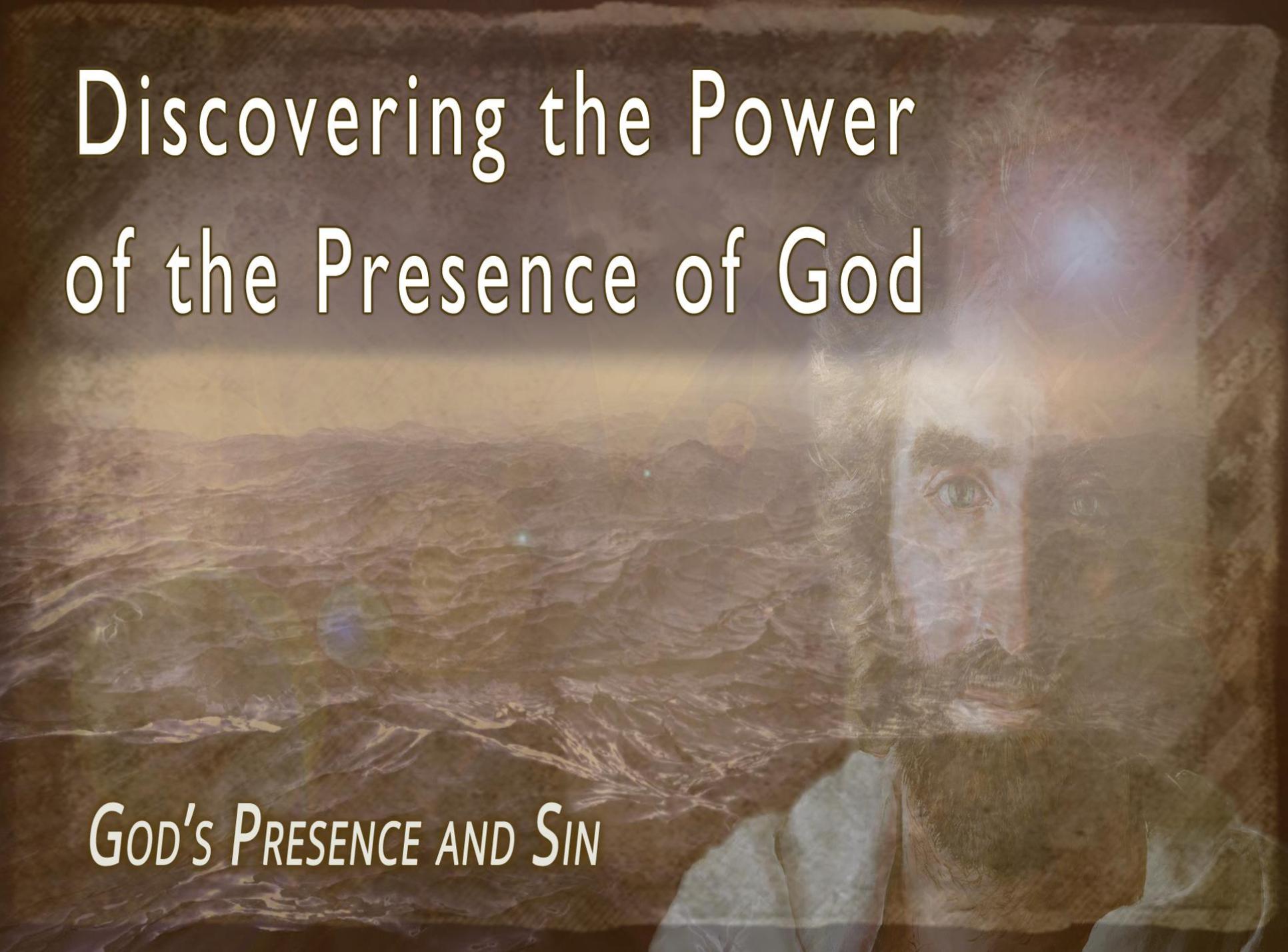
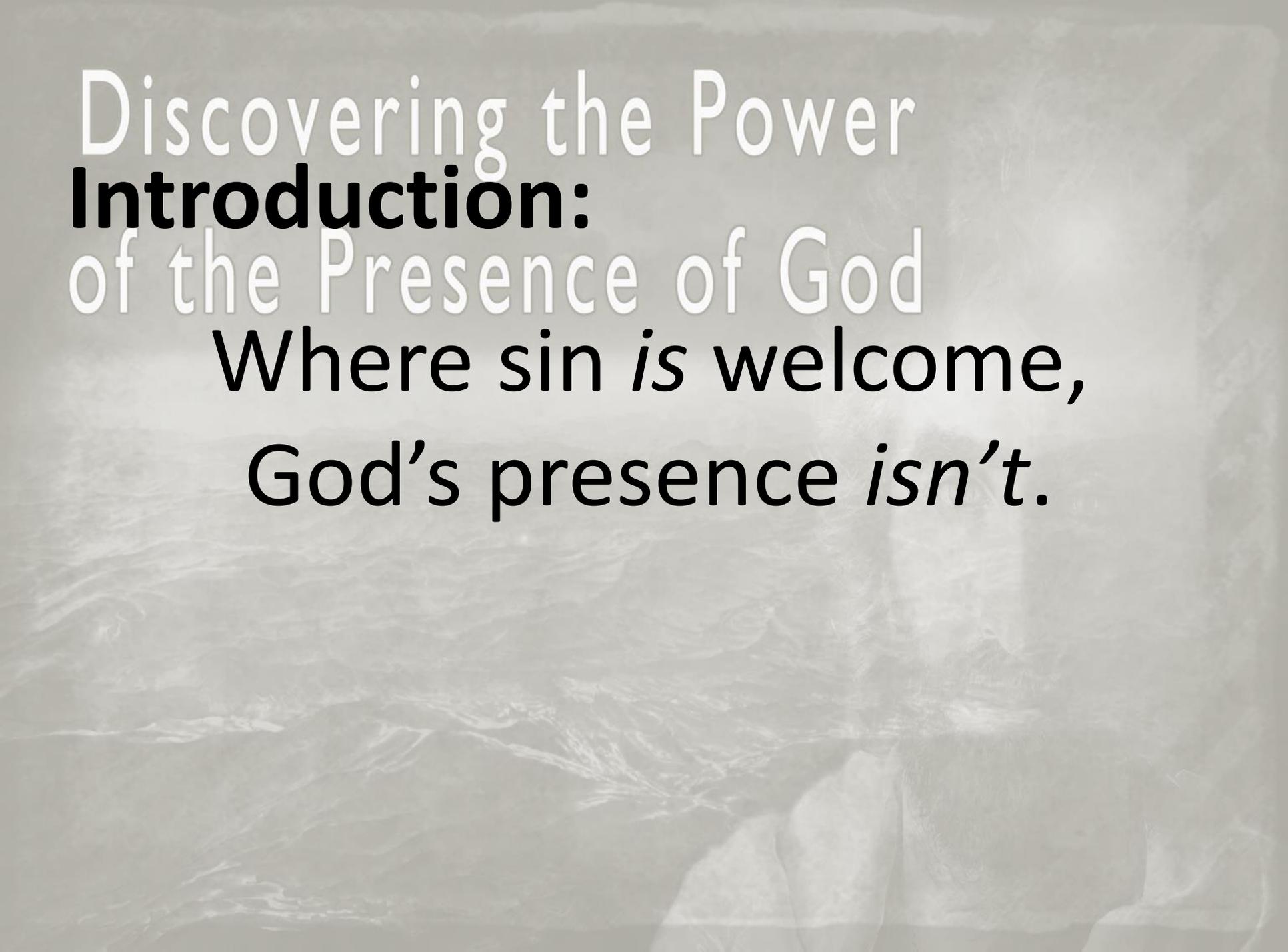


# Discovering the Power of the Presence of God



*GOD'S PRESENCE AND SIN*

A person is shown from the chest up, kneeling in prayer with their hands clasped. A bright, ethereal light emanates from behind their head, creating a halo effect. The background is a soft-focus landscape of rolling hills or mountains under a hazy sky. The overall tone is spiritual and contemplative.

Discovering the Power  
**Introduction:**  
of the Presence of God

Where sin *is* welcome,  
God's presence *isn't*.

# Discovering the Power

**Text:** Joshua 6:2

**of the Presence of God**  
**Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I  
have delivered Jericho into your  
hands, along with its king and its  
fighting men.**

# Discovering the Power

Text: Joshua 7:1

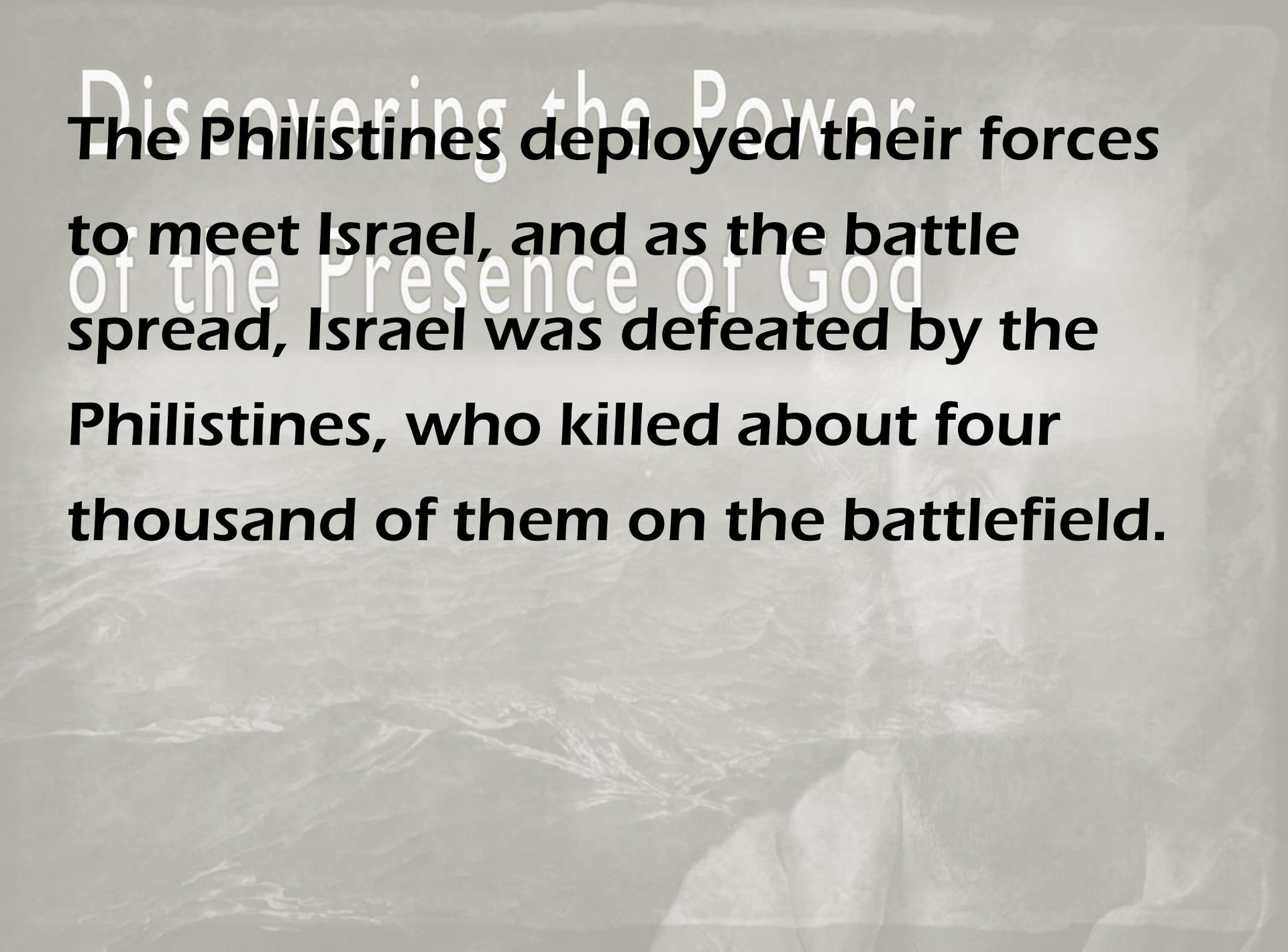
**of the Presence of God**  
**But the Israelites acted unfaithfully in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the LORD'S anger burned against Israel.**

# Discovering the Power

Text: 1 Samuel 4:1b-11

**of the Presence of God**  
**Now the Israelites went out to fight**  
**against the Philistines.**

**The Israelites camped at Ebenezer,**  
**and the Philistines at Aphek.**



**Discovering the Power  
of the Presence of God**

**The Philistines deployed their forces to meet Israel, and as the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand of them on the battlefield.**

**Discovering the Power  
of the Presence of God**

**When the soldiers returned to camp,  
the elders of Israel asked, “Why did  
the LORD bring defeat upon us today  
before the Philistines?**

**Let us bring the ark of the LORD’S  
covenant from Shiloh, so that it may  
go with us and save us from the hand  
of our enemies.”**

**Discovering the Power  
of the Presence of God**

**So the people sent men to Shiloh, and they brought back the ark of the covenant of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim.**

**And Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.**

**Discovering the Power  
of the Presence of God**

**When the ark of the LORD'S covenant  
came into the camp, all Israel raised  
such a great shout that the ground  
shook.**

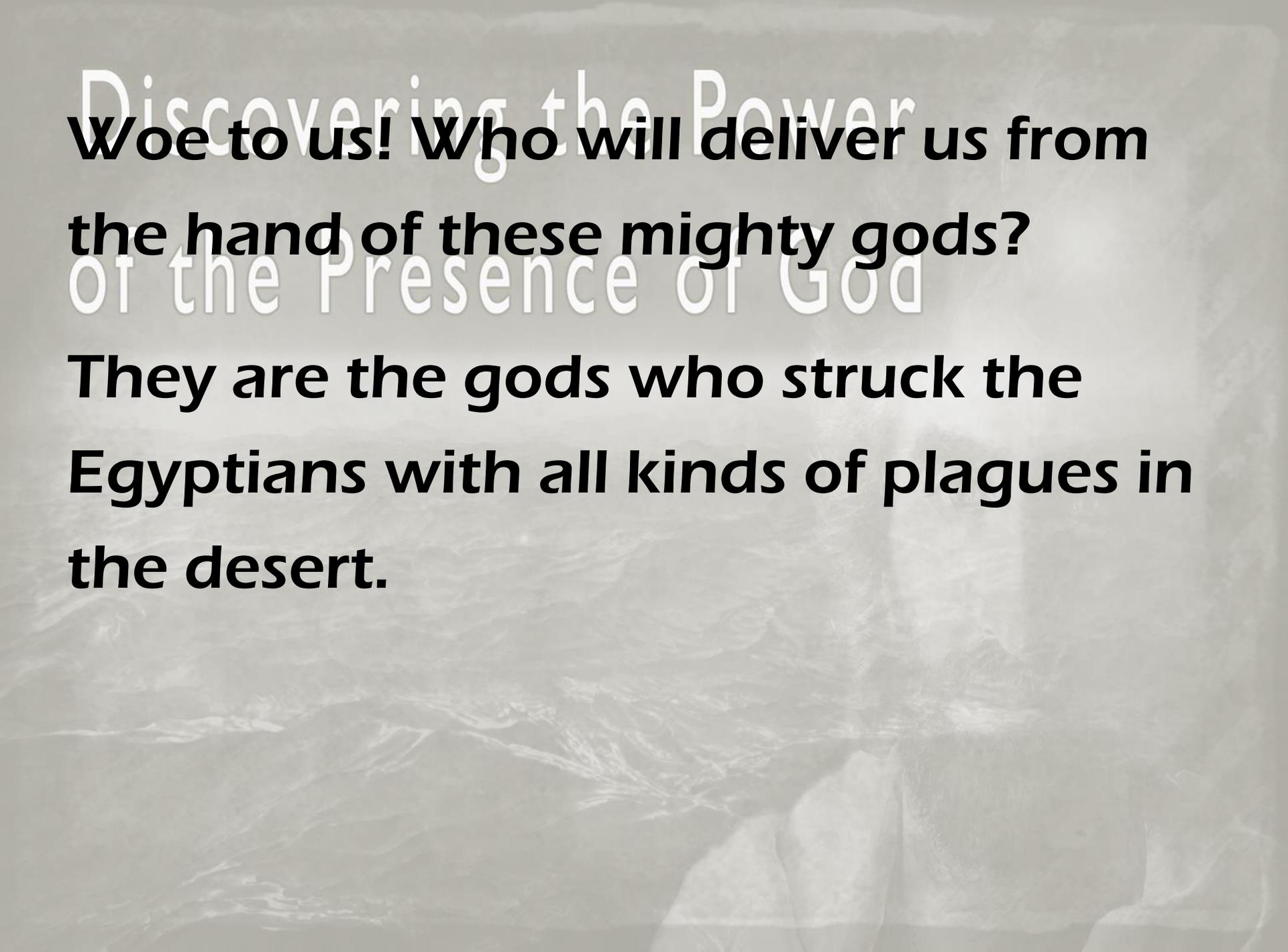
**Hearing the uproar, the Philistines  
asked, "What's all this shouting in the  
Hebrew camp?"**

**Discovering the Power  
of the Presence of God**

**When they learned that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp, the Philistines were afraid.**

**“A god has come into the camp,” they said. “We’re in trouble!**

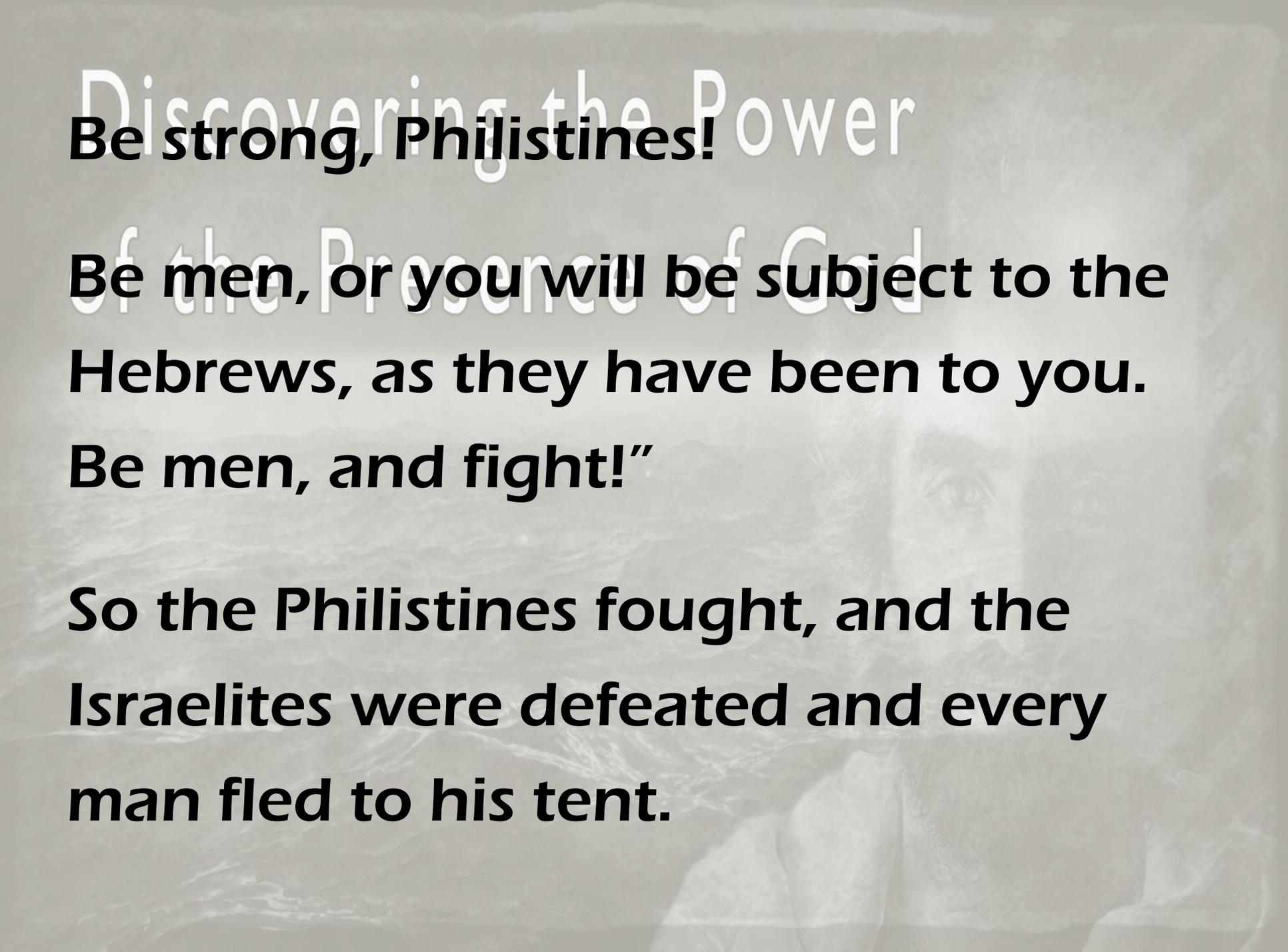
**Nothing like this has happened before.**



**Discovering the Power**  
**Woe to us! Who will deliver us from**  
**the hand of these mighty gods?**

**of the Presence of God**

**They are the gods who struck the**  
**Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in**  
**the desert.**



**Discovering the Power**  
**Be strong, Philistines!**

**Of the Presence of God**  
**Be men, or you will be subject to the**  
**Hebrews, as they have been to you.**

**Be men, and fight!”**

**So the Philistines fought, and the**  
**Israelites were defeated and every**  
**man fled to his tent.**

**Discovering the Power**  
**The slaughter was very great; Israel**  
**lost thirty thousand foot soldiers.**  
**of the Presence of God**

**The ark of God was captured, and Eli's**  
**two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.**

**1 Samuel 4:1b-11**

Israel experienced a succession of **SURPRISES**.

Jericho — Victory should have been **IMPOSSIBLE**, but was **EASY**.

(God knocked down the walls)

Ai — Victory should have been **EASY**, but **DEFEAT** was suffered instead.

(3,000 fled because of the death of 36)

Israel experienced a succession of **SURPRISES**.

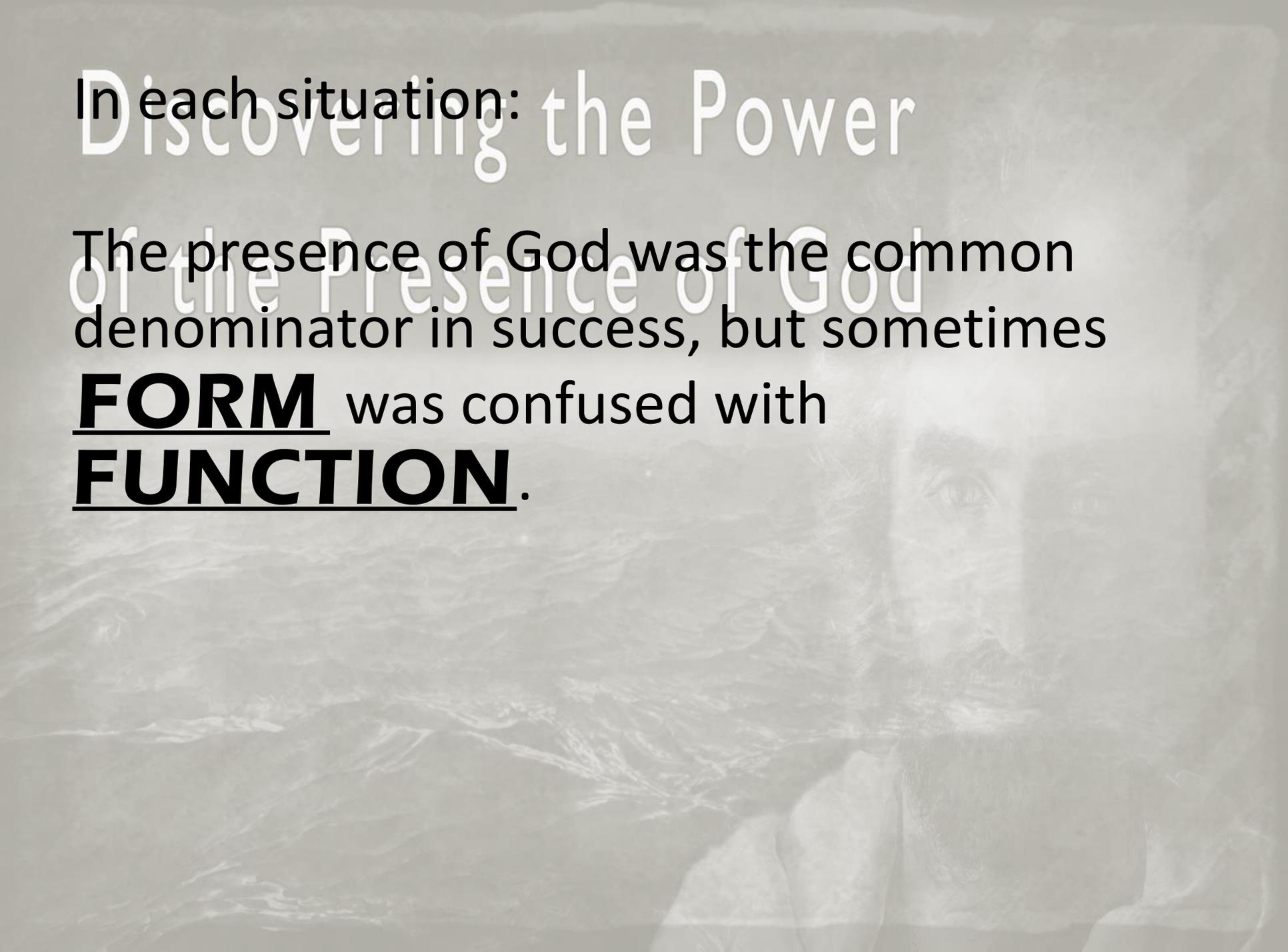
Ebenezer — The challenge was **UNDERESTIMATED**, with a small defeat being followed by a great defeat.

The **ARK** was lost.

In each situation: **Discovering the Power**

The possibility for **SUCCESS** was present, even when it went unseen.

The possibility for **FAILURE** was present, even when it went unseen.



In each situation:

# Discovering the Power

The presence of God was the common denominator in success, but sometimes

**FORM** was confused with  
**FUNCTION.**

We can't:  
Discovering the Power

**SUCCEED** without God.  
of the Presence of God

Expect God's help when we are  
**DISOBEDIENT.**

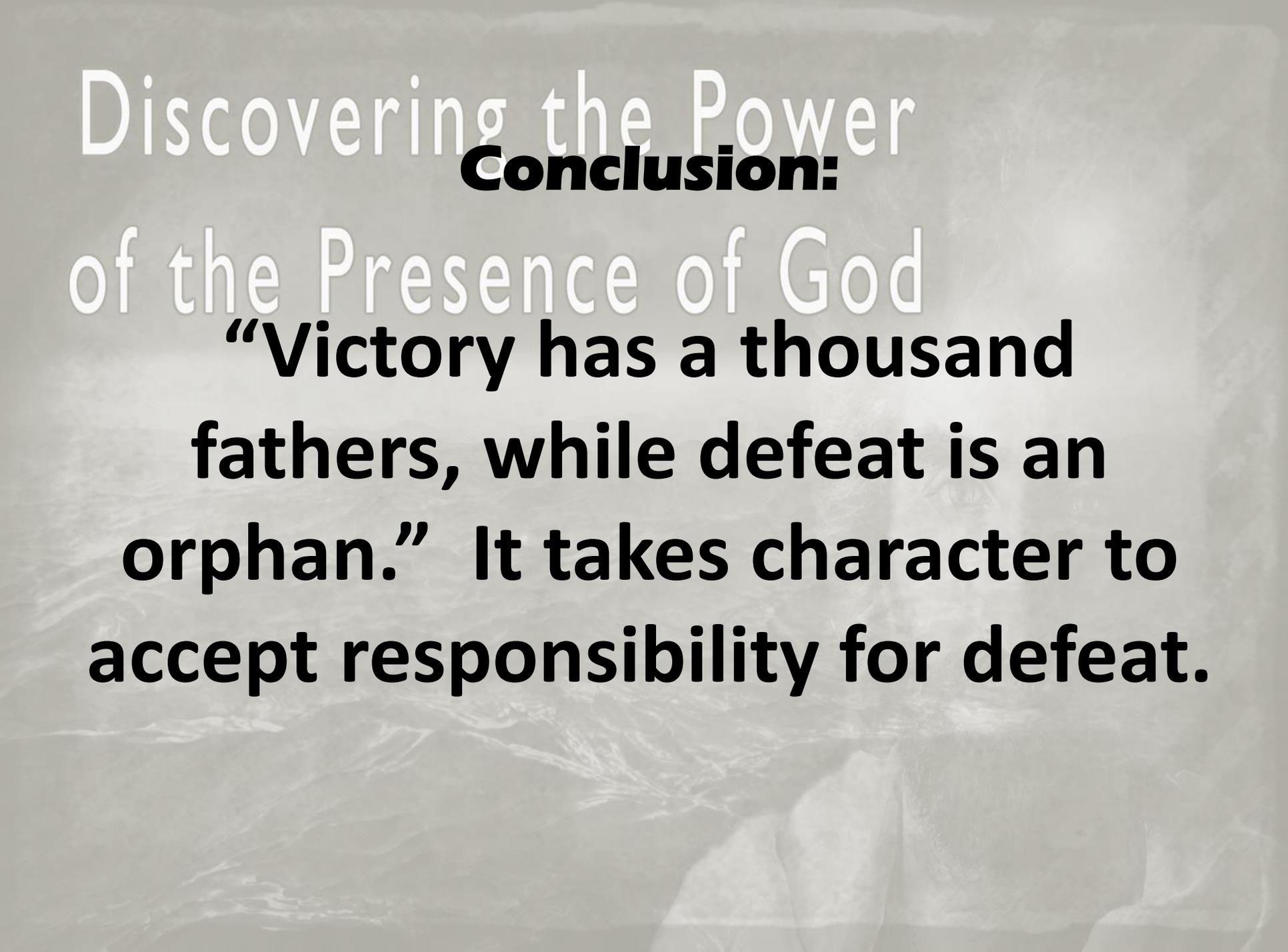
Rely on properly conducted **RITUALS** to  
take the place of a properly maintained  
**RELATIONSHIP** with God.

Mistakes in obedience that *good* people often make include:

**CLAIMING** ownership of things that belong to God.

**CONFUSING** things that are meant to point to God, with God Himself.

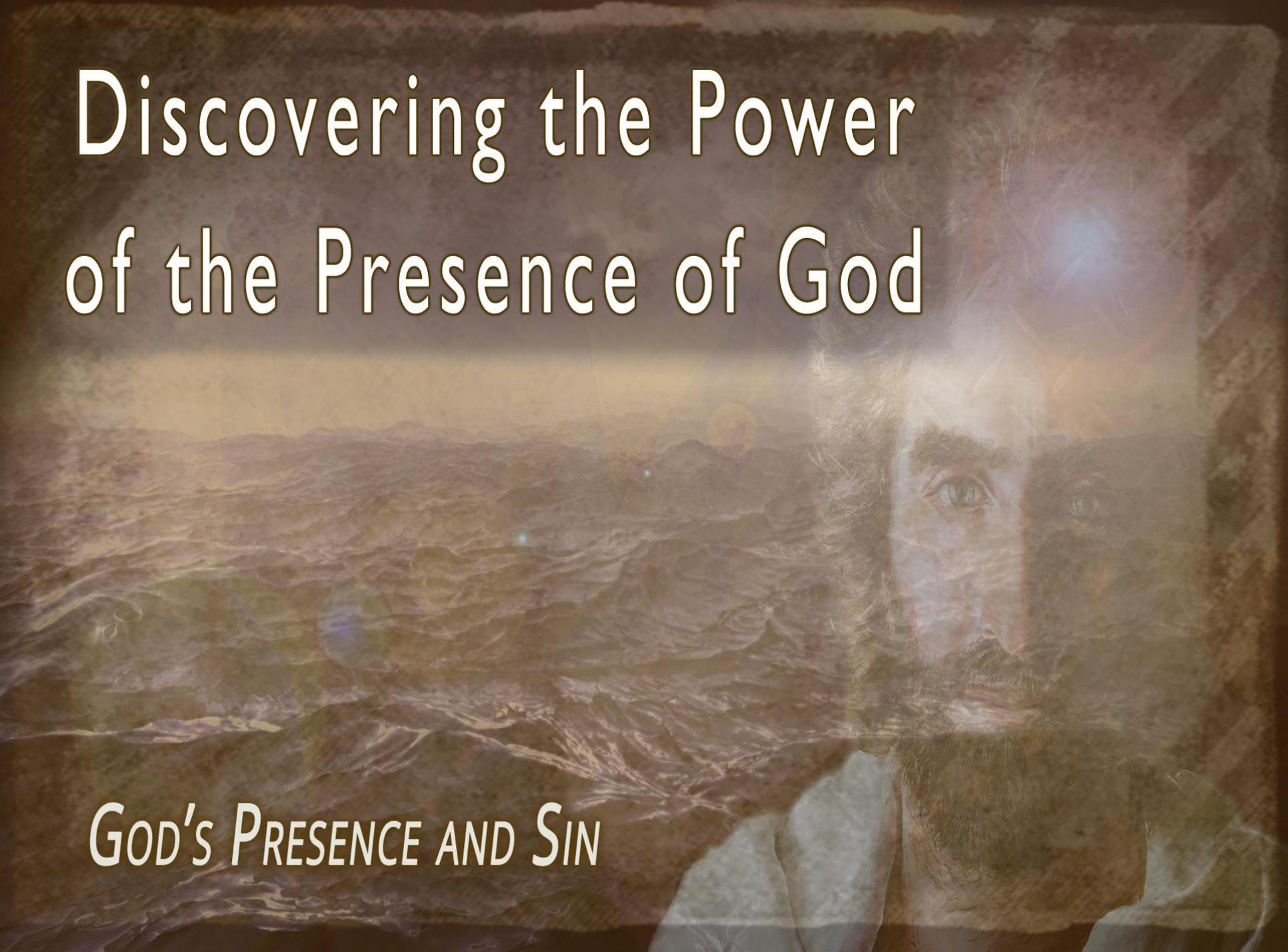
Trying to do in the **FLESH** what only the **GOD'S SPIRIT** can do.



Discovering the Power  
**Conclusion:**  
of the Presence of God

**“Victory has a thousand fathers, while defeat is an orphan.” It takes character to accept responsibility for defeat.**

# Discovering the Power of the Presence of God



*GOD'S PRESENCE AND SIN*