



# Seeking the Heart of God

“The God Who Allows Suffering”

# Do We Have A Little Of Charlie Brown In Us?



@PEANUTSSPECIALS



A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, some of which are illuminated from below, creating a vibrant orange and red glow. In the background, several mountain peaks are visible, their tops also catching the low light. The foreground features a calm body of water that perfectly reflects the colors of the sky and the mountains. On the right side, a wooden dock extends into the water, supported by several vertical posts. A small, dark figure of a person is standing on the dock, looking out towards the mountains. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Would You Like A Little Cheese  
With That Whine?

From A  
FaceBook  
Post

WHO KNEW THAT THE  
HARDEST PART OF  
BEING AN ADULT IS  
FIGURING OUT WHAT  
TO COOK FOR DINNER  
EVERY SINGLE NIGHT  
FOR THE REST OF  
YOUR LIFE UNTIL YOU DIE

# Inconveniences And Irritations Are Not The Same As Suffering.

- There is pain and there is **PAIN!**
- There is suffering and there is **SUFFERING!**
- There is hunger and there is **HUNGER!**
- There is sadness and there is **HEARTACHE!**

*When we complain over the former,  
We lose credibility in the world of the latter.*

There Are  
First World “Problems”

And There Are  
Third World Problems.



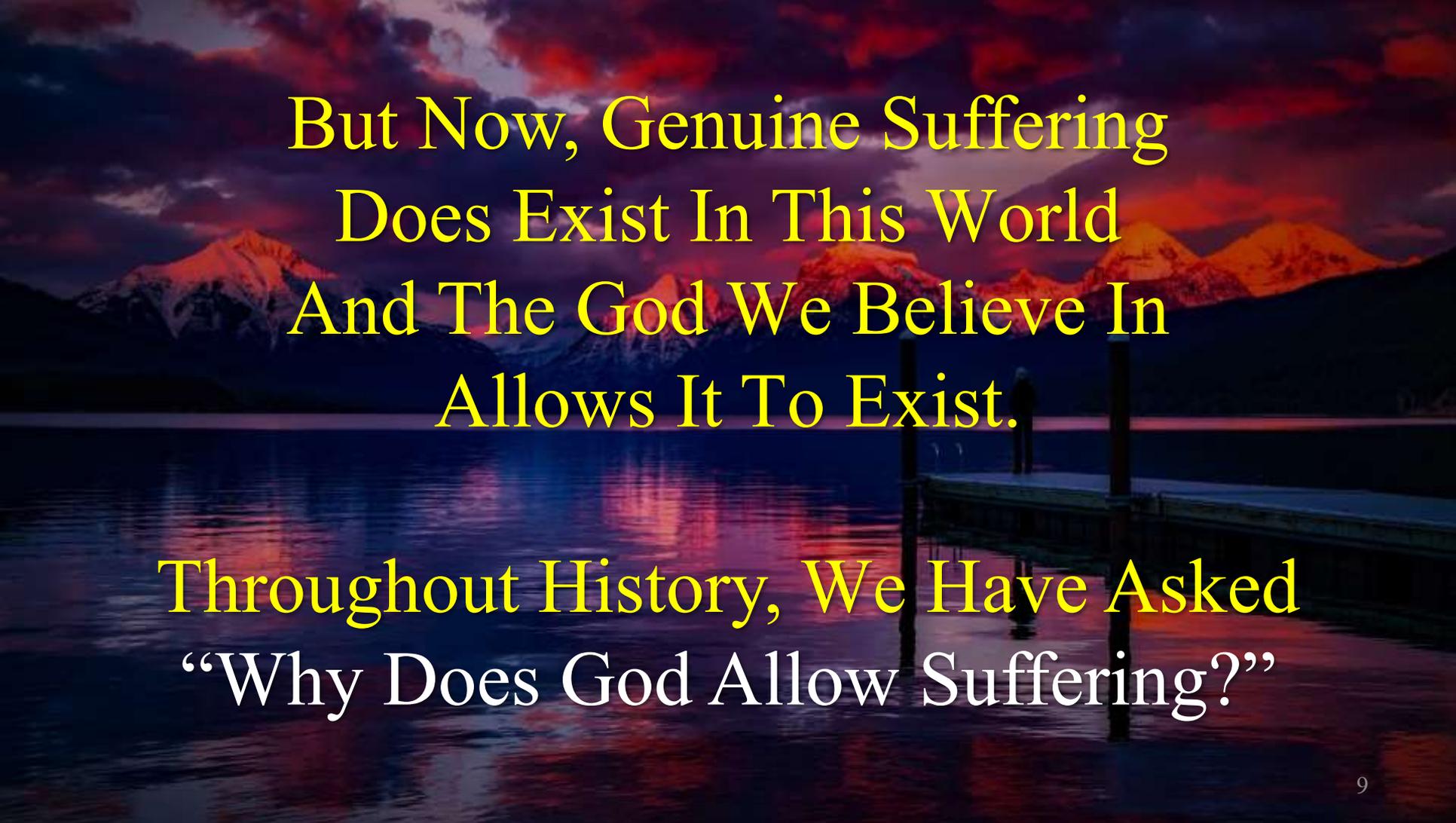
# The Cry of Why

- Why is there death and disease in the world?
- Why do natural disasters take people's lives?
- Why is there divorce, dishonesty, and murder?
- Why is there famine when there should be plenty?
  - Why is there lust and greed and theft?

# There Was A Time When Humanity Trusted And Obeyed God And There Was...

- No Death Or Disease.
- No Pain Or Suffering.
- No Lust, Greed Or Theft.
- No Hunger, Famine Or Pestilence.
- No Danger, Divorce, Or Dishonesty.
- No Global Warming Or Deadly Natural Disasters.

***Every Part Of Creation Was Good!***

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds tinged with orange and red. In the background, a range of mountains is visible, with some peaks covered in snow. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the colors of the sky. A wooden dock extends from the right side into the water, with a small figure of a person standing on it. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

But Now, Genuine Suffering  
Does Exist In This World  
And The God We Believe In  
Allows It To Exist.

Throughout History, We Have Asked  
“Why Does God Allow Suffering?”

## [The Short Answer]

Humanity Did Not Trust God  
And Sinned Against Him By Eating  
The Forbidden Fruit In The Garden Of Eden.  
Humanity Had Been Told The Consequence  
Of Eating That Fruit Was Death.



Thus, The World In Which We Live  
Is One...

*“Of Our Shaping,  
A World Under Judgment Because  
Of Our Wickedness.”*

*JM*

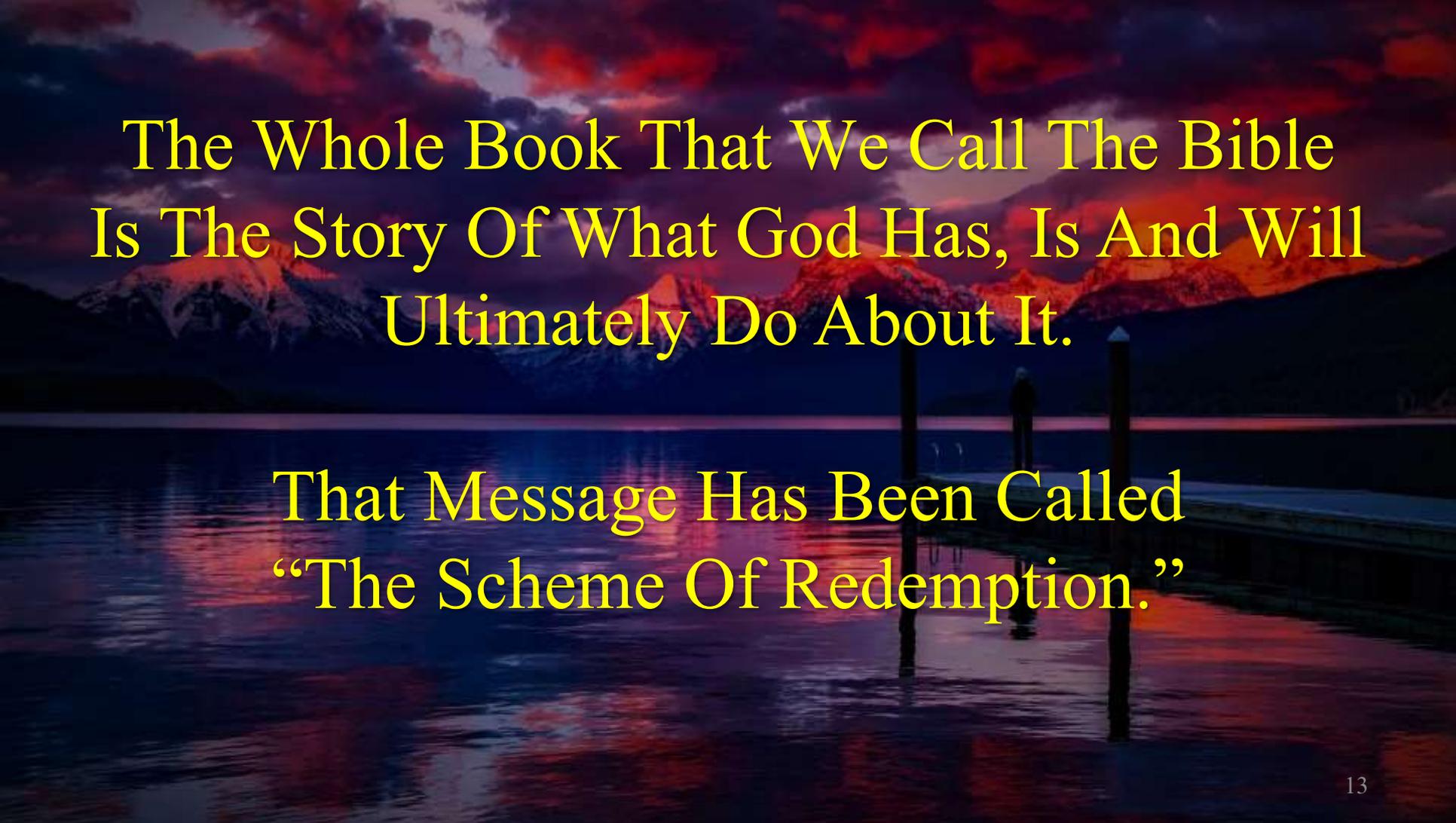
# Why Doesn't God Do Something About It?

[The Short Answer]

He Has!

He Is!

He Will!



The Whole Book That We Call The Bible  
Is The Story Of What God Has, Is And Will  
Ultimately Do About It.

That Message Has Been Called  
“The Scheme Of Redemption.”

# HE HAS – Sent His Son On A Rescue Mission To Save Us From Death.

John 3:16-17 (NLT2)

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

# By His Death, Burial And Resurrection, Jesus Freed Us From The Fear Of Death.

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NIV)

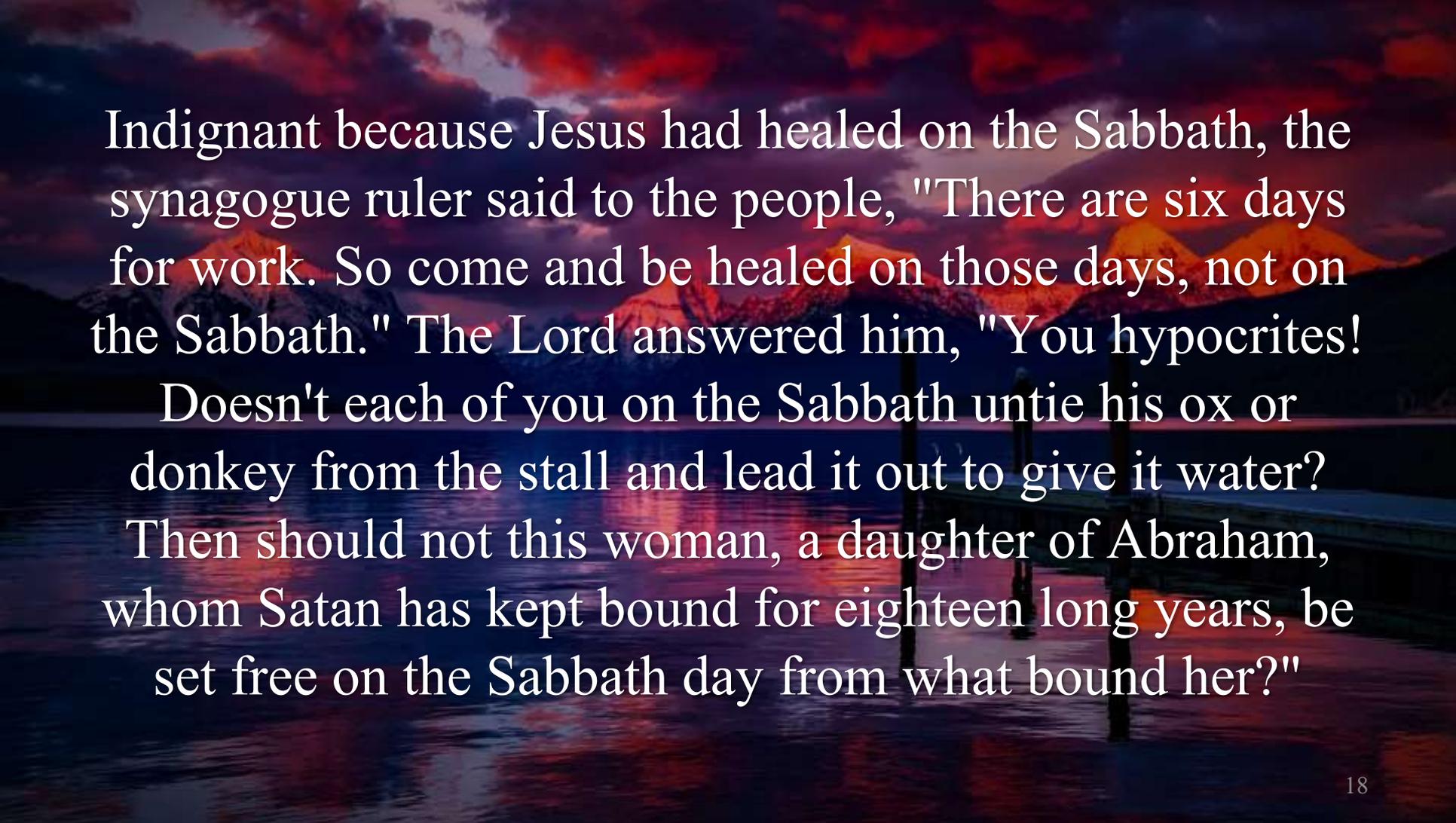
Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

# HE IS – With Us In Our Suffering.

Luke shows us that it hurt Jesus to see people in misery and it made him angry when people did not care about the suffering of others.

## Luke 13:10-16 (NIV)

On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.



Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath." The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites!

Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"

## 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (NIV)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

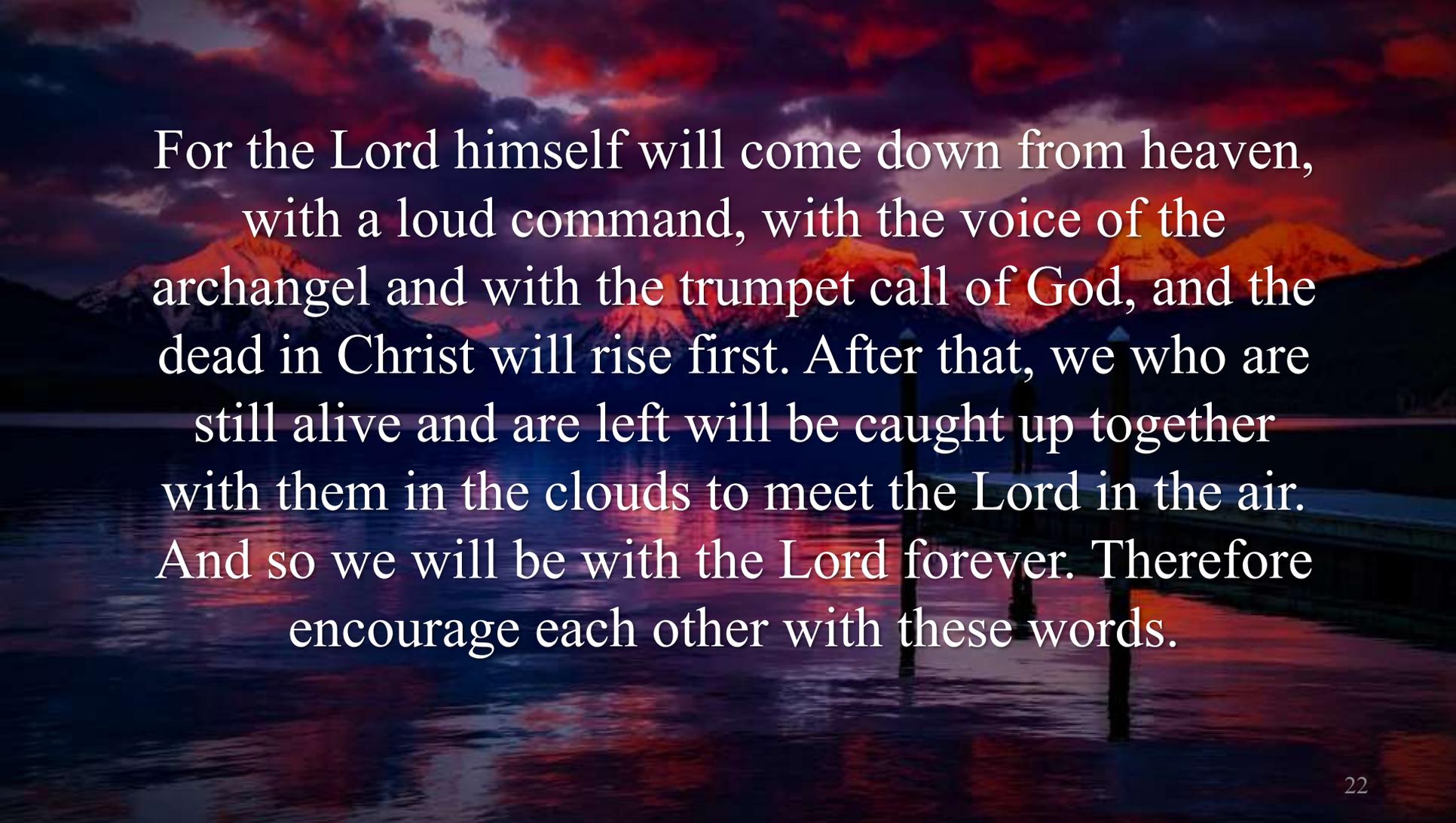
# HE Will – Come Back And Take Us Home

John 14:1-4a (NIV)

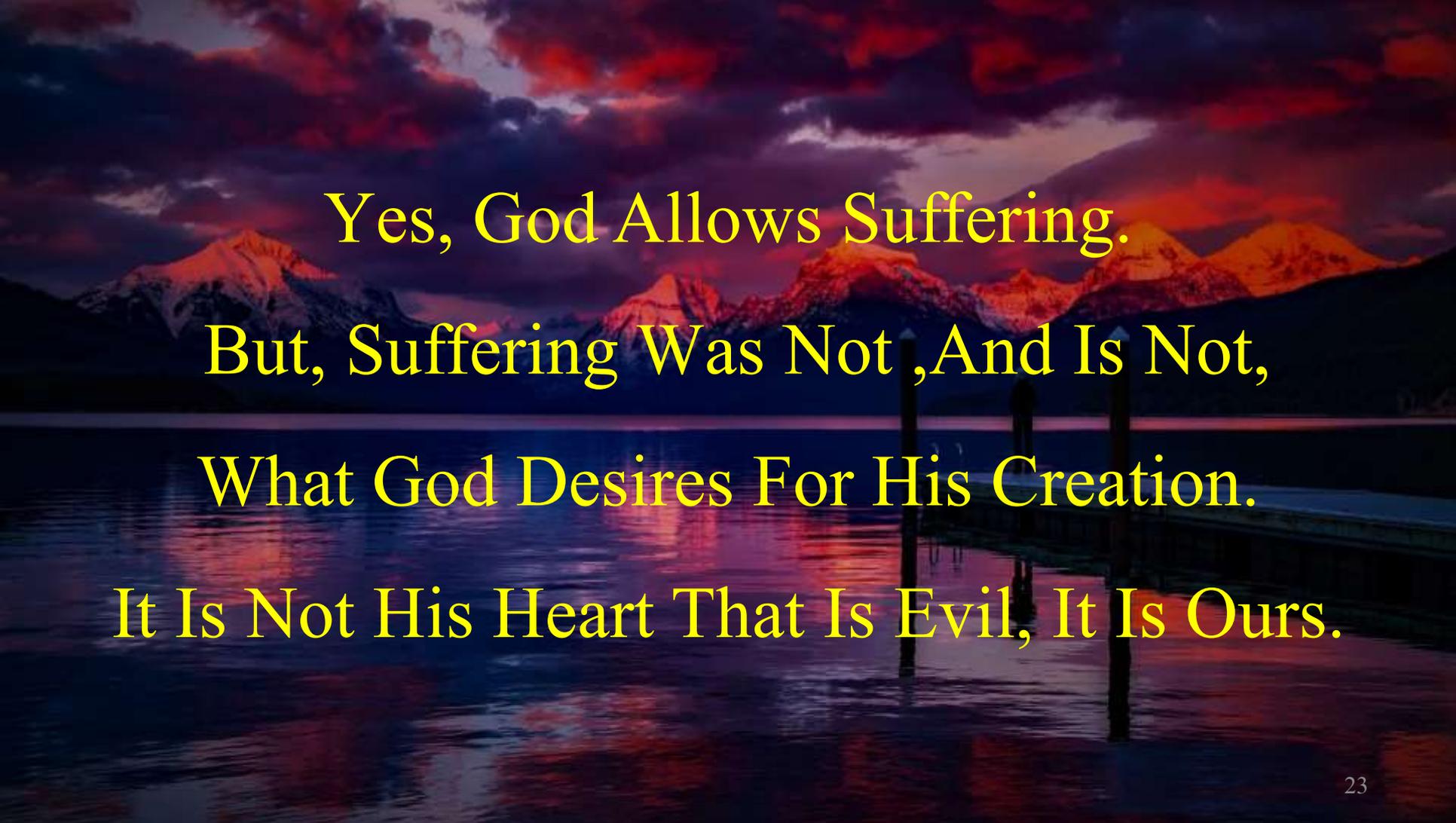
"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am..."

# 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV)

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.



For the Lord himself will come down from heaven,  
with a loud command, with the voice of the  
archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the  
dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are  
still alive and are left will be caught up together  
with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.  
And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore  
encourage each other with these words.



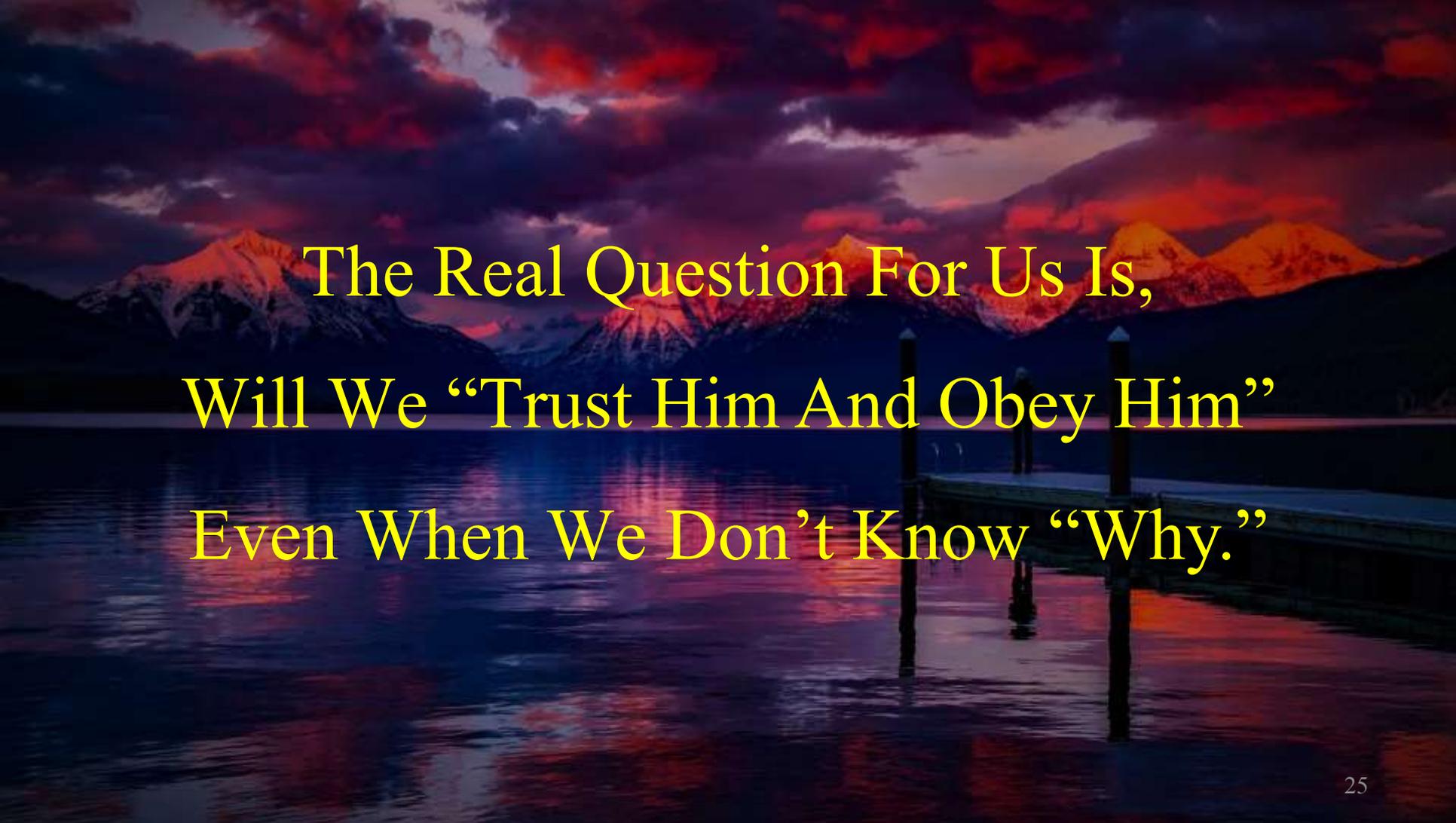
Yes, God Allows Suffering.  
But, Suffering Was Not ,And Is Not,  
What God Desires For His Creation.  
It Is Not His Heart That Is Evil, It Is Ours.

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, some illuminated with a reddish-orange glow from the low sun. In the background, several mountain peaks are visible, some with snow or light-colored rock. The foreground shows a calm body of water reflecting the colors of the sky and mountains. On the right side, a wooden dock extends into the water, with a person standing on it, looking out towards the mountains.

He Has A Plan In The Works To End It.

He Is Suffering With Us And Seeking To  
Bring Us Comfort.

He Will Bring It To A Glorious End  
In The World To Come.

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, some of which are illuminated from below by the setting or rising sun, creating a vibrant orange and red glow. In the background, a range of mountains is visible, with the peaks and ridges catching the low light, appearing in shades of orange and red. The foreground features a calm body of water, likely a lake or a wide river, which reflects the colors of the sky and the mountains. On the right side of the image, a wooden pier or dock extends into the water, supported by several dark wooden posts. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

The Real Question For Us Is,  
Will We “Trust Him And Obey Him”  
Even When We Don’t Know “Why.”