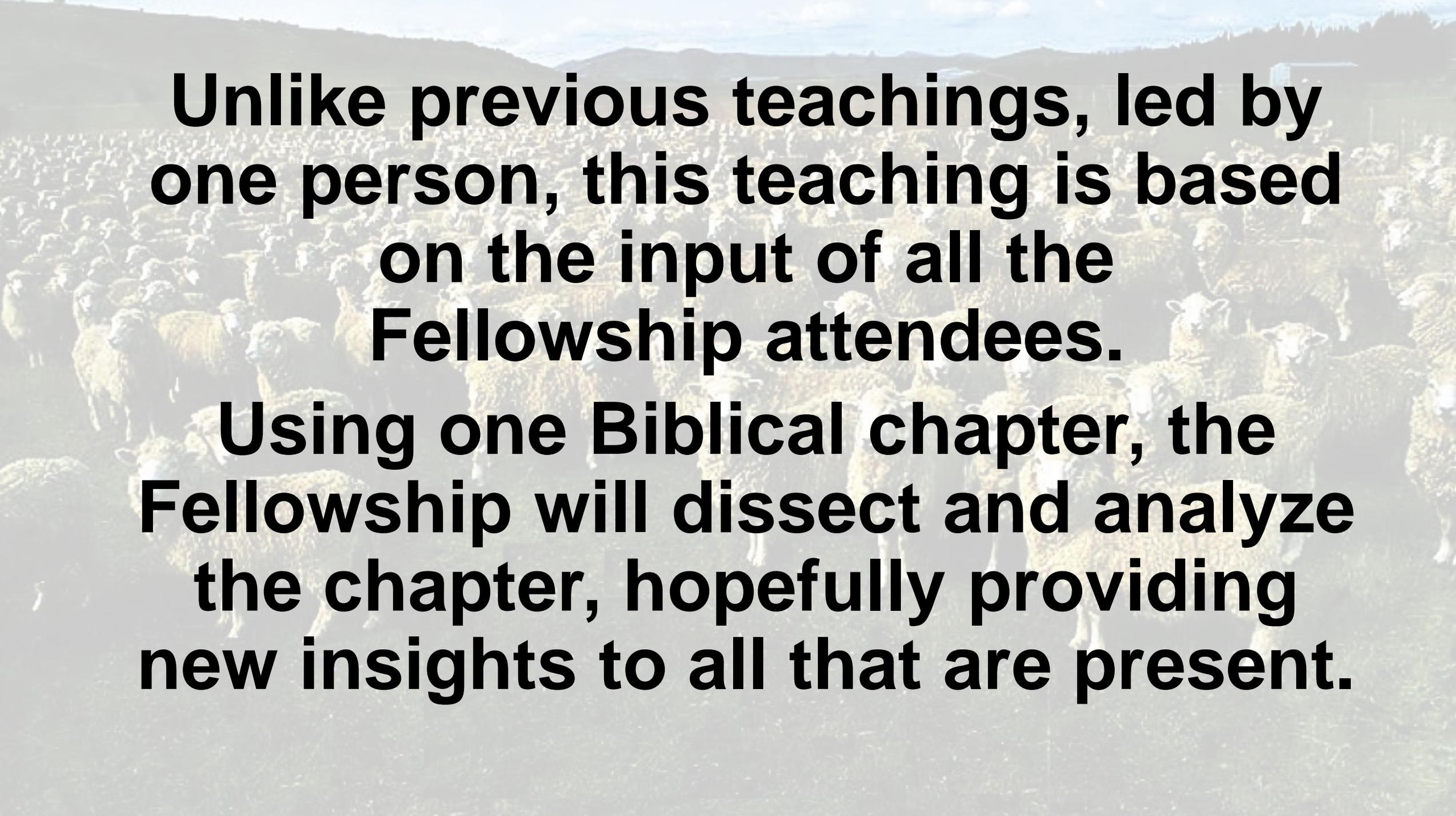


# **Our Thoughts Isaiah 53**

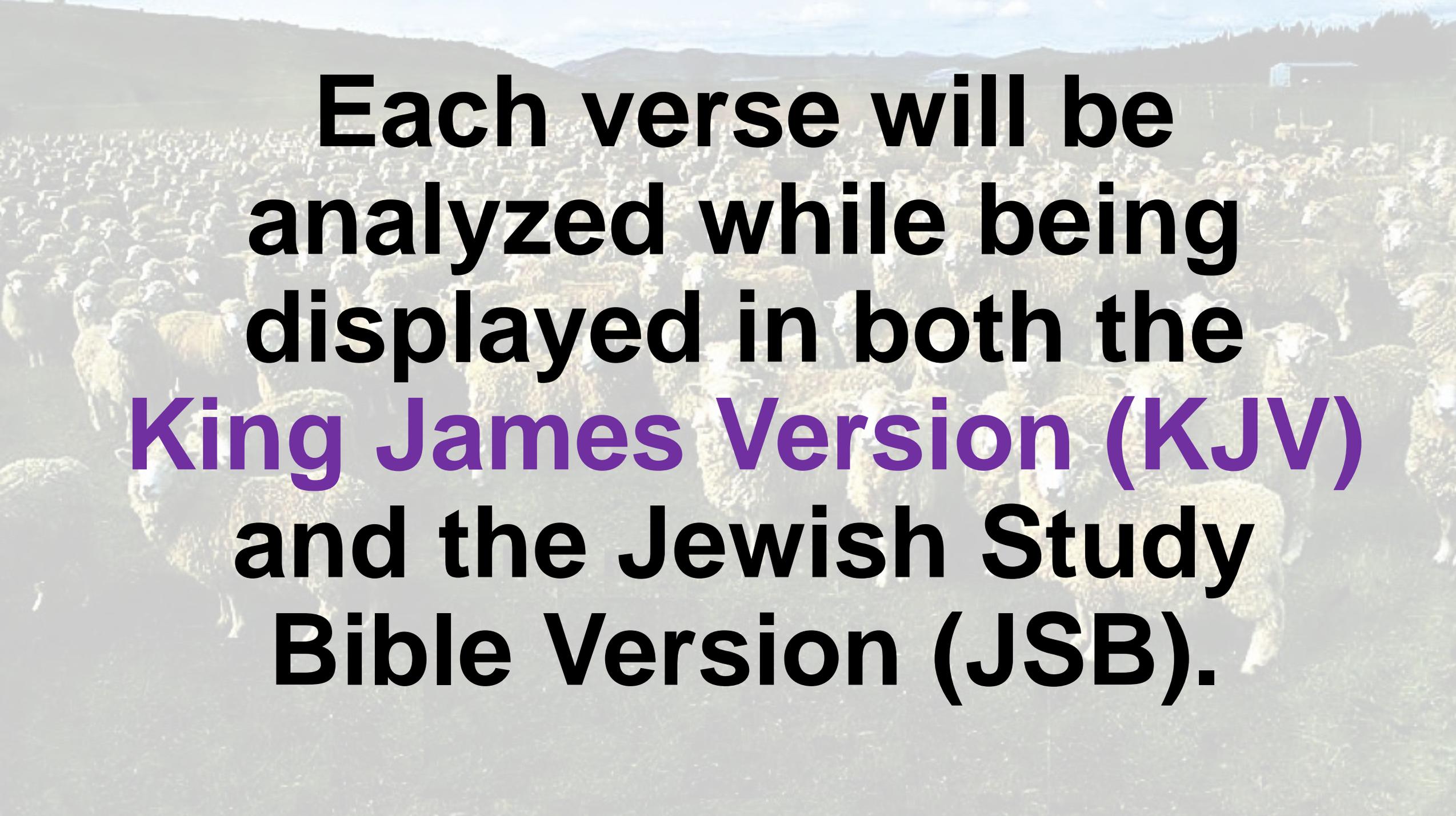
A large flock of sheep is gathered in a field, with rolling hills and mountains visible in the background under a clear sky. The sheep are densely packed, and their woolly coats are a mix of white and brown. The overall scene is a pastoral landscape.

**Unlike previous teachings, led by one person, this teaching is based on the input of all the Fellowship attendees.**

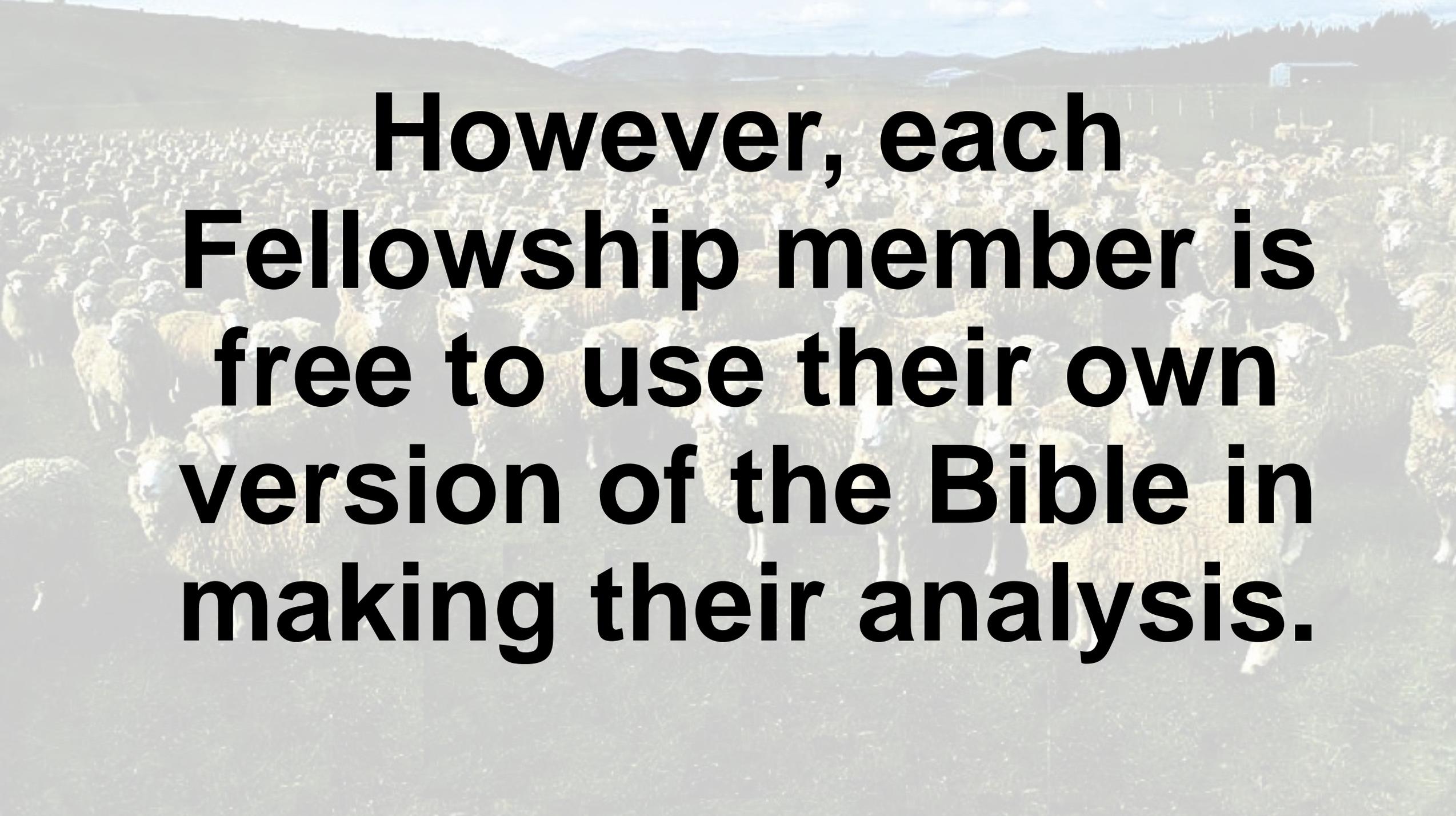
**Using one Biblical chapter, the Fellowship will dissect and analyze the chapter, hopefully providing new insights to all that are present.**



**Due to the immediate nature of tonight's teaching, to receive the greatest understanding of this teaching, please view the Zoom video for tonight.**

A large flock of sheep is gathered in a field, with rolling hills and mountains in the background under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on this scene.

**Each verse will be  
analyzed while being  
displayed in both the  
King James Version (KJV)  
and the Jewish Study  
Bible Version (JSB).**

A large flock of sheep is gathered in a green field. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a blue sky with some clouds. A small blue building is visible on the right side of the background.

**However, each Fellowship member is free to use their own version of the Bible in making their analysis.**

A large flock of sheep, mostly white with some brown, is gathered in a green field. The sheep are densely packed, filling most of the frame. In the background, there are rolling hills and a blue sky with some clouds. A small blue building is visible on the right side of the background.

# Isaiah 53



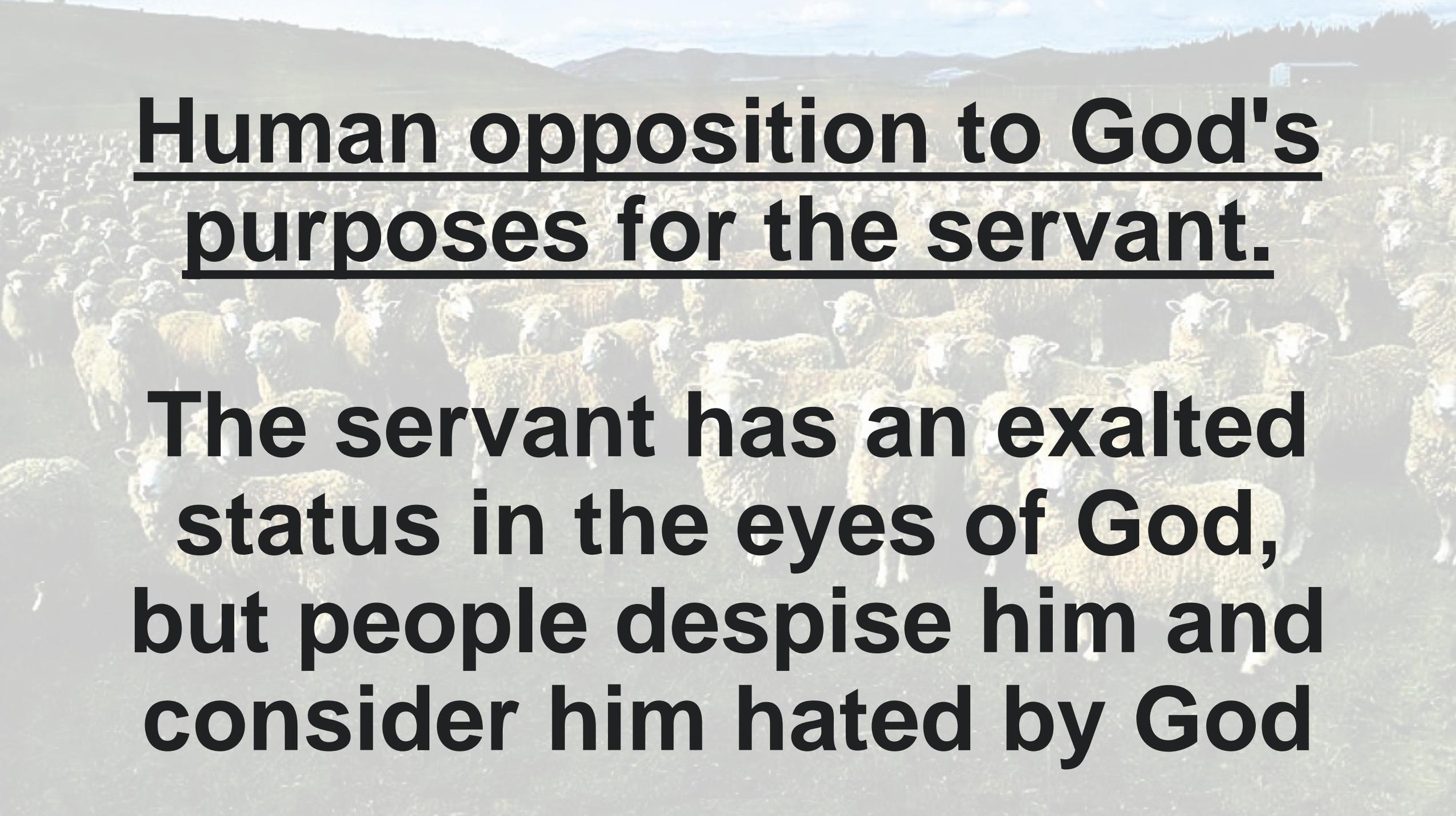
**Isaiah contains the prophecies attributed to the prophet Isaiah and is one of the Nevi'im. Chapters 40 to 55 are known as "Deutero-Isaiah" and date from the time of the Israelites' exile in Babylon.**



**Isaiah 52:13–53:12 makes up the fourth of the "Servant Songs" of the Book of Isaiah, describing a "servant" of God who is abused but eventually vindicated.**

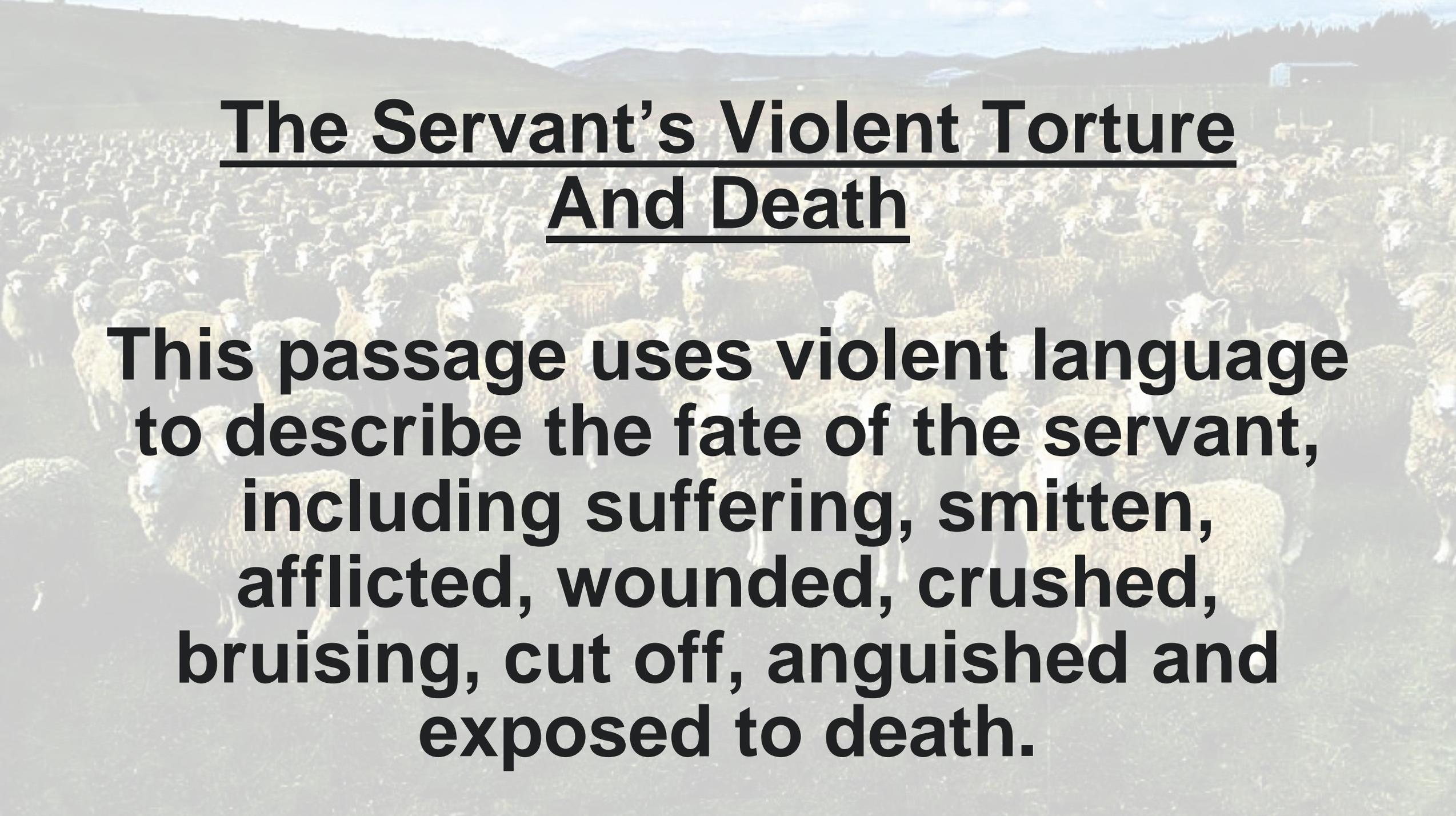
A large flock of sheep is gathered in a green field. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a blue sky with some clouds. A small blue building is visible on the right side of the field.

**Major themes of  
the chapter  
include:**

A large flock of sheep is gathered in a field, with rolling hills and mountains visible in the background under a clear sky. The sheep are of various colors, including white, brown, and black, and are densely packed in the foreground and middle ground.

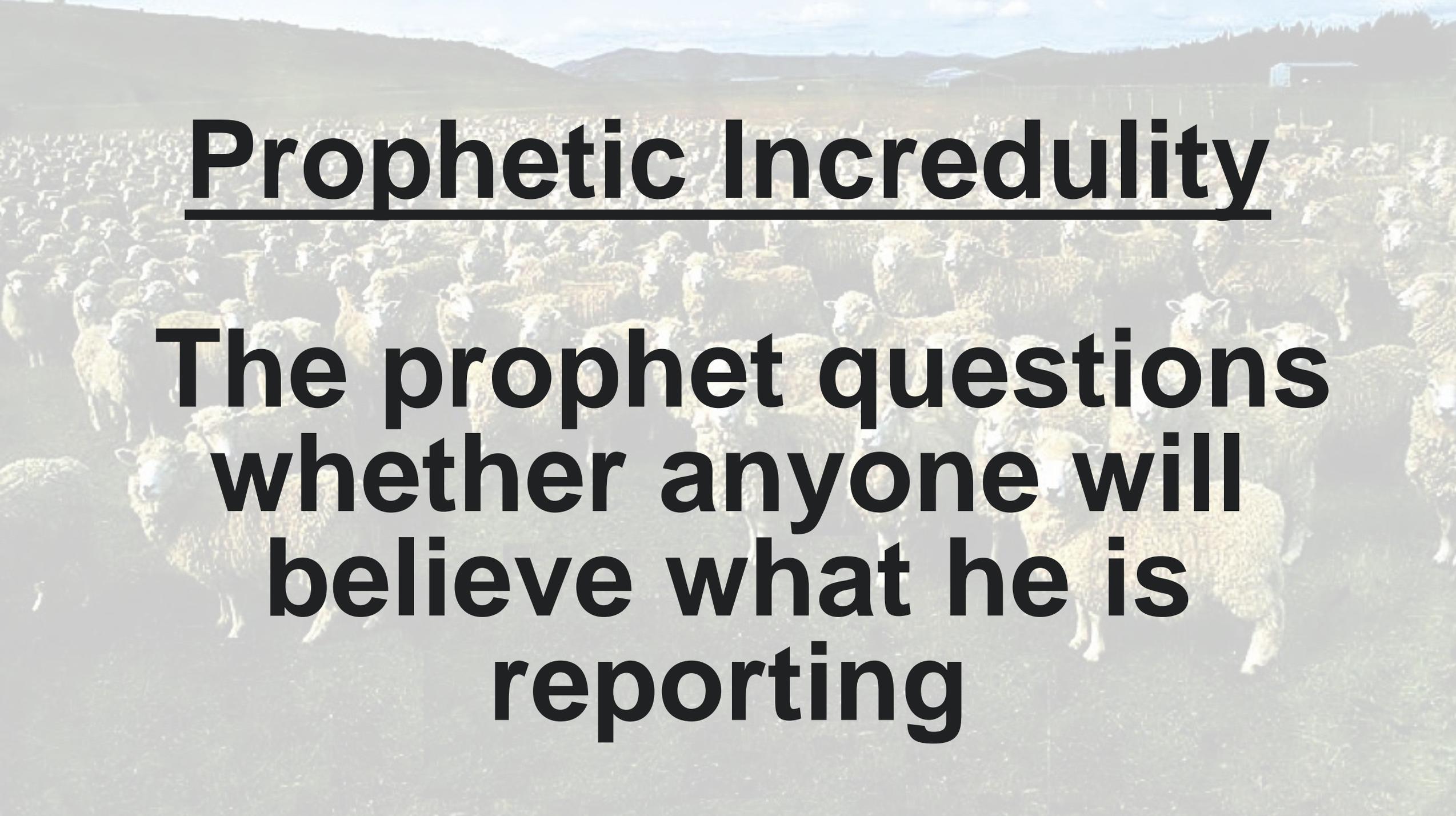
**Human opposition to God's  
purposes for the servant.**

**The servant has an exalted  
status in the eyes of God,  
but people despise him and  
consider him hated by God**

A large flock of sheep is gathered in a field, with rolling hills and mountains in the background under a clear sky. The sheep are densely packed, filling most of the foreground and middle ground. The overall scene is a pastoral landscape.

# The Servant's Violent Torture And Death

**This passage uses violent language to describe the fate of the servant, including suffering, smitten, afflicted, wounded, crushed, bruising, cut off, anguished and exposed to death.**

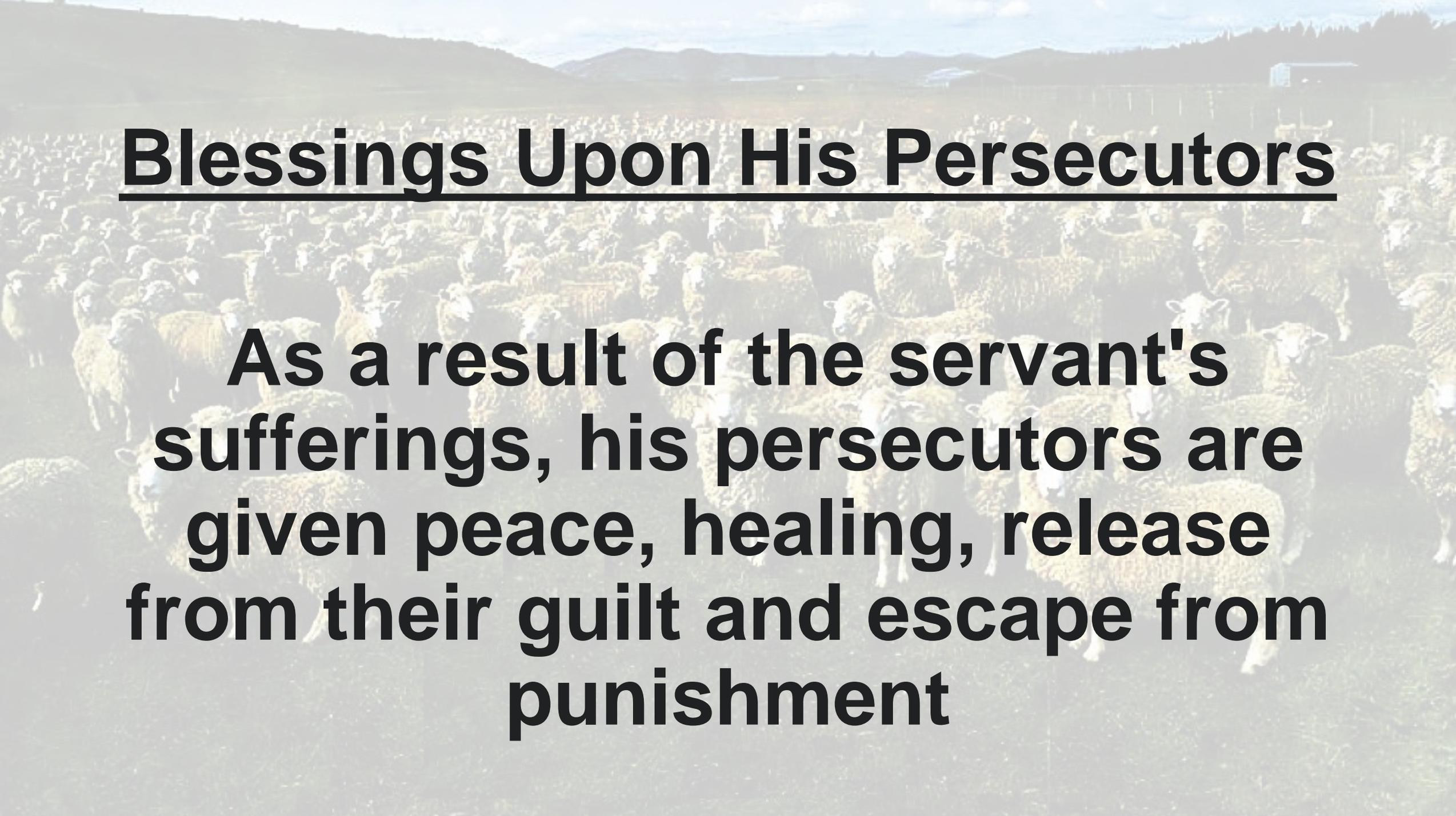
A large flock of sheep is gathered in a field, with rolling hills and mountains in the background under a clear sky. The scene is slightly faded to make the text stand out.

# Prophetic Incredulity

**The prophet questions  
whether anyone will  
believe what he is  
reporting**

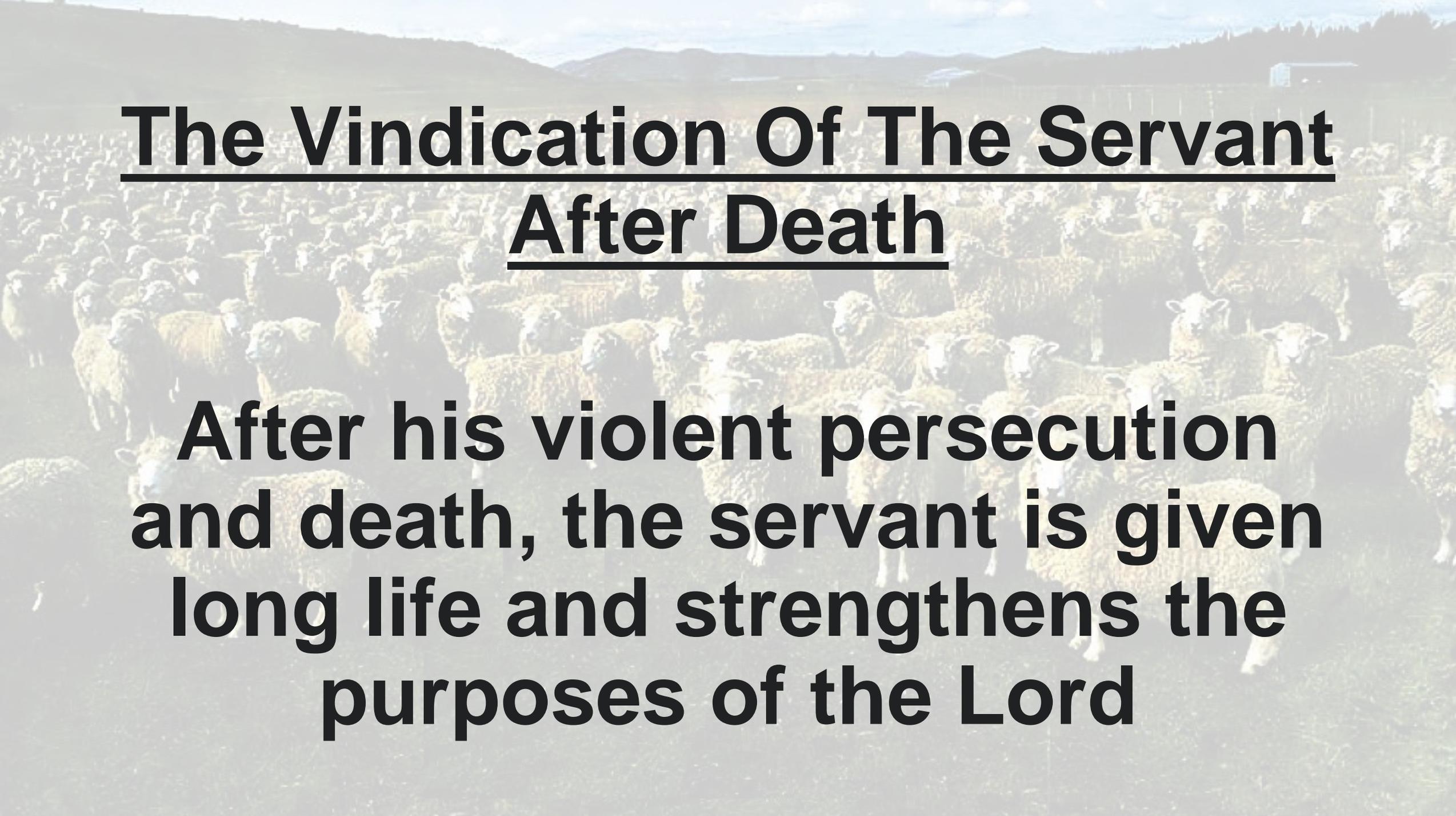
# The Servant's Innocence

**In the moment of crisis,  
the servant is described  
as innocent of retaliation,  
violence, or deceit**

A large flock of sheep is gathered in a field, with rolling hills and mountains in the background under a clear sky. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent grey filter.

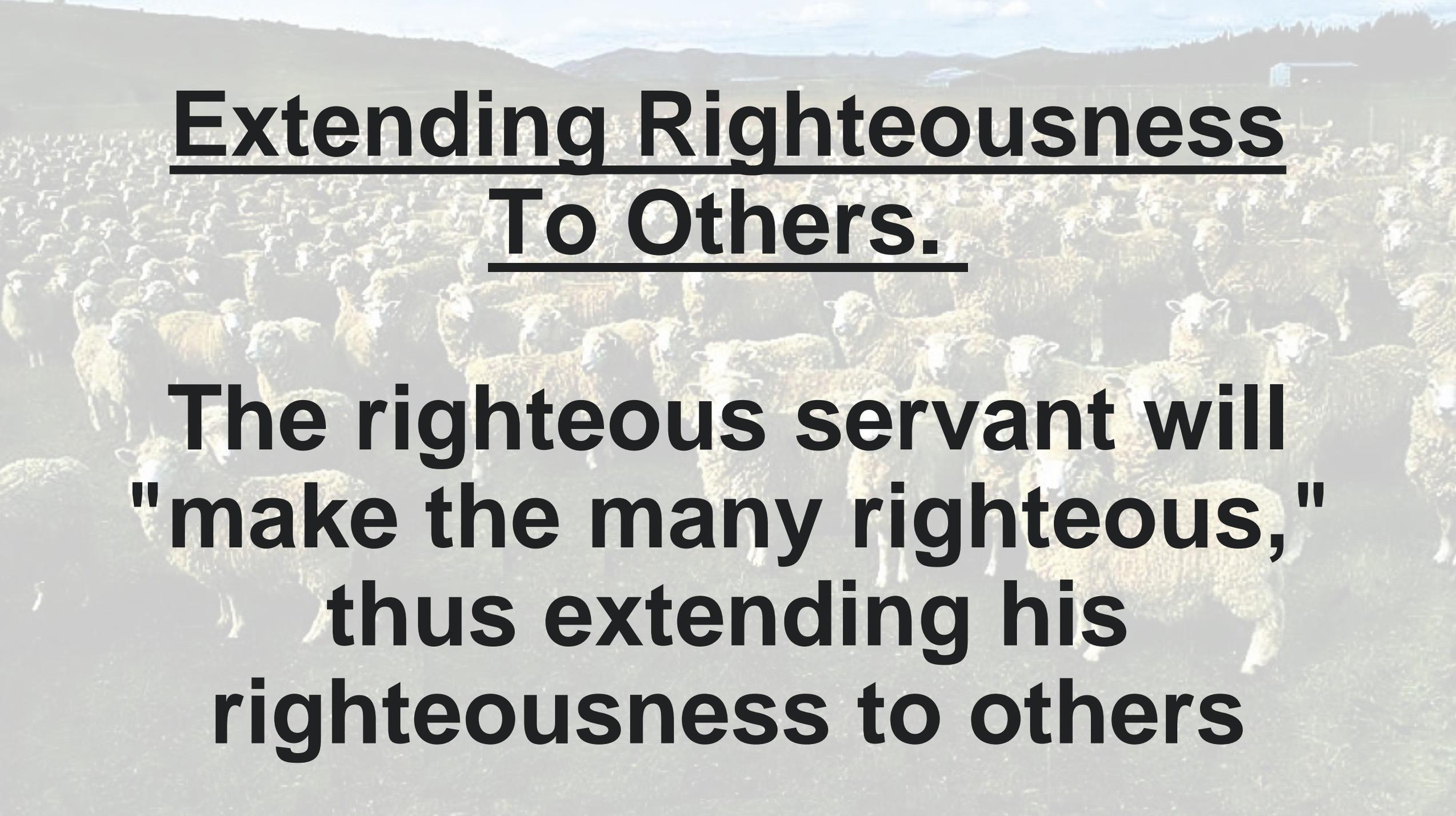
# **Blessings Upon His Persecutors**

**As a result of the servant's sufferings, his persecutors are given peace, healing, release from their guilt and escape from punishment**

A large flock of sheep is gathered in a green field. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on this image.

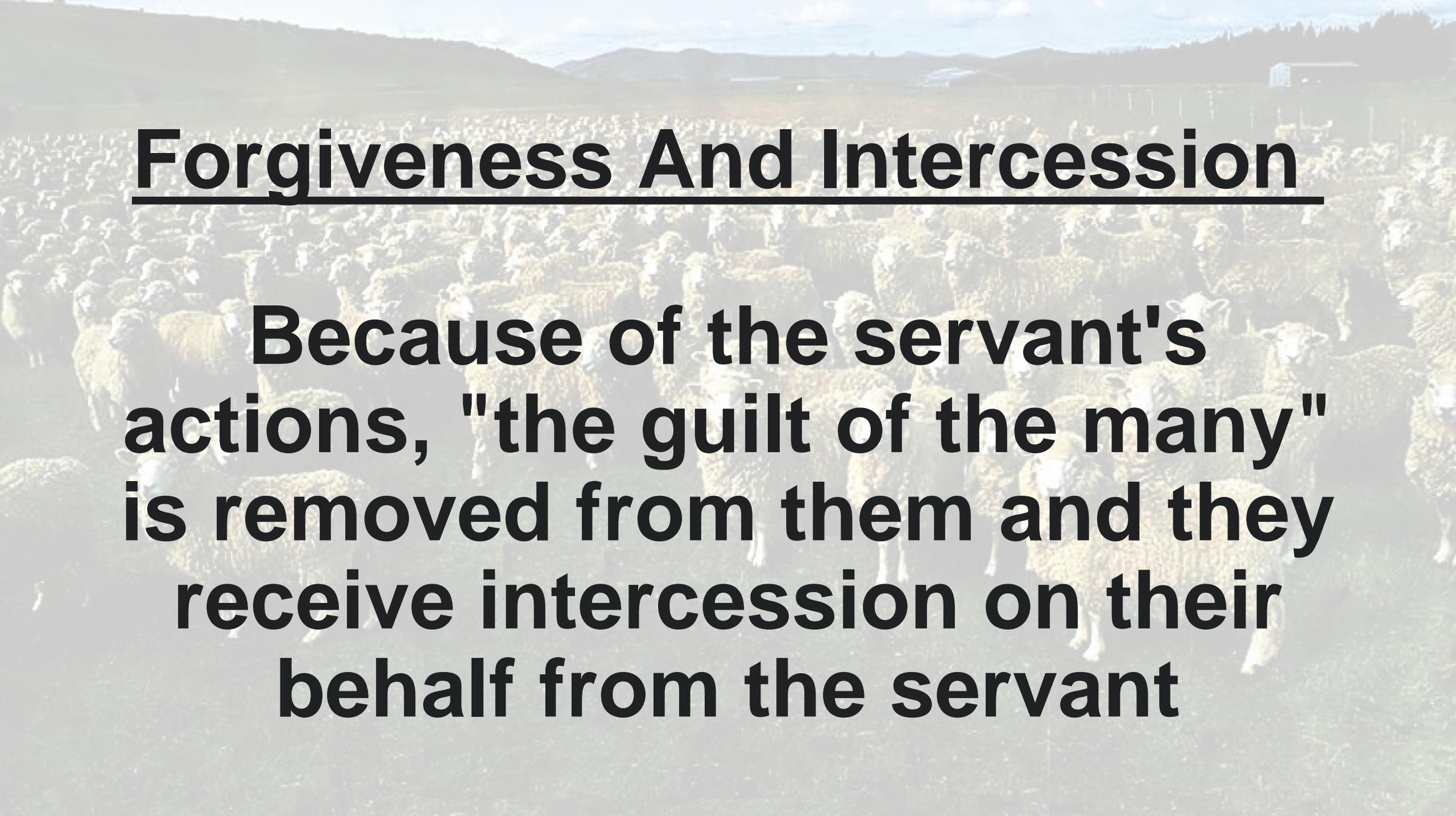
# The Vindication Of The Servant After Death

**After his violent persecution and death, the servant is given long life and strengthens the purposes of the Lord**

A large flock of sheep is gathered in a green field. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a blue sky with some clouds. The text is overlaid on this image.

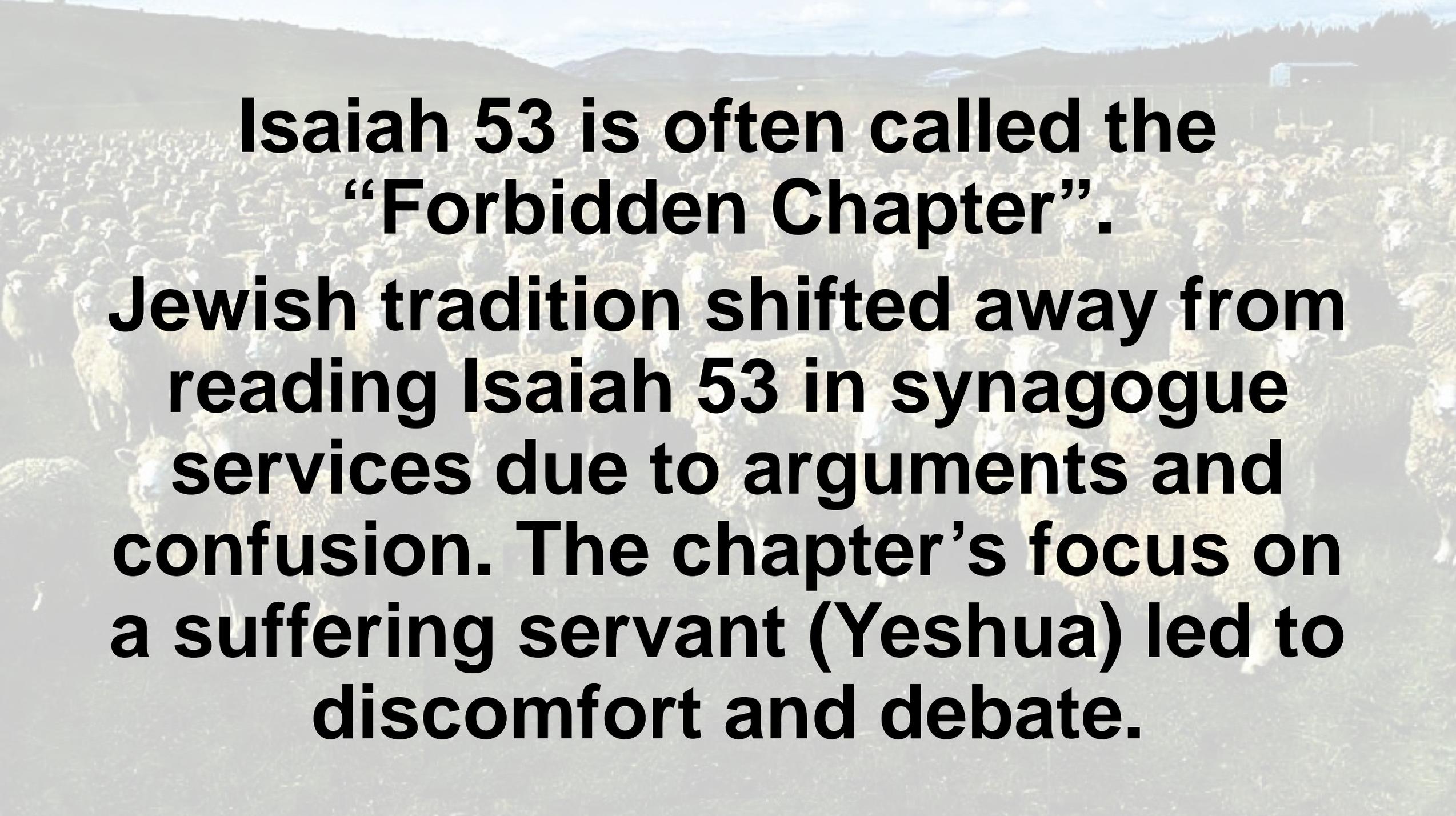
# Extending Righteousness To Others.

**The righteous servant will  
"make the many righteous,"  
thus extending his  
righteousness to others**

A large flock of sheep is gathered in a field, with rolling hills and mountains in the background under a clear sky. The scene is slightly faded to allow text to be overlaid.

# Forgiveness And Intercession

**Because of the servant's actions, "the guilt of the many" is removed from them and they receive intercession on their behalf from the servant**

A large flock of sheep is grazing in a field. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on this image.

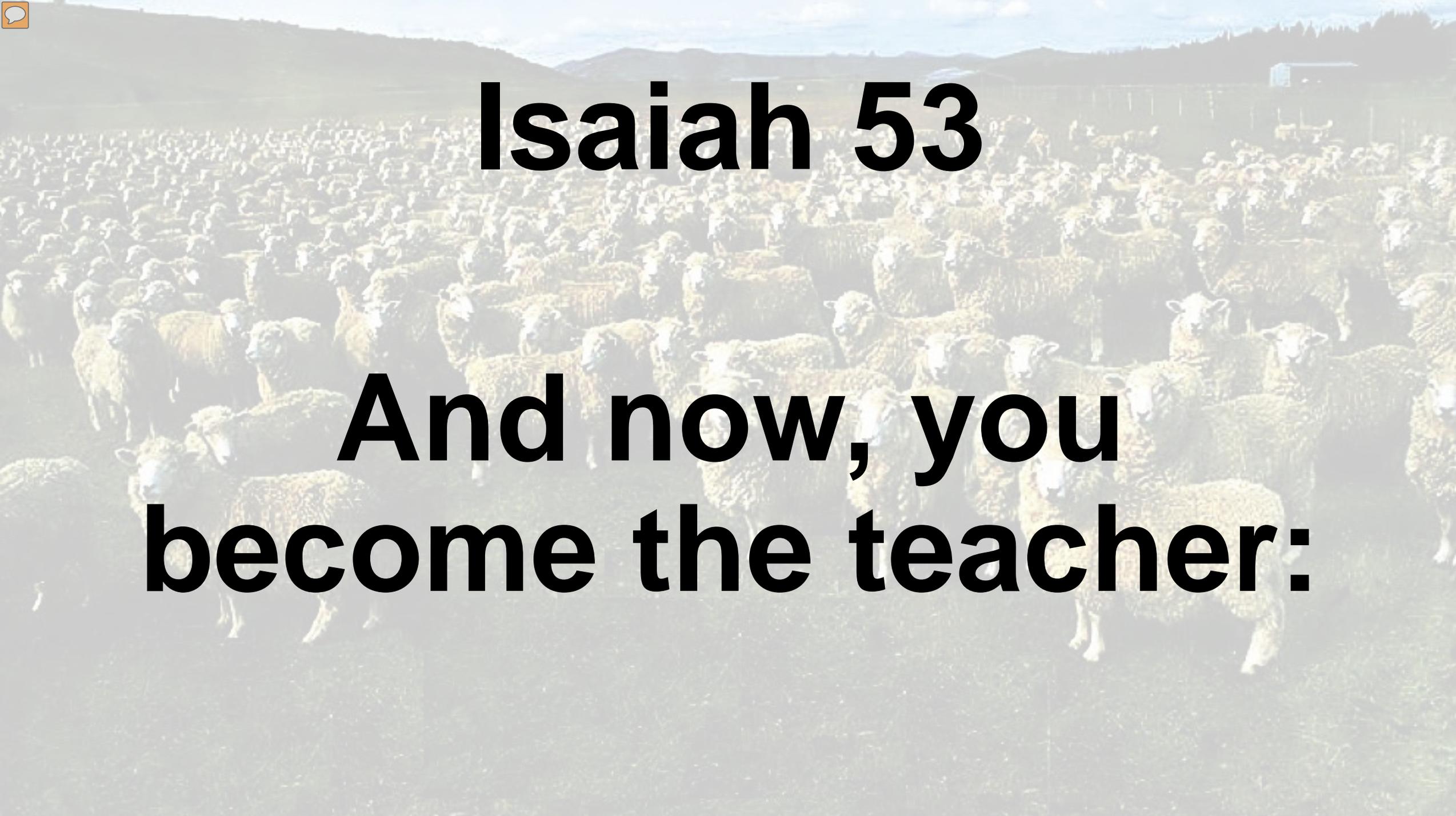
**Isaiah 53 is often called the  
“Forbidden Chapter”.**

**Jewish tradition shifted away from  
reading Isaiah 53 in synagogue  
services due to arguments and  
confusion. The chapter’s focus on  
a suffering servant (Yeshua) led to  
discomfort and debate.**

A large flock of sheep is gathered in a green field. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a blue sky with some clouds. A small blue building is visible on the right side of the field.

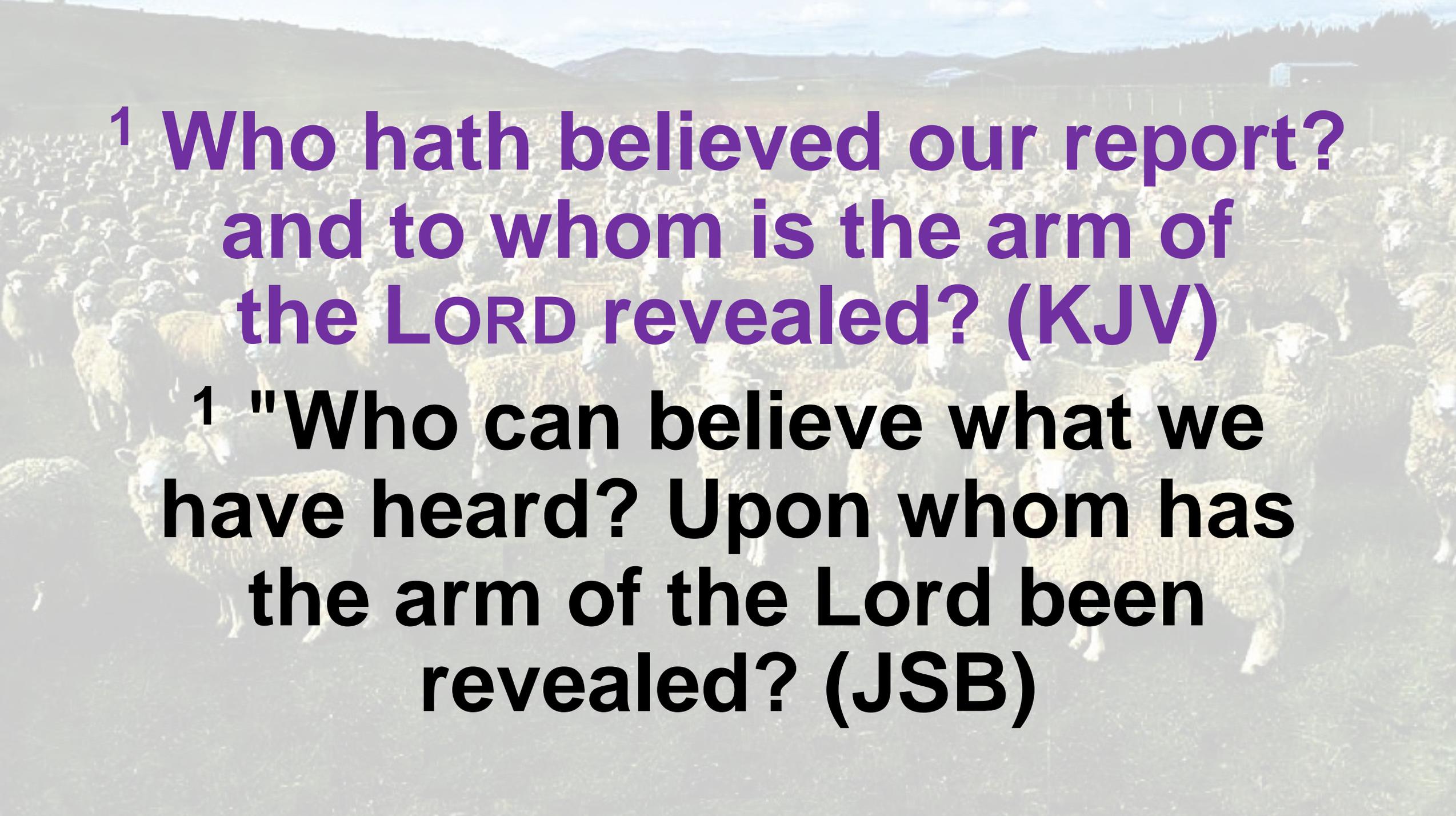
**(KJV) –King James  
Version**

**(JSB) –Jewish Study Bible**

A large flock of sheep is gathered in a green field. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a blue sky with some clouds. A small blue building is visible on the right side of the field.

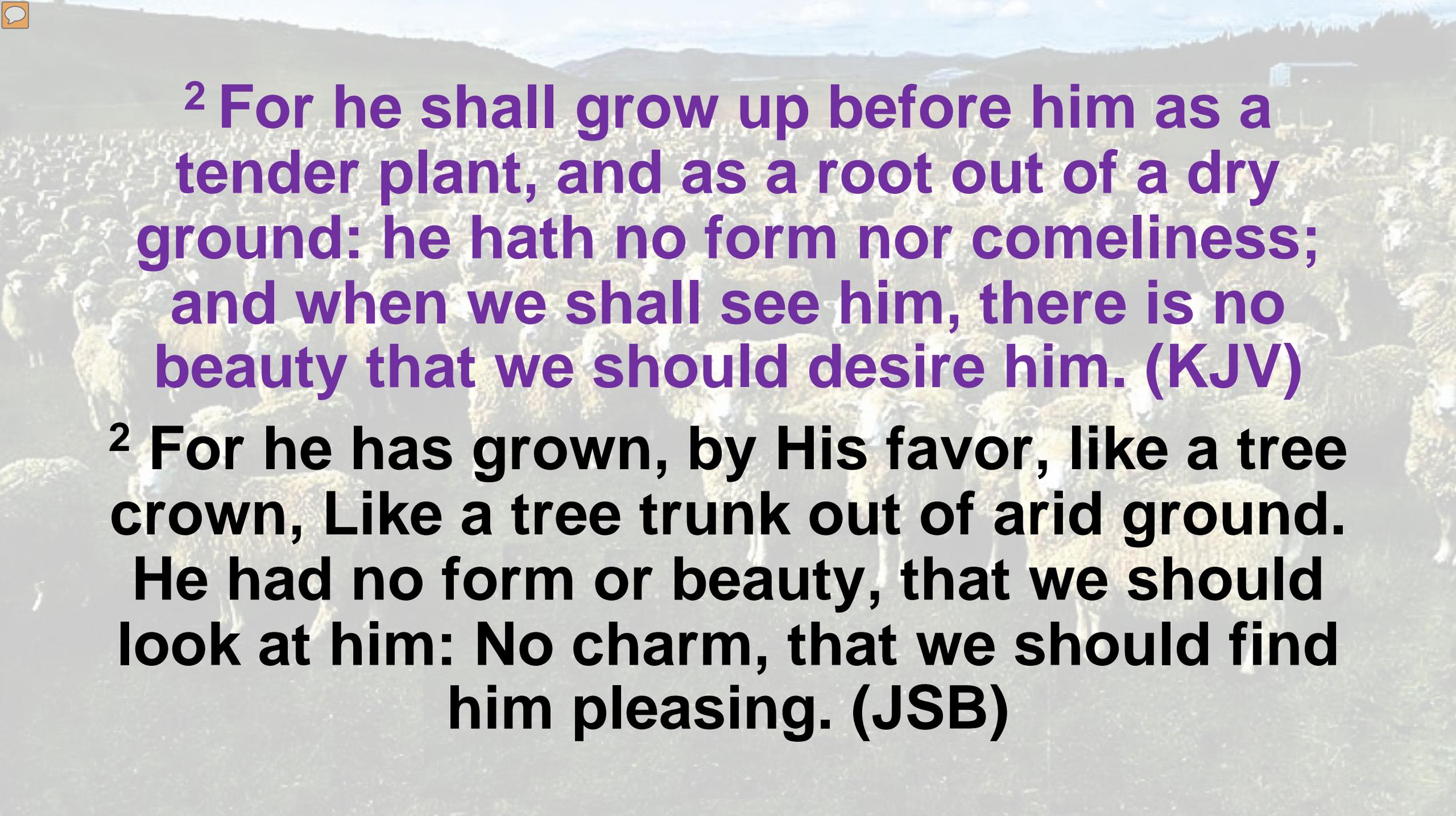
# Isaiah 53

**And now, you  
become the teacher:**

A large flock of sheep is gathered in a field, with rolling hills and mountains in the background under a clear sky. The sheep are densely packed, and their woolly texture is visible. The background shows a line of trees and a few buildings in the distance.

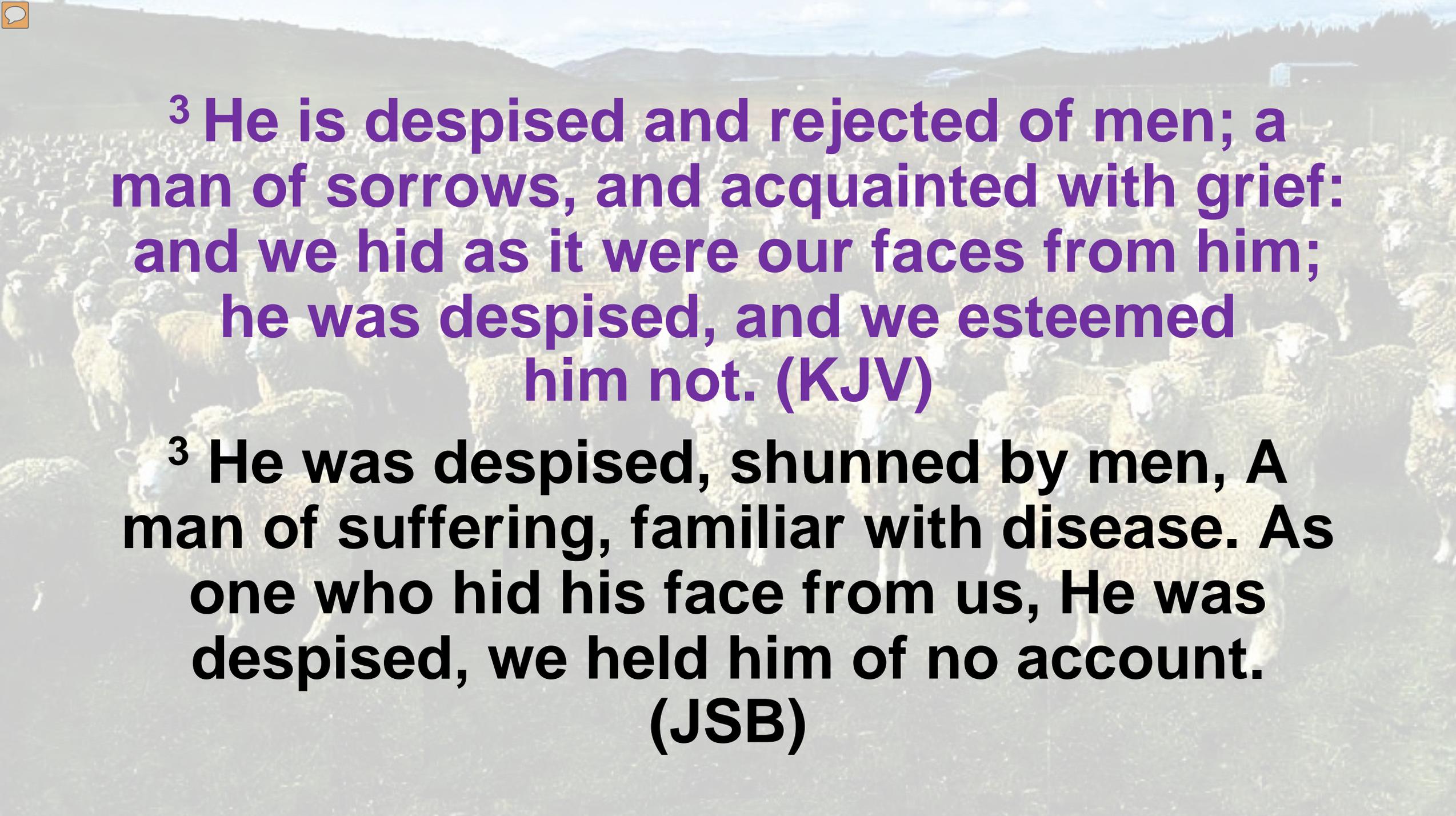
**1 Who hath believed our report?  
and to whom is the arm of  
the LORD revealed? (KJV)**

**1 "Who can believe what we  
have heard? Upon whom has  
the arm of the Lord been  
revealed? (JSB)**



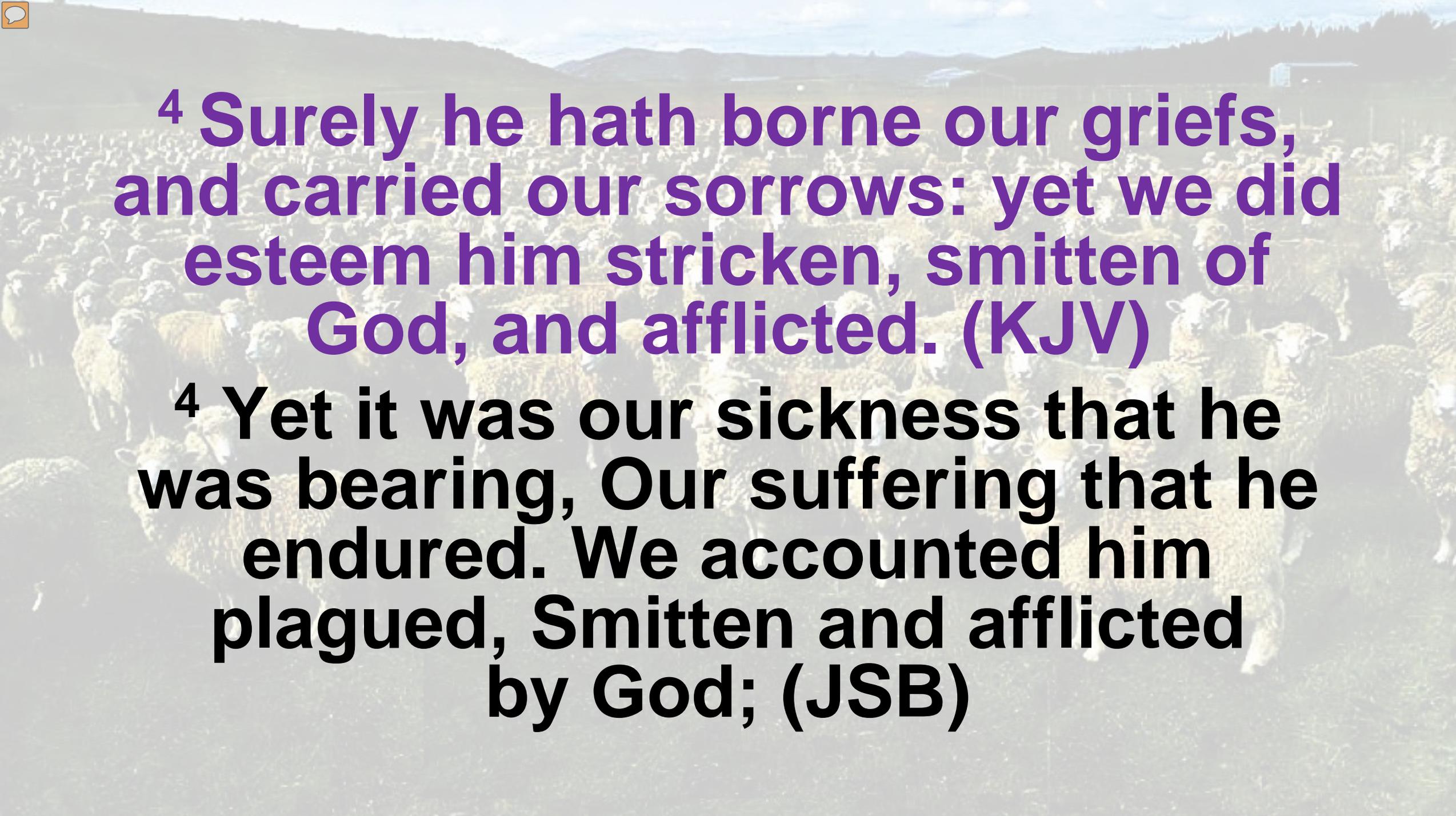
**<sup>2</sup> For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. (KJV)**

**<sup>2</sup> For he has grown, by His favor, like a tree crown, Like a tree trunk out of arid ground. He had no form or beauty, that we should look at him: No charm, that we should find him pleasing. (JSB)**



**<sup>3</sup> He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (KJV)**

**<sup>3</sup> He was despised, shunned by men, A man of suffering, familiar with disease. As one who hid his face from us, He was despised, we held him of no account. (JSB)**

A large flock of sheep is gathered in a field, with rolling hills and mountains in the background under a clear sky. The sheep are in various shades of brown and white, and some are looking towards the camera. The overall scene is peaceful and pastoral.

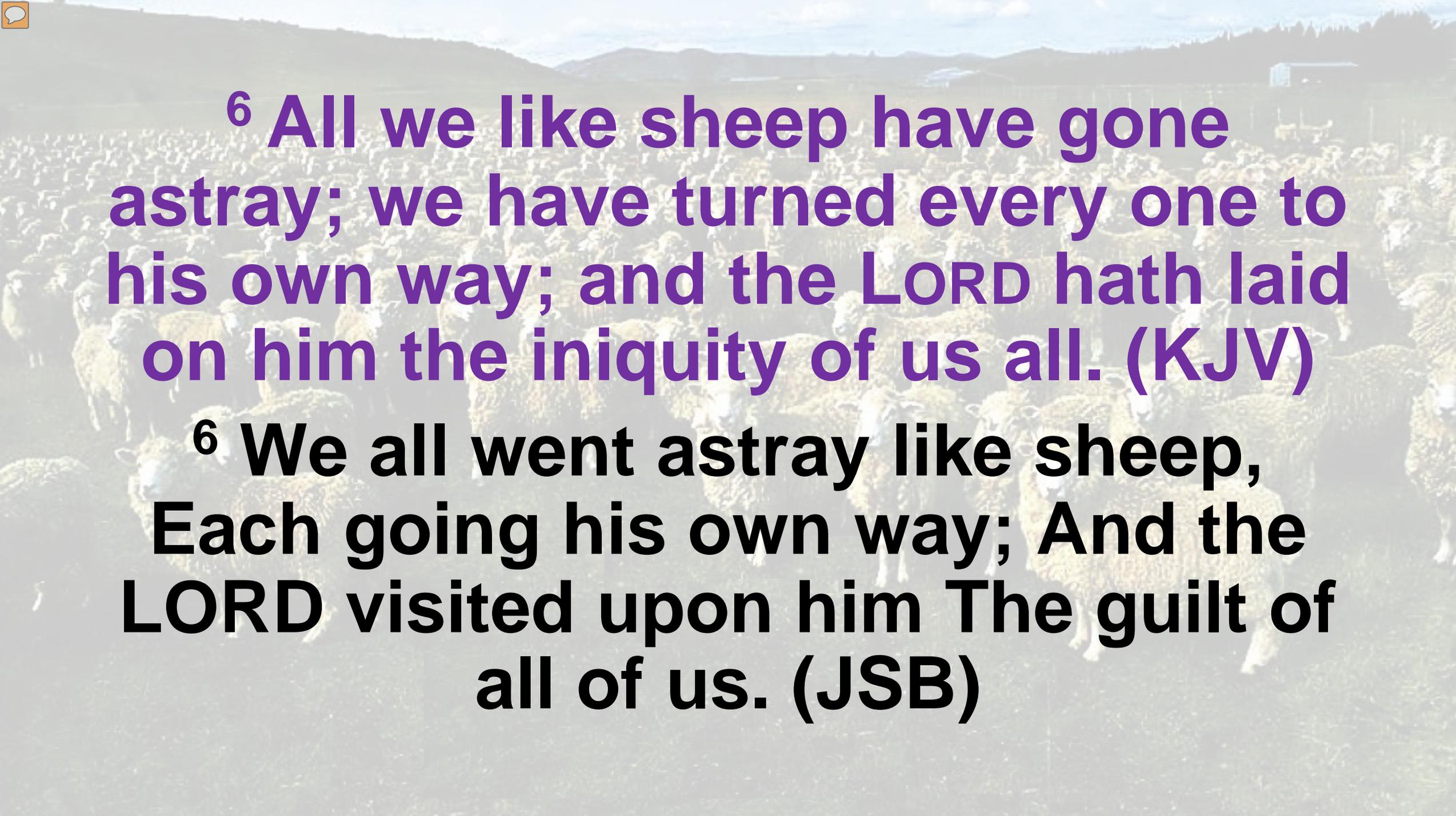
**4 Surely he hath borne our griefs,  
and carried our sorrows: yet we did  
esteem him stricken, smitten of  
God, and afflicted. (KJV)**

**4 Yet it was our sickness that he  
was bearing, Our suffering that he  
endured. We accounted him  
plagued, Smitten and afflicted  
by God; (JSB)**



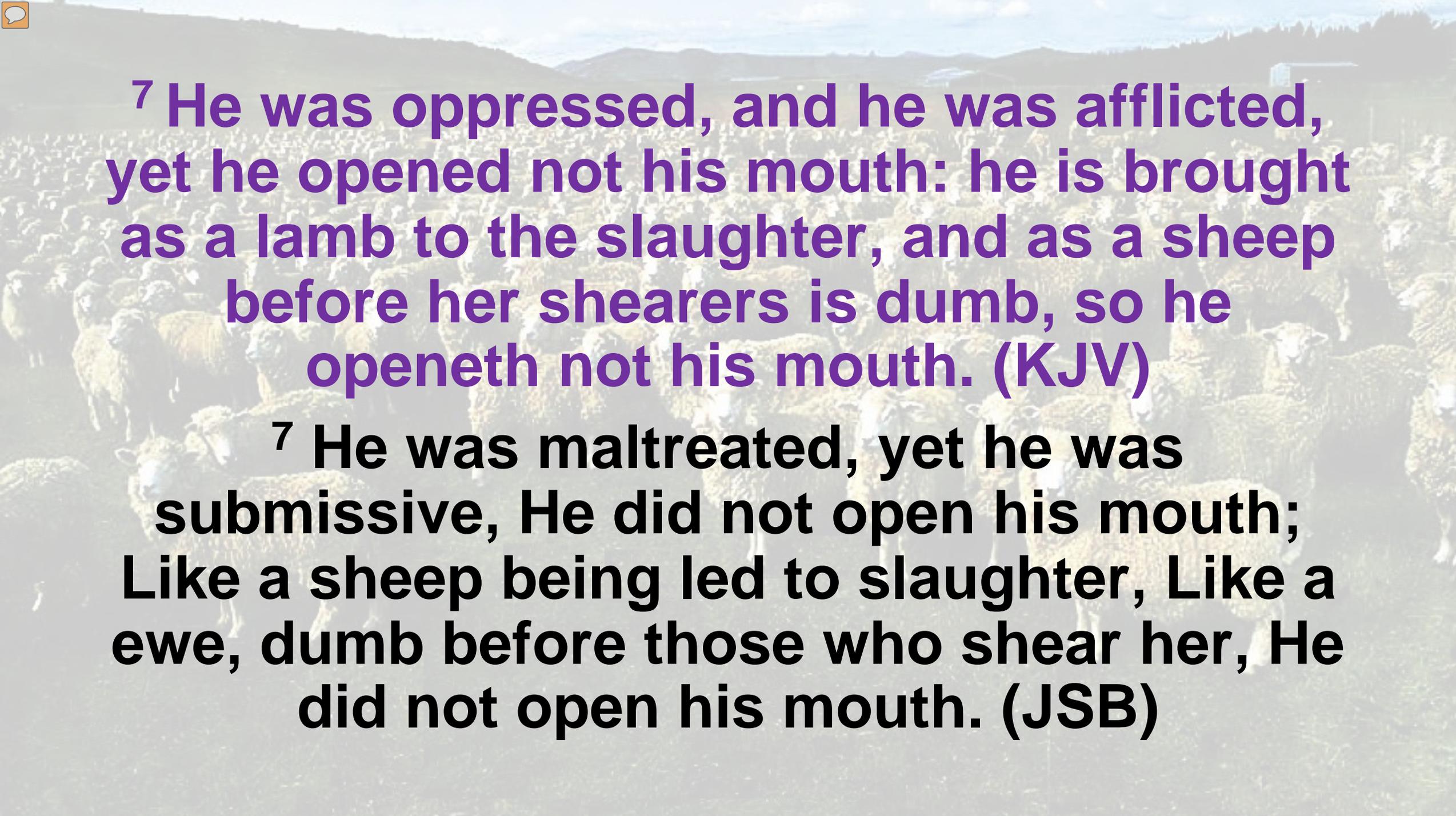
**5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (KJV)**

**5 But he was wounded because of our sins, Crushed because of our iniquities. He bore the chastisement that made us whole, And by his bruises we were healed. (JSB)**



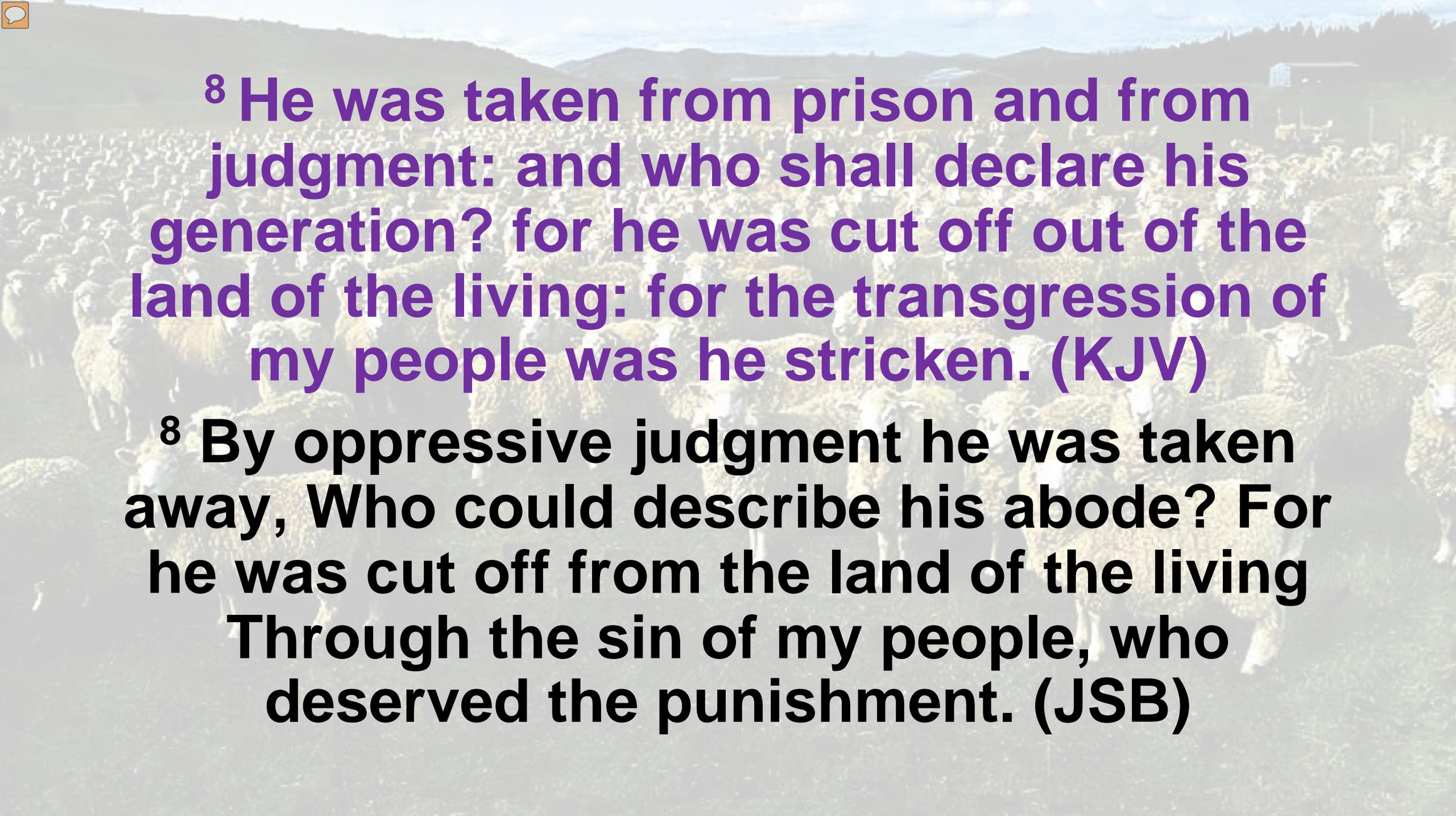
**<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone  
astray; we have turned every one to  
his own way; and the LORD hath laid  
on him the iniquity of us all. (KJV)**

**<sup>6</sup> We all went astray like sheep,  
Each going his own way; And the  
LORD visited upon him The guilt of  
all of us. (JSB)**



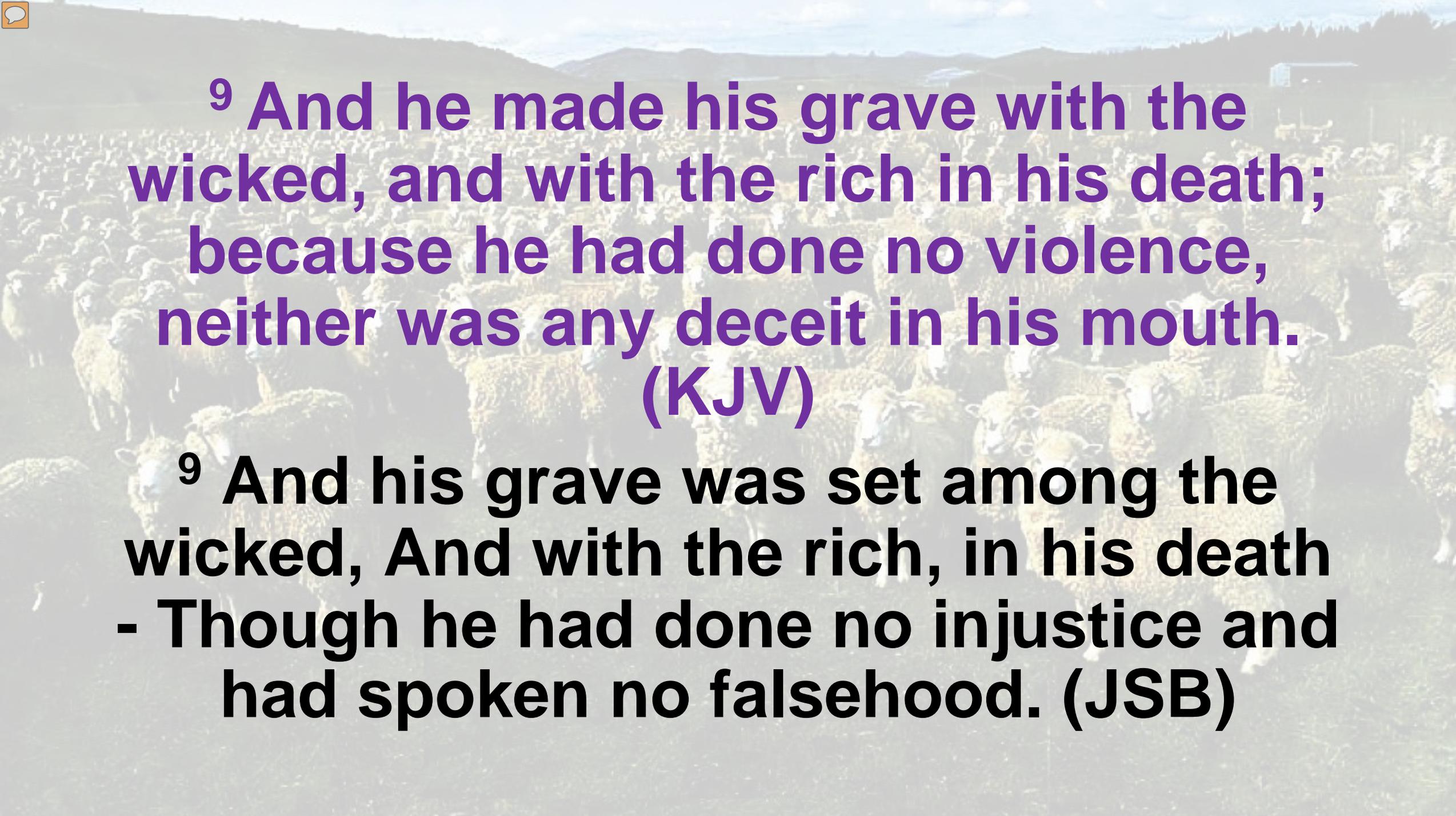
**<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought  
as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep  
before her shearers is dumb, so he  
openeth not his mouth. (KJV)**

**<sup>7</sup> He was maltreated, yet he was  
submissive, He did not open his mouth;  
Like a sheep being led to slaughter, Like a  
ewe, dumb before those who shear her, He  
did not open his mouth. (JSB)**



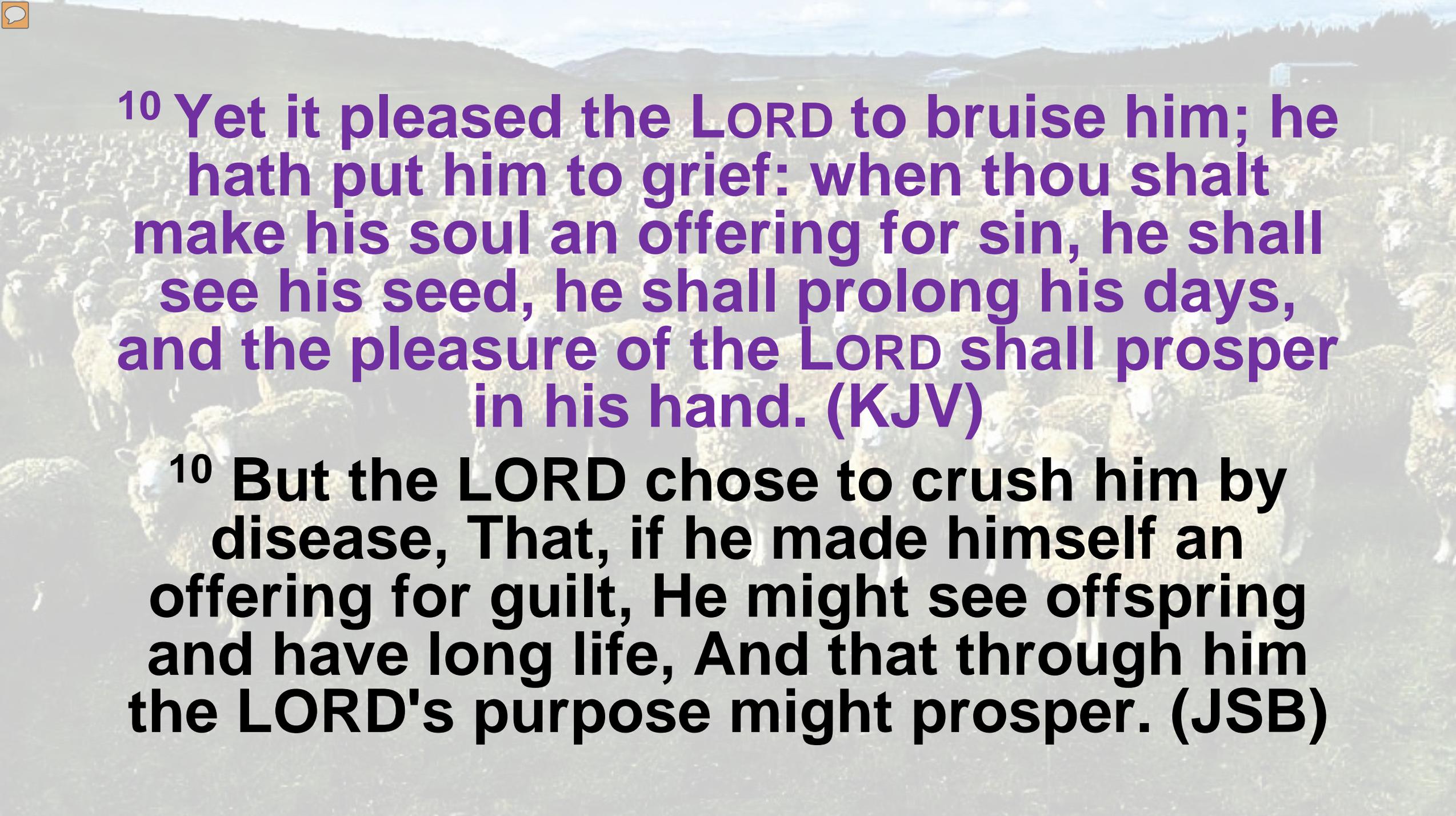
**<sup>8</sup> He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. (KJV)**

**<sup>8</sup> By oppressive judgment he was taken away, Who could describe his abode? For he was cut off from the land of the living Through the sin of my people, who deserved the punishment. (JSB)**



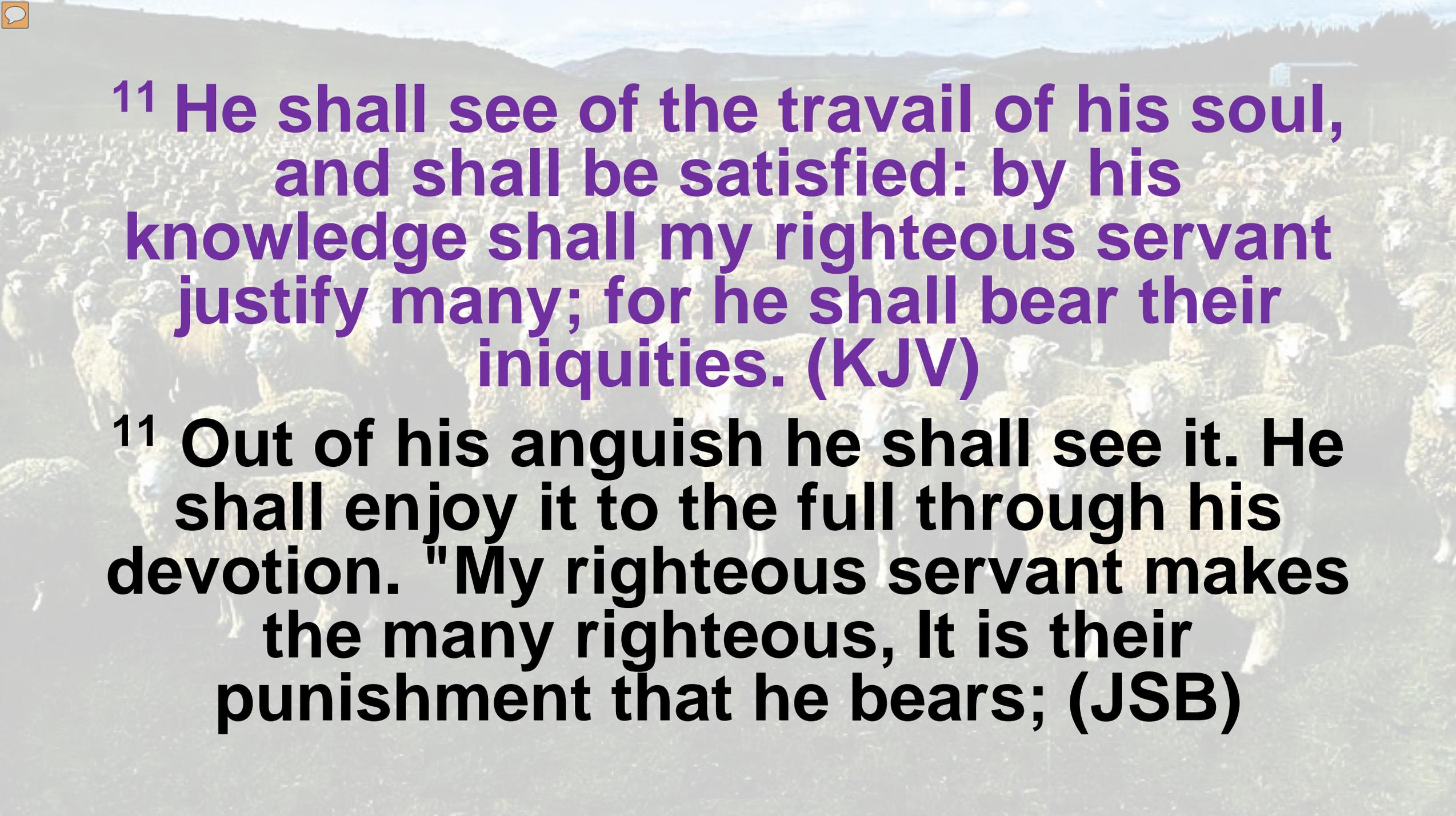
**<sup>9</sup> And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. (KJV)**

**<sup>9</sup> And his grave was set among the wicked, And with the rich, in his death - Though he had done no injustice and had spoken no falsehood. (JSB)**



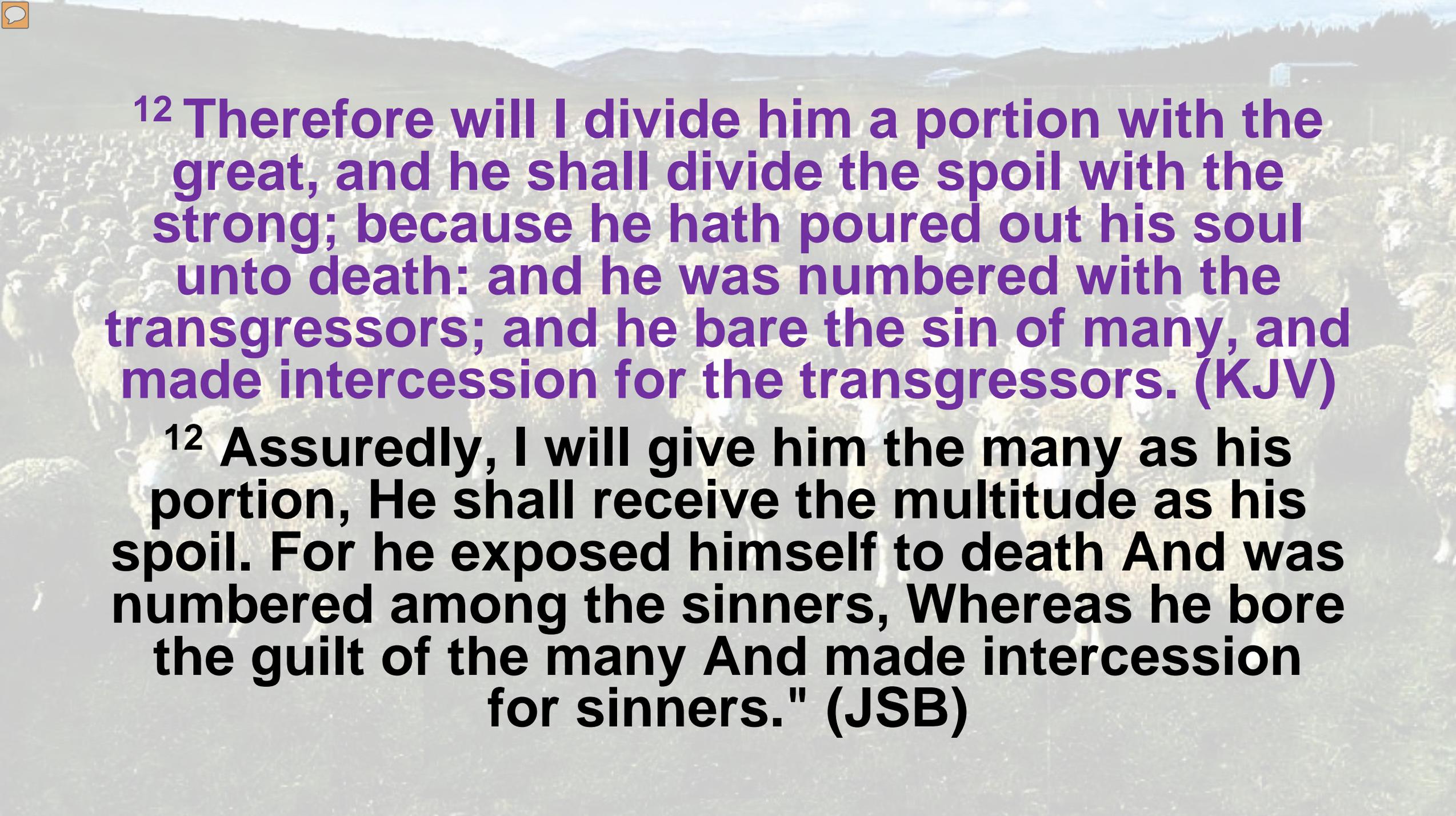
**10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. (KJV)**

**10 But the LORD chose to crush him by disease, That, if he made himself an offering for guilt, He might see offspring and have long life, And that through him the LORD's purpose might prosper. (JSB)**

A large flock of sheep is gathered in a field, with rolling hills and mountains in the background under a clear sky. The sheep are densely packed, and their woolly coats are visible. The background shows a range of mountains under a bright, slightly hazy sky.

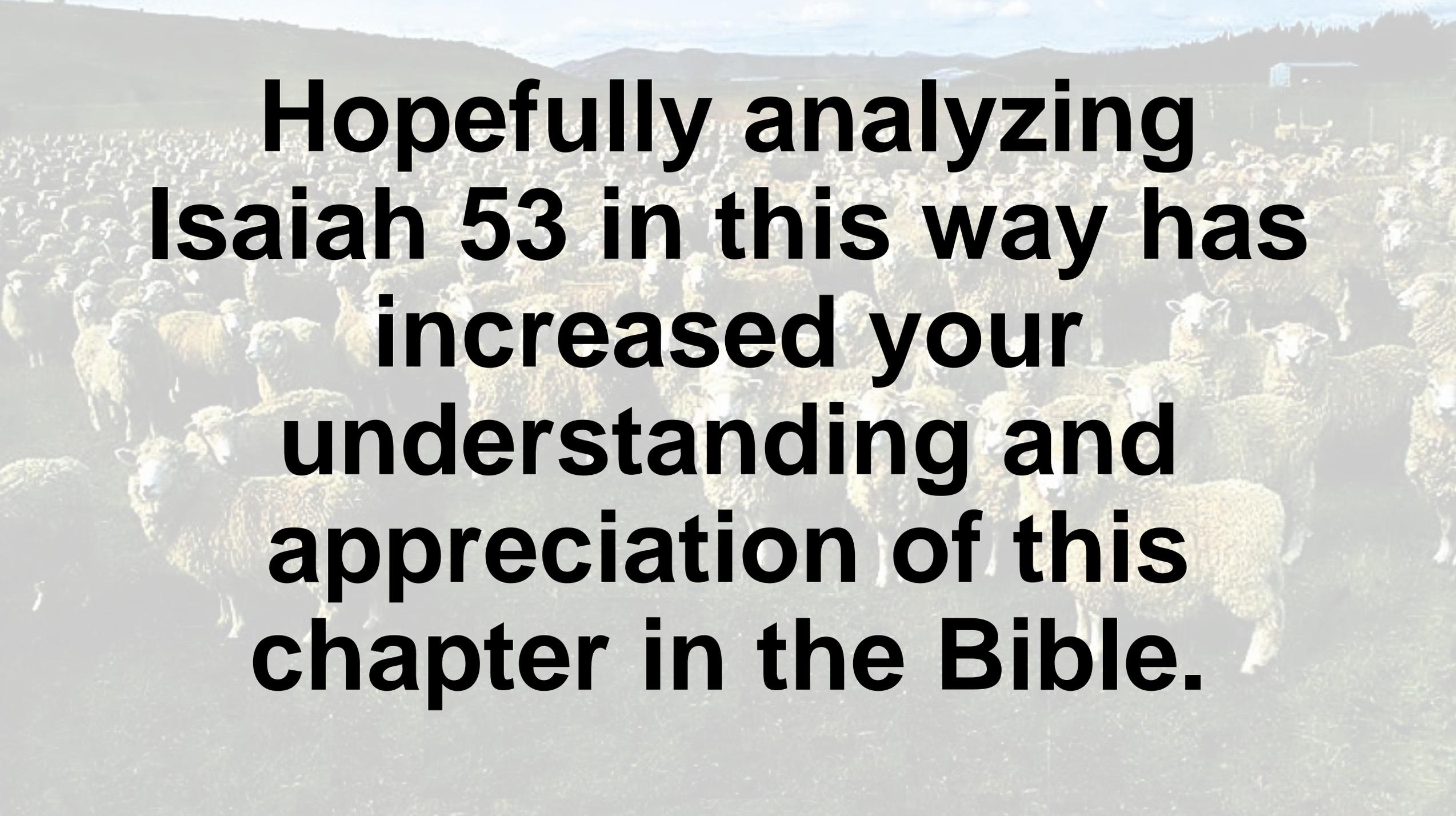
**11 He shall see of the travail of his soul,  
and shall be satisfied: by his  
knowledge shall my righteous servant  
justify many; for he shall bear their  
iniquities. (KJV)**

**11 Out of his anguish he shall see it. He  
shall enjoy it to the full through his  
devotion. "My righteous servant makes  
the many righteous, It is their  
punishment that he bears; (JSB)**

A large crowd of people is gathered in a field, with mountains in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

**<sup>12</sup> Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (KJV)**

**<sup>12</sup> Assuredly, I will give him the many as his portion, He shall receive the multitude as his spoil. For he exposed himself to death And was numbered among the sinners, Whereas he bore the guilt of the many And made intercession for sinners." (JSB)**

A large flock of sheep is gathered in a field, with rolling hills and mountains in the background under a clear sky. The sheep are of various colors, including white, brown, and black. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, black font.

**Hopefully analyzing  
Isaiah 53 in this way has  
increased your  
understanding and  
appreciation of this  
chapter in the Bible.**

## What are the four Servant Songs in Isaiah?

There are four “Servant Songs” of [Isaiah](#) that describe the service, suffering, and exaltation of the [Servant of the Lord](#), the Messiah. All four songs show the Messiah to be God’s meek and gentle Servant. He is a royal figure, representing Israel in its ideal form; He is the high priest, atoning for the sins of the world. Isaiah predicts that this Servant of the Lord would deliver the world from the prison of sin. In the royal terminology of the ancient Near East, a servant was a “trusted envoy,” a “confidential representative,” or “one who is chosen.” The Servant Songs are found in [Isaiah 42:1–9](#); [Isaiah 49:1–13](#); [Isaiah 50:4–11](#); and [Isaiah 52:13—53:12](#).

Isaiah initially identifies God’s servant as Israel (41:8; 44:1–2), who serves as God’s witness (43:10) and as a light to the Gentiles. Yet Israel could not fulfill this mission: Israel was deaf, blind (42:19), and in need of God’s forgiveness (44:21–22). Israel failed again and again. By contrast, God’s Servant, the Messiah, faithfully completes all the work He is given to do (cf. [Luke 13:32](#); [John 17:4](#)). The Servant of the Lord is God’s faithful and true witness to humanity.

In [Acts 3:13](#) Peter calls Jesus the “servant” of God. That verse says, in part, “The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus.” Peter’s description of Jesus as a “servant” is accurate for at least four reasons:

- 1) Jesus always did the will of the Father ([John 4:34](#); [6:38](#)).
- 2) Jesus never sought to please Himself but always to please the Father ([John 5:30](#)).
- 3) Jesus finished the work that God had sent Him to do ([John 17:4](#)).

4) Jesus came to glorify the Father ([John 13:31](#); [17:4](#)).

Additionally, Peter's reference to Jesus as the "servant of God" would have brought to the minds of his Jewish hearers the passages in Isaiah that describe the Messiah as the "Servant of the Lord." Here is a brief look at the four Servant Songs in Isaiah:

**Isaiah 42:1–9. This first of the four Servant Songs introduces us to the Servant of the LORD:**

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom I delight;  
I will put my Spirit on him,  
and he will bring justice to the nations.  
He will not shout or cry out,  
or raise his voice in the streets.  
[A bruised reed he will not break](#),  
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.  
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;  
he will not falter or be discouraged  
till he establishes justice on earth.  
In his teaching the islands will put their hope" (verses 1–4).

According to this song, the Servant of the Lord is chosen by God, and God delights in Him. The Servant has the Spirit of God abiding on Him. The first four verses of this passage are specifically applied to Jesus in [Matthew 12:18–21](#).

When Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan, the Spirit of God descended upon Him, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." This was a divine allusion to [Isaiah 42](#). The clear teaching of the New Testament is that Jesus Christ is the Servant in the Servant Song prophecies.

**Isaiah 49:1–13. This second of the four Servant Songs speaks of the Messiah’s work in the world and His success.** The Servant’s statement that “before I was born the Lord called me” (verse 1) uses language similar to the call of the prophet Jeremiah ([Jeremiah 1:5](#)). The reference in [Isaiah 49:2](#) to the mouth of the Servant of the LORD being “like a sharpened sword” is a prophetic image that crops up several times in the New Testament ([Ephesians 6:17](#); [Hebrews 4:12](#); [Revelation 1:16](#); [2:12](#), [16](#); [19:15](#)).

In the second Servant Song, the Messiah displays God’s splendor (verse 3), restores God’s people (verse 6), and is honored in God’s eyes (verse 5). Significantly, the Messiah feels a great loss: “I have labored in vain; / I have spent my strength for nothing at all” (verse 4), yet He receives worldwide acclaim in the end:

“To him who was despised and abhorred by the nation,  
to the servant of rulers:  
‘Kings will see you and stand up,  
princes will see and bow down’” (verse 7).

The Servant of the Lord will oversee the restoration of the land and the establishing of a peaceful kingdom (verses 8–13). The Messiah will be the agent of the Lord’s comfort to His people (verse 13).

In addition to being the One to restore the land of Israel (verse 8), the Messiah is chosen to redeem the Gentiles:

“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant  
to restore the tribes of Jacob  
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.  
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,  
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth” (verse 6).

In this way, God's salvation is brought to all people. Christ Jesus is "the light of the world" ([Luke 2:30–32](#); [John 8:12](#); [9:5](#)) and the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies. On their first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas bring the gospel to the Gentiles in Antioch, and they quote [Isaiah 49:6](#). The response of the Gentiles in Antioch is pure joy: "When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord" ([Acts 13:48](#)). In Christ both Jews and Gentiles are made one ([Ephesians 2:11–18](#)).

**Isaiah 50:4–11. This third Servant Song contrasts Israel's sin with the Servant's obedience.** We also see that the Messiah will be persecuted yet vindicated. The verses preceding this song ([Isaiah 50:1–3](#)) liken Israel to an immoral wife; only God has the power to ransom her back. Starting in verse 4, the Servant responds to the instruction of God. He is not rebellious (verse 5), even when His obedience to God results in suffering:

"I offered my back to those who beat me,  
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from mocking and spitting" (verse 6).

The Servant of the Lord expresses His confidence that God will help Him and that He will be found innocent (verses 7–9). In this confidence, the Messiah resolves to see His task to completion, no matter how difficult the road becomes (cf. [Luke 9:51](#)).

Some 700 years later, Jesus fulfilled this prophecy, too. Abuse and insults were heaped upon our Lord as He was thrown to the Roman soldiers. His back was beaten, His face was hit, and He was spit upon (see [John 19:1–3](#); [Matthew 27:30](#)). The Lord Jesus was obedient unto death ([Philippians 2:8](#)), and the Father vindicated His Suffering Servant by resurrecting Him. "Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, / I will not be disgraced" ([Isaiah 52:7](#)).

**Isaiah 52:13—53:12. This climactic [fourth Servant Song](#) describes the suffering and triumph of the Servant of the LORD. It is also one of the most detailed passages in the Old Testament concerning the [death and resurrection of the Messiah](#).**

The song begins with a promise that the Servant will be exalted ([Isaiah 52:13](#)), but then immediately turns to a description of extreme violence:

“His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness” ([Isaiah 52:14](#)).

The Messiah will be “despised and rejected by mankind” ([Isaiah 53:3](#)). When He is brutally punished, people will assume that He is being afflicted by God (verse 4). But the fourth Servant Song makes it clear why He endures such persecution:

“He was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed” (verse 5).

It is *our* iniquity being placed on *Him* that explains His suffering (verse 6). Verse 7 predicts that the Messiah will be silent before His accusers (cf. [Matthew 27:14](#)). Verse 9 says that, although the Servant of the Lord is innocent, He will die with the wicked and be “with the rich in his death.”

[Isaiah 53:10](#) tells us why the Servant dies:

“It was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer,  
and...the Lord makes his life an offering for sin.”

This is the [substitutionary atonement](#). His life for ours. The death of the Messiah accomplished the will of God concerning our salvation.

Immediately following the prophecy of the Servant's death, Isaiah makes a startling prophecy of the Servant's victory:

“[The Lord] will see his offspring and prolong his days,  
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.  
After he has suffered,  
he will see the light of life and be satisfied. . . .  
Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,  
and he will divide the spoils with the strong” (verses 10–12).

So, in the fourth Servant Song, death is not the end for the Servant. *After* He suffers, He will “see the light of life.” He will “divide the spoils.” His days will be prolonged. What we have here is a prophecy of the resurrection of Christ.

The whole of [Isaiah 53](#) is a poignant and prophetic picture of the gospel. Jesus was despised and rejected by men ([Luke 13:34](#); [John 1:10–11](#)); He was stricken by God ([Matthew 27:46](#)) and pierced for our transgressions ([John 19:34](#); [1 Peter 2:24](#)). By His suffering, Jesus received the punishment we deserved and became for us the ultimate and perfect sacrifice ([Hebrews 10:10](#)). Although His Son was sinless, God laid on Him our sin, and we became God's righteousness in Him ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)). Jesus was silent in front of His accusers ([Matthew 27:12, 14](#); [1 Peter 2:23](#)). Jesus was crucified between two thieves yet buried in a rich man's tomb ([Matthew 27:38, 57–60](#)). In the Suffering Servant's humiliation and final exaltation, He reconciles humanity with God ([Matthew 8:17](#); [Acts 8:30–35](#); [Romans 10:15–17](#); [15:21](#); [1 Peter 2:24–25](#)).

As the Ethiopian eunuch is traveling home in his chariot, he is reading from one of the Servant Songs ([Acts 8:32–33](#)). The eunuch was unsure of whom Isaiah was speaking—was it the prophet himself, or another man? Philip the evangelist had the privilege of using [Isaiah 53](#) to point the Ethiopian to Christ: “Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus” ([Acts 8:35](#)). Without a doubt, the four Servant Songs in Isaiah are about Jesus. Our Lord is the theme of Scripture.

