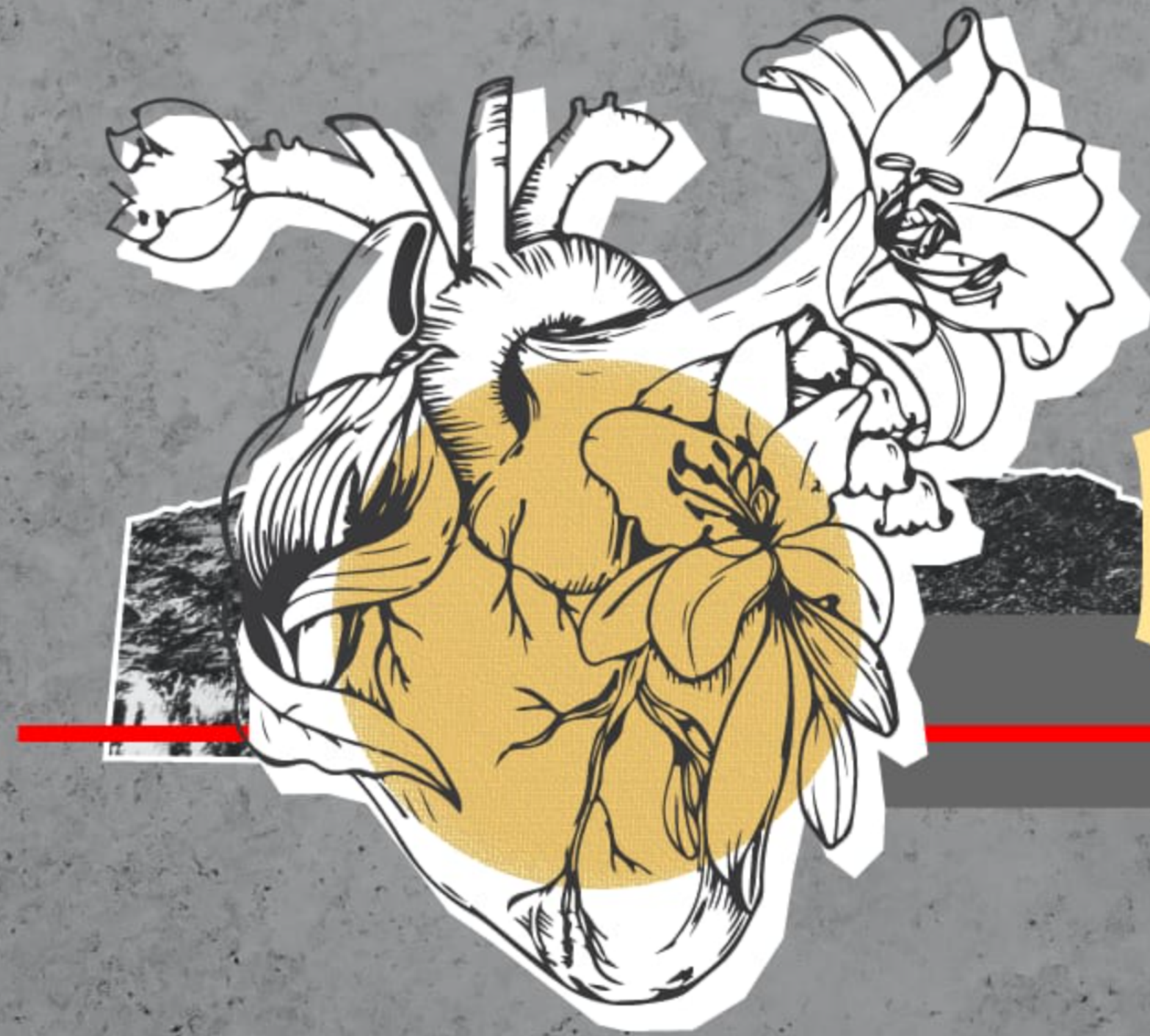




scrípture

EZEKIEL 33:7 – 20, 30 – 33



ezekiel

FINDING SPIRITUAL GRAVITY
IN THE GLORY OF GOD

Responsibility

It's not my fault.

I'm sorry I made you feel that way.

You don't understand the situation.

It wouldn't have done any good.

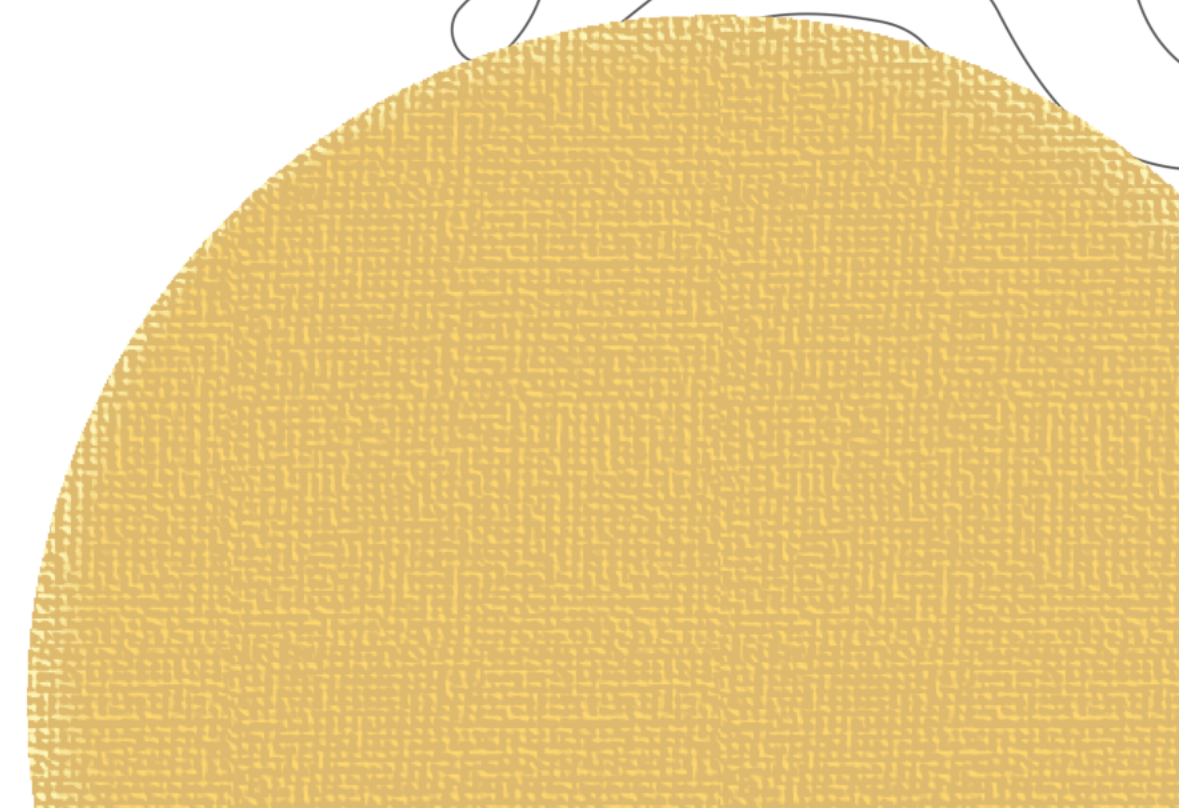
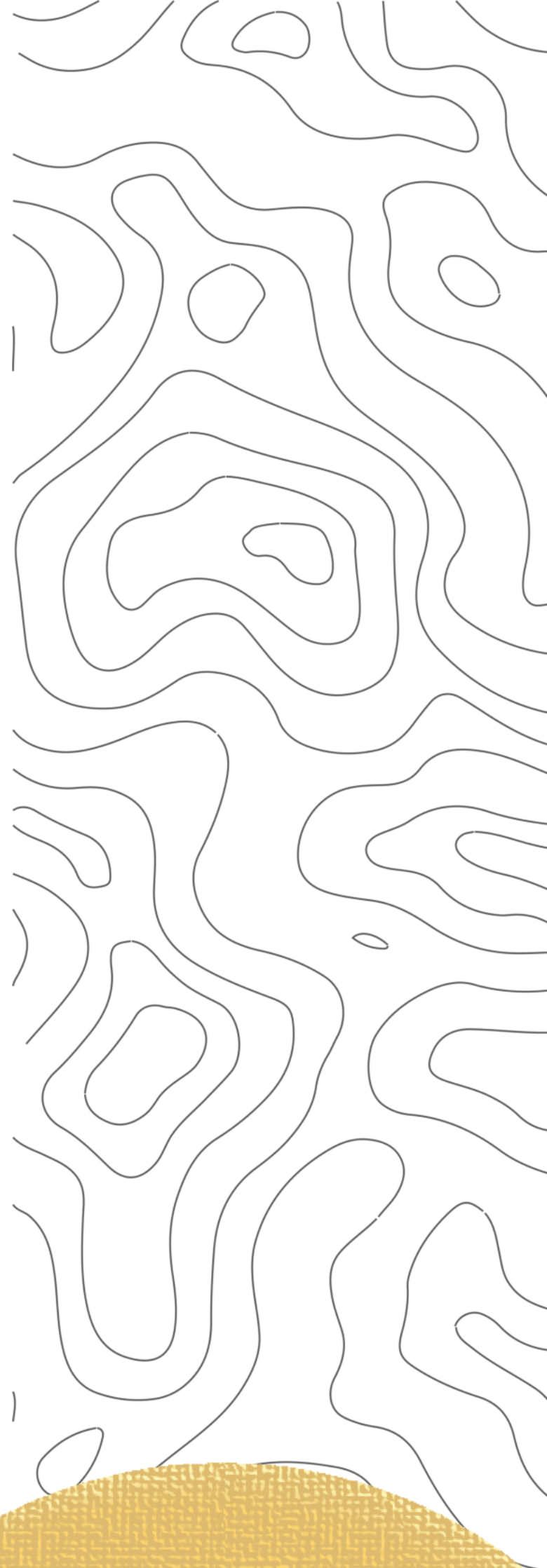
What do you want from me anyway?

No one would have listened to me.

The results were inevitable.

Life is so unfair.

I didn't have a choice.



Responsibility

I'm too old/tired/unlucky/busy.

Even if I tried, someone would have held me back.

I was following orders.

It's too hard.

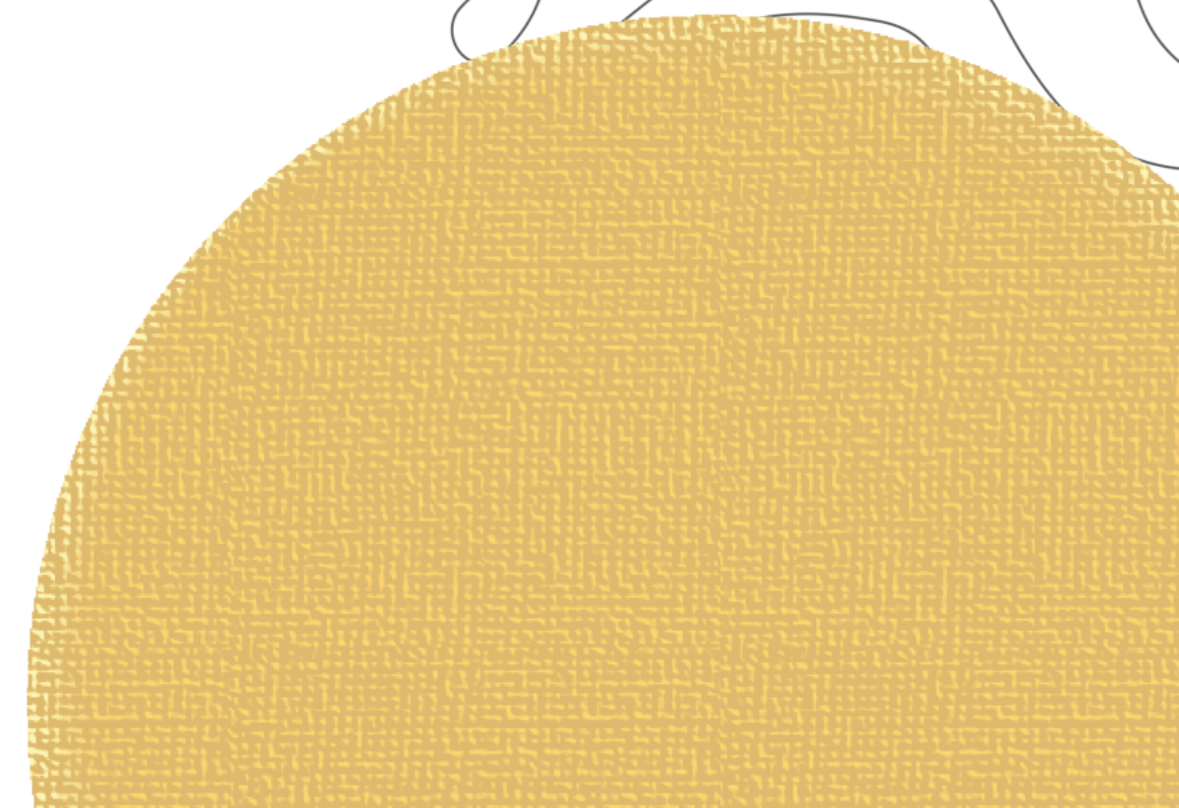
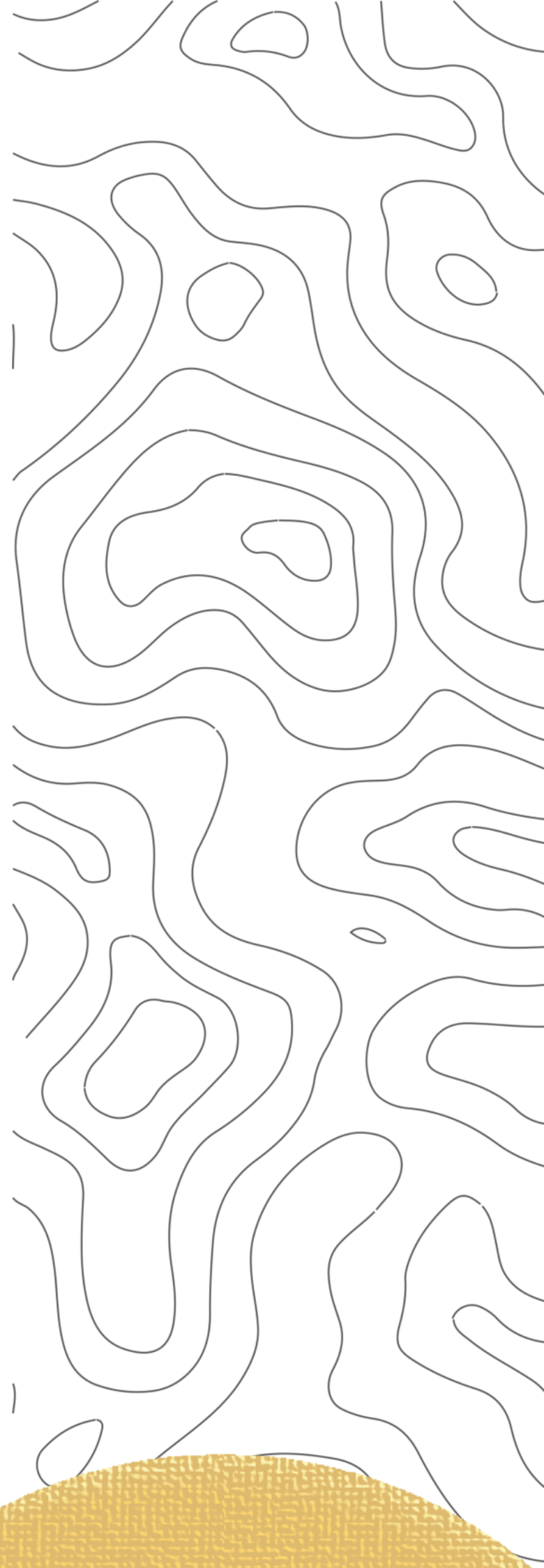
What's the use?

It won't make any difference.

I can't risk it.

Everyone hates me.

No one else was willing to help.



Passage Premise:

**We are masters at
avoiding the moral and
spiritual responsibility that
is part of being human.**

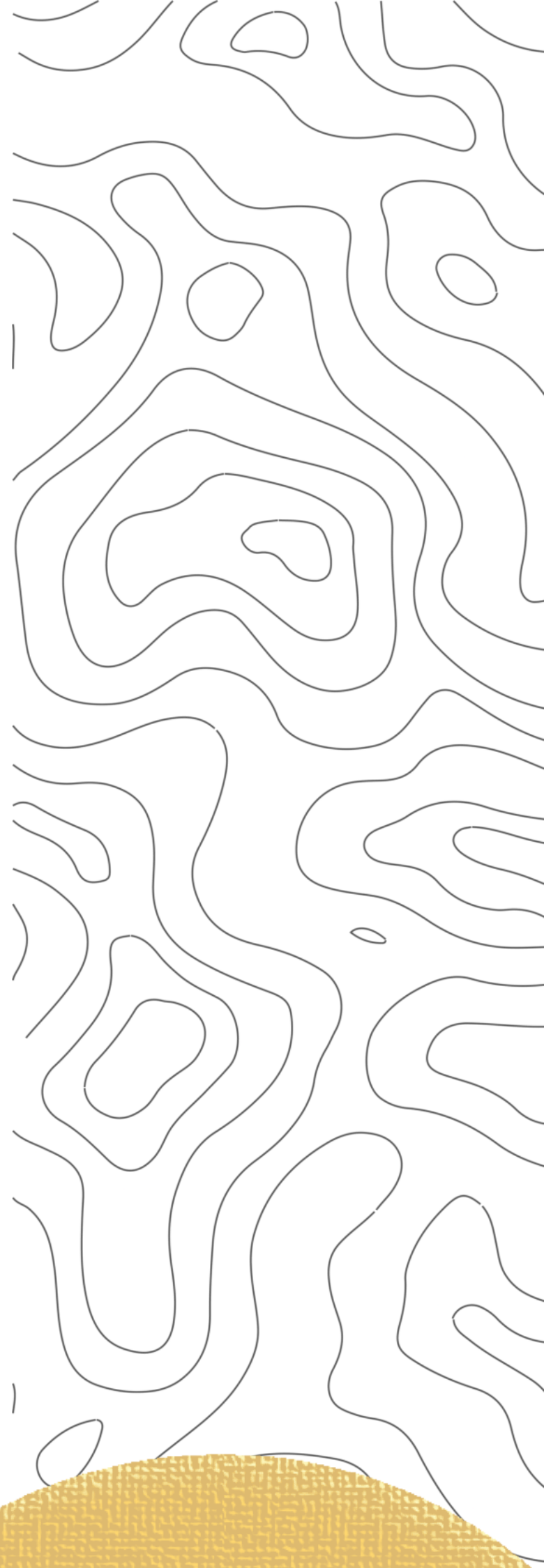
Responsibility

in 3 sections:

1 – 9: Ezekiel has to be a watchman

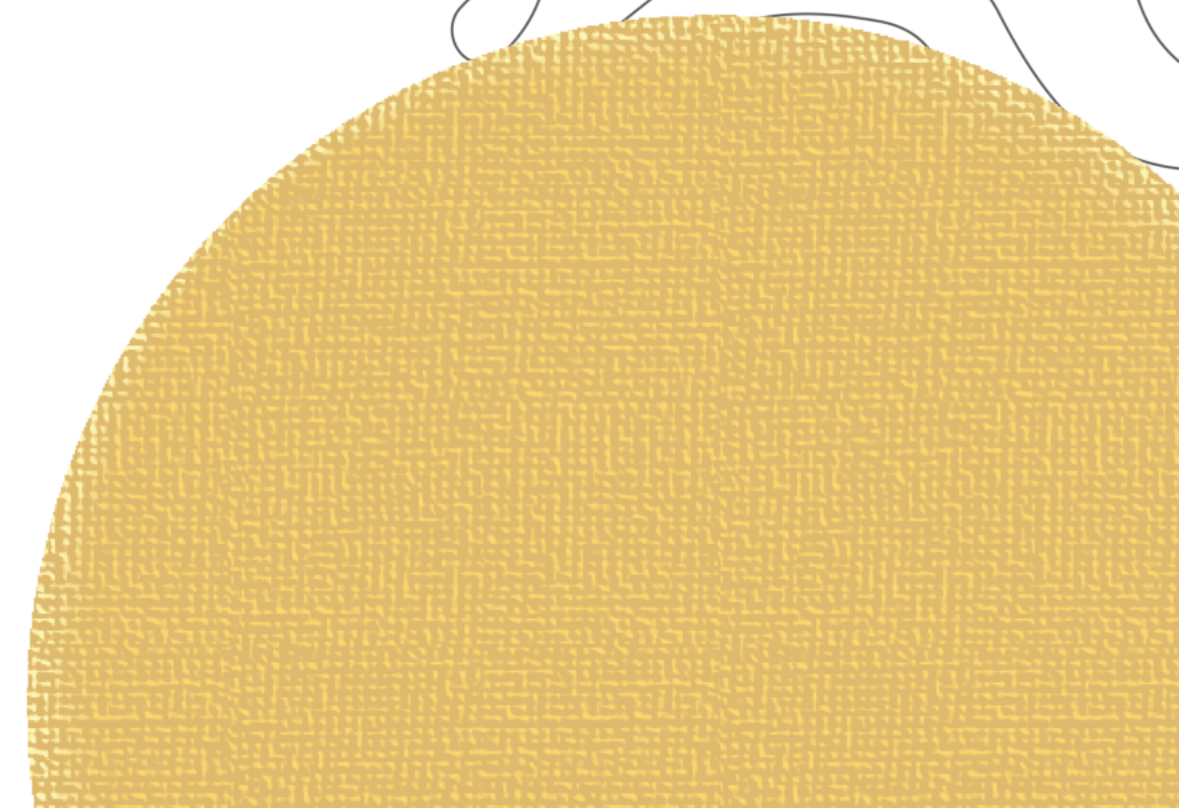
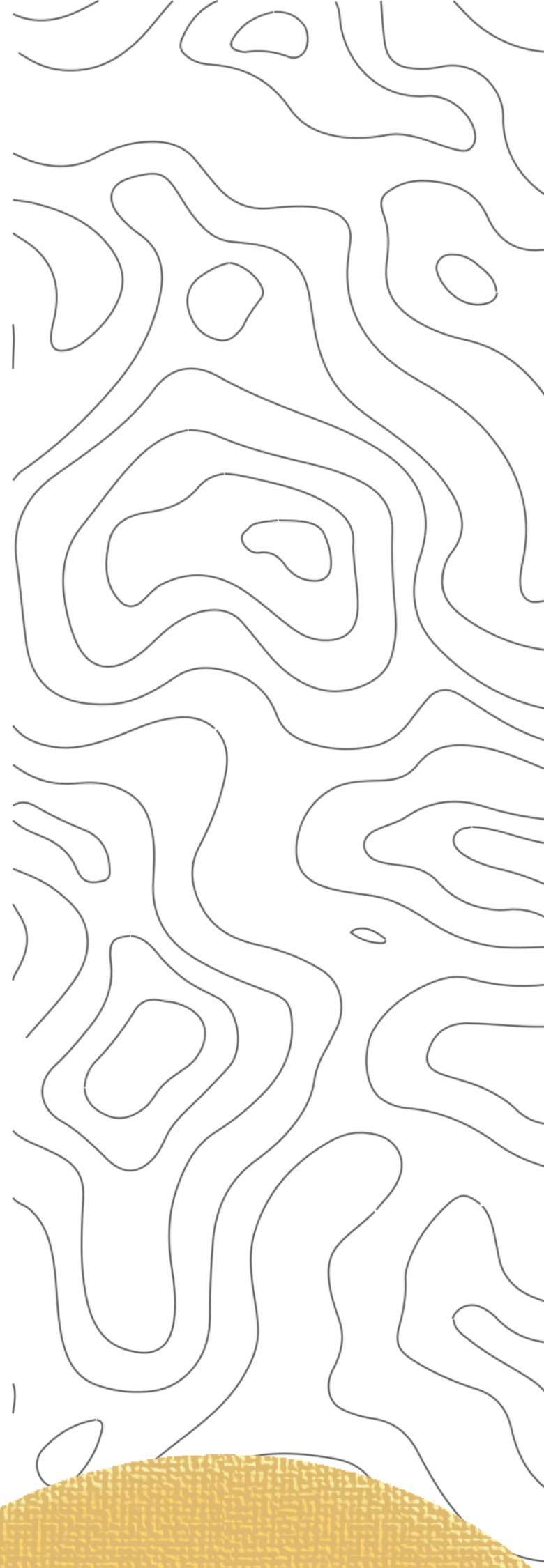
10 – 11, 21 – 29: The people in Israel

12 – 20, 30 – 33: The Jews in Exile



Ezekiel 33:12

"Therefore, son of man, say to your countrymen, 'The righteousness of the righteous man will not save him when he disobeys, and the wickedness of the wicked man will not cause him to fall when he turns from it. The righteous man, if he sins, will not be allowed to live because of his former righteousness.'"



Even in moments of ruin...

**God calls for real
repentance and faith.**

In irreligious language...

God will never let you
avoid the responsibility
that will redeem and
make you.

Four Evasions:

to be mastered by...

People and Watchmen

1. The Evasion of Despair and Gloom

Gloom

Is the rejection of grace in despair,
and the failure of courage.

"It's no use."

It is resigning to complaining inaction
when a virtuous exertion is needed.



Gloom is a false herald

God is willing to save.
God is willing to work for life.

"...He will surely live..." verse 15



2. The Evasion of Spiteful Rage

Spite

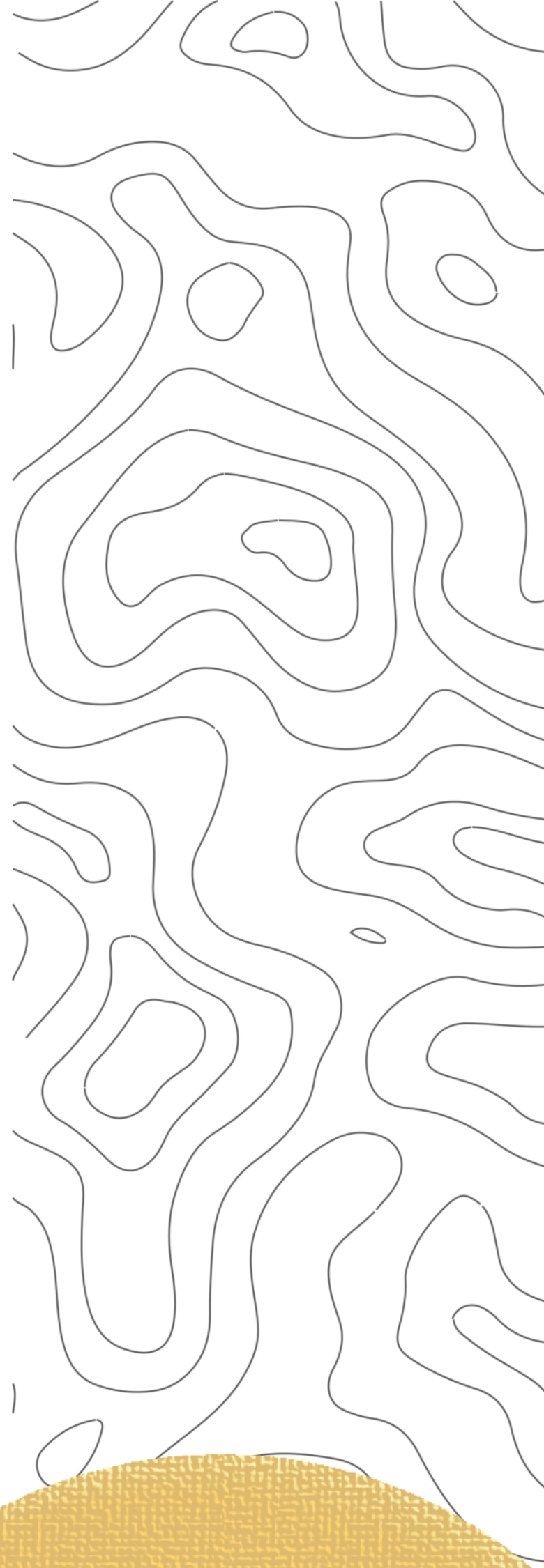
"I bet you're thrilled to see me this way!"

The afflicted often indulge in moral reversal rather than repentance.



Ezekiel 33:11

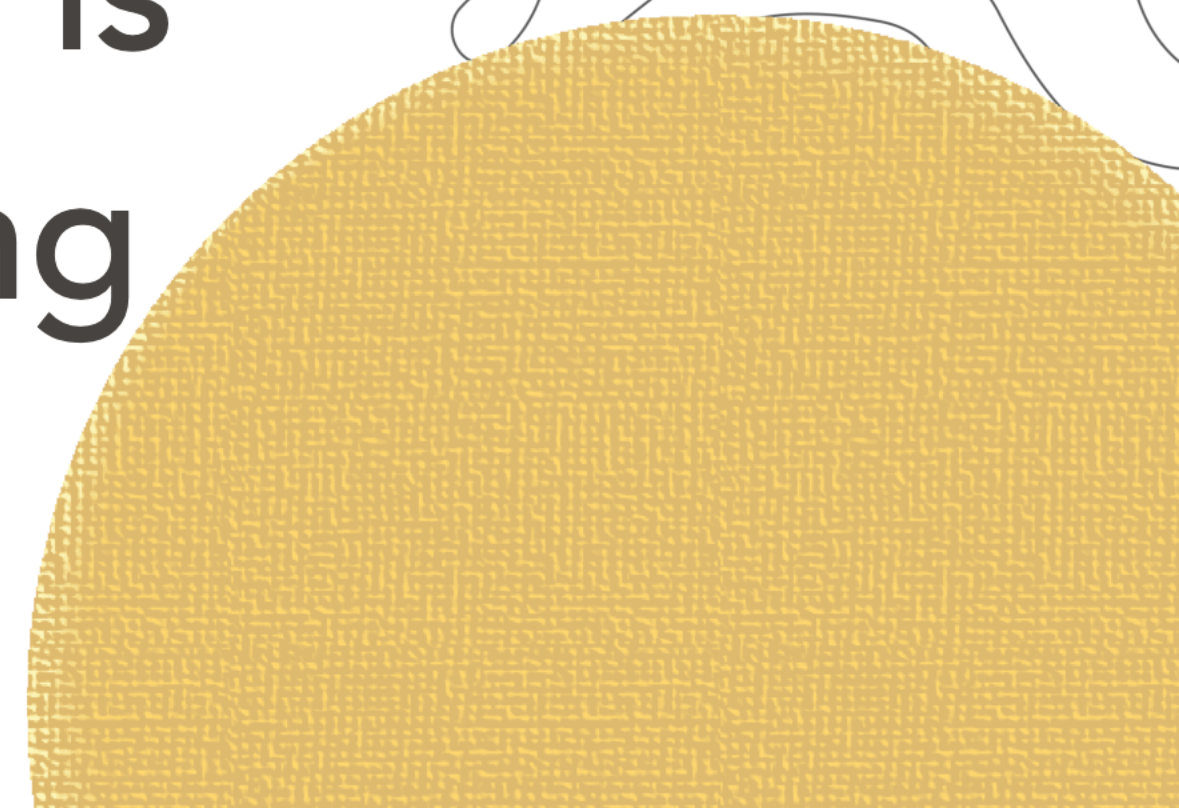
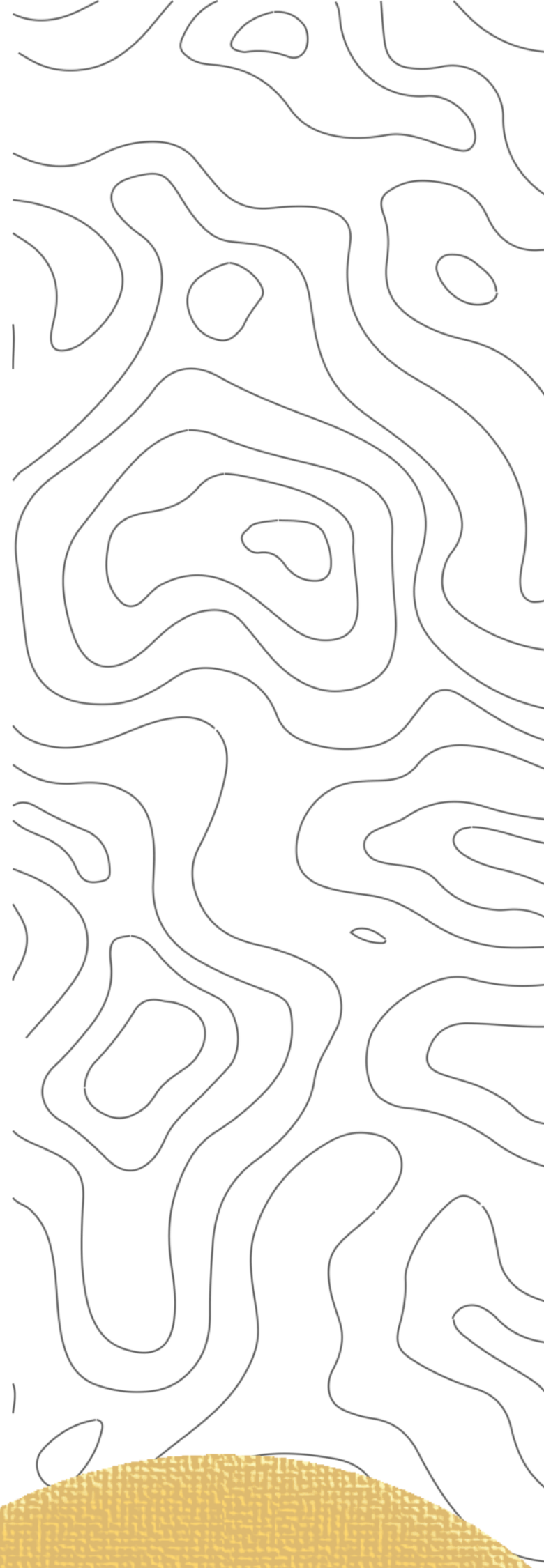
"Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?'"



3. The Evasion of Moral Fault Finding

Ezekiel 33:17 – 20

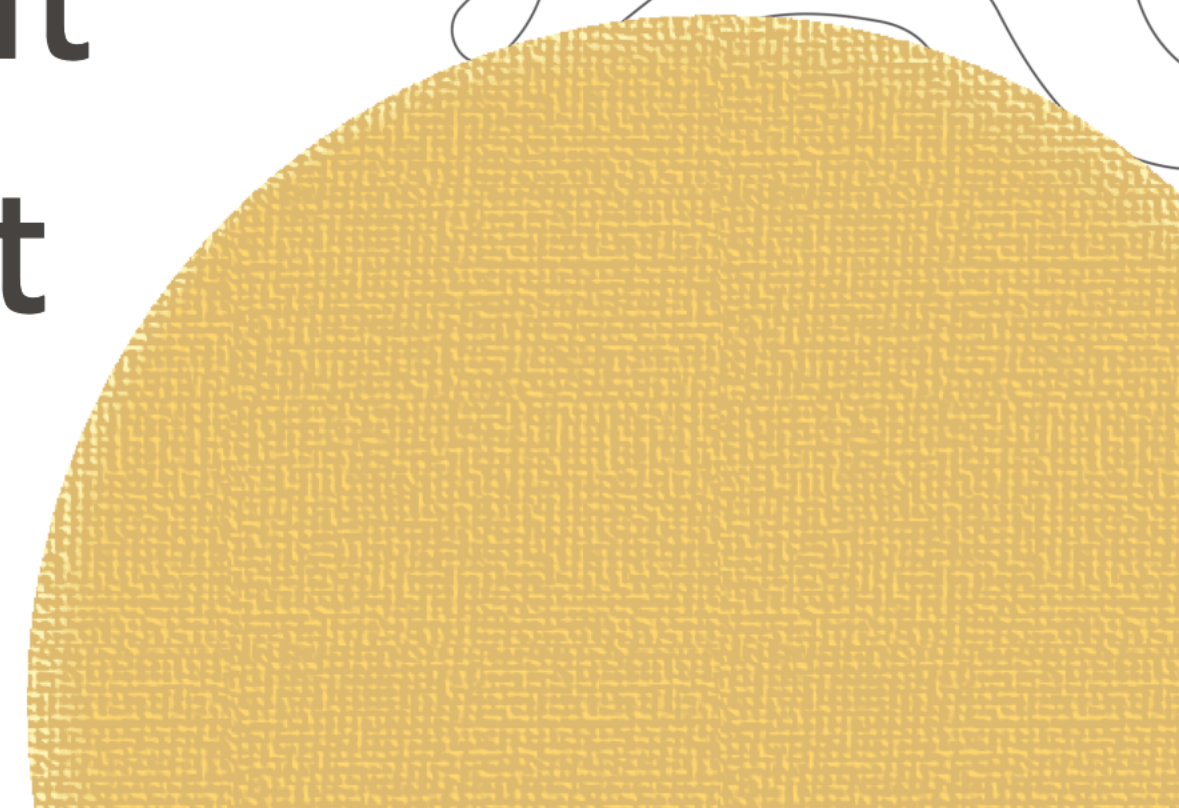
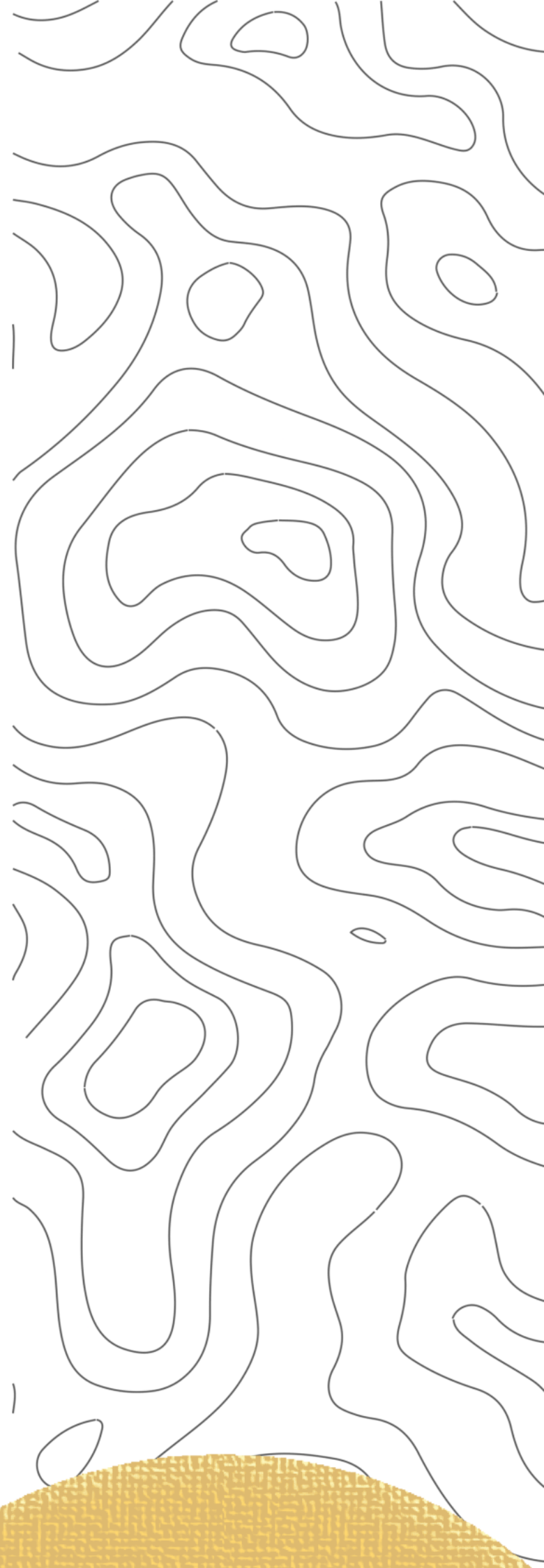
"Yet your countrymen say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' But it is their way that is not just. If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and does evil, he will die for it. And if a wicked man turns away from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he will live by doing so. Yet, O house of Israel, you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' But I will judge each of you according to his own ways."



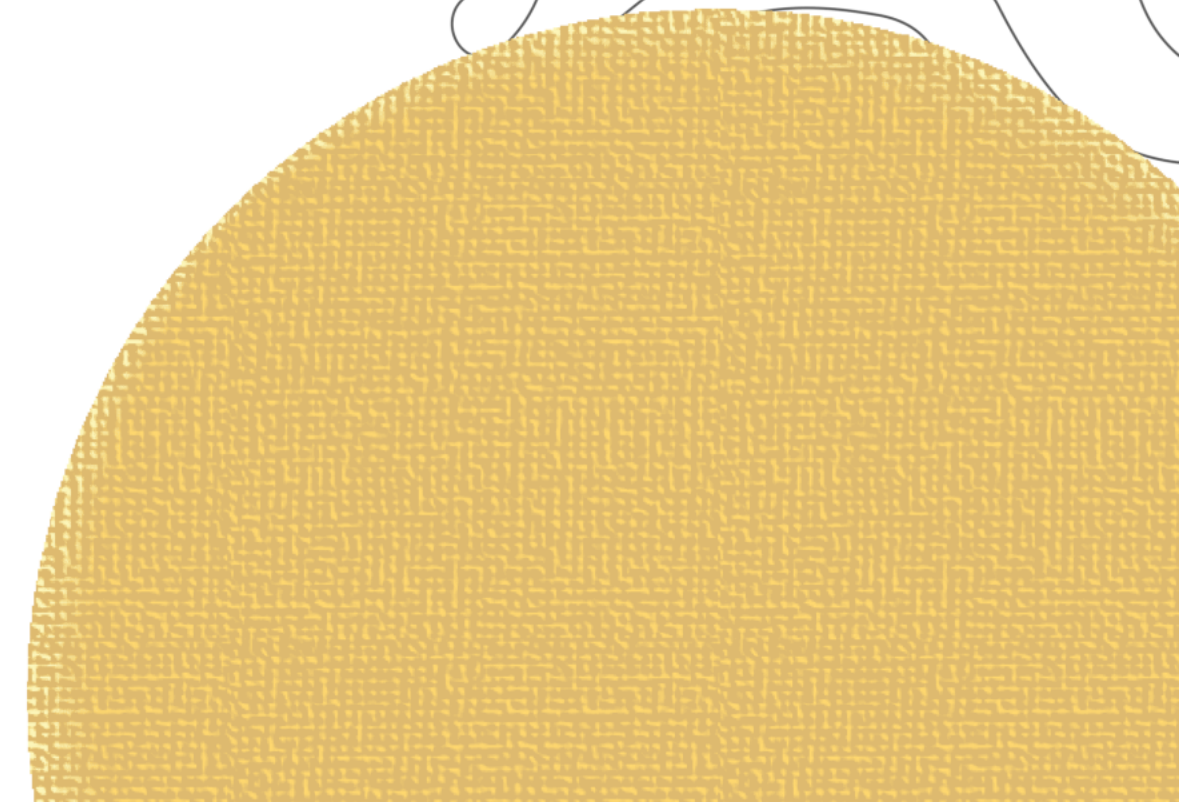
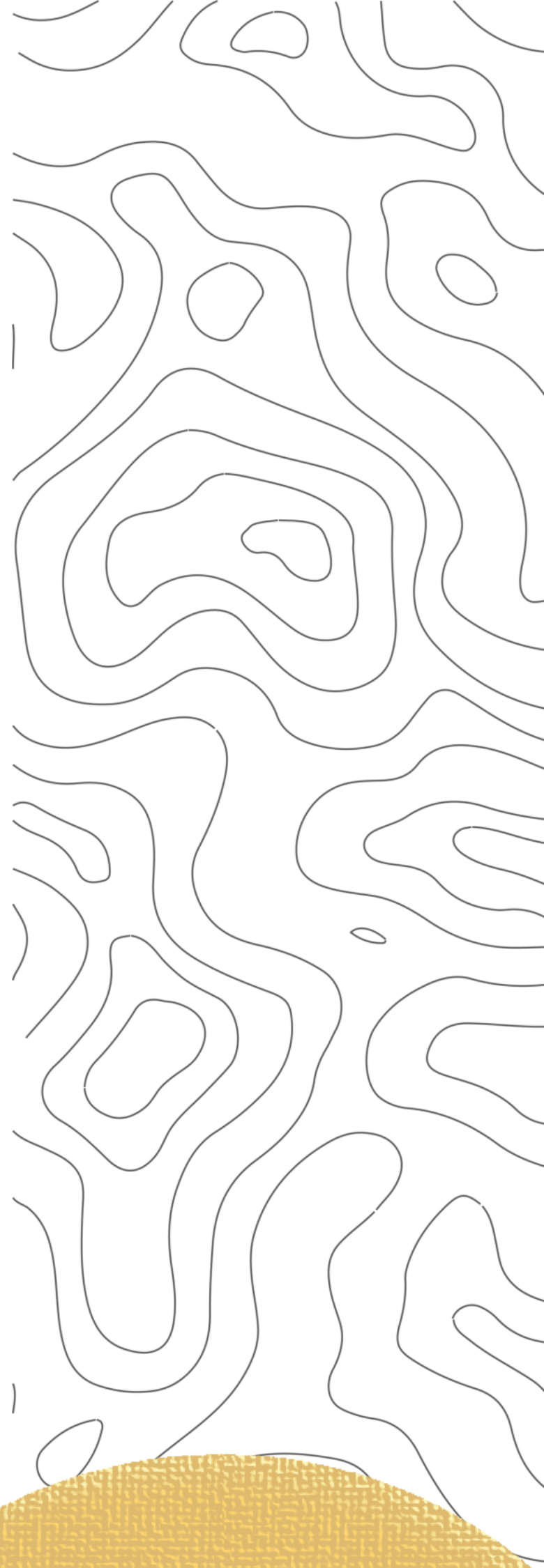
4. The Evasion of False Hearing

Ezekiel 33:31 – 32

My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to listen to your words, but they do not put them into practice. With their mouths they express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain. Indeed, to them you are nothing more than one who sings love songs with a beautiful voice and plays an instrument well, for they hear your words but do not put them into practice.



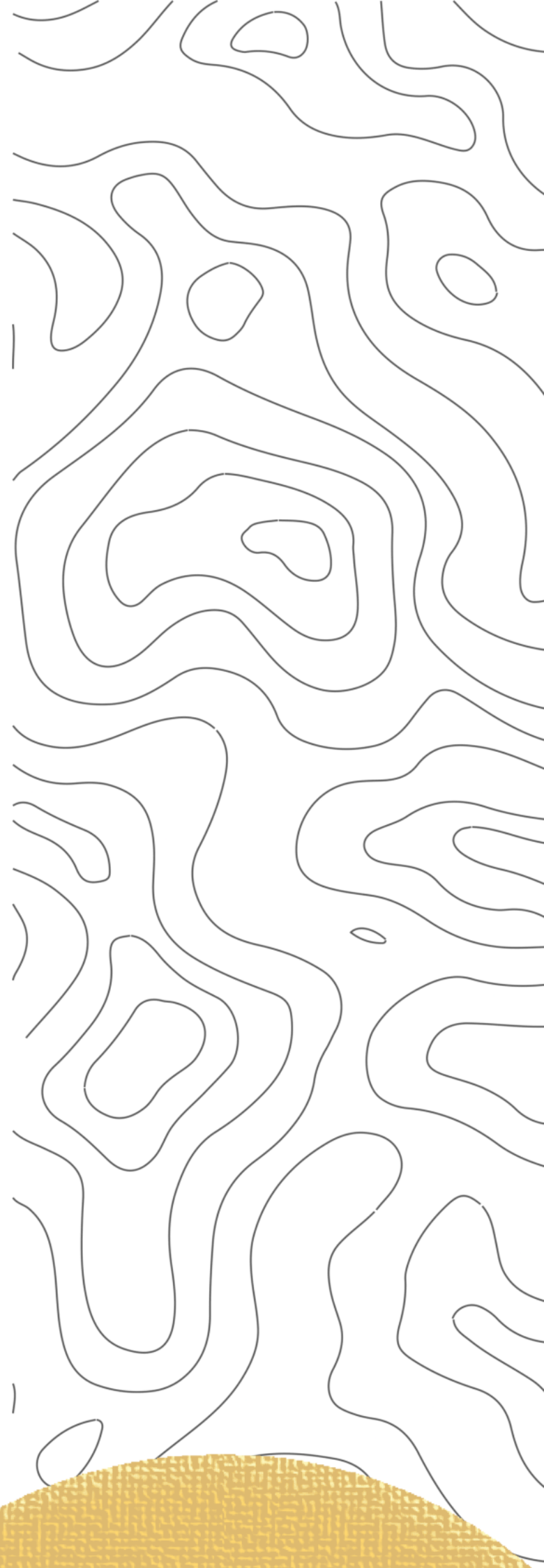
“They are greedy
for dishonest gain.”

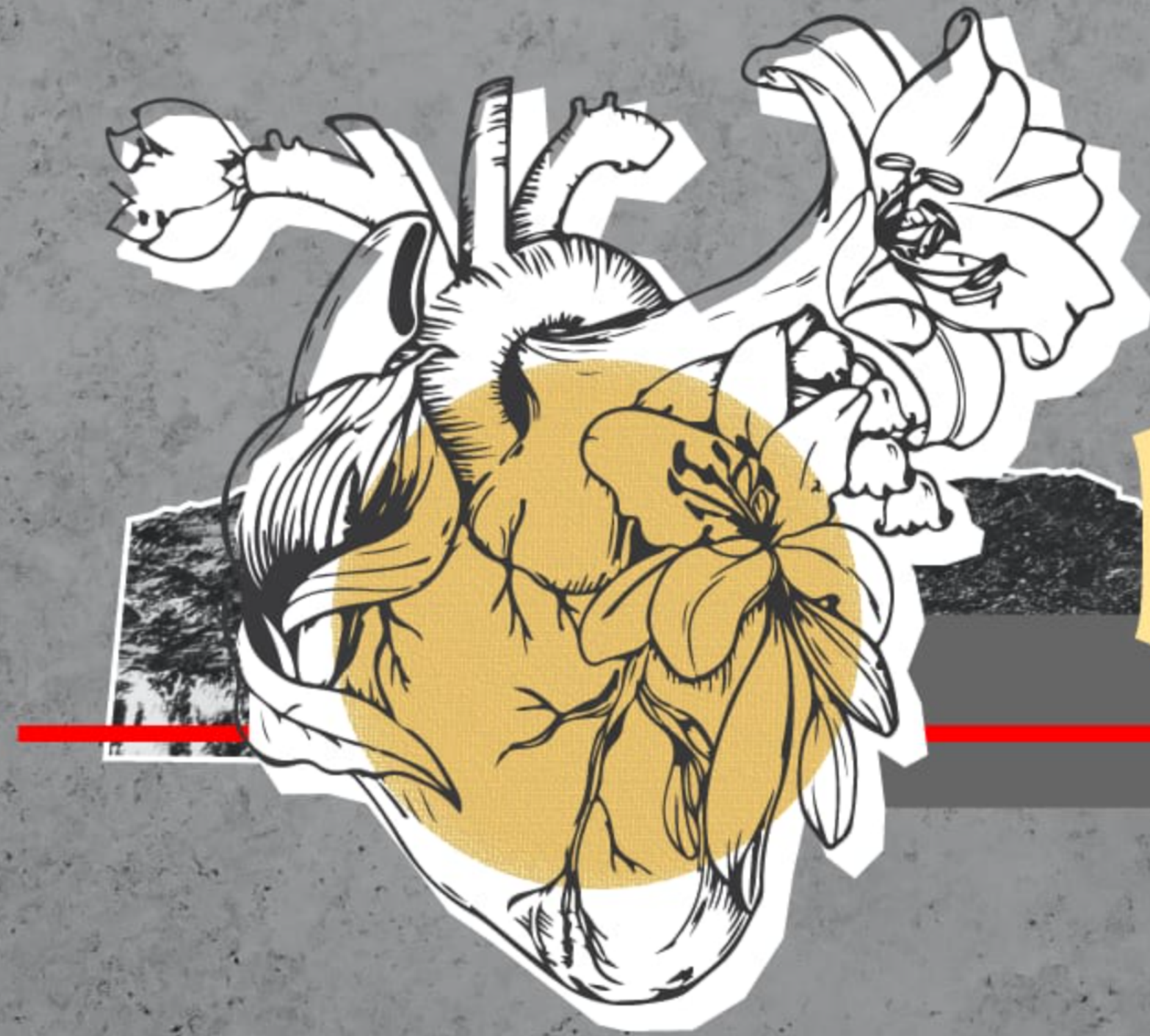


Romans 10:20

And Isaiah boldly says, "I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me."

But concerning Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people."





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