

Psalm 8

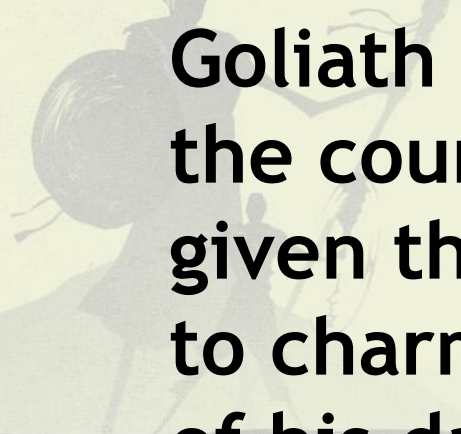
“The Death of a Champion by the Glory of God”



Bishop Jerry Hutchins

The author: David

The circumstances: David had killed Goliath and has become the court musician given the task of trying to charm the king out of his dark moods by playing music on his harp.

A faint, stylized illustration of a person playing a harp in a landscape with mountains. The person is in the center, holding a harp. The background shows a range of mountains under a light sky. The overall style is minimalist and artistic.

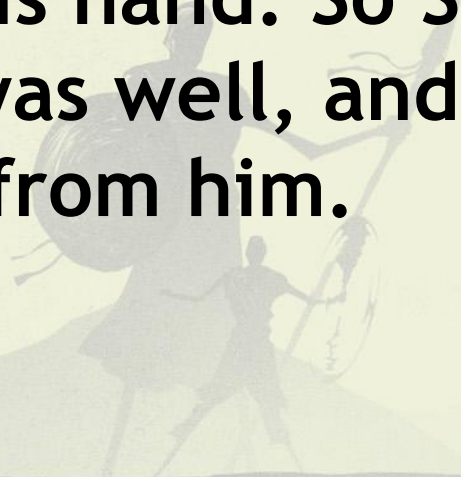
1 Samuel 16: 14-23

1⁴ Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him. 1⁵ And Saul's servants said to him, “Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you. 1⁶ Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well.”

17 So Saul said to his servants, “Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me.” 18 One of the young men answered, “Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the LORD is with him.” 19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, “Send me David your son, who is with the sheep.”

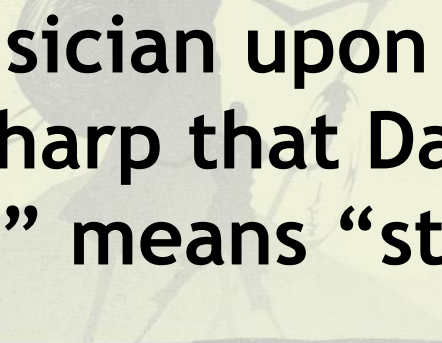
20 And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul. 21 And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. 22 And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, “Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight.”

23 And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.



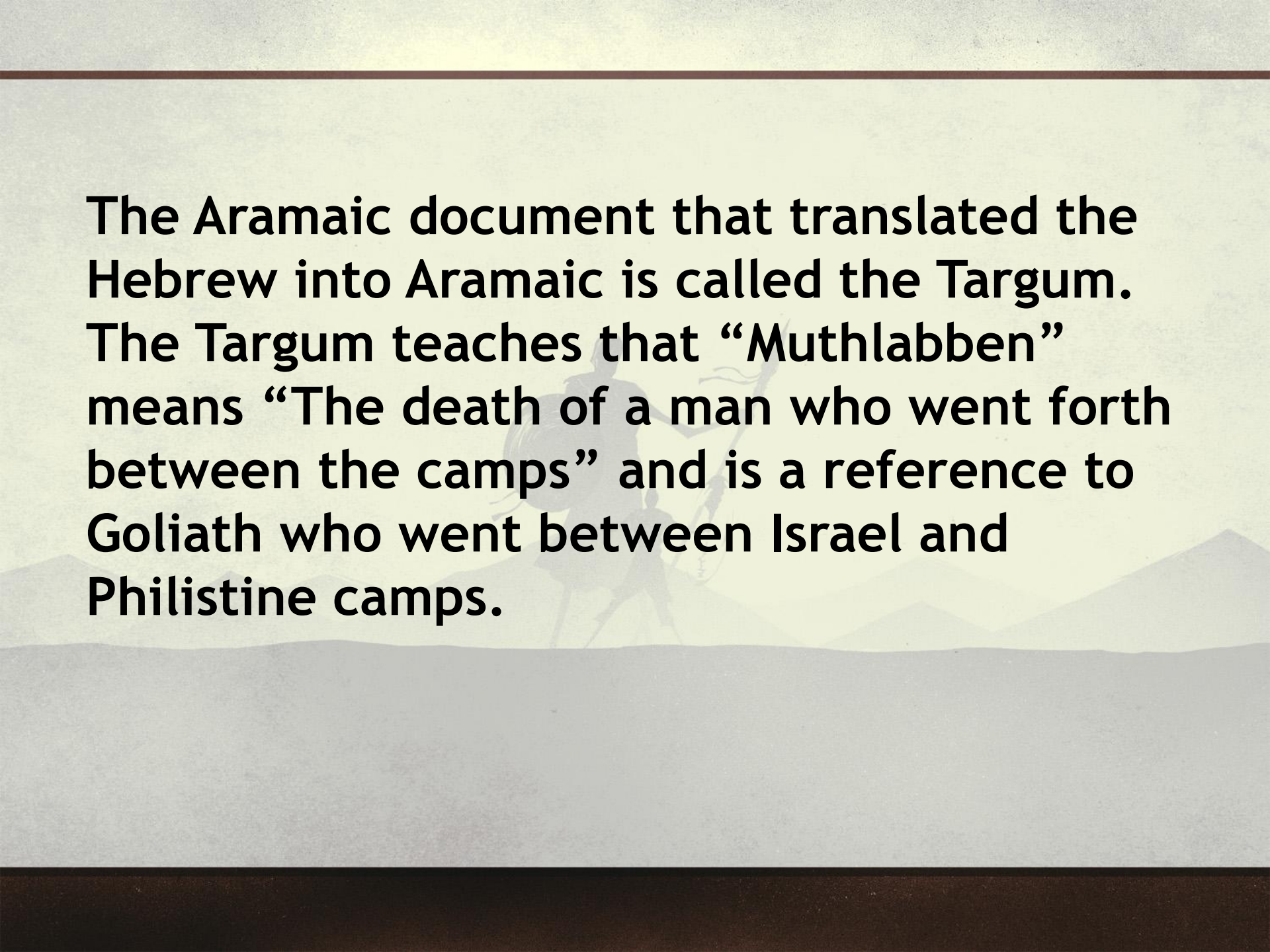
Theologians believe that David wrote and played Psalm 8 as he ministered before King Saul.

“To the chief Musician upon Gittith” is likely referring to the harp that David would have played. “Gittith” means “stringed instrument”.

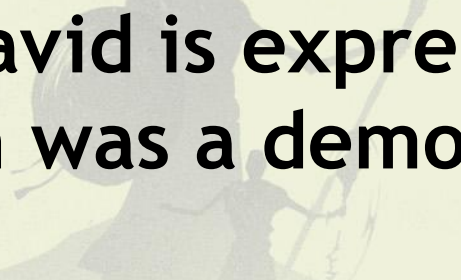
A faint, light-colored silhouette of a person playing a harp is centered in the background. The person is standing and facing right, with their arms extended to play the strings. The harp is large and has a curved frame. The background behind the silhouette shows a simple landscape with rolling hills or mountains under a light sky.

Some theologians believe that the caption of Psalm 9 “To the chief musician upon Muthlabben” is more likely a footnote ending Psalm 8. “Muthlabben” means “death of champion”. Beginning around the first century BC, the Hebrew language was mostly used for schooling and worship while the commonly spoken language among Jews was Aramaic. Thus, during religious services an interpreter would translate the Scriptures from Hebrew to Aramaic.

The Aramaic document that translated the Hebrew into Aramaic is called the Targum. The Targum teaches that “Muthlabben” means “The death of a man who went forth between the camps” and is a reference to Goliath who went between Israel and Philistine camps.

The background features a stylized illustration of a warrior on horseback, positioned centrally behind the text. The warrior is depicted in silhouette, riding a horse and holding a spear. The landscape consists of rolling hills and mountains in shades of light green and grey, set against a pale yellowish-green sky. The overall aesthetic is that of a historical or biblical scene.

In this Psalm, David is expressing that the death of Goliath was a demonstration of the Glory of God.

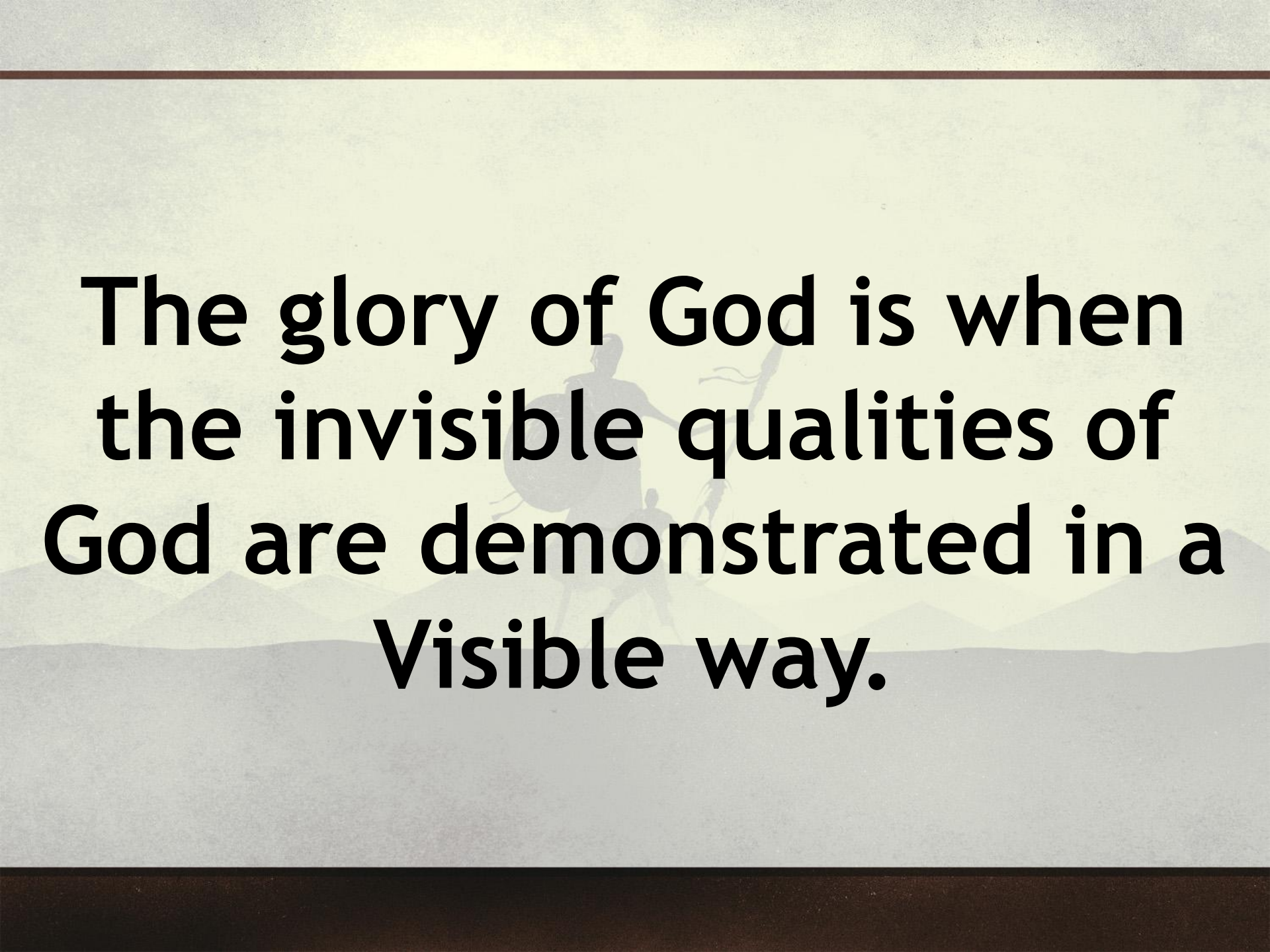
A silhouette of a warrior on a horse, holding a spear and a shield, is centered in the background. The warrior is facing right. The background features a range of mountains under a bright, hazy sky. The overall color palette is muted, with shades of grey, brown, and a pale yellow-green.

A silhouette of a person carrying a large pack on their back and holding a bicycle, set against a light background with faint mountain outlines.

**The theme of the Psalm
is
“The Glory of God”**

What is the Glory of God?



The background features a faint, stylized illustration of a person carrying a large pack on their back, walking alongside a smaller child. They are set against a backdrop of rolling hills and a bright, hazy sky, suggesting a journey or pilgrimage. The overall color palette is muted, with soft greens, greys, and browns.

**The glory of God is when
the invisible qualities of
God are demonstrated in a
Visible way.**

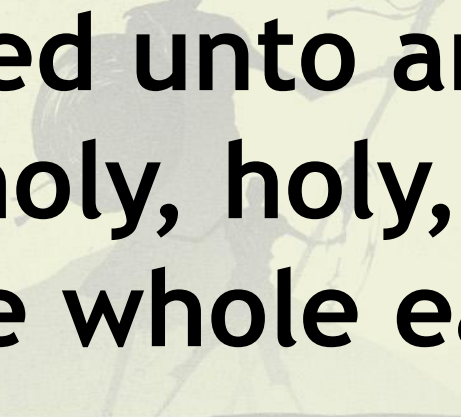
Exodus 33: 18-19

18 And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.

19 And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

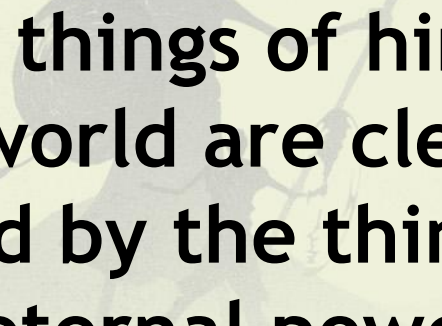
Isaiah 6:3

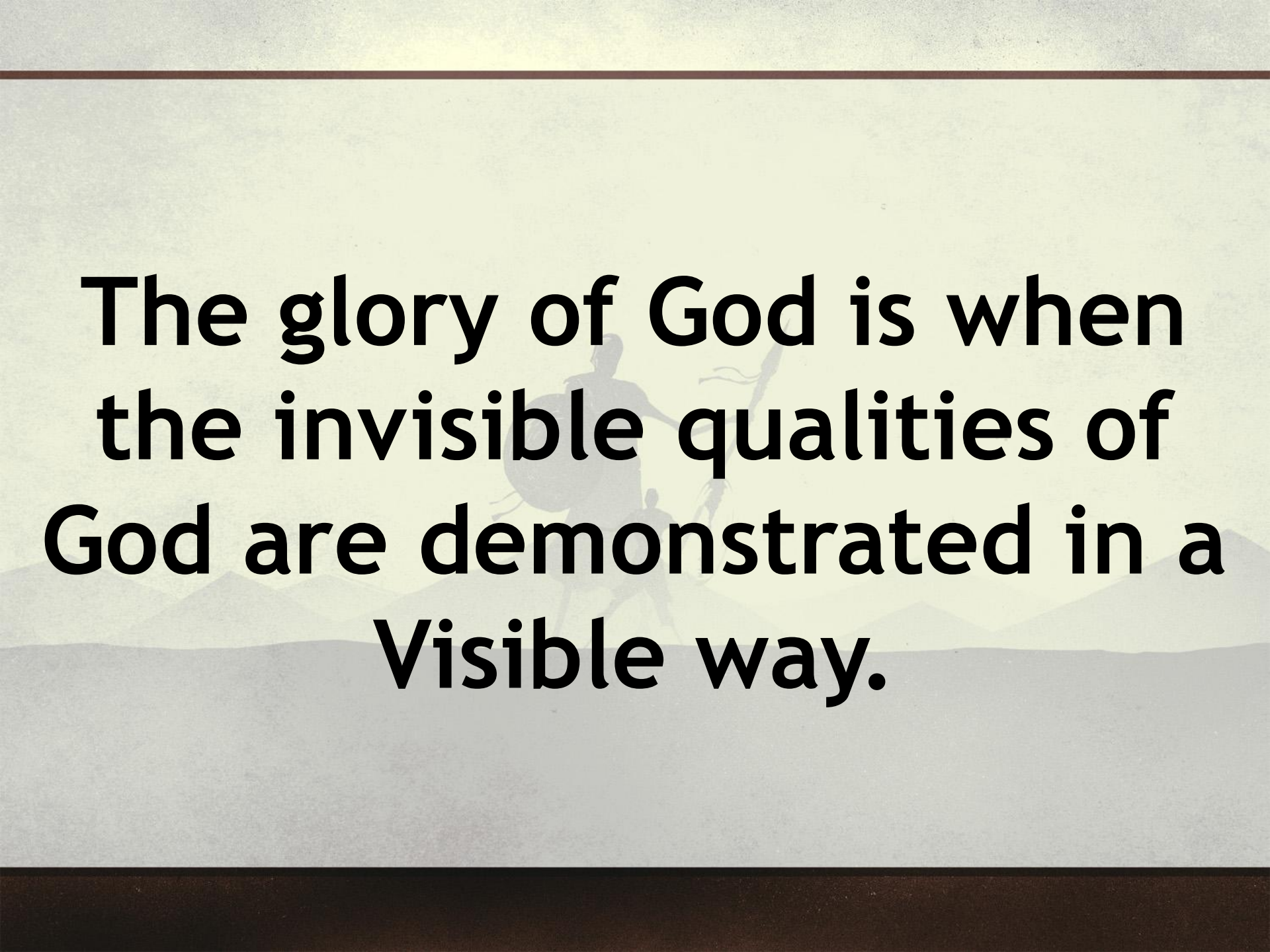
And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.



Romans 1:20

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

A faint, semi-transparent silhouette of a Roman soldier in profile, facing right. He is wearing a helmet and carrying a large shield on his back. He holds a spear in his right hand, which is raised slightly. The background behind the soldier is a light, hazy landscape with rolling hills or mountains under a bright sky.



**The glory of God is when
the invisible qualities of
God are demonstrated in a
Visible way.**

Psalm 8 and the Glory
(visible demonstration of God's qualities)

I. His Glory is demonstrated through weak things. (v2)

Babes

Sucklings

Silences the enemy

Prophetic implications Matthew 21:16

II. His glory demonstrated through wondrous things (v3)

Heavens

Moon

Stars



III. His Glory is demonstrated through man, beast, fowl, and sea creatures (vs. 4-8)

Man (vs 4 -6)

Beast (7)

Fowl and sea (8)

