



MEMORIAL AND CELEBRATION OF

ROBERT "BOB" VAN LONDEN

May 10, 1946 - March 19, 2020

Judah's Descent into Darkness

Genesis 38:1-30

Literary Outline: Bob London

A Judah parts from family; 3 sons born (vv. 1-5)

B Family line in peril: Two sons killed; Tamar put aside (vv. 6-11)

C Out to celebrate after comforted for loss of wife (v. 12)

D Tamar initiates deception: takes off her widow's garb, puts on a veil (vv. 13-14)

E Judah seeks pleasure, Tamar deceives (vv. 15-16a)

F Judah's proposition – requests sex, offers a goat (16b-17a)

X Central dialogue about her **wages** and a *pledge* (ערבות) (vv. 17b-18a)

F' Tamar's demand (staff, cord, seal) (v. 18b)

E' Judah takes Tamar, who becomes pregnant (v. 18c)

D' Tamar completes deception plan (v. 19)

C' Laughingstock after losing prostitute and pledges (vv. 20-23)

B' Family saved: Tamar brings Judah back to self (vv. 24-26)

A' Judah's line continues; 2 sons born (vv. 27-30)

The 3 roots:

- **chazaq** (12x) – fastened, braced, bound, strengthened, hardened. strong form ("I will harden...") used 8x; passive form ("...was hardened") used 4x. First appearance: "famine 'waxed sore' in the land of Egypt" (Gen 41:56)
- **kabed** (6x) – made heavy; weighed down. also used: Moses' slow, halting (heavy) tongue (Ex 4:10); 'great' (heavy) swarm of insects (8:24); 'numerous' locusts & 'severe' pestilence (9:3); heavy hail (9:18); heavy task (18:18). First appearance: "famine was 'severe' in the land" (Gen 12:10).
- **qasha** (1x) – hard, stiff-necked, unfeeling. also: "God hardened his spirit" (Dt 2:30); "a stiffnecked people" (Ex 32:9, 33:3, 5, 34:9, Dt 9:6, 13, 10:16); "harden not your heart" (Ps 95:8); in Kings, Neh., Job, Isaiah, Jer., Proverbs. In NT: "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: you always resist the Holy Spirit!" (Ac 7:51); Heb 3:7-11; 4:7 (quotes Ps 95:7-11)

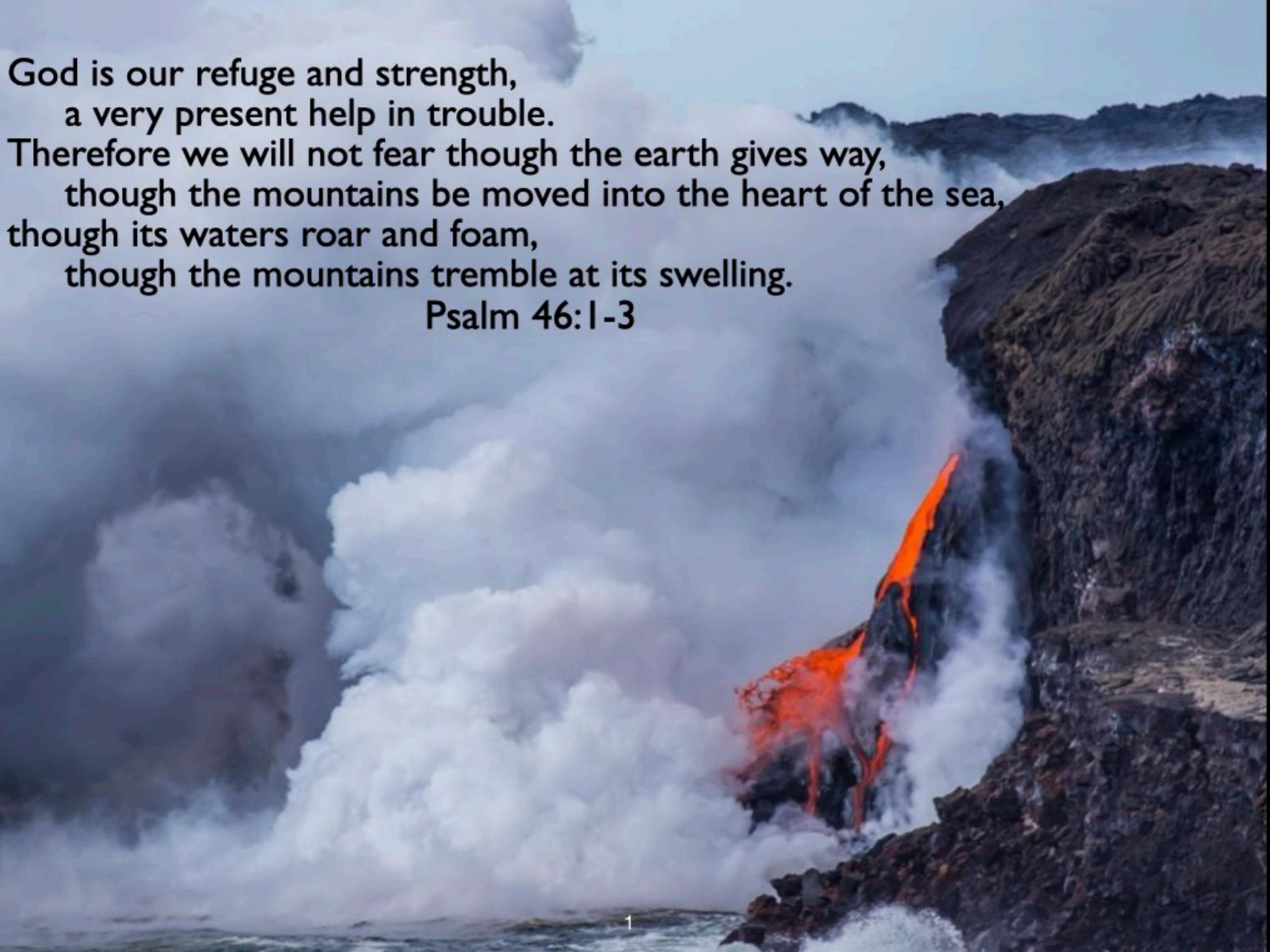
Other NT references to "hardened heart" (reference to Hebrew word uncertain): Mark 6:52, 8:17, John 12:40, Acts 19:9.

Plague	Exo.	Text	Word	Agent	
		(List from http://www.hope.edu/academic/religion/bandstra/RTOT/CH3/CH3_TBG.HTM)	God	Passive	P'ro
Sinai	4:21	YHVH said to Moses, "... I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go."	chazaq		
Prelim	7:3	"But I will harden Pharo's heart, & though I multiply my signs & wonders ..."	qasha		
Sign	7:13	Pharo's heart was hardened , & he would not listen to them; as YHVH had said.	chazaq		
1	7:14	YHVH said to Moses, "Pharo's heart is hardened , he refuses to let the people go."	kabed		
	7:22	magicians of Egypt did the same by their arts; so Pharo's heart remained hardened ...	chazaq		
2	8:15	when Pharo saw that there was a respite, he hardened his heart, & would not listen ...	kabed		
3	8:19	"This is the finger of God." But Pharo's heart was hardened , & he would not listen ...	chazaq		
4	8:32	But Pharo hardened his heart this time also, & did not let the people go.	kabed		
5	9:7	not one of the cattle of the Israelites was dead. But the heart of Pharo was hardened	kabed		
6	9:12	YHVH hardened the heart of Pharo, & he did not listen to them...	chazaq		
7	9:34	... he sinned yet again, & hardened his heart, he & his servants.	kabed		
	9:35	the heart of Pharo was hardened , & he did not let the people of Israel go...	chazaq		
8	10:1	YHVH said to Moses, "Go in to Pharo; for I have hardened his heart & the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them..."	kabed		
	10:20	But YHVH hardened Pharo's heart, & he did not let the children of Israel go.	chazaq		
9	10:27	But YHVH hardened Pharo's heart, & he would not let them go.	chazaq		
10	11:10	YHVH hardened Pharo's heart, & he did not let the people of Israel go...	chazaq		
Flight	14:4	"I will harden Pharo's heart, & he will pursue them & I will get glory over Pharo "	chazaq		
	14:8	YHVH hardened the heart of Pharo king of Egypt & he pursued the people of Israel	chazaq		
	14:17	"I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, & I will	chazaq		

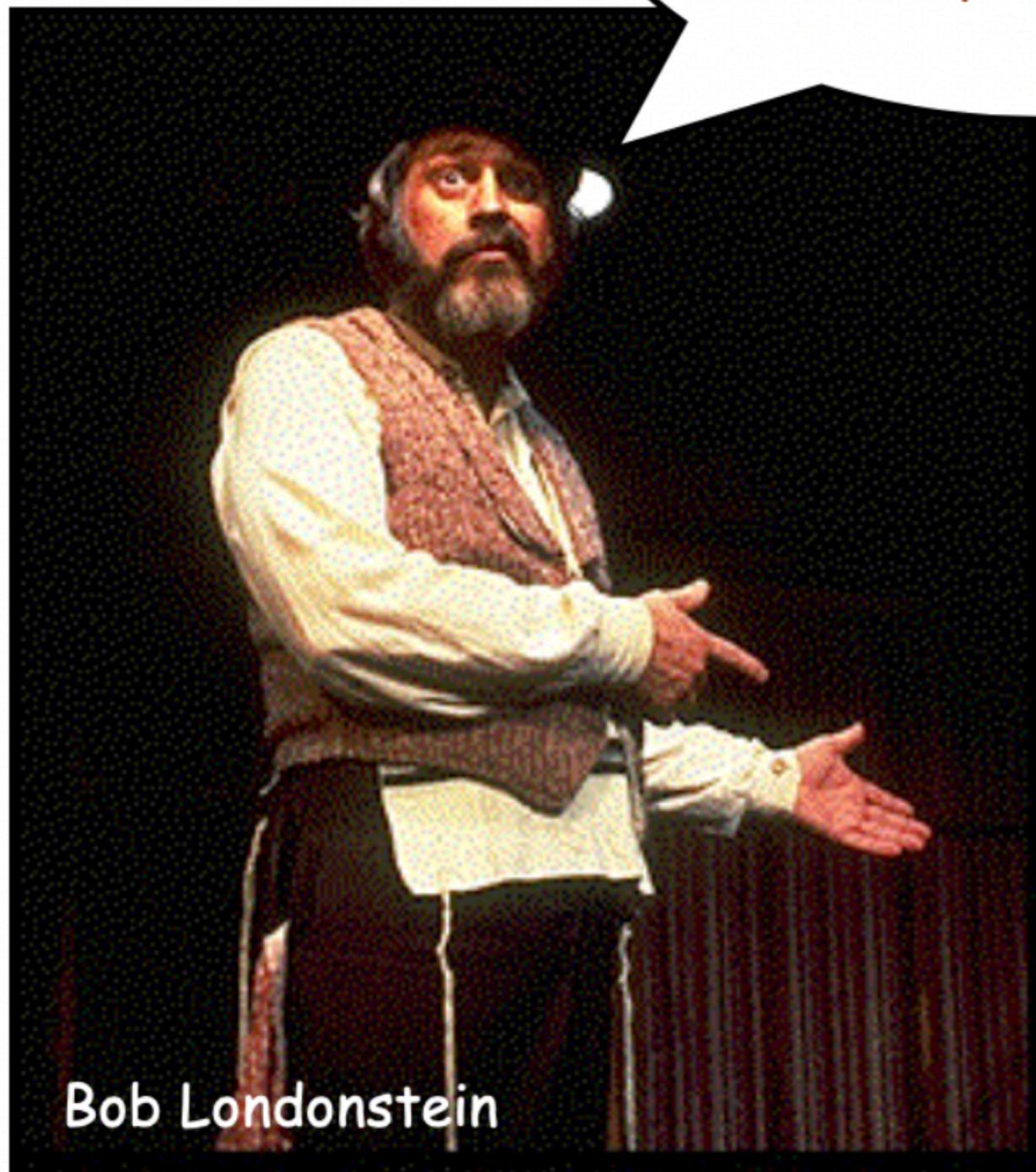
God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Psalm 46:1-3



"The rabbi wants two
more milk cows, a dozen
kosher more bagels, and
how many more notes?!"



Bob,

Student, scholar, scribe
I've come to depend
a servant in suffering
I've come to respect
and a true friend,
I've come to enjoy
through our countless raucous
Men of Monday nights
a plethora of poetry retreats
our sacred memories in Romania
and now my co-worker at Western.

With appreciation for being a
אהב דבך מאת
the rabbi

Bob Londonstein

Shepherd

Guide

Friend



Protector

Psalm 23

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

3 He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

forever.



1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.
 He leads me beside still waters.
3 He restores my soul.
 He leads me in paths of righteousness
 for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
 I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff,
 they comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall pursue me
 all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
 forever.

I. A Shepherd

2. A Host

3. Coming Home

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.



Provides Food and Rest

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters. (v. 2)



Provides Guidance

He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake. (v. 3)



Provides Protection

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (v. 4)



An Host
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. (v. 5)



Coming Home

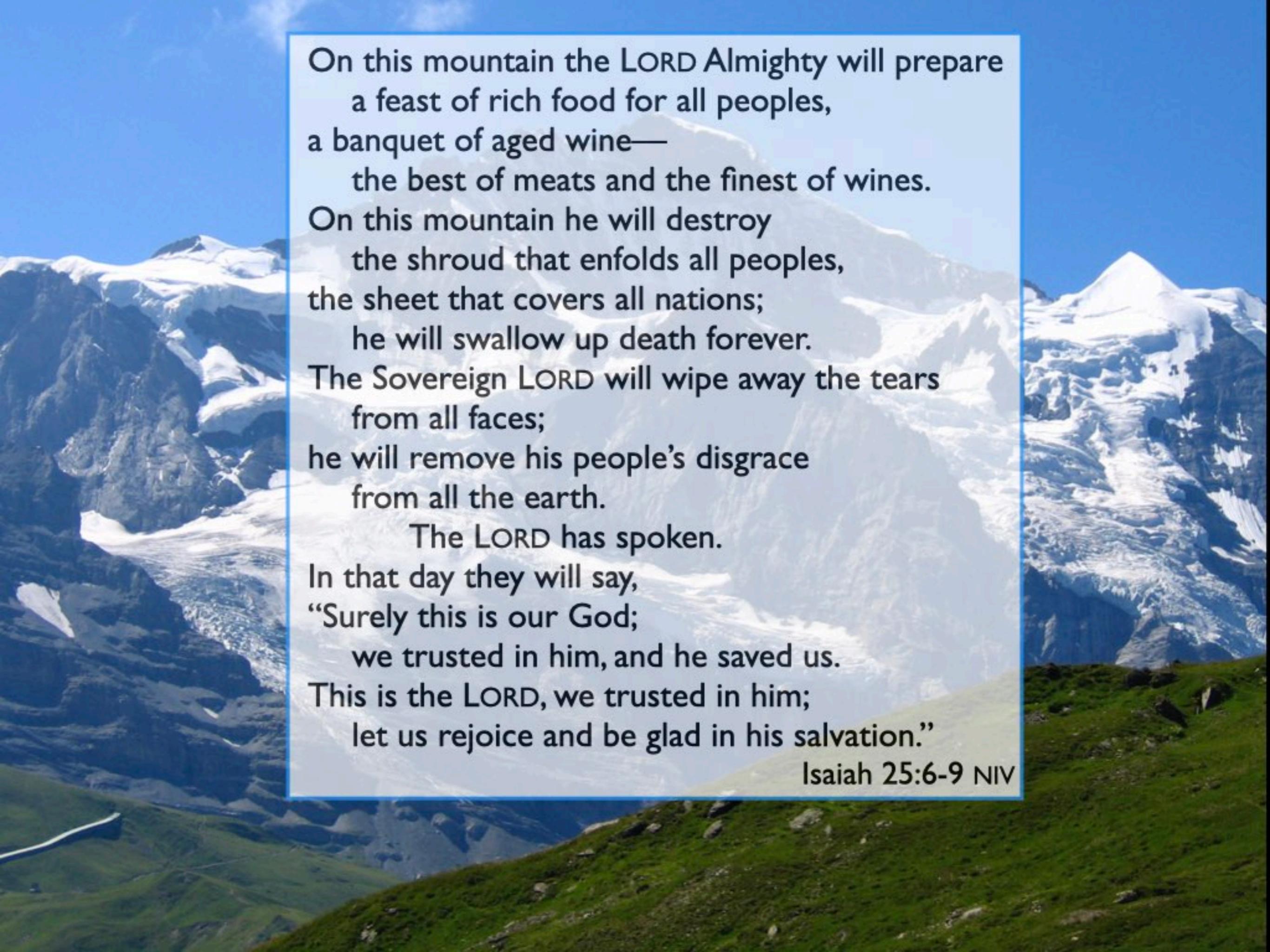
Surely goodness and everlasting-love shall pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever. (v. 6)





As a shepherd seeks out his flock
when he is among his sheep
that have been scattered,
so will I seek out my sheep,
and I will rescue them from all places
where they have been scattered
on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

Ezekiel 34:10



On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare
a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine—
the best of meats and the finest of wines.

On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears
from all faces;
he will remove his people's disgrace
from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.
In that day they will say,
“Surely this is our God;
we trusted in him, and he saved us.
This is the LORD, we trusted in him;
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

Isaiah 25:6-9 NIV

