



The Misinterpreted & The Misused:

Common Pitfalls in Handling Scripture
and Practical Ways to Understand
and Apply God's Truth






2 Things to Keep in Mind:

- I. “All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”

- *2 Timothy 3:16 [ESV]*





2 Things to Keep in Mind:

2. All scriptures point to Jesus:

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me.”

- *John 5:39 [NASB]*



The First Question Asked in the Bible:

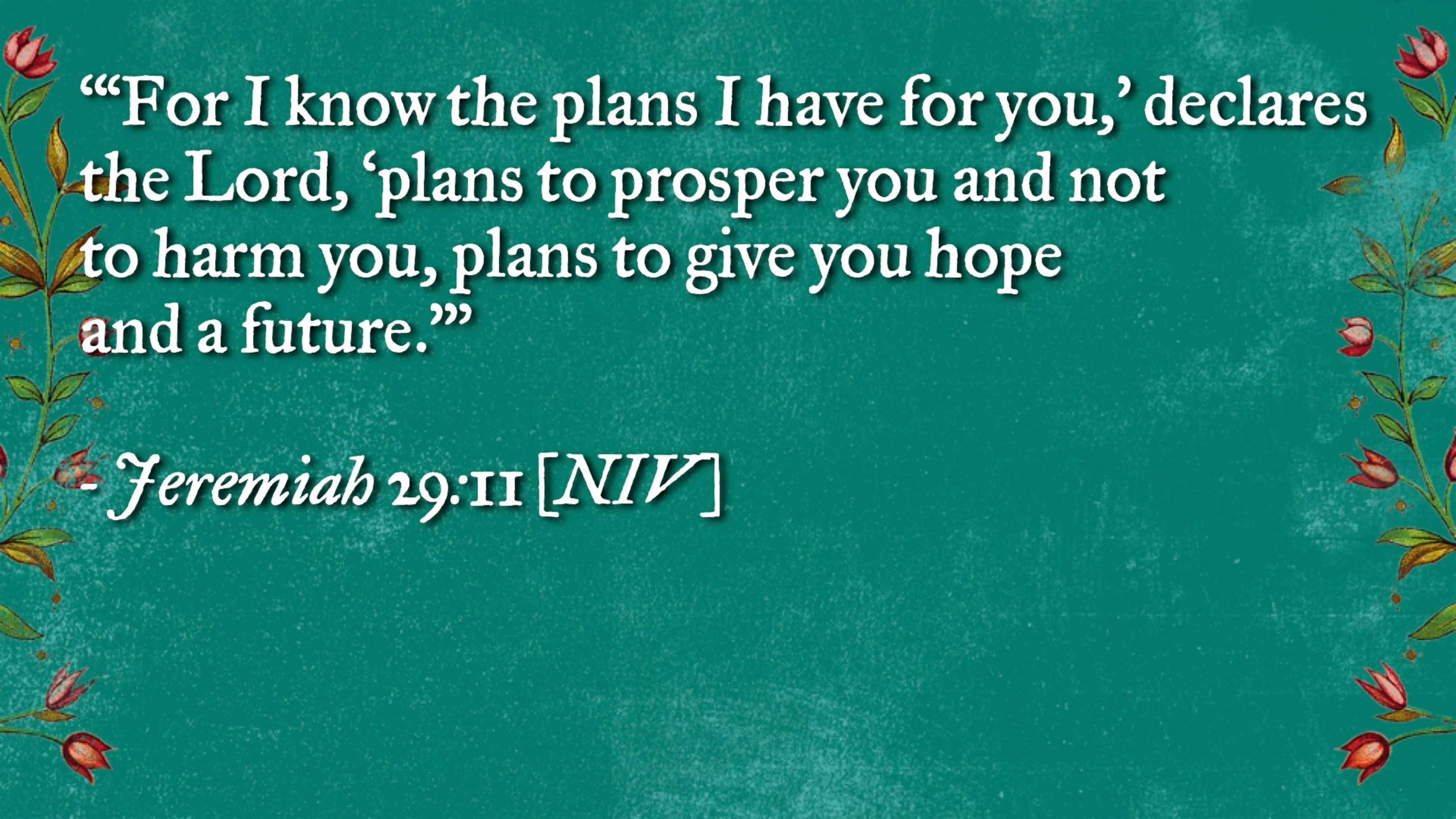
“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die.’”

- *Genesis 2:15 [ESV]*

The First Question Asked in the Bible:

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God actually say, “You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?”’”

- *Genesis 3:1-7 [ESV]*



“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

- *Jeremiah 29:11 [NIV]*



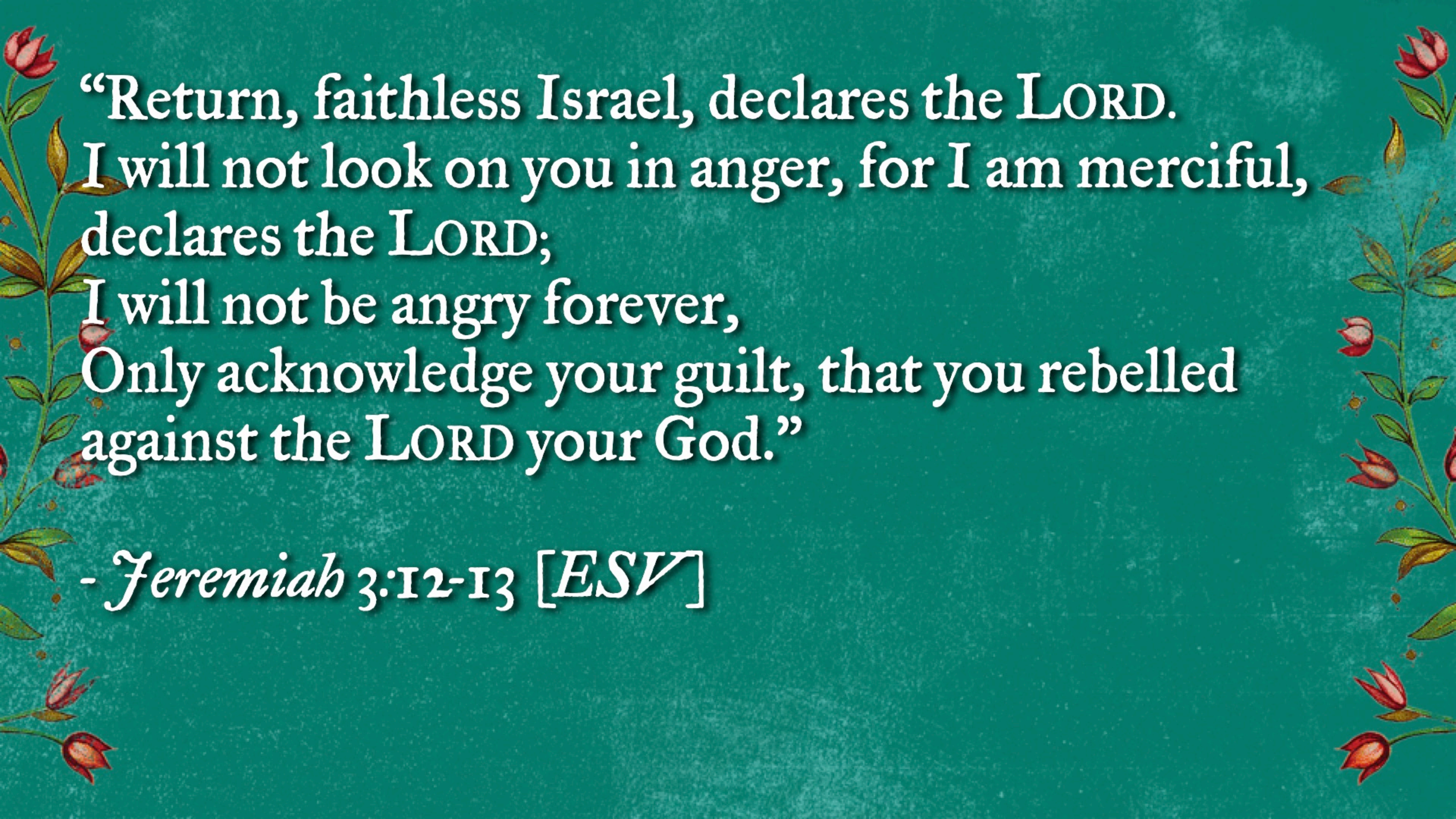
WHY did God make this specific promise?

To *WHOM* was he speaking?

WHAT was happening at that time that led God to make this promise?

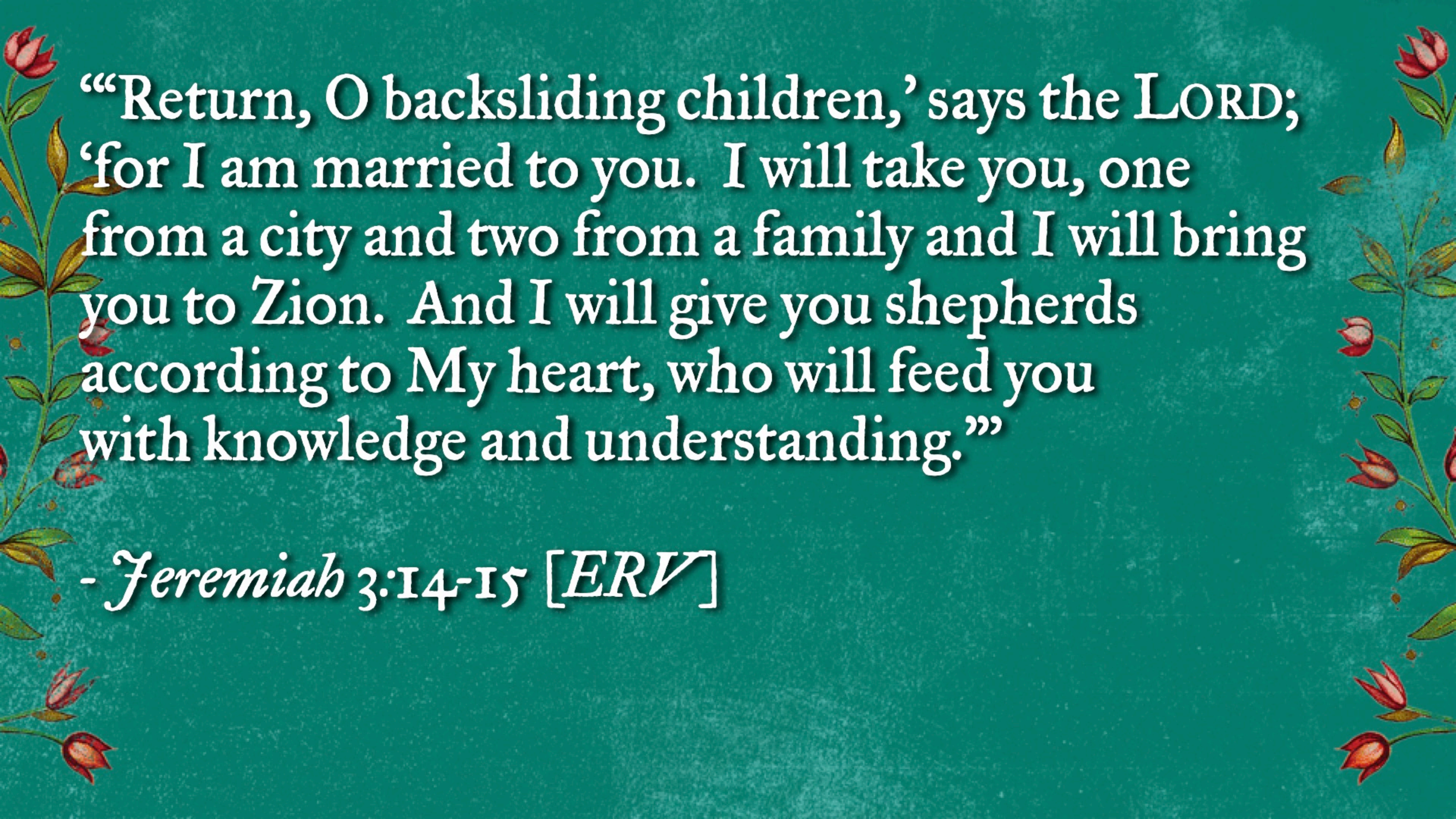
WHAT are the plans? *WHAT* kind of prospering?
WHAT kind of future? *WHAT* kind of hope?







“Return, faithless Israel, declares the LORD.
I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful,
declares the LORD;
I will not be angry forever,
Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled
against the LORD your God.”

- *Jeremiah 3:12-13 [ESV]*



“Return, O backsliding children,’ says the LORD;
‘for I am married to you. I will take you, one
from a city and two from a family and I will bring
you to Zion. And I will give you shepherds
according to My heart, who will feed you
with knowledge and understanding.”

- *Jeremiah 3:14-15 [ERV]*




“...I have spoken to you persistently and you did not listen, and when I have called you, you did not answer.”

- *Jeremiah* 7:13 [ESV]

Jeremiah 29:10-14 [NIV]

“This is what the LORD says: ‘When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”


- V. 10-11



Jeremiah 29:10-14 [NIV]

“Then you will call on me and come and pray to me and, I will listen to you.” - v. 12

“You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.” - v. 13



Jeremiah 29:10-14 [NIV]

“‘I will be found by you,’ declares the LORD, ‘and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,’ declares the LORD, ‘and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.’” - v. 14



Jeremiah 29:11

Who is He speaking to?

To ALL the people of the Israelite nation of Judah - not to a specific person.

What is their future and their hope?

A restored homeland and restoration with God.



The background is a solid teal color with a subtle, mottled texture. On the left and right sides, there are decorative floral borders. These borders consist of thin, green, leafy stems that curve upwards. Interspersed along these stems are several red tulip-like flowers, some in full bloom and others as buds. The flowers have a gradient of red, with some yellow at the base of the petals. The overall aesthetic is classic and elegant.

Jeremiah 29:11

What is their prosperity?
Complete peace with God.


Why did God make this promise?
God is merciful and God is faithful
to His promises.

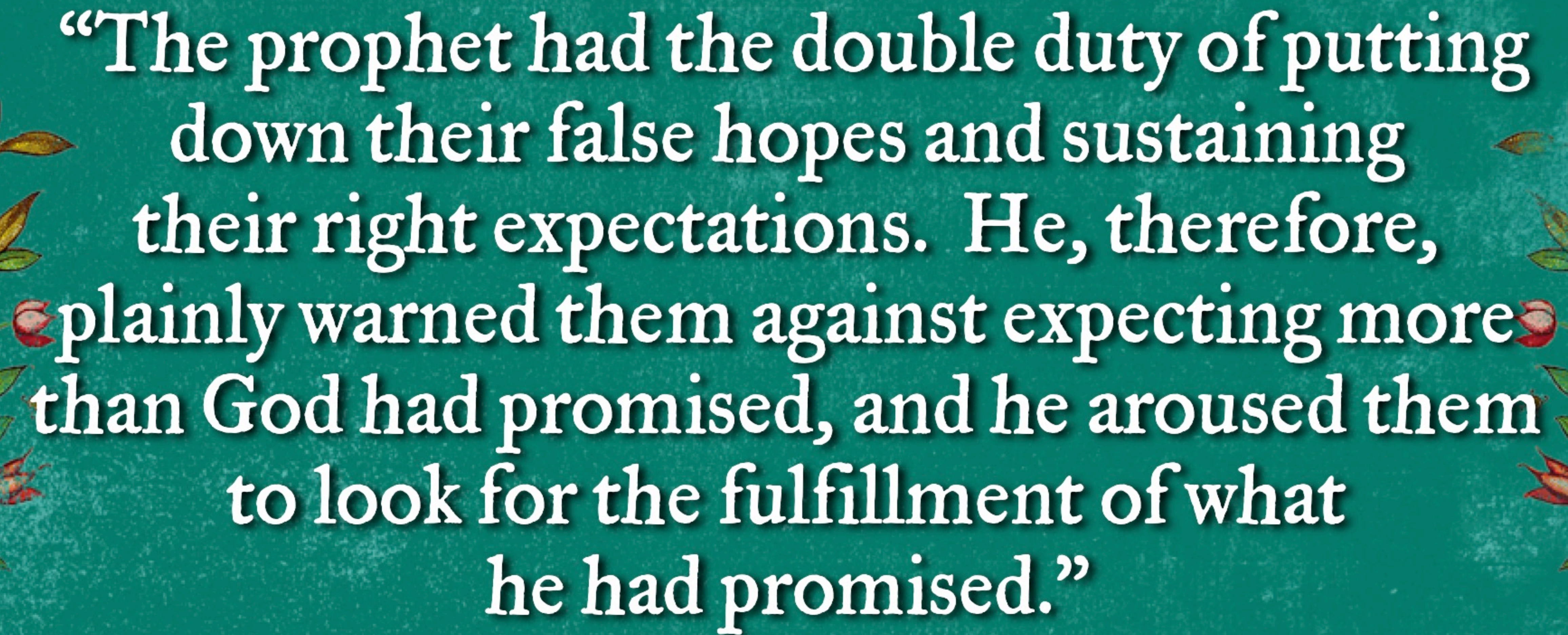


Jeremiah 29:11

King James translation:

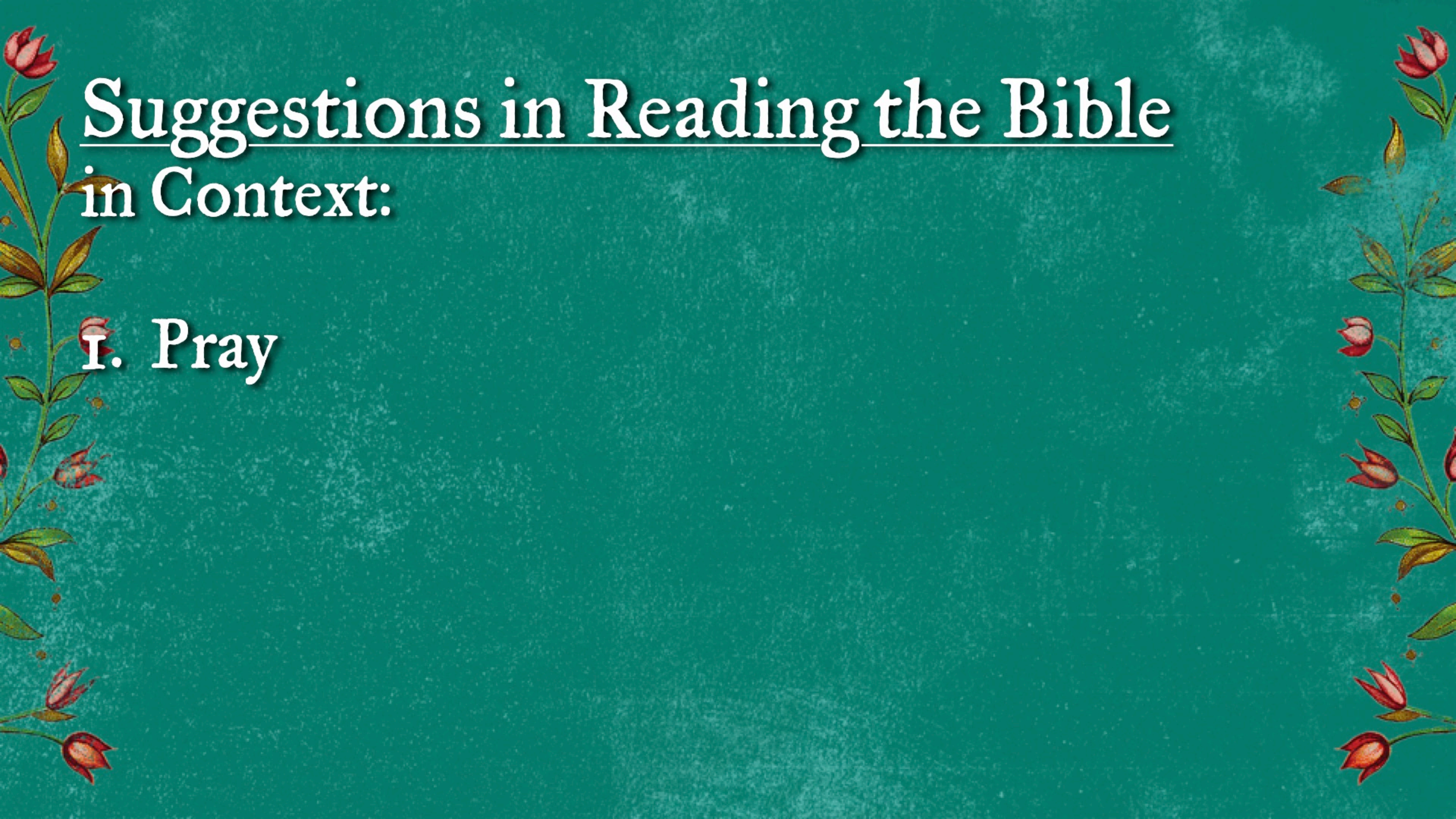
“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,’ saith the LORD, ‘thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.’”





“The prophet had the double duty of putting down their false hopes and sustaining their right expectations. He, therefore, plainly warned them against expecting more than God had promised, and he aroused them to look for the fulfillment of what he had promised.”

- Charles Spurgeon




Suggestions in Reading the Bible in Context:

i. Pray




Suggestions in Reading the Bible in Context:

2. The 5W's [What, Who, When, Where, Why]
 - *What* am I reading? [law, prophecy, proverb, letter, etc]
 - *Who* wrote it?
 - To *whom* was it written?
- 




Suggestions in Reading the Bible in Context:

2. The 5W's [What, Who, When, Where, Why]
 - *When* was it written?
 - *Where* is the setting?
 - *Why* was it written?
- 



Suggestions in Reading the Bible in Context:

3. The Neighborhood of Scripture
 4. Different Translations [Word for Word
OR Thought for Thought]
 5. Study Bible
 6. Faithful Interpretation
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Suggestions in Reading the Bible in Context:

7. Jesus

8. Set Your Heart

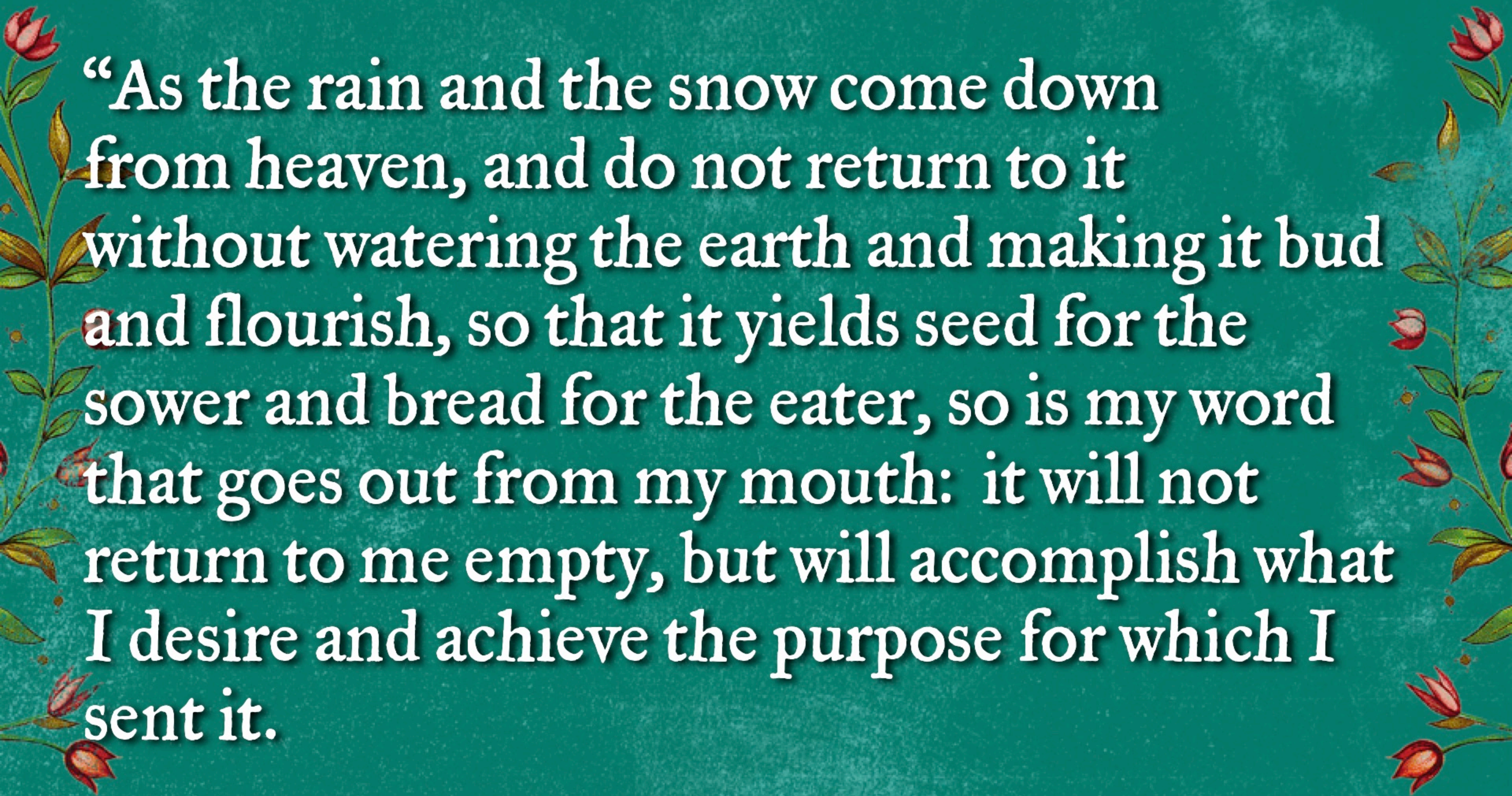
9. Pray



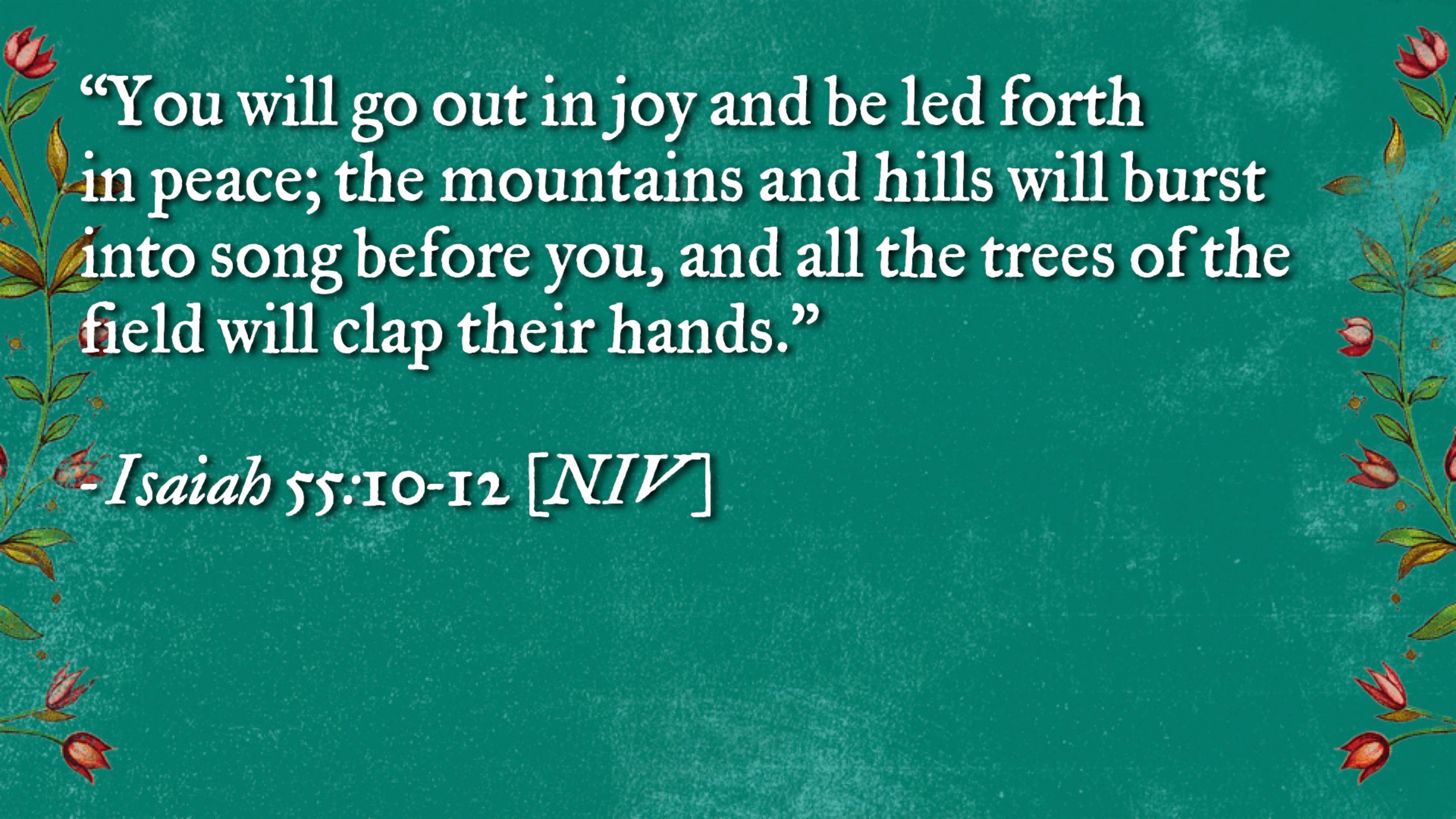


“Scripture affirms that it is able to be understood...
But not all at once.
But not without effort.
But not without ordinary means.
But not without the reader’s willingness to obey it.
But not without the help of the Holy Spirit.
But not without human misunderstanding.
But never completely.”

- Wayne Grudem, Themelios 34.3
Courtesy of Tony Giles, TVC Greenhouse



“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.



“You will go out in joy and be led forth
in peace; the mountains and hills will burst
into song before you, and all the trees of the
field will clap their hands.”

- *Isaiah 55:10-12 [NIV]*



Small Group Practice:

“For where two or more are gathered in my name,
there am I among them.”

-*Matthew 18:20 [ESV]*

1. *Who* wrote it?
 2. *What* does the text say?
 3. *What* is the neighborhood - what passage is before it and what passage is after it?
 4. *Why* is this important?
 5. *What* does this say about God?
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