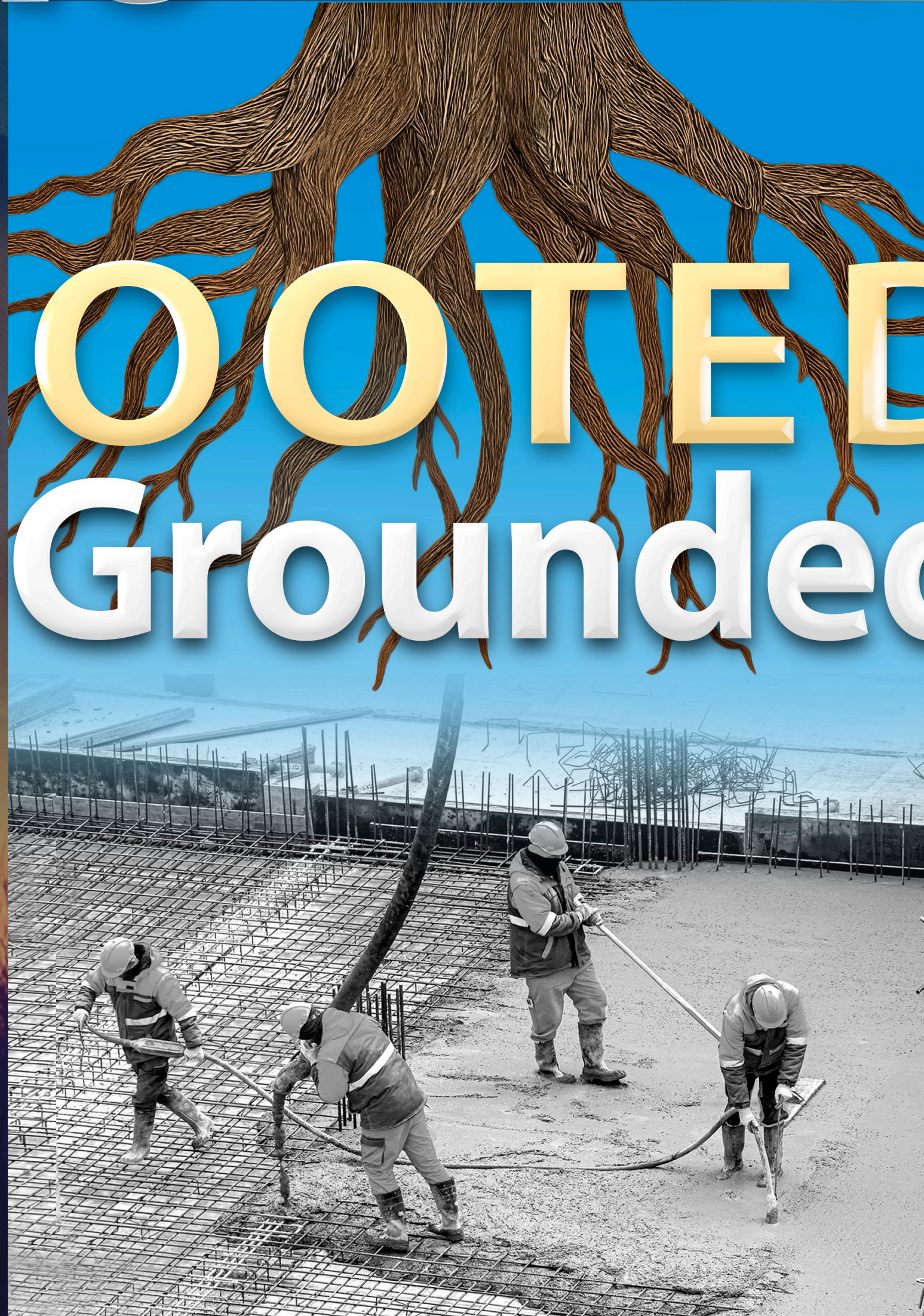




NEW COVENANT CHURCH

# ROOTED & Grounded

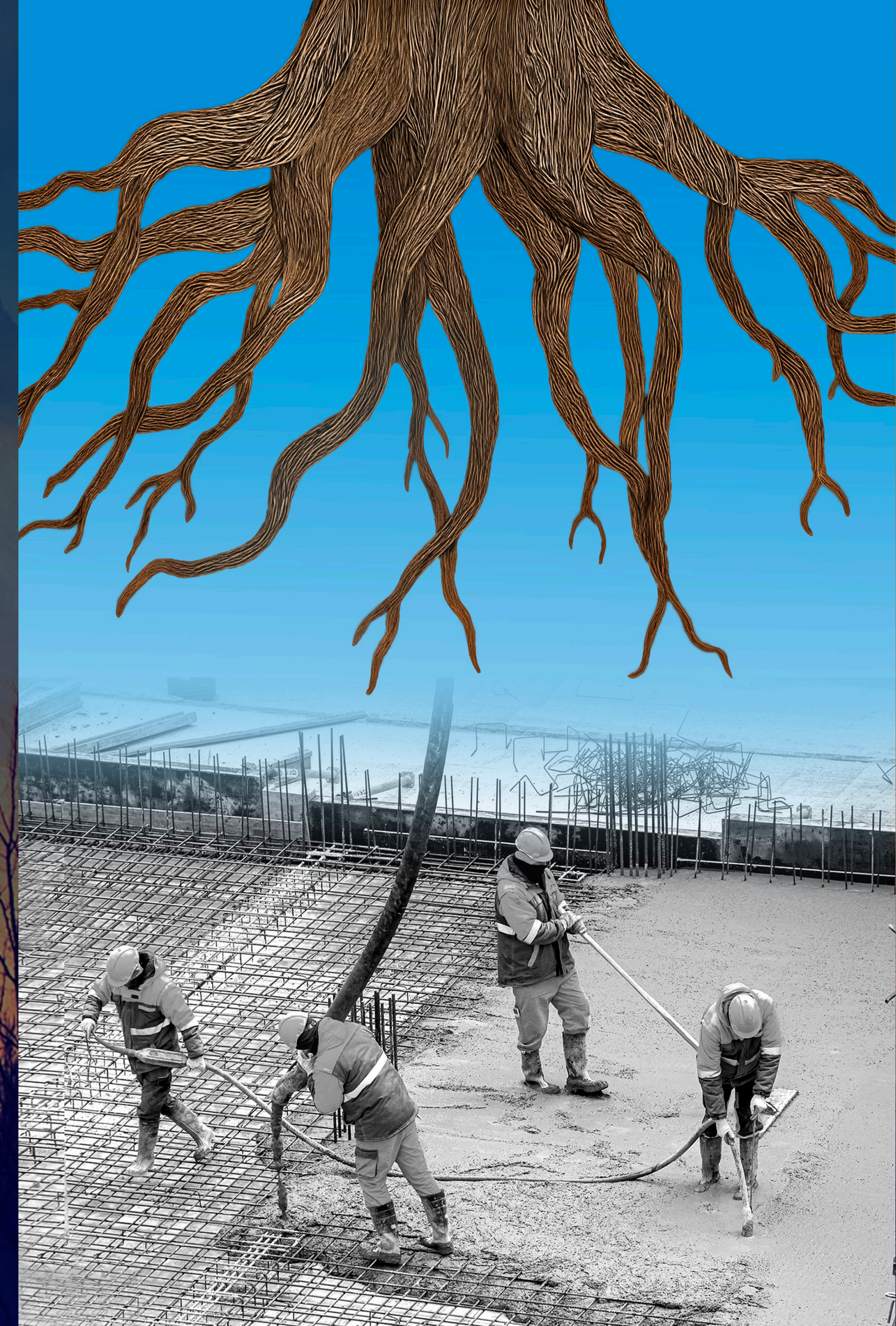


PART FIVE

## *Standing Where God Made a Way*

*When your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed over the Jordan....And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever." [Joshua 4:4-7](#)*

PASTOR BRYAN HUDSON, D.Min.



**“ROOTED”** is an agricultural term

Like a tree, the believer’s life must have deep roots.

**“GROUNDED”** is an architectural term

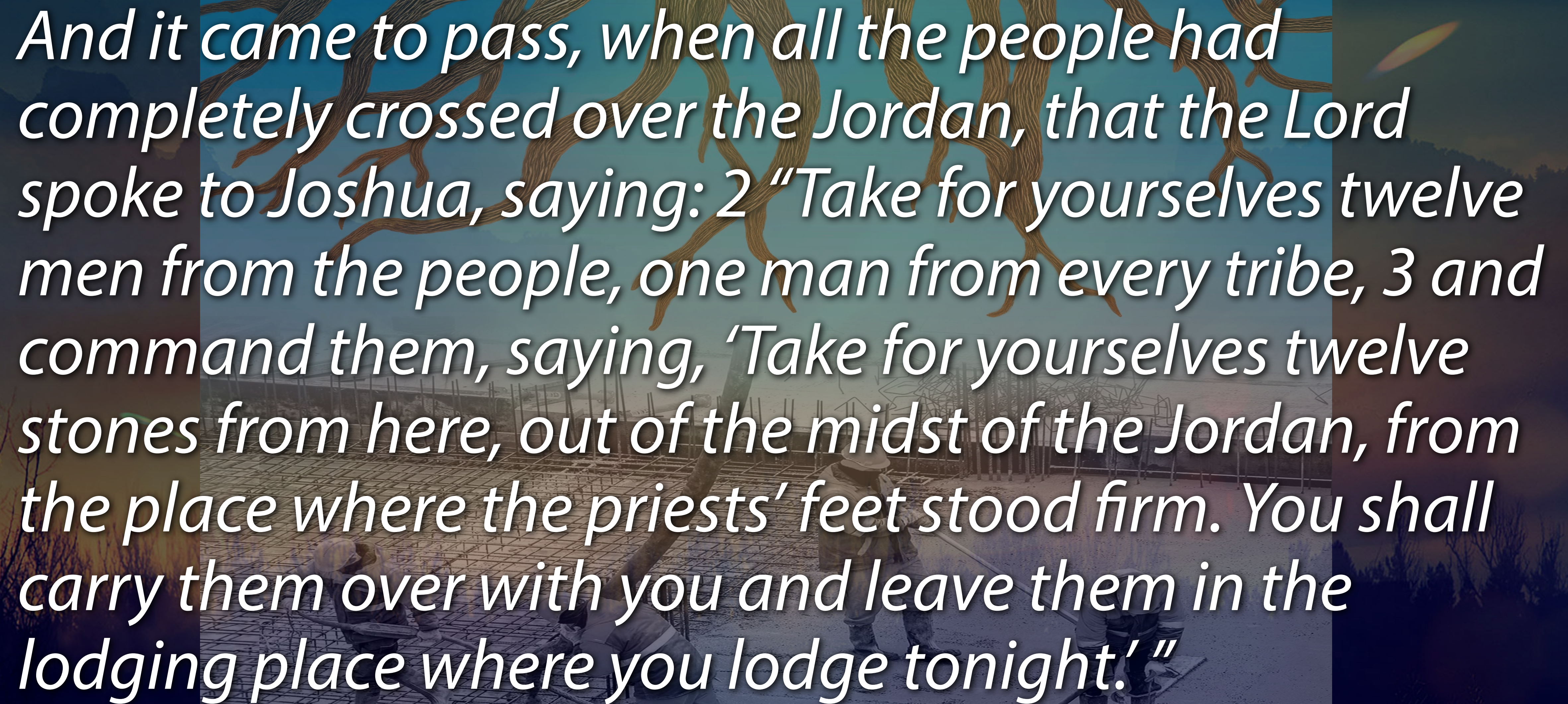
Like a building, the believer’s life must have a solid foundation.

Without **roots**, there is no growth.

Without a **foundation**, there is no useful structure.

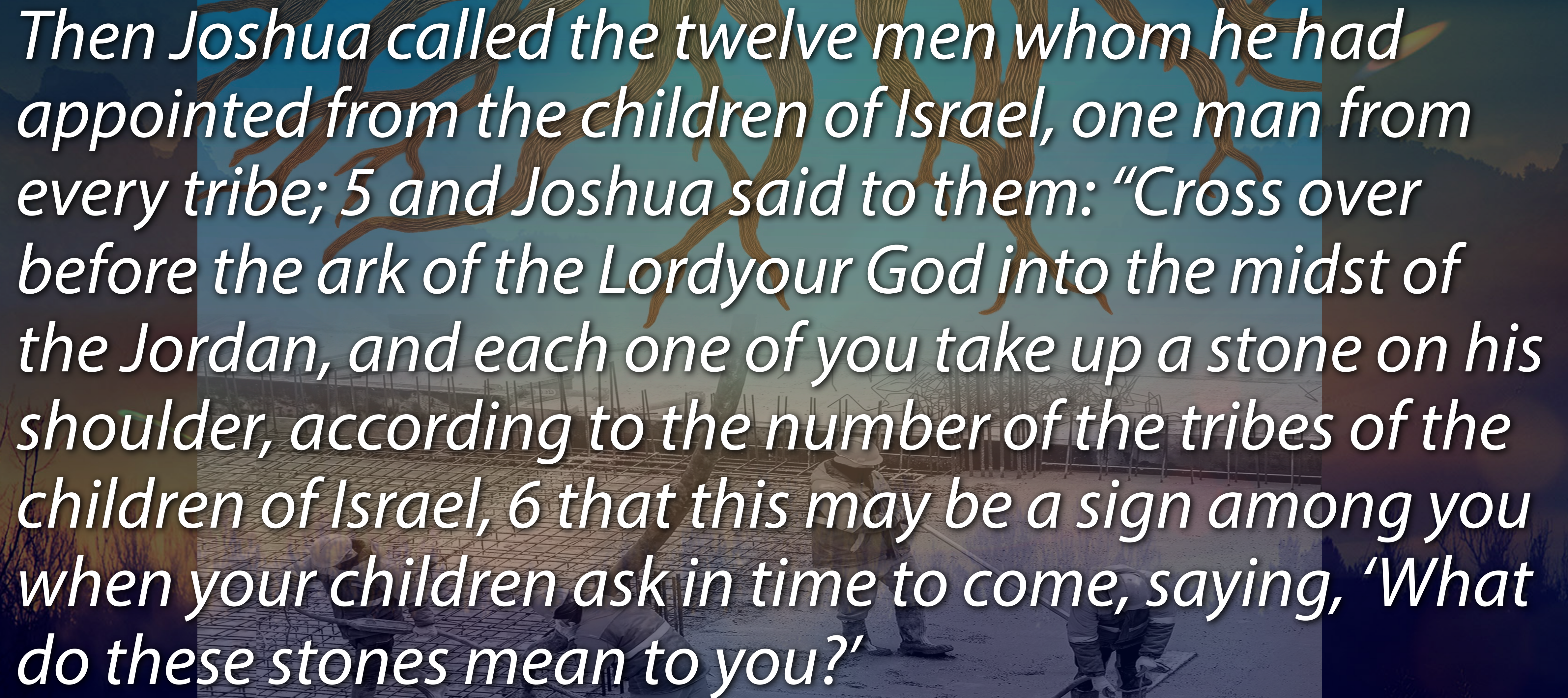
## Joshua 4:1

*And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying: 2 "Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, 3 and command them, saying, 'Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.'"*

The background of the image is a construction site. In the foreground, several workers wearing hard hats and safety gear are working on a concrete slab. They are using tools like shovels and rakes. In the background, there are rebar structures and scaffolding. A large, gnarled tree trunk is positioned vertically in the center of the image, extending from the bottom to the top. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting an overcast day or early morning/late afternoon.

## Joshua 4:4

*Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; 5 and Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, 6 that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?'*



## Joshua 4:7

*Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.” 8 And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the Lord had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there.*

## Joshua 4:9

*Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day. 10 So the priests who bore the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the Lord had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua; and the people hurried and crossed over. 11 Then it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over, that the ark of the Lord and the priests crossed over in the presence of the people.*



There are always parallels among stories of God's deliverance.

Including the circumstances that involve Juneteenth.

The background of the image is a construction site at dusk. In the foreground, a large, gnarled tree trunk is visible. In the middle ground, several construction workers wearing hard hats and safety gear are working on a concrete slab. They are positioned around a grid of steel rebar. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the workers' lights providing some illumination.

**The idea that some people are superior to others is a lie invented by the devil and self-serving people.**

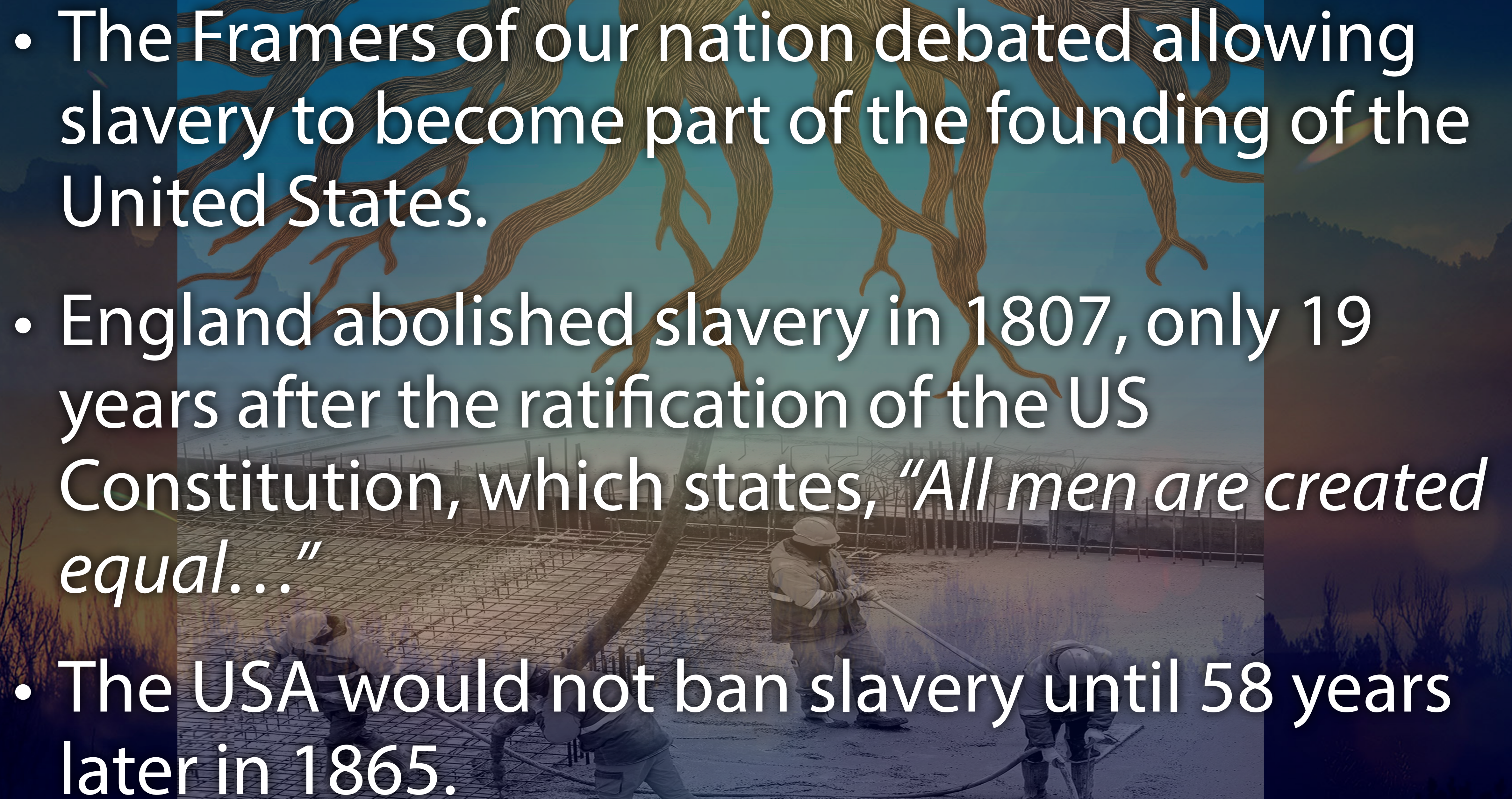
**1 John 5:19, *We know that we are from God and that the whole world lies under the control of the evil one***

**Romans 3:10, *There is none righteous, no, not one.***



**All people are made in the Image and likeness of God.**



- 
- The Framers of our nation debated allowing slavery to become part of the founding of the United States.
  - England abolished slavery in 1807, only 19 years after the ratification of the US Constitution, which states, "*All men are created equal...*"
  - The USA would not ban slavery until 58 years later in 1865.

# **There are always barriers to cross**

- God parted the Red Sea under Moses to bring Israel out of Egypt
- 40 years later God parted the Jordan River under Joshua, to bring His people into the Promised Land
- **God is still making a way for His people**



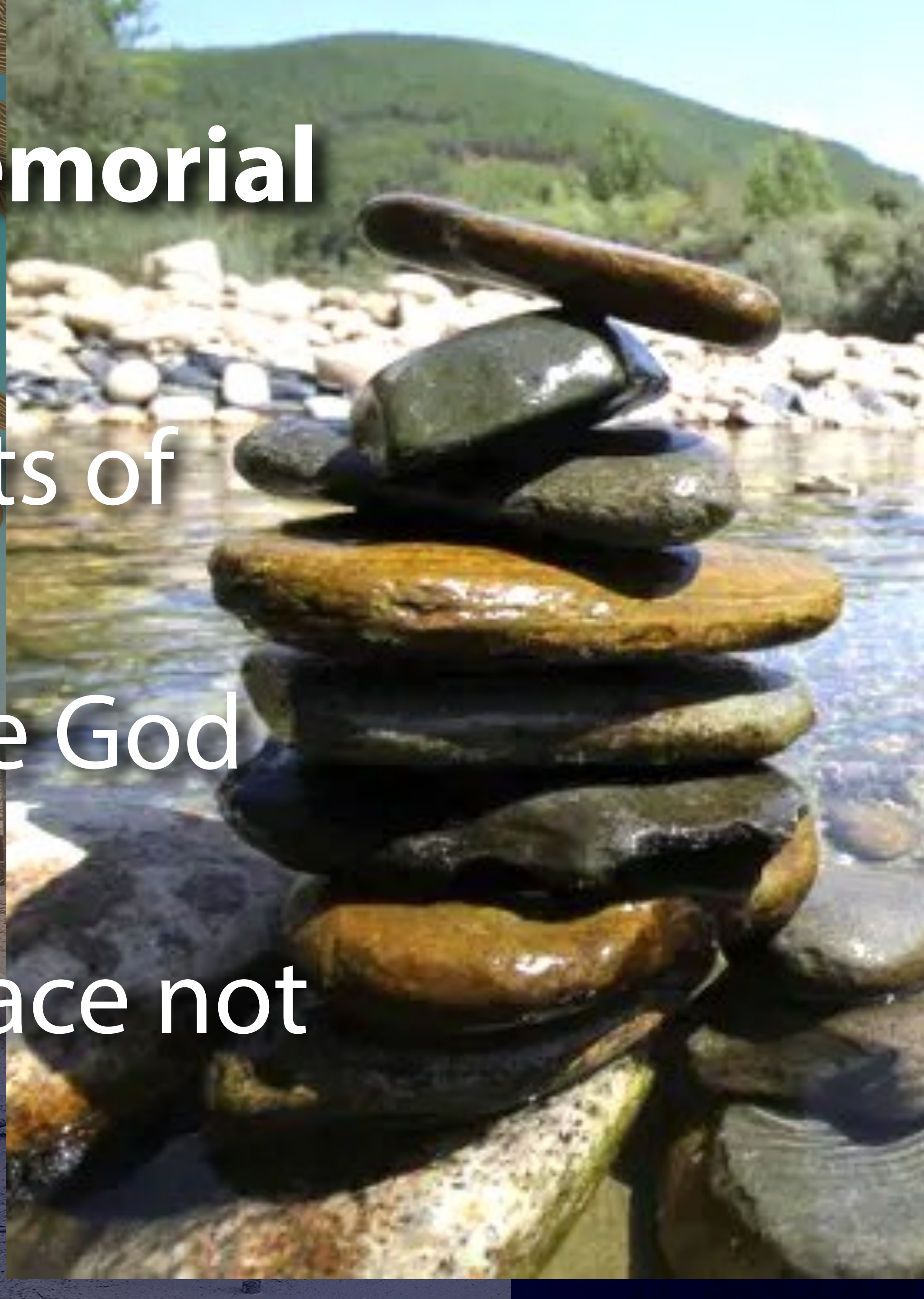
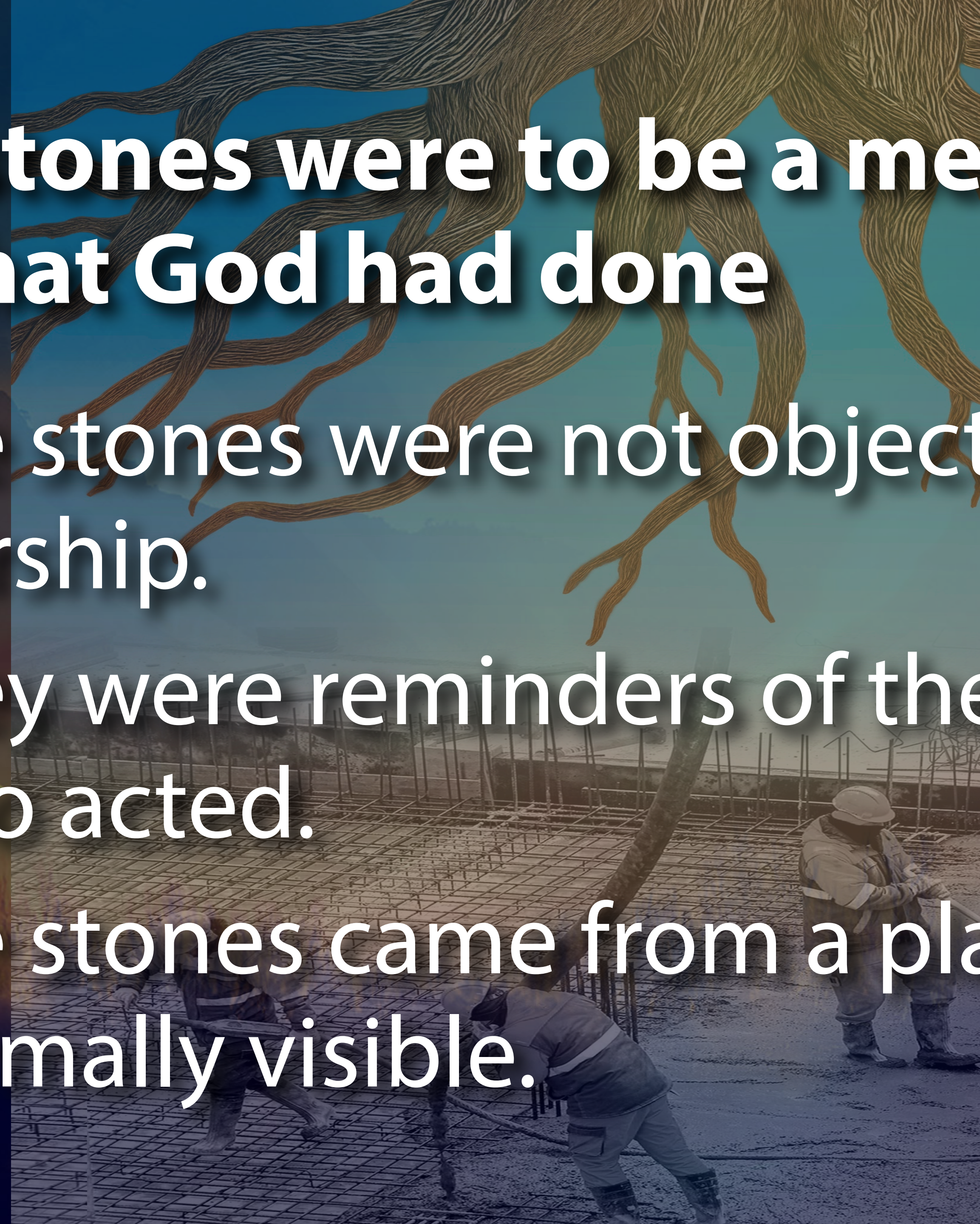
# **Stones of Remembrance**

## Joshua 4:1

*And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying: 2 "Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, 3 and command them, saying, 'Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm.*

# The stones were to be a memorial to what God had done

- The stones were not objects of worship.
- They were reminders of the God who acted.
- The stones came from a place not normally visible.





**A memorial is anything created to preserve a memory of a person or historical event.**

- Life's routines can obscure legacy and history.
- We can start taking people and things for granted.
- We must be intentional on remembering people, the works of God, and God's purpose in our lives

# A memorial's purpose is educational

**Joshua 4:6**

*That this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' 7 Then you shall answer them...*

A scenic background image featuring a stone bridge with several large, stacked stones in the foreground. The bridge spans a river with clear water. In the distance, there are green hills and trees under a blue sky with light clouds.

# God intends for you to occupy whatever “land” He has given you

- We should also set up memorials in our minds
- These mental memorials will remind us of God’s faithfulness and his unchanging power and love.
- “Crossing over” means there should be no turning back.

# 12 Stones For You and Yours

- **Education** is a Stone
- **Vicarious living** is a stone (living through the “flesh” or lives of others. Read biographies)
- **Identification** is a stone - In whom or what do you see yourself?
- **Honoring** is a Stone - Highly value people, especially parents and elders

# 12 Stones For You and Yours

- **Testimony** is a stone - Talk about what God has done for you
- **Studying history** is a Stone - learn
- **Serving others** is a Stone
- **Shared experience** is a Stone - Do things together

# 12 Stones For You and Yours

- **Museums** are stones
- **Family gatherings** are stones
- **Anniversaries** are stones
- **Juneteenth** is a Stone

**Memories worth preserving require work.**