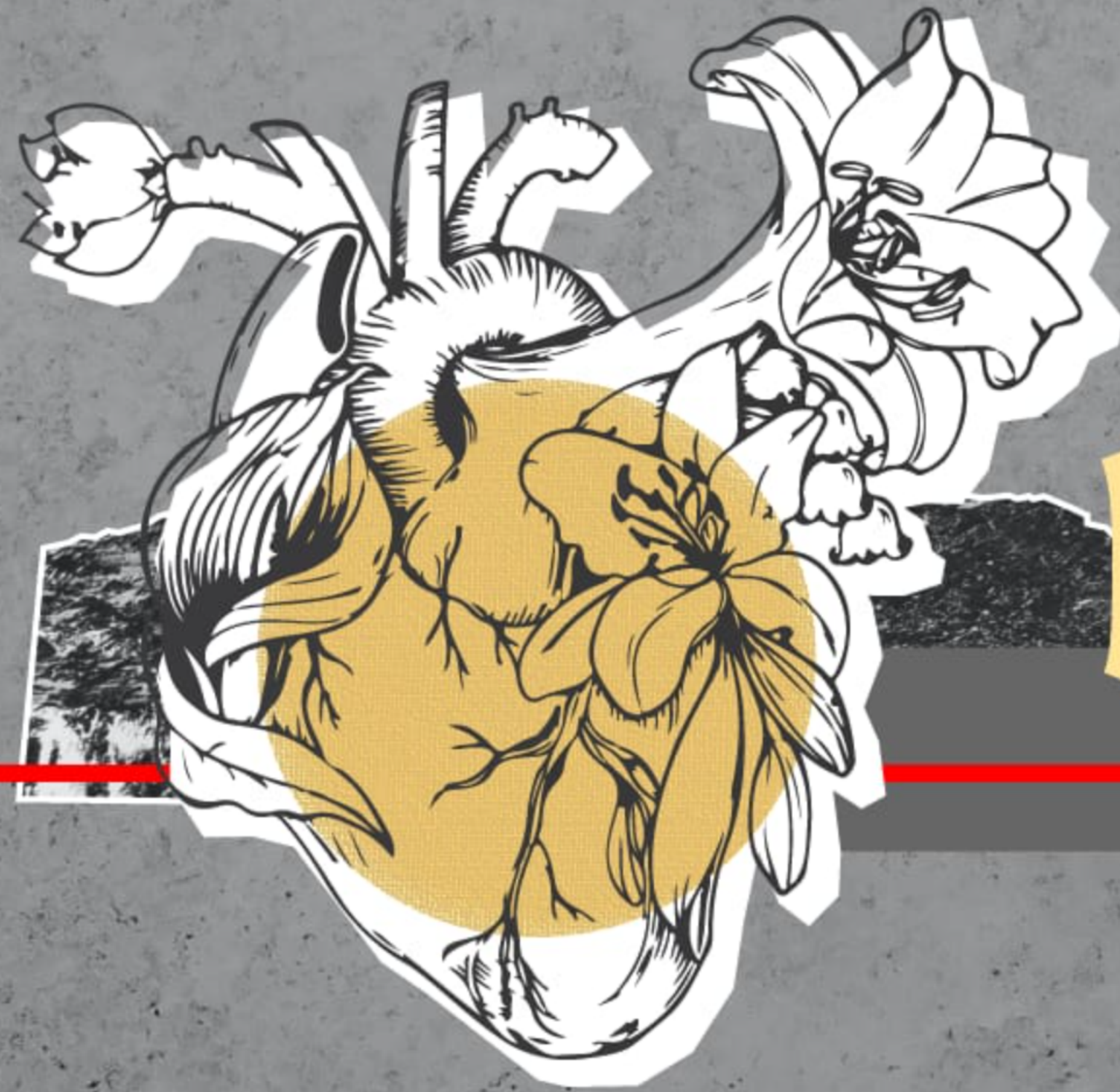




scrípture

EZEKIEL 14:22-23



ezekiel

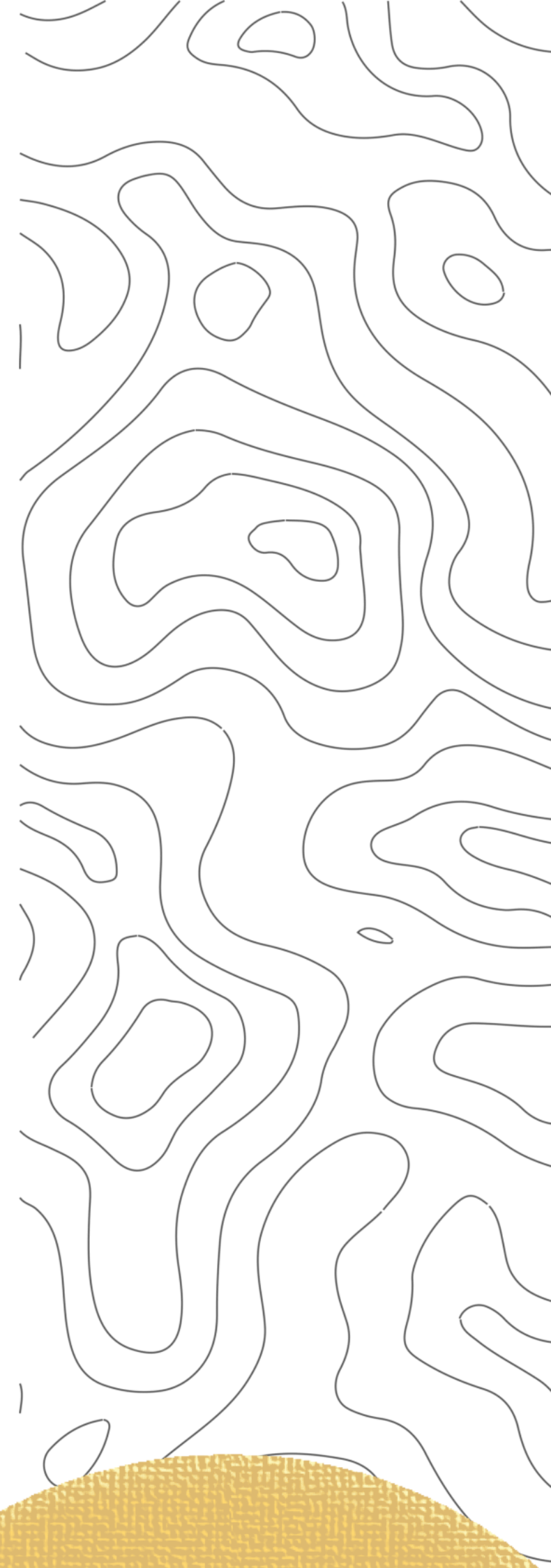
FINDING SPIRITUAL GRAVITY
IN THE GLORY OF GOD

Matthew 7:24–27

"...everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.



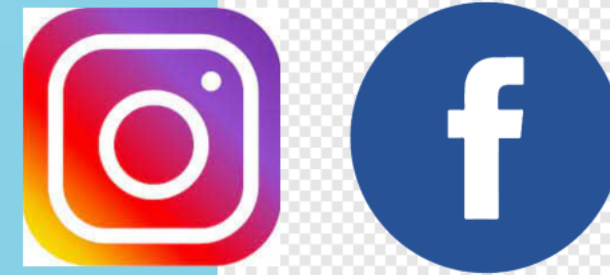
...but everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, **the streams rose**, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."



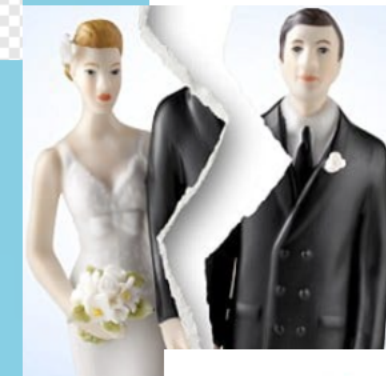
Hyper Competition

Hyper competition **ACT**[®]

Social comparison



Consumeristic status **Ω**



Family instability & dispersion



Helicopter protectiveness



Time sucks everywhere

Negativity overload



Sexual "front-loading"



Ideology pressurization



**Stress/
Anxiety**

Worldliness trap: Affirmation

1. Fight for Status

2. Soothing Anxiety

Security needs

Vs.

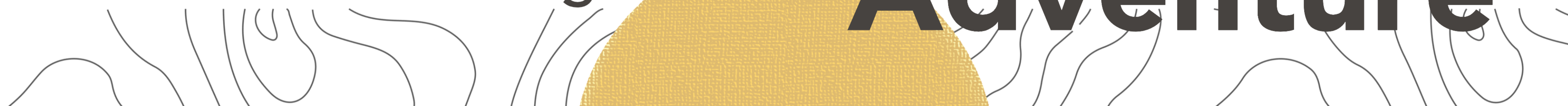
3. Becoming a Self

4. Real Relationships

5. Mature Thinking

Growth needs

Adventure



Results:

1. **Fight for Status is worse** ←
2. + Anxiety; - Resilience
3. Addiction to Hollow Affirmation
4. Reactive toward challenge/idol of safety

& much less:

5. Becoming a Person - Godliness
6. Real Relationships - Love
7. Mature Thinking - Wisdom

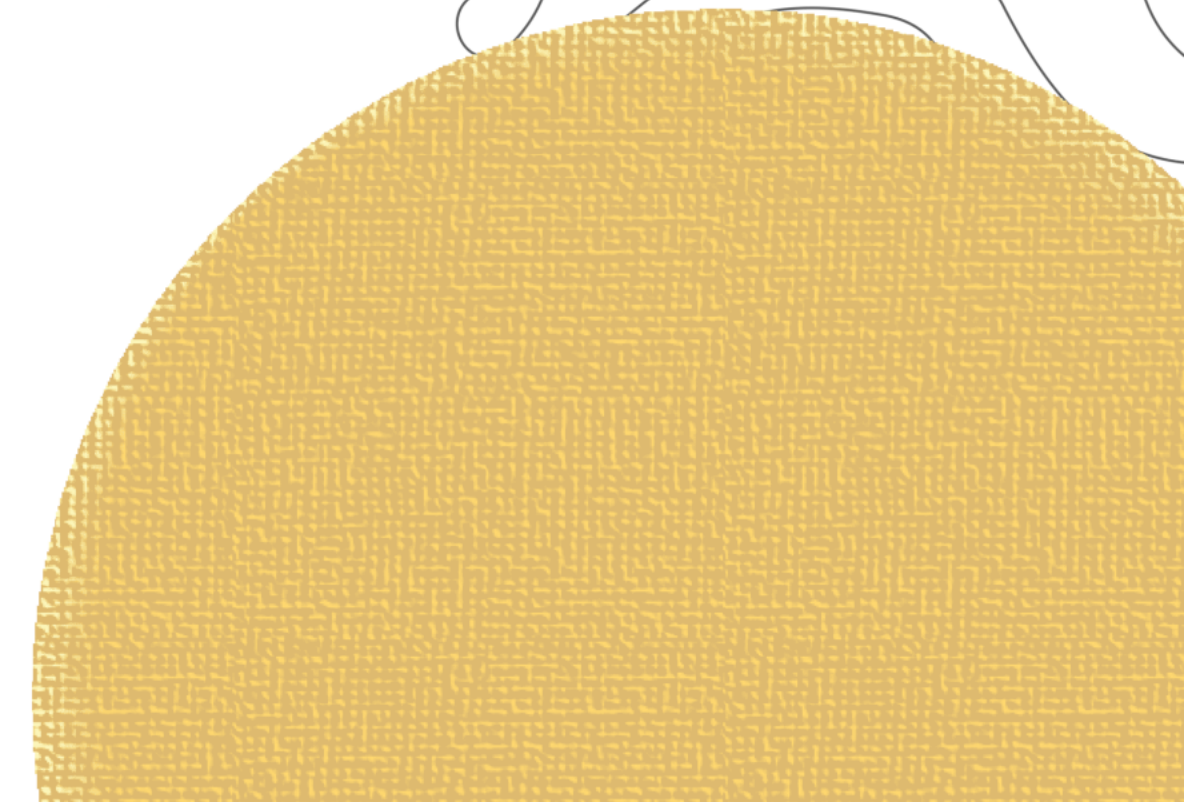


Wait...

Why is the fight for status
WORSE? We're all so much
richer!



Because **we're all materialists now.** And
material ends are all that matter to
materialist hearts.



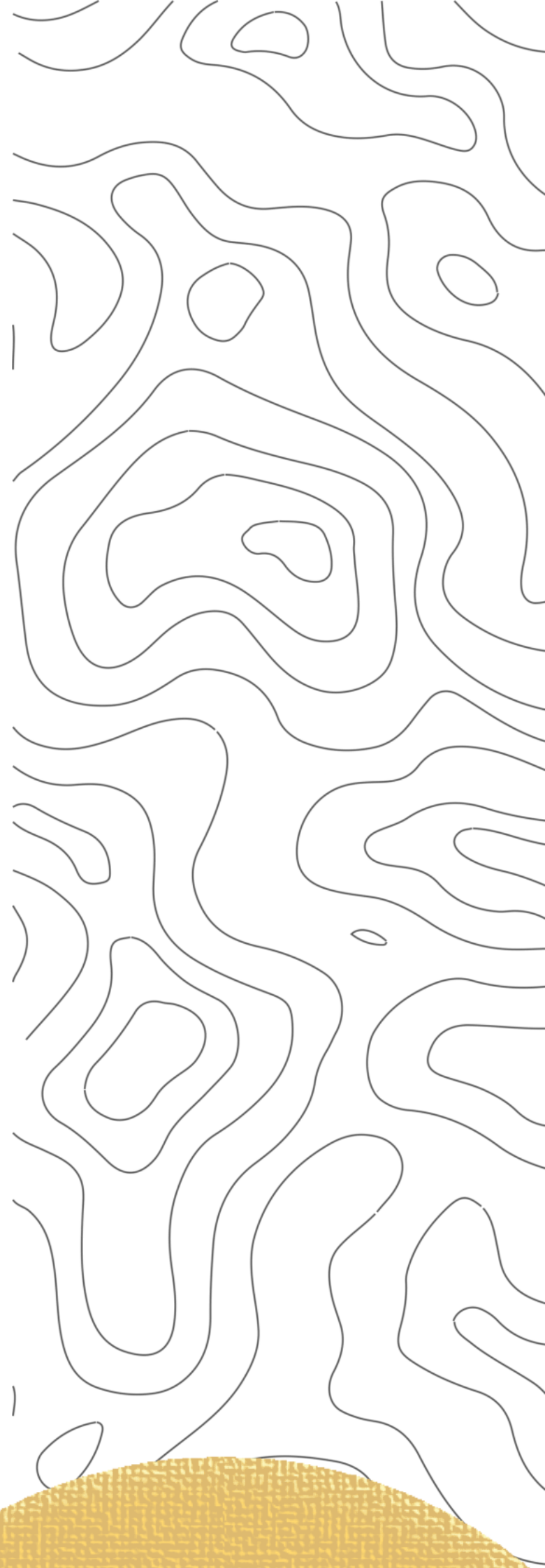
How smashed
will an idol
have to be
before we are
cured of it?



**God's character is our
foundational comfort**

**When all our
materialist dreams fail,
our vision of God's
character is our
foundational comfort.**

(as it should always have been)

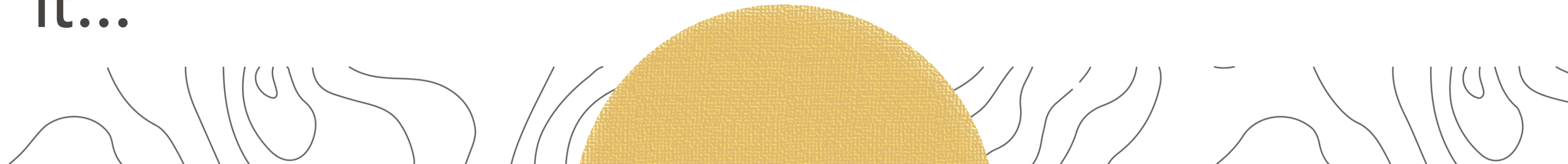


**God's comforting
character in
3 materialist
afflictions**

1. God's **goodness** is more
solid than human **goodness**

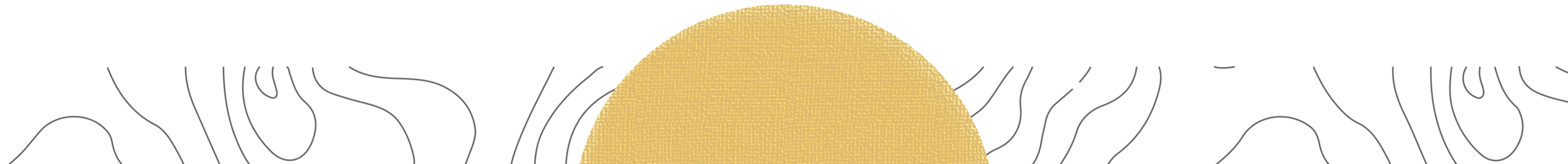
Ezekiel 14:22–23

Yet there will be some survivors— sons and daughters who will be brought out of it. They will come to you, and when you see their conduct and their actions, **you will be consoled regarding the disaster I have brought upon Jerusalem— every disaster I have brought upon it...**



Ezekiel 14:22–23

...**You will be consoled** when you see their conduct and their actions, **for you will know that I have done nothing in it without cause**, declares the Sovereign LORD."



Human goodness:

1. I'm a **good person** for some reason
2. That's easier to defend if **everyone** is basically a good person.

youtube: "good person"



2 key truths:

Those who believe in human goodness will not see or appreciate God's goodness

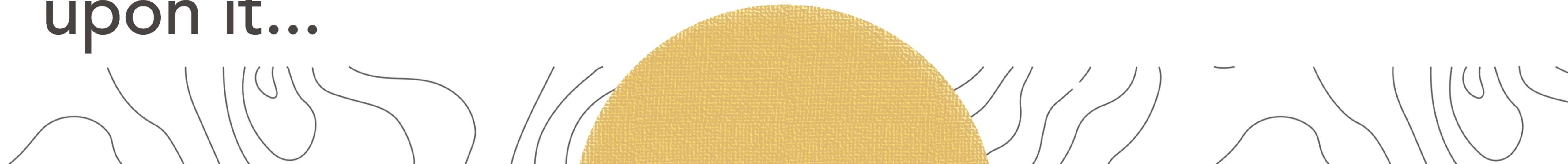
Those that refuse to see their depravity cannot find their moral gravity.



2. God's rule is more **stable
than the world's **order****

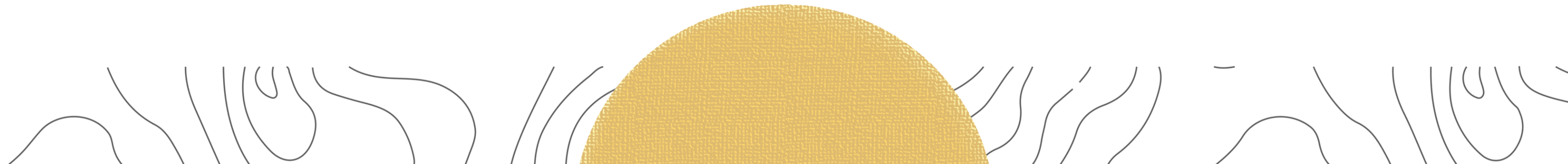
Ezekiel 14:22–23

Yet there will be some survivors— sons and daughters who will be brought out of it. They will come to you, and when you see their conduct and their actions, you will be **consoled** regarding the **disaster** I have brought upon Jerusalem— **every disaster** I have brought upon it...



Ezekiel 14:22–23

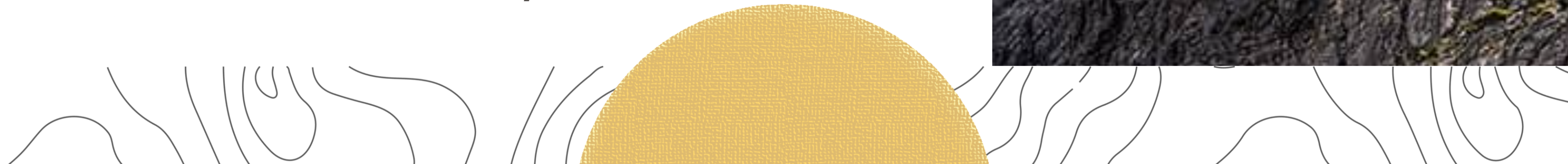
...You will be consoled when you see their conduct and their actions, for you will know that I have done nothing in it without cause, declares the Sovereign LORD."



"Nothing without cause"

Though God **changes**
the situation, he is
the **stable** actor.

1 Samuel 15:27–29, James 1:13–18



Our world is pretty stable...

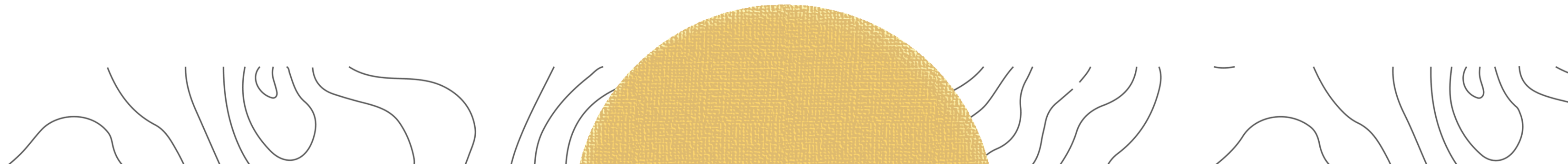
(But even now it still feels unstable)



App:

It's good to enjoy the world's stability, but it is deadly to hope in and be comforted by it.

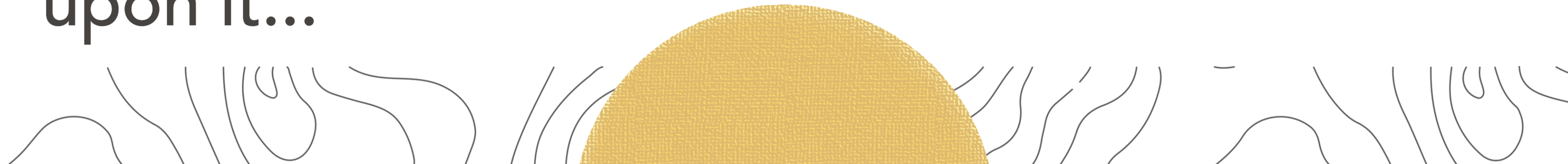
See: 1 Corinthians 7:29–31



3. God is still **redeeming when
we are done with **dreaming**.**

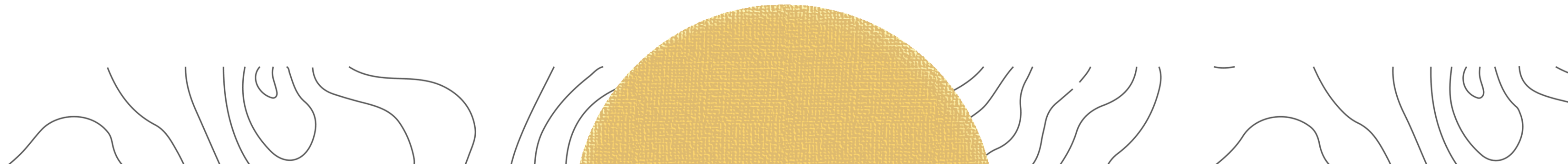
Ezekiel 14:22–23

Yet there will be some survivors— sons and daughters who will be brought out of it. They will come to **you**, and when **you** see their conduct and their actions, **you** will be consoled regarding the disaster I have brought upon Jerusalem— every disaster I have brought upon it...



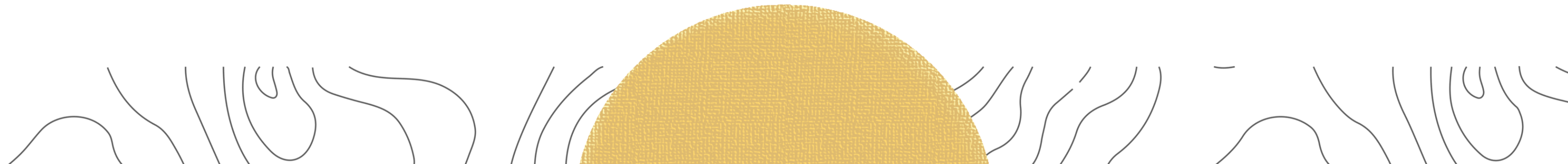
Ezekiel 14:22–23

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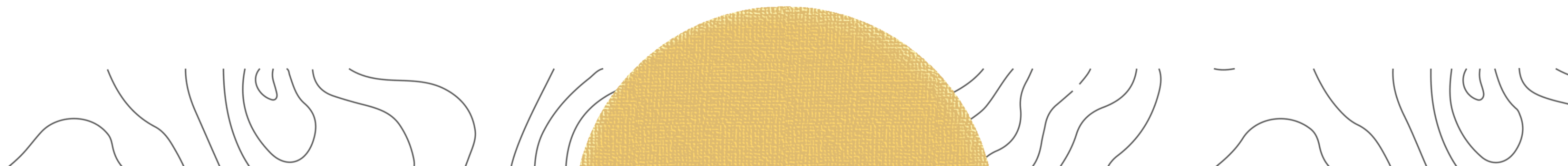
God wants his people to be **comforted**
in his redeeming work at the very
moment he completely and permanently
destroys their worldly dreams

(Circumstantial vs. Necessary)



Operating assumption:

Assume God will operate as though your personal redemption is 50,000X more important to him than your material or worldly dreams.



Material Dreams



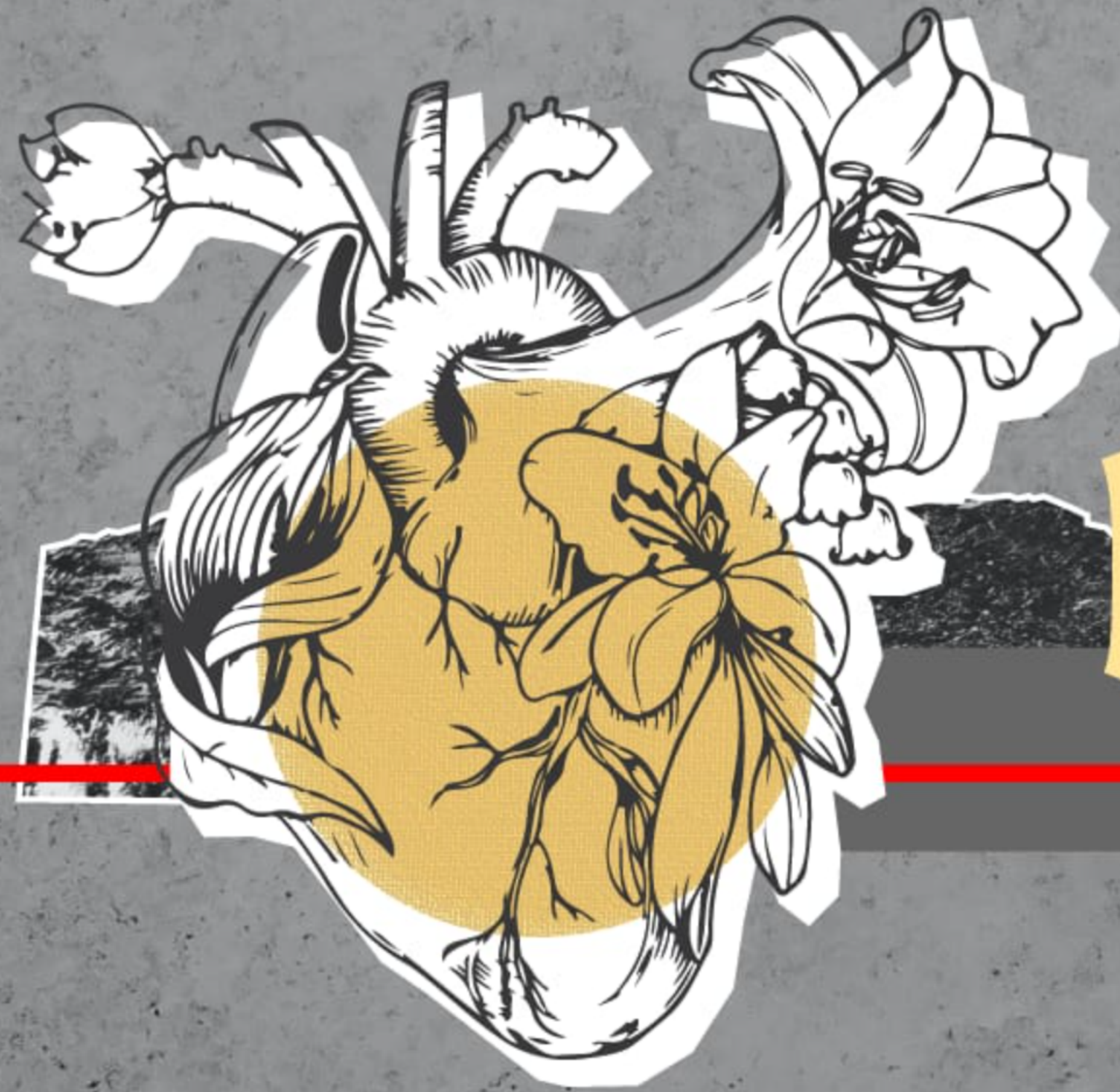
Personal Redemption



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ezekiel

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