

# Genesis

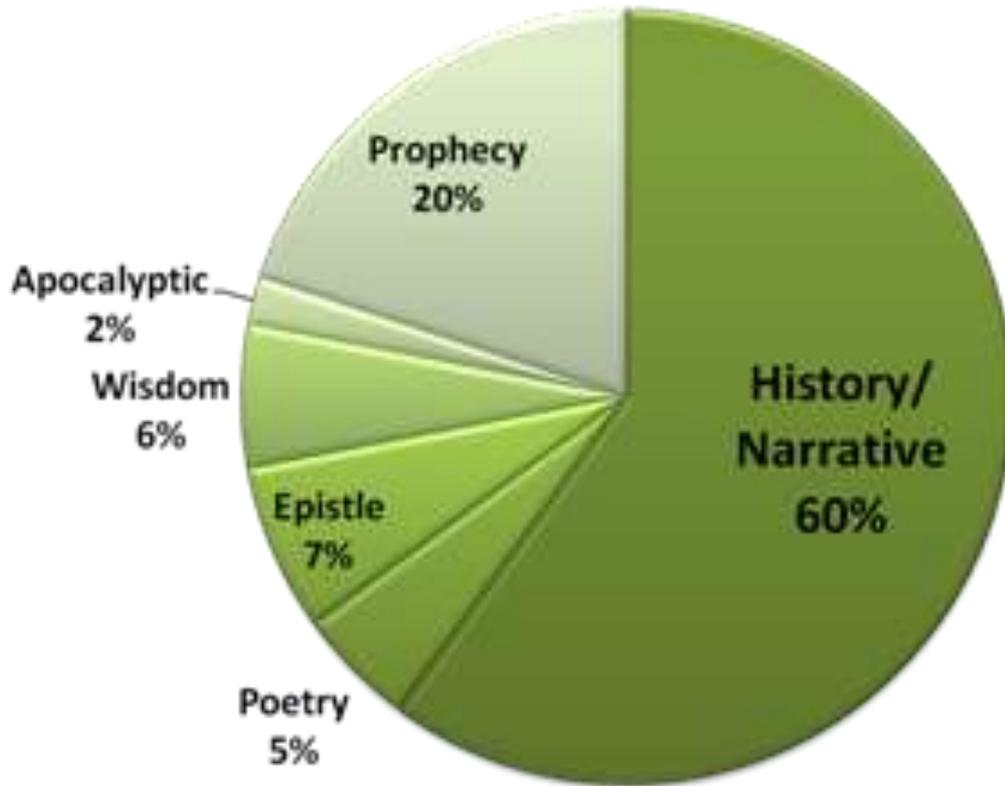
The Story of God And Humanity

# Romans 15:4 (NIV)

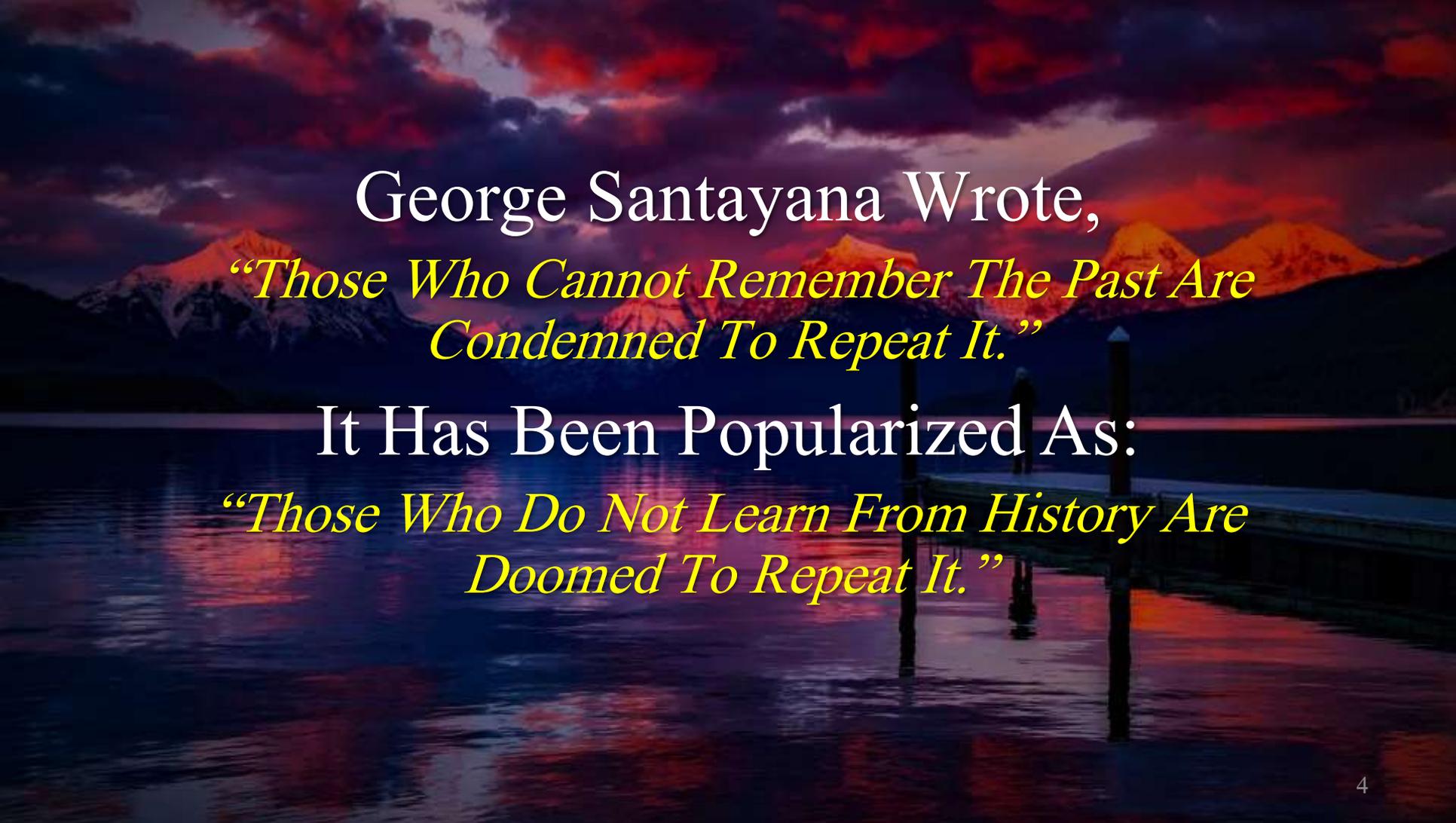
For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

How Do We Read And  
Apply The Scriptures  
In Their Various Literary Forms?

# The Form Or Genre Of Scripture Matters



**Genesis  
Is A  
Historical  
Narrative.**



George Santayana Wrote,

*“Those Who Cannot Remember The Past Are  
Condemned To Repeat It.”*

It Has Been Popularized As:

*“Those Who Do Not Learn From History Are  
Doomed To Repeat It.”*

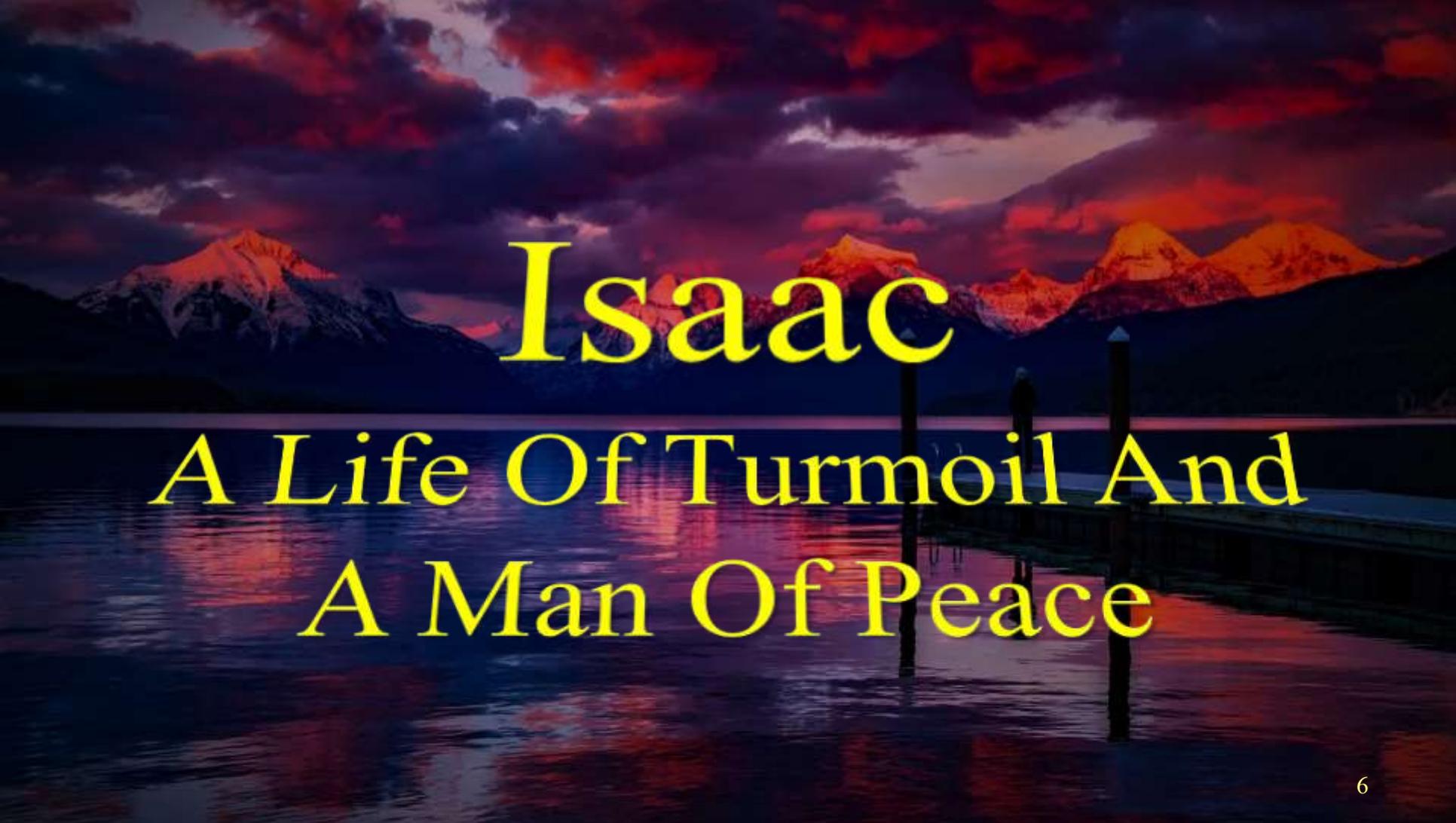
# What Does History Tell Us?

Is History Supposed To Tell Us What Occurred?

Or

Is History Supposed To Tell Us What Should  
Have Occurred?

# How Do We Learn From History?



# Isaac

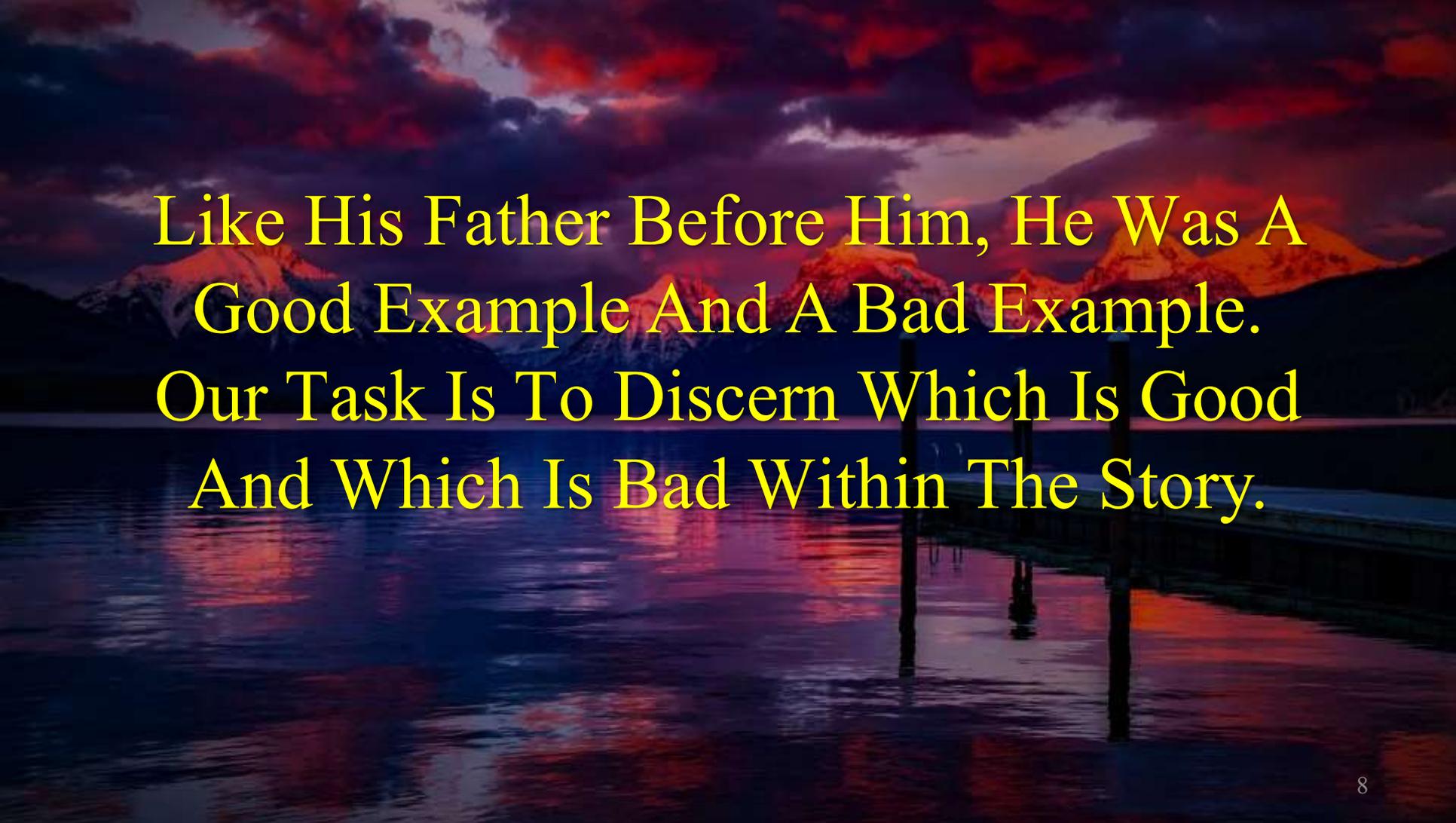
*A Life Of Turmoil And  
A Man Of Peace*

# What Do We Learn From Isaac

“Everybody Has Something To Offer  
To The Team.

If Nothing Else, You Can Serve As A  
Bad Example.”

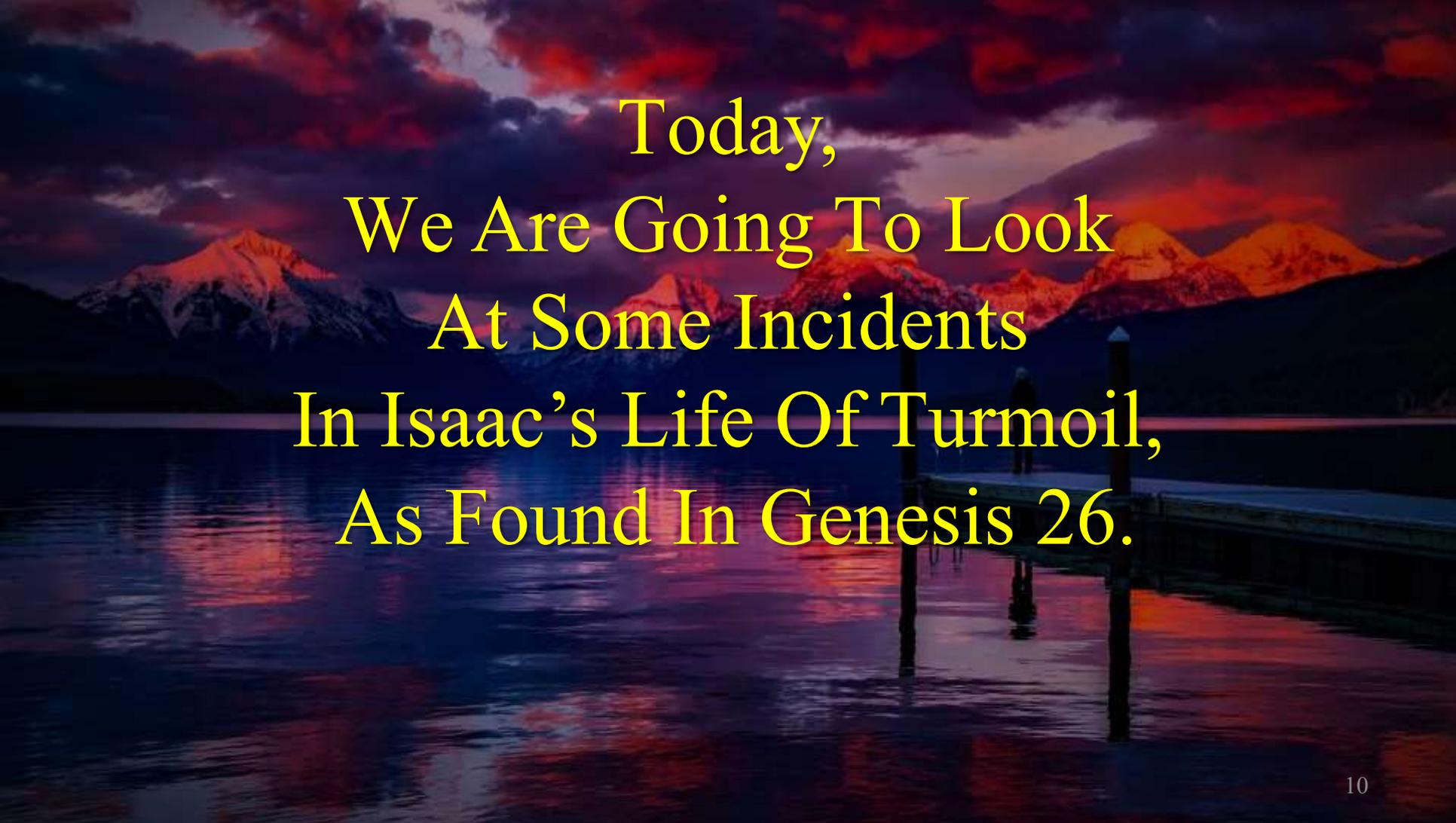
Jim White,  
Leadership Team Builder



Like His Father Before Him, He Was A  
Good Example And A Bad Example.  
Our Task Is To Discern Which Is Good  
And Which Is Bad Within The Story.

# Isaac: Some Basic Historical Facts

- He was a miracle baby, much like John the Baptist.
  - He was the son God promised to Abraham.
- He was the first to be circumcised on the eighth day.
  - He was the only son of Abraham and Sarah.
- He was the second of Israel's three Patriarchs and the only one whose name was not changed.
  - He was given the same promises as Abraham.
    - His name means "*he laughed.*"
  - He was the father of Esau and Jacob.



Today,  
We Are Going To Look  
At Some Incidents  
In Isaac's Life Of Turmoil,  
As Found In Genesis 26.

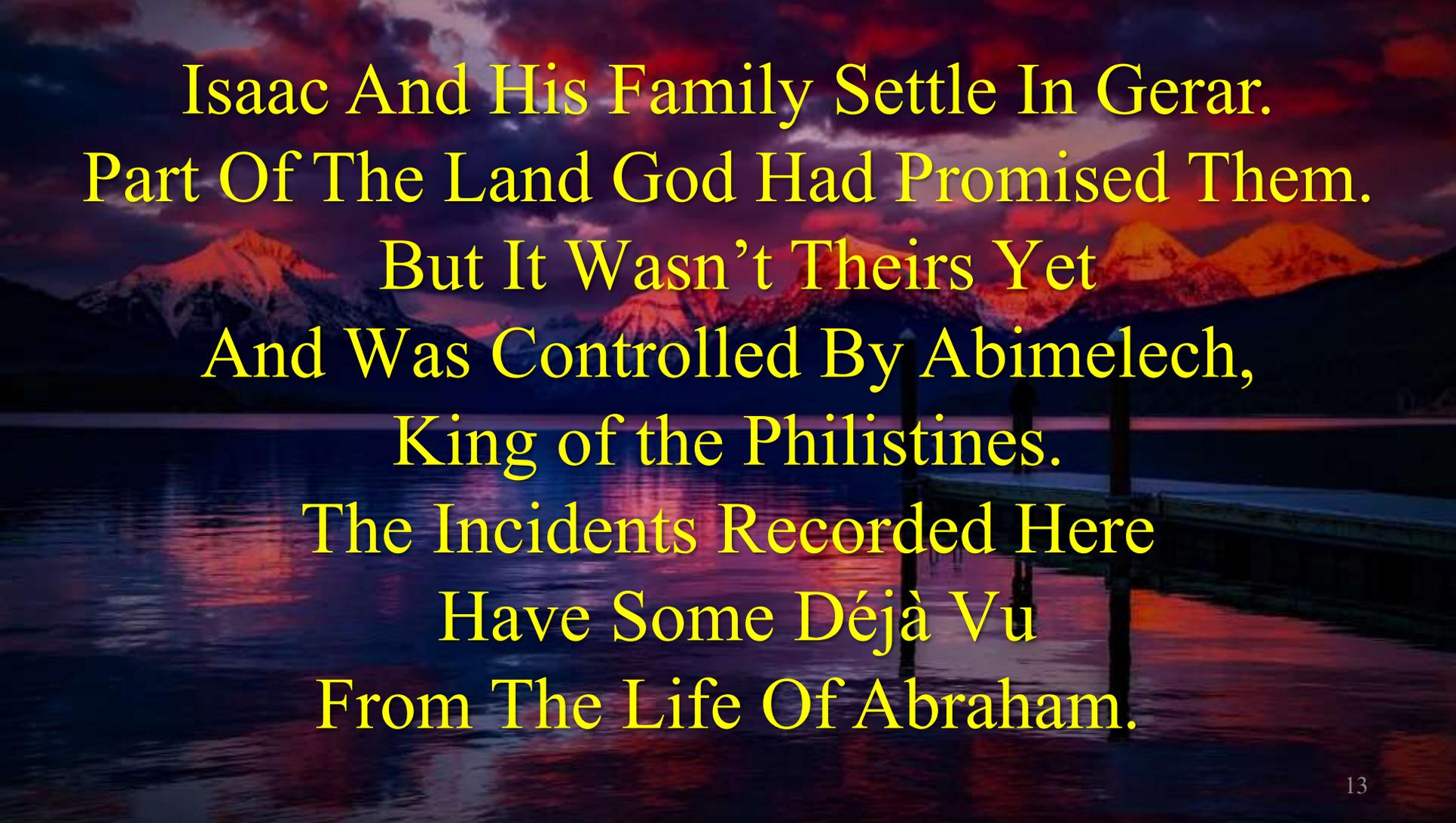
# God Is Guiding Isaac's Life

Genesis 26:1-2 (NIV)

*Now there was a famine in the land--besides the earlier famine of Abraham's time--and Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines in Gerar. The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live.*

## Genesis 26:3-6 (NIV)

Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because Abraham obeyed me and kept my requirements, my commands, my decrees and my laws." So Isaac stayed in Gerar.



Isaac And His Family Settle In Gerar.  
Part Of The Land God Had Promised Them.

But It Wasn't Theirs Yet  
And Was Controlled By Abimelech,  
King of the Philistines.

The Incidents Recorded Here  
Have Some Déjà Vu  
From The Life Of Abraham.

# 1.

## When Isaac Arrived, He Passed His Wife, Rebekah, Off As His Sister Out Of Fear.

- Abraham had once settled in the same region and done the same thing regarding Sarah.
- He did so out of fear for his life. His faith still had some growing to do.
  - Abimelech saw Isaac caressing Rebekah and discovered the truth. He was furious at being deceived.

# Abimelech Does Damage Control

Genesis 26:10-11 (NIV)

*Then Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the men might well have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us." So Abimelech gave orders to all the people: "Anyone who molests this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."*

## 2.

# A Political Power Struggle Begins

- Isaac takes advantage of his “Diplomatic Immunity,” takes control of some land, plants crops, and was blessed by the Lord with a huge harvest.
- This upsets the Philistines and out of envy, they start filling up the wells that Abraham had dug.
- He became so wealthy with crops, flocks, herds and servants that the Philistines envied him.
- Likely, from fear of Isaac’s power and political pressure, Abimelech tells him to move elsewhere.

# 3.

## Isaac Seeks Peace In Midst of Turmoil

- Isaac moves to the Valley of Gerar and settles again.
- Isaac reopens the wells dug by Abraham that had been filled in by the Philistines.
- Isaac dug a new well that had “fresh” (running water) in it, which was rare, the Philistines heard about that well and claimed it was theirs.
- Isaac dug another well; the Philistines claimed it too.
- Isaac moves on yet again and digs another well, gets to keep it and names it Rehoboth, (room).

# Isaac Had Become Rich And Powerful

- He could have fought back but did not.
- He remembers that he is a resident alien, living in a land that is not yet his.
- Each time, he chose to move on, remembering this was not his home.
  - He sought and pursued peace at great cost.
- His example is very much like the teaching of one of his yet unborn relatives, Jesus Christ.

# The New Testament Speaks To This.

Matthew 5:38-42 (NIV)

*"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.*

## 1 Timothy 2:1-5 (NIV)

*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,*

# Remember, We Too Are Aliens

1 Peter 2:11-12 (NIV)

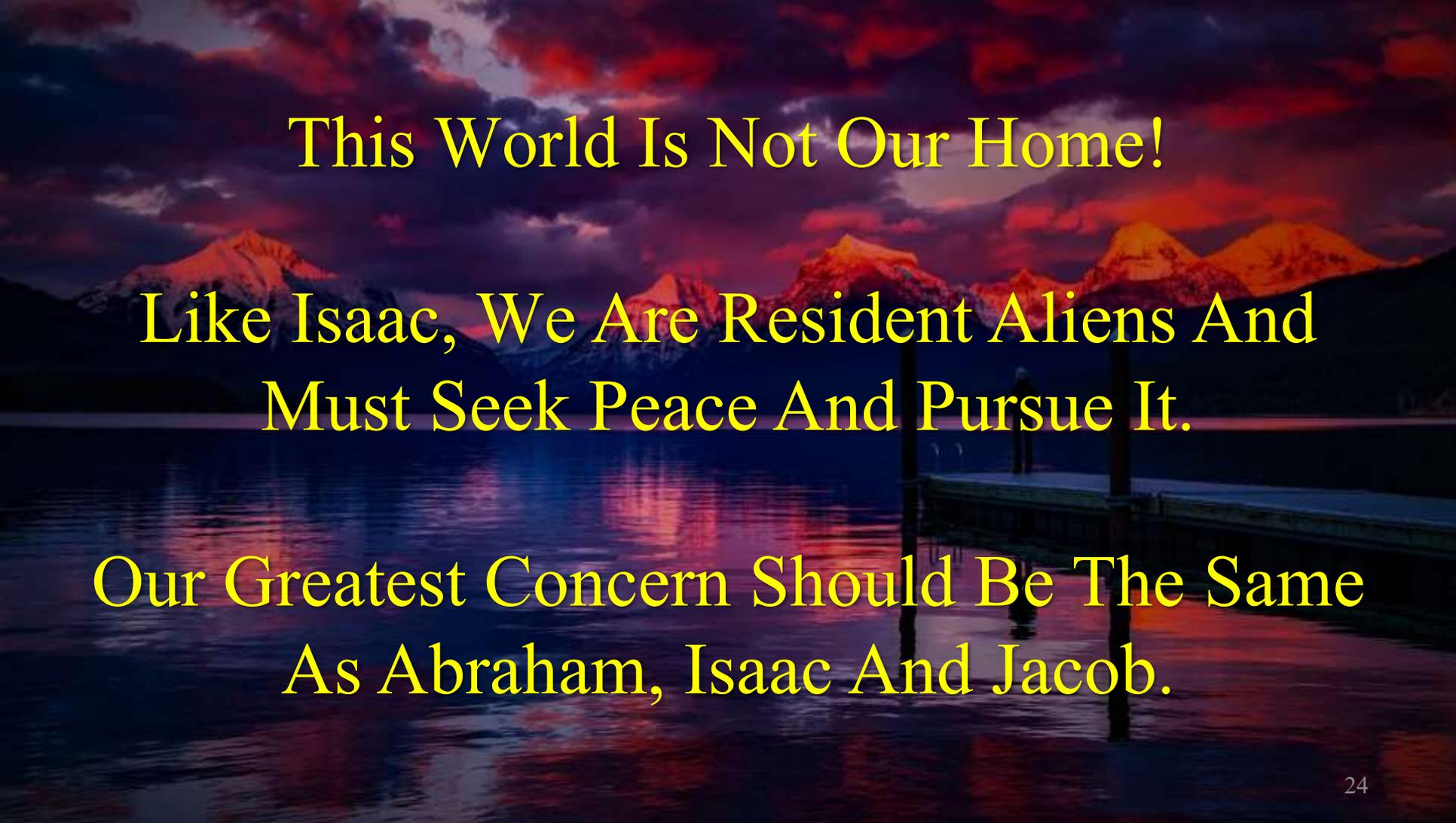
*Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

## 1 Peter 3:9-12 (NIV)

*Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."*

## 2 Peter 3:11-13 (NIV)

*Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.*

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, several mountain peaks are visible, their tops also catching the low light. The foreground shows a calm body of water, likely a lake, which perfectly reflects the colors of the sky and the silhouettes of the mountains. On the right side, a wooden pier or dock extends into the water, supported by several vertical posts. The overall mood is serene yet powerful, capturing a moment of natural beauty.

This World Is Not Our Home!

Like Isaac, We Are Resident Aliens And  
Must Seek Peace And Pursue It.

Our Greatest Concern Should Be The Same  
As Abraham, Isaac And Jacob.

## Hebrews 11:8-10 (NIV)

*By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*