



BRICK BY BRICK



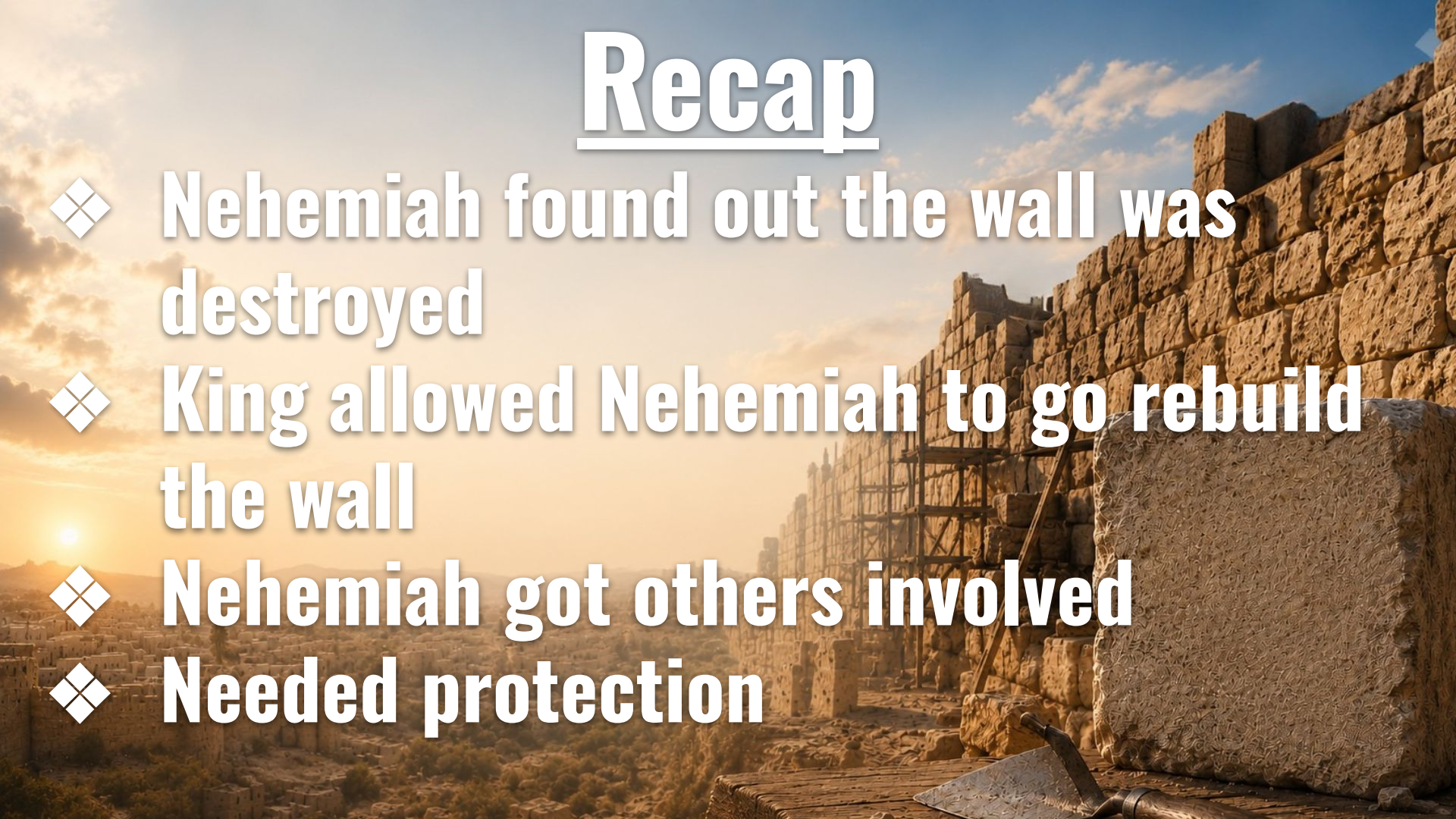
THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

God builds
our lives
and His church
brick by brick



Recap

- ❖ Nehemiah found out the wall was destroyed
- ❖ King allowed Nehemiah to go rebuild the wall
- ❖ Nehemiah got others involved
- ❖ Needed protection



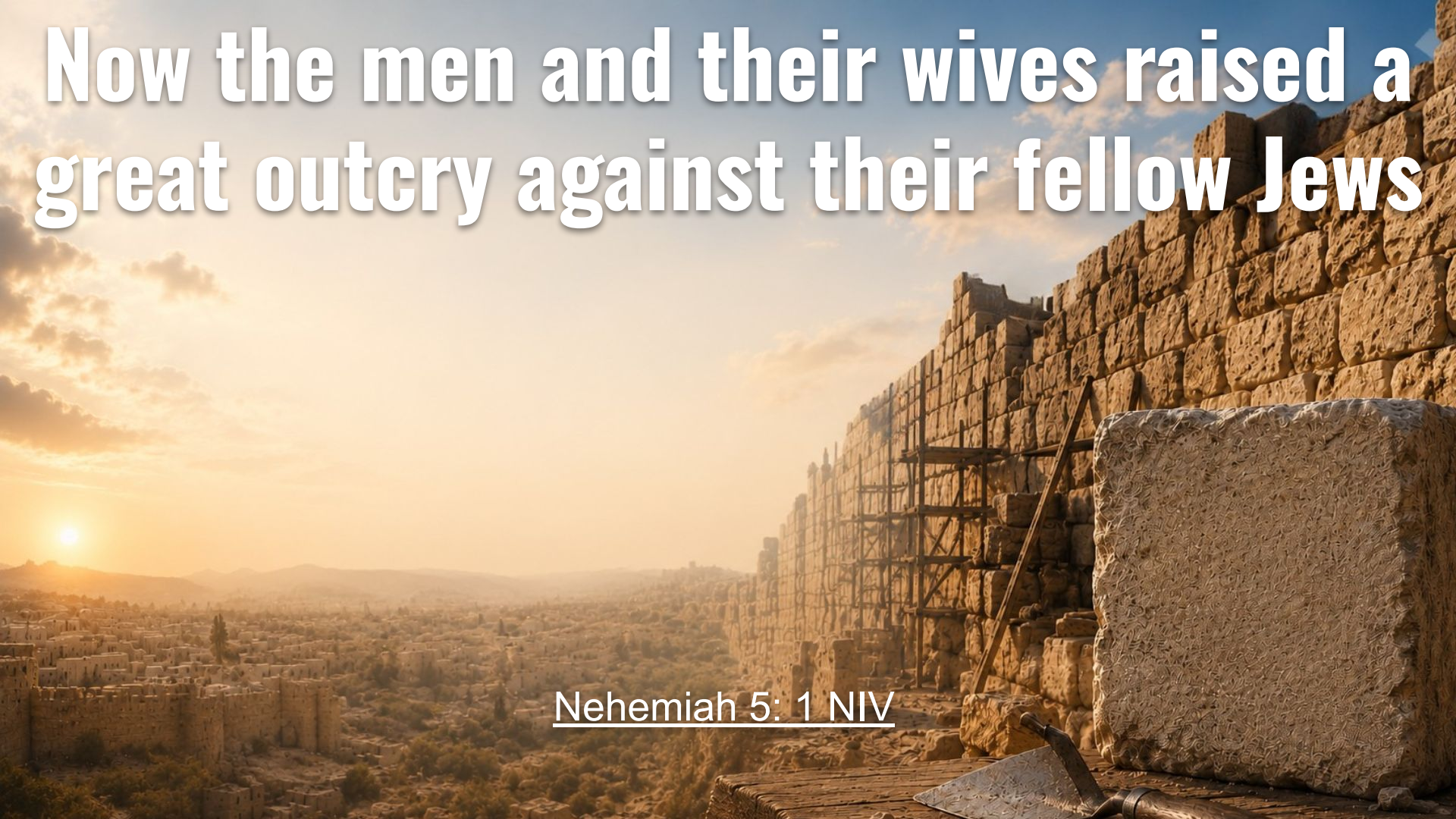
Punchline:

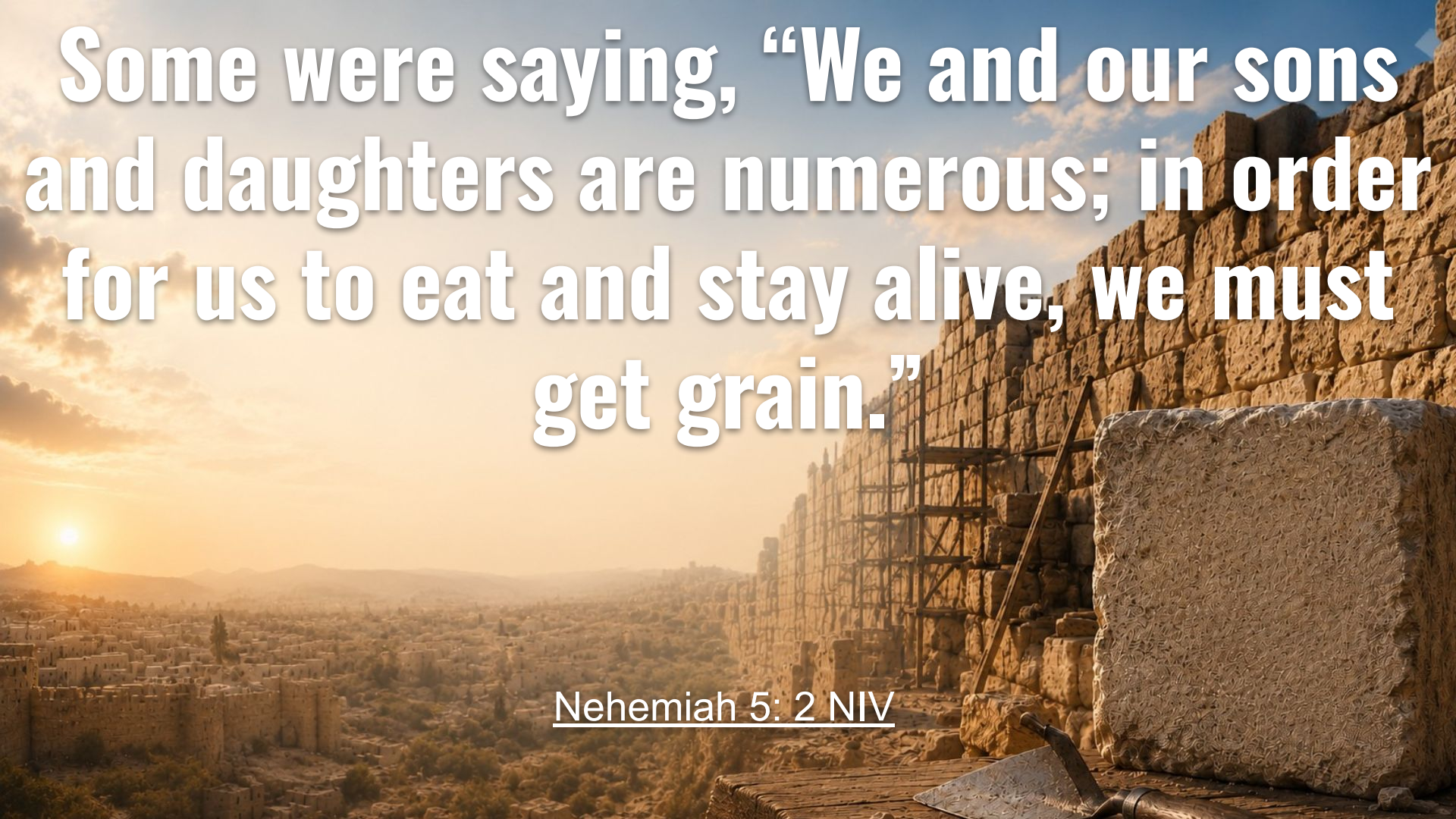
God doesn't reject the rubble
He restores the rubble



**Now the men and their wives raised a
great outcry against their fellow Jews**

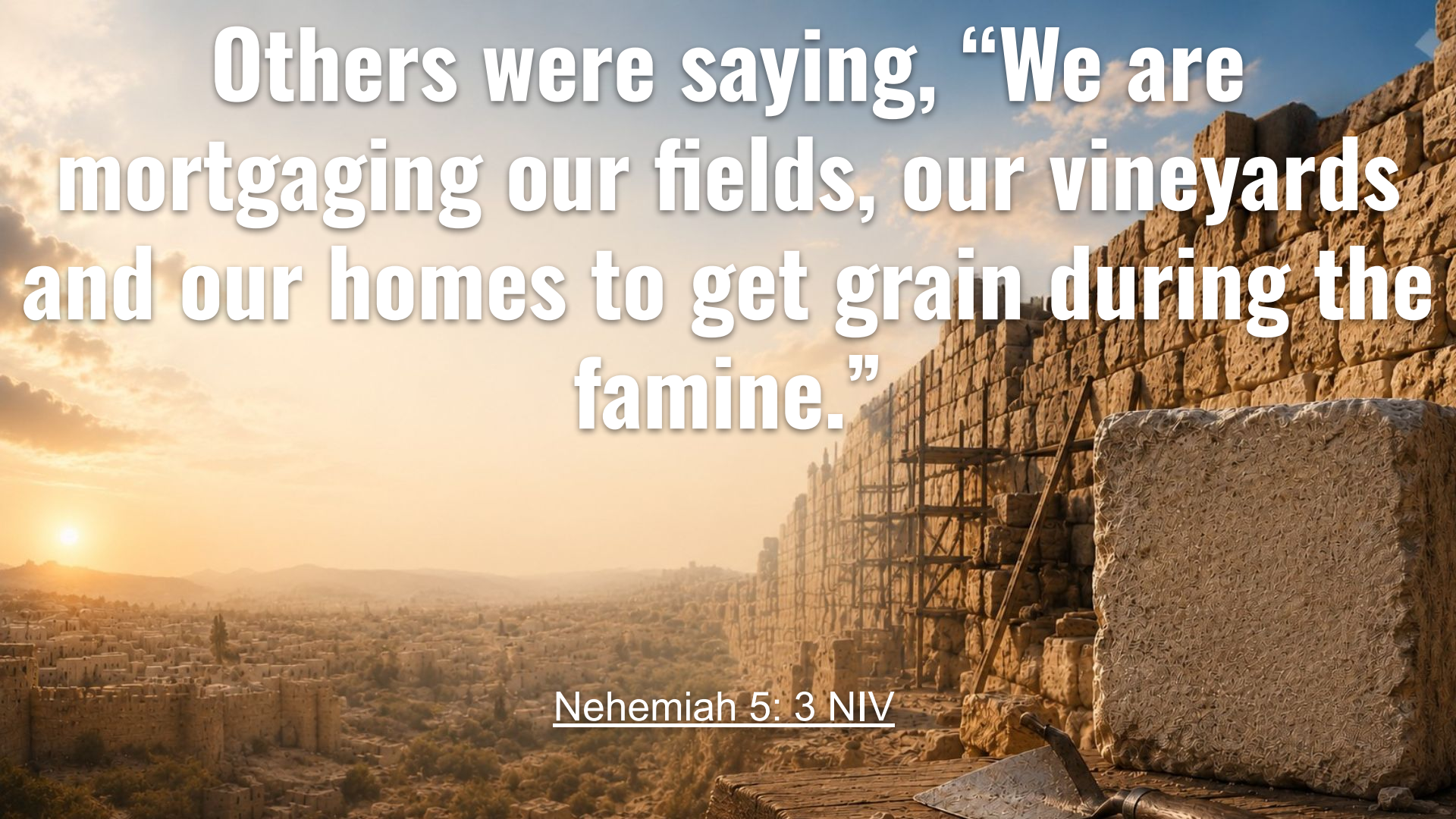
Nehemiah 5: 1 NIV



A dramatic sunset scene over a city. In the foreground, a large, rough-hewn stone block sits on a wooden platform. Behind it, a tall, multi-tiered stone wall is under construction, with wooden scaffolding and ladders visible. The sun is low on the horizon to the left, casting a warm, golden glow over the city and the wall. The city below is densely packed with buildings, and the sky is filled with soft, orange-hued clouds.

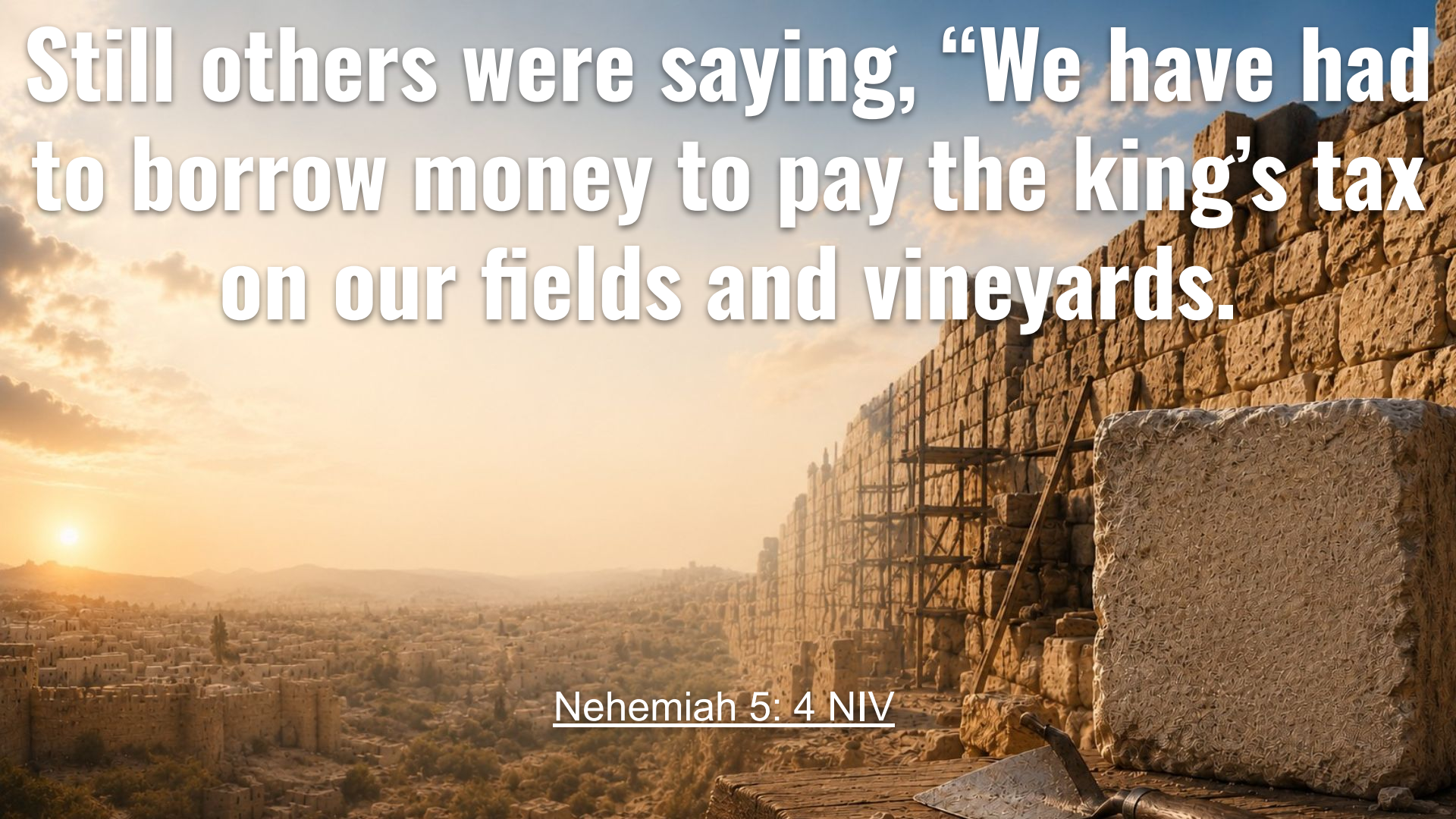
**Some were saying, “We and our sons
and daughters are numerous; in order
for us to eat and stay alive, we must
get grain.”**

Nehemiah 5: 2 NIV

A dramatic sunset over a city, likely Jerusalem, with a large stone wall in the foreground. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The wall is made of large, rectangular stone blocks, and a wooden scaffolding structure is visible against it. In the foreground, a large, rough-hewn stone block sits on a wooden platform, with a metal tool, possibly a trowel or chisel, lying next to it. The city below is densely packed with buildings, and the sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds.

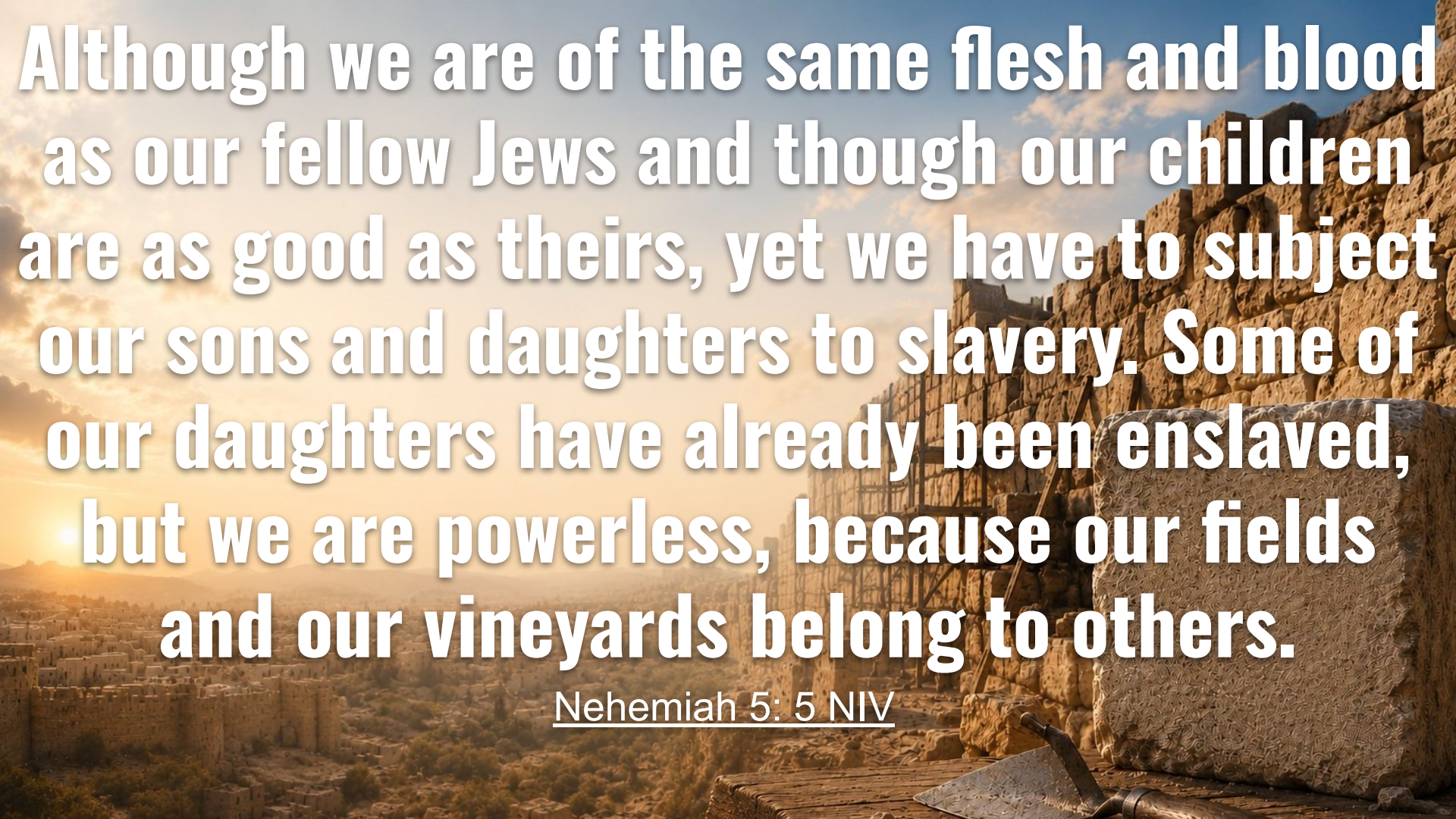
**Others were saying, “We are
mortgaging our fields, our vineyards
and our homes to get grain during the
famine.”**

Nehemiah 5: 3 NIV



Still others were saying, “We have had to borrow money to pay the king’s tax on our fields and vineyards.

Nehemiah 5: 4 NIV

The background of the image is a scenic view of an ancient city, likely Jerusalem, with its stone walls and buildings visible in the distance. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. In the foreground, there are large, rough-hewn stone blocks and a metal tool, possibly a pickaxe or a shovel, lying on a wooden surface. The text is overlaid on this scene in a large, white, bold font with a slight shadow effect.

**Although we are of the same flesh and blood
as our fellow Jews and though our children
are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject
our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of
our daughters have already been enslaved,
but we are powerless, because our fields
and our vineyards belong to others.**

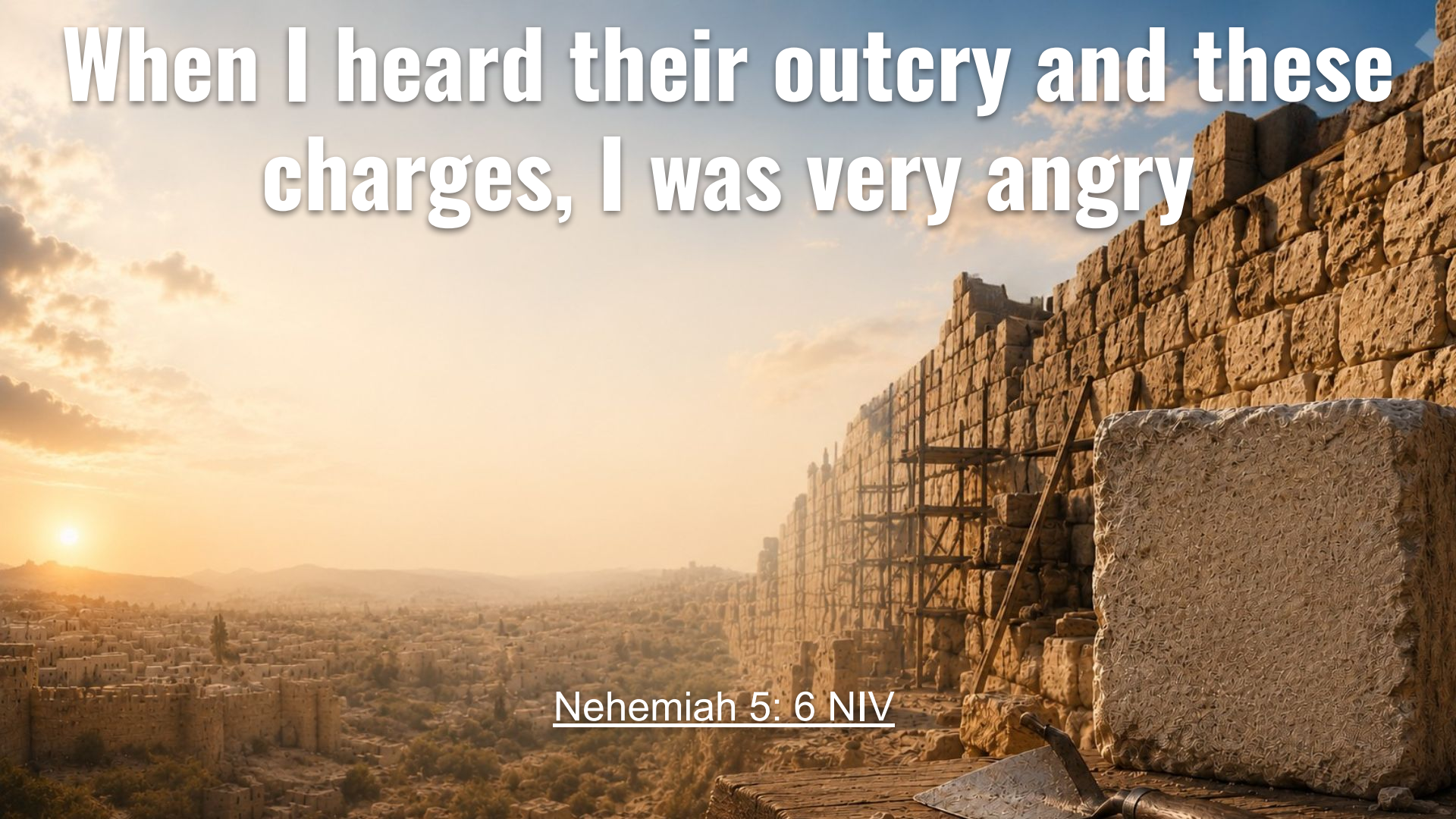
Nehemiah 5: 5 NIV

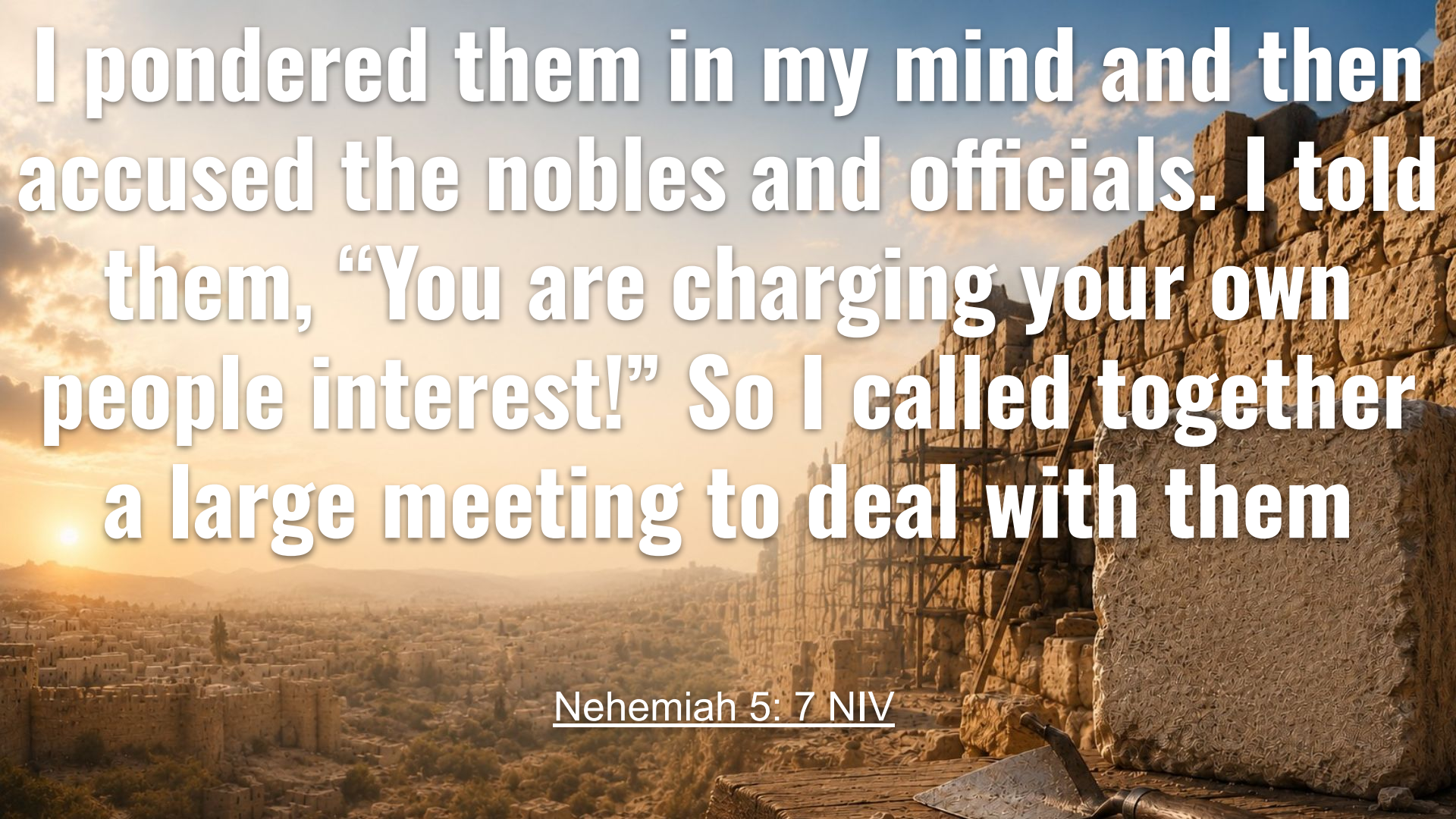
Economic Crisis

- ❖ People were mortgaging fields just to survive
- ❖ People had to pay taxes to the Persian King
- ❖ If people couldn't pay family members were sold into bondage

When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry

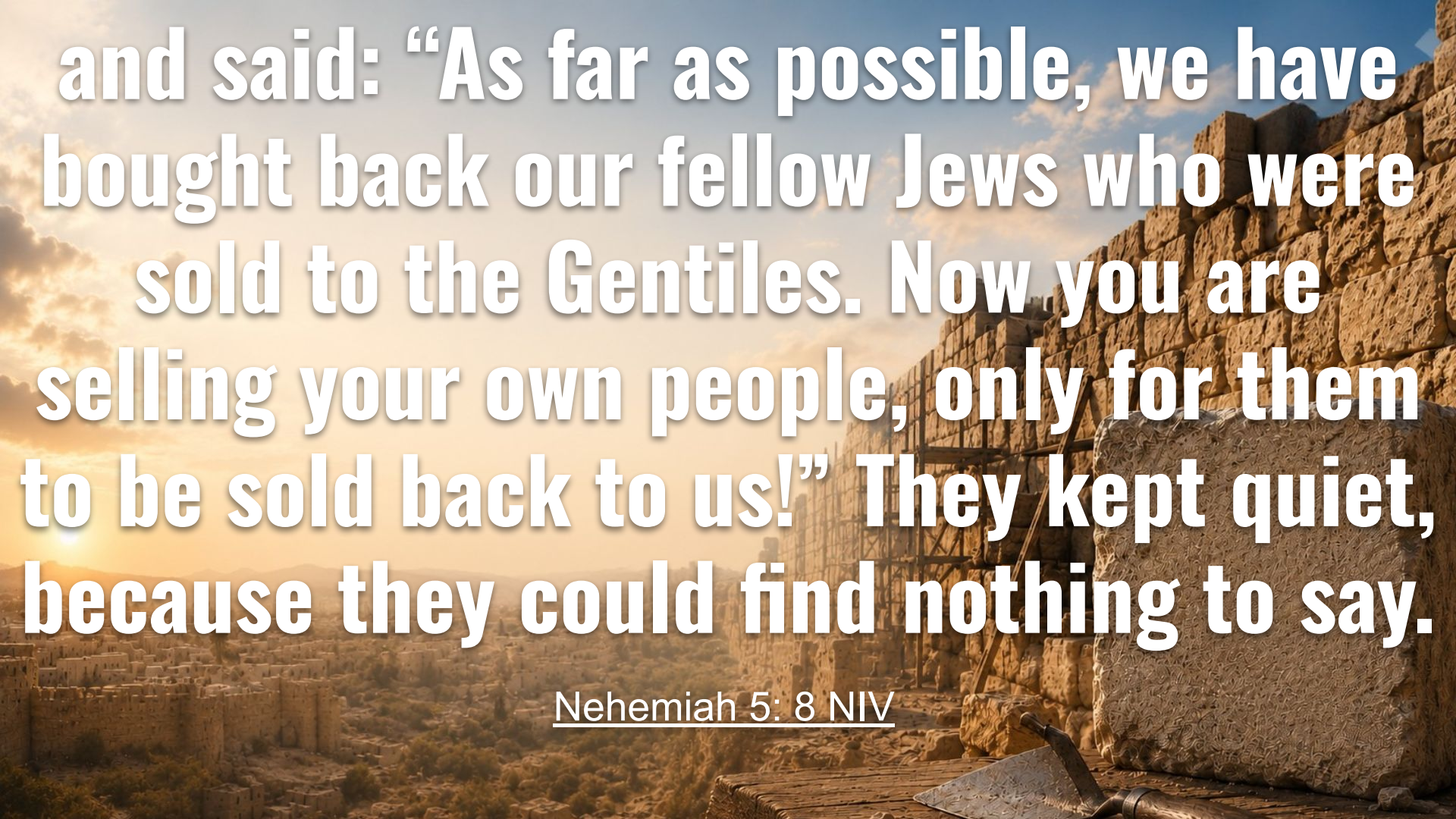
Nehemiah 5: 6 NIV



The background image is a wide-angle shot of Jerusalem during the 'golden hour' of sunset. The sun is low on the horizon to the left, casting a warm, golden glow over the entire scene. In the foreground and middle ground, the massive, weathered stone walls of the Temple Mount are visible, with scaffolding and ladders indicating ongoing restoration work. A large, rectangular stone block lies on the ground in the lower right. In the background, the dense, terraced buildings of the city of Jerusalem are visible, nestled in the valleys and on the hillsides. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with some clouds catching the low light.

**I pondered them in my mind and then
accused the nobles and officials. I told
them, “You are charging your own
people interest!” So I called together
a large meeting to deal with them**

Nehemiah 5: 7 NIV

The background of the image shows a large, ancient stone wall under construction. Scaffolding and wooden beams are visible against the wall. In the foreground, a large, rough-hewn stone block sits on a wooden plank, with a metal trowel resting beside it. The scene is set during a golden sunset or sunrise, with warm light illuminating the wall and the city of Jerusalem visible in the distance under a blue and orange sky.

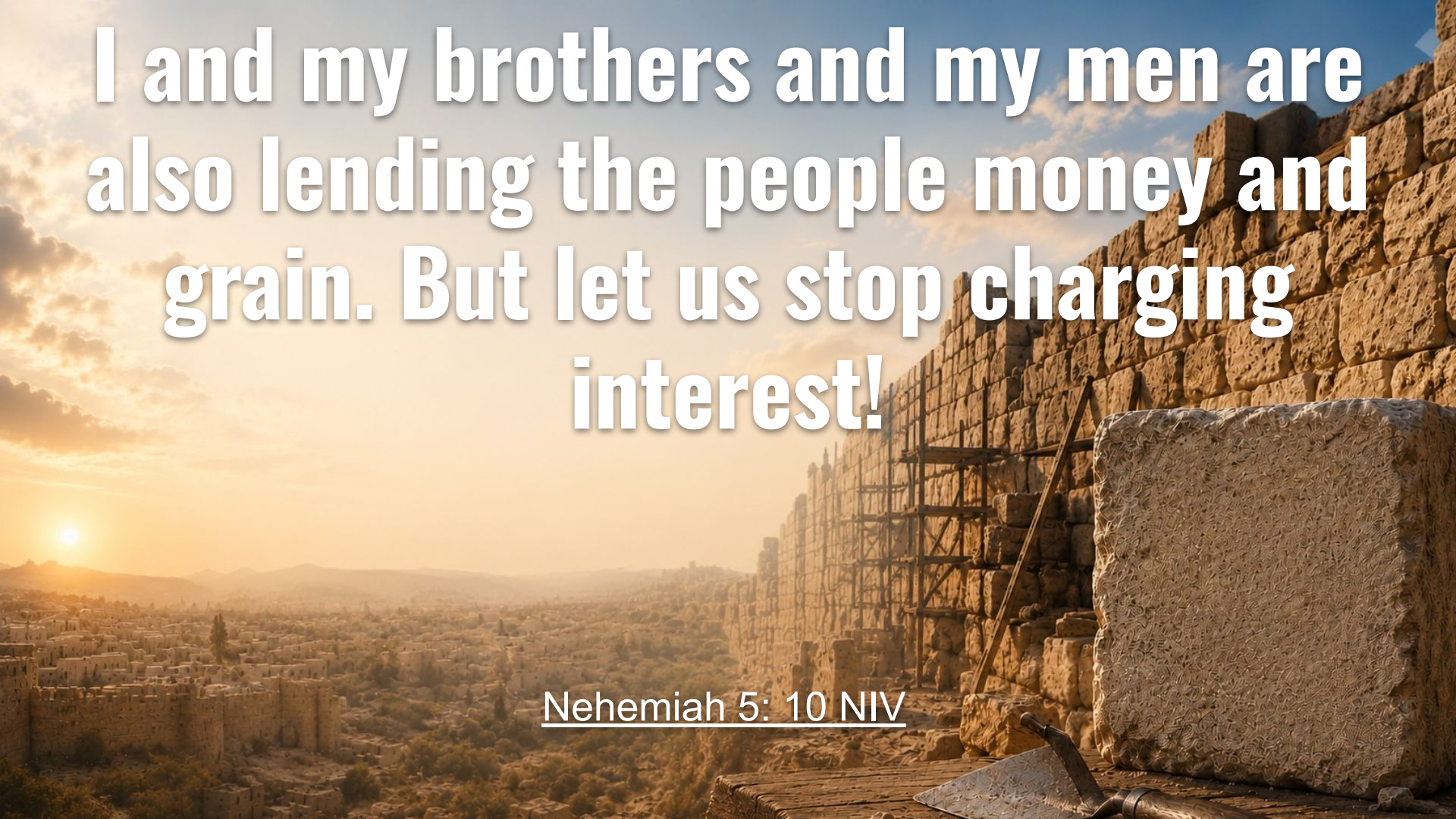
and said: “As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.

Nehemiah 5: 8 NIV



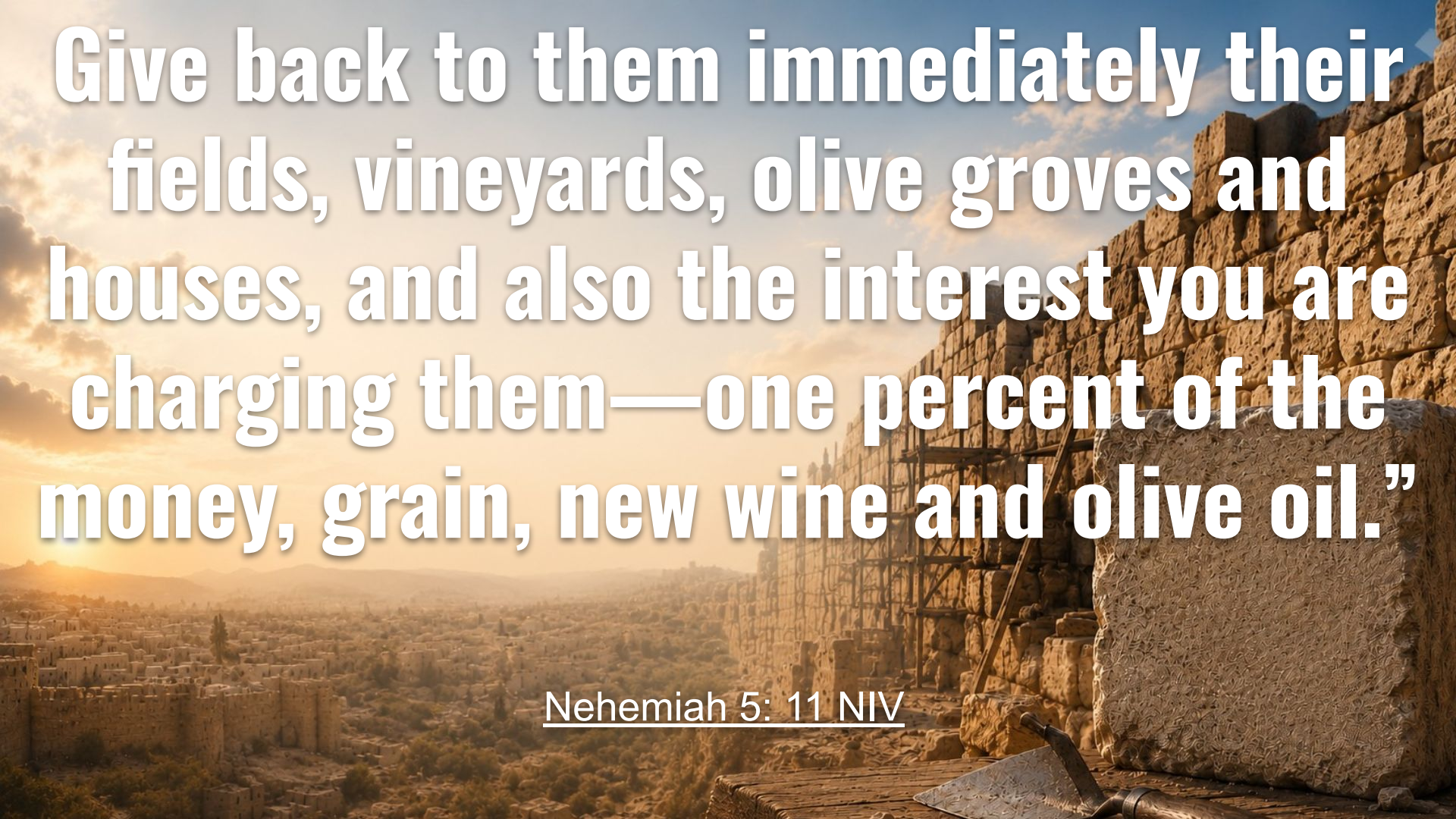
So I continued, “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies?”

Nehemiah 5: 9 NIV

A dramatic sunset scene over a city, likely Jerusalem. In the foreground, a large, rough-hewn stone block sits on a wooden platform. Behind it, a massive stone wall is under construction, with scaffolding and a wooden ladder leaning against it. The sun is low on the horizon to the left, casting a warm, golden glow over the city and the sky. The city below is densely packed with buildings, and the hills in the distance are silhouetted against the bright sky.

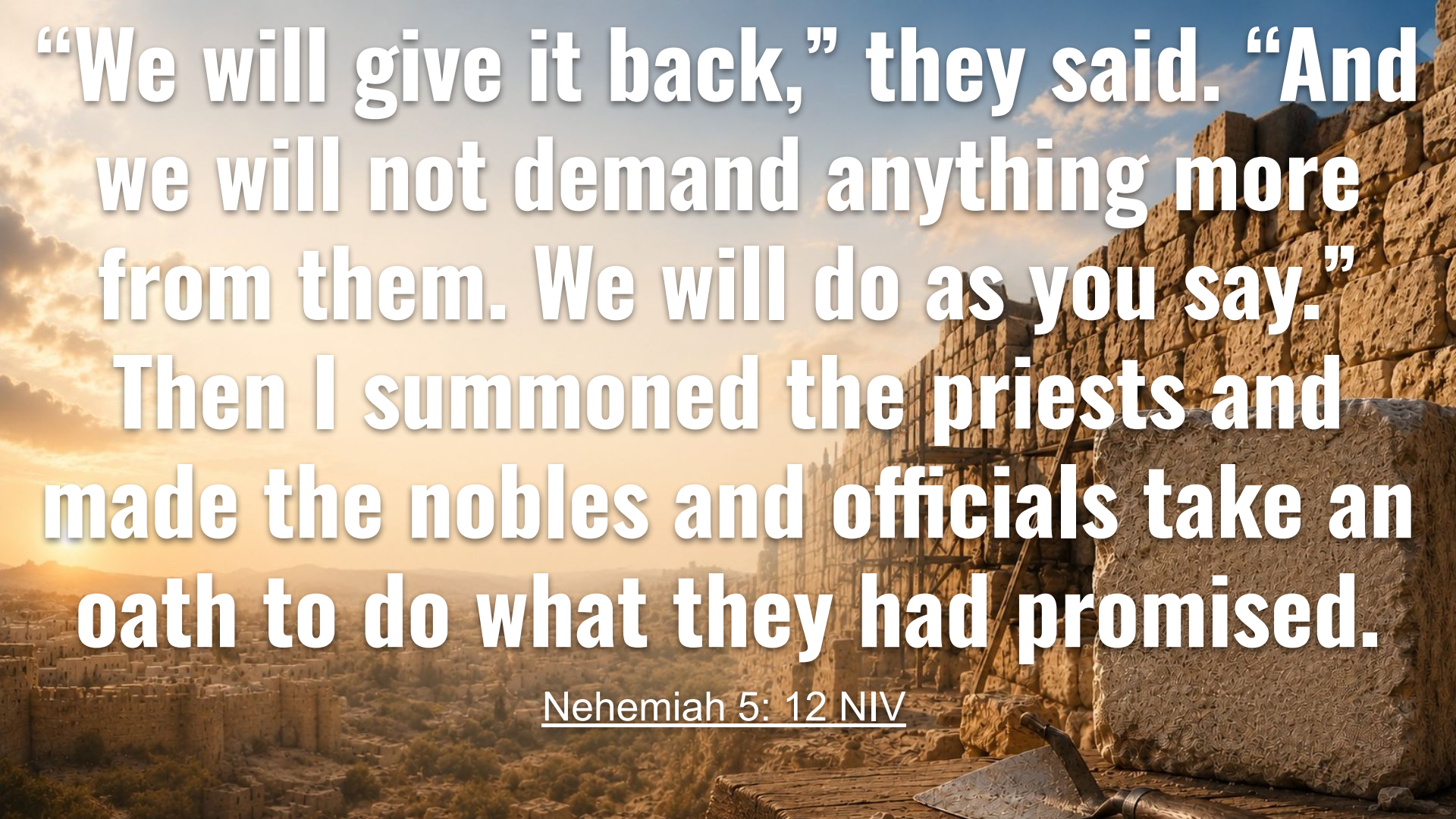
**I and my brothers and my men are
also lending the people money and
grain. But let us stop charging
interest!**

Nehemiah 5: 10 NIV

The background of the image is a scenic view of Jerusalem during the "golden hour" of sunset. In the foreground, the massive, weathered stone walls of the city are visible, with a wooden scaffolding structure leaning against them. A large, rough-hewn stone block lies on the ground in the lower right corner. In the distance, the city of Jerusalem is spread out across the valley, with its characteristic stone buildings and walls. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with soft clouds. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and peace.

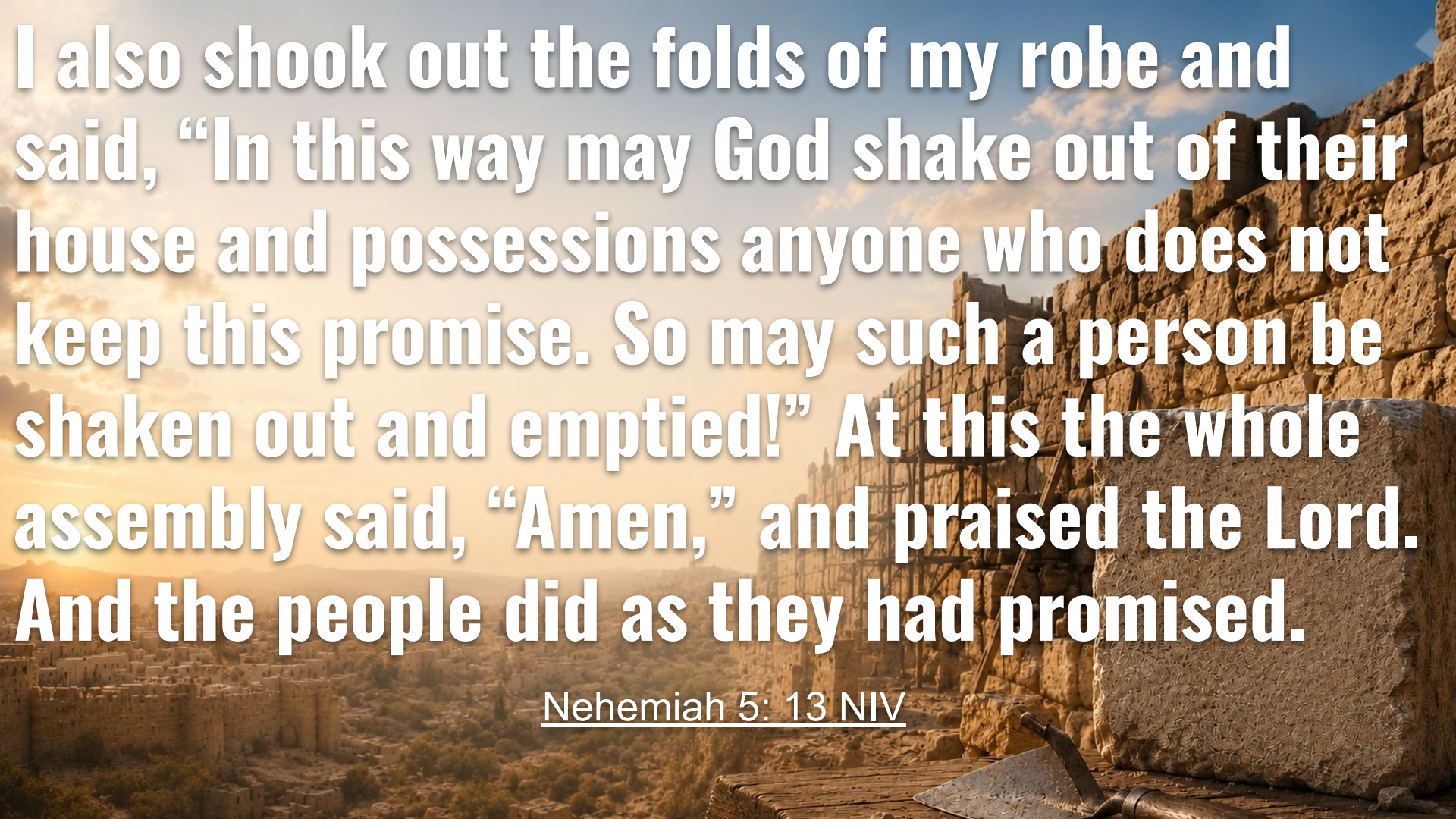
Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them—one percent of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil.”

Nehemiah 5: 11 NIV

The background of the image is a scenic view of ancient stone walls, likely the Wall of Jerusalem, under a warm, golden sunset sky. The walls are constructed from large, weathered stone blocks. In the foreground, a wooden plank and a metal tool, possibly a trowel or chisel, are visible on the wall's surface. The city of Jerusalem is visible in the distance, nestled in a valley. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, white, bold font with a slight shadow effect.

“We will give it back,” they said. “And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say.”
Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised.

Nehemiah 5: 12 NIV

The background of the image is a scenic view of ancient stone walls, likely part of the Jerusalem Wall of Tears. The walls are made of large, weathered stone blocks and run diagonally across the frame. In the distance, a city with many small buildings is visible under a warm, golden sunset sky. The overall mood is solemn and historical.

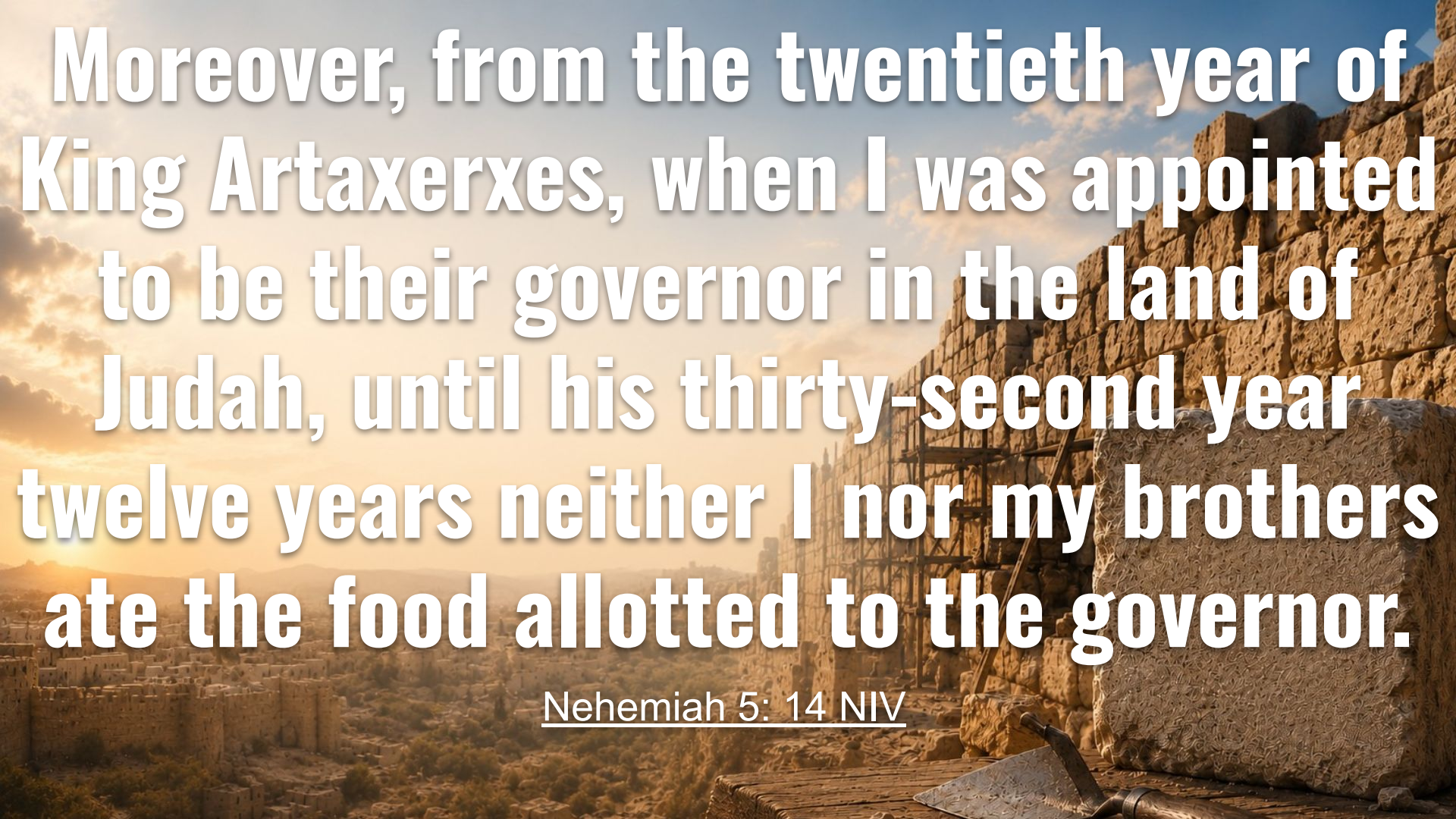
I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, “In this way may God shake out of their house and possessions anyone who does not keep this promise. So may such a person be shaken out and emptied!” At this the whole assembly said, “Amen,” and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.

Nehemiah 5: 13 NIV

Nehemiah's Response

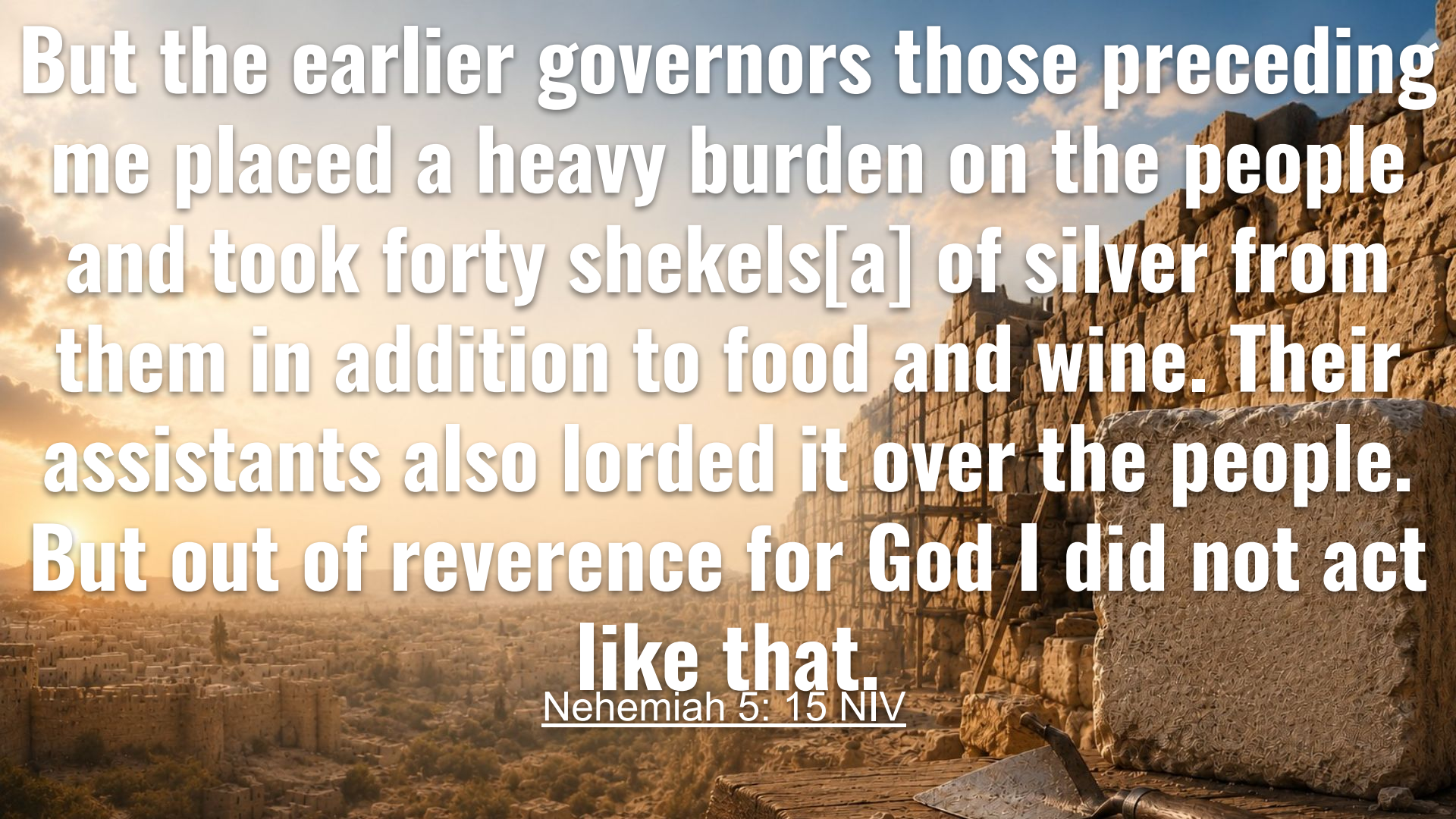
- ❖ He's angry and speaks out
- ❖ Treat people with compassion and love
- ❖ Stop taking advantage of people
- ❖ "Amen"



The background of the image shows a large, ancient stone wall under construction. Scaffolding and wooden ladders are visible against the wall. In the foreground, a large, rough-hewn stone block sits on a wooden platform, with a metal trowel resting on it. The scene is set against a sunset sky with warm orange and yellow light, and a cityscape is visible in the distance.

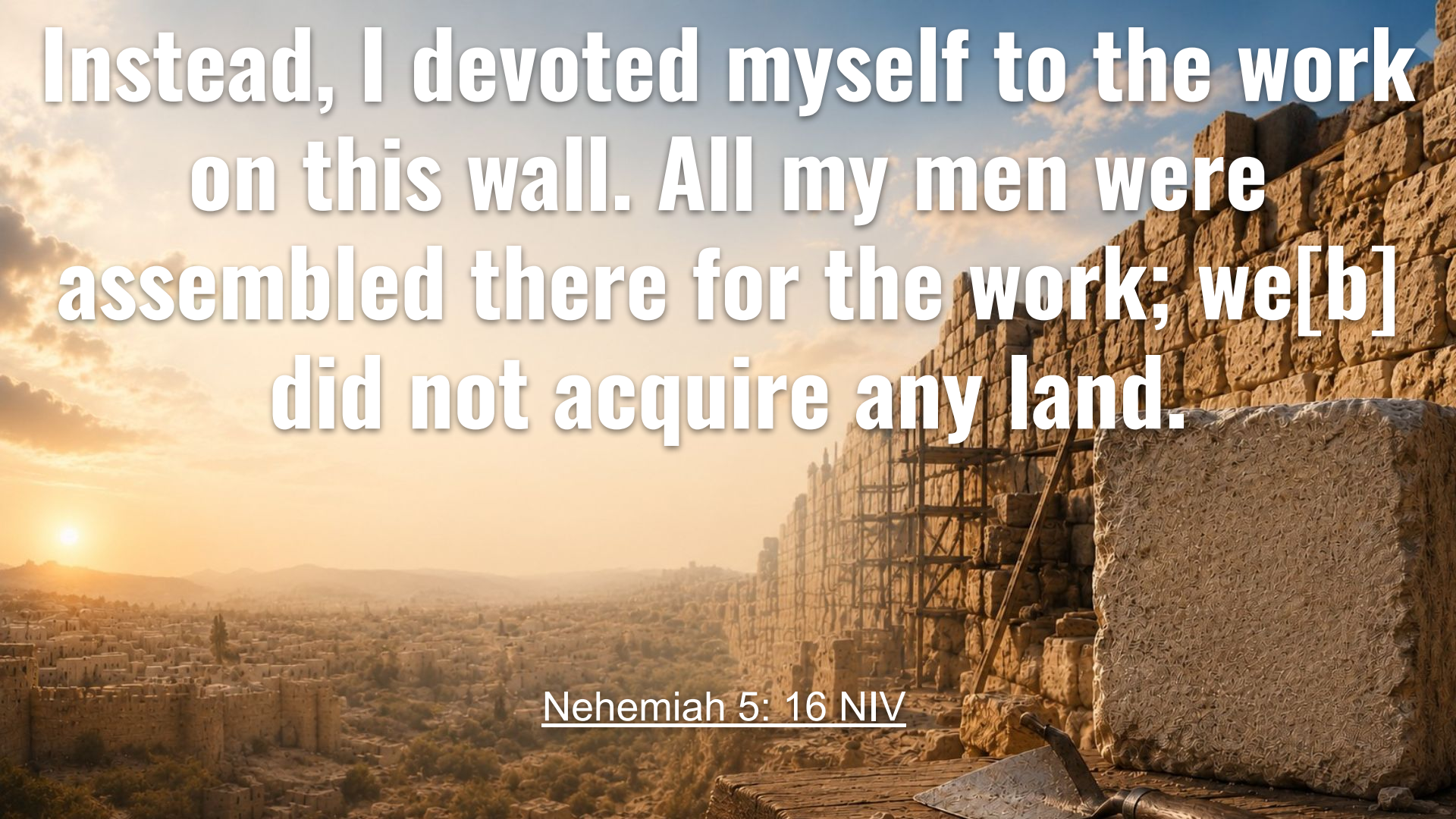
Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year twelve years neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor.

Nehemiah 5: 14 NIV



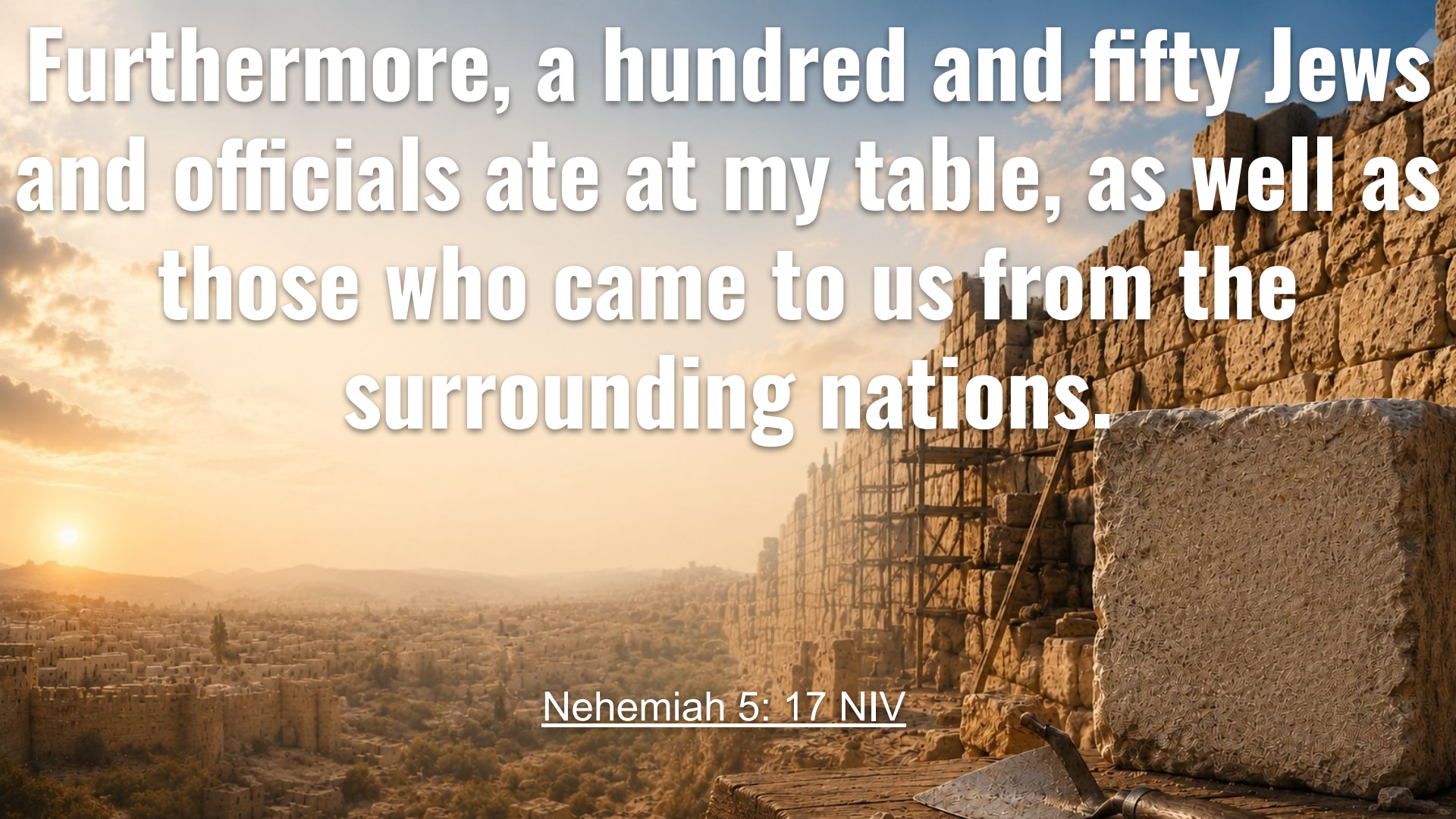
But the earlier governors those preceding me placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels[a] of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that.

Nehemiah 5: 15 NIV



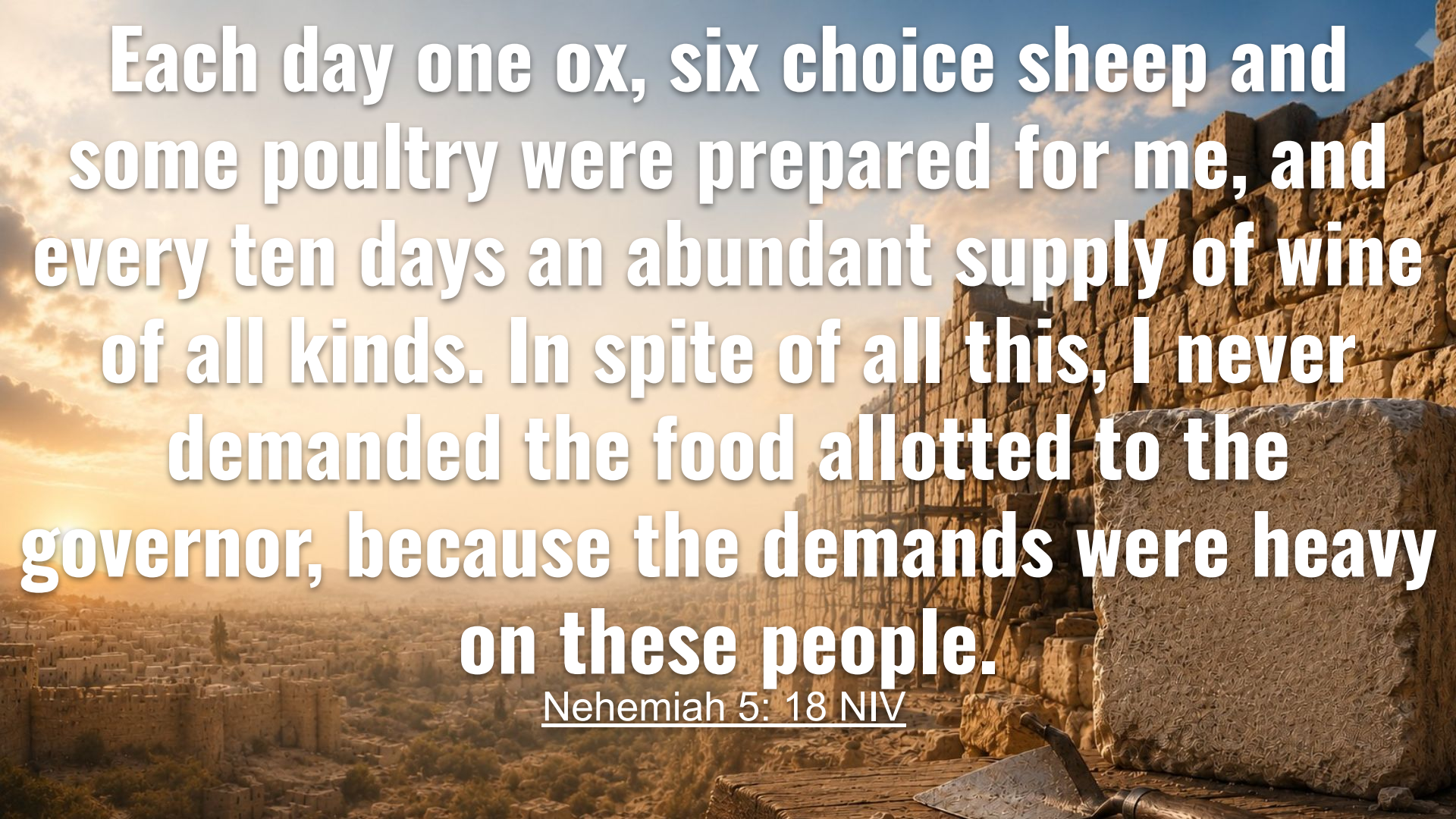
**Instead, I devoted myself to the work
on this wall. All my men were
assembled there for the work; we[b]
did not acquire any land.**

Nehemiah 5: 16 NIV



**Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews
and officials ate at my table, as well as
those who came to us from the
surrounding nations.**

Nehemiah 5: 17 NIV

The background of the image is a scenic view of an ancient city, likely Jerusalem, with its stone walls and buildings visible in the distance. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. In the foreground, there are large, rough-hewn stone blocks and a metal tool, possibly a pickaxe or a shovel, lying on the ground. The text is overlaid on this scene in a large, white, bold font with a slight shadow effect.

Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared for me, and every ten days an abundant supply of wine of all kinds. In spite of all this, I never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people.

Nehemiah 5: 18 NIV

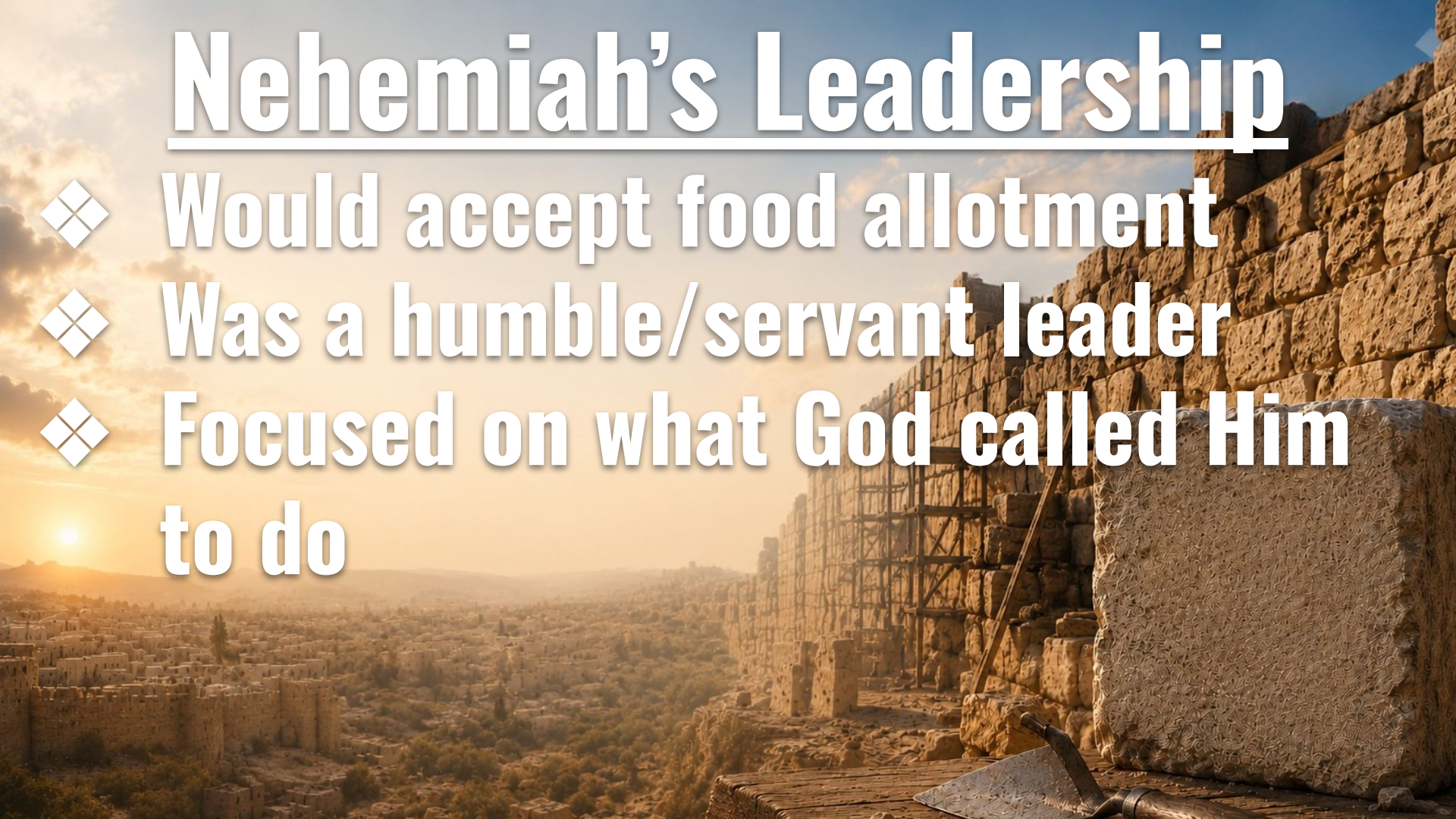
**Remember me with favor, my God, for
all I have done for these people.**

Nehemiah 5: 19 NIV



Nehemiah's Leadership

- ❖ Would accept food allotment
- ❖ Was a humble/servant leader
- ❖ Focused on what God called Him to do

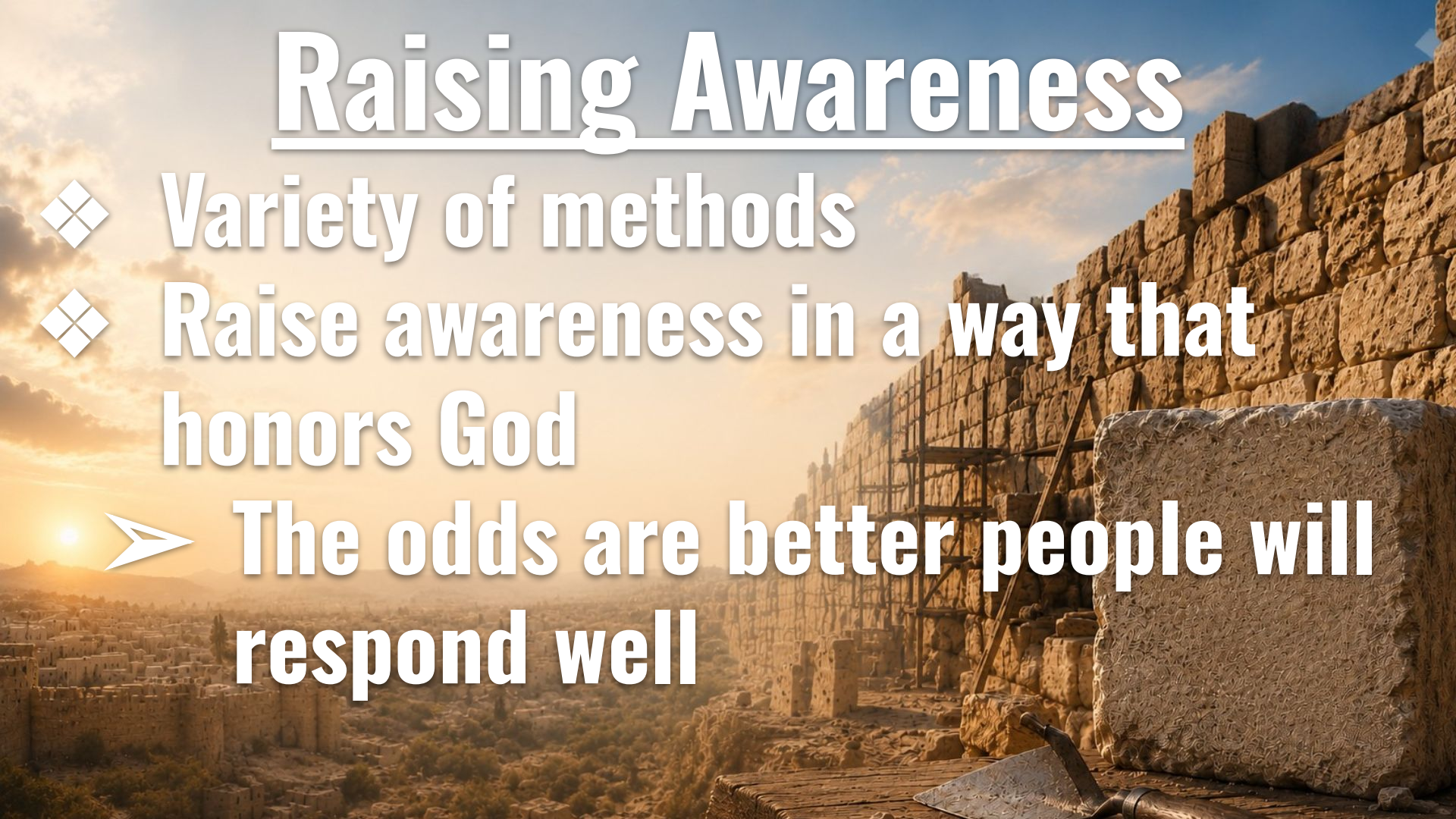


Awareness

- ❖ Have the eyes of God
- ❖ People we encounter on a daily basis need restoration
- ❖ People in our state, country, and around the world need restoration

Raising Awareness

- ❖ Variety of methods
- ❖ Raise awareness in a way that honors God
 - The odds are better people will respond well

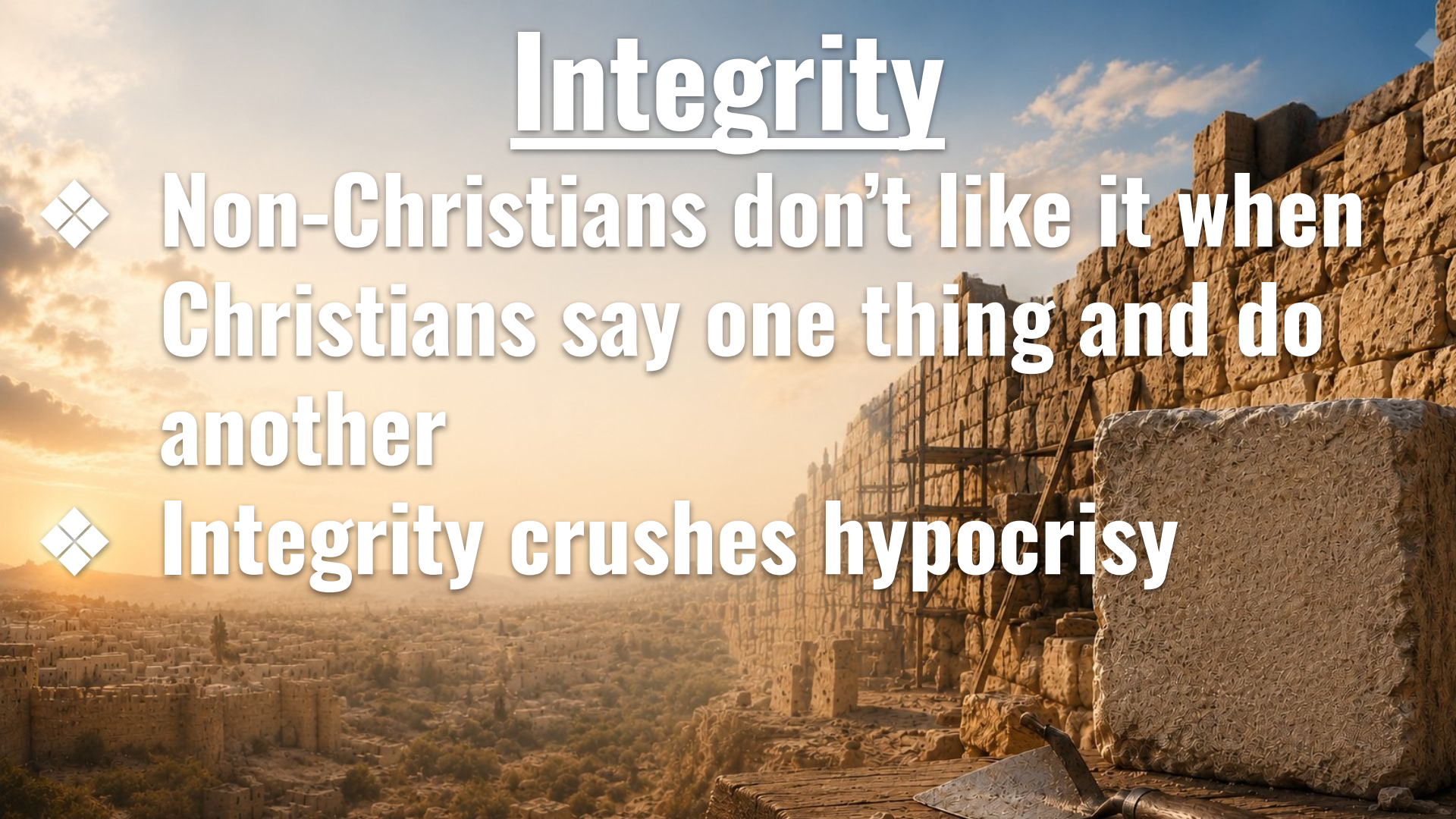


Humility

- ❖ None of us are above serving someone God puts in front of us
- ❖ Set aside our own passion/focus
- ❖ It's possible we'll gain nothing and not be seen

Integrity

- ❖ Non-Christians don't like it when Christians say one thing and do another
- ❖ Integrity crushes hypocrisy



Integrity

- ❖ Focus on solitude
- ❖ God will point to the areas we need more integrity



Generosity/Sacrifice

- ❖ Financial
- ❖ What can you give not get
- ❖ Your time



Restoration as a Brick

- ◆ Awareness
- ◆ Raising awareness
- ◆ Humility
- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Sacrifice/Generosity

