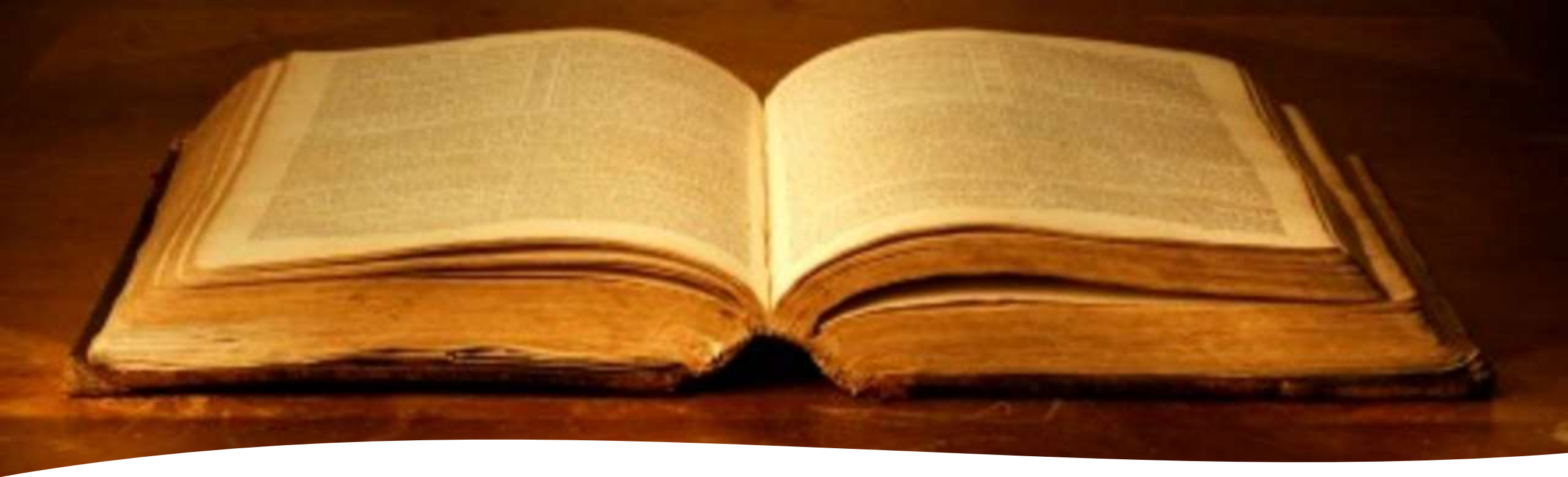


A silhouette of a person standing on a rocky shore with their arms outstretched, set against a vibrant sunset sky with orange, yellow, and blue hues. The ocean is visible in the background.

# If The Lord Wills

Life Does Not Always Go As Planned



Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow.

What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”

James 4:13-15

# Man Proposes, God Disposes

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow.

James 4:13





# An Appointment in Samara



An old legend tells of a merchant in Baghdad who one day sent his servant to the market.

Before very long the servant came back, white and trembling and in great agitation and said to his master, "Down in the marketplace I was jostled by a woman in the crowd, and when I turned around I saw it was Death that jostled me. She looked at me and made a threatening gesture. Master, please lend me your fastest horse, for I must hasten away to avoid her. I will ride to Samara and there I will hide, and Death will not find me."

The merchant lent him his horse, and the servant galloped away in great haste. Later the merchant went down to the marketplace and saw Death standing in the crowd. He went over to her and asked, "Why did you frighten my servant this morning?. Why did you make a threatening gesture?"

"That was not a threatening gesture, Death said. "I was only startled and surprised. I was astonished to see him in Bagdad, since I have an appointment with him tonight in Samara."

# God Alone Knows Our Time

"All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

Psalms 139:16

"There is a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot."

Ecclesiastes 3:2

# The Brevity of Life

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**What is your life?** You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”

James 4:14-15



# Your Life is a Shadow

We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope.

I Chronicles 29:15



# Your Life is a Shepherd's Tent Removed

My dwelling is removed, and is carried away  
from me as a shepherd's tent...

Isaiah 38:12





# Your Life is a Tale Told

We spend our years as a tale that is told.

Psalm 90:9



# Your Life is Like a Mist

What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

James 4:14





# Your Life is a Pilgrimage

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“The years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty. My years have been few and difficult, and they do not equal the years of the pilgrimage of my fathers. ”

Genesis 47:9



# Your Life is Like a Weaver's Thread

Like a weaver I have rolled up my life, and  
he has cut me off from the loom...

Isaiah 38:12



# Your Life is Like Spilled Water

Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered...

II Samuel 14:14







# Deo Volente – Lord Willing

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Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will,  
we will live and do this or that.”

James 4:15



God's Will  
Happens in  
God's Timing





# Bringing Righteousness to England by Force

- Oliver Cromwell
  - Oversaw the execution of King Charles I and the end of the monarchy
  - Implementer of the Puritan led republic
  - 1653 - At 54 years he became Lord Protector of England
  - He sought to dictate Protestant righteousness by force
  - 1658 - At 59 he died
  - 1660 – The royalists return to power under King Charles II
- England returned to its hedonism and formality

# Bringing Righteousness in God's Timing

- George Whitfield
  - 1731 – At 18, Whitfield accepts Christ and goes to Oxford
  - 1734 - 21 years old, he begins his ministry
    - No formal authority - Licensed to Preach but not given a church
  - 1735-1738 – Preaches throughout England, bringing Great Awakening
  - 1739-1740 – Preaches in American colonies, bringing Great Awakening
  - Whitefield established no churches, movements, or denominations in his lifetime, but his messages changed England and America
- “A dead ministry will always make a dead people, whereas if ministers are warmed with the love of God themselves, they cannot but be instruments of diffusing that love among others.”







# Ben Franklin on George Whitfield's Impact

"In 1739 arriv'd among us from England the Rev. Mr. Whitefield, who had made himself remarkable there as an itinerant Preacher. He was at first permitted to preach in some of our Churches; but the Clergy taking a Dislike to him, soon refus'd him their Pulpits and he was oblig'd to preach in the Fields. The Multitudes of all Sects and Denominations that attended his Sermons were enormous and it was [a] matter of Speculation to me who was one of the Number, to observe the extraordinary Influence of his Oratory on his Hearers, and how much they admir'd and respected him, notwithstanding his common Abuse of them, by assuring them they were naturally *half Beasts and half Devils*.

It was wonderful to see the Change soon made in the Manners [behavior] of our Inhabitants; from being thoughtless or indifferent about Religion, it seem'd as if all the World were growing Religious; so that one could not walk thro' the Town in an Evening without Hearing Psalms sung in different Families of every Street."

Life Does Not Always Go As Planned

# If The Lord Wills



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