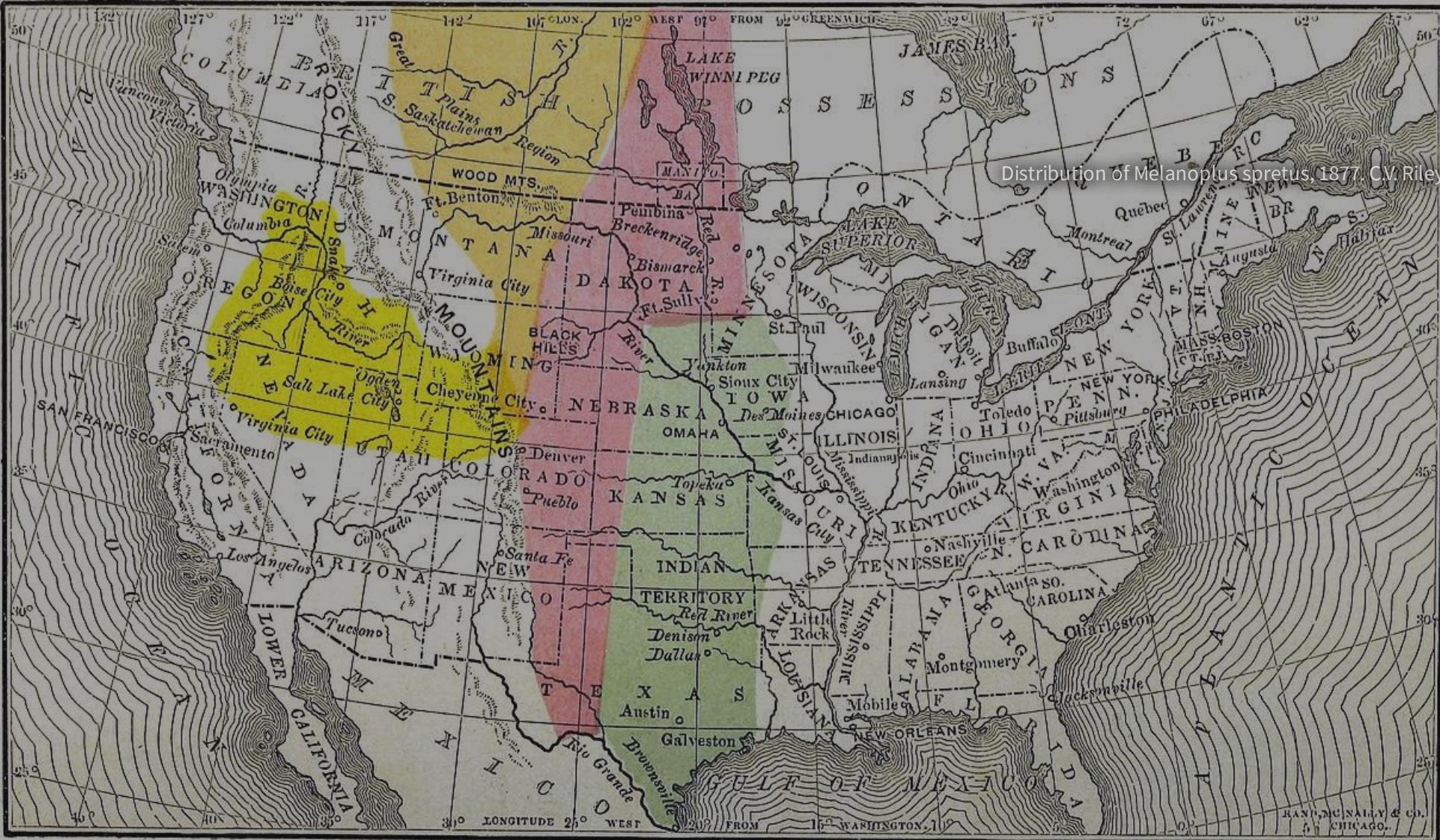
- **Natural** disasters: famine, drought (ch1)
 - Wail, you: drunkards (1:5-10), farmers (1:11-12), priests (1:13-14)
 - Mourners: the land (1:10), animals (1:18), people (1:12)
- **Human** disasters: armies of God (2:1-11)
 - Sun/moon/stars darkened (2:10)
 - The LORD thunders (2:11)

A massive swarm of locusts is shown flying over a dry, brown landscape. The sky is filled with hundreds of thousands of insects, casting a dark shadow over the ground below. The terrain appears to be a mix of dry grass and dirt.

What the **locust swarm** has left
the **great locusts** have eaten

Joel 1:4 (NIV)

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Map of North America, showing approximately the probable native home of the Rocky Mountain Locust ; the country subject to invasion, and the eastern limit reached by it.—Prepared by C. V. Riley.

■ Country in which the species is not indigenous ; which it visits at irregular intervals ; in which it is most disastrous ; and which it vacates within a year.

■ Area more often visited ; in which the species holds its own longer, but which it generally forsakes in the course of time.

■ Region where the species comes to perfection ; in which it permanently breeds ; and from which come the disastrous swarms that sweep over the first mentioned region.

■ Area west of the mountains where the species also, in all probability, breeds permanently ; from which it sometimes pushes to the east of the mountain range ; and from which the California swarms probably come.





The **land** mourns,
for the **grain** is ruined

Joel 1:10 (NASB)

Dominik Martin

A photograph of a vast, dry, brown landscape, likely a pasture or field. In the foreground, numerous sheep are scattered across the ground. A single, large, leafy tree stands prominently in the center of the field. The background shows rolling hills under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds.

How the **beasts** groan!

The **herds** of cattle wander aimlessly
Because there is no **pasture** for them

Joel 1:18 (NASB)

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A black and white photograph of a person from the chest up. They are wearing a dark, button-down shirt. Their head is bowed, and their hands are clasped together, covering their eyes and forehead. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on their hair and hands against a dark, indistinct background.

Rejoicing dries up from the sons of men

Joel 1:12 (NASB)

Yuriria, Mexico. Cristian Newman

1. The Day of the LORD

- Natural disasters: famine, drought (ch1)
 - Mourners: the land (1:10),
animals (1:18), people (1:12)
- **Human disasters: armies of God** (2:1-11)
 - Sun/moon/stars darkened (2:10)
 - The LORD thunders (2:11)

Blow the **trumpet** in Zion;
sound the **alarm** on my holy hill.

Let all who live in the land **tremble**,
for the **day of the LORD** is coming.

Joel 2:1 (NASB)

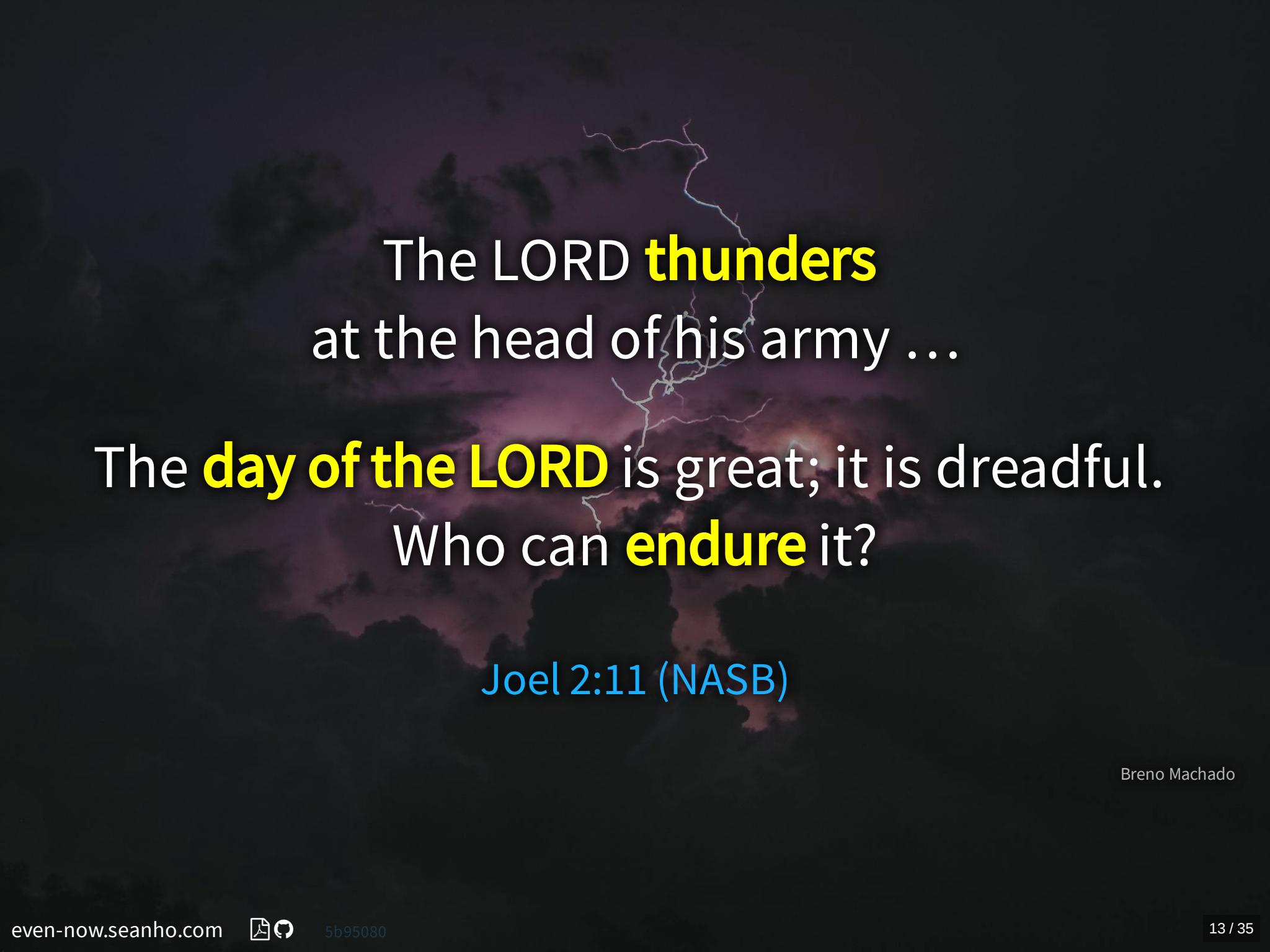
Ukraine. Paul Itkin

Before them the **earth** shakes,
the **heavens** tremble,

The **sun** and **moon** are darkened,
and the **stars** no longer shine.

Joel 2:10 (NASB)

Ryan Hutton



The LORD **thunders**
at the head of his army ...

The **day of the LORD** is great; it is dreadful.
Who can **endure** it?

Joel 2:11 (NASB)

Breno Machado

**Do I anticipate the
day of the LORD,
or ignore it?**

Joel: Even Now, Return

1. Ruin: The Day of the LORD (1:1-2:11)
2. **Return: The Call of God** (2:12-17)
3. Renewal: The Promise of God (2:18-32)

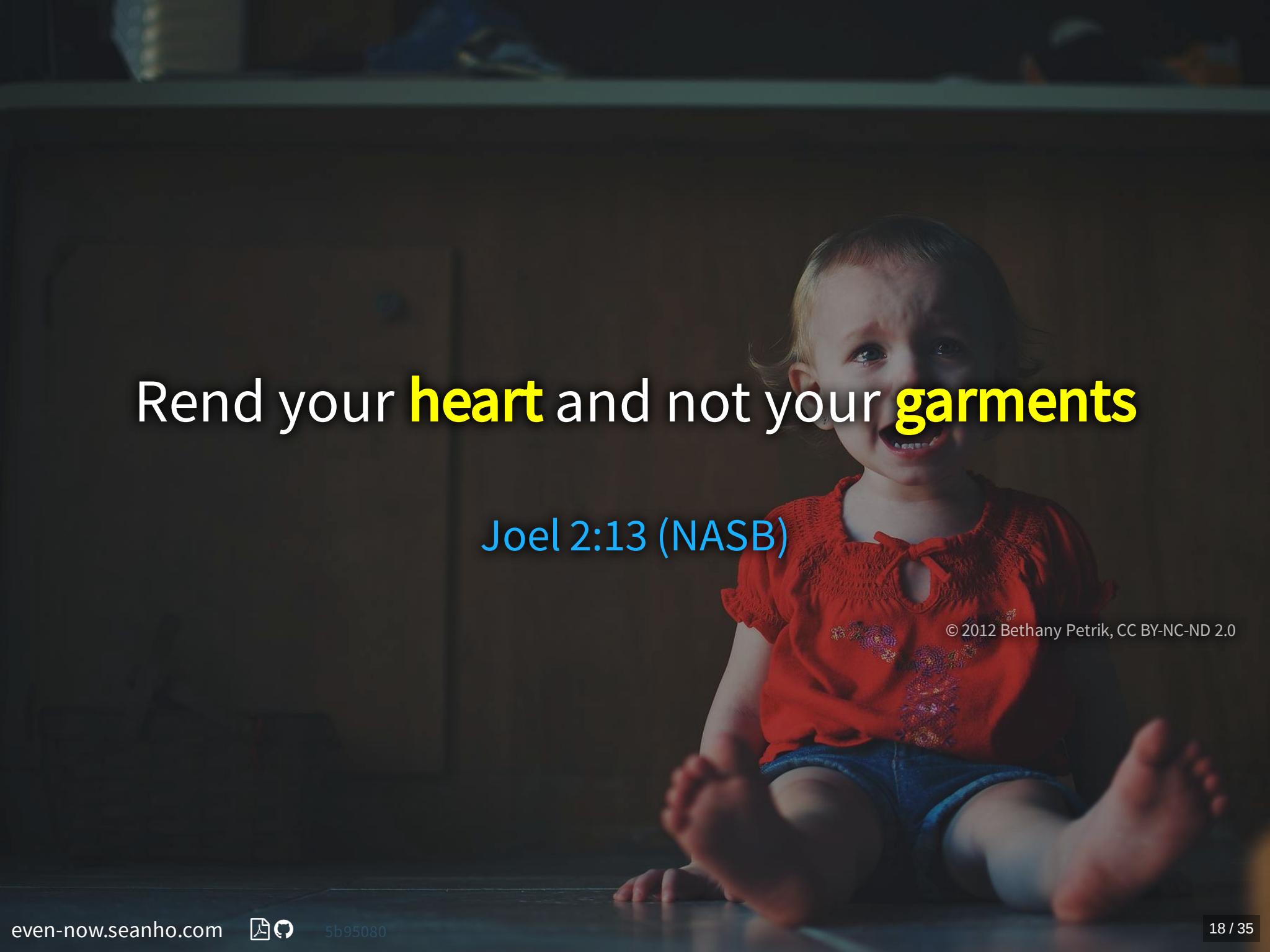
2. The Call of God

- **Rend** Your Heart (2:13)
- **Rally** the Survivors (2:15-17)
- **Return** to the LORD our God (2:12)

“Even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with **all your heart**,
with fasting and **weeping** and mourning.”

Joel 2:12 (NASB)

Milada Vigerova

A young child with light brown hair is sitting cross-legged on a dark, reflective surface. They are wearing a red short-sleeved top with a small floral pattern on the left side and blue denim shorts. Their mouth is open in a wide smile, and their eyes are looking upwards and to the right. The background is dark and out of focus.

Rend your **heart** and not your **garments**

Joel 2:13 (NASB)

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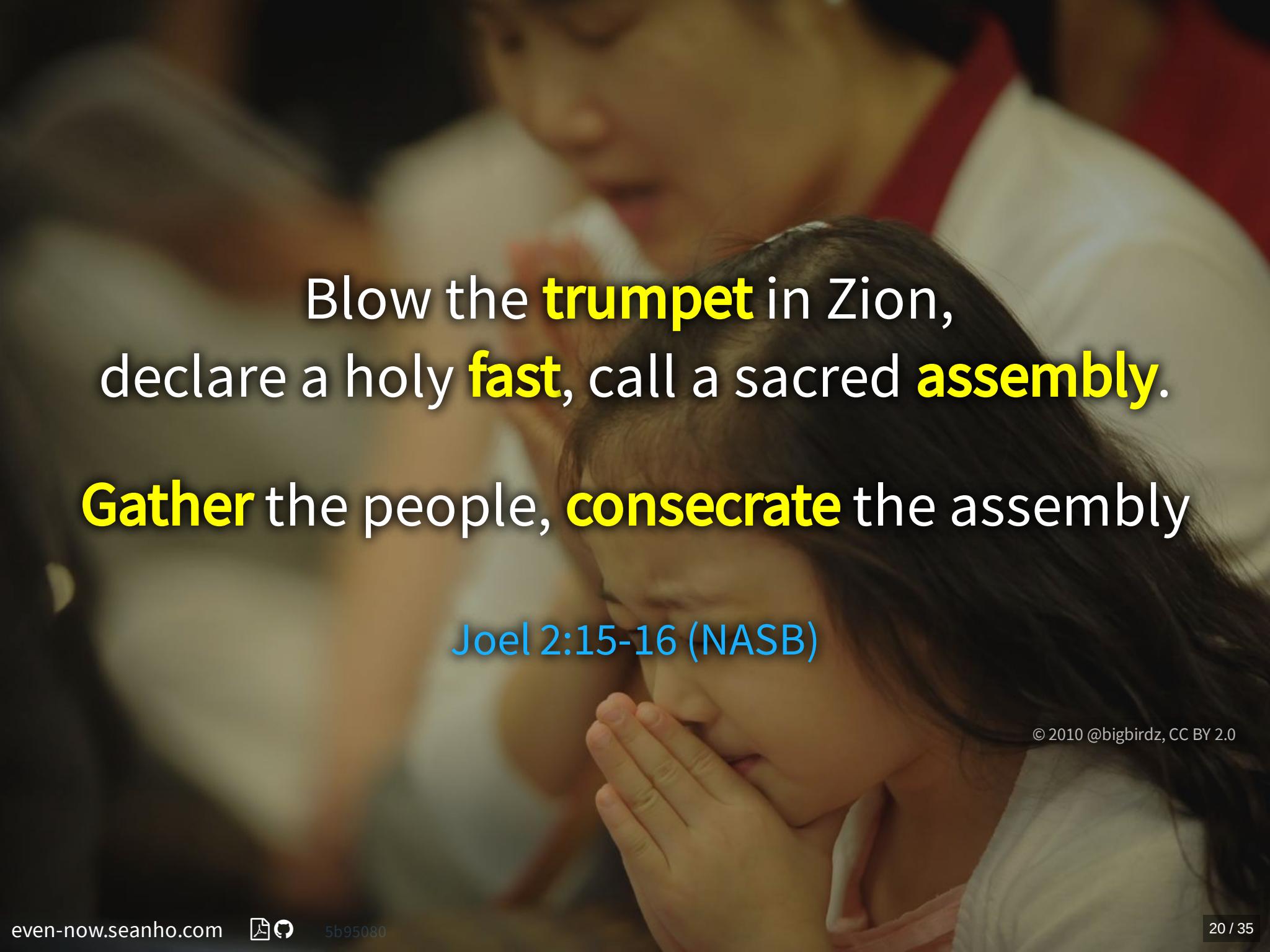


For you will not delight in **sacrifice**,
or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a **burnt offering**.

17 The sacrifices of God are a **broken spirit**;
a **broken** and **contrite** heart,
O God, you will not despise.

Psalm 51:16-17 (ESV)

Olivia Snow

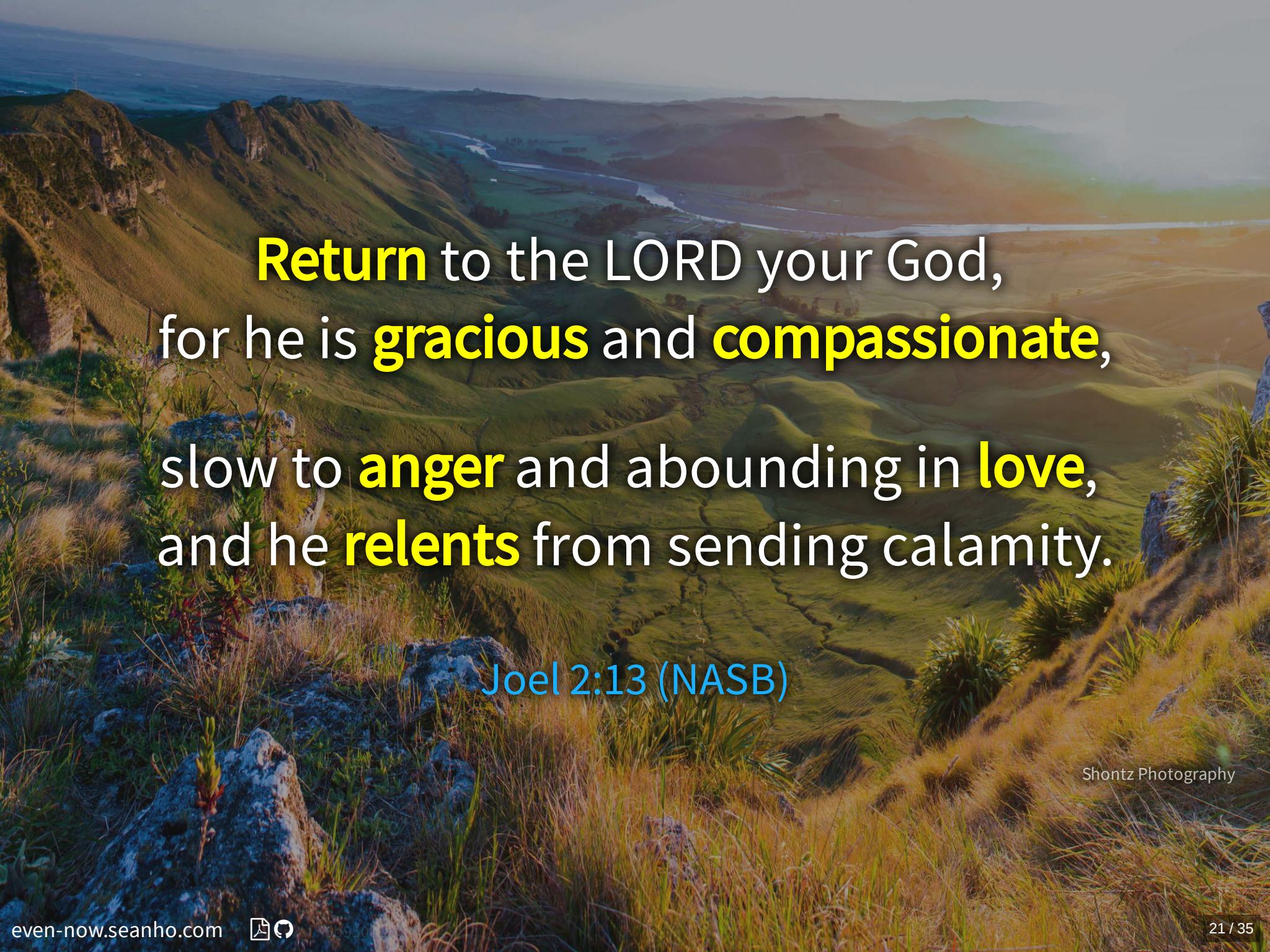


Blow the **trumpet** in Zion,
declare a holy **fast**, call a sacred **assembly**.

Gather the people, **consecrate** the assembly

Joel 2:15-16 (NASB)

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Return to the LORD your God,
for he is **gracious** and **compassionate**,
slow to **anger** and abounding in **love**,
and he **relents** from sending calamity.

Joel 2:13 (NASB)

Shontz Photography

Will we
rend our hearts,
rally together, and
return to our God?

Joel: Even Now, Return

1. Ruin: The Day of the LORD (1:1-2:11)
2. Return: The Call of God (2:12-17)
3. **Renewal: The Promise of God** (2:18-32)

3. The Promise of God

- Renewed **Nature** (2:18-27)
 - Comfort: land, animals, people
- Redeemed **Spirit** (2:28-32)
 - To all who call on His name
- Restored **Nation** (ch3)



Then the LORD
will be **zealous** for His land
And will have **pity** on His people.

Joel 2:18 (NASB)

John Bridges, "Christ Healing the Mother of Simon Peter's Wife", 1839



Do not fear, O **land**,
rejoice and be glad,
for the LORD has done **great** things.

Joel 2:21 (NASB)

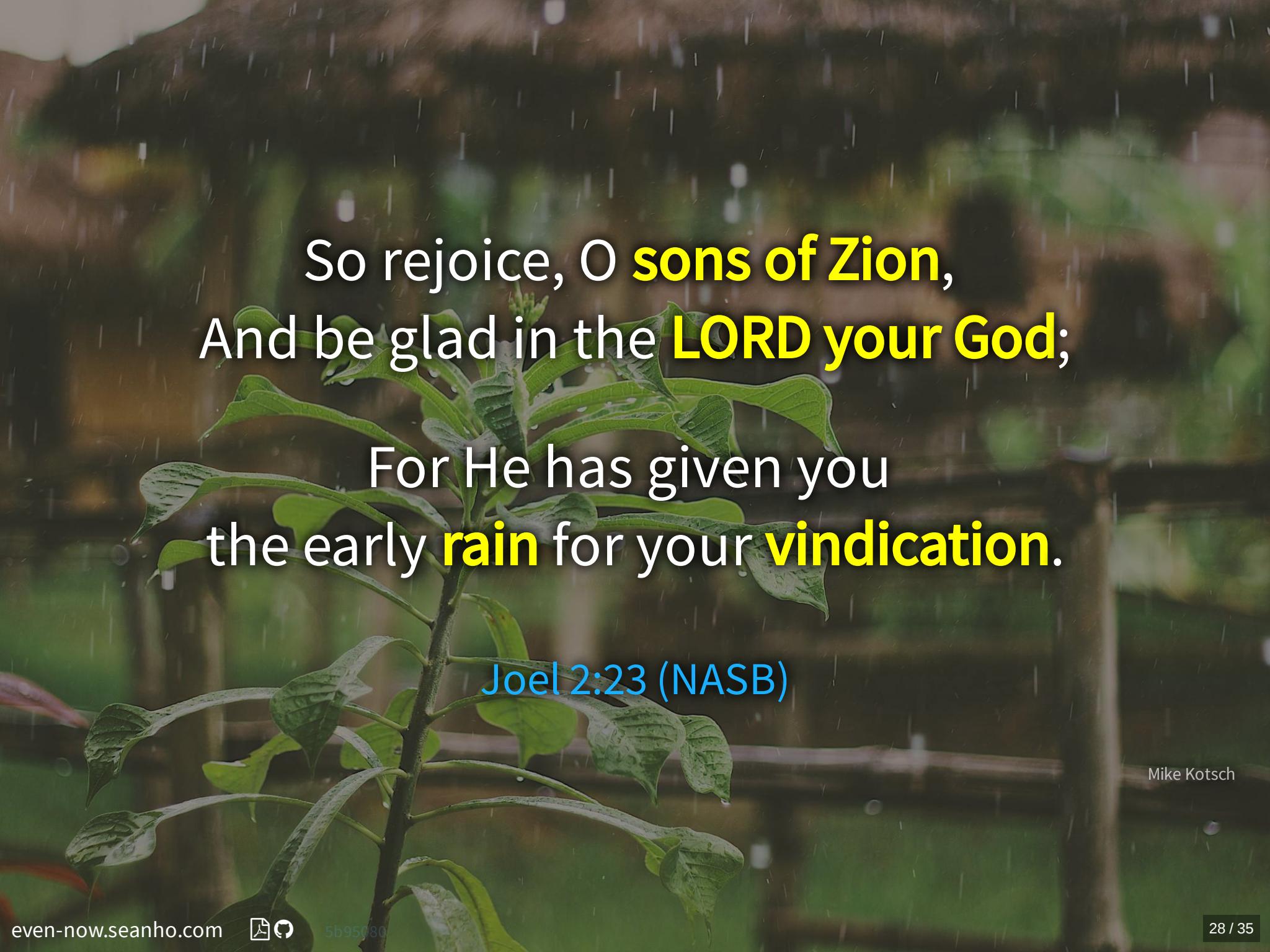
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Do not fear, **beasts** of the field,
For the **pastures** of the wilderness
have turned **green**

Joel 2:22 (NASB)

Flängan, Norberg. Adam Morse

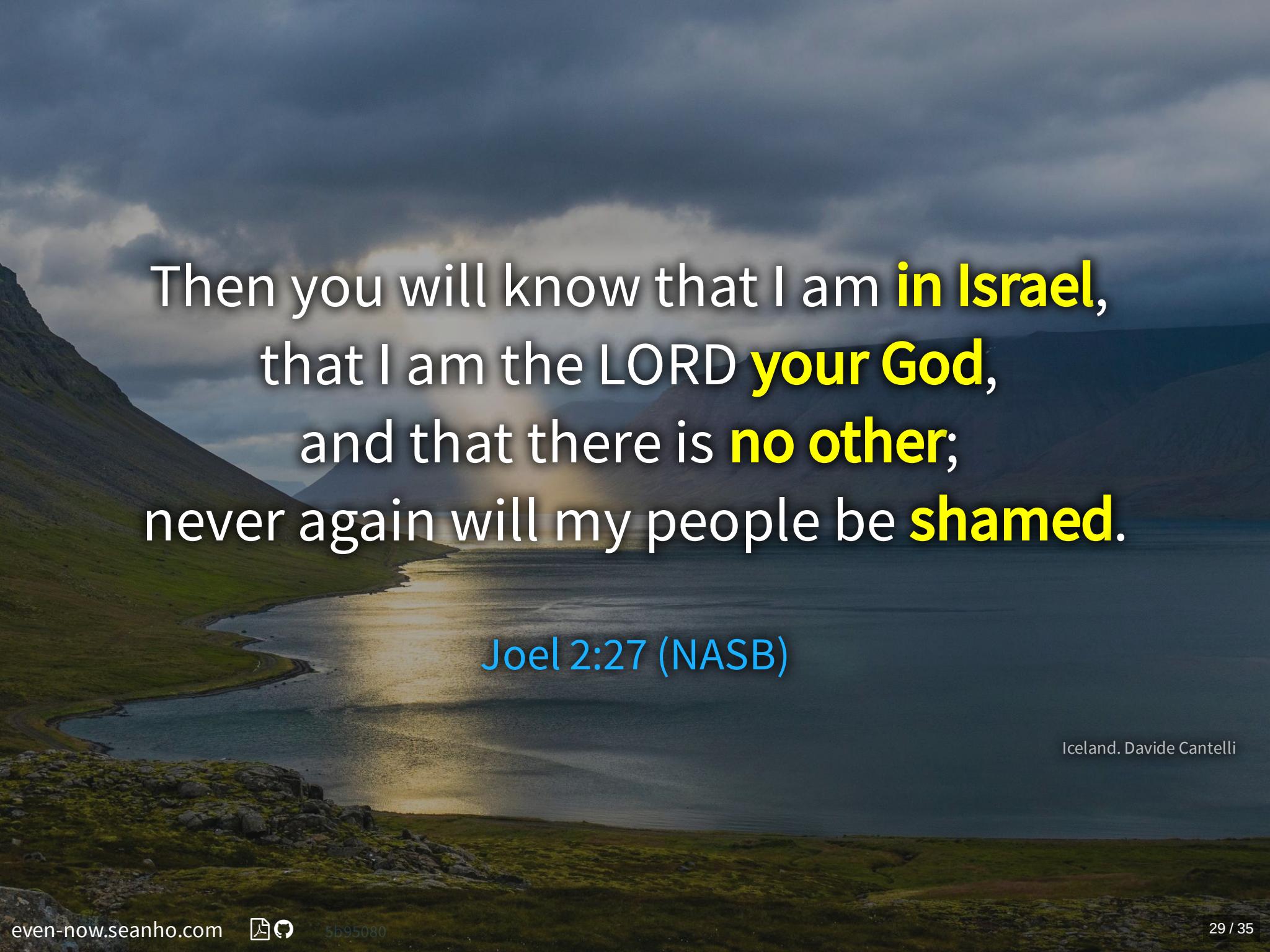


So rejoice, O **sons of Zion**,
And be glad in the **LORD your God**;

For He has given you
the early **rain** for your **vindication**.

Joel 2:23 (NASB)

Mike Kotsch

A wide-angle photograph of a coastal landscape, likely in Iceland. A dark, winding road follows the edge of a deep blue fjord. In the background, large, rugged mountains rise against a sky filled with heavy, dark clouds. The foreground shows a mix of green grassy fields and rocky terrain.

Then you will know that I am **in Israel**,
that I am the LORD **your God**,
and that there is **no other**;
never again will my people be **shamed**.

Joel 2:27 (NASB)

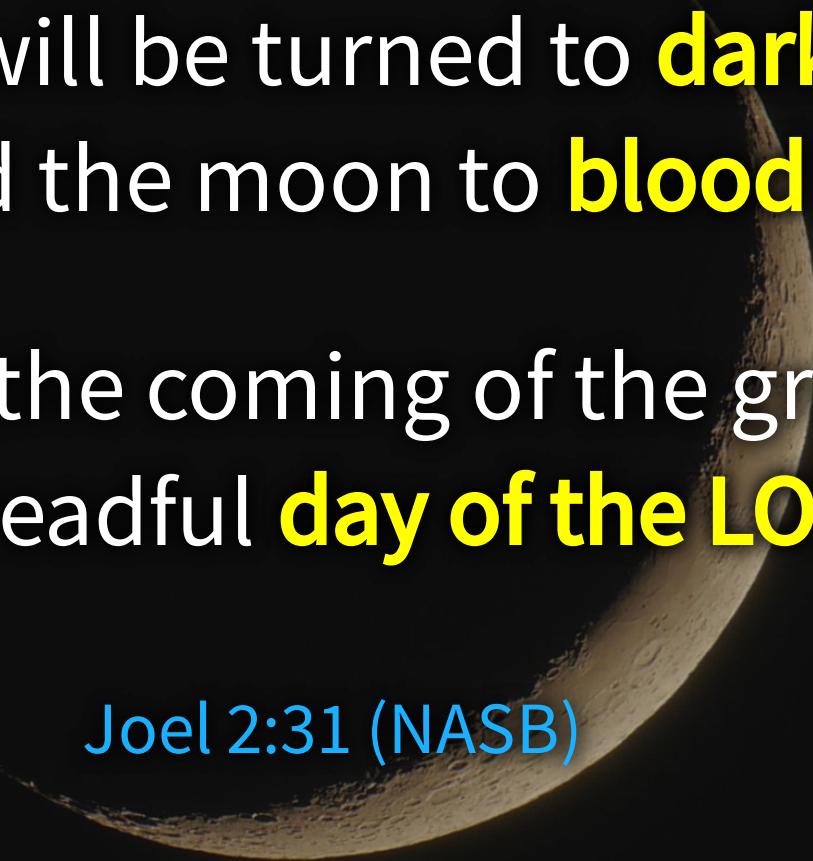
Iceland. Davide Cantelli



And afterward, I will pour out
my Spirit on all people

Joel 2:28 (NASB)

Jean Restout, "Pentecôte", 1732

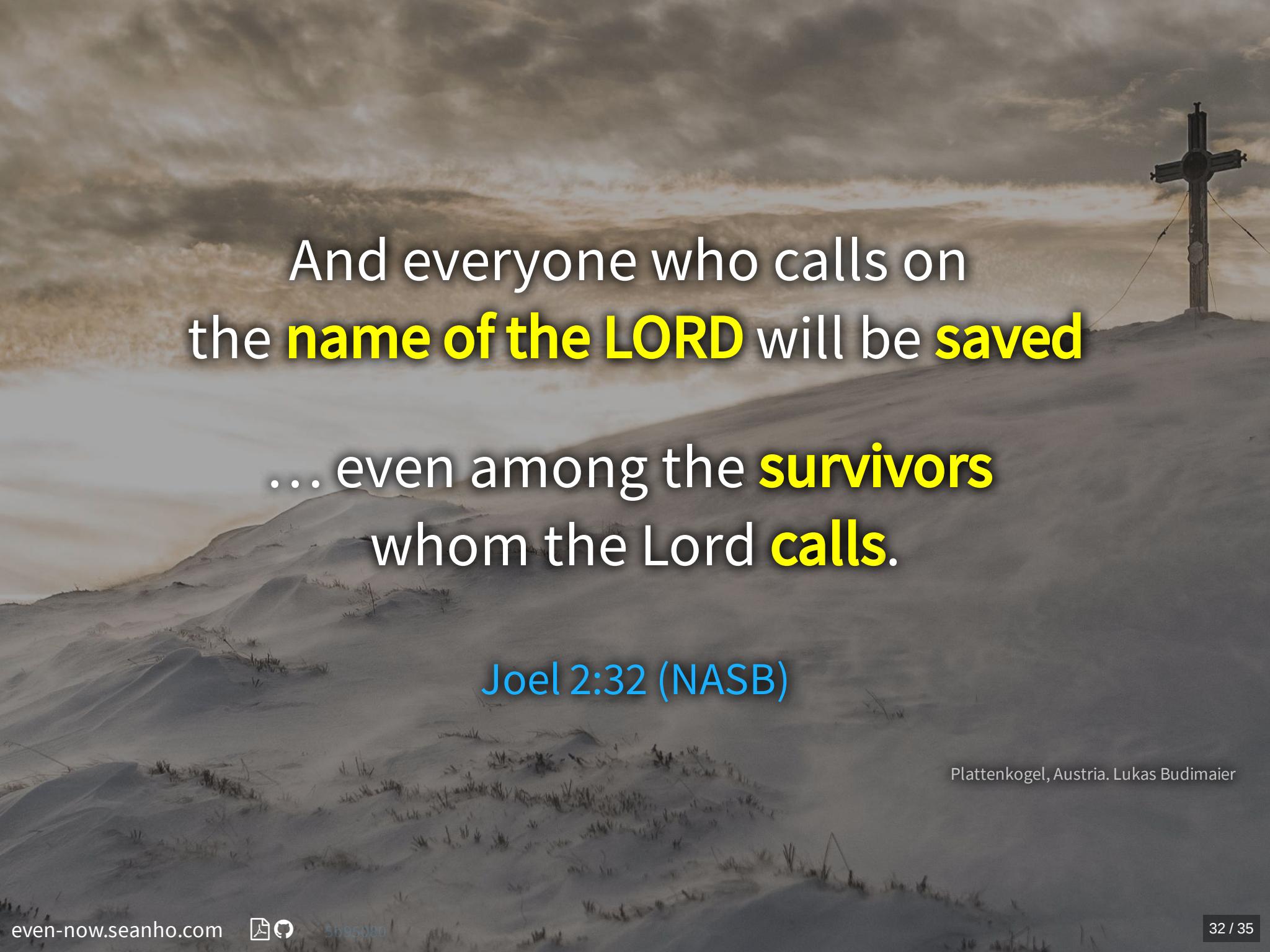


The sun will be turned to **darkness**
and the moon to **blood**

before the coming of the great
and dreadful **day of the LORD**

Joel 2:31 (NASB)

Nousnou Iwasaki



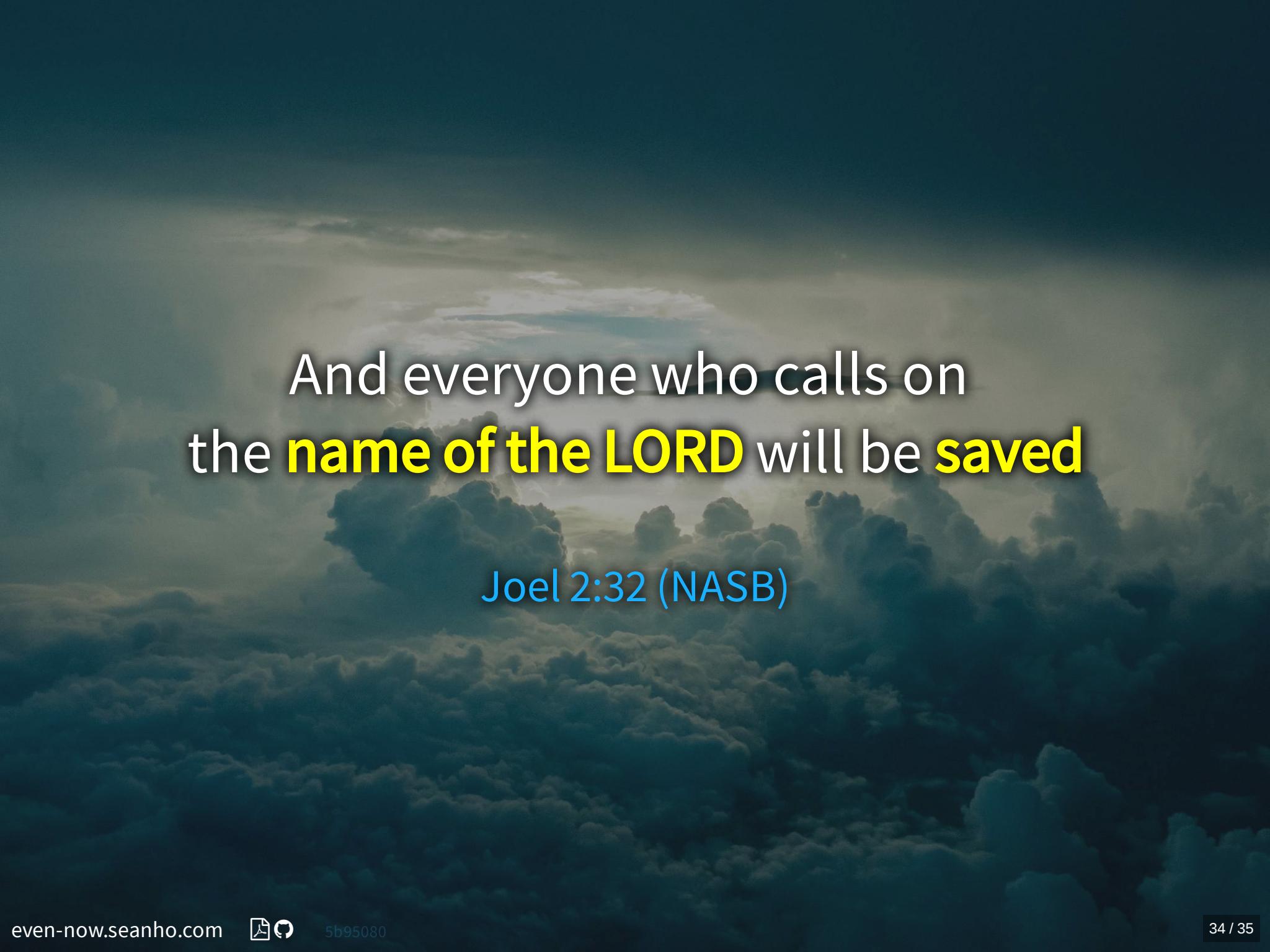
And everyone who calls on
the **name of the LORD** will be **saved**

... even among the **survivors**
whom the Lord **calls**.

Joel 2:32 (NASB)

Plattenkogel, Austria. Lukas Budimaier

Am I prepared
for the day
of the **LORD**?



And everyone who calls on
the **name of the LORD** will be **saved**

Joel 2:32 (NASB)

