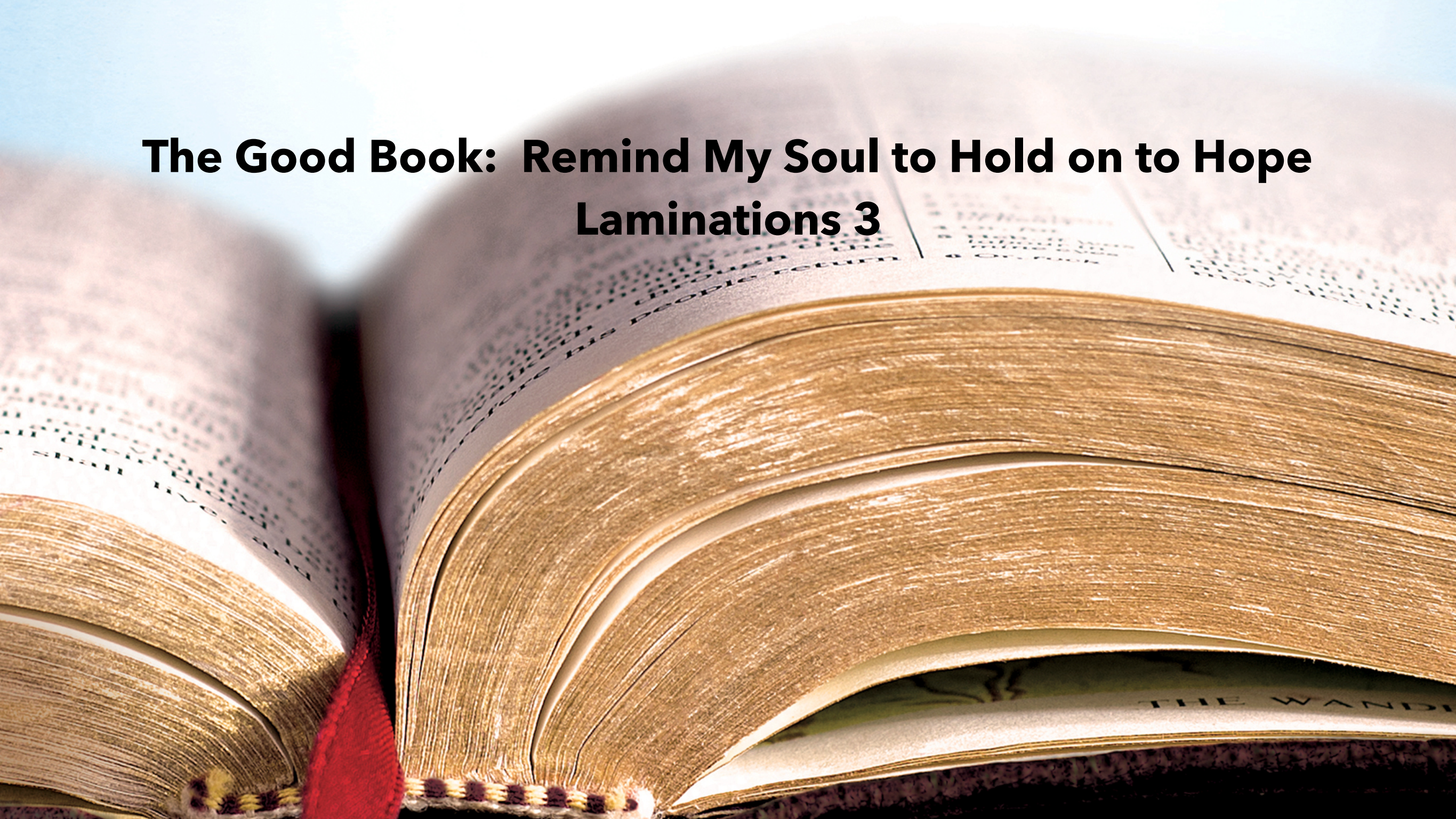


The Good Book

**The Good Book: Remind My Soul to Hold on to Hope
Laminations 3**



An open Bible with a red bookmark is shown in the background. The pages are aged and yellowed, and the binding is visible in the center. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

Recap:

Read the Bible for transformation not information

Interpret and apply the Bible through Christ

Sin distorts core beliefs about myself and God

God makes a way when all seems impossible

Strength for transformation comes from the Spirit through Christ

Jesus is the Savior who does away with suffering and sin

LAMENTATIONS 3:1-11

1I am the man who has seen affliction under the ^lrod of his wrath;
2he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light;
3surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long. **4**He has made my flesh and my skin waste away; he has broken my bones; **5**he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; **6**he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago. **7**He has walled me about so that ^sI cannot escape; he has made my chains heavy; **8**though ^tI call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer; **9**he has blocked my ways with blocks of stones; he has made my paths crooked. **10**He is a bear lying in wait for me, a lion in hiding; **11**he turned aside my steps and ^utore me to pieces; he has made me desolate

Driven- with a whip, like an animal

Darkness- no light, fear, hopelessness; just the last place you want to go

vv. 2-11: who's hand has been turned against him?

God's! how do we understand that?

1- we can certainly feel this way, like God isn't going to ever show up and help us

2- God will do what is necessary to purify and correct and draw us to himself

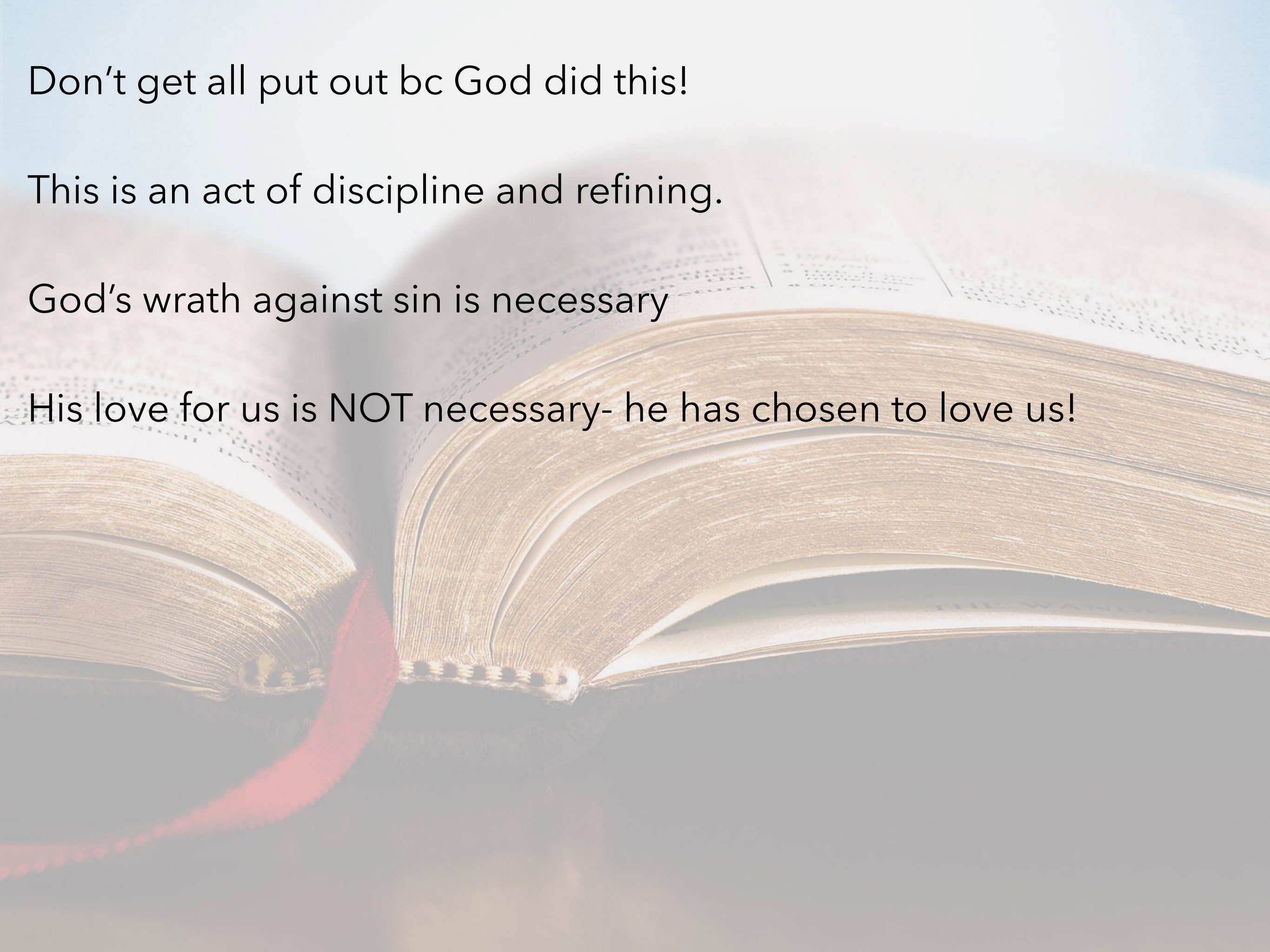
3- God doesn't abandon his own

Don't get all put out bc God did this!

This is an act of discipline and refining.

God's wrath against sin is necessary

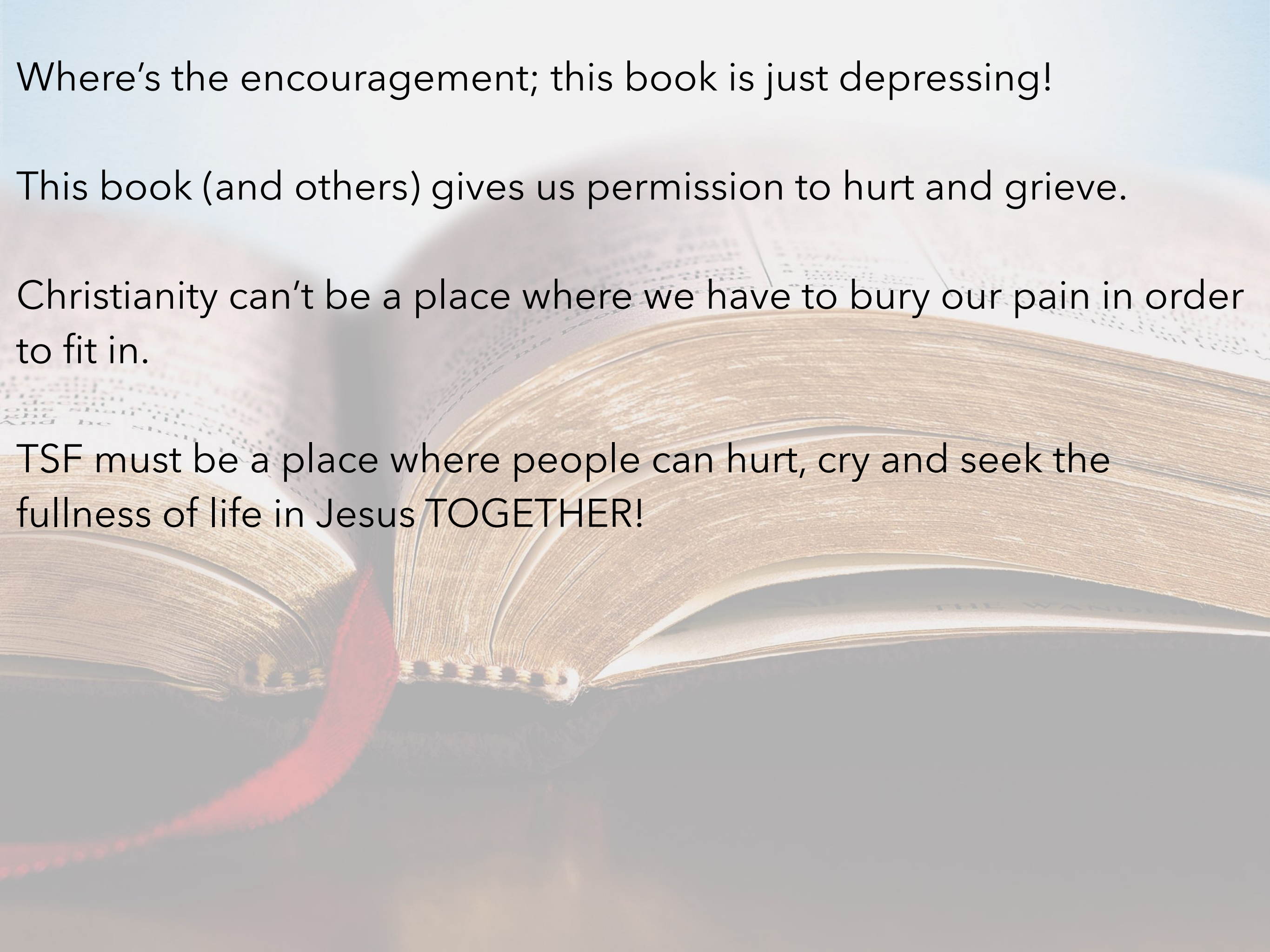
His love for us is NOT necessary- he has chosen to love us!



Lamentations 3:19-20

19 Remember my affliction and my wanderings,
the wormwood and the gall!

20 My soul continually remembers it
and is bowed down within me.



Where's the encouragement; this book is just depressing!

This book (and others) gives us permission to hurt and grieve.

Christianity can't be a place where we have to bury our pain in order to fit in.

TSF must be a place where people can hurt, cry and seek the fullness of life in Jesus **TOGETHER!**

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-26

22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
his mercies never come to an end;

23 they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

25 The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.

26 It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

LAMENTATIONS 3:31-33

31 For the Lord will not
cast off forever,

32

but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

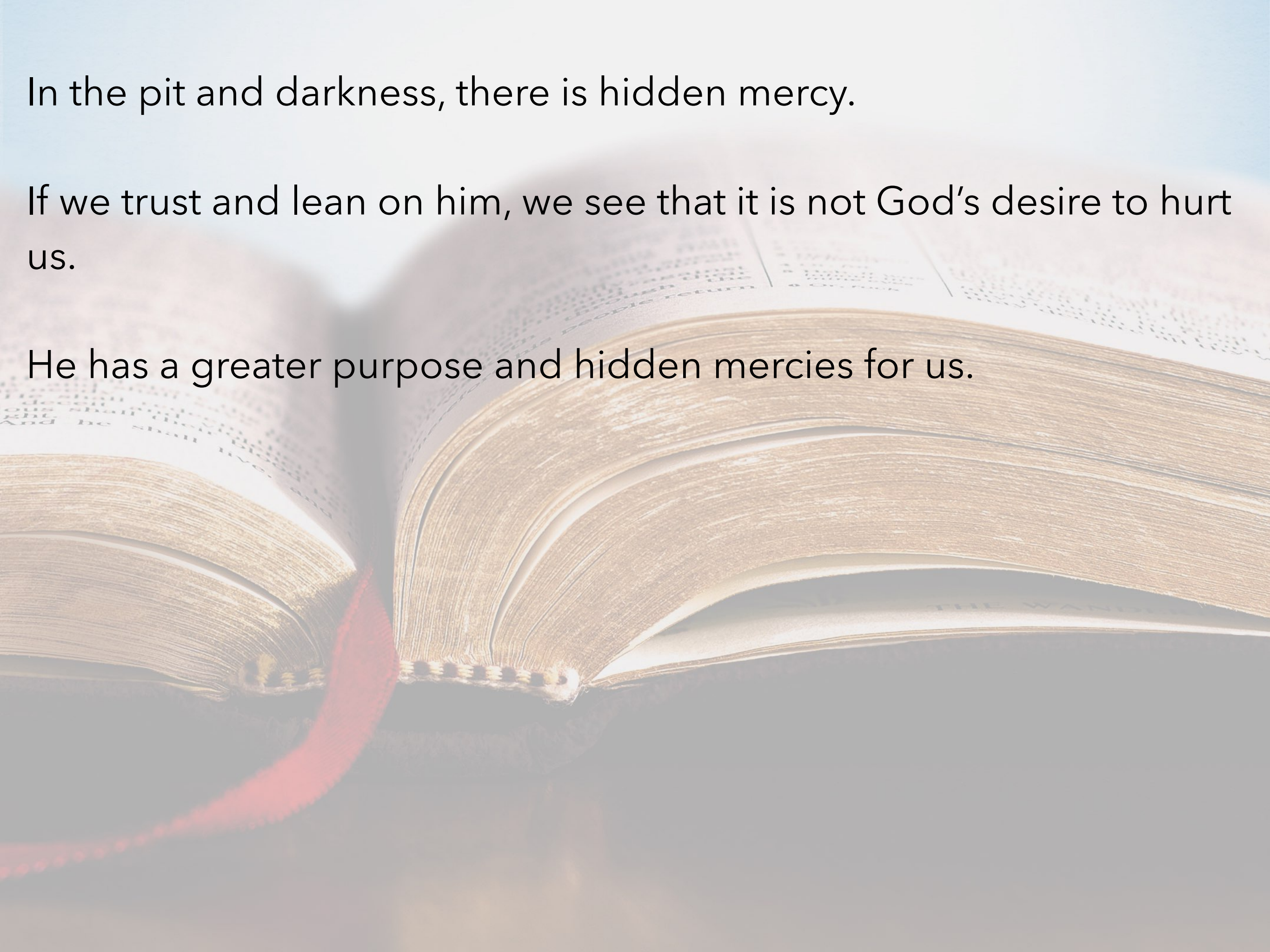
33

for he does not afflict from his heart
or grieve the children of men.

In the pit and darkness, there is hidden mercy.

If we trust and lean on him, we see that it is not God's desire to hurt us.

He has a greater purpose and hidden mercies for us.

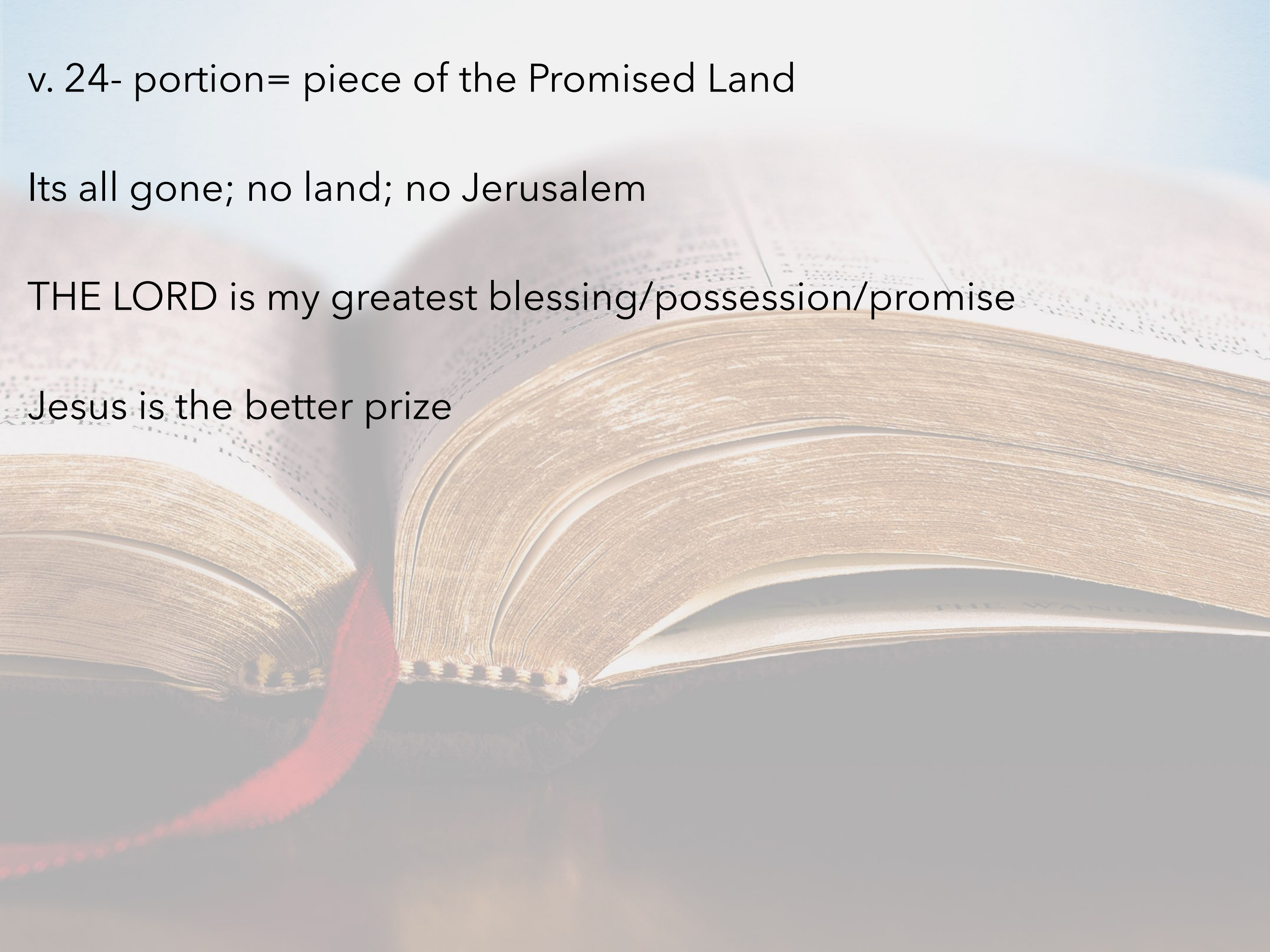


v. 24- portion= piece of the Promised Land

Its all gone; no land; no Jerusalem

THE LORD is my greatest blessing/possession/promise

Jesus is the better prize



Why would God do this?

We like it when God protects and promises and gives us stuff and Direction- but that's a childish love

God isn't satisfied with that!

So he brings struggles so have to dig deep to uproot childish faith and replace it with a deep thirst and longing for Jesus



What do we learn from Job and Lamentations about suffering?

God is good and in control and working all things for your purification

There's not always a direct correlation between your sin and your suffering

Sometimes your pain and loss is a direct result of your sin

Satan is sometimes allowed to bring suffering and pain

Our only hope is to trust in the Lord!

Lower Application:

A very depressing morality story; "Work hard and be good or God will destroy you!"

Upper Application:

There is REAL HOPE

Jesus hears our cries about our destruction and he weeps and is moved

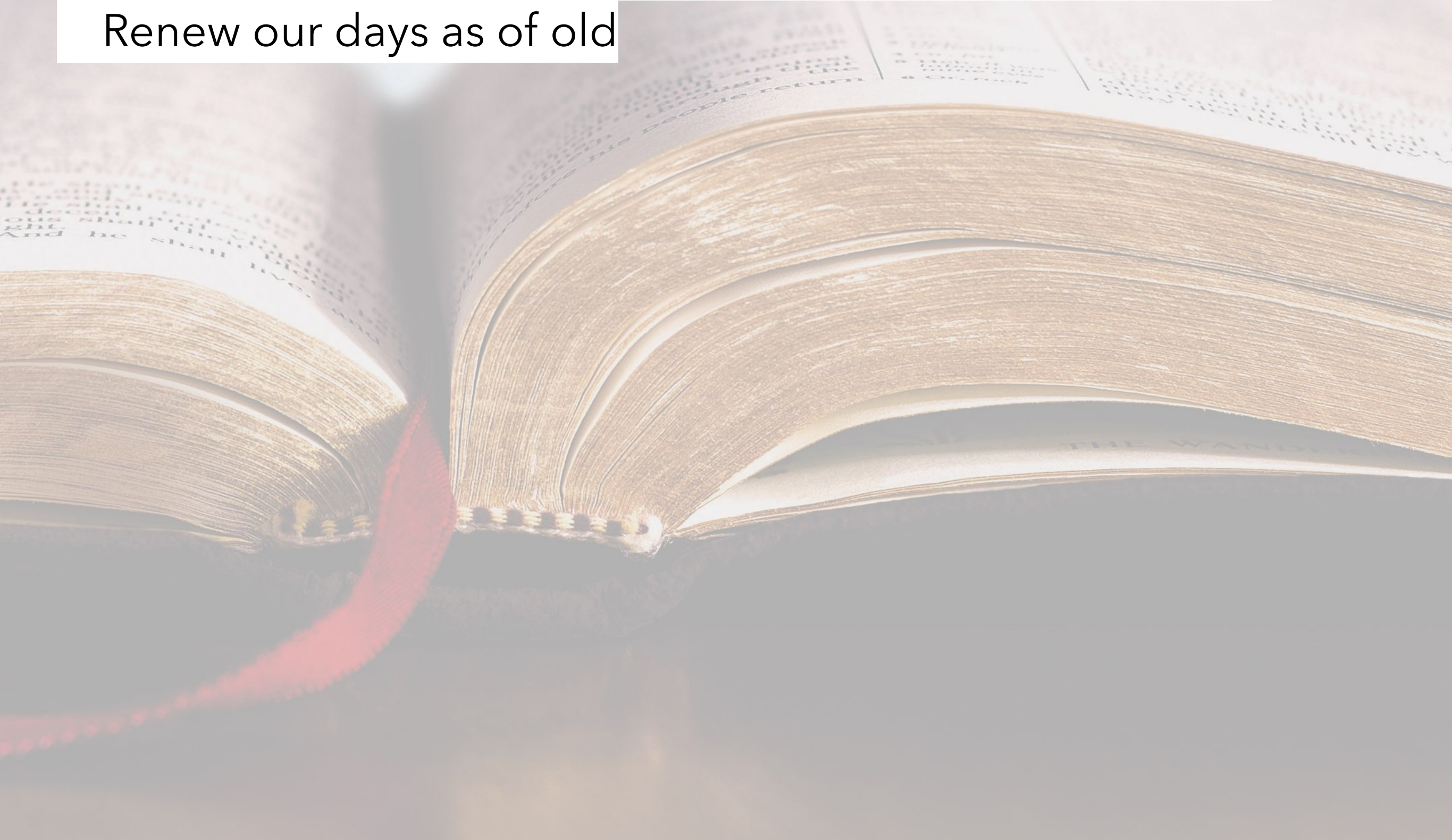
And he dies to take away the destruction our sin brings!

Our hope is that Jesus is close to us, holding us, empowering us to overcome this broken world

This is real life- are you going to trust in Jesus while you are in the pit and darkness?

LAMENTATIONS 5:21

21 Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored!
Renew our days as of old



LAMENTATIONS 3:55-59

55 I called on your name, Lord,
from the depths of the pit.

56
You heard my plea: "Do not close your ears
to my cry for relief."

57
You came near when I called you,
and you said, "Do not fear."

58
You, Lord, took up my case;
you redeemed my life.

59
Lord, you have seen the wrong done to me.
Uphold my cause!