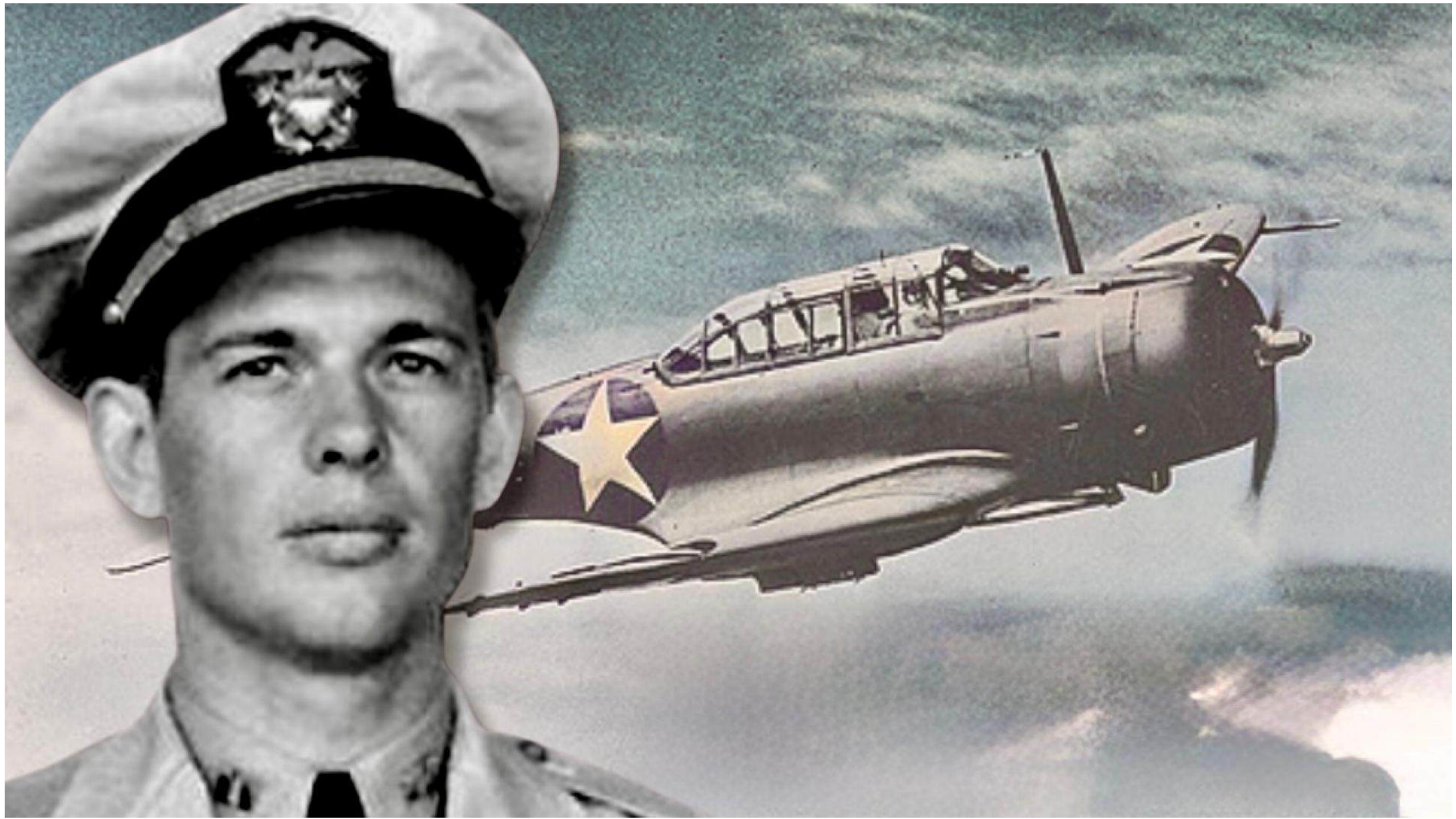




Habakkuk

LOOKING FOR GOD IN A WORLD GONE WRONG

"The Prophet's Burden: Wrestling with God's Ways"
Habakkuk 1:1-5













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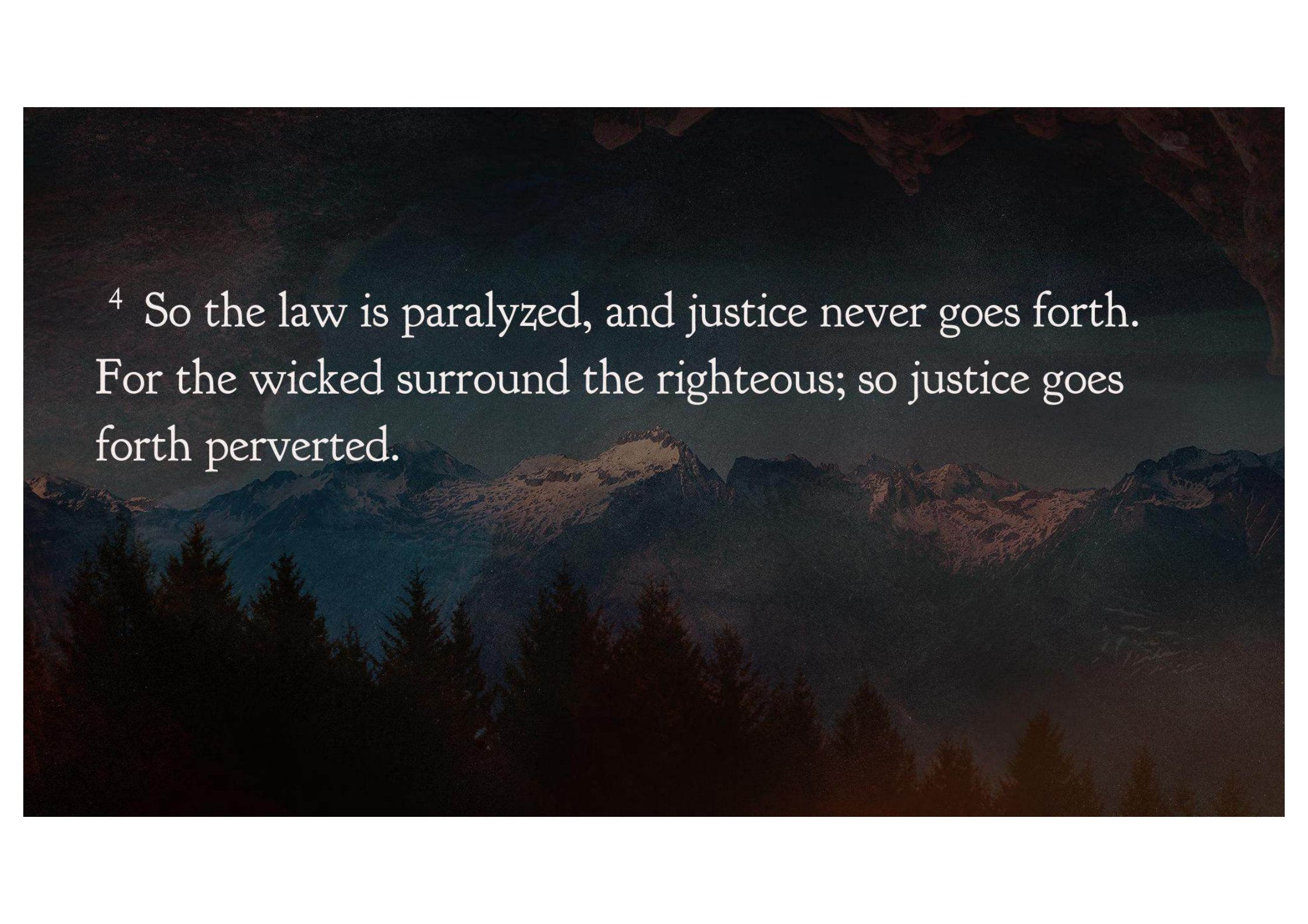


The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

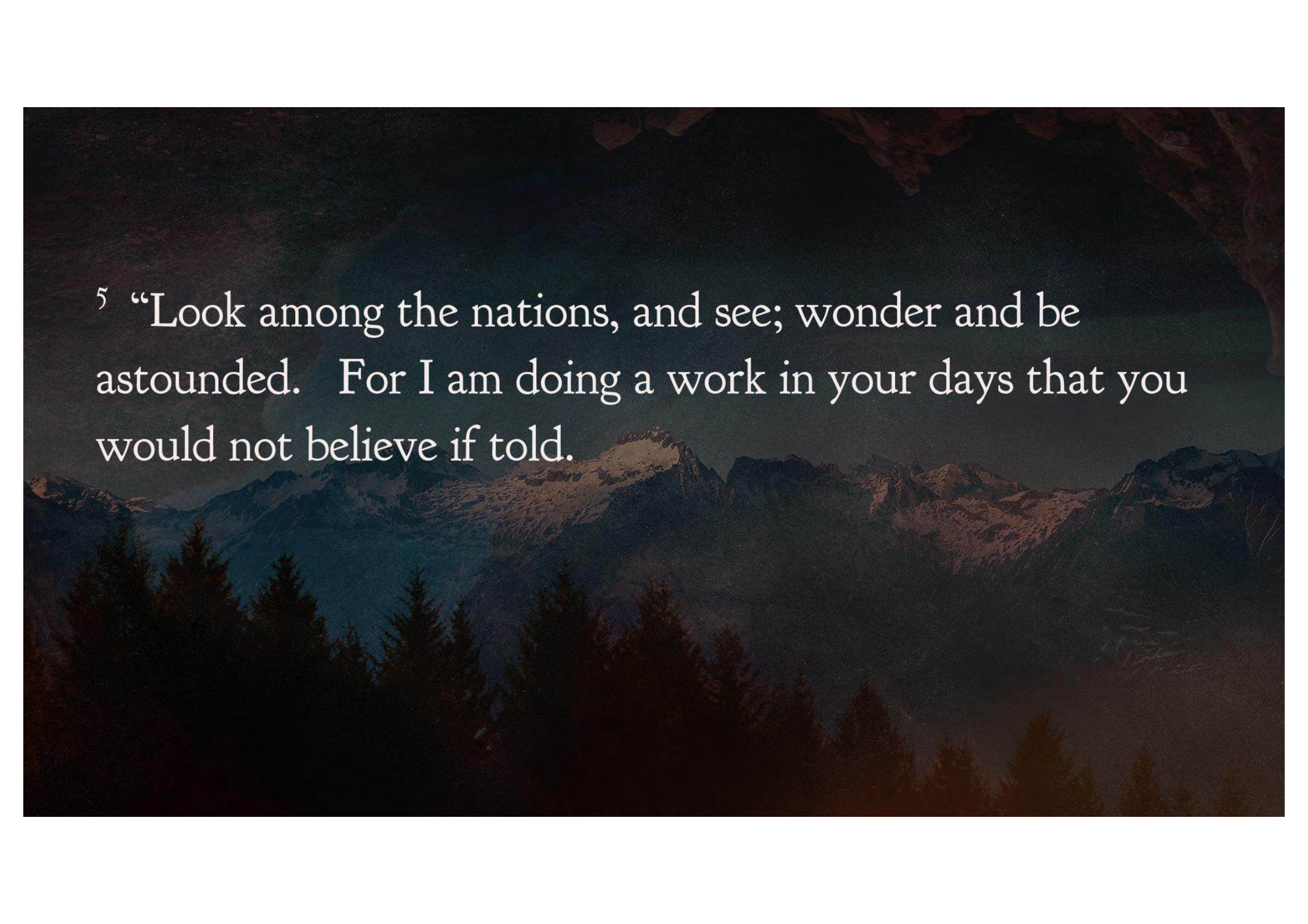
² O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? ³ Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise.

Habakkuk 1:1–5

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⁴ So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth.
For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes
forth perverted.



⁵ “Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.

Background

- **Late 7th Century BC:** Judah is morally compromised and facing Babylon's rising power.
- **Deep Spiritual Decline:** Corruption, injustice, and idolatry plague the nation.
- **Unique Prophetic Voice:** Habakkuk addresses God directly, wrestling with His apparent silence.
- **Key Tension:** How can a holy God tolerate evil—both within Judah and beyond?
- **A Divine Dialogue:** This short book is an honest exchange, calling us to deeper trust in God's sovereignty.

1. The Prophet's Burden (Habakkuk 1:1)

- **Weighty Message:** "Oracle" means "burden," reflecting the heavy responsibility Habakkuk carries.
- **Personal Anguish:** The prophet is grieved by Judah's moral collapse.
- **Prophetic Calling:** Speaking God's truth can be difficult, yet cannot be ignored.
- **Foundation for Dialogue:** Habakkuk's burden sets the stage for raw, honest conversation with God.

2. The Cry of Injustice (Habakkuk 1:2–4)

- **Desperate Plea:** Habakkuk questions God's silence amidst widespread violence.
- **Lament as Faith:** Expressing grief to God shows belief that He can and should intervene.
- **Broken Law:** In Judah, injustice rules and the law seems powerless. Jesus has not yet provided the solution to sin.
- **Relevance for Today:** We, too, wrestle with the tension between God's character and the evil we see.

3. The Unexpected Divine Plan (Habakkuk 1:5)

- **God's Shocking Response:** He is already at work in ways beyond Habakkuk's imagination.
- **A Shift in Perspective:** He is not distant, and the evidence is clear. But a change of perspective is necessary to understand it.
- **Babylon's Role:** A ruthless empire will be God's instrument of judgment.
- **Sovereign Purposes:** Even chaos is under God's control, fulfilling His bigger plan.
- **Invitation to Trust:** We may not understand His methods, but we can rely on His wisdom.