



Is
(Really?)
GOOD?

Challenging Gods **Character**

1. Is God **loving** when people *suffer*?
2. Is He **just** when life is *unfair*?
3. Is God **worthy** of our *worship*?

“These **three** questions represent some of the deepest and most persistent intellectual and moral challenges people raise about the Christian understanding of God.”



#1

Is God **loving**
when people *suffer*



How Much of the World Is Suffering?

Selected global indicators of hardship and well-being



12%

**Rate their lives
as suffering**

Gallup global
life evaluations



58%

**Rate their lives
as struggling**

Most adults worldwide
do not describe their lives
as thriving



10%

**Live in extreme
poverty**

Projected global rate,
World Bank 2026



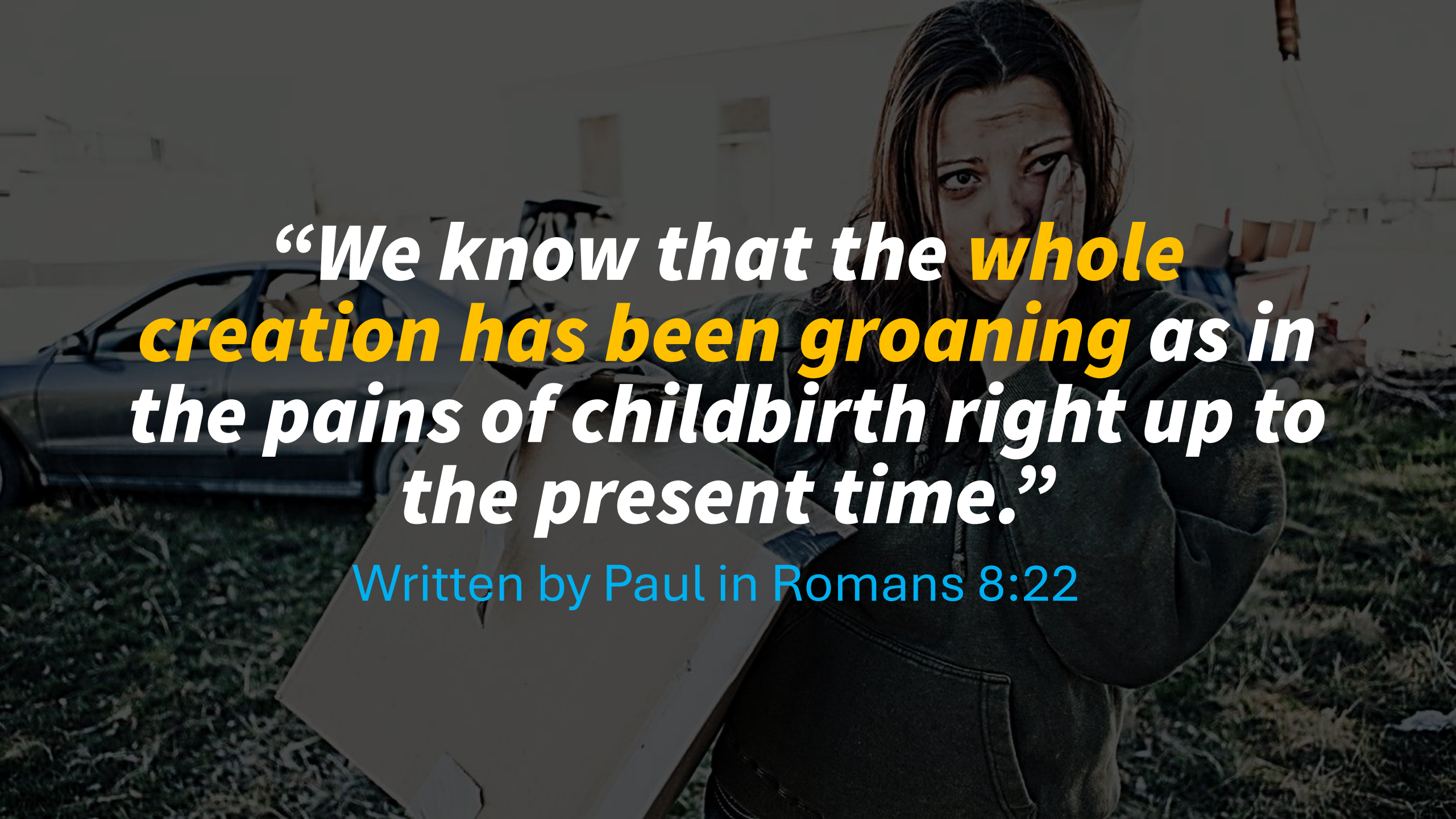
14%

**Live with a
mental disorder**

About 1 in 7 people
worldwide

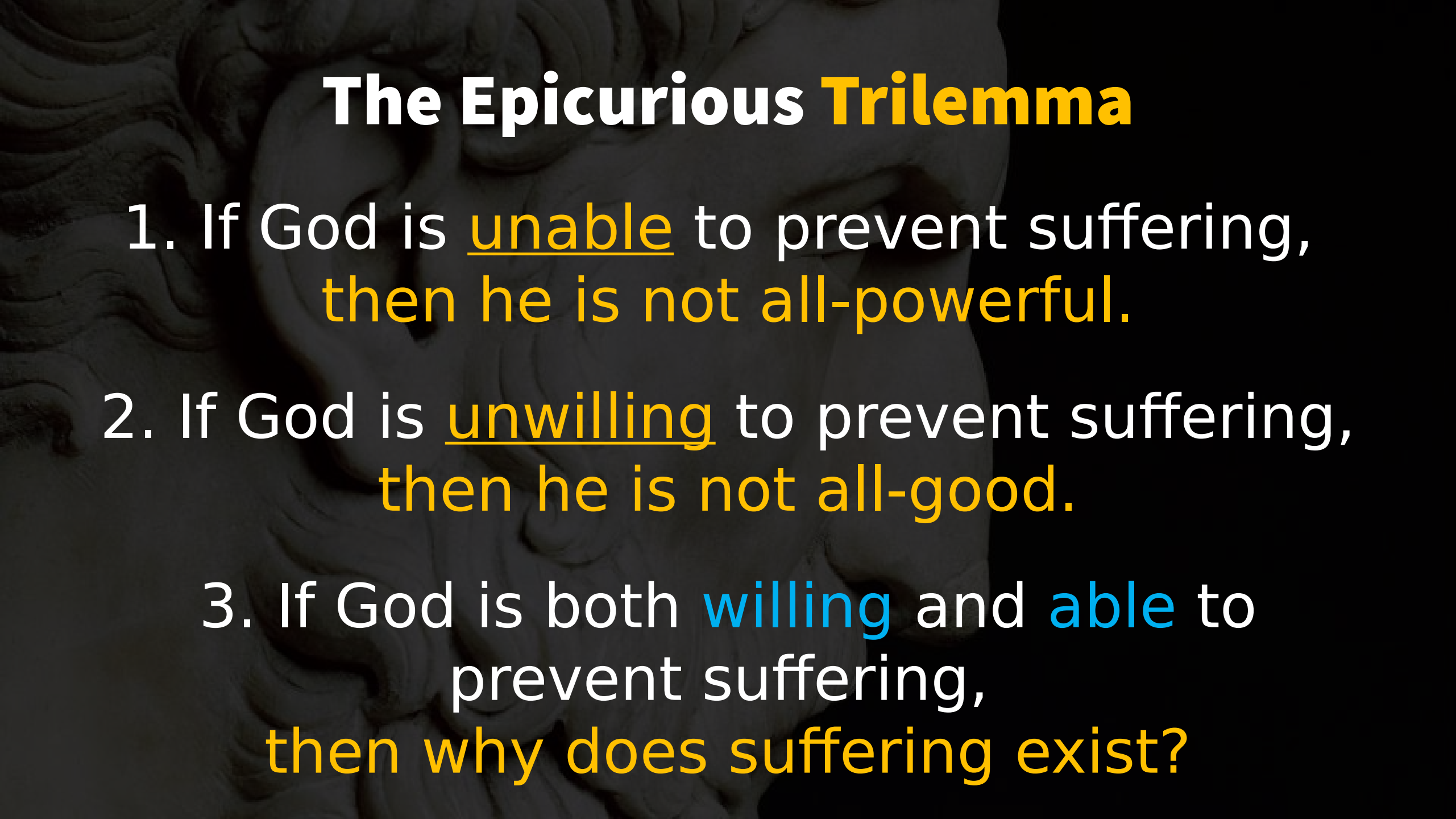
These figures do not capture all suffering, but they show how common serious hardship is around the world.

Sources: Gallup 2025 global life evaluations; World Bank 2026 global poverty update; WHO 2026 mental disorders fact sheet.



“We know that the **whole creation has been groaning** as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.”

Written by Paul in Romans 8:22



The Epicurious **Trilemma**

1. If God is unable to prevent suffering,
then he is not all-powerful.
2. If God is unwilling to prevent suffering,
then he is not all-good.
3. If God is both **willing** and **able** to
prevent suffering,
then why does suffering exist?

What if God **prevented** **suffering**?

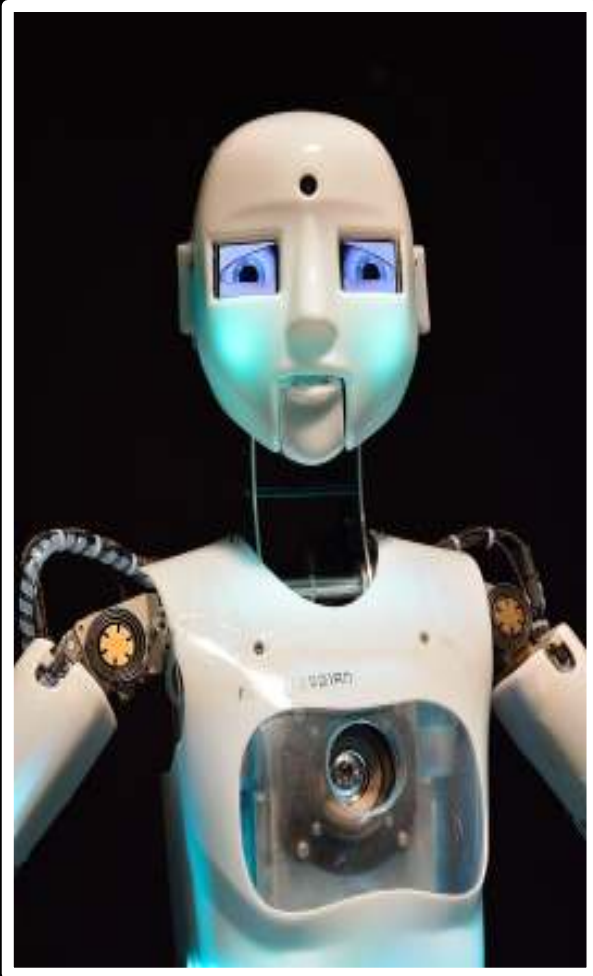
No Suffering =
No Free Will

Suffering =
Free Will

Why can't we have **both**?
(**Free Will** + **No Suffering**?)

*A world of genuine agency is necessarily,
a world of cause and effect.*

What about **your** children?



Which One?

Suffering is the Result of Human Agency

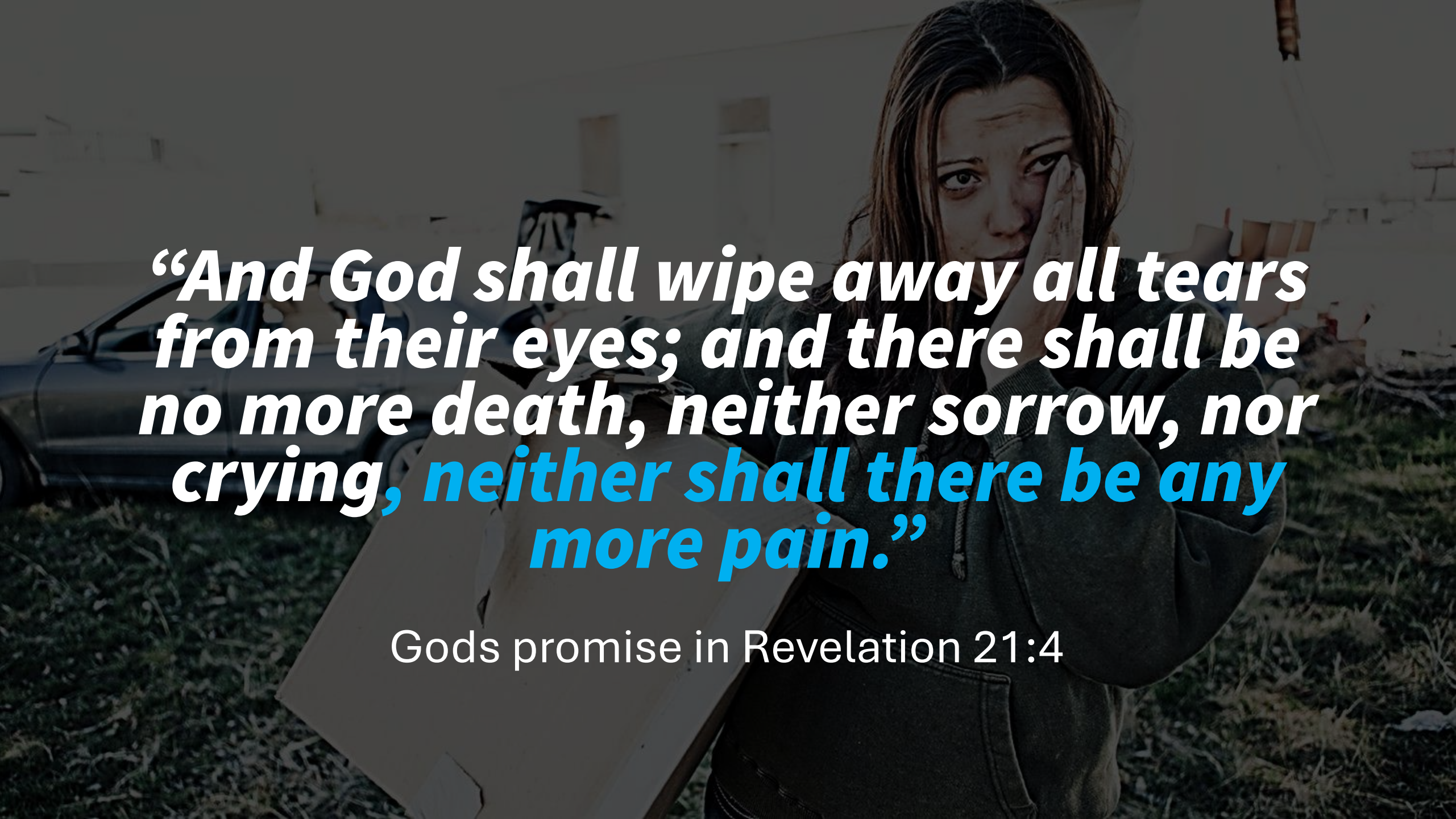
However, Suffering is intended to lead us to God

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” 2 Corinthians 4:17–18

Present suffering incomparable with future glory

Why does **suffering** exist?

The Bible's answer is not that God lacks either goodness or power, **but that suffering can/must exist temporarily within a larger moral purpose** involving human free will, character, consequences leading to redemption *And ultimately the removal of suffering.*

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark grey hoodie, is crying. She has her right hand pressed against her face, covering her eyes. She is standing in front of a damaged dark-colored car and some debris. The background is a light-colored wall with some windows. The overall scene is somber and evokes a sense of grief or despair.

***“And God shall wipe away all tears
from their eyes; and there shall be
no more death, neither sorrow, nor
crying, **neither shall there be any
more pain.**”***

Gods promise in Revelation 21:4



#2

Is God **just**
when life is **unfair**

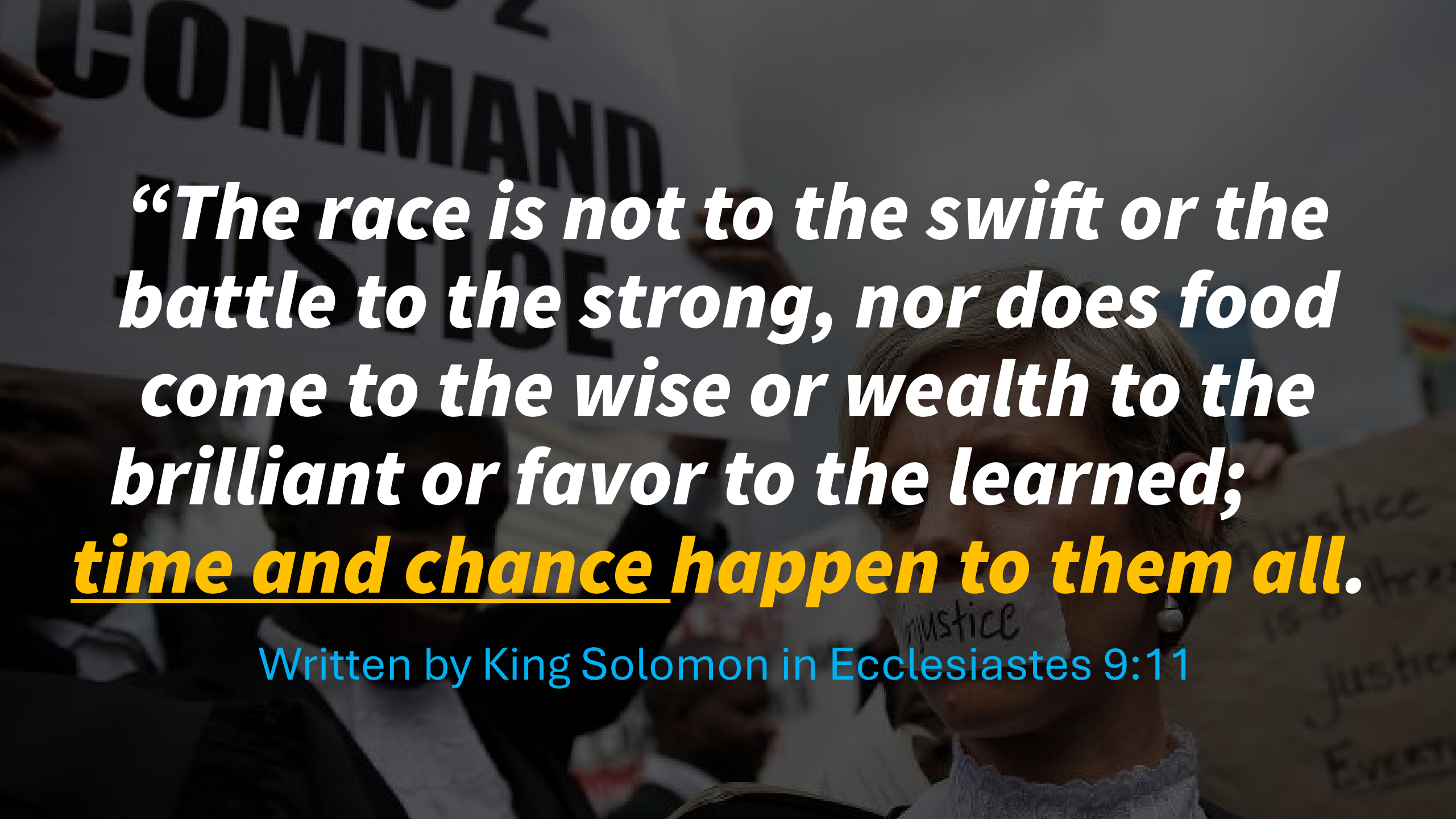
Global Injustice by the Numbers

Selected global indicators of inequality, exploitation, violence, and unequal access



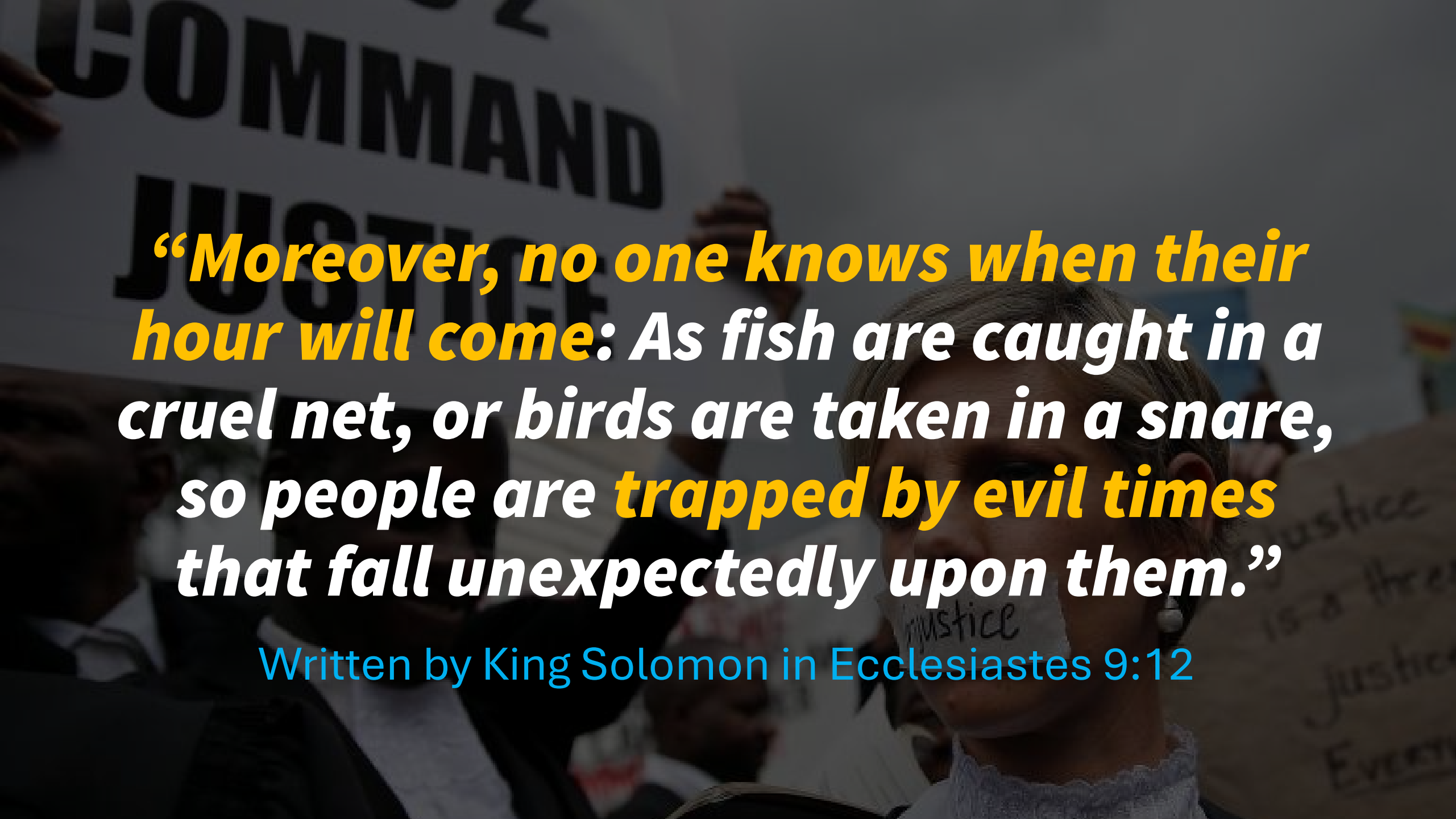
These figures highlight how unevenly safety, opportunity, dignity, and basic needs are distributed around the world.

Sources: World Inequality Report 2026; UNHCR Global Trends; WHO; ILO/UNICEF; ILO/IOM/Walk Free; WHO/UNICEF JMP.



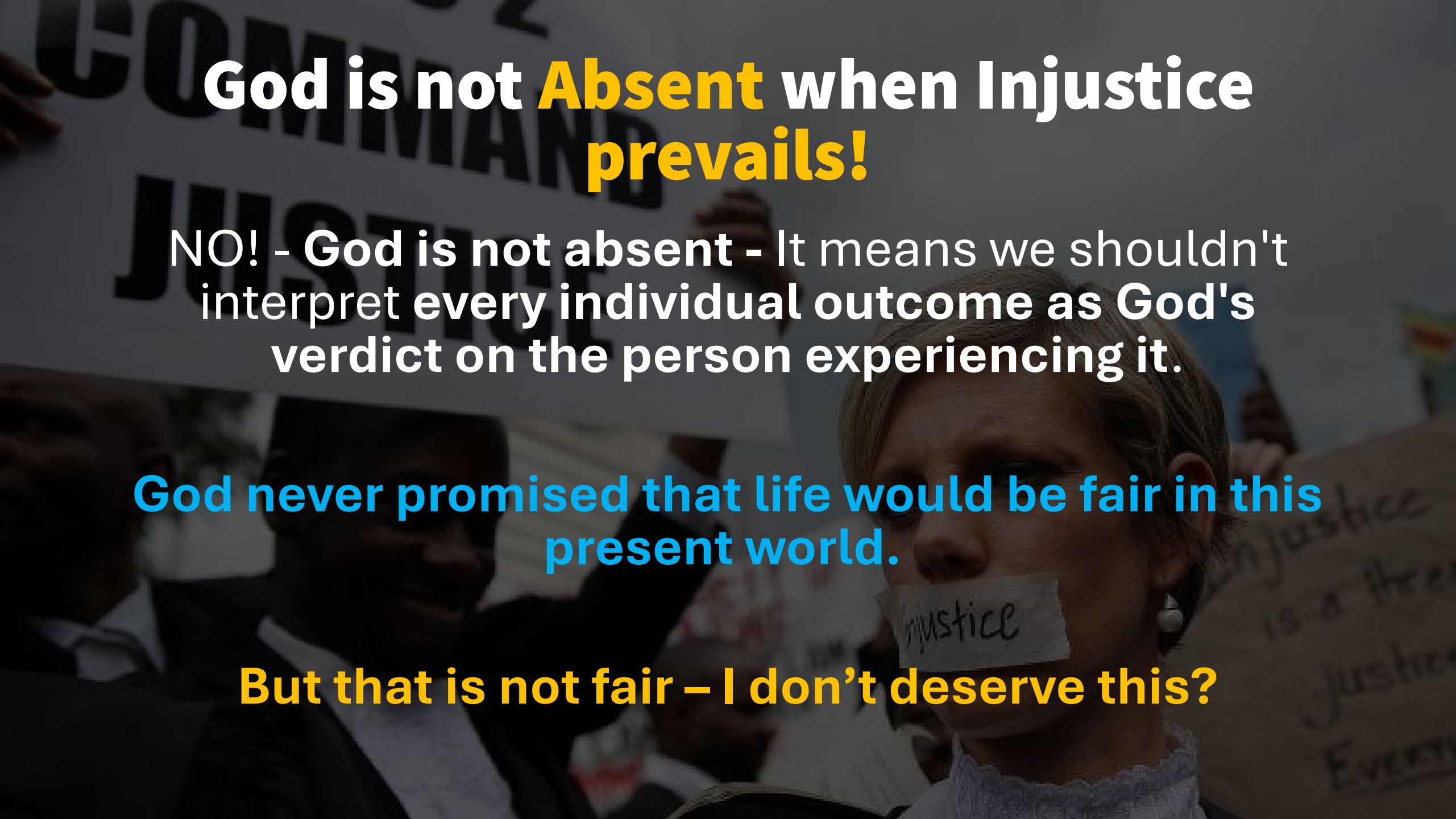
***“The race is not to the swift or the
battle to the strong, nor does food
come to the wise or wealth to the
brilliant or favor to the learned;
time and chance happen to them all.”***

Written by King Solomon in Ecclesiastes 9:11



“Moreover, no one knows when their hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so people are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them.”

Written by King Solomon in Ecclesiastes 9:12

A woman with a piece of tape over her mouth at a protest. The tape has the word 'Injustice' written on it. In the background, there are other people and signs, including one that says 'COMMAND JUSTICE'.

God is not **Absent when Injustice prevails!**

NO! - God is not absent - It means we shouldn't interpret every individual outcome as God's verdict on the person experiencing it.

God never promised that life would be fair in this present world.

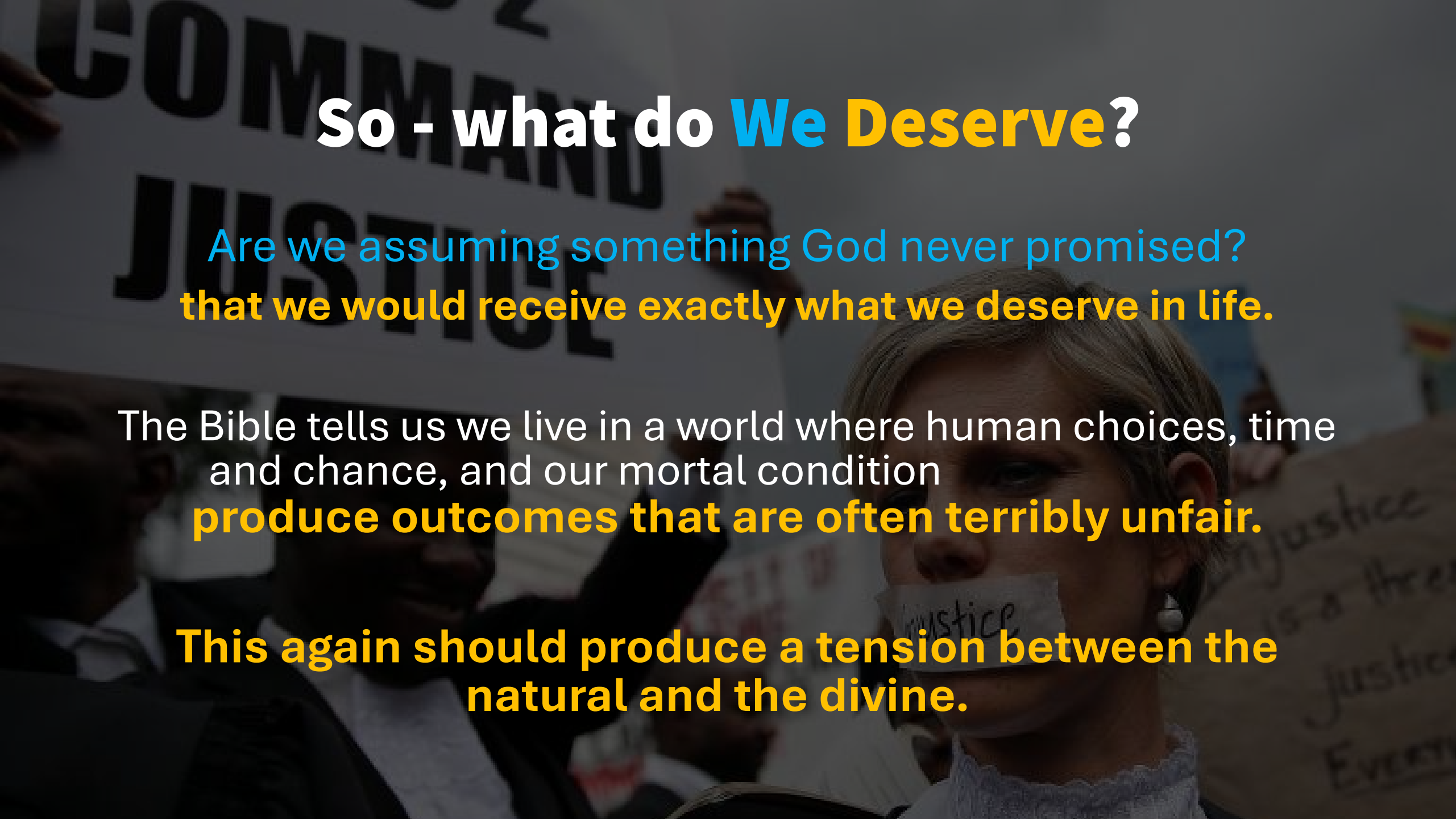
But that is not fair – I don't deserve this?

So - what do **We Deserve?**

Are we assuming something God never promised?
that we would receive exactly what we deserve in life.

The Bible tells us we live in a world where human choices, time and chance, and our mortal condition
produce outcomes that are often terribly unfair.

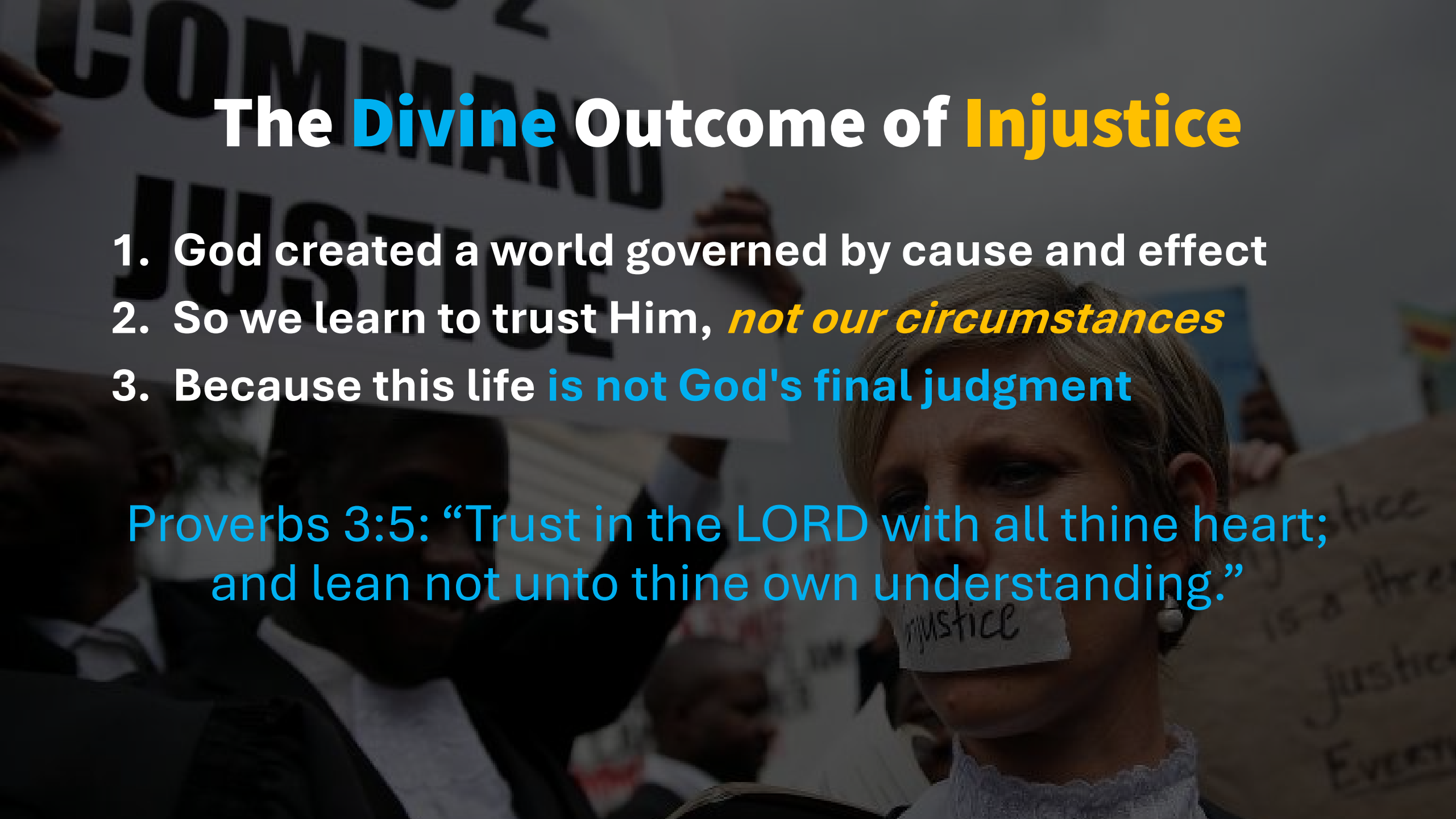
This again should produce a tension between the natural and the divine.

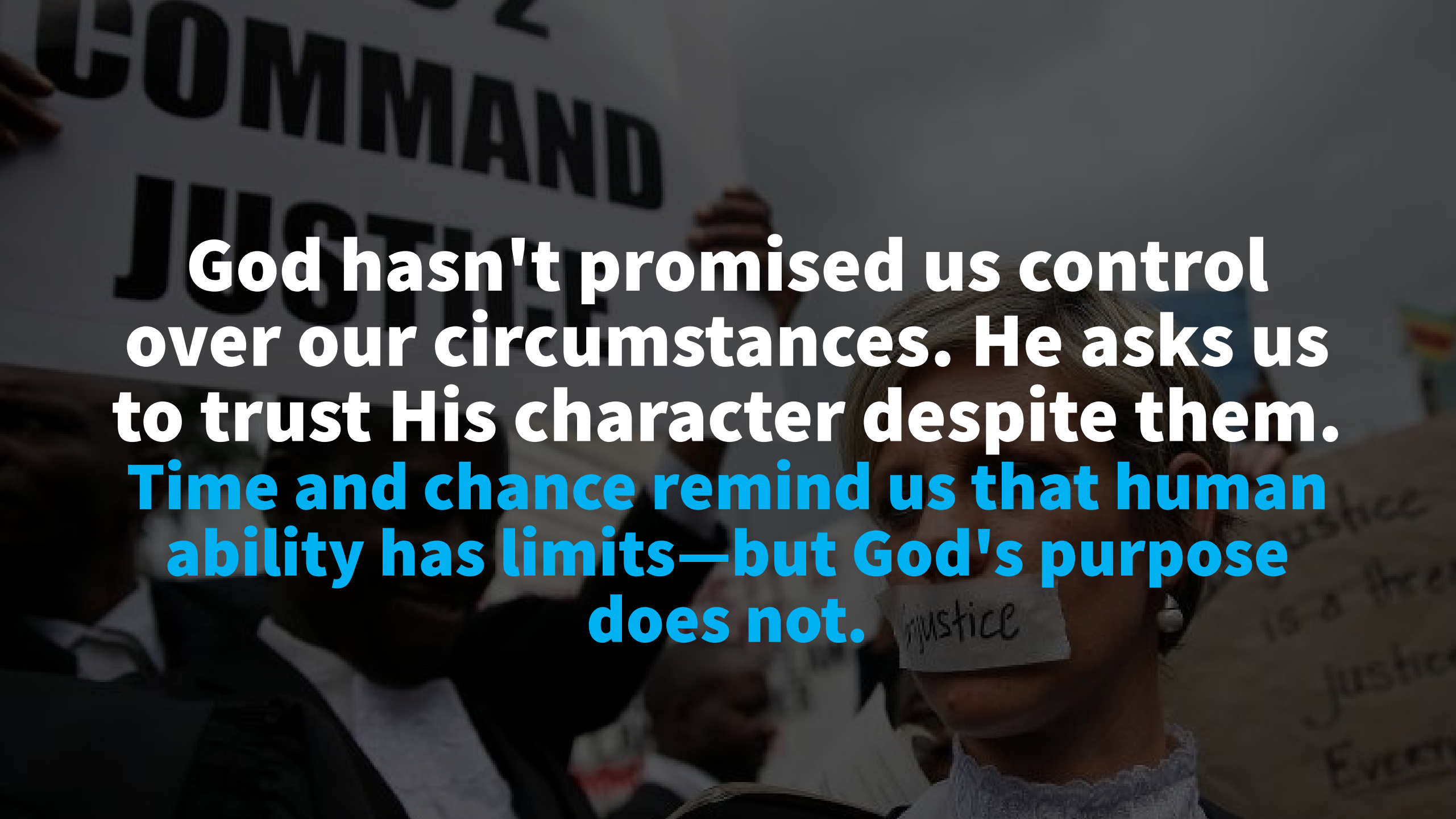


The **Divine** Outcome of **Injustice**

1. God created a world governed by cause and effect
2. So we learn to trust Him, *not our circumstances*
3. Because this life **is not God's final judgment**

Proverbs 3:5: “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;
and lean not unto thine own understanding.”



A person is shown from the chest up, wearing a grey turtleneck. A white rectangular sign with the word "Injustice" written in black cursive is taped over their mouth. They are holding a sign that says "COMMAND JUSTICE" in large, bold, black capital letters. The background is dark and out of focus, showing other people and signs, suggesting a protest or demonstration.

**God hasn't promised us control
over our circumstances. He asks us
to trust His character despite them.
Time and chance remind us that human
ability has limits—but God's purpose
does not.**



#3

Is God **worthy**
of our **worship**



Indicators of a Modern Worship Culture in North America

Selected measures of attention, trust, aspiration, spending, fandom, and religious contrast

ATTENTION



36%

U.S. teens use at least one major social platform almost constantly

Pew Research, 2025

TRUST



61%

Gen Z and Millennials say they trust influencers at least somewhat

Morning Consult, 2023

ASPIRATION



57%

Gen Z respondents said they would become influencers if given the opportunity

Morning Consult

SPENDING



\$6.18B

North American ticket sales for the top 100 concert tours in 2024

Pollstar

FANDOM



\$2.2B

Estimated worldwide gross of Taylor Swift's Eras Tour — an example of modern fandom

Global example

RELIGIOUS ATTENDANCE CONTRAST



11.2%

of Canadians attend religious services weekly

25%

of U.S. adults attend religious services weekly

Statistics Canada, 2023; Pew, 2023–24



These indicators do not prove literal worship, but they show where modern culture often directs time, attention, trust, admiration, and devotion.

A portrait of David Foster Wallace, a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a red sweater. He is positioned in front of a bookshelf filled with books. The image is slightly blurred, giving it a candid, documentary feel.

**“Everybody worships.
The only choice we get
is *what* to worship.”**

David Foster Wallace addressing graduating students
at Kenyon College

What happens *when we worship*?

We become like what we worship.

If we worship the profane – we will be debased.

If we worship the divine – we are elevated

What if worship isn't about making God greater, but about God making us better?

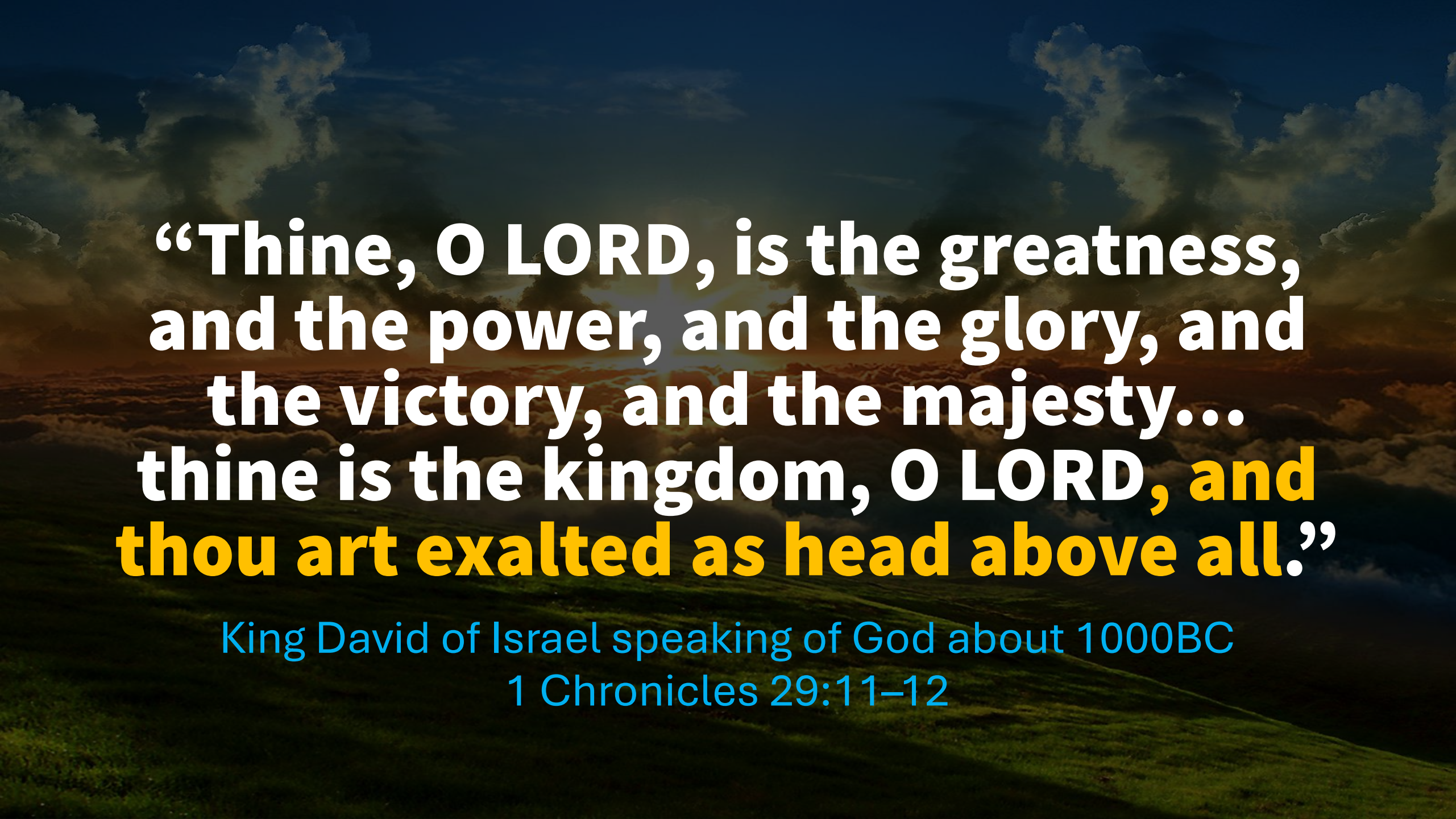
Is God **Worthy** of our Worship?

There is a fundamental difference:

God does not need our worship!

Acts 17:24–25 — God is not “worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needed any thing.”

Think of worship as acknowledging reality.



**“Thine, O LORD, is the greatness,
and the power, and the glory, and
the victory, and the majesty...
thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and
thou art exalted as head above all.”**

King David of Israel speaking of God about 1000BC

1 Chronicles 29:11–12

Why is God **worthy** of our Worship?

God is worthy of our worship because of who He is, what He has done, and what He has promised to do.

“And we all...who contemplate the Lord's glory, are being **transformed into his image...** which comes from the Lord...”

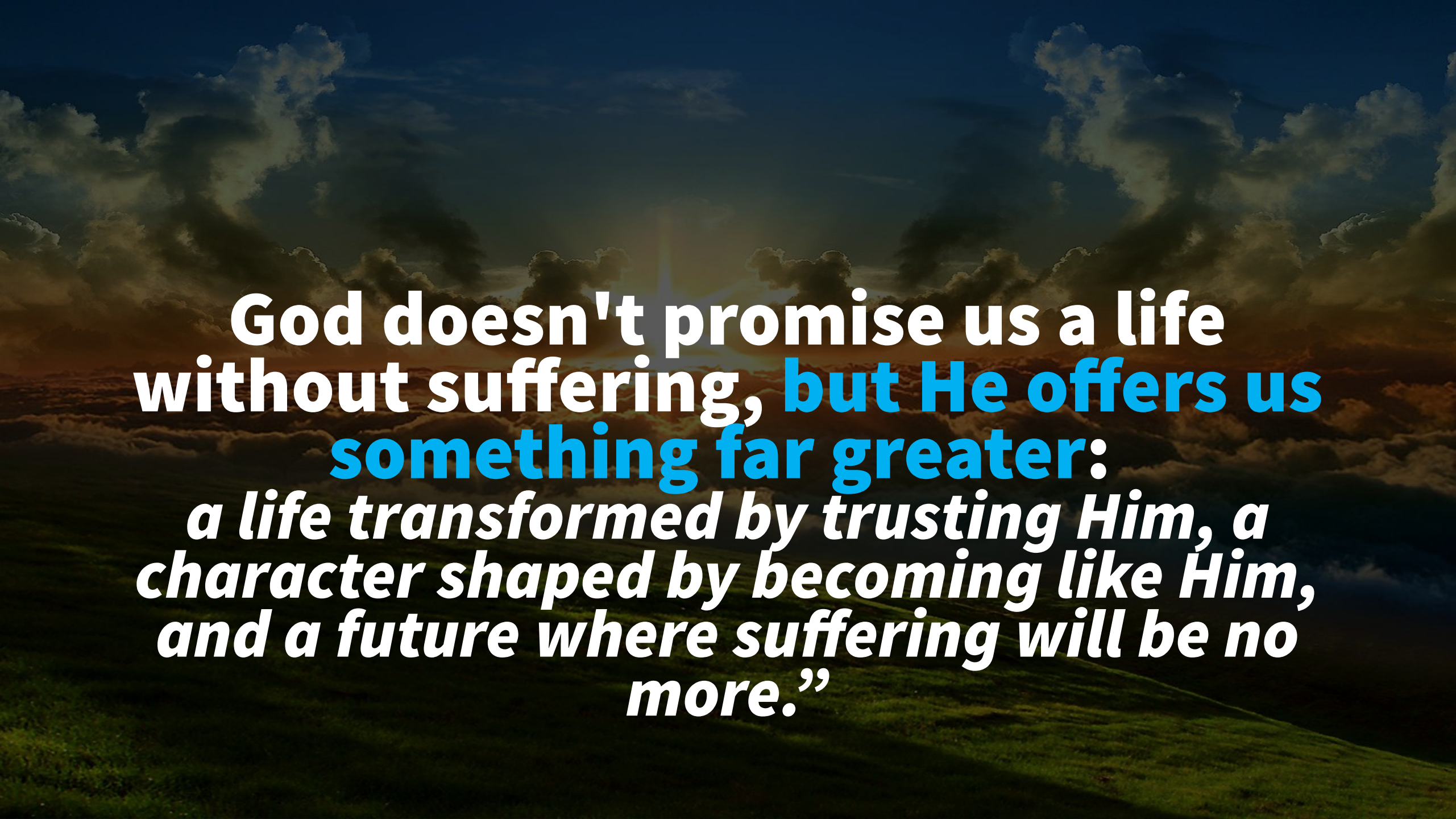
2 Corinthians 3:18

He invites us to worship because **becoming like Him is the highest purpose for which we were created.**

Why We should Worship God

1. Because He is our Creator and the source of life
2. Because His character is perfectly good
3. Because He loves us, even when we fail Him
4. Because He will put right what is wrong with the world
5. Because worshipping Him transforms us

**God doesn't become worthy because we worship Him.
We worship Him because He is worthy.**



**God doesn't promise us a life
without suffering, but He offers us
something far greater:
*a life transformed by trusting Him, a
character shaped by becoming like Him,
and a future where suffering will be no
more.***



GOD
(Really)
Good?
Is