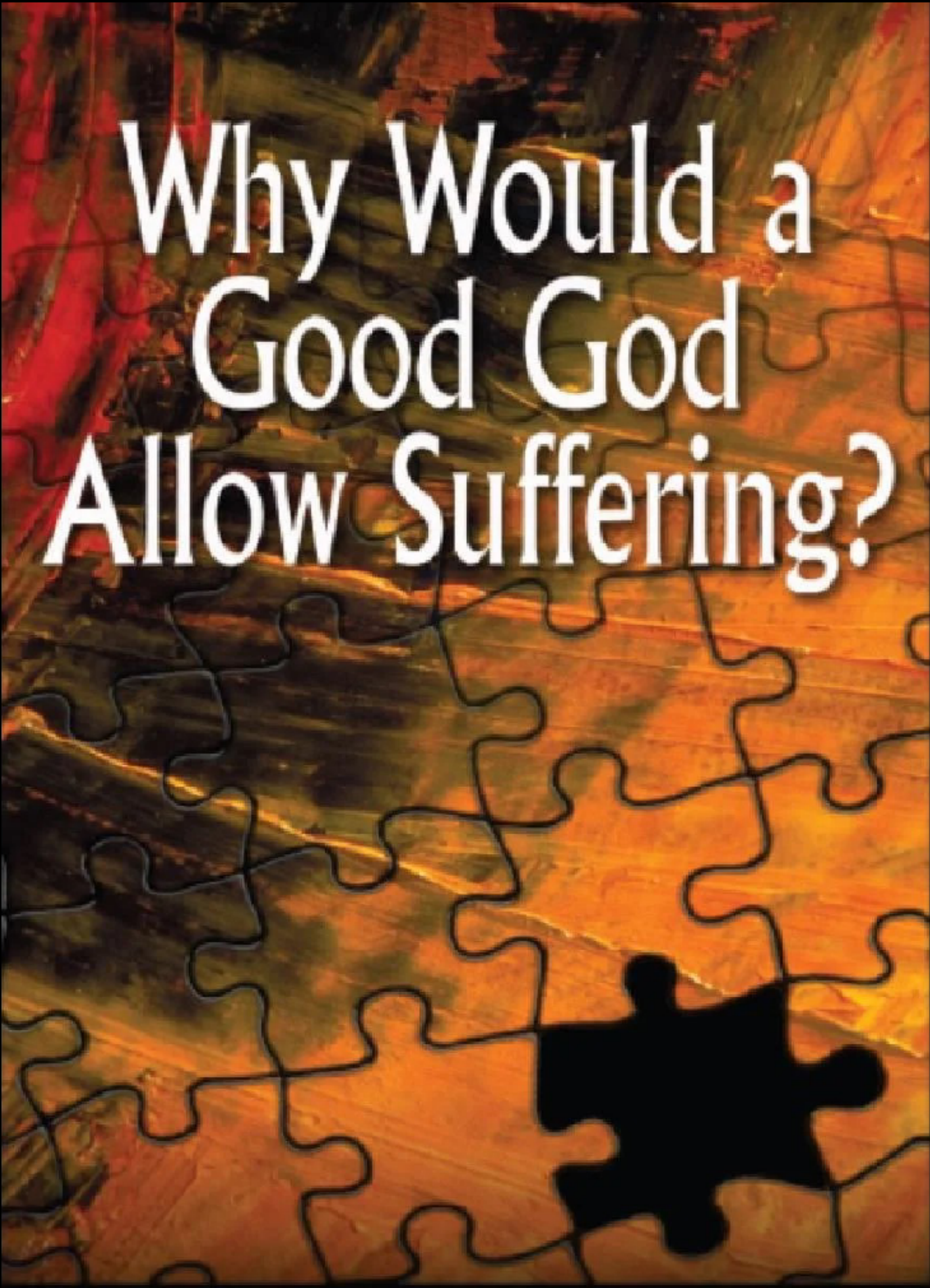


# “BELOVED, BROKEN AND BEAUTIFUL”

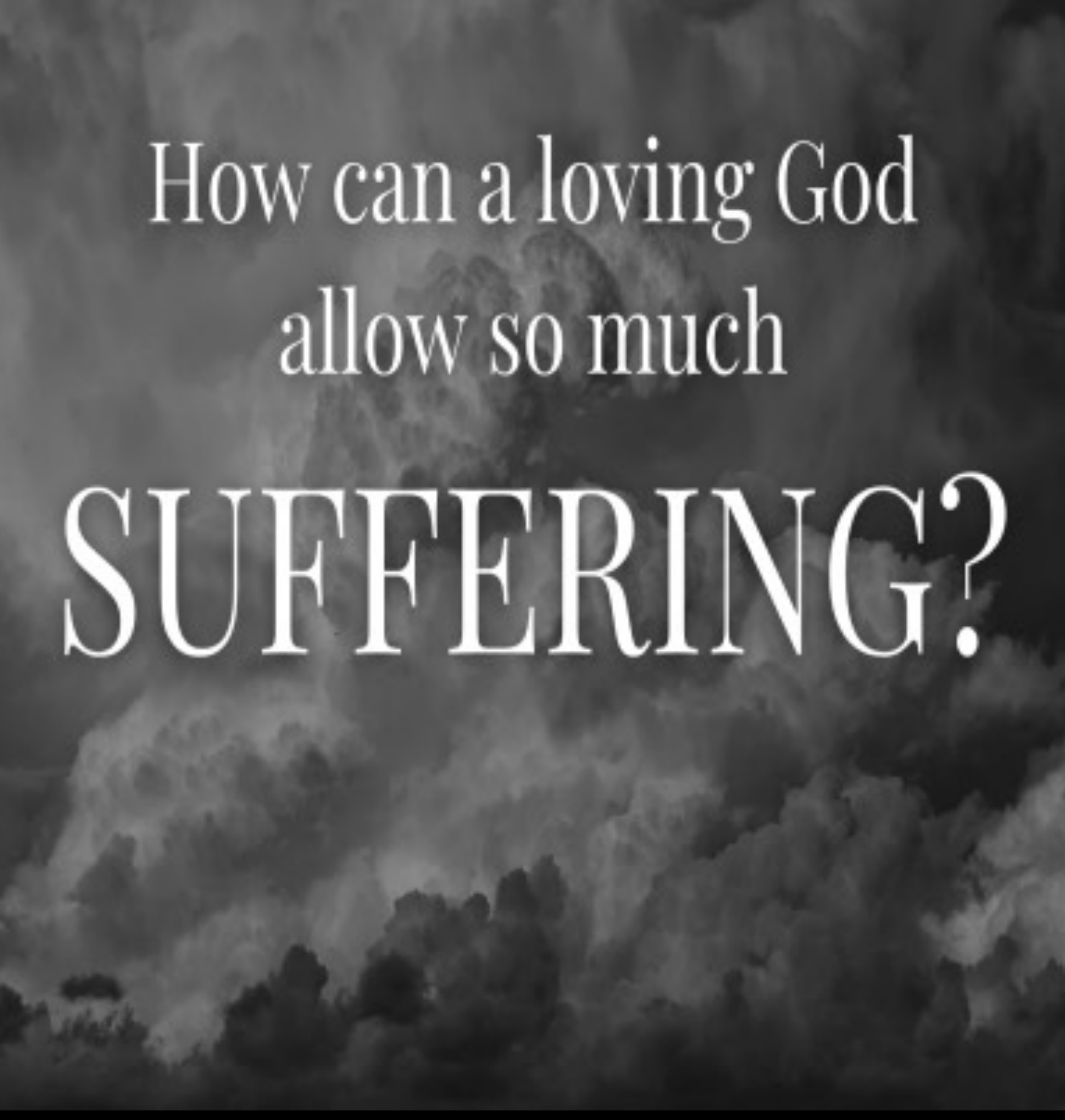
More Wrestling with Life’s Realities in a Broken World  
- October 15th 2023 -







Why Would a  
Good God  
Allow Suffering?



How can a loving God  
allow so much  
**SUFFERING?**



**WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL AND  
SUFFERING TO EXIST?**





(to play "*THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU*" movie trailer, click link below)  
<https://vimeopro.com/user2890445/inspiring-music-and-videos/video/874579763>

# THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU

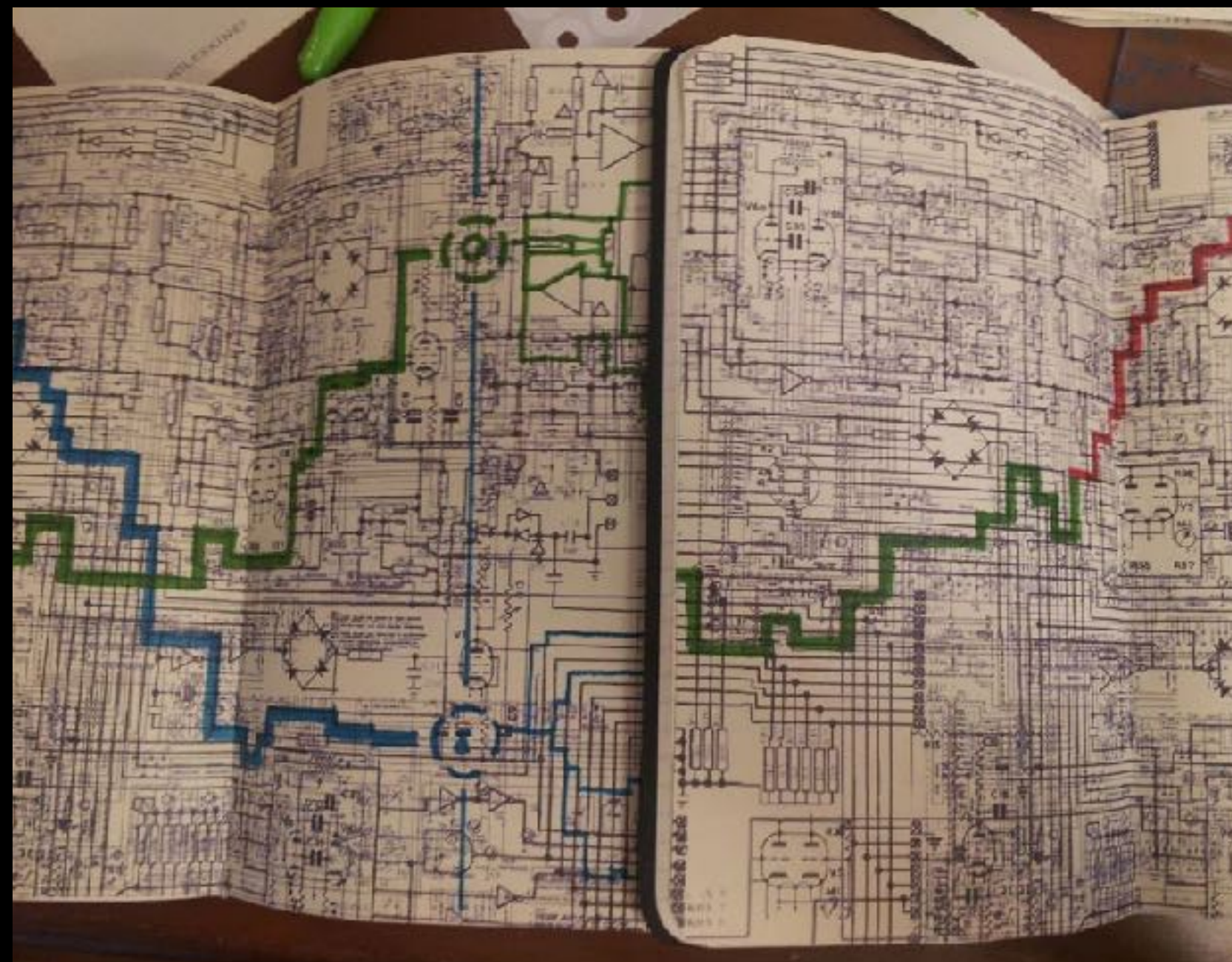




A man with a serious expression, wearing a dark suit, a light-colored shirt, a patterned tie, and a dark fedora hat. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an indoor setting with architectural elements.

(to play "*THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU*" clip on Freewill, click link below)  
<https://vimeopro.com/user2890445/inspiring-music-and-videos/video/874578246>







# The Uncontrolling Love of God

“The model of God as essentially kenotic (i.e. self-giving, unending love poured out) says God’s eternal nature is uncontrolling love. Because of love, God necessarily provides freedom/agency to creatures, and God works by empowering and inspiring creation toward well-being. God also necessarily upholds the regularities (i.e. dynamics) of the universe because those regularities derive from God’s eternal nature of love.”

— Thomas Jay Oord  
*“THE UNCONTROLLING LOVE OF GOD”*



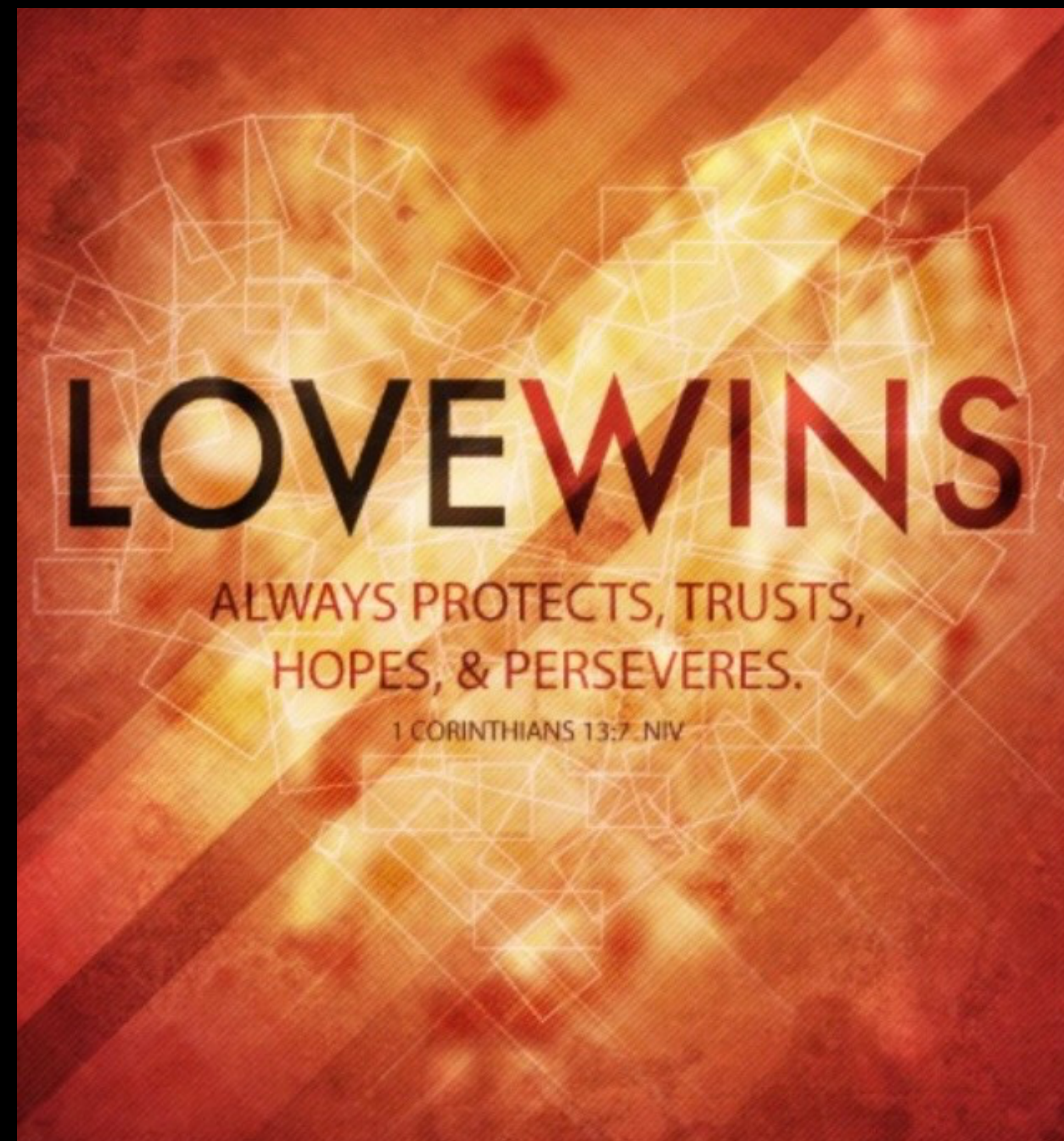
# GOD'S LOVE WINS

**Does it REALLY?**

If God's *Love Wins*, what might 'winning' look like?  
What's required of us?

Why does winning Jesus' way take so long?

How does one move from merely spectating to willingly participating in God's recreative Love?





**THEN HE OPENED  
THEIR MINDS SO THEY  
COULD UNDERSTAND  
THE SCRIPTURES.**

LUKE 24:45

“Faith is like the eye – it does not create what it sees; it sees what is already there”.

- Martin Luther



## Selections from Habakkuk Chapters 1-3

### Habakkuk's First Complaint

<sup>2</sup> How long, O Lord, must I call for help? But you do not listen! “Violence is everywhere!” I cry, but you do not come to save. <sup>3</sup> Must I forever see these evil deeds? Why must I watch all this misery? Wherever I look, I see destruction and violence...

### Habakkuk's Second Complaint

<sup>12</sup> O Lord my God, my Holy One, you who are eternal—surely you do not plan to wipe us out? O Lord, our Rock, you have sent these Babylonians to correct us, to punish us for our many sins. <sup>13</sup> But you are pure and cannot stand the sight of evil. Will you wink at their treachery? Should you be silent while the wicked swallow up people more righteous than they? <sup>14</sup> Are we only fish to be caught and killed?

- NEW LIVING TRANSLATION



# Selections from Habakkuk Chapters 1-3

## Hab 2: The Lord's Second Reply

<sup>2</sup> How Then the Lord said to me... <sup>3</sup> If the vision is delayed, wait patiently, for it will surely come and not delay. <sup>4</sup> I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away. But the righteous person will live by **my faith**...

<sup>13</sup> O Has not the Lord of Heaven's Armies promised that the wealth of nations will turn to ashes? They work so hard, but all in vain!

<sup>14</sup> For as the waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with an awareness of the glory of the Lord.

- NEW LIVING TRANSLATION



## Selections from Habakkuk Chapt 1-3 NLT

Hab 3: Habakkuk's Prayer

<sup>1</sup> This prayer was sung by the prophet Habakkuk: <sup>2</sup> I have heard all about you, Lord. I am filled with awe by your amazing works. In this time of our deep need, help us again as you did in years gone by. And in your anger, remember your mercy...

<sup>13</sup> You went out to rescue your chosen people, to save your anointed ones. You crushed the heads of the wicked and stripped their bones from head to toe. <sup>14</sup> With his own weapons, you destroyed the chief of those who rushed out like a whirlwind, thinking Israel would be easy prey...

<sup>17</sup> Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, <sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! <sup>19</sup> The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights.”

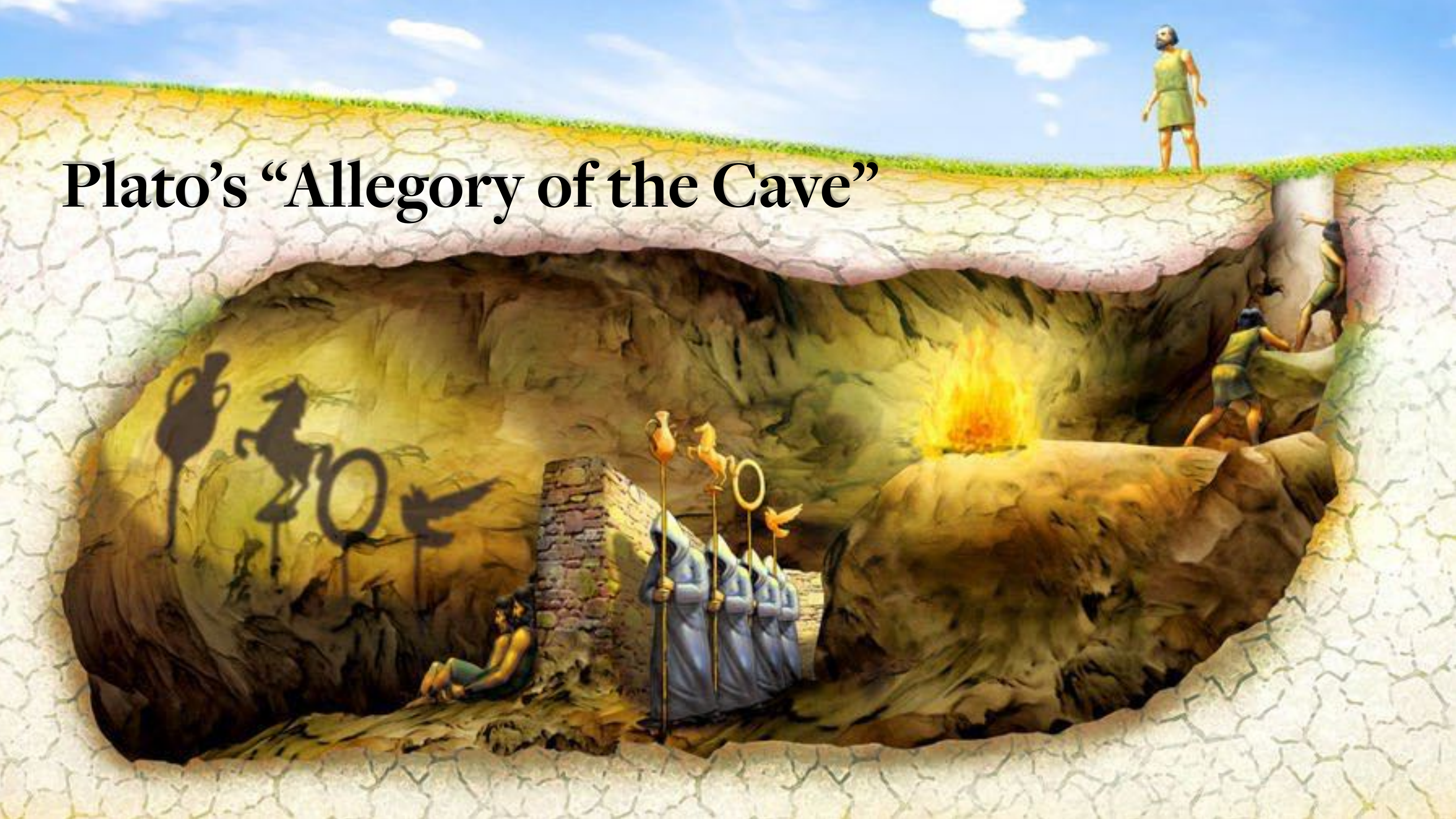




WE DON'T SEE THINGS  
AS THEY ARE, WE SEE  
THEM AS WE ARE.



# Plato's "Allegory of the Cave"







Are we locked into seeing an 'Old Testament' shadow of God's nature instead of the one revealed to us definitively in Jesus?

*(Heb 10:1 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves.)*