



NEW COVENANT CHURCH

FORWARD

The Only Direction God is Moving

Lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith

Hebrews 12:1-2

Pastor Bryan Hudson, DMin

Hebrews 12:1–2

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Perception by Ryan Holiday

*Perception is how we see and understand what occurs around us—and what **we decide those events will mean**. Our perceptions can be a source of strength or of great weakness.*

Just because other people say that something is hopeless or crazy or broken to pieces doesn't mean it is. We decide what story to tell ourselves. Or whether we will tell one at all. Welcome to the power of perception.

Instead of succumbing to obstacles with inaction, we need a method and a framework for understanding, appreciating, and acting upon the obstacles life throws at us.

RYAN HOLIDAY

Follow these precepts and you will revolutionize your life. Read this book
—Steven Pressfield, author of *The War of Art* and *Gates of Fire*

THE OBSTACLE IS THE WAY

The
Timeless
Art of
Turning
Trials into
Triumph

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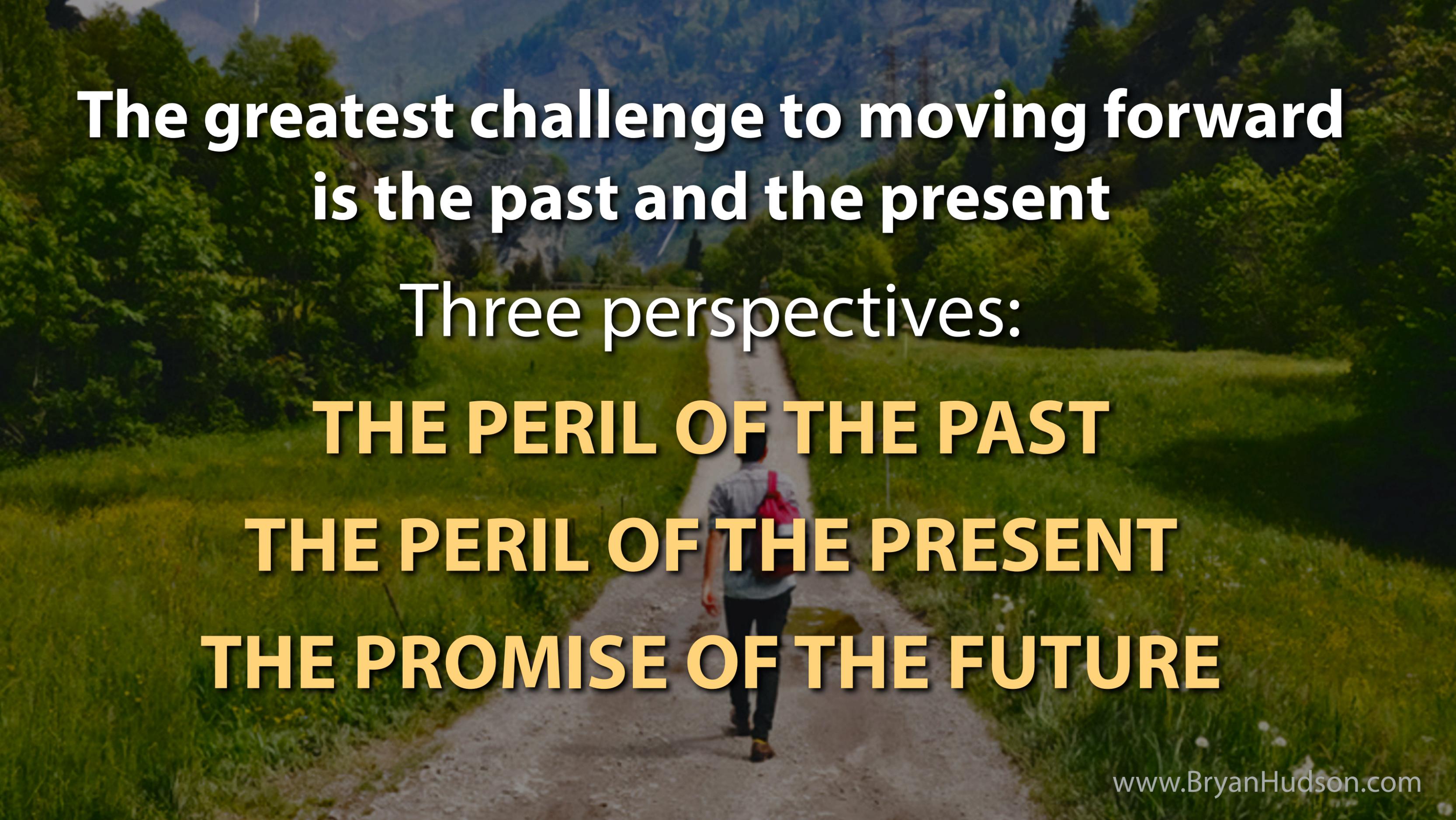
RYAN HOLIDAY

Bestselling author of *Ego Is the Enemy*

FORWARD Defined:

To cause to proceed or progress. To cause to go or be taken from one place or condition to another.

Forward is a place to which God leads people of purpose and destiny. Forward is the place and the direction the vision takes you

A person with a red backpack is walking away on a dirt path that leads through a lush green field towards a range of mountains in the distance. The scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

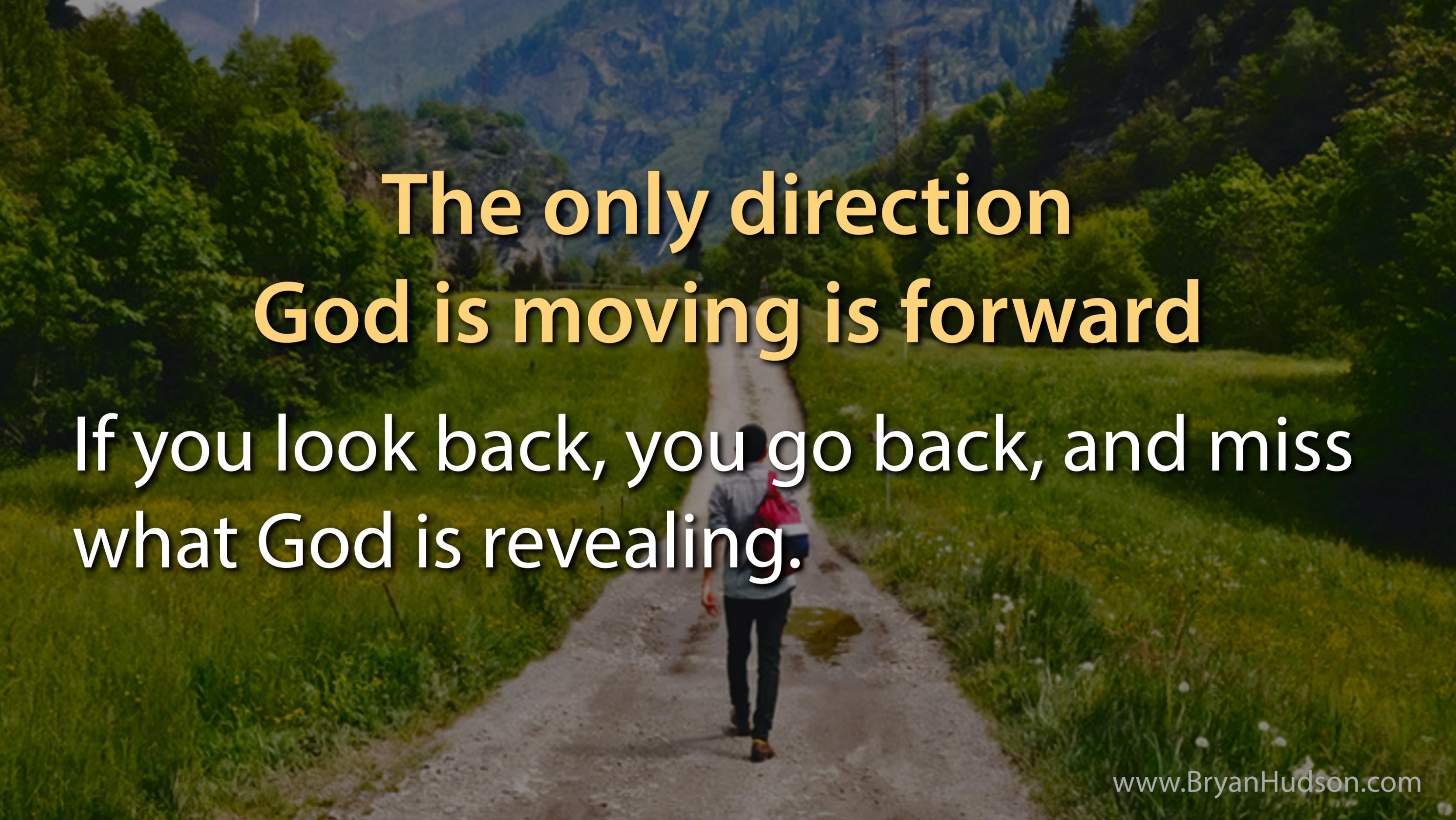
**The greatest challenge to moving forward
is the past and the present**

Three perspectives:

THE PERIL OF THE PAST

THE PERIL OF THE PRESENT

THE PROMISE OF THE FUTURE

A person with a red backpack is walking away on a dirt path through a lush green valley. The path leads towards a range of mountains in the distance. The scene is bright and sunny, with vibrant green grass and trees.

**The only direction
God is moving is forward**

If you look back, you go back, and miss what God is revealing.

THE PERIL OF THE PAST

Successes, failures, mistakes, and even people who keep us looking back.

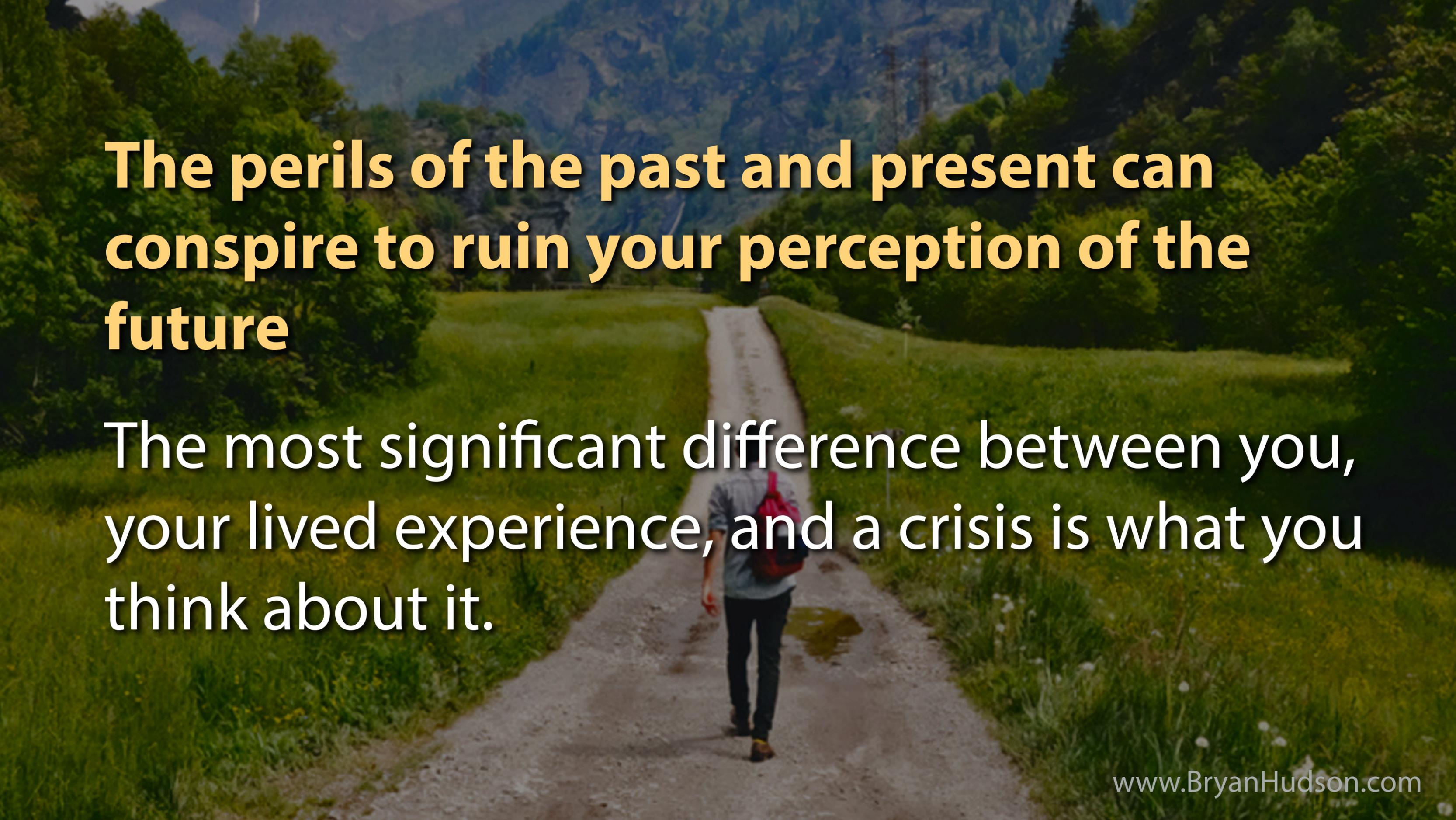


Lot's wife illustrated the peril of the past

Luke 17:31 *"In that day, [of judgment] he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. 32 Remember Lot's wife. 33 Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.*

THE PERIL OF THE PRESENT - Allowing circumstances alone to define your reality.

Exodus 14:10 *And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord.*
11 Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness?"

A person with a red backpack is walking away on a dirt path that leads through a lush green valley towards a range of mountains in the distance. The scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day. The path is well-trodden and leads the eye from the foreground into the distance.

**The perils of the past and present can
conspire to ruin your perception of the
future**

The most significant difference between you,
your lived experience, and a crisis is what you
think about it.

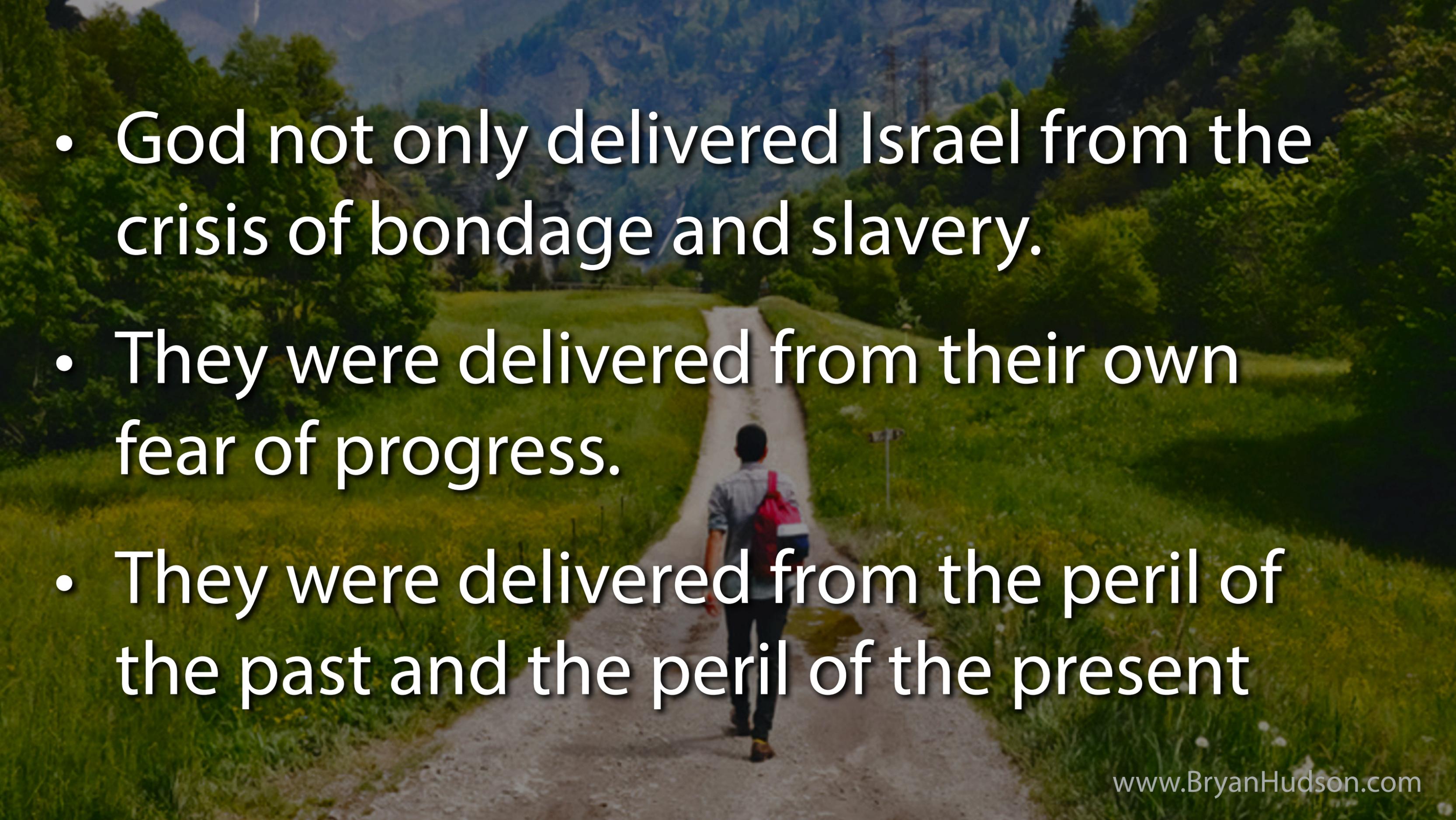
God always presents His perspective to counter the perils of the past and present

The most significant difference between you, your lived experience, and a crisis is what you think about it.

It is an invitation to “repent” (change your mind), have faith, and move forward.

Exodus 14:14,

*The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace. 15] And the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? **Tell the children of Israel to go forward.** 16] But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea."*

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- A person with a backpack is walking away from the camera on a dirt path that leads into a lush green valley. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The scene is bright and natural, suggesting a journey or a path forward.
- God not only delivered Israel from the crisis of bondage and slavery.
 - They were delivered from their own fear of progress.
 - They were delivered from the peril of the past and the peril of the present

A person with a red backpack is walking away on a dirt path through a green valley towards mountains. The path is made of light-colored gravel and leads into the distance. The surrounding landscape is lush with green grass and trees. In the background, there are large, rugged mountains under a clear sky. The overall scene is bright and scenic.

Looking back is contrary to God's purpose

Jesus said in **Luke 9:62,**

“No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

THE PROMISE OF THE FUTURE

The Promise of the future is your character in Christ and God's promises.

THE PROMISE OF THE FUTURE

FORWARD IS:

F ~ Faithful

O ~ Obedient

R ~ Resilient

W ~ Wise

A ~ Aligned

R ~ Redemptive

D ~ Destined

