



NEW COVENANT CHURCH

Good Tidings of Great JOY!

PART
TWO

JOY IS DELIGHT



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*Delight yourself also in the Lord,
And He shall give you the
desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4*

Luke 2:8

*Now there were in the same country shepherds **living out in the fields**, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and **the glory of the Lord shone around them**, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, “**Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.**”*

Luke 2:11

*For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, **who is Christ the Lord.** 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. 13 **And suddenly** there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 **“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”***



What is Joy?

Joy is a deep, settled gladness rooted in God's presence, character, and promises, not merely a reaction to favorable circumstances. It is enduring, and God-centered rather than emotion-driven.

Joy is the knowledge or satisfaction of **knowing** you are in the will of God.

Joy is the result of abiding with God, not escaping problems.

Joy is Delight

Psalm 37:3

***Trust** in the Lord, and **do good**; **Dwell** in the land, and **feed** on His faithfulness. 4 **Delight yourself also in the Lord**, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. 5 **Commit** your way to the Lord, **Trust** also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.*

Delight definition

Take pleasure in, desire, incline to; **to bend**; be (well) pleased

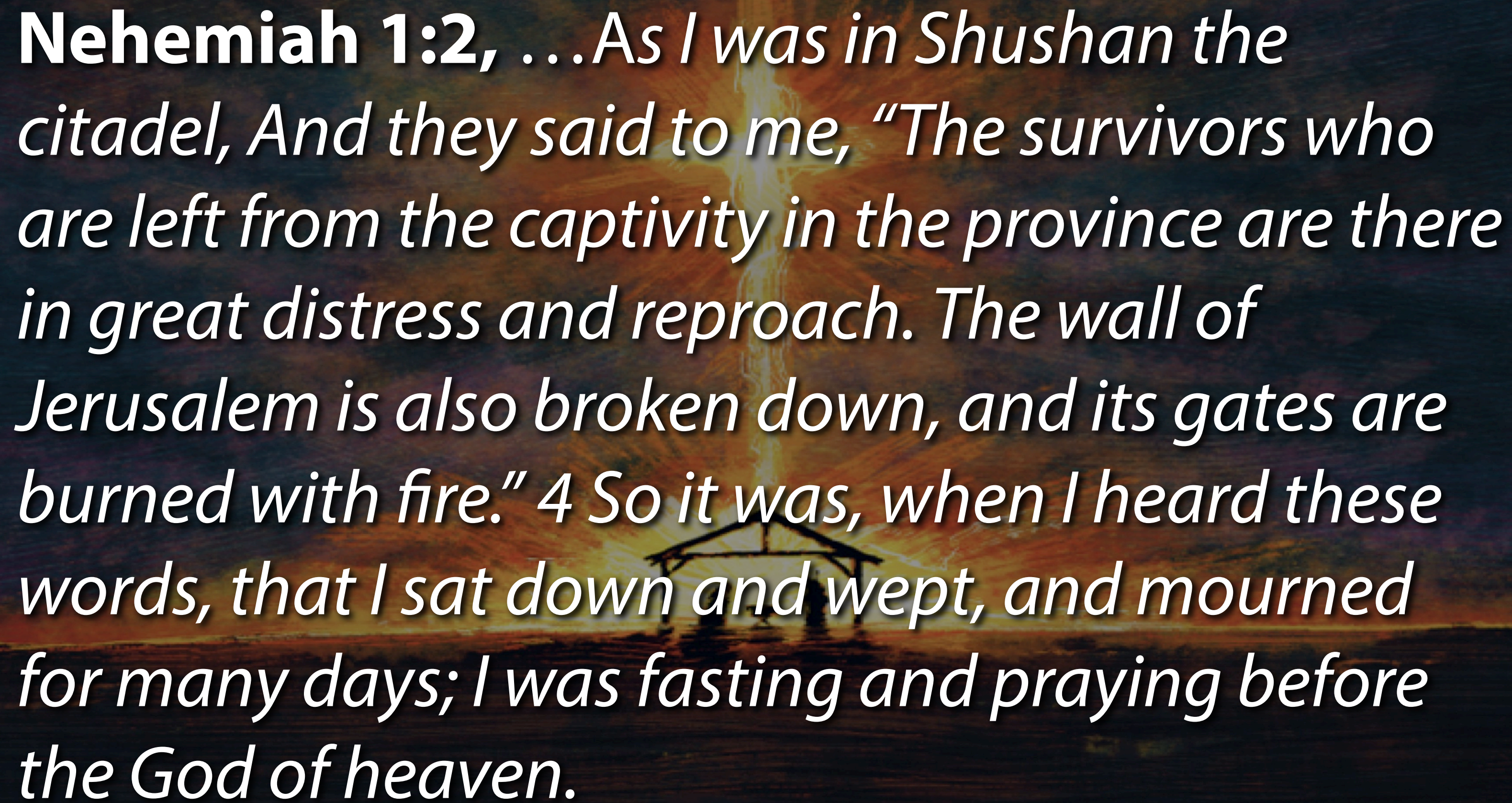
To delight is to be **bent**



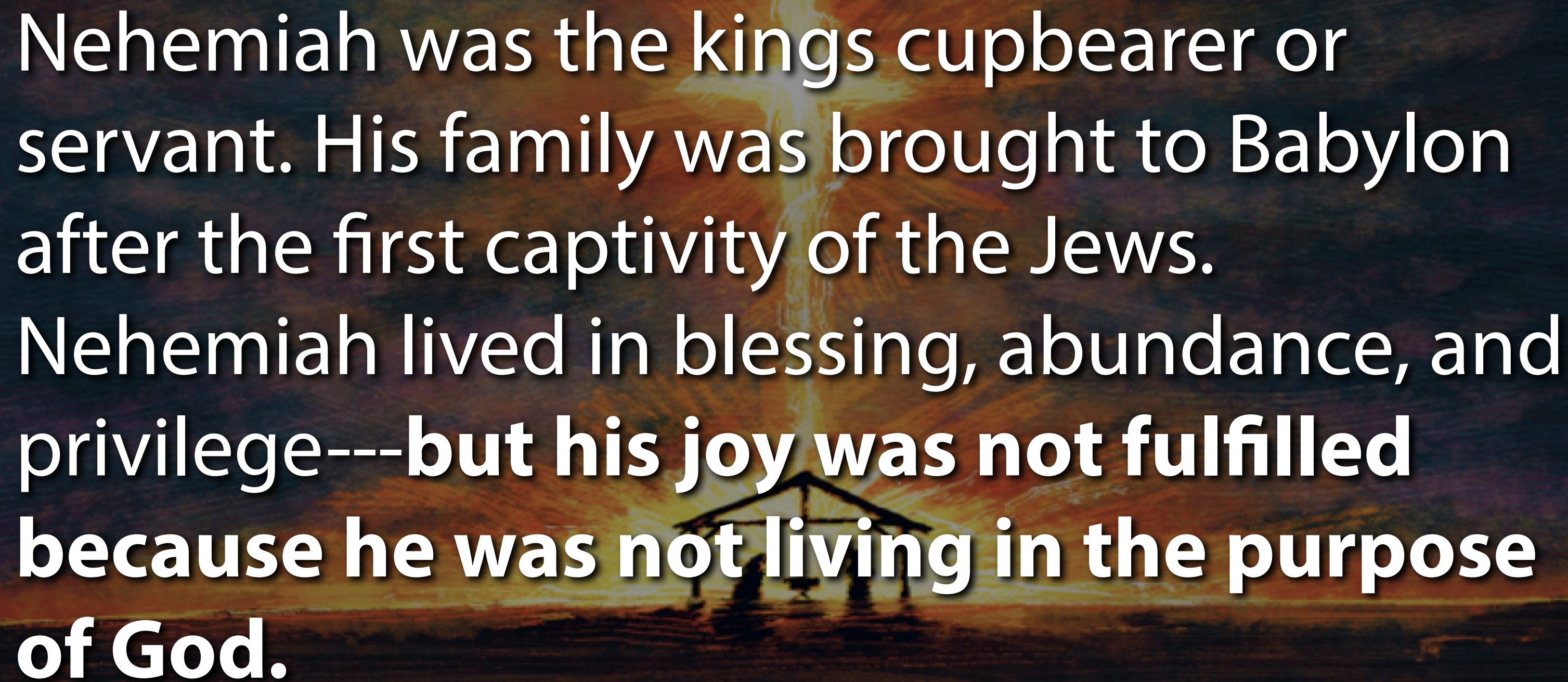
We can learn something about **Joy, Delight, and Being Bent** from Nehemiah.

He had a passion for God's people and for Jerusalem, though he did not grow up there, because of being raised in captivity in Babylon.





Nehemiah 1:2, ...*As I was in Shushan the citadel, And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire." 4 So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.*



Nehemiah was the king's cupbearer or servant. His family was brought to Babylon after the first captivity of the Jews. Nehemiah lived in blessing, abundance, and privilege---**but his joy was not fulfilled because he was not living in the purpose of God.**



This is the danger of a “**comfortable captivity**” ...complacency and forgetting our foundations and higher purpose.

This was the situation with Israel in Nehemiah's day

Saying the words, "***The joy of the Lord is your strength***" sounds good.

However, it is more meaningful when we understand the circumstance surrounding it.

The people had to "***get bent***" - learn delight.



**Being “bent” brings supernatural energy
and grace from God!**

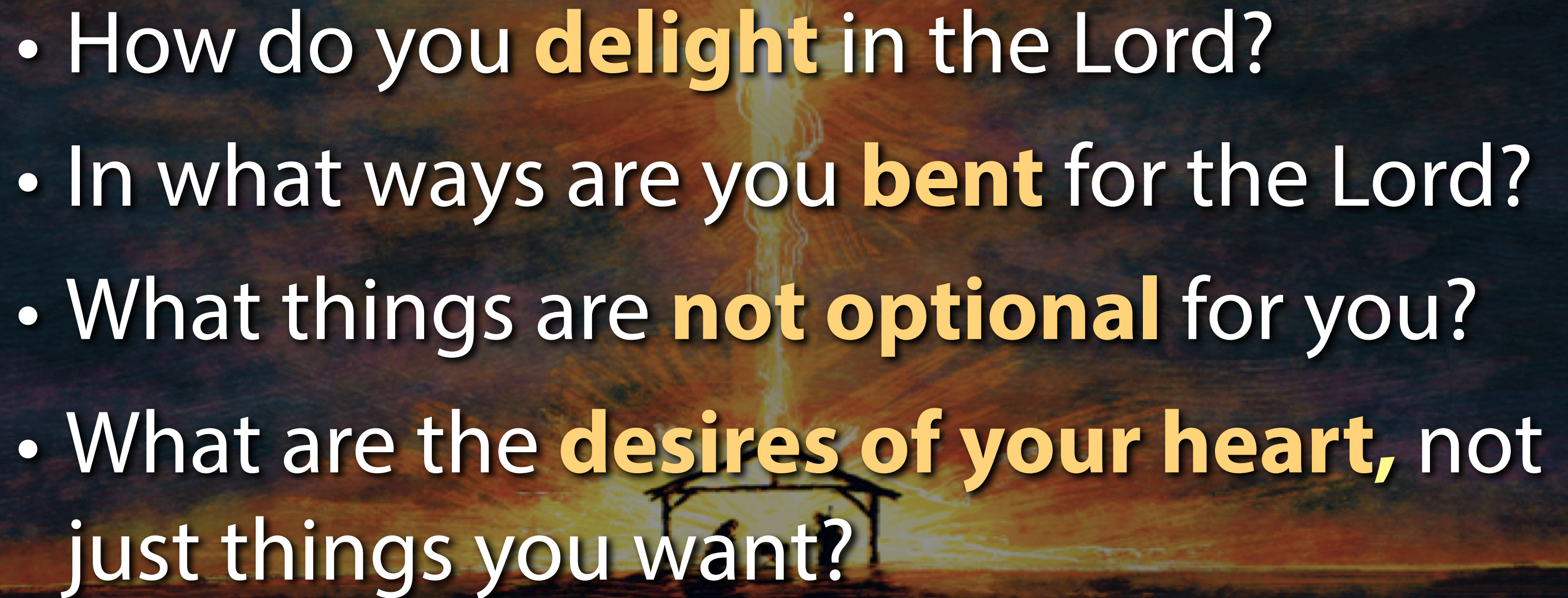
Nehemiah 6:15 *So the wall was finished on the
twenty-fifth day of Elul, **in fifty-two days.** 16 And it
happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all
the nations around us saw these things, that **they**
were very disheartened in their own eyes; for
they perceived that this work was done by our God.*

Nehemiah 8:9,

*And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law... 10 Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, **and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.**"*

Joy Doesn't Need Circumstances to Line Up

Habakkuk 3:17–18, *Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls, 18 **Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.***

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- How do you **delight** in the Lord?
 - In what ways are you **bent** for the Lord?
 - What things are **not optional** for you?
 - What are the **desires of your heart**, not just things you want?