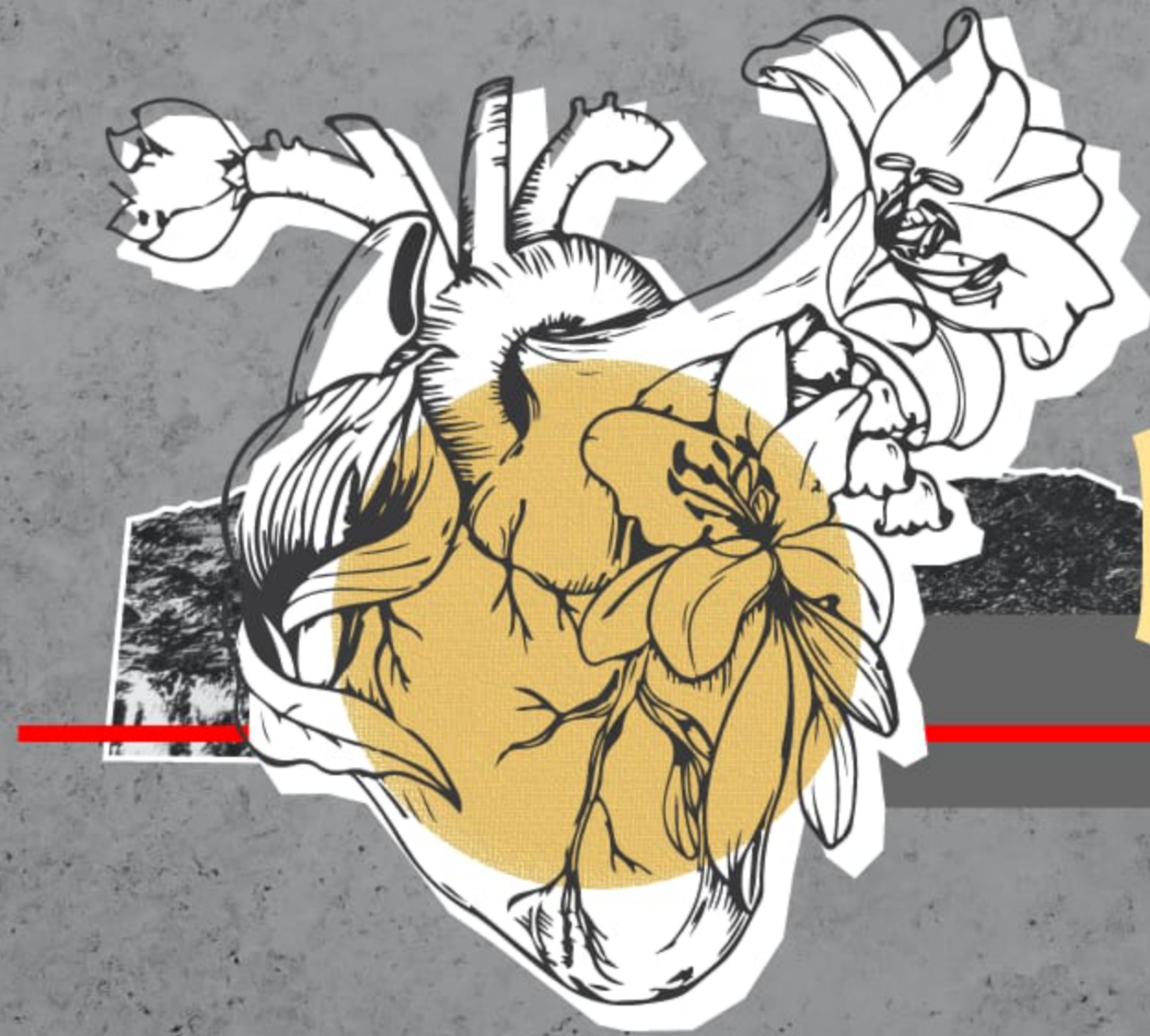


A background graphic on the left side of the slide featuring a topographic map with white contour lines on a light gray background. A large, textured gold circle is positioned behind the word 'Scripture'.

Scripture

EZEKIEL 14:1-11



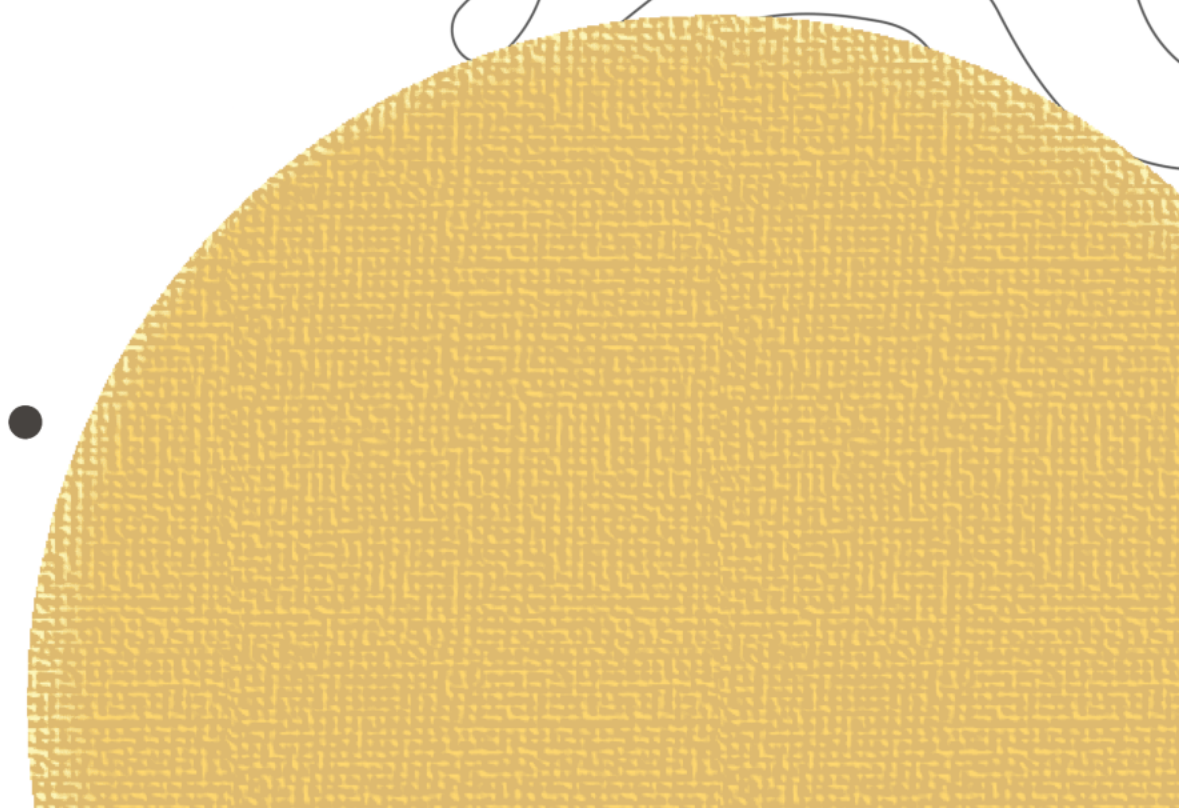
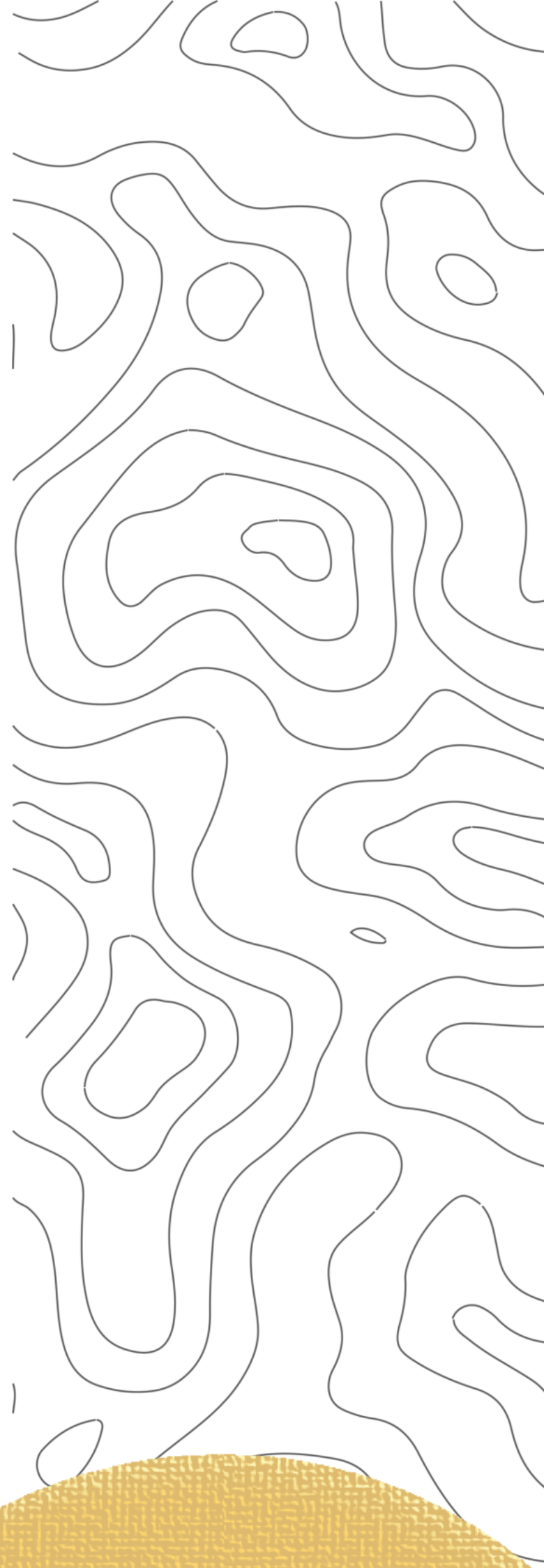
ezekiel

FINDING SPIRITUAL GRAVITY
IN THE GLORY OF GOD

Inquiring of God

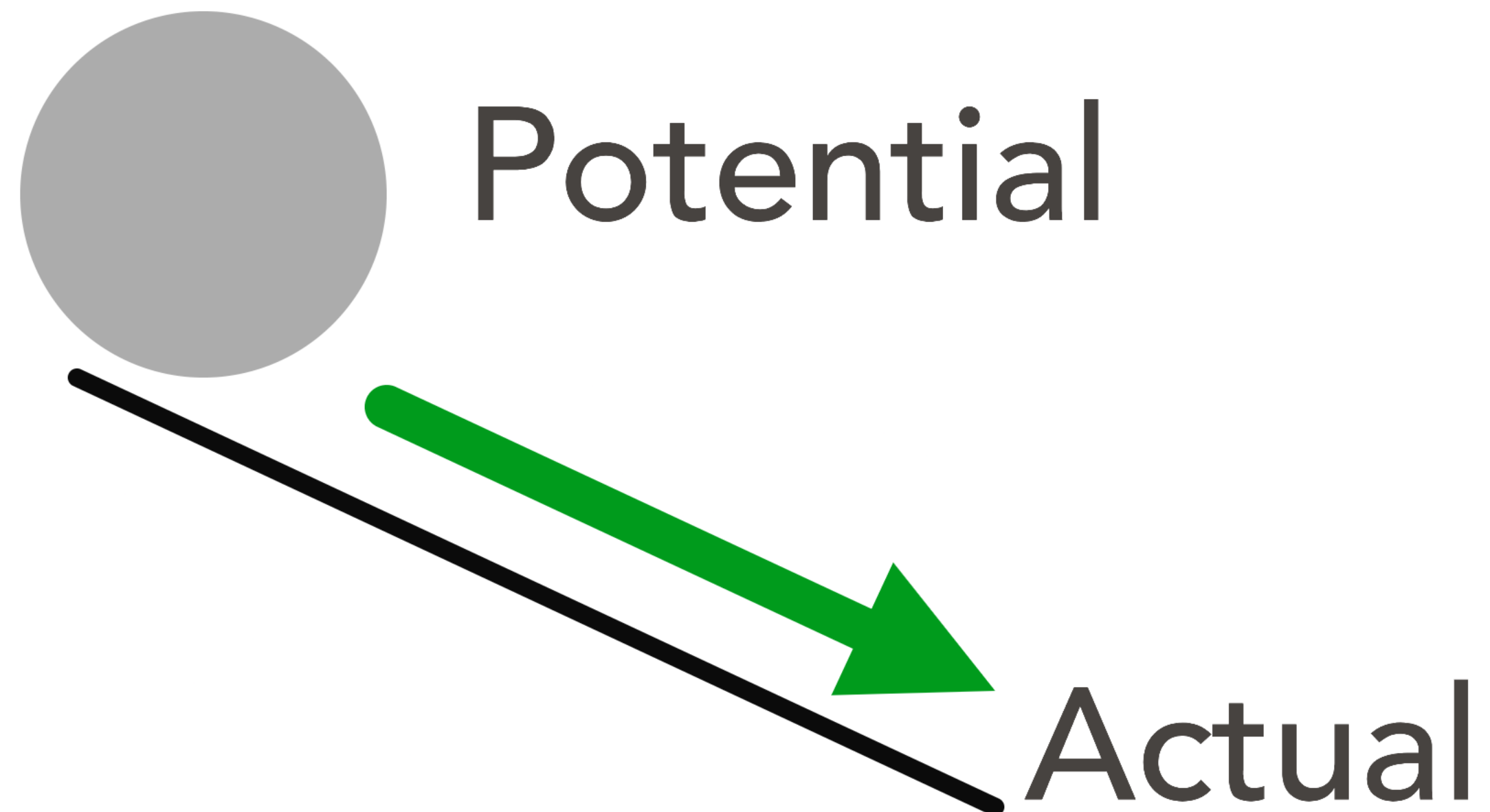
If God loves us, he would want us to make the right decision and know what to do.

Therefore, he should speak to us.

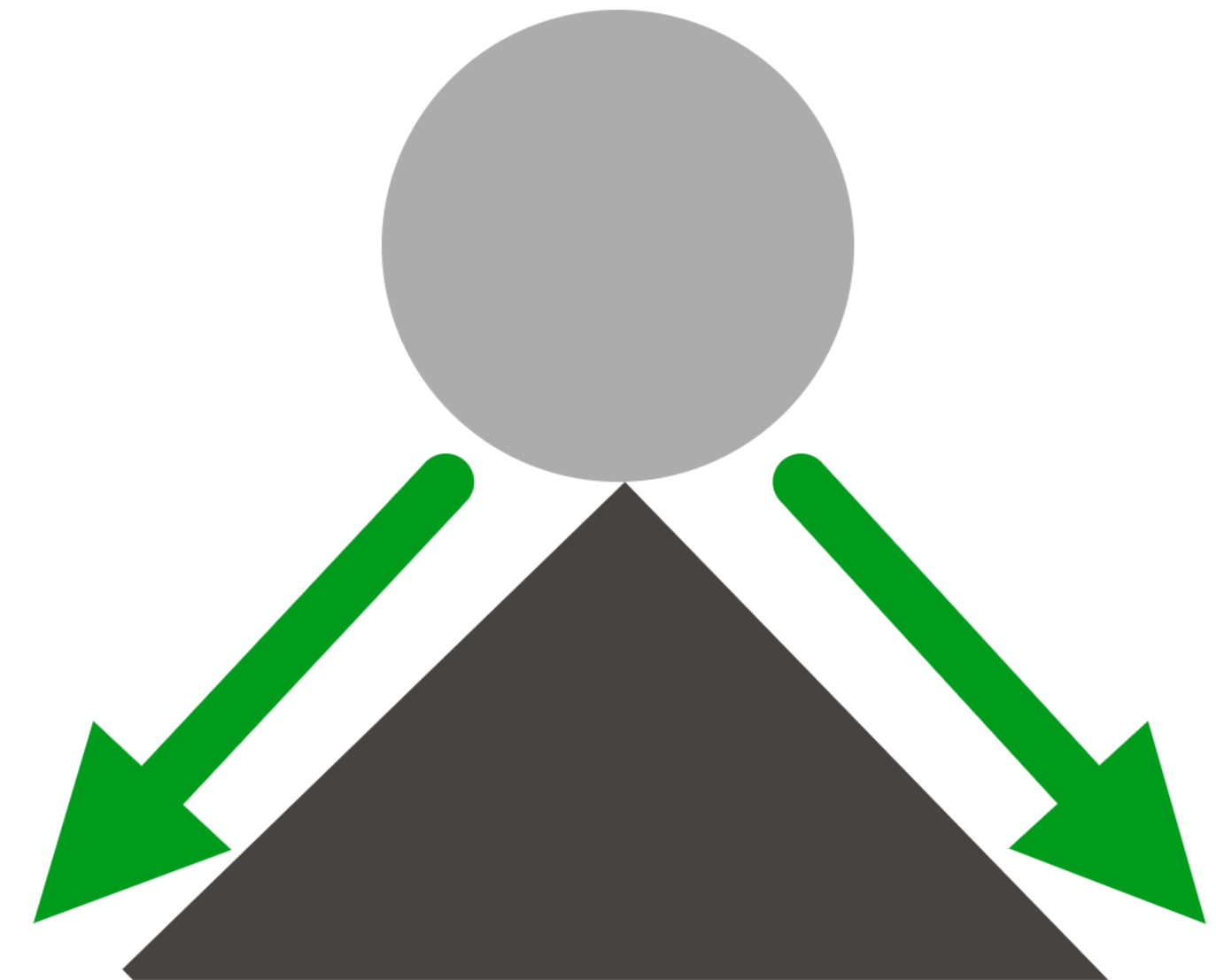


2 Key moments:

High Conversion
Moments

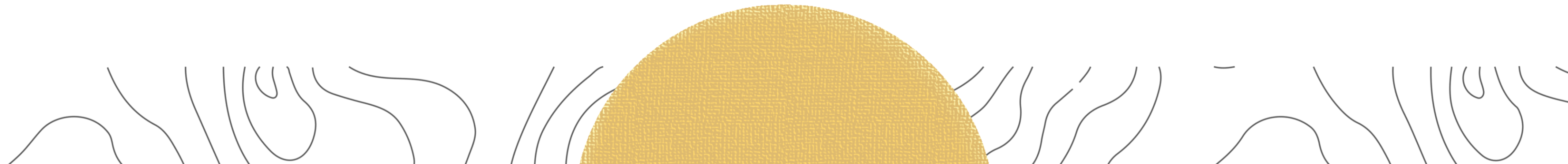


"Could go either way"
Moments.



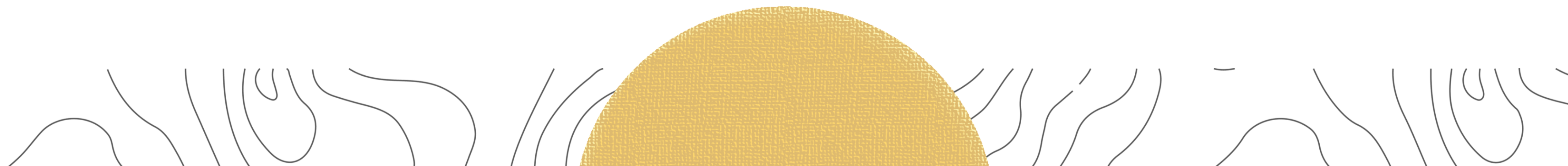
Decision Fallacy:

Making the **right** decision (clarvoyance) is more important than making the **right kind** of decision (wisdom) and **making that into** the right decision (godliness) and trusting God to **work that** decision for good (faith).



Decision Fallacy:

Making the **right** decision (clairvoyance) is more important than making the **right kind** of decision (**faith**) and **making that into** the right decision (**love**) and trusting God to **work that** decision for good (**hope**).



Example: marriage

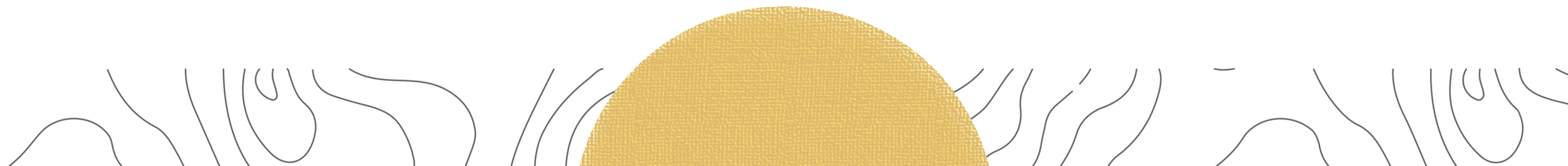
"Nearly all marriages, even happy ones, are mistakes: in the sense that almost certainly (in a more perfect world, or even with a little more care in this very imperfect one) both partners might be found more suitable mates. But the real soul-mate is the one you are actually married to."

– J. R. R. Tolkien, March 1941



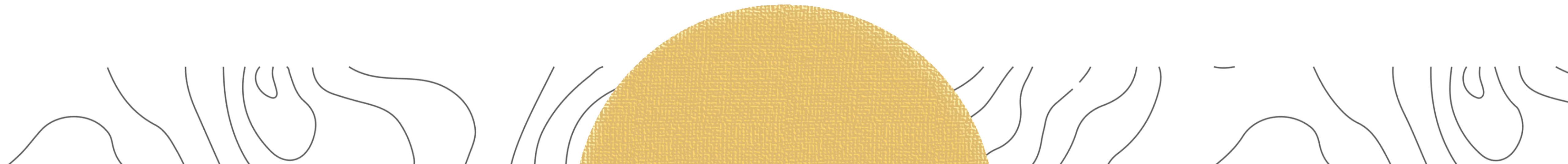
God's Dilemma:

How does God respond to people wanting his predictions but who refuse his directions?



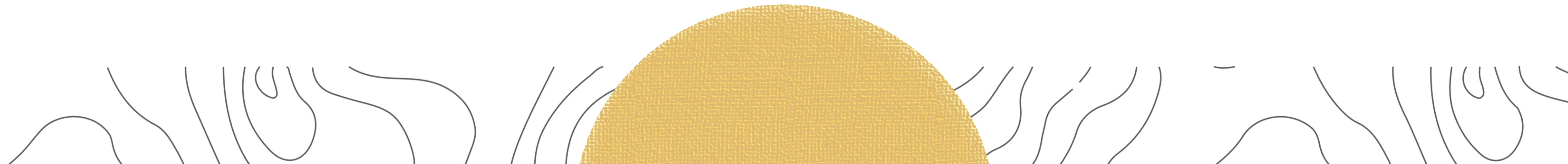
Ezekiel 14:4–6

Therefore speak to them and tell them,
'This is what the Sovereign LORD says:
**When any Israelite sets up idols in his heart
and puts a wicked stumbling block before
his face and then goes to a prophet...**



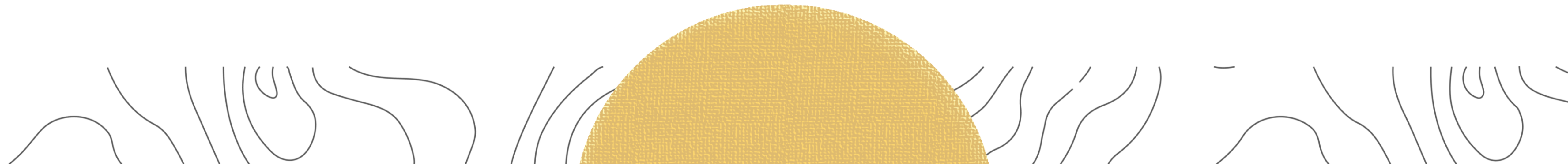
Ezekiel 14:4–6

...I the LORD will answer him myself in keeping with his great idolatry. I will do this to recapture the hearts of the people of Israel, who have all deserted me for their idols.'



Ezekiel 14:4–6

...Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: **Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices!**'



The Bible:

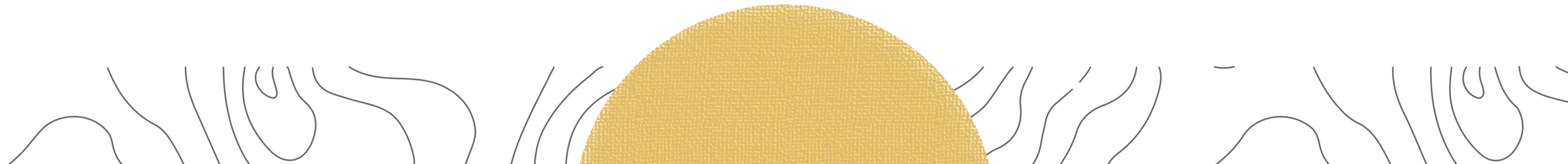
God will refuse us
situationally
to capture our hearts
permanently

Our Vernacular:

**God won't reveal his
secret will
if you ignore his
revealed will.**

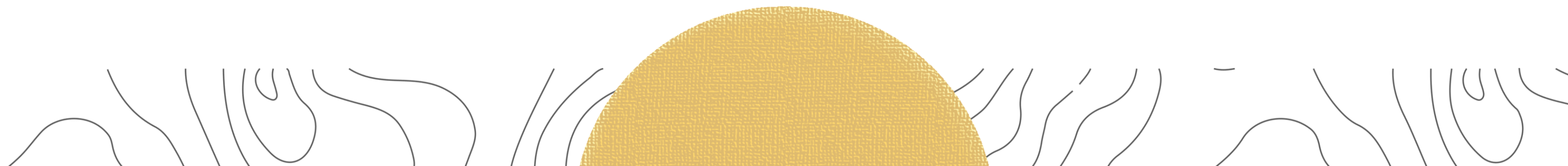
Ezekiel 14:5

I will do this to **recapture the hearts of the people of Israel, who have all deserted me for their idols.'**



Ezekiel 14:11

Then the people of Israel will **no longer stray** from me, nor will they **defile themselves** anymore with all their sins. **They will be my people, and I will be their God,** declares the Sovereign LORD.'"



God's Two Expressions of His Will

Revealed Will

God's direct and discernable instructions:

- Moral Commandments
- Faith and Repentance
- Spiritual Disciplines
- Scripture
- Christ's example and commission
- Rule of conscience
- Natural law and Theology

Our responsibility to know and obey is our stewardship

Secret Will

Everything God wills that he has not spoken and shown about himself

- How he works things for good
- How nations will rise and fall
- How he effects the providences of the world
- Truth he has not revealed about himself
- When and where and how he has **intervened** in your life
- Who will win sports games

God's withheld knowledge to work out in his providence

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God's withheld knowledge to work out in his providence

Prophecy

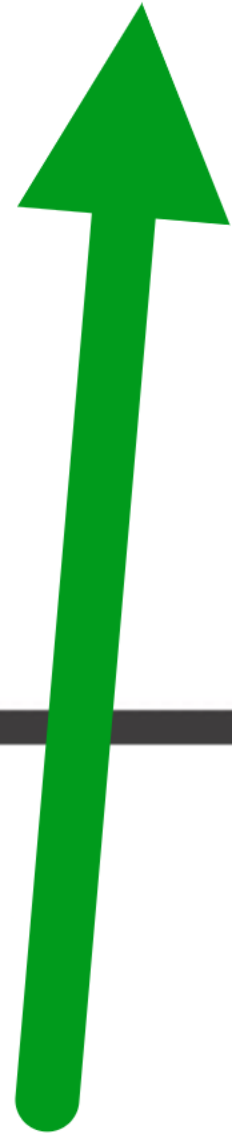
Prophecy includes both Revealed Will and Secret Will, but usually the focus is on returning to obedience with God's Revealed Will.

Revealed Will

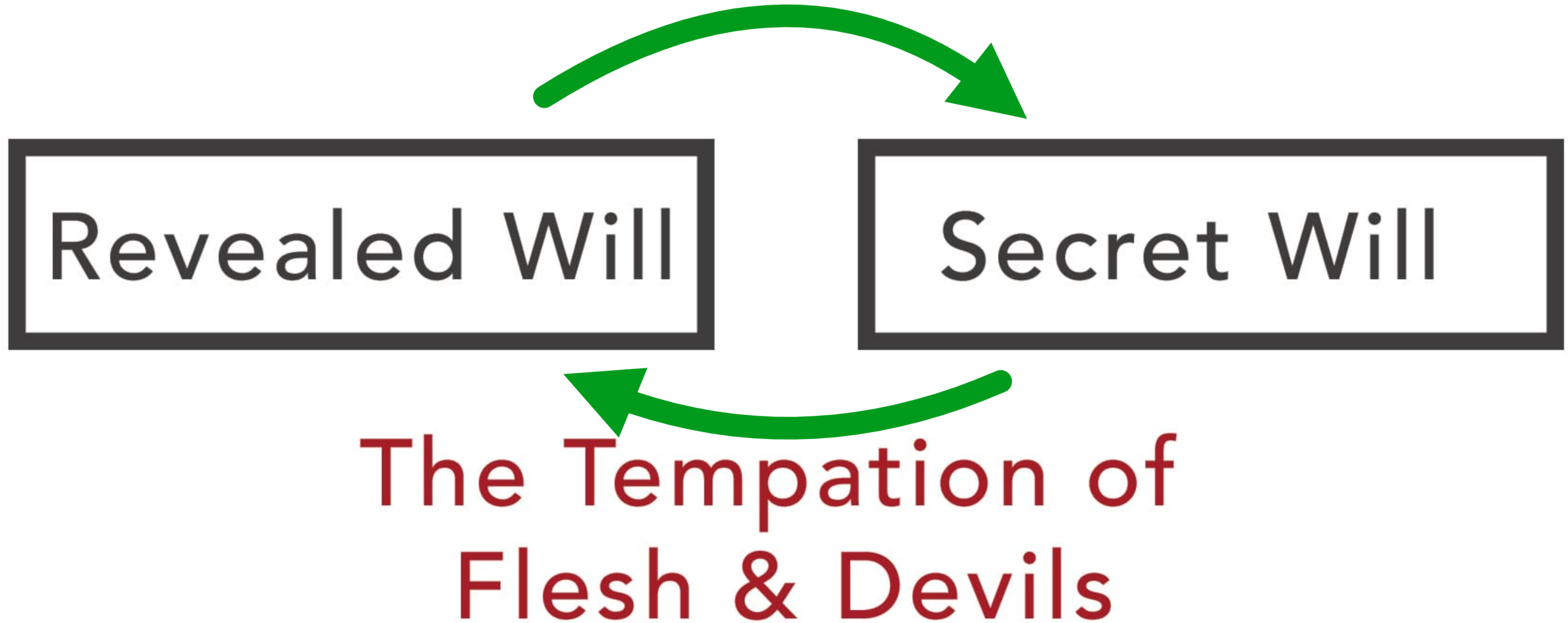
Secret Will

Prophecy

**God's
Emphasis
here**



Bait and Switch



Revealed Will

Secret Will

Flesh's
Desire

Prophecy

God's
Message



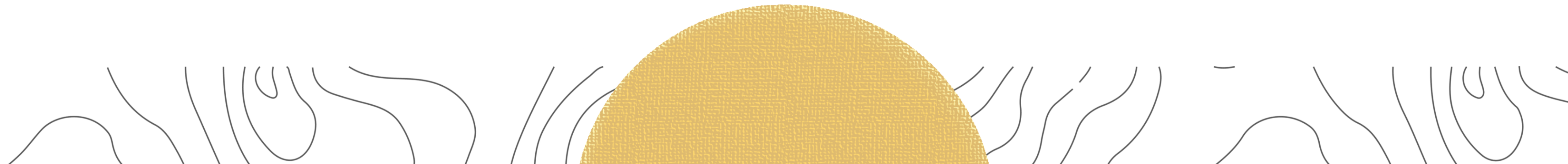
God won't reveal his
secret will
if you ignore his
revealed will.

3 obstacles that need
tearing down

**1. He must confront the
idols we trust**

Ezekiel 14:4

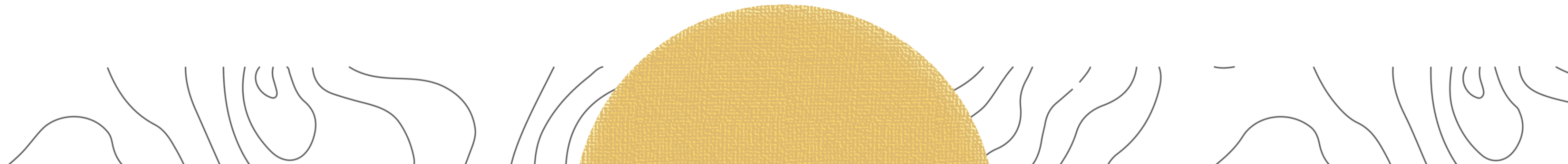
...When any Israelite **sets up idols in his heart** and puts a wicked stumbling block before his face and then goes to a prophet, I the LORD will answer him myself in keeping with his great idolatry.



The dynamic:

"I won't trust God (idols).

But I want to hear from God."



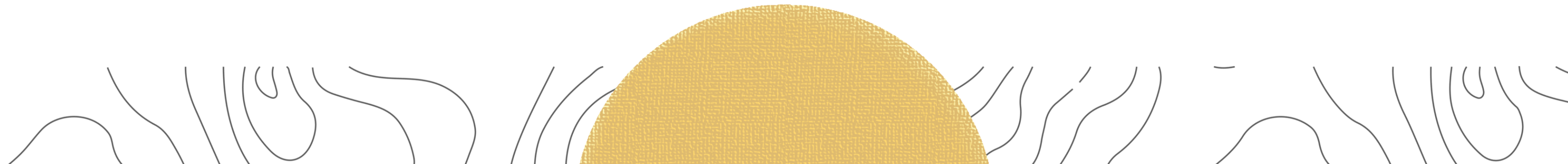
God's message:

Negatively:

I won't
answer you

Positively:

1. Repent
2. Be an example



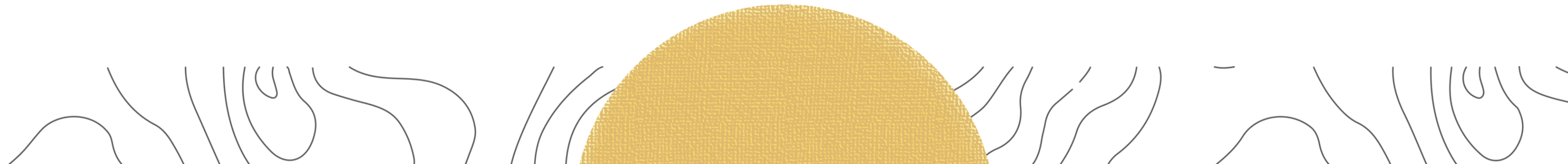
(Idolatry)

Order of Operation

The gods
tells us what
will happen



We work
our will

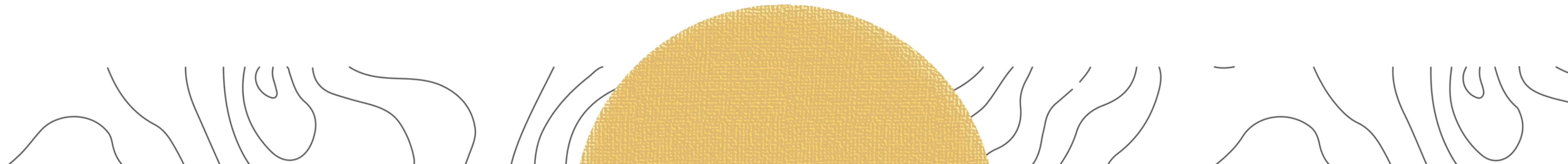


Order of Operation

I trust God by
obeying his
revealed will



God works
his Secret will
(& our good)

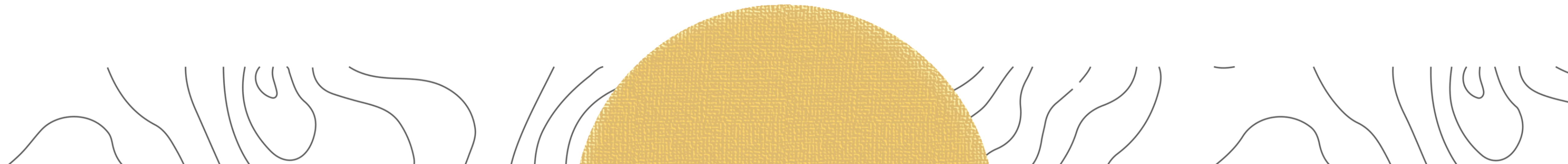


God won't reveal his
secret will
if you ignore his
revealed will.

**2. He must confront the
sin holding us back**

Ezekiel 14:4

"...When any Israelite **sets up idols in his heart and puts a wicked stumbling block before his face** and then goes to a prophet, I the LORD will answer him myself in keeping with his great idolatry.



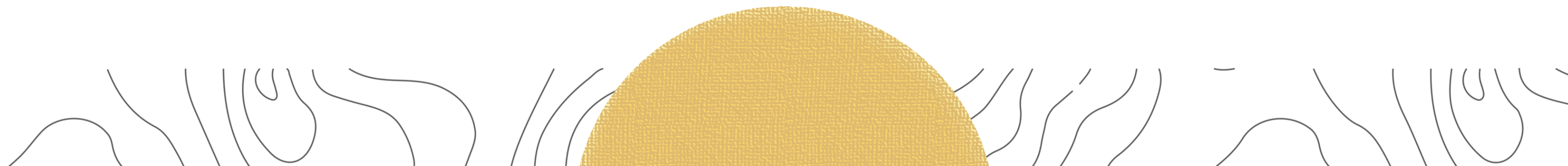
"hindrance of iniquity"



Shame
from Guilt



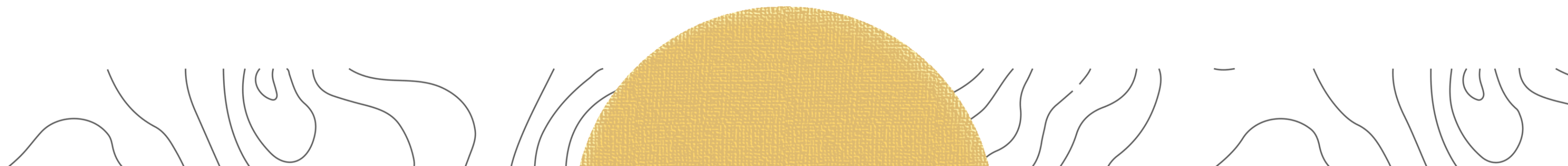
Clinging
to sin



"hindrance of iniquity"

Shame
from Guilt

Clinging
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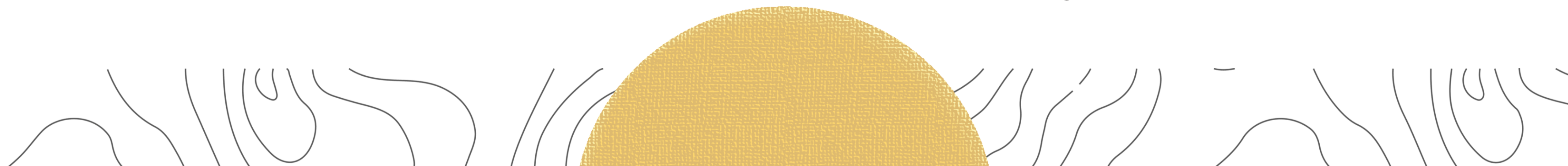
2 Options for Sin

Before your face:

I won't see the truth
so I can keep my
desires.

Behind your back:

Repentance means
turning my back on
what I clung to and
turning to God.



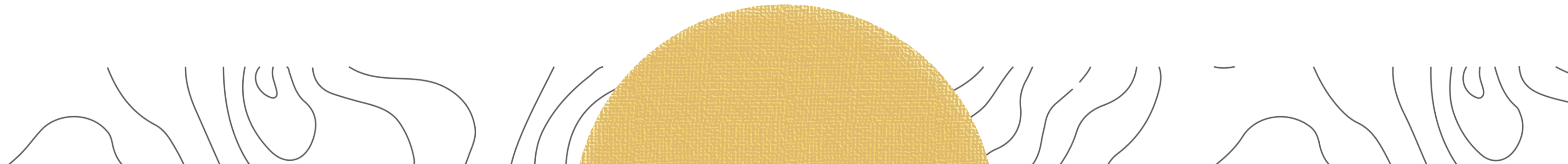
God's message:

Negatively:

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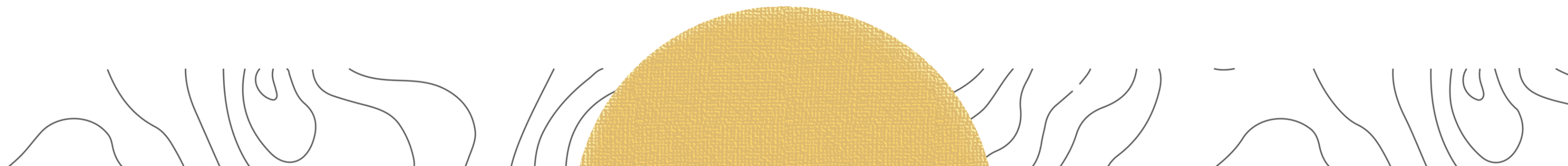


God won't reveal his
secret will
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revealed will.

**3. He must confront the
lies we prefer**

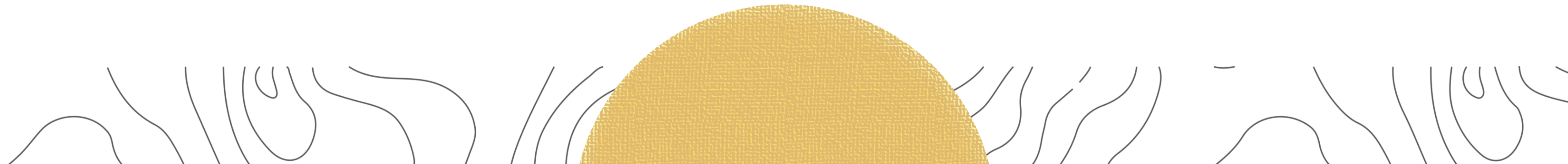
Ezekiel 13:19

...by lying to my people, **who listen to lies**, you have killed those who should not have died and have spared those who should not live.



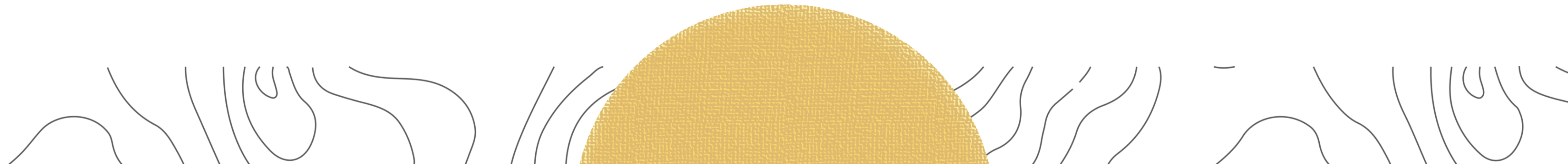
Ezekiel 14:9–11

'And if the prophet is enticed to utter a prophecy, I the LORD have enticed that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand against him and destroy him from among my people Israel. They will bear their guilt—the prophet will be as guilty as the one who consults him...



Ezekiel 14:9–11

'...Then the people of Israel will no longer stray from me, nor will they defile themselves anymore with all their sins. They will be my people, and I will be their God, declares the Sovereign LORD.'"



**3. He must confront the
lies we prefer**

Prophetic duty:

1 Corinthians 14:3

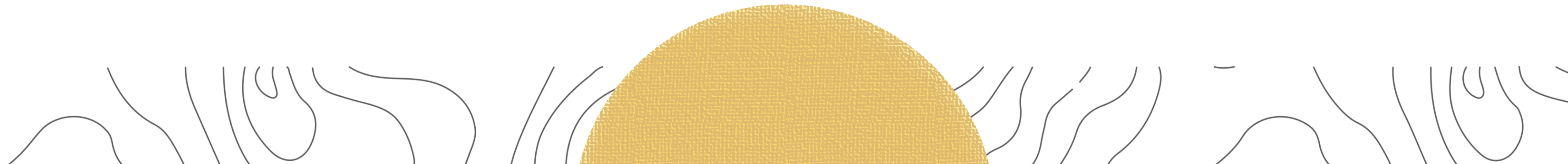
But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.

see: Hebrews 12:5, 13:22

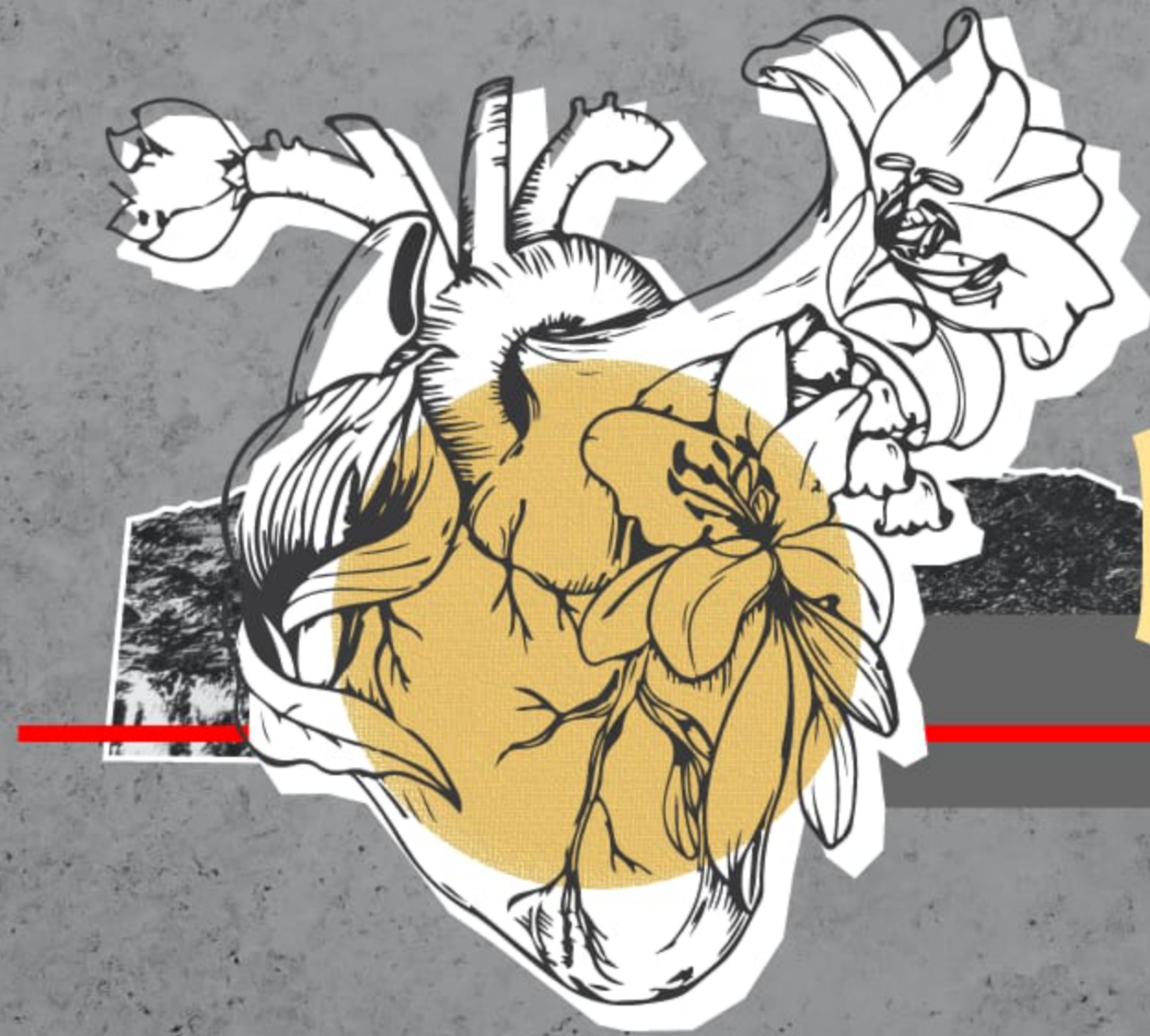


Rule #1:

Don't lead people away
from God in God's name.



God won't reveal his
secret will
if you ignore his
revealed will.



ezekiel

FINDING SPIRITUAL GRAVITY
IN THE GLORY OF GOD