

The background image is a cinematic landscape. In the foreground, a large, flat, rectangular stone tablet with faint, illegible markings lies on a pile of dark, jagged rocks. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a low sun, which is positioned behind a range of mountains in the distance. The sun's rays create a strong lens flare and illuminate the clouds and the landscape. The overall mood is one of grandeur and divine revelation.

The prophecy of Malachi

The messenger of the covenant is coming

Study 3

Structure of Malachi

- 1:1-1:5 God's love for Israel
- 1:6-2:9 The **covenant** corrupted by the priests
- 2:10-2:16 The **covenant** corrupted by the people
- 2:17-3:6 The coming of the Messenger of the **Covenant**
- 3:7-3:12 A call to return to God
- 3:13-4:6 The return of the Messenger of the **Covenant**



God is 'a just God and a saviour' (Isa 45:21)

"Where is the God of
judgment?"



2:17- The coming **JUDGMENTS** of
3:6 the Messenger of the Covenant



I am a **JUST** God

"What profit is it that we
have kept his ordinance?"



3:13- The coming **BLESSINGS** of the
4:3 Sun of Righteousness



and a **SAVIOUR**

John the messenger

- 'For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my **messenger** before thy face, which shall **prepare thy way before thee**. Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist' **Matt 11:10-11**
- 'And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to **prepare his ways**' **Luke 1:76**
- 'There was a man **sent from God**, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light ..' **John 1:6-7**



The messengers in Malachi

	Days of Malachi (Neh. 13:7)	Christ's 1 st advent (Matt. 11:9-11)	Christ's 2 nd advent (Rev. 22:12)
Messenger	Malachi	John the Baptist	Elijah*
Messenger of the covenant	Nehemiah	Jesus of Nazareth	Lord Jesus Christ
Connection with Malachi 3	Mal. 3:1-5	Mal. 3:1	Mal. 3:2-5 (Matt. 3:11-12)
Connection with Malachi 4			Mal. 4:1-4 (Matt. 16:27)

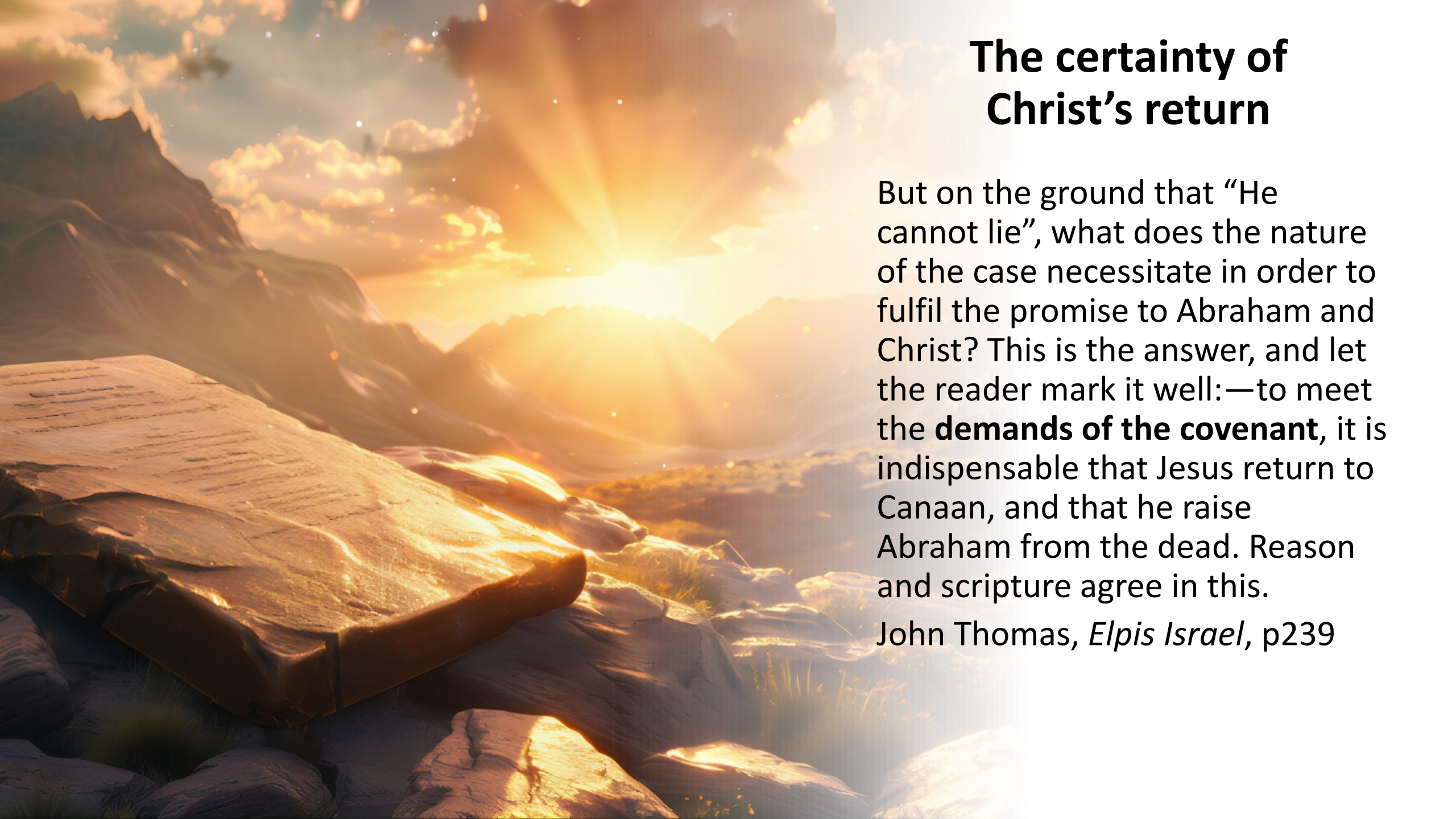
* After the judgment seat, Elijah will appear to scattered Israel before Christ is manifested to them.

The sacrificial death of the messenger of the covenant



The **covenant** made with Abraham and Christ involved an **everlasting inheritance**. However in order for the inheritors to receive an everlasting inheritance, they had to first receive **forgiveness** and redemption. That forgiveness required the **death** of the mediator of that covenant.

‘How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the **new covenant**, that by means of **death**, for the **redemption of the transgressions** that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of **eternal inheritance**’
Hebrews 9:14-15



The certainty of Christ's return

But on the ground that “He cannot lie”, what does the nature of the case necessitate in order to fulfil the promise to Abraham and Christ? This is the answer, and let the reader mark it well:—to meet the **demands of the covenant**, it is indispensable that Jesus return to Canaan, and that he raise Abraham from the dead. Reason and scripture agree in this.

John Thomas, *Elpis Israel*, p239

Refiner's fire and fullers' soap



The refiner's fire brought metals to a searing heat, drawing out their hidden impurities to be lifted away.



Fuller's soap, a potent alkaline cleanser derived from plant ash, was applied with forceful techniques such as pounding and treading to purge garments of embedded impurities.

The refining of Judah

The Jews in the land (styled Judah) will be refined by the fiery judgments of Armageddon.

Concerning this Zechariah says "And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the **fire**, and will refine them as **silver** is refined, and will try them as **gold** is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God" **Zechariah 13:8-9**



The refining of 'Israel'

Following Christ's return, the Jews outside the land (styled Israel) will be gathered to Zion through the work of Elijah. **Jeremiah 3:14-15**

In describing this "second exodus", Ezekiel says "And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD. And I will cause you to pass under the **rod**, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: And I will **purge out** from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me" **Ezekiel 20:35-38**



The sins of those who professed to delight in their Lord

They were

sorcerers - Lev.19:31

adulterers - Lev.19:20

false swearers - Lev.19:12

oppressors of hirelings - Lev.19:13

oppressors of widows - Lev.19:3,18

unjust to strangers - Lev.19:33

fearless of God - Lev.19:32

They profess that they know God, but in works they deny him.

Titus 1:16



Tithe offering

Numbers 18:24

- Tithes were a heave offering “terumah” which means ‘to be high’ or ‘lifted up’.
- The heave offerings were lifted up out of the offerer’s other possessions to indicate that they belonged to Yahweh, and therefore described by God as ‘mine’.
- The Levites drew their sustenance from the tithes

Levit 27:30-33

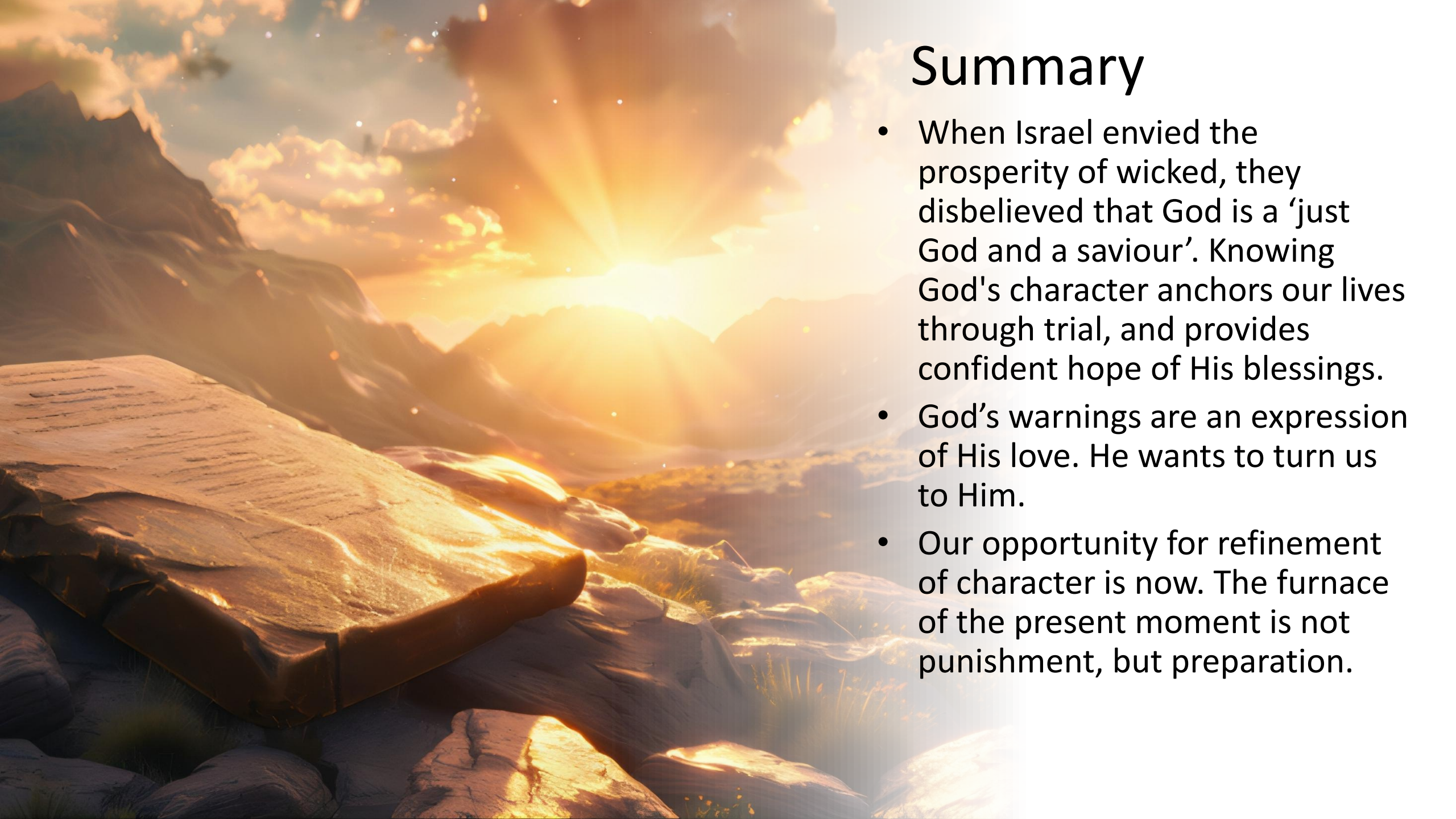
- The Israelites were to give tithes of the seed of the land, fruit of the tree, and of the herd.

**All nations shall call you blessed, for ye shall be a
delightsome land.**



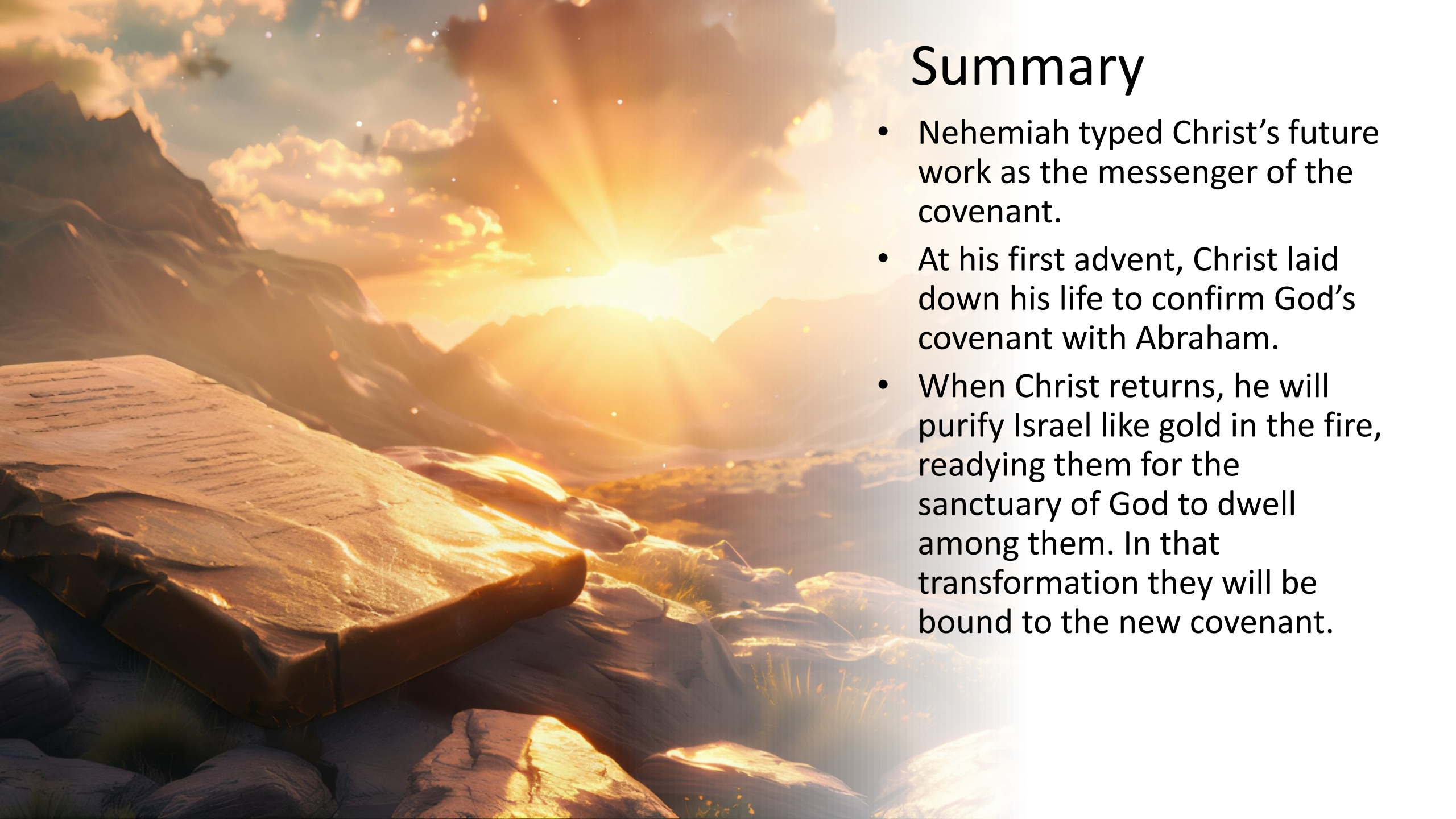
And the heathen
shall know that I the
LORD do sanctify
Israel, when my
sanctuary shall be in
the midst of them
for evermore.

Ezekiel 37:28



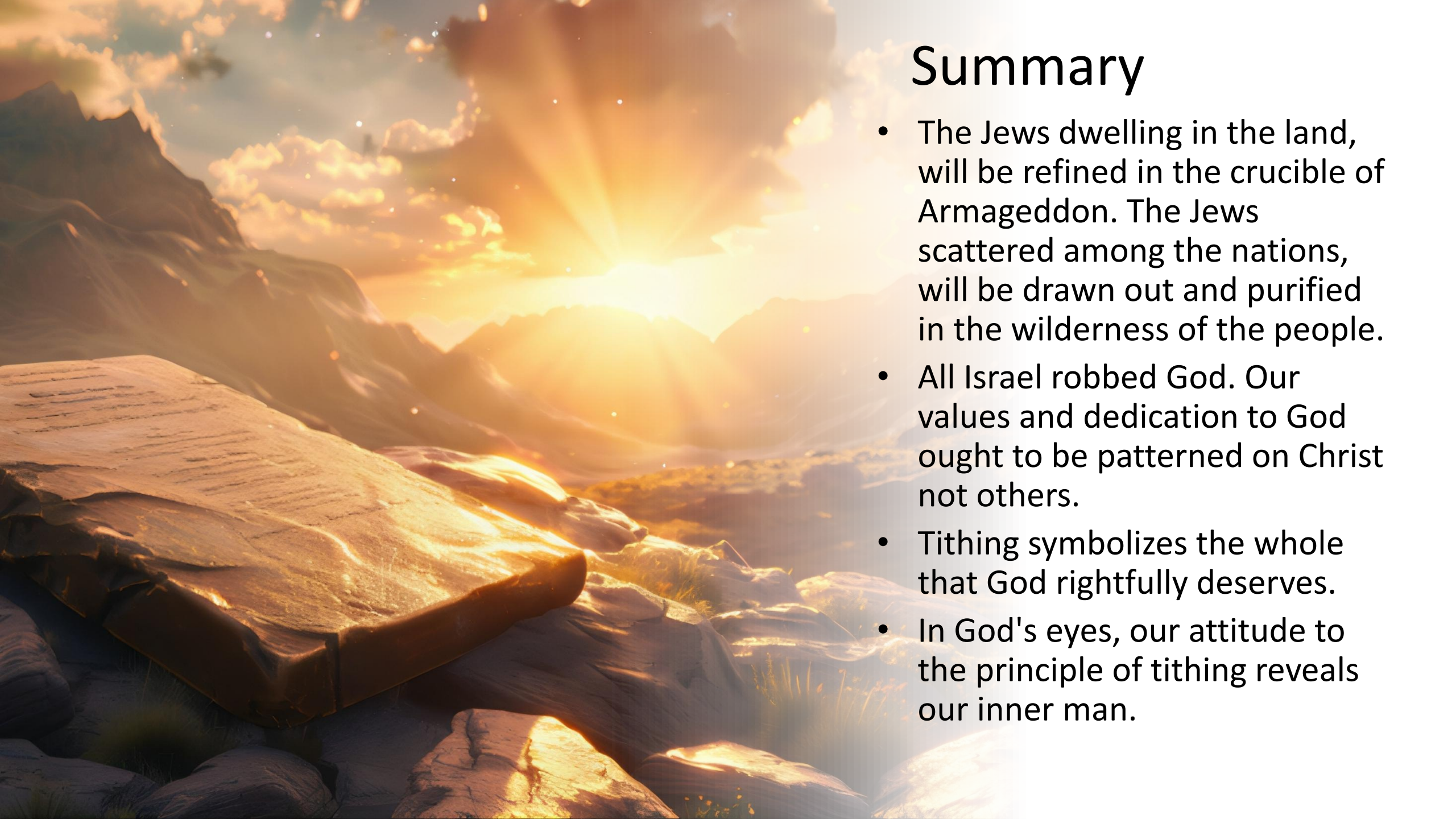
Summary

- When Israel envied the prosperity of wicked, they disbelieved that God is a 'just God and a saviour'. Knowing God's character anchors our lives through trial, and provides confident hope of His blessings.
- God's warnings are an expression of His love. He wants to turn us to Him.
- Our opportunity for refinement of character is now. The furnace of the present moment is not punishment, but preparation.



Summary

- Nehemiah typed Christ's future work as the messenger of the covenant.
- At his first advent, Christ laid down his life to confirm God's covenant with Abraham.
- When Christ returns, he will purify Israel like gold in the fire, readying them for the sanctuary of God to dwell among them. In that transformation they will be bound to the new covenant.



Summary

- The Jews dwelling in the land, will be refined in the crucible of Armageddon. The Jews scattered among the nations, will be drawn out and purified in the wilderness of the people.
- All Israel robbed God. Our values and dedication to God ought to be patterned on Christ not others.
- Tithing symbolizes the whole that God rightfully deserves.
- In God's eyes, our attitude to the principle of tithing reveals our inner man.