

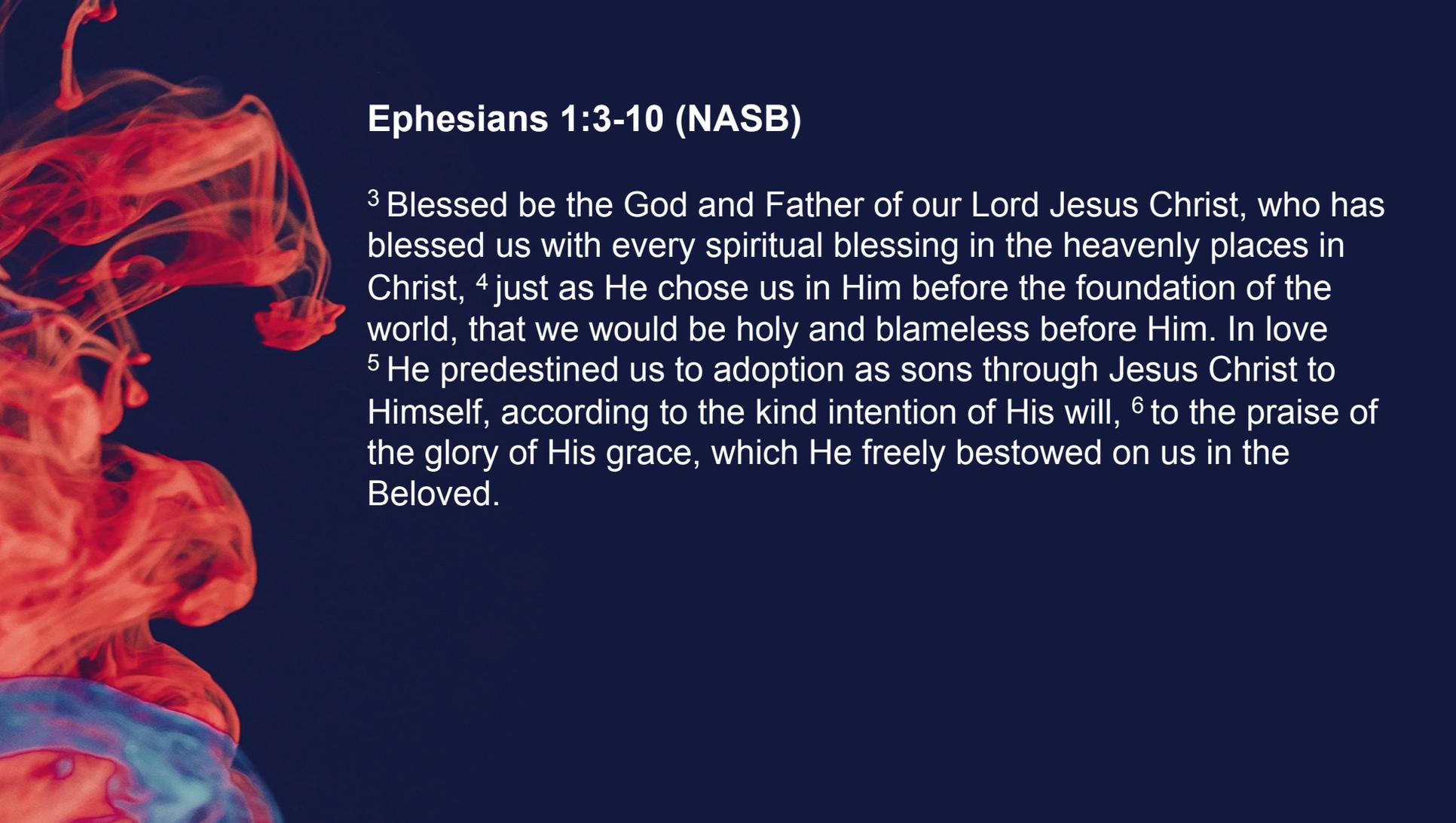


WHAT ARE WE LIVING FOR?

EPHESIANS 1:3-10 (NASB)

E L D E R J A M E S L E E

29 March 2020



Ephesians 1:3-10 (NASB)

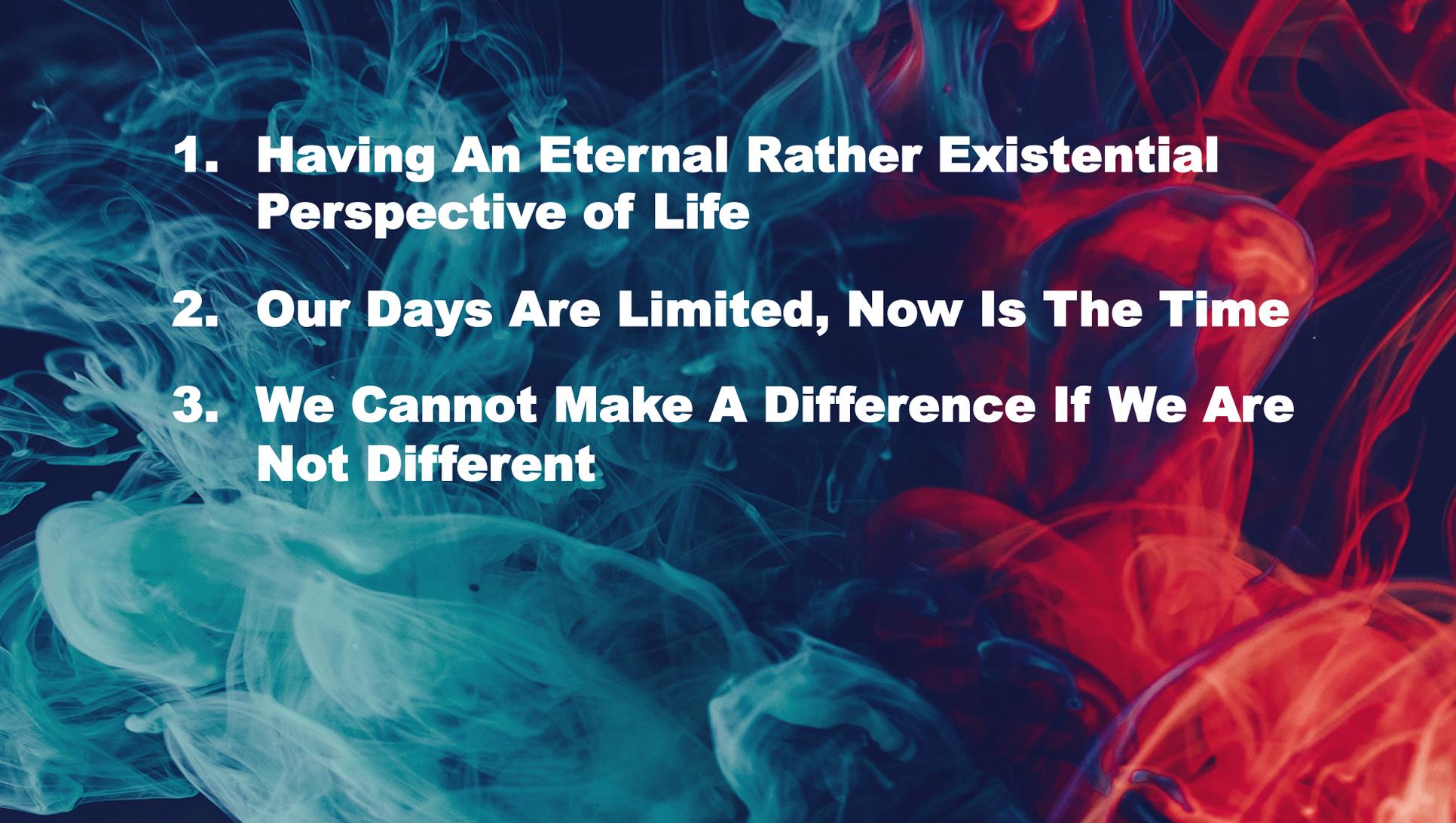
³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.



⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him ¹⁰ with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

The background features a complex, fluid pattern of blue and red ink-like swirls and filaments against a solid black background. The blue elements are more prominent on the left side, while the red elements are more concentrated on the right. The overall effect is dynamic and organic.

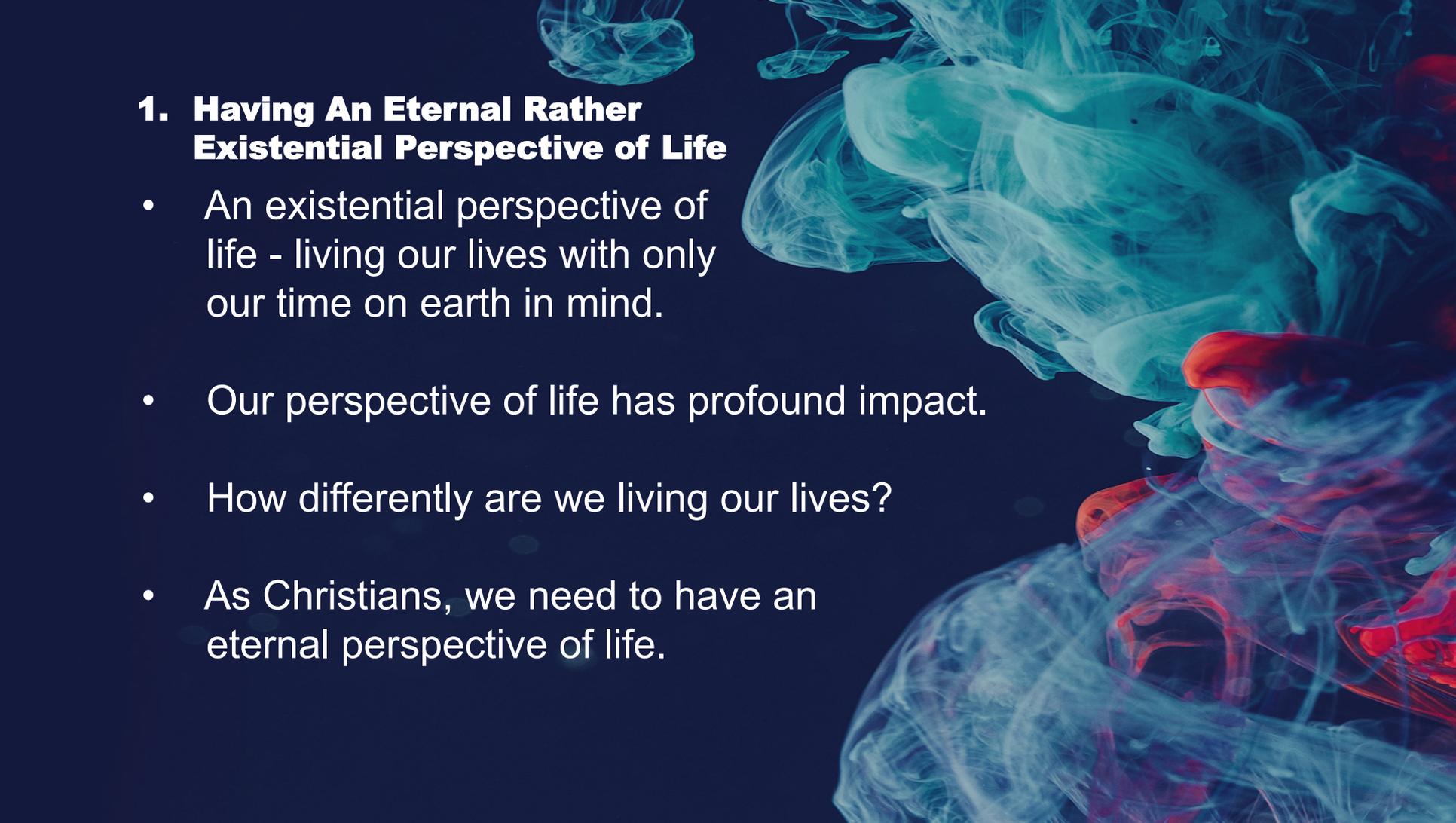
Introduction



1. Having An Eternal Rather Existential Perspective of Life

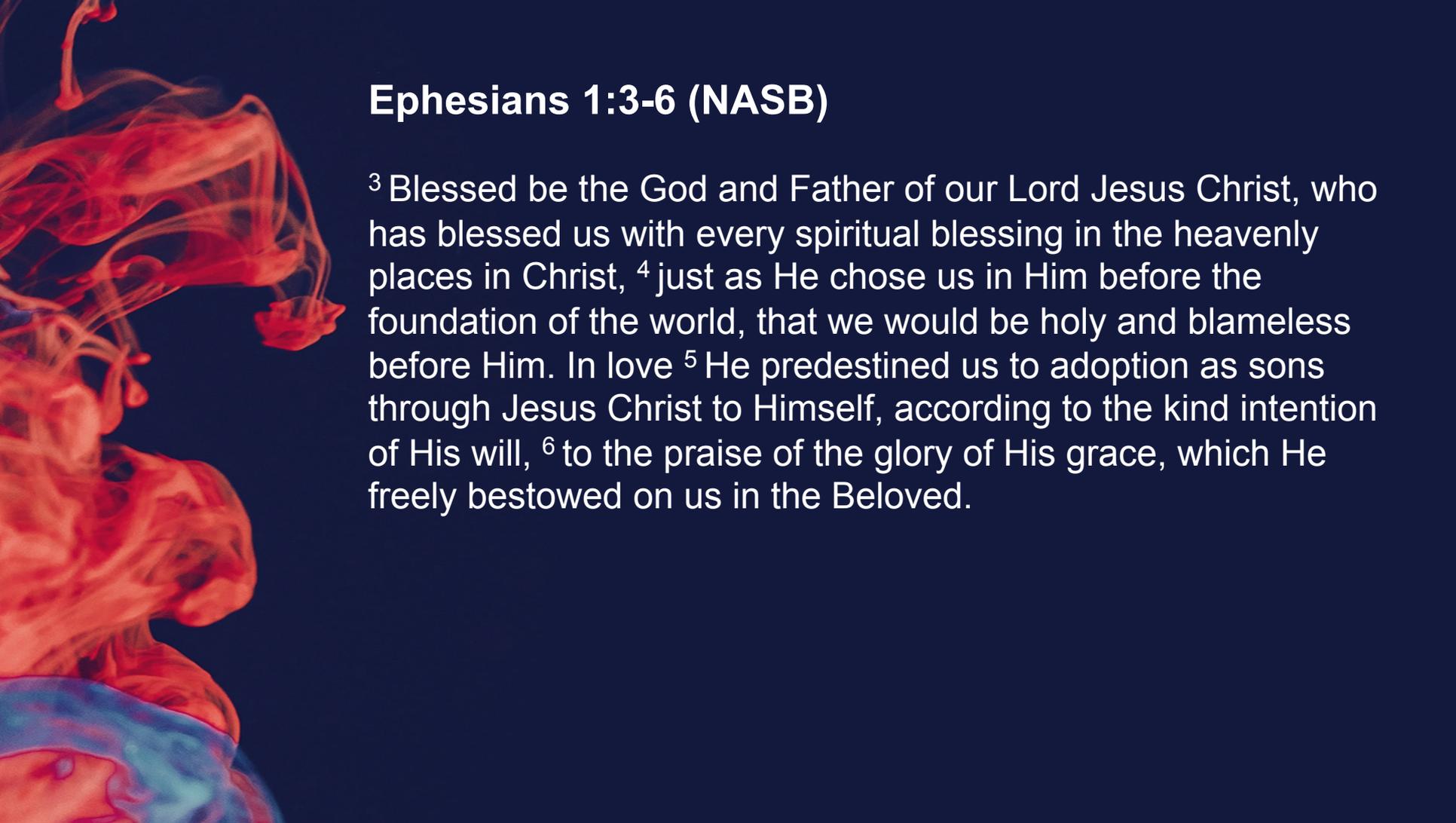
2. Our Days Are Limited, Now Is The Time

3. We Cannot Make A Difference If We Are Not Different



1. **Having An Eternal Rather Existential Perspective of Life**

- An existential perspective of life - living our lives with only our time on earth in mind.
- Our perspective of life has profound impact.
- How differently are we living our lives?
- As Christians, we need to have an eternal perspective of life.

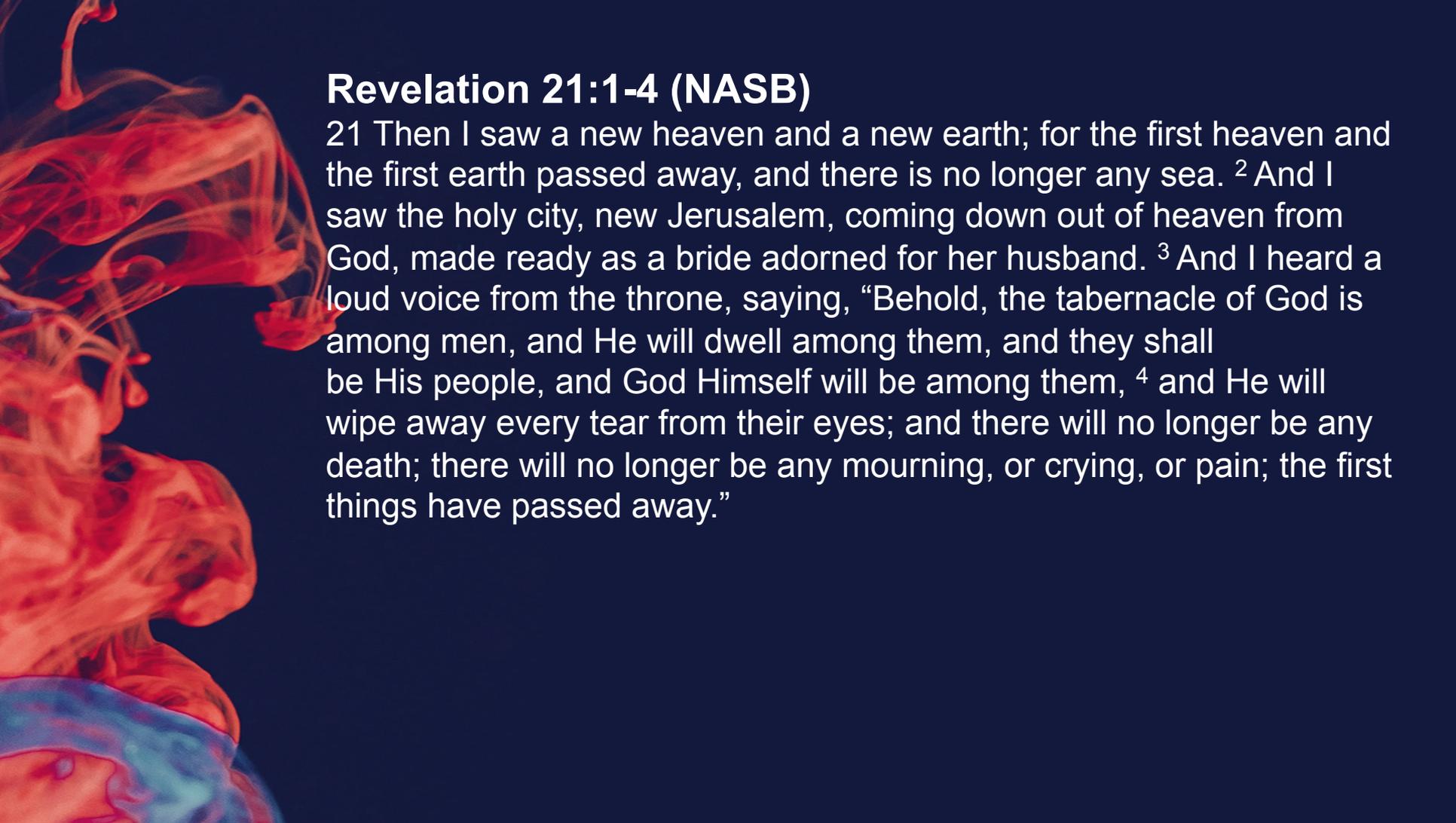


Ephesians 1:3-6 (NASB)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

- We were chosen BEFORE the foundation of the world.
- God did not create us for the world. He created the world for us!
- We were fashioned for great significance and purpose.





Revelation 21:1-4 (NASB)

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

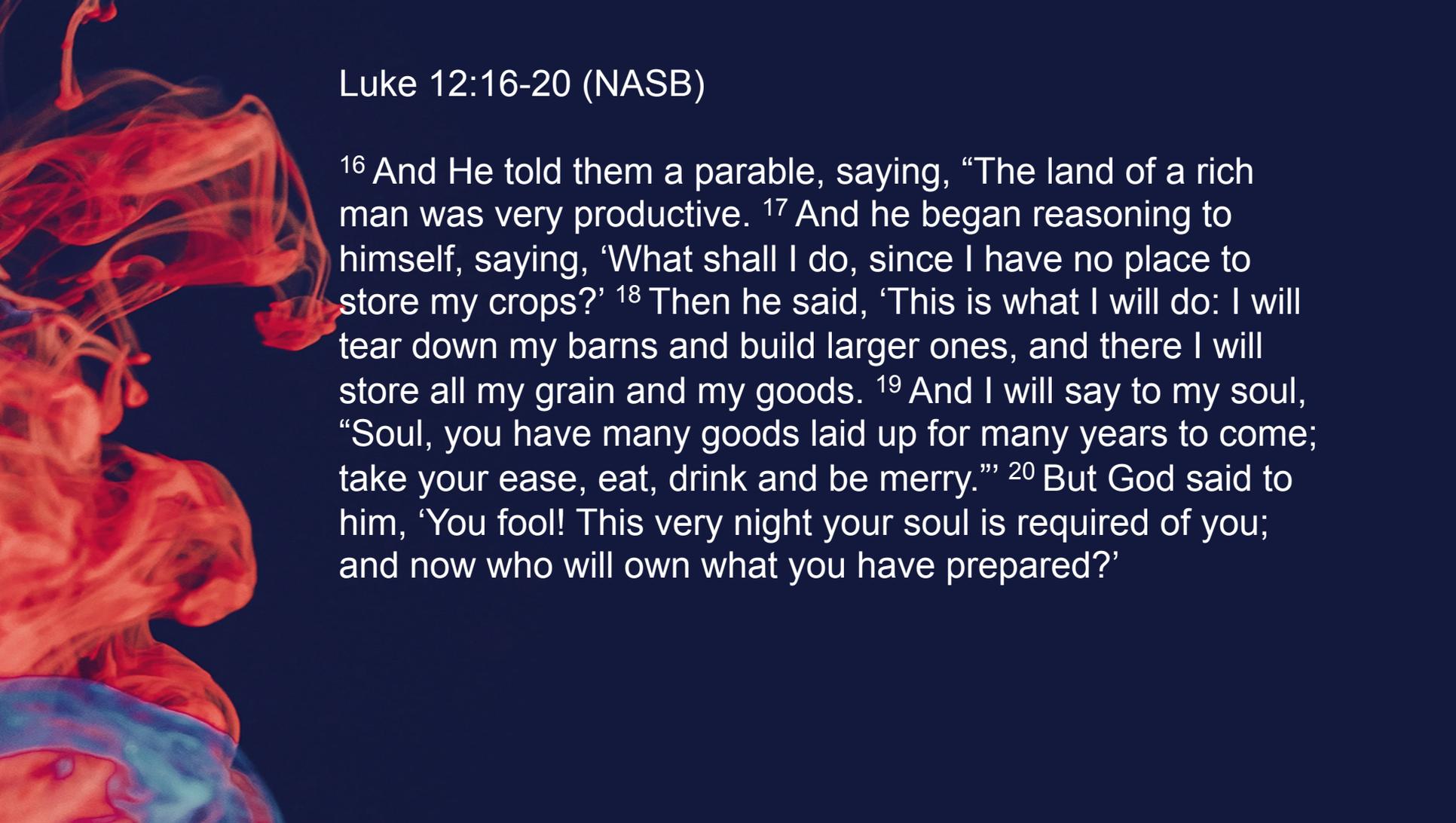
- Compared with eternity, our lives on earth is a very brief moment.
- Our hope lies in a glorious future beyond our lives on earth.
- An existential perspective starts and ends with our lives on earth. An eternal perspective start before the world was even created and continues for eternity beyond our lives on earth.



2. Our Days Are Limited, Now Is The Time

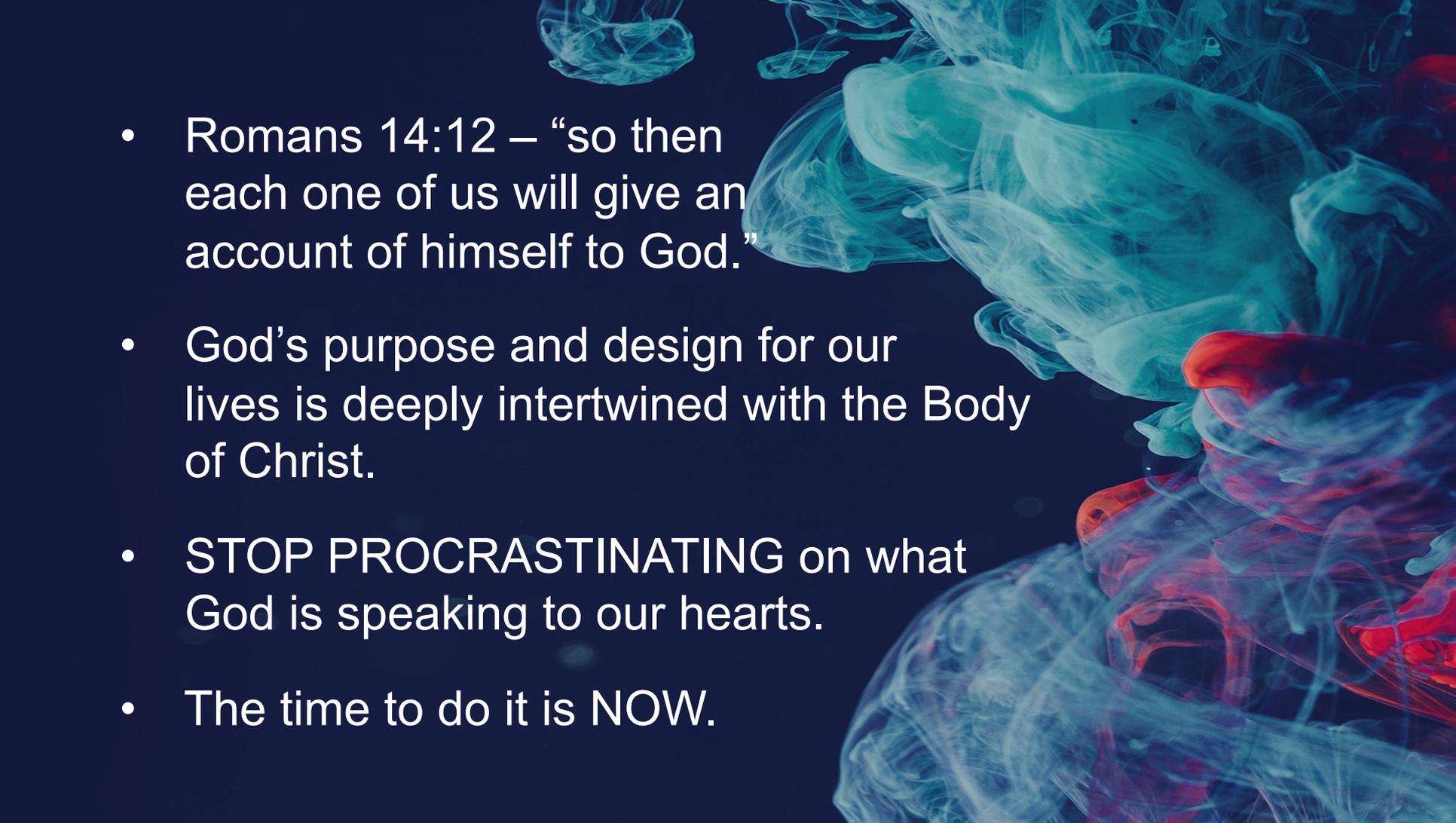
- The certainty of death is not the problem. The real problem is we don't know when we will die.





Luke 12:16-20 (NASB)

¹⁶ And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man was very productive. ¹⁷ And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.”’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?’

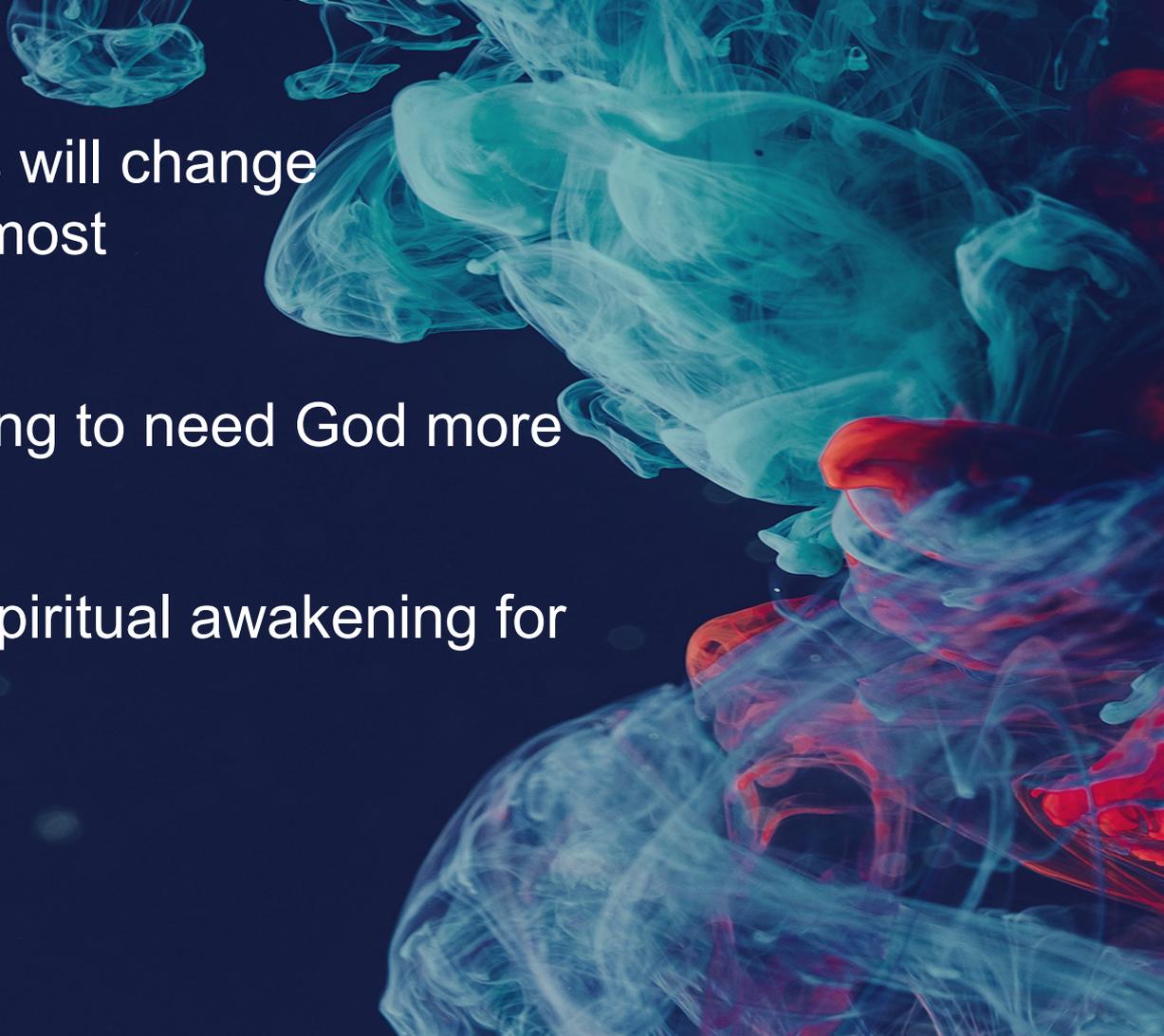
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- Romans 14:12 – “so then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.”
 - God’s purpose and design for our lives is deeply intertwined with the Body of Christ.
 - STOP PROCRASTINATING on what God is speaking to our hearts.
 - The time to do it is NOW.

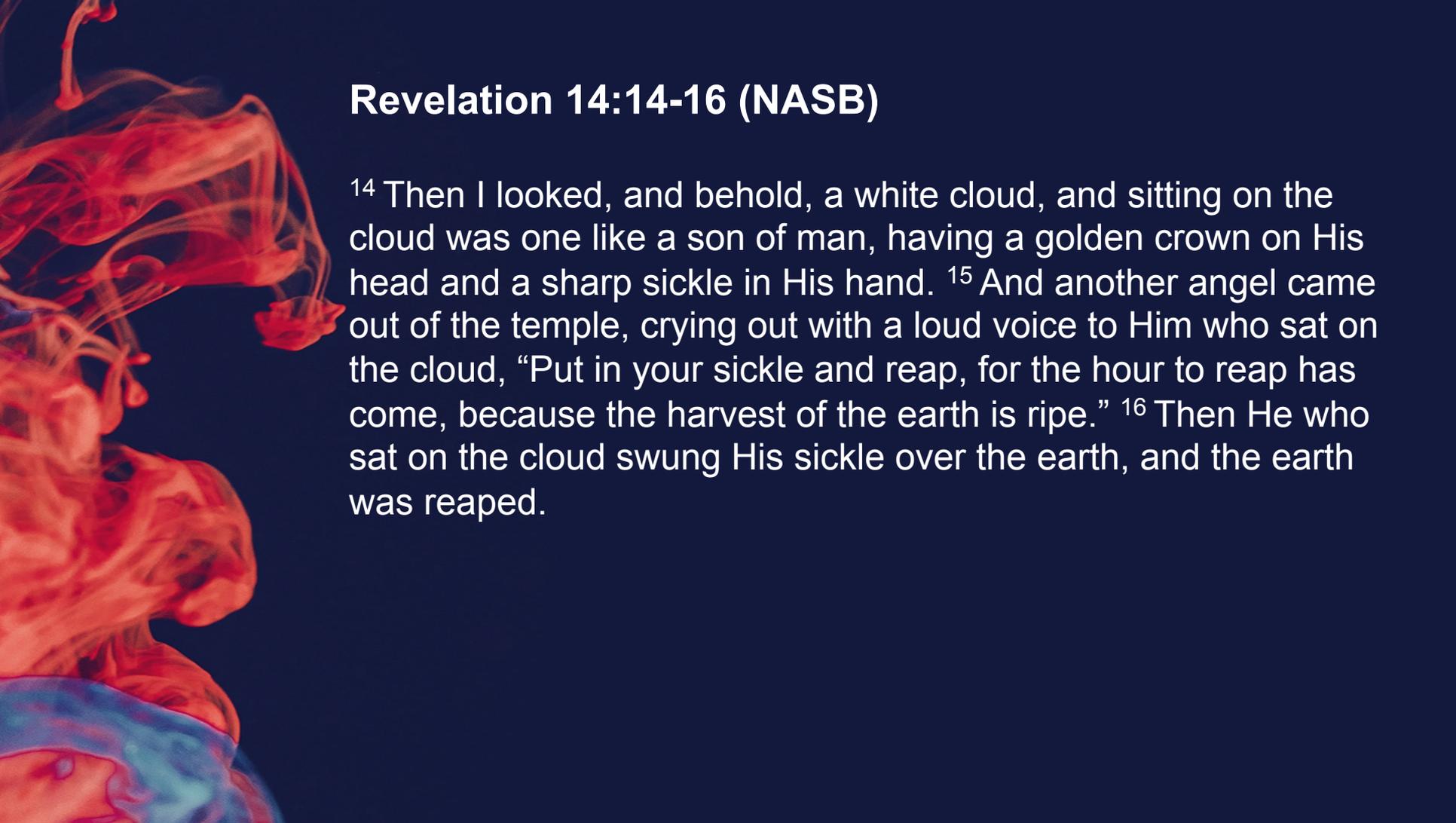
- If God is most important in our lives, then we need to plan our lives around Him.

Luke 17:33 (NASB)

³³ Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

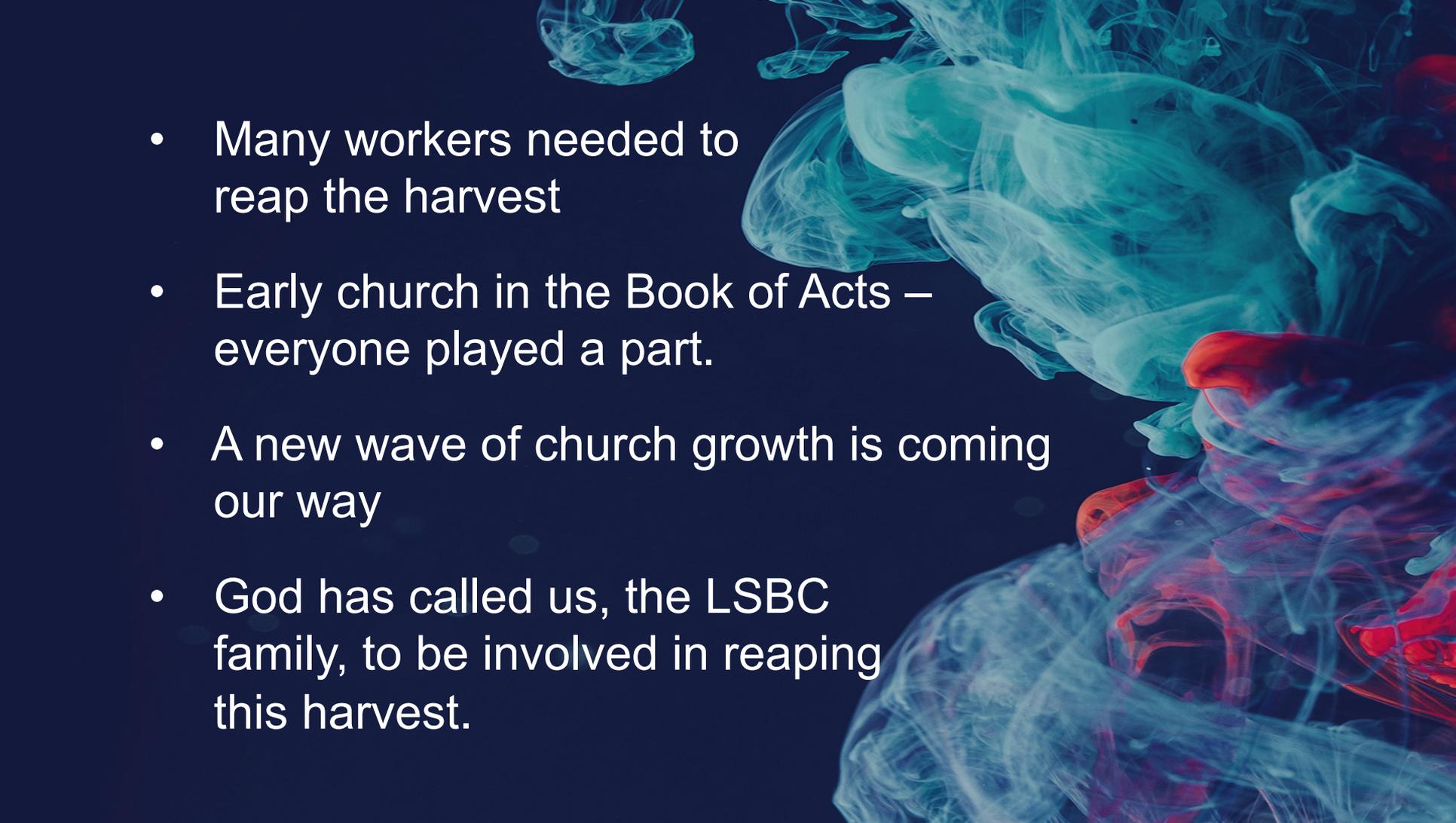
- COVID-19 crisis will change our lives in the most profound ways.
- The world is going to need God more than ever.
- This crisis is a spiritual awakening for everyone.





Revelation 14:14-16 (NASB)

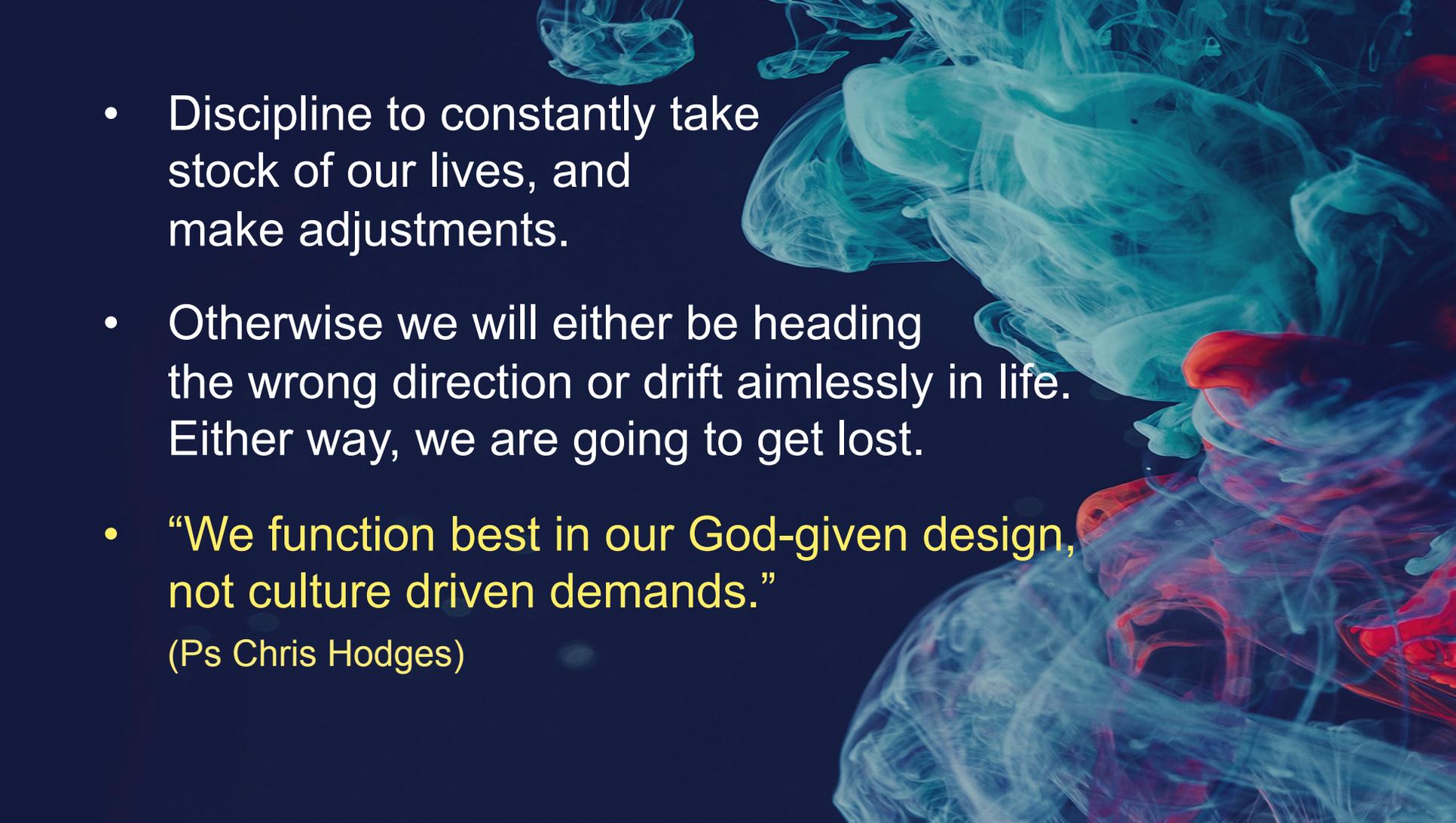
¹⁴ Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. ¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, “Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe.” ¹⁶ Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.

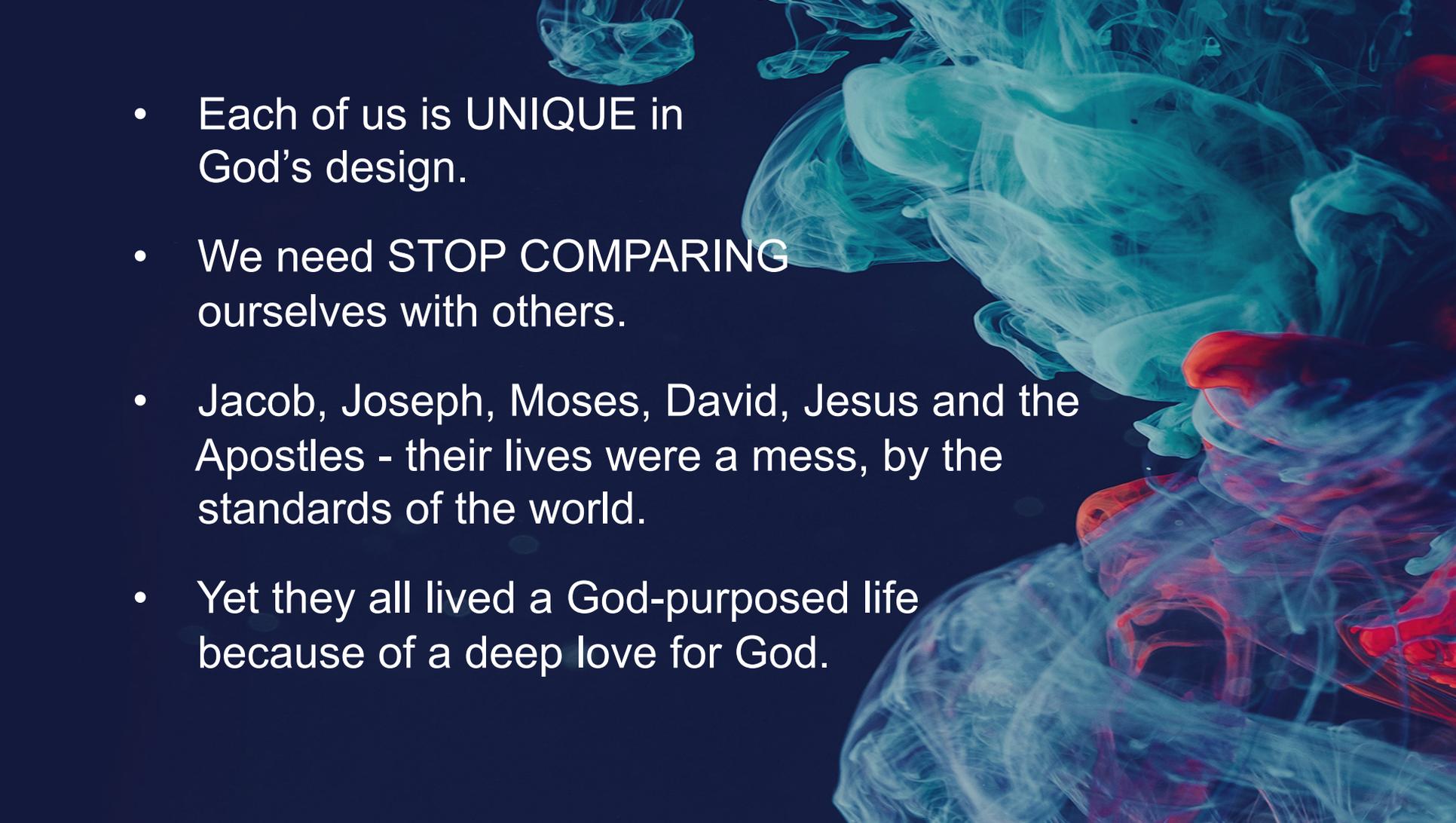
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- Many workers needed to reap the harvest
 - Early church in the Book of Acts – everyone played a part.
 - A new wave of church growth is coming our way
 - God has called us, the LSBC family, to be involved in reaping this harvest.



3. We Cannot Make A Difference If We Are Not Different

- Our perspective of life and our values must be DIFFERENT.
- To be different requires DISCIPLINE.

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- Discipline to constantly take stock of our lives, and make adjustments.
 - Otherwise we will either be heading the wrong direction or drift aimlessly in life. Either way, we are going to get lost.
 - “We function best in our God-given design, not culture driven demands.”
(Ps Chris Hodges)

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- Each of us is **UNIQUE** in God's design.
 - We need **STOP COMPARING** ourselves with others.
 - Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Jesus and the Apostles - their lives were a mess, by the standards of the world.
 - Yet they all lived a God-purposed life because of a deep love for God.

The background features a dark blue gradient with ethereal, smoke-like or liquid-like patterns. On the right side, there are large, billowing shapes in shades of cyan and light blue, transitioning into vibrant red and magenta tones towards the bottom right. The overall effect is dynamic and artistic.

Conclusion