

A dramatic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by dark, heavy clouds, creating a bright, golden glow. The sky is filled with various cloud formations, some illuminated from below. In the foreground, a paved road curves through a lush green field. The overall mood is serene and hopeful.

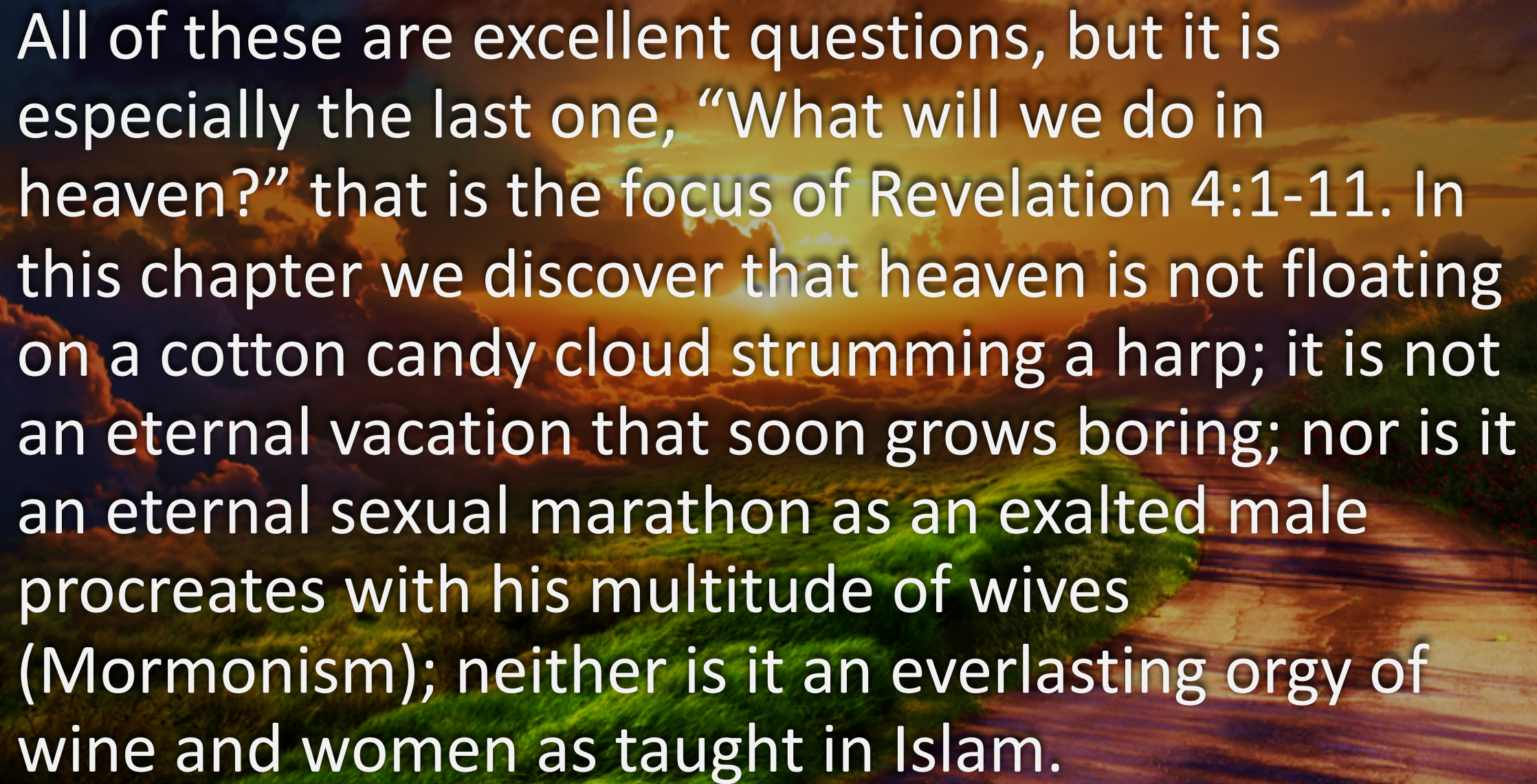
What Will Heaven Be Like?

**Revelation** 4:1-11

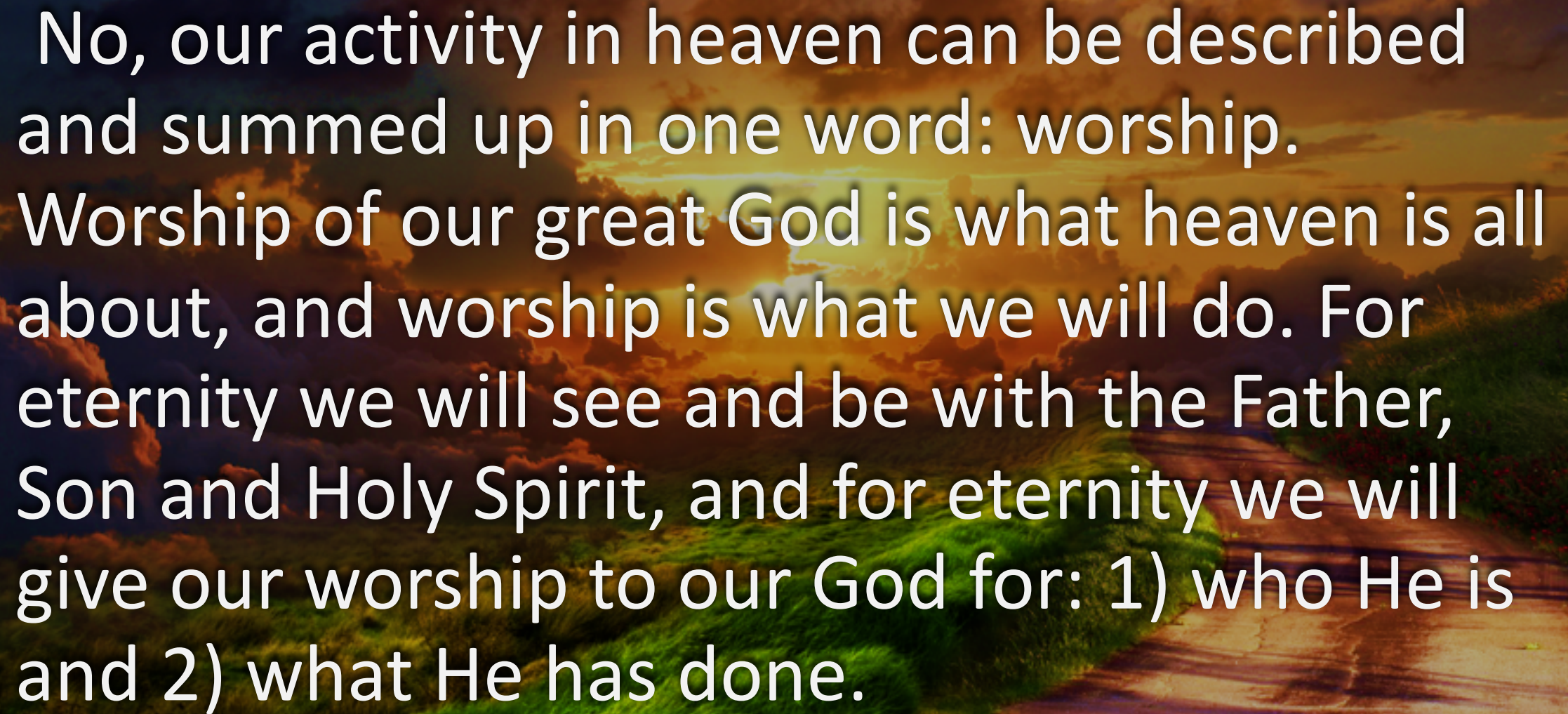
A scenic landscape featuring a winding asphalt road that curves through a lush green field. The sky is filled with dramatic, golden-hued clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

Few subjects are more intriguing and interesting than the subject of heaven. Questions explode from our minds as we think about it:

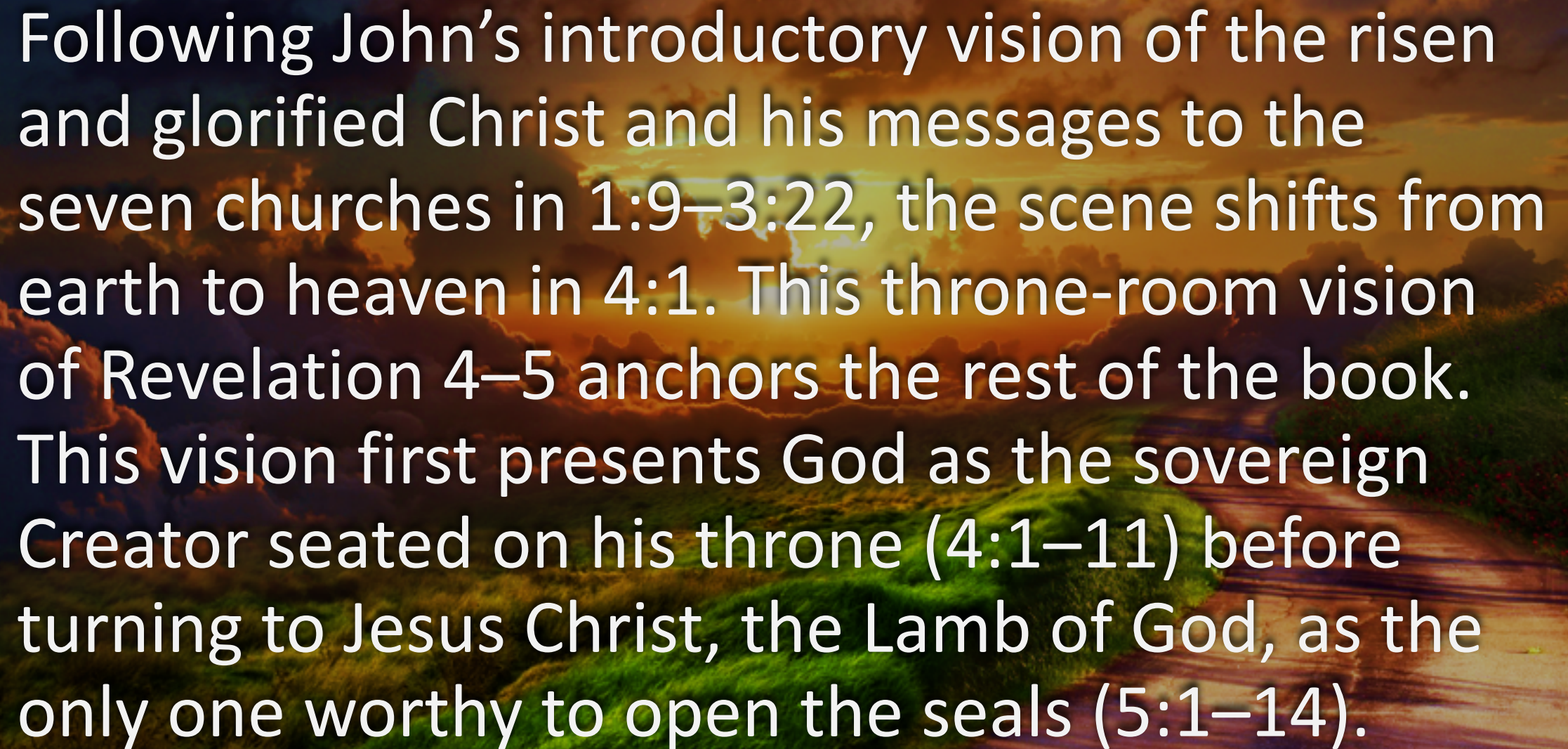
- 1) Where is heaven?
- 2) Does heaven really exist?
- 3) What does heaven look like?
- 4) Who will be in heaven?
- 5) Who won't be in heaven?
- 6) How can I be sure I will go there when I die?
- 7) What will we do in heaven?

A scenic landscape featuring a dirt road that curves through a field of tall green grass. The sky is filled with dramatic, golden-brown clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is warm and serene.

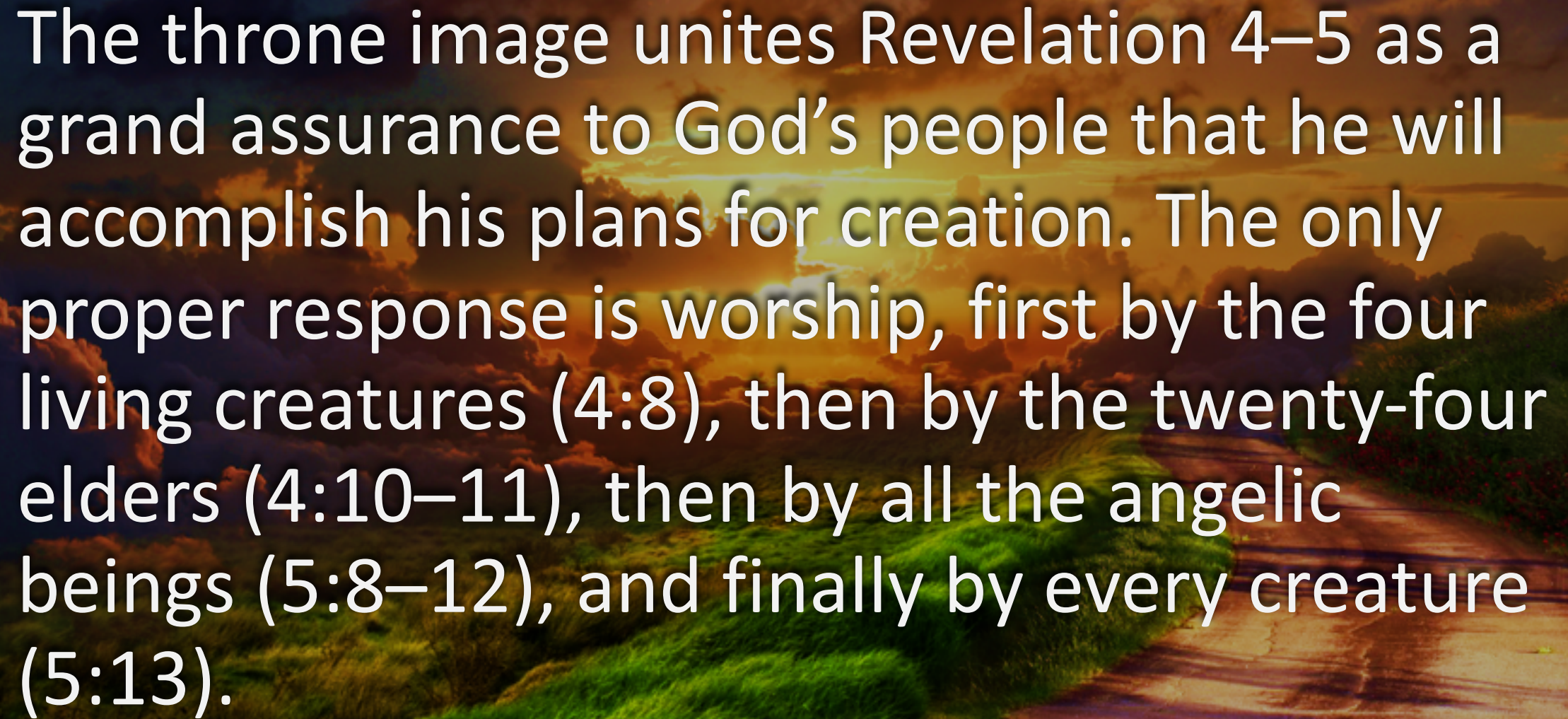
All of these are excellent questions, but it is especially the last one, “What will we do in heaven?” that is the focus of Revelation 4:1-11. In this chapter we discover that heaven is not floating on a cotton candy cloud strumming a harp; it is not an eternal vacation that soon grows boring; nor is it an eternal sexual marathon as an exalted male procreates with his multitude of wives (Mormonism); neither is it an everlasting orgy of wine and women as taught in Islam.

A scenic landscape featuring a dirt road that curves through lush green grass. The sky is filled with dramatic, golden-hued clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

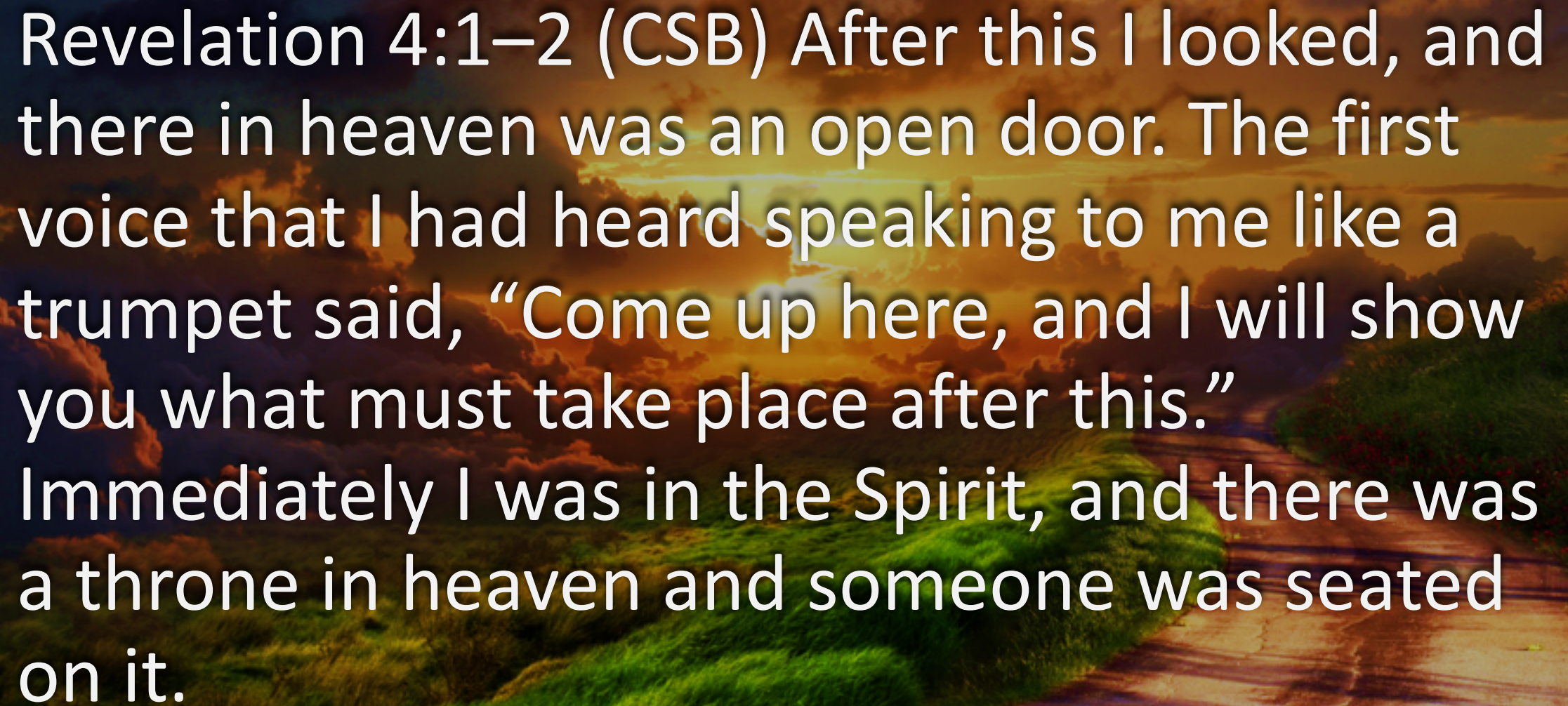
No, our activity in heaven can be described and summed up in one word: worship. Worship of our great God is what heaven is all about, and worship is what we will do. For eternity we will see and be with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and for eternity we will give our worship to our God for: 1) who He is and 2) what He has done.

The background of the image is a scenic landscape. A dirt road with visible tire tracks winds from the bottom right towards the center. The road is flanked by lush green grass and some small plants. In the distance, there are rolling hills or mountains under a dramatic sky with large, dark clouds illuminated from below, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall color palette is dominated by greens, browns, and warm oranges and yellows from the sky.

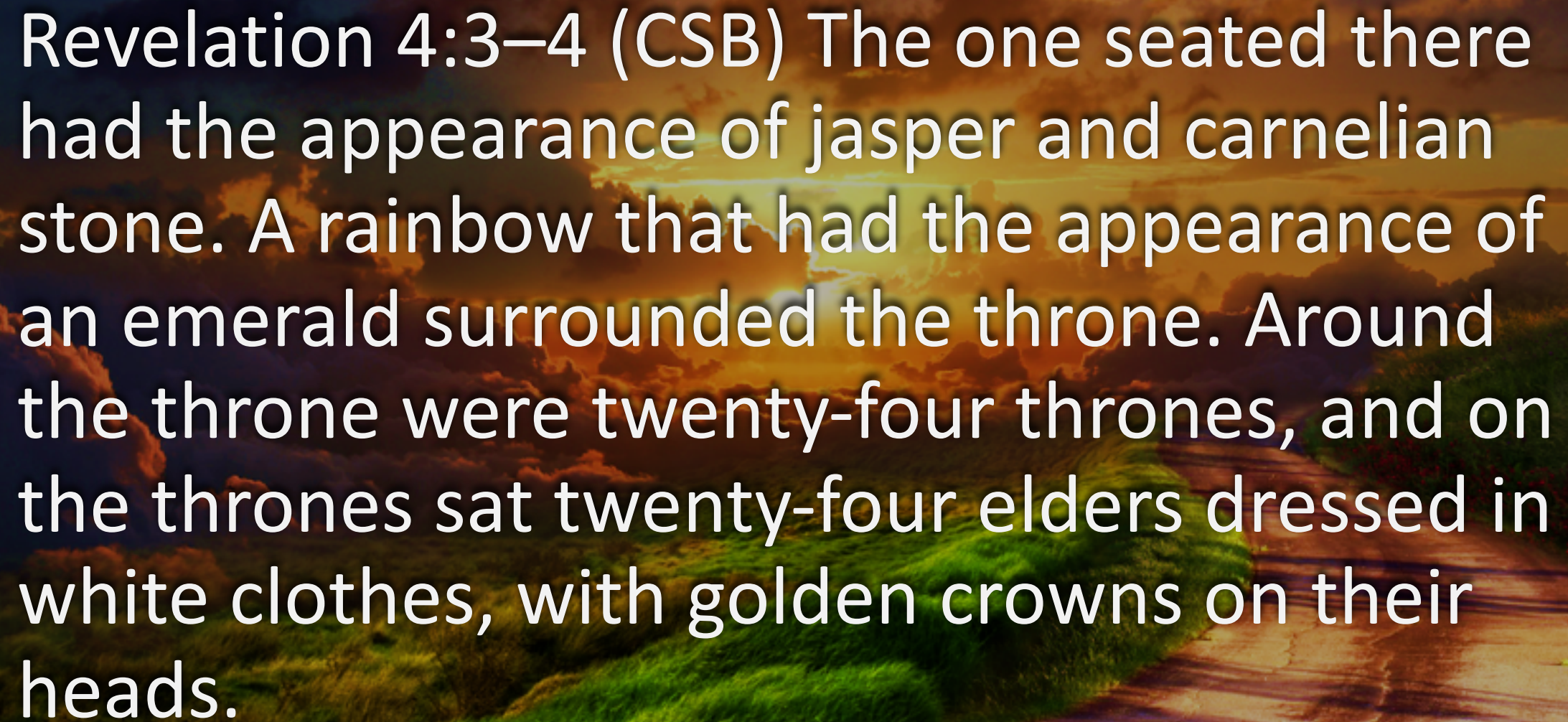
Following John's introductory vision of the risen and glorified Christ and his messages to the seven churches in 1:9–3:22, the scene shifts from earth to heaven in 4:1. This throne-room vision of Revelation 4–5 anchors the rest of the book. This vision first presents God as the sovereign Creator seated on his throne (4:1–11) before turning to Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, as the only one worthy to open the seals (5:1–14).

The background of the slide is a scenic landscape. A dirt road with visible tire tracks curves from the bottom right towards the center. To the left of the road is a lush green grassy slope. The sky is filled with dramatic, golden-brown clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall lighting is warm and atmospheric.

The throne image unites Revelation 4–5 as a grand assurance to God’s people that he will accomplish his plans for creation. The only proper response is worship, first by the four living creatures (4:8), then by the twenty-four elders (4:10–11), then by all the angelic beings (5:8–12), and finally by every creature (5:13).

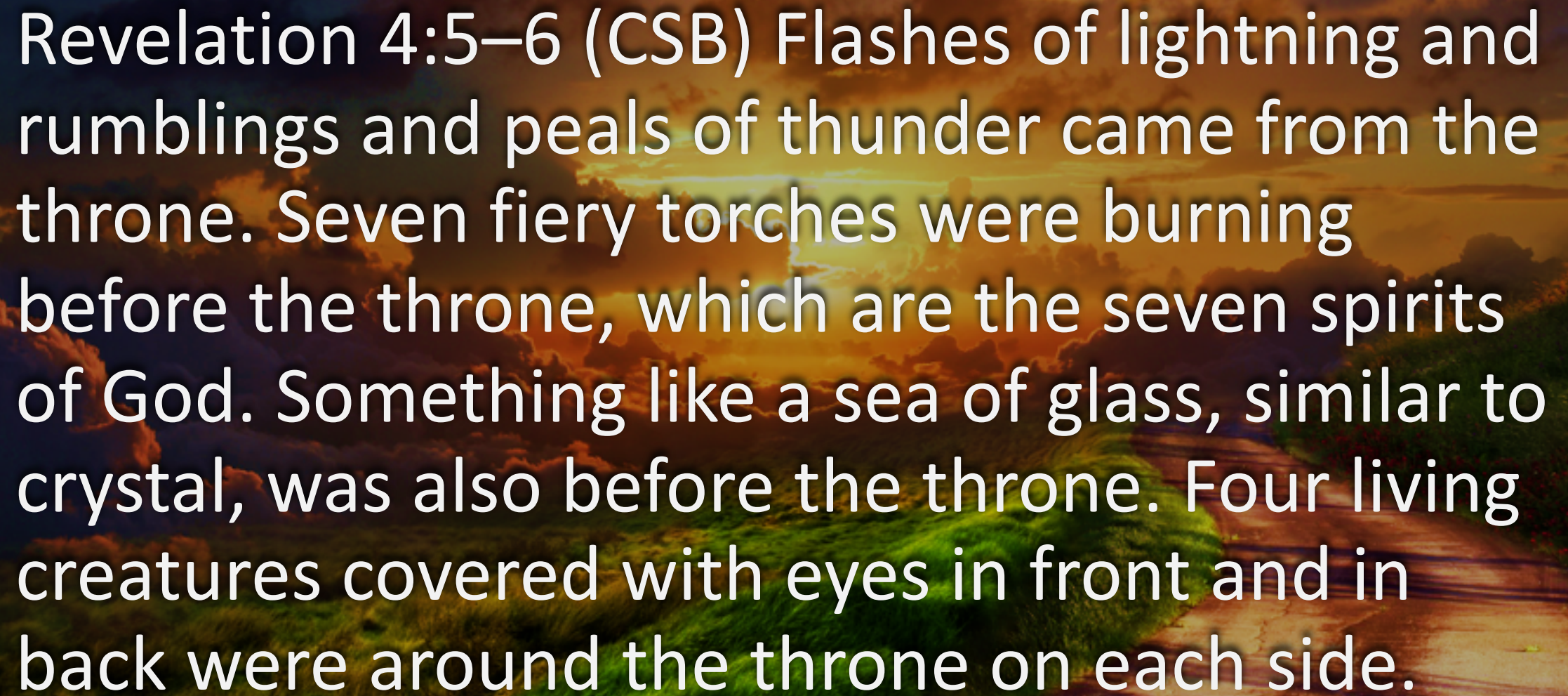
A scenic landscape featuring a dirt road that curves through lush green grass. The sky is filled with dramatic, golden-hued clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

Revelation 4:1–2 (CSB) After this I looked, and there in heaven was an open door. The first voice that I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” Immediately I was in the Spirit, and there was a throne in heaven and someone was seated on it.

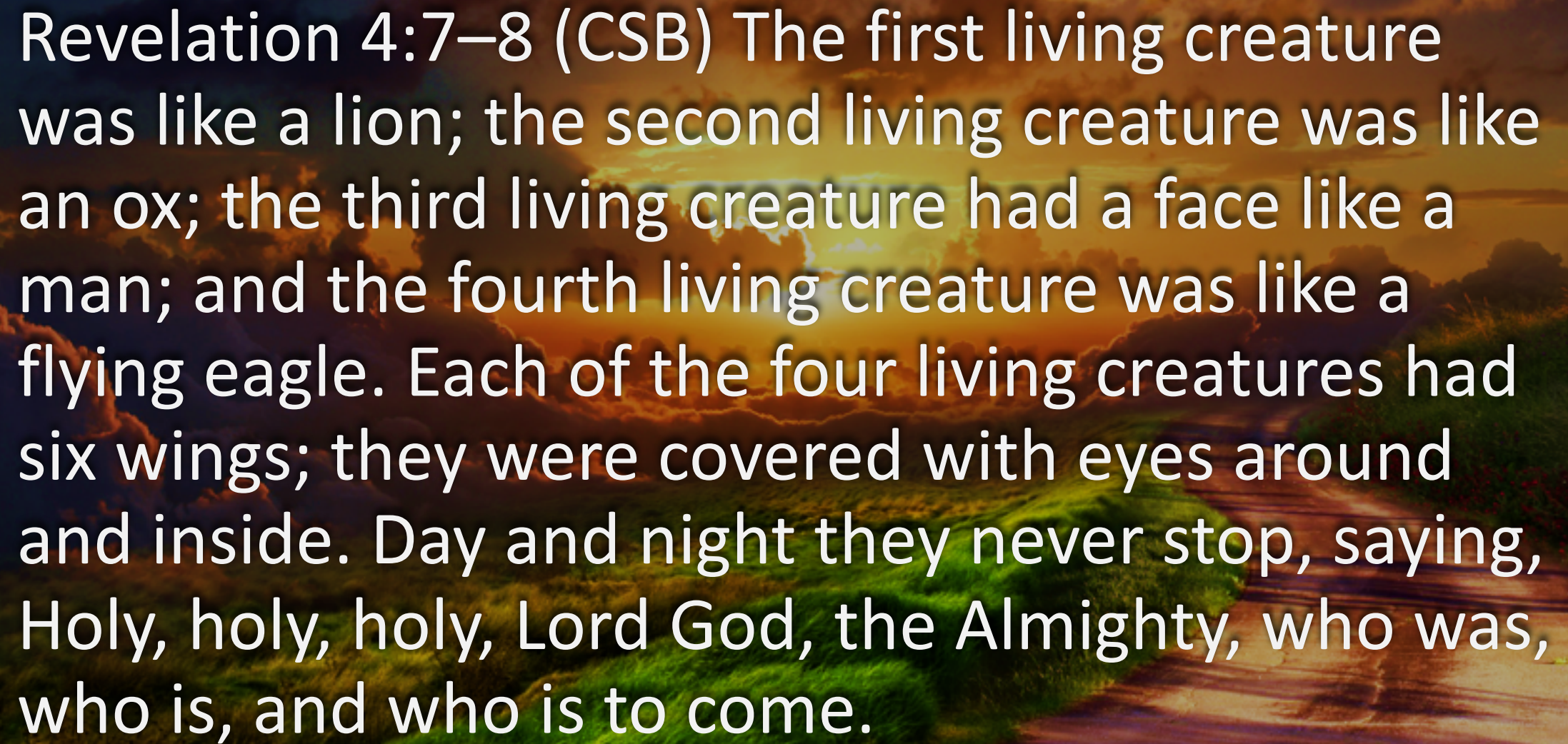
A scenic landscape featuring a paved path that curves through lush green grass. In the background, a vibrant sunset sky is filled with golden light and a prominent rainbow arching across the horizon. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and majestic.

Revelation 4:3–4 (CSB) The one seated there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian stone. A rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald surrounded the throne. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones sat twenty-four elders dressed in white clothes, with golden crowns on their heads.

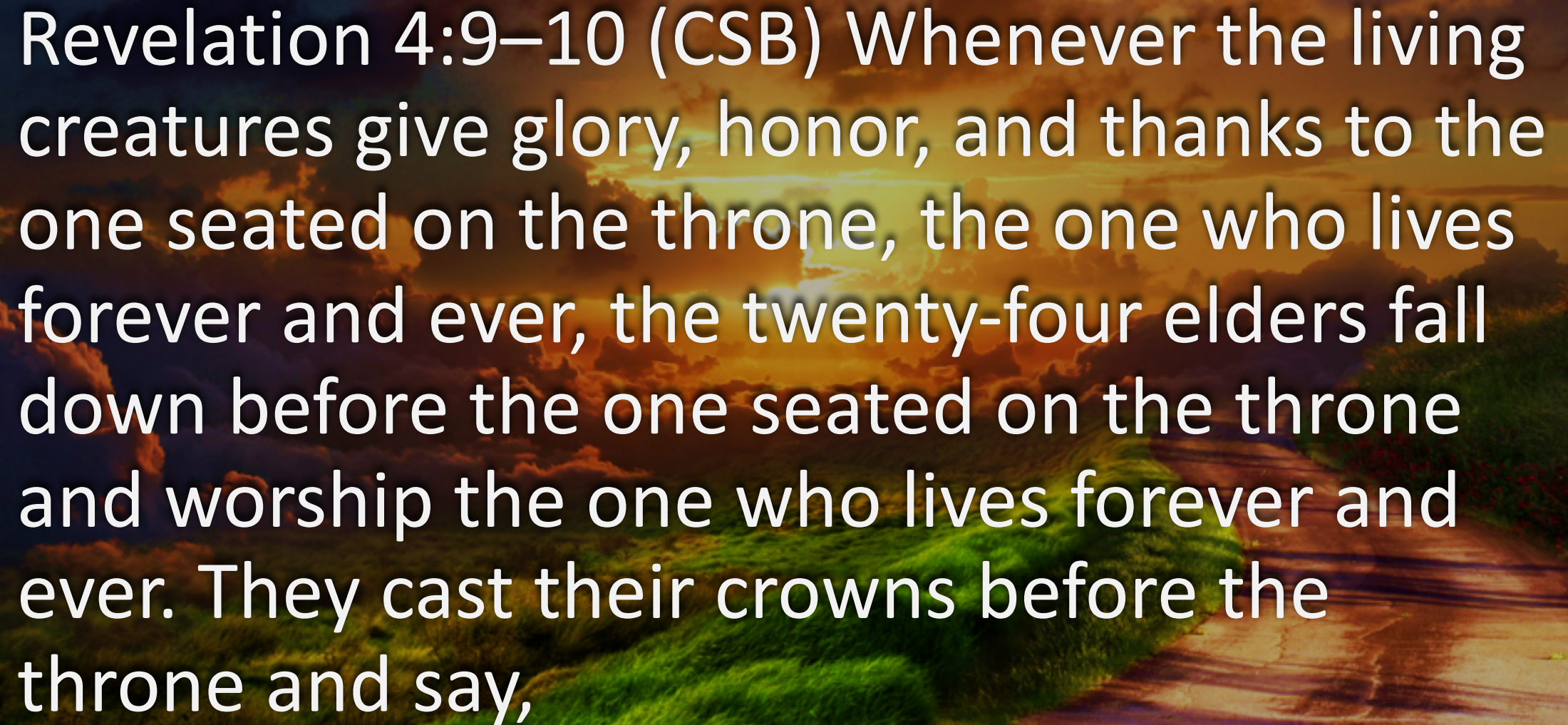


A dramatic landscape featuring a sunset sky with orange and yellow clouds, a path leading through green grass, and a bright light source on the horizon. The text is overlaid in white, bold font.

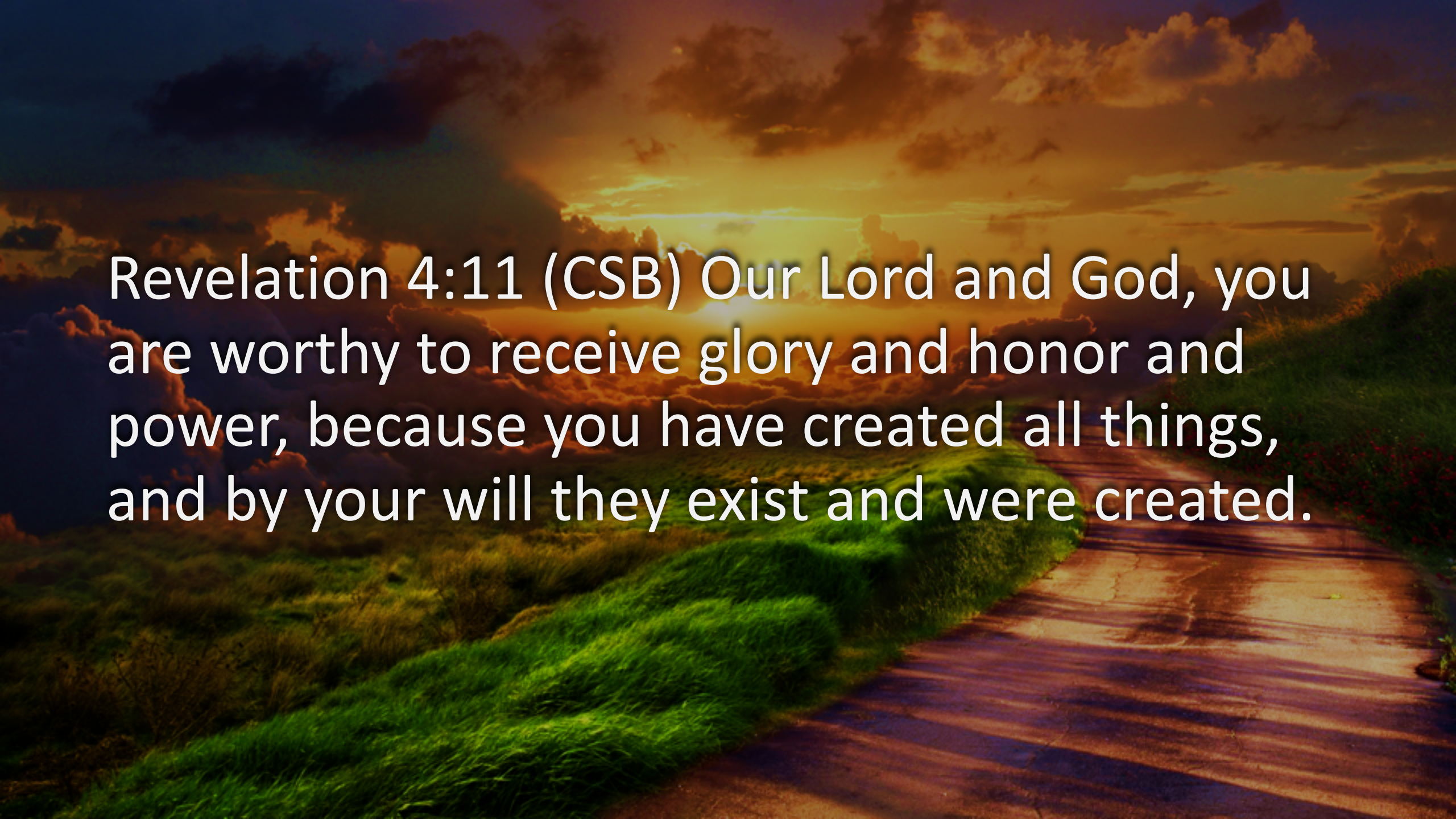
Revelation 4:5–6 (CSB) Flashes of lightning and rumblings and peals of thunder came from the throne. Seven fiery torches were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God. Something like a sea of glass, similar to crystal, was also before the throne. Four living creatures covered with eyes in front and in back were around the throne on each side.

A scenic landscape featuring a dirt road that curves through a field of tall green grass. The sky is filled with dramatic, golden-brown clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Revelation 4:7–8 (CSB) The first living creature was like a lion; the second living creature was like an ox; the third living creature had a face like a man; and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings; they were covered with eyes around and inside. Day and night they never stop, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come.

A scenic landscape featuring a dirt road that curves through lush green grass. The sky is filled with dramatic, golden-brown clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and majestic.

Revelation 4:9–10 (CSB) Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one seated on the throne, the one who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before the one seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne and say,

A scenic landscape featuring a paved path that curves through lush green grass. The path leads towards a horizon where the sun is setting, creating a dramatic sky with golden light and dark, textured clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Revelation 4:11 (CSB) Our Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.





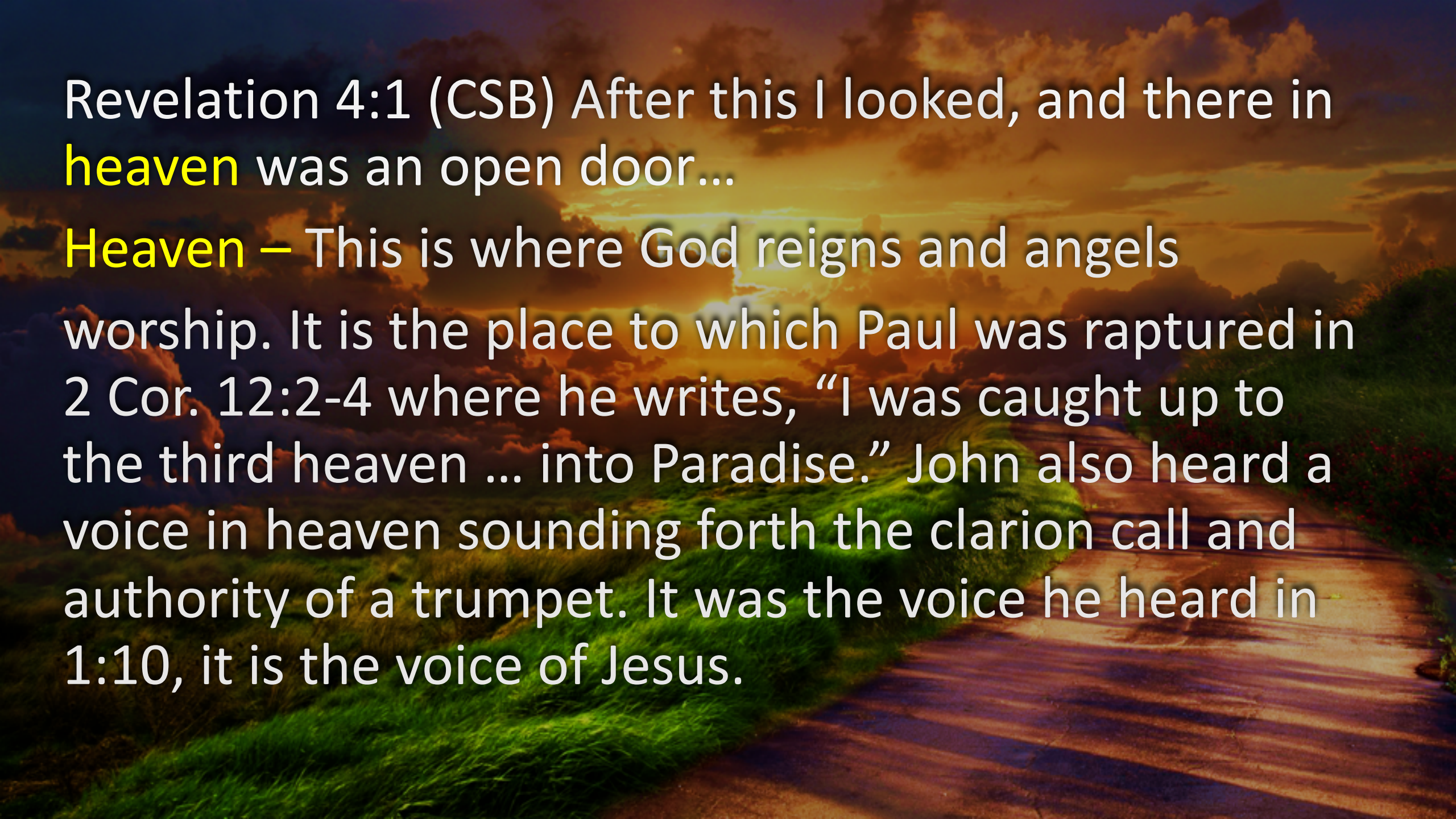
Revelation 4:1 (CSB) **After this** I looked, and there in heaven was an open door...

**After this** – after the vision of chapter 1 and the letters to the 7 churches in chapters 2 and 3, the scene changes. John, who is on Patmos, a penal colony and rock quarry for Roman prisoners, is suddenly shown a new vision and in a new location.

A scenic landscape featuring a paved path that curves through lush green grass. In the background, a bright sunset or sunrise illuminates a sky filled with dramatic, golden clouds. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and hopeful.

Revelation 4:1 (CSB) After this I looked, and there in heaven was **an open door**...

**An open door** (lit.) having been opened (perf. tense) in heaven! (cf. 3:8, 20) This is not man's plan, it is God's plan. This is not a plan from earth but a plan from heaven.

A sunset over a field with a path leading into the distance. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon. A dirt path winds through a green field towards the horizon.

Revelation 4:1 (CSB) After this I looked, and there in **heaven** was an open door...

**Heaven** – This is where God reigns and angels worship. It is the place to which Paul was raptured in 2 Cor. 12:2-4 where he writes, “I was caught up to the third heaven ... into Paradise.” John also heard a voice in heaven sounding forth the clarion call and authority of a trumpet. It was the voice he heard in 1:10, it is the voice of Jesus.





Revelation 4:1 (CSB) ...The first voice that I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

This statement is crucial and looks back to the divine outline of the book in 1:19. John has recorded what he has seen, the vision of Christ in chapter 1. He wrote concerning the things which are, the 7 churches in his day of chapters 2 and 3. Now he writes about the things which will take place after these things, the events of chapters 4 – 22.



Revelation 4:1 (CSB) ...The first voice that I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

These chapters constitute the 3rd and final section of the book and describe what will happen at the end of history leading into eternity. That these events were future to John there is no question.



Here are some reasons why we see these chapters as future:

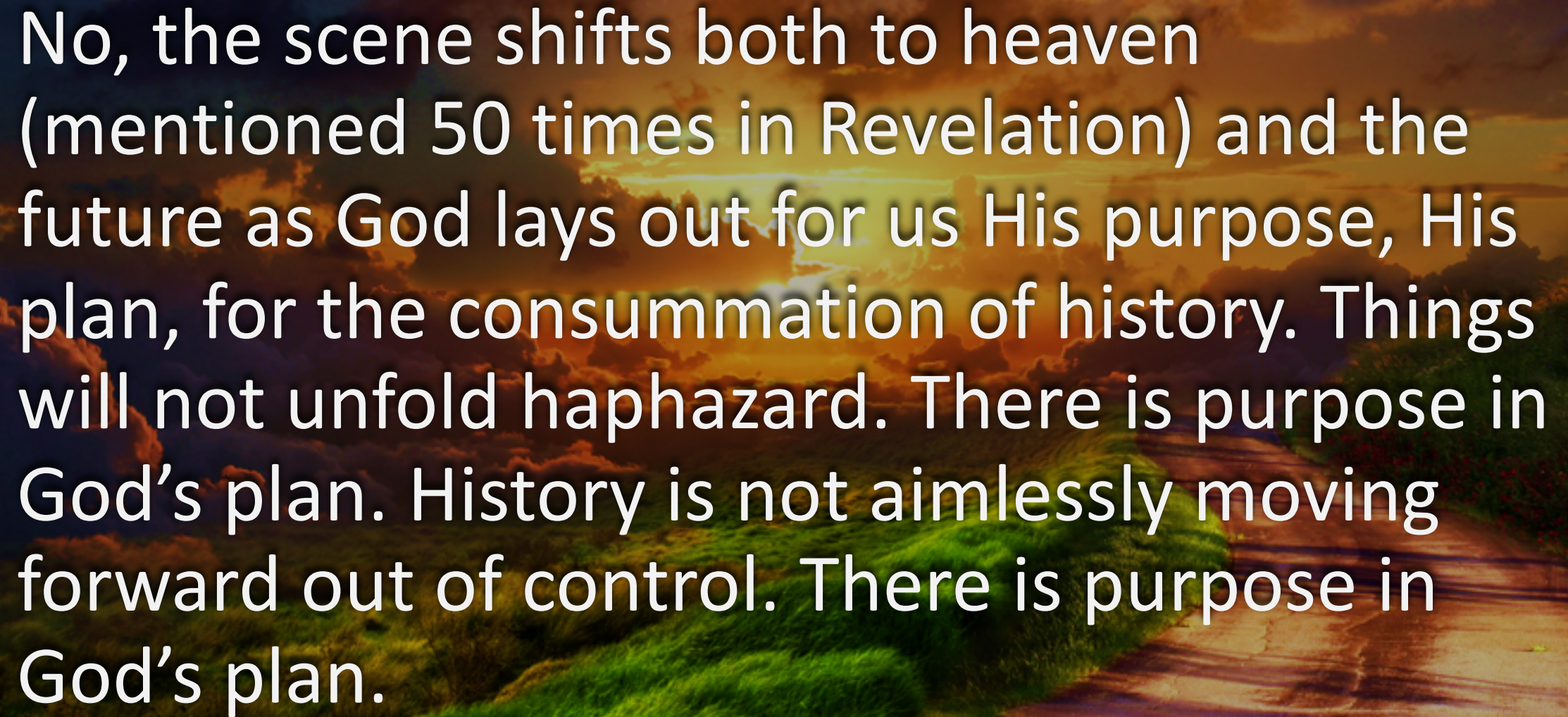
1) the catastrophic descriptions of the chapters portray events that have not yet been witnessed on the earth.

2) the close parallels to Daniel 7 and 9, Matthew 24 and 2 Thessalonians 2, all of which address the end of history



Here are some reasons why we see these chapters as future:

3) it is virtually impossible to reasonably identify any of the events of chapters 6 – 22 with past history. The seals (chapter 6), trumpets (chapters 8 & 9) and bowls (chapter 16) have not come. The beast, Antichrist (chapter 13), has not appeared

A scenic landscape featuring a paved path that curves through lush green grass. The path leads towards a horizon where the sun is setting, creating a warm, golden glow. The sky is filled with soft, white and orange-tinted clouds. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and hopeful.

No, the scene shifts both to heaven (mentioned 50 times in Revelation) and the future as God lays out for us His purpose, His plan, for the consummation of history. Things will not unfold haphazard. There is purpose in God's plan. History is not aimlessly moving forward out of control. There is purpose in God's plan.



Revelation 4:2 (CSB) **Immediately I was in the Spirit**, and there was a throne in heaven and someone was seated on it.

**Immediately I was in the Spirit** - 4 times the Spirit enraptures John (1:10; 17:13; 21:10) and moves him to an ecstatic vision. Perhaps John had returned to a normal state of consciousness, but with heaven's door opening, the voice like a trumpet and the Spirit seizing him he now experiences a fresh, new wave of ecstasy that carries him into heaven itself.



Revelation 4:2 (CSB) **Immediately I was in the Spirit**, and there was a throne in heaven and someone was seated on it.

**Immediately I was in the Spirit** - John ascends to heaven by means of a Spirit-inspired vision, a prophetic experience similar to that of Ezekiel (e.g., Ezek. 3:14; 8:3; 11:1, 24). John immediately lays eyes on the center of all reality: God seated on his throne (cf. Isa. 6:1–4).

cf. confer, compare

As you look into heaven...

1. Survey the Throne of God (vs. 1-3)








Revelation 4:2 (CSB) Immediately I was in the Spirit, and there was **a throne in heaven** and someone was seated on it.

**A throne in heaven.** Revelation is a throne book and Revelation 4 is a throne chapter. The word throne occurs at least 45 times in Revelation as a whole and 14 times in chapter 4. It denotes monarchy, majesty, authority, royalty, and sovereignty.



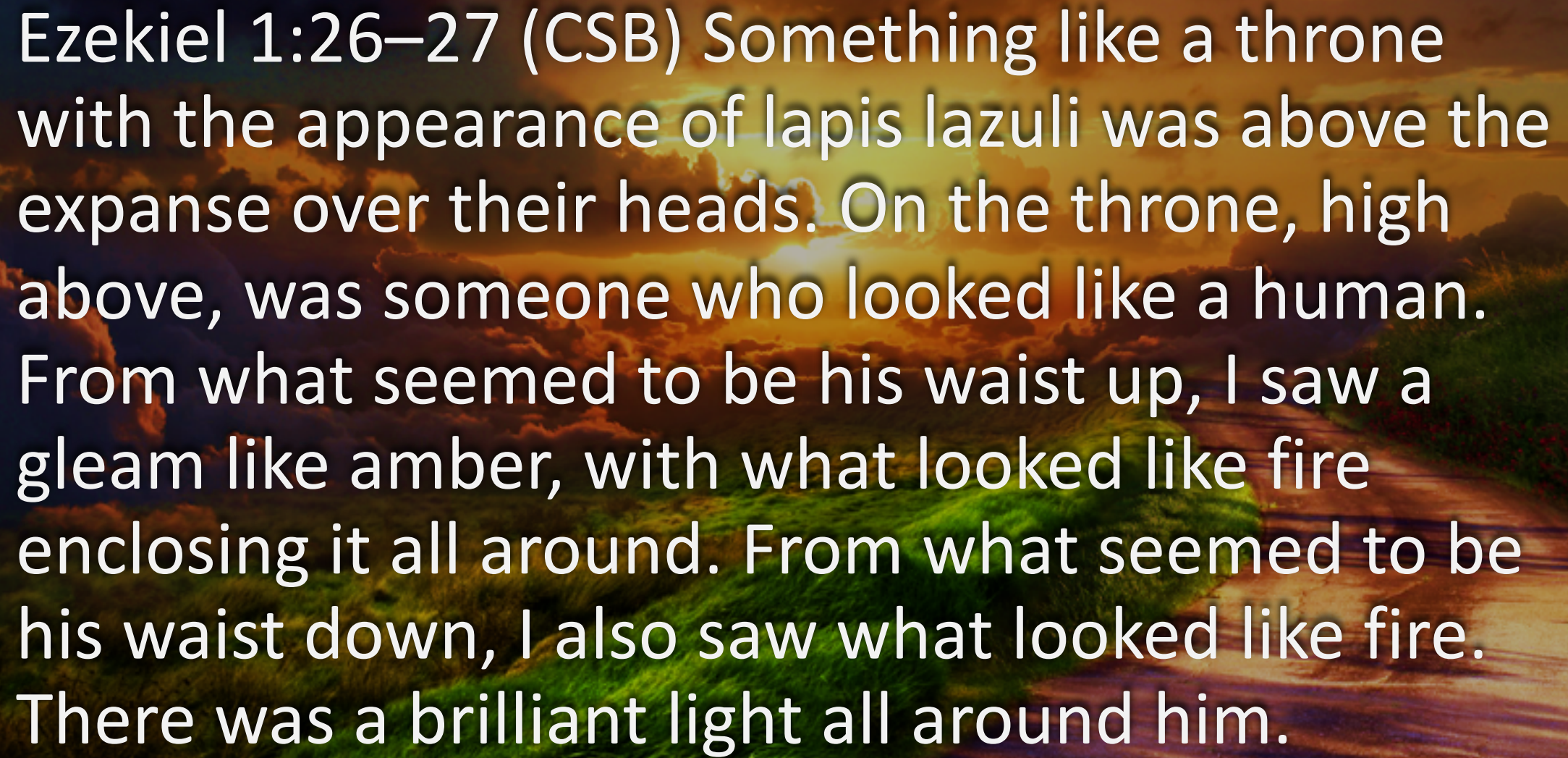
Revelation 4:2 (CSB) Immediately I was in the Spirit, and there was **a throne in heaven** and someone was seated on it.

The one on the throne is king and he sits continually as sovereign Lord. Earthly monarchs, rulers and presidents come and go, but this one remains forever. As Isaiah 6:1 says, “I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne high and lifted up.” Psalm 47:8 adds, “God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.” In heaven, no one doubts who is in control. His authority is sovereign.

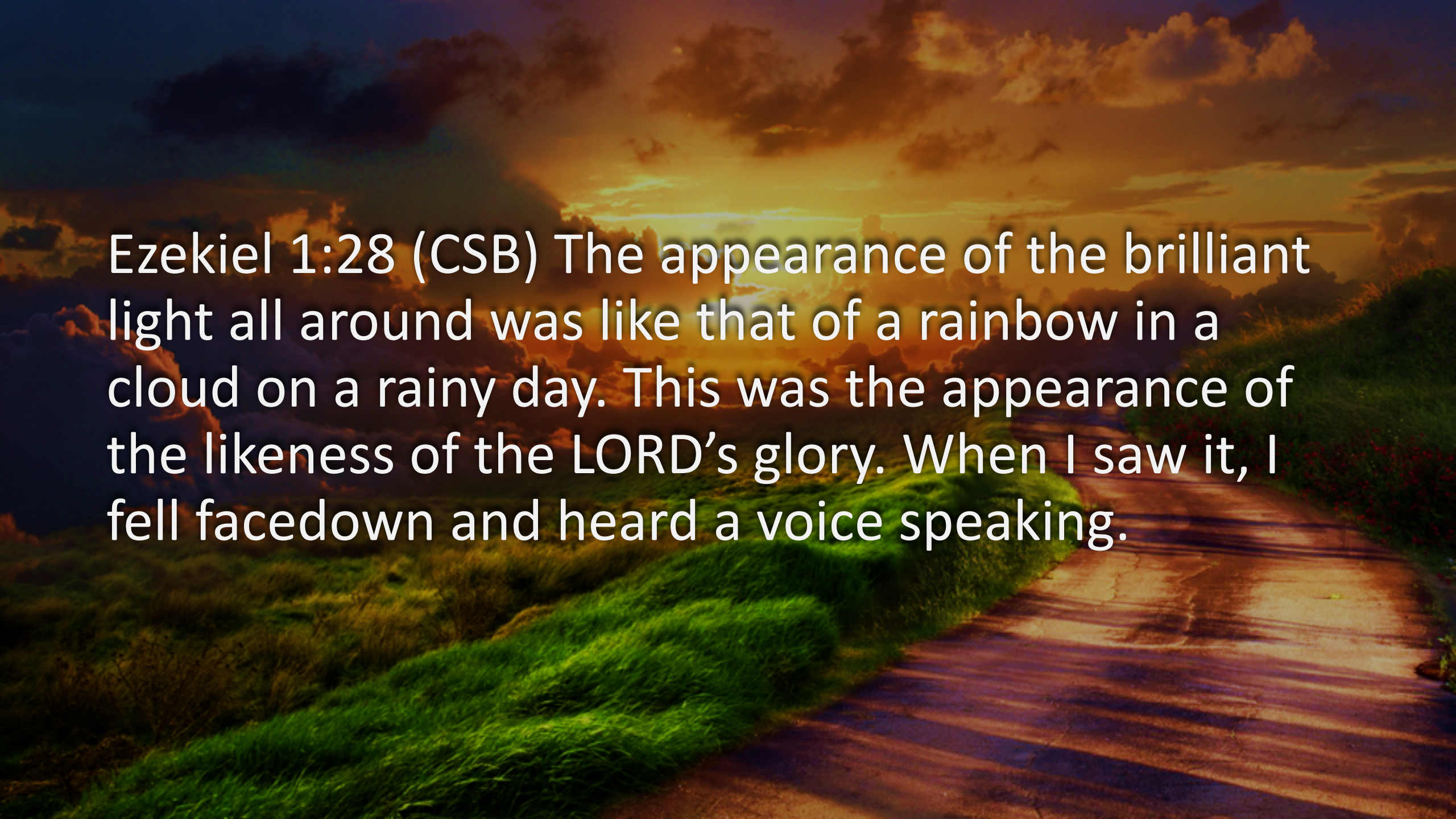
A scenic landscape featuring a winding asphalt road that curves through a lush green field. The sky is filled with dramatic, golden-hued clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and majestic.

Revelation 4:3 (CSB) The one seated there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian stone. A rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald surrounded the throne.

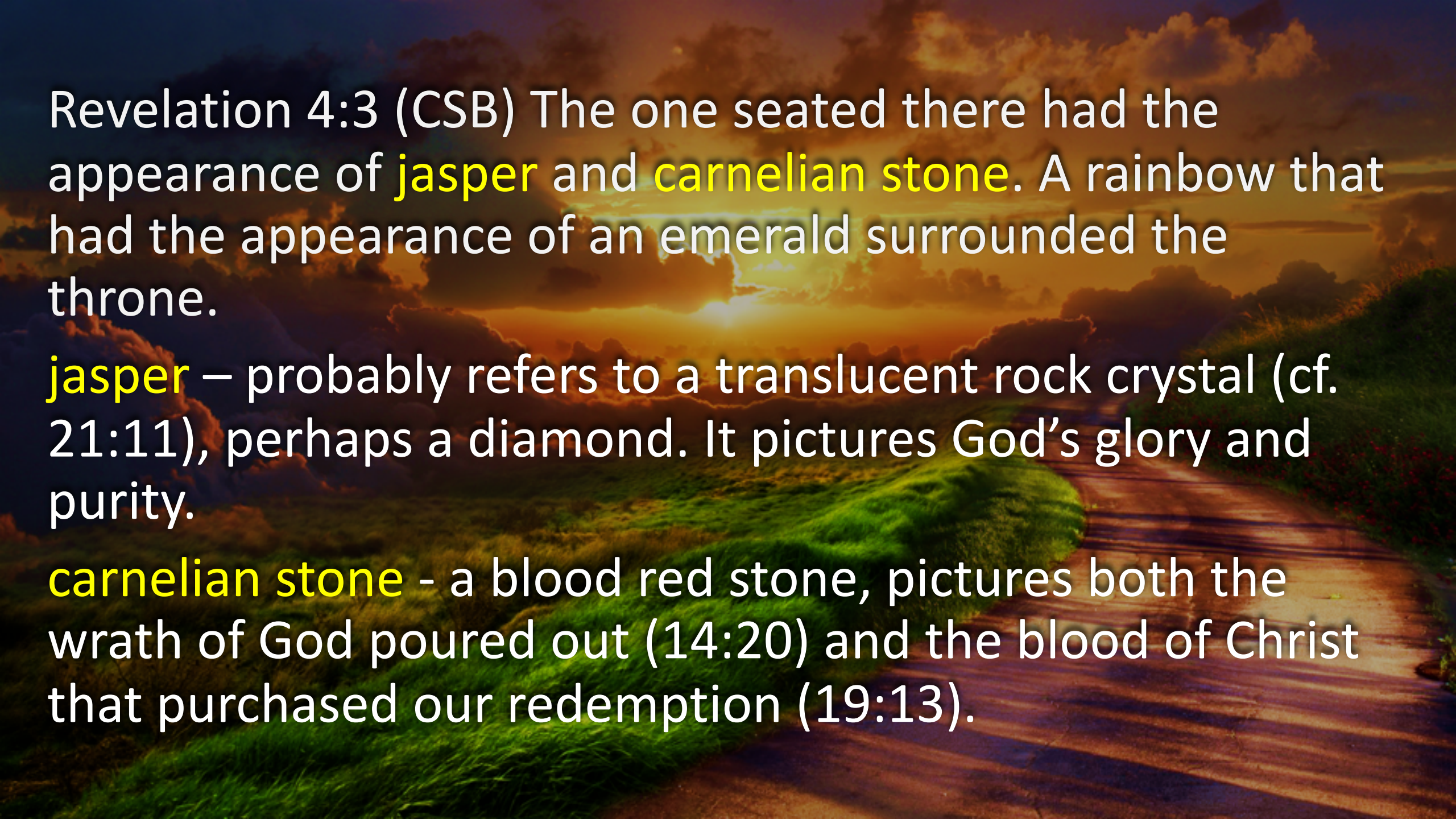
Ezekiel 1:26-28 provides the Old Testament background to this glorious vision.



Ezekiel 1:26–27 (CSB) Something like a throne with the appearance of lapis lazuli was above the expanse over their heads. On the throne, high above, was someone who looked like a human. From what seemed to be his waist up, I saw a gleam like amber, with what looked like fire enclosing it all around. From what seemed to be his waist down, I also saw what looked like fire. There was a brilliant light all around him.

A dramatic sunset or sunrise over a landscape. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a brilliant light breaking through in the center, creating a rainbow-like effect. The light illuminates the scene, casting long shadows and highlighting the textures of the grass and the path. The overall mood is awe-inspiring and majestic.

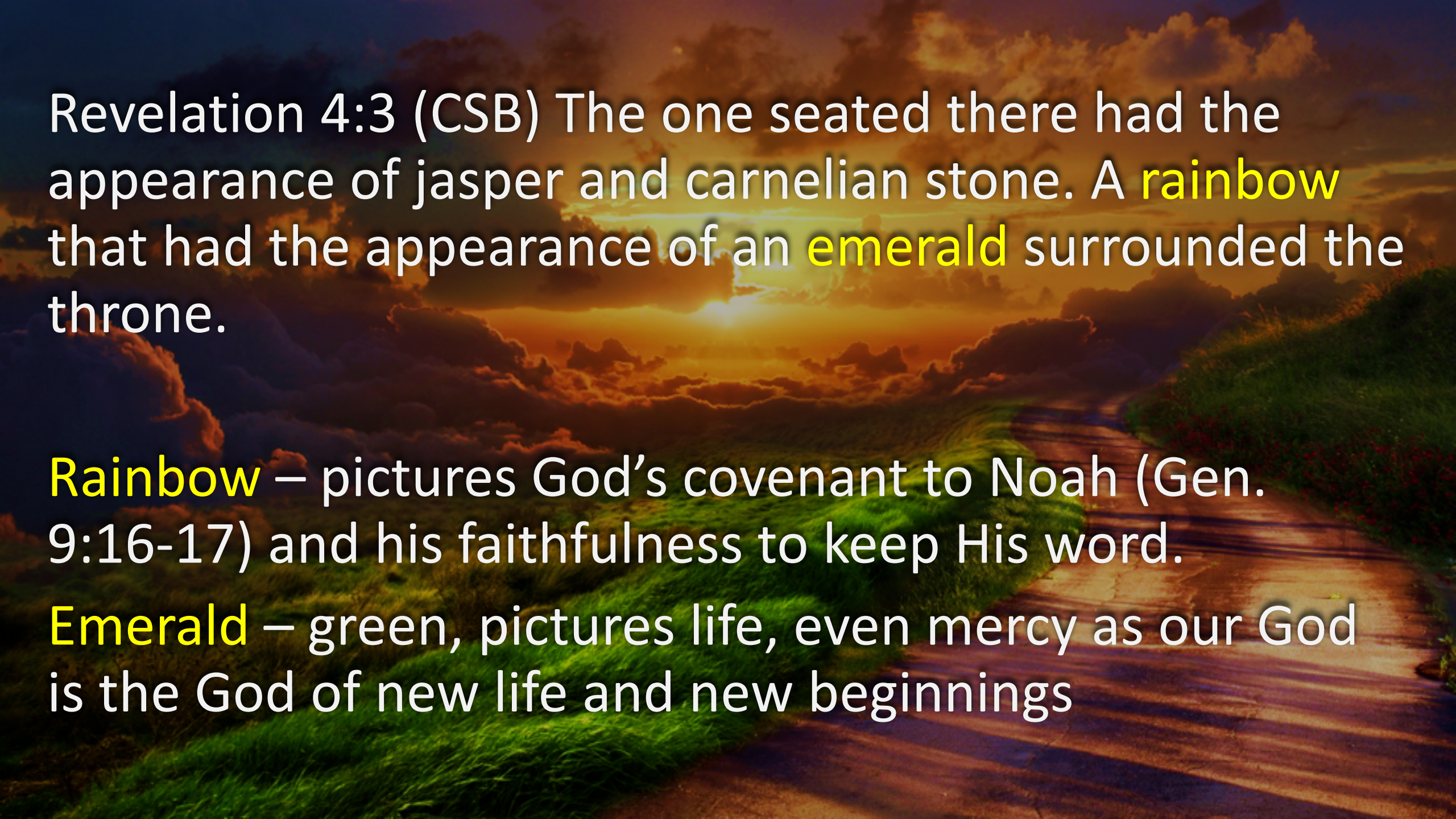
Ezekiel 1:28 (CSB) The appearance of the brilliant light all around was like that of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day. This was the appearance of the likeness of the LORD's glory. When I saw it, I fell facedown and heard a voice speaking.



Revelation 4:3 (CSB) The one seated there had the appearance of **jasper** and **carnelian stone**. A rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald surrounded the throne.

**jasper** – probably refers to a translucent rock crystal (cf. 21:11), perhaps a diamond. It pictures God's glory and purity.

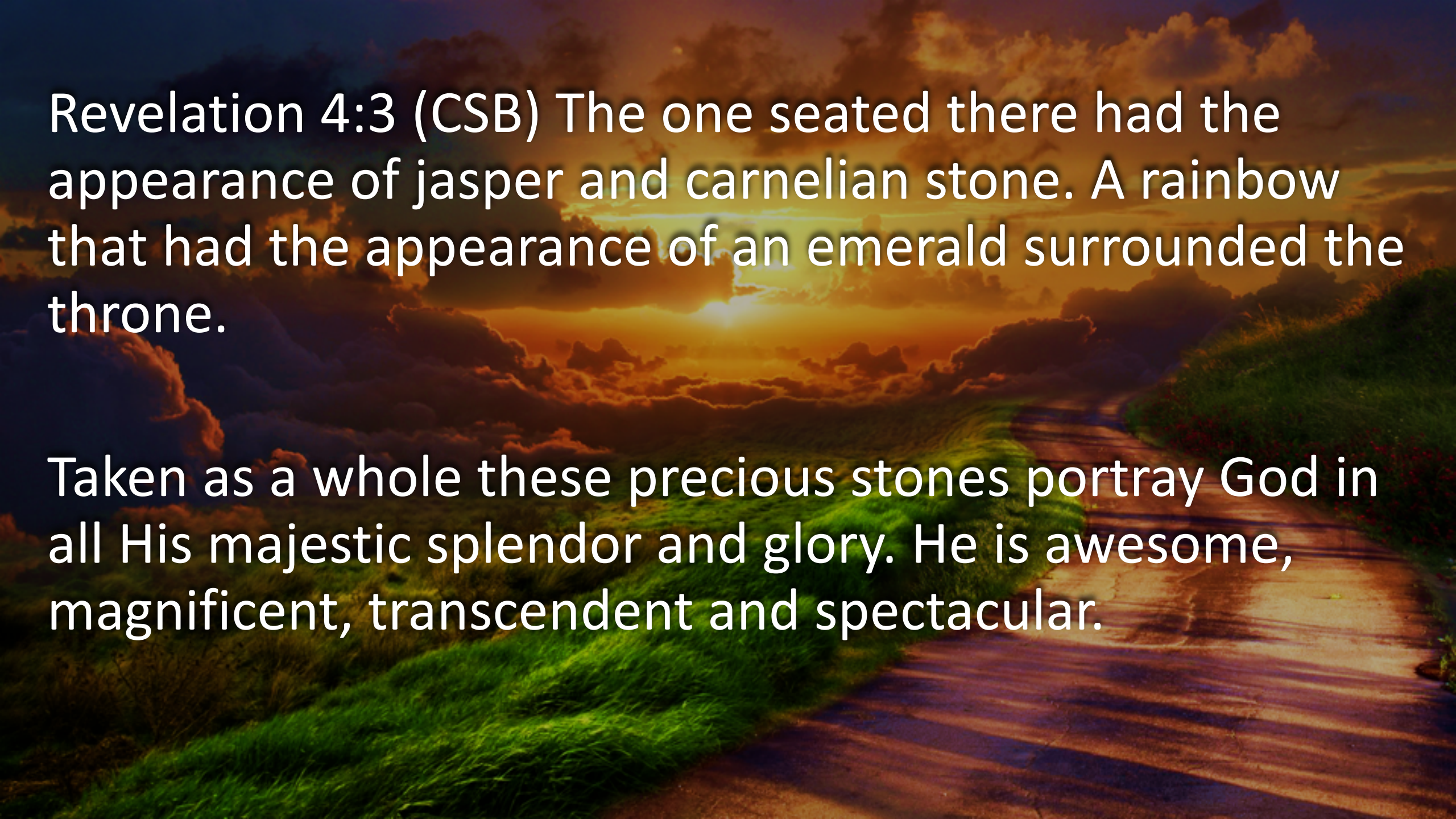
**carnelian stone** - a blood red stone, pictures both the wrath of God poured out (14:20) and the blood of Christ that purchased our redemption (19:13).



Revelation 4:3 (CSB) The one seated there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian stone. A **rainbow** that had the appearance of an **emerald** surrounded the throne.

**Rainbow** – pictures God's covenant to Noah (Gen. 9:16-17) and his faithfulness to keep His word.

**Emerald** – green, pictures life, even mercy as our God is the God of new life and new beginnings

A dramatic landscape featuring a sunset or sunrise over a field of tall grass and a winding path. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a bright light source breaking through in the center, casting a golden glow. The grass is a vibrant green, and the path is a mix of brown and blue tones, suggesting a mix of earth and water. The overall mood is majestic and awe-inspiring.

Revelation 4:3 (CSB) The one seated there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian stone. A rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald surrounded the throne.

Taken as a whole these precious stones portray God in all His majestic splendor and glory. He is awesome, magnificent, transcendent and spectacular.



A dramatic landscape featuring a sunset or sunrise over a field of tall grass and a winding road. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow. The grass is a vibrant green, and the road is a dark, winding path that leads towards the horizon. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

As you look into heaven...

1. Survey the Throne of God (vs. 1-3)

2. See the Twenty-four Elders (4-6a)





A dramatic landscape with a sunset or sunrise over a field of tall grass and a path leading into the distance. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow. The grass is tall and green, and the path is a mix of dirt and gravel, leading the eye towards the horizon.

Revelation 4:4 (CSB) Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones sat twenty-four elders dressed in white clothes, with golden crowns on their heads.

Encircling God's throne are 24 thrones occupied by 24 elders (presbuteros). Who are they? 1) angels; 2) Representatives of the redeemed of all the ages. (12 Tribes of Israel and 12 Apostles)

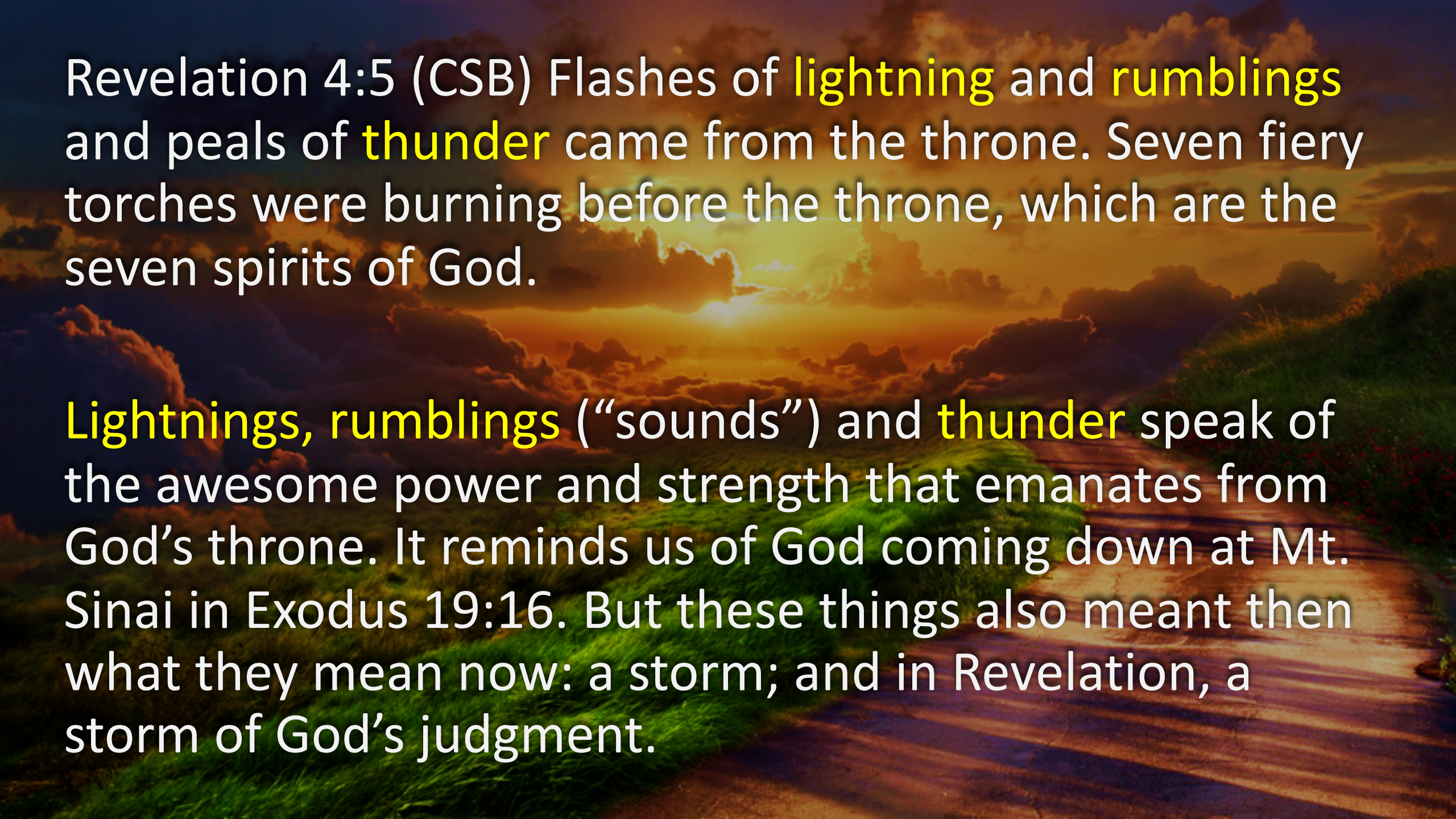


Why the redeemed? 3 reasons:

1) Their chair – they are on thrones (cf. Matt. 19:28; Rev. 3:21; 20:4).

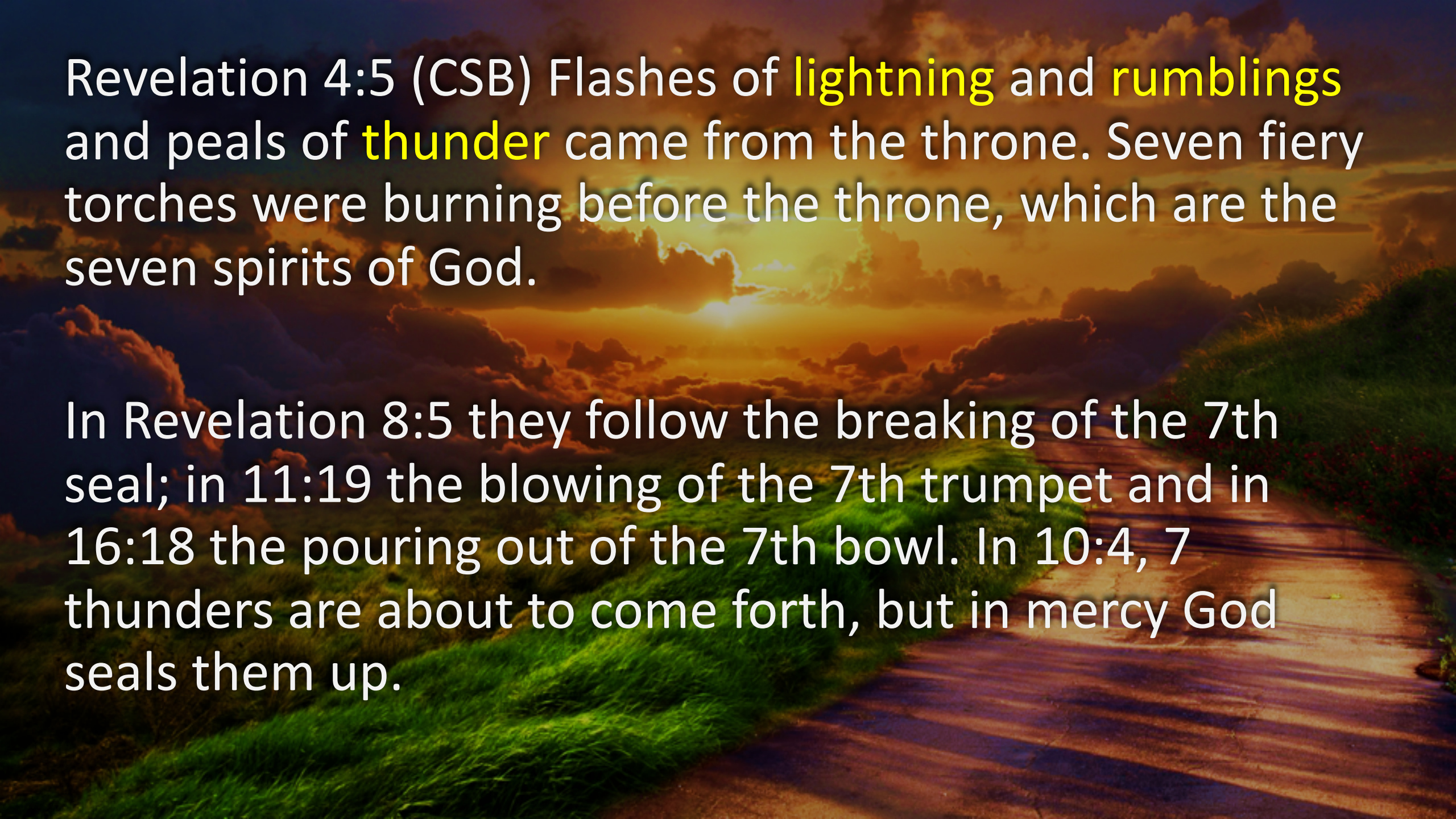
2) Their clothes – white, symbolic in Revelation of the purity and righteous acts of the saints (3:4-5, 18; 6:11; 7:9, 13-14; 19:8).

3) Their crowns – (stephanos) are victors crowns (cf. 2:10) which are appropriate for the redeemed, not angels.



Revelation 4:5 (CSB) Flashes of **lightning** and **rumblings** and peals of **thunder** came from the throne. Seven fiery torches were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God.

**Lightnings, rumblings** (“sounds”) and **thunder** speak of the awesome power and strength that emanates from God’s throne. It reminds us of God coming down at Mt. Sinai in Exodus 19:16. But these things also meant then what they mean now: a storm; and in Revelation, a storm of God’s judgment.

A dramatic landscape with a sunset or sunrise over a field of tall grass and a path leading into the distance. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow. The grass is tall and green, and the path is a mix of dirt and gravel, leading towards the horizon.

Revelation 4:5 (CSB) Flashes of lightning and rumblings and peals of thunder came from the throne. Seven fiery torches were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God.

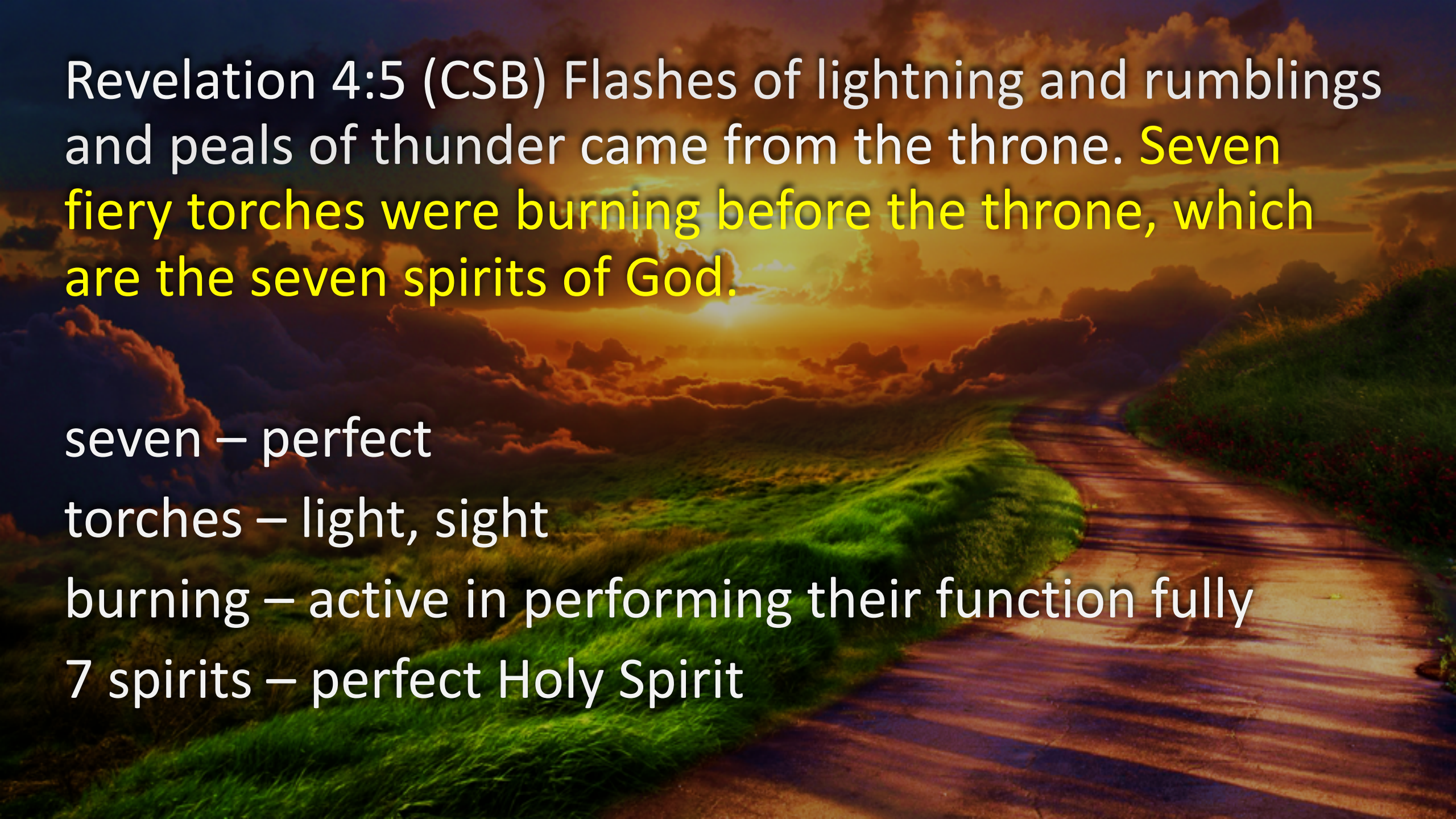
In Revelation 8:5 they follow the breaking of the 7th seal; in 11:19 the blowing of the 7th trumpet and in 16:18 the pouring out of the 7th bowl. In 10:4, 7 thunders are about to come forth, but in mercy God seals them up.

A dramatic landscape featuring a sunset or sunrise over a field of tall grass and a paved road. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow. The grass is a vibrant green, and the road is a dark, winding path that leads into the distance. The overall mood is one of awe and grandeur.

Revelation 4:5 (CSB) Flashes of **lightning** and **rumblings** and peals of **thunder** came from the throne. Seven fiery torches were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God.

In awesome strength God will judge this rebellious and sinful world, and each time He does His glorious power and strength will be revealed.



A dramatic landscape featuring a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and a bright light source is visible on the horizon, casting a golden glow. In the foreground, a path leads through lush green hills and fields, with a large bush of red flowers on the right side. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

Revelation 4:5 (CSB) Flashes of lightning and rumblings and peals of thunder came from the throne. **Seven fiery torches were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God.**

seven – perfect

torches – light, sight

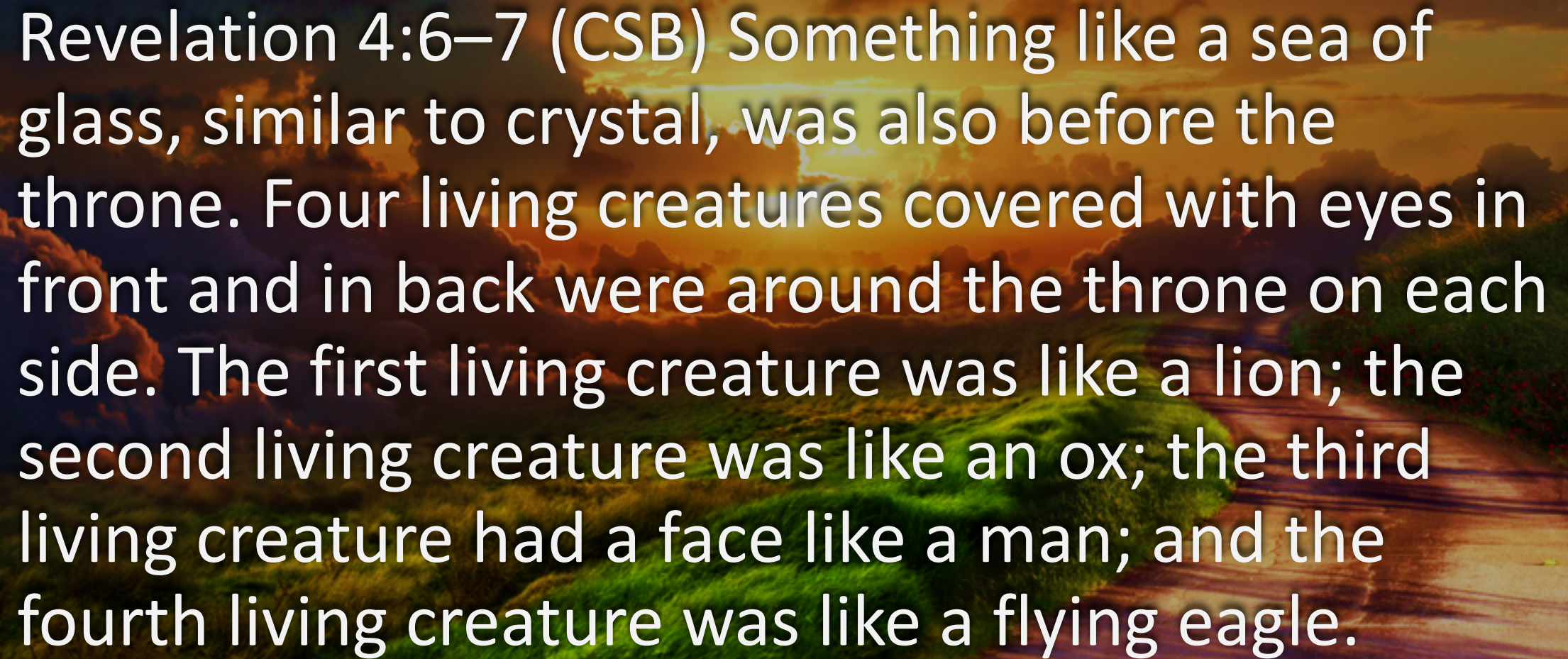
burning – active in performing their function fully

7 spirits – perfect Holy Spirit

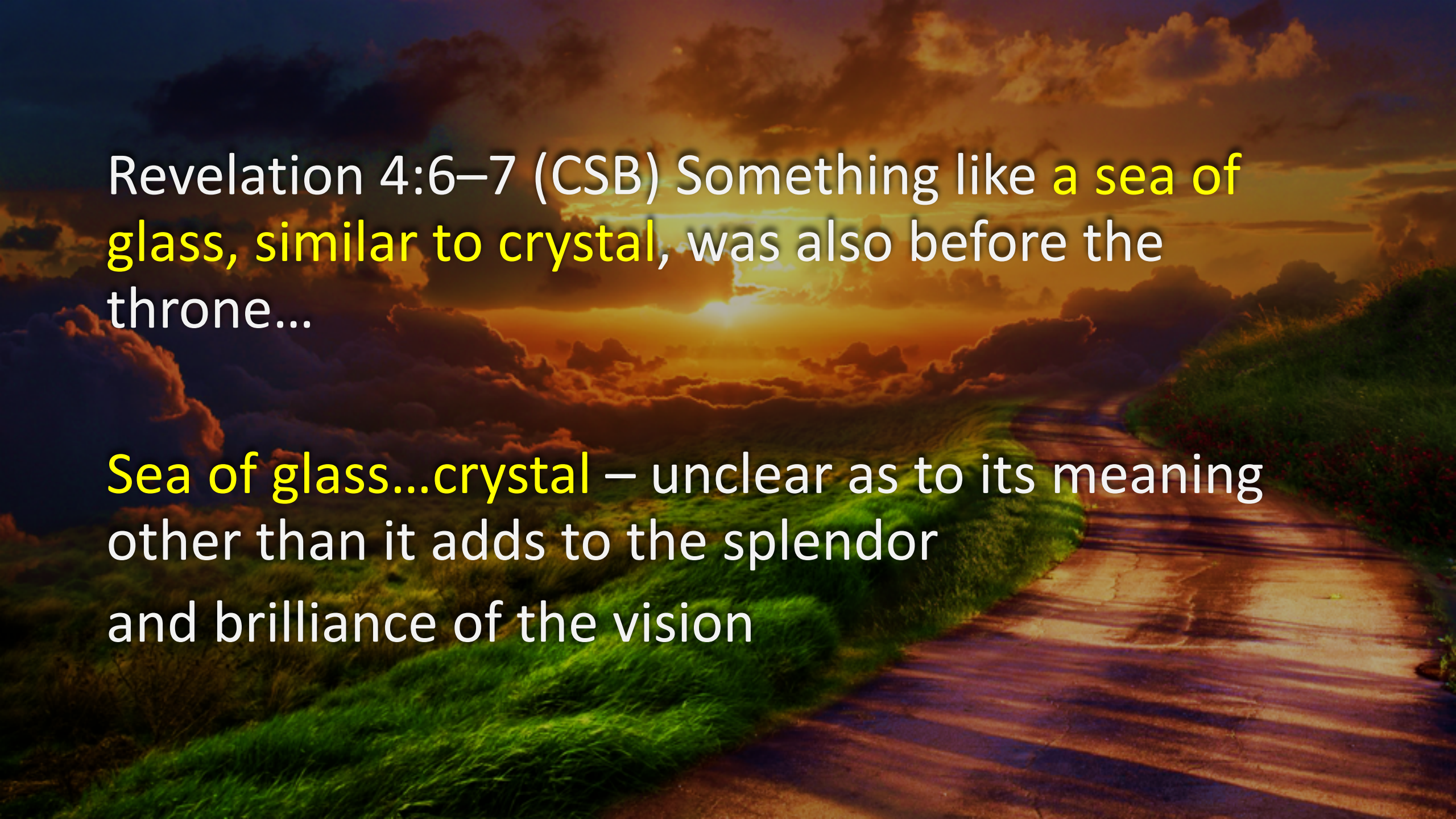
A dramatic landscape with a sunset or sunrise over a field of tall grass and a dirt road. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow. The grass is tall and green, and the dirt road is visible in the foreground.

Revelation 4:5 (CSB) Flashes of lightning and rumblings and peals of thunder came from the throne. **Seven fiery torches were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God.**

The perfect light bearing Spirit who convicts us of our sin is the same Spirit who is forever blazing before the throne in heaven. He is perfect in His person, perfect in his position and perfect in His performance

A scenic landscape featuring a dirt road that curves through a field of tall green grass. The sky is filled with dramatic, golden-brown clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Revelation 4:6–7 (CSB) Something like a sea of glass, similar to crystal, was also before the throne. Four living creatures covered with eyes in front and in back were around the throne on each side. The first living creature was like a lion; the second living creature was like an ox; the third living creature had a face like a man; and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.

A dramatic landscape with a sunset or sunrise over a field of tall grass and a path leading into the distance. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow. The grass is tall and green, and the path is a mix of dirt and gravel, leading towards the horizon.

Revelation 4:6–7 (CSB) Something like **a sea of glass, similar to crystal**, was also before the throne...

**Sea of glass...crystal** – unclear as to its meaning other than it adds to the splendor and brilliance of the vision



Revelation 4:6–7 (CSB) Something like **a sea of glass, similar to crystal**, was also before the throne...

Some believe it represents:

1) There is no more need for cleansing from sin in heaven. 2) God's transcendence, holiness and his unapproachability. 3) In mirror-like reflection the fact that all is revealed to God.

A dramatic landscape featuring a sunset or sunrise over a field of tall grass and a winding path. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow. The path is a dirt road that curves through the grassy field, leading towards the horizon. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

As you look into heaven...

1. Survey the Throne of God (vs. 1-3)

2. See the Twenty-four Elders (4-6a)

3. Study the Four-Living Creatures (6b-11)









**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**  
IS THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY



Shown here are two depictions of creatures known as *lamassu* that guarded the entrance to rooms in the Assyrian king's palace at Nimrud (865–860 BC). Both have wings and a human face. One has the body of a lion, the other has the body of a bull.





Revelation 4:6 ... **Four living creatures** covered with eyes in front and in back were around the throne on each side.

**Four living creatures** (zoa) – angelic beings of worship. Appearance of Ezekiel's cherubim (Ezk. 1:5-25; 10:1-22). Activity of Isaiah's seraphim (Isa. 6:2-3).



Revelation 4:6 ... Four living creatures covered with **eyes in front and in back** were around the throne on each side.

**Eyes in front and back** – emphasizes full knowledge, alertness and wisdom. Adrian Rogers calls them “God’s cheerleaders!”



Revelation 4:7 (CSB) The first living creature was like a **lion**;

**Lion** – Emblematic of God's authority. The lion is the king of the animal world and represents strength, honor. That which is noble, respected. It was the mightiest among the wild animals.



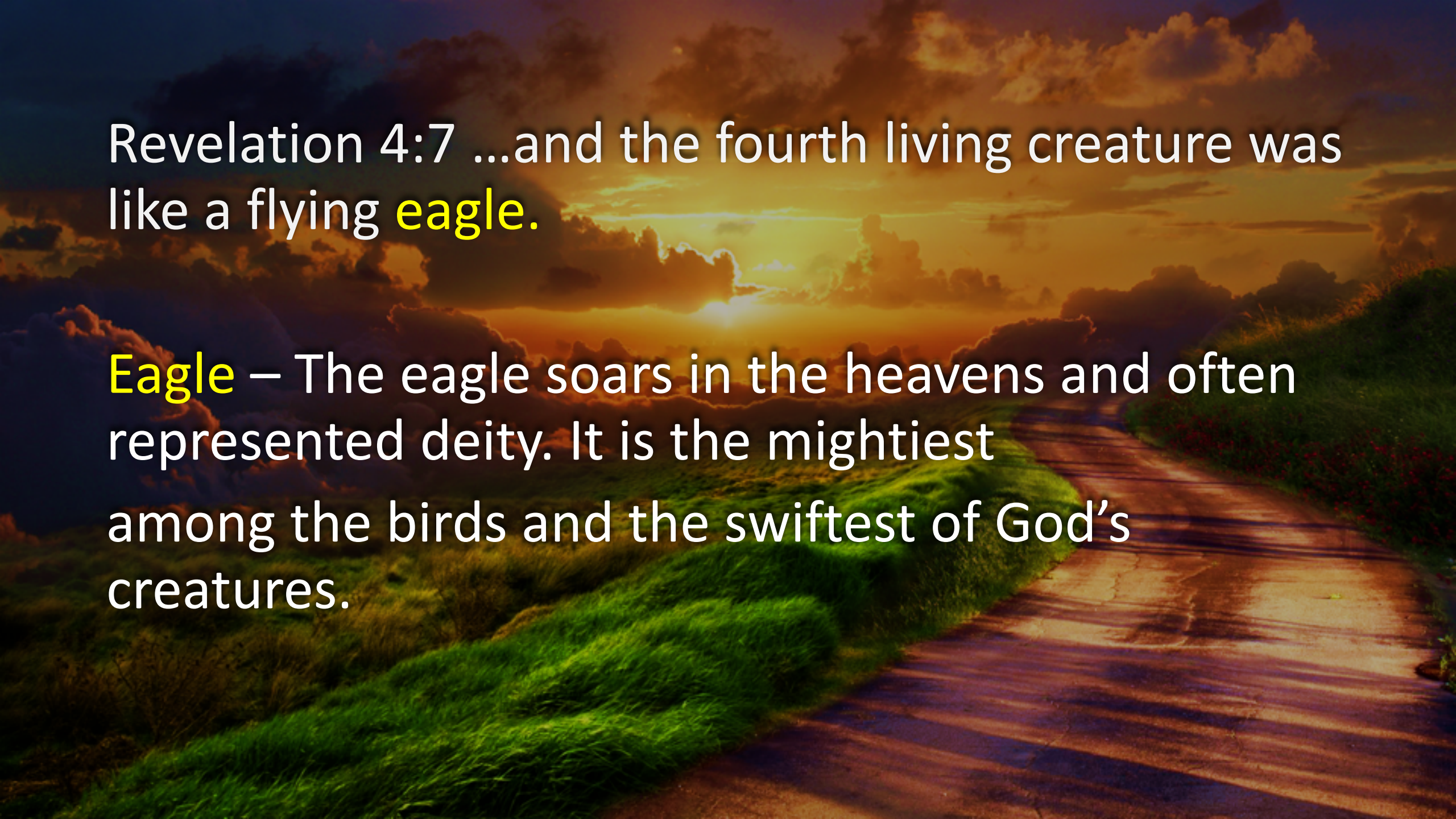
Revelation 4:7 ...the second living creature was like an **ox**...

**Ox** – Emblematic of God's activity. The ox denotes a character of service, strength, great power exercised for the benefit of others. It was the mightiest among the domesticated animals.

A sunset over a field with a path leading towards the horizon. The sky is filled with golden and orange clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The foreground shows a dirt path winding through a green field.

Revelation 4:7 ...the third living creature had a face like a **man**...

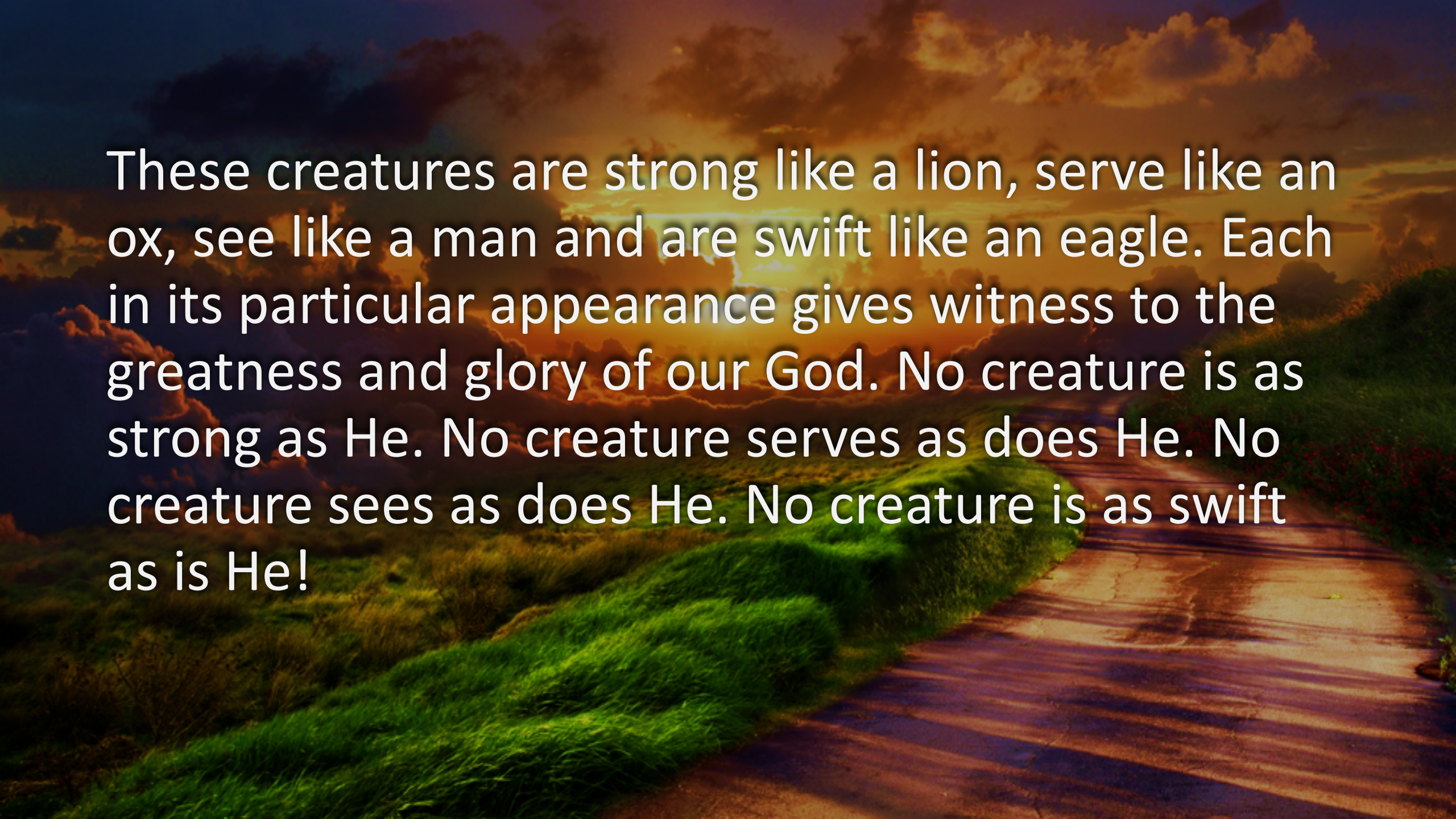
**Man** – The man is emblematic of God's majesty. Man is the pinnacle of creation, and only man has a "face" in this vision. He is intellectual, intelligent, rational and spiritual. He is the mightiest of all that God made. He is God's vice – regent on earth.



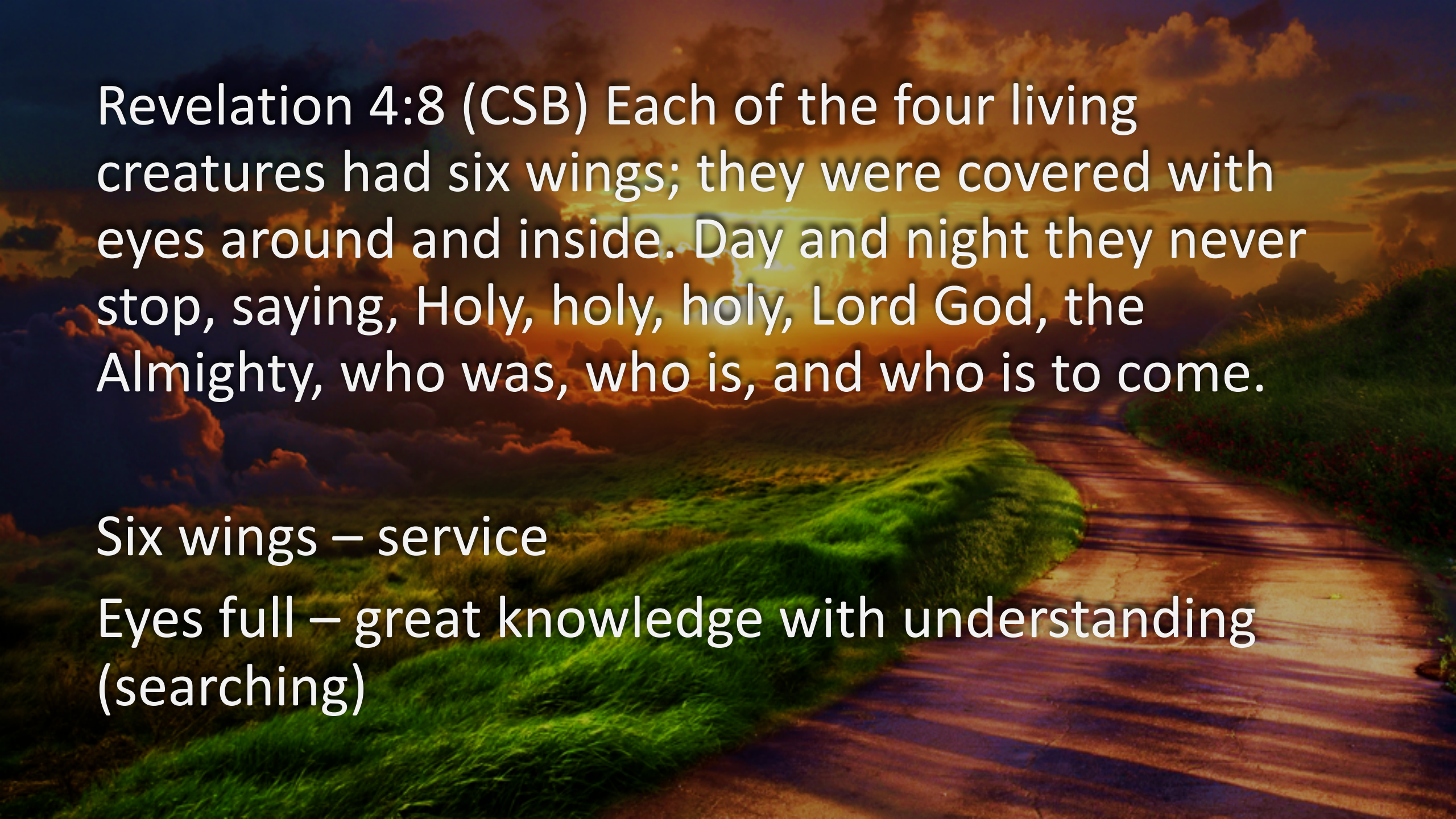
Revelation 4:7 ...and the fourth living creature was like a flying **eagle**.

**Eagle** – The eagle soars in the heavens and often represented deity. It is the mightiest among the birds and the swiftest of God's creatures.



A scenic landscape featuring a dirt road that curves through a field of tall green grass. The sky is filled with dramatic, golden-brown clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and majestic.

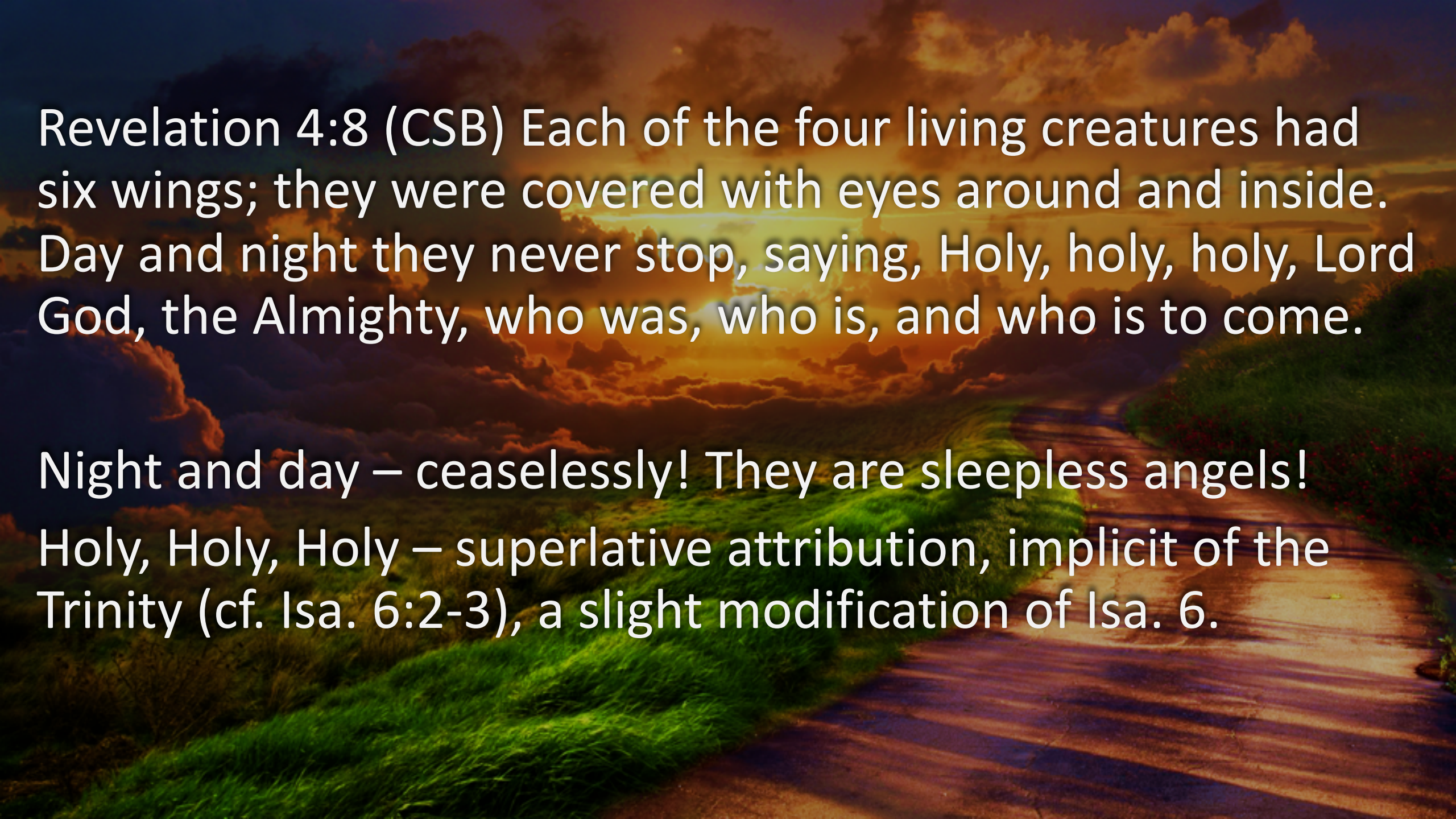
These creatures are strong like a lion, serve like an ox, see like a man and are swift like an eagle. Each in its particular appearance gives witness to the greatness and glory of our God. No creature is as strong as He. No creature serves as does He. No creature sees as does He. No creature is as swift as is He!



Revelation 4:8 (CSB) Each of the four living creatures had six wings; they were covered with eyes around and inside. Day and night they never stop, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come.

Six wings – service

Eyes full – great knowledge with understanding  
(searching)



Revelation 4:8 (CSB) Each of the four living creatures had six wings; they were covered with eyes around and inside. Day and night they never stop, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come.

Night and day – ceaselessly! They are sleepless angels!  
Holy, Holy, Holy – superlative attribution, implicit of the Trinity (cf. Isa. 6:2-3), a slight modification of Isa. 6.



Revelation 4:8 ...Day and night they never stop, saying, Holy, holy, holy, **Lord God, the Almighty**, who was, who is, and who is to come.

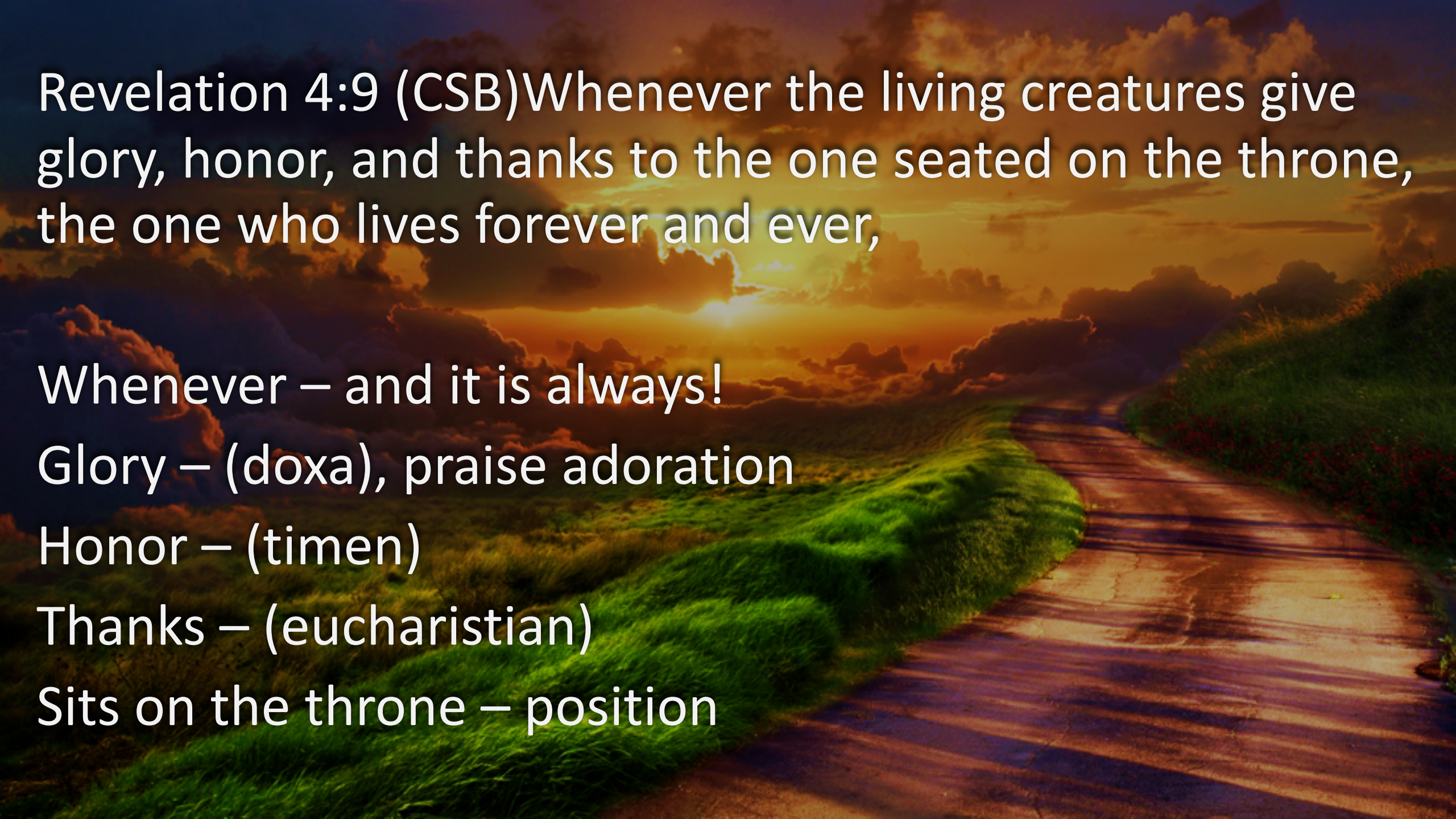
**Lord God Almighty** – used only of God by Jewish and Christian writers. Sovereign Lord (cf. 1:8). Found 10 times in the New Testament, 9 in Revelation (except II Cor. 6:18, which quotes the Old Testament). He is of unlimited power and might. Nothing is beyond His control.



Revelation 4:8 ...Day and night they never stop, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, **who was, who is, and who is to come.**

Who was and is and is to come – looks to the I AM of Ex. 3:14. The Lord of creation is the Lord of the ages.

Beasley-Murray, “The future is characterized by His coming” (p. 118). This is the theme of the remainder of Revelation.



Revelation 4:9 (CSB) Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one seated on the throne, the one who lives forever and ever,

Whenever – and it is always!

Glory – (doxa), praise adoration

Honor – (timen)

Thanks – (eucharistian)

Sits on the throne – position



Revelation 4:9 (CSB) Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one seated on the throne, the one who lives forever and ever,

Whenever – and it is always!

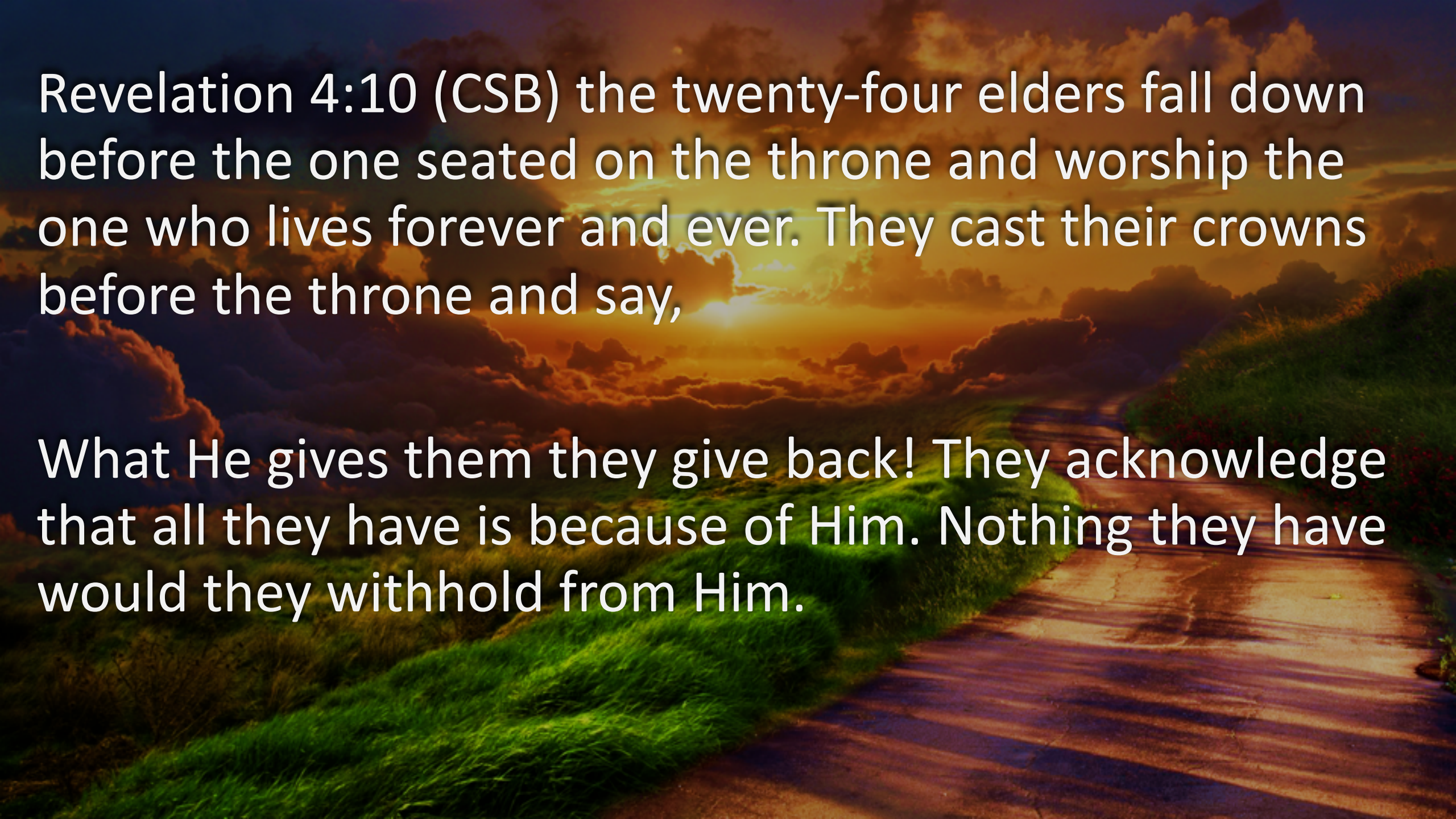
Glory – (doxa), praise adoration

Honor – (timen)

Thanks – (eucharistian)

Sits on the throne – position

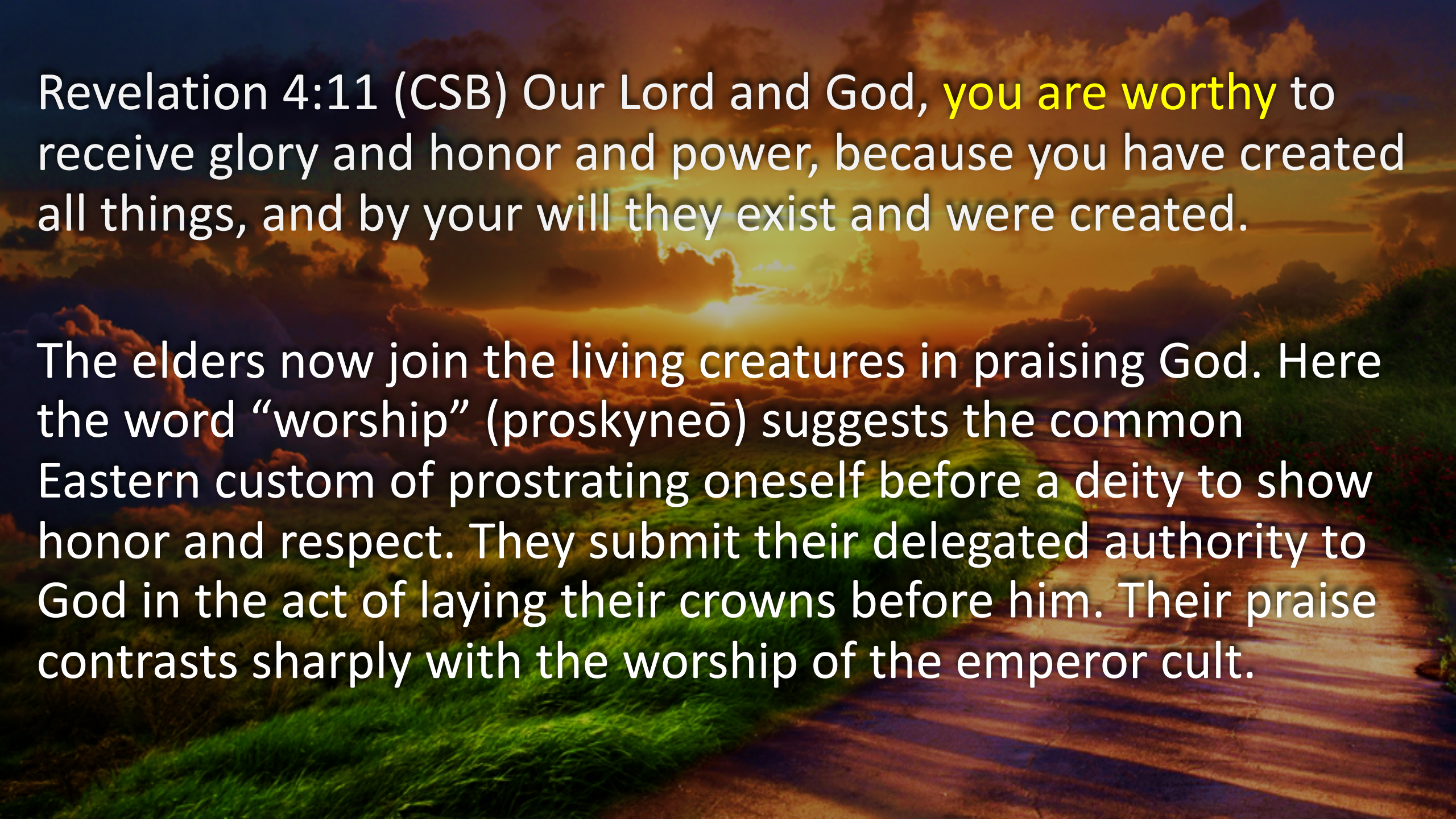
Lives forever and ever – permanence

A scenic landscape featuring a paved road that curves through lush green fields. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, and a bright light source, likely the sun, is visible behind the clouds, creating a warm, golden glow. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

Revelation 4:10 (CSB) the twenty-four elders fall down before the one seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne and say,

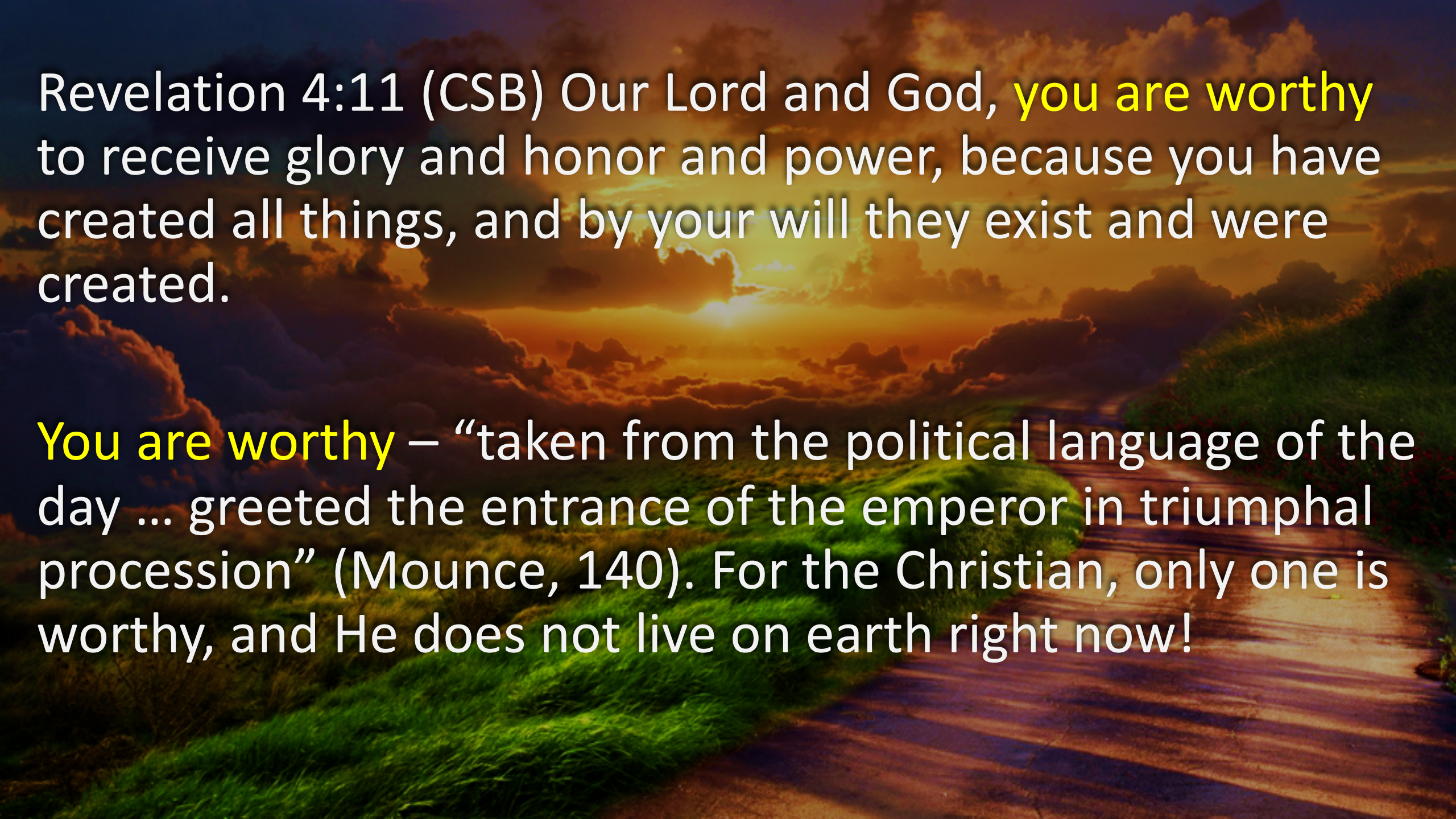
What He gives them they give back! They acknowledge that all they have is because of Him. Nothing they have would they withhold from Him.



A sunset over a field with a path leading towards the horizon. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The foreground shows a dirt path winding through a grassy field.

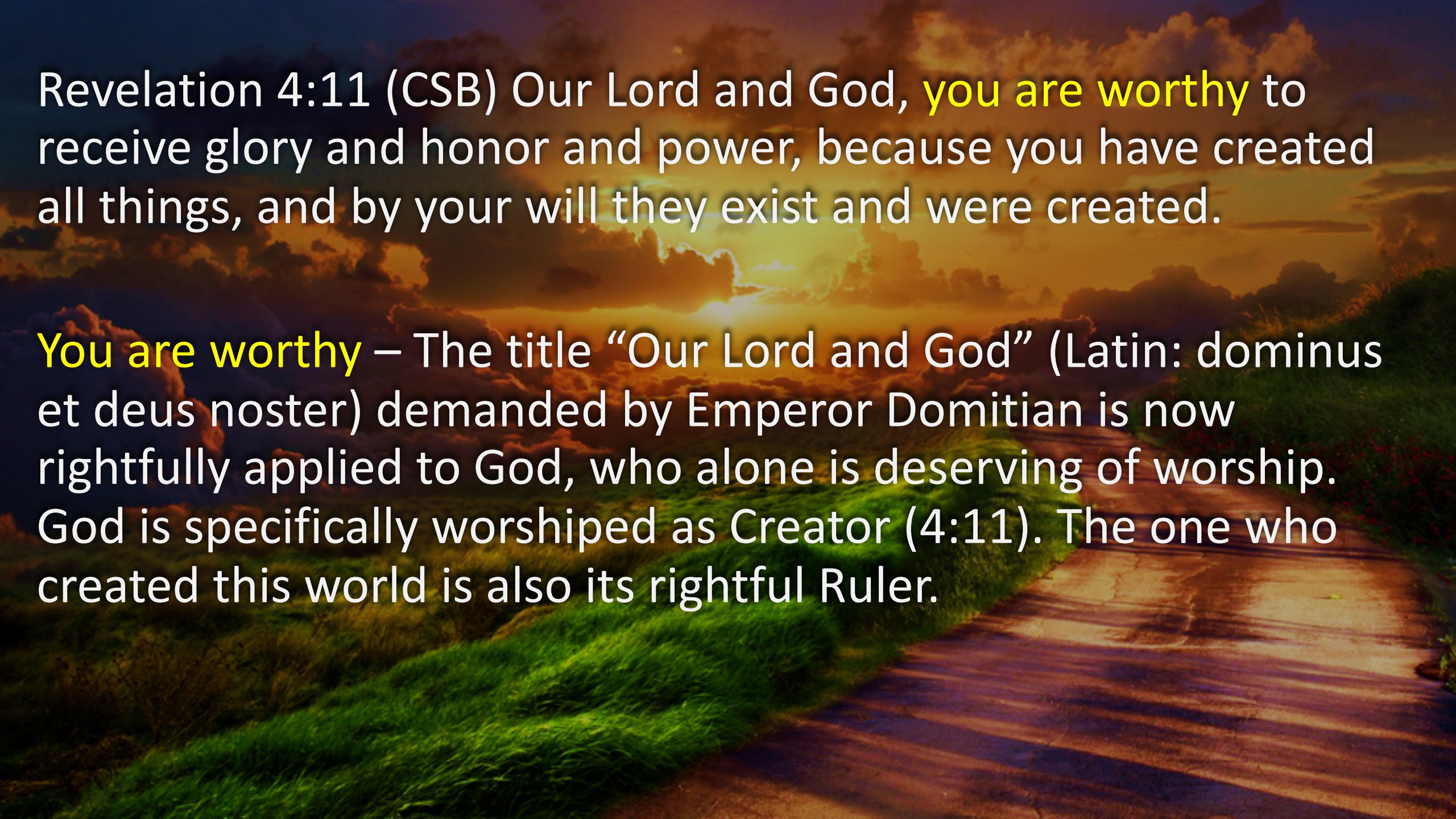
Revelation 4:11 (CSB) Our Lord and God, **you are worthy** to receive glory and honor and power, because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.

The elders now join the living creatures in praising God. Here the word “worship” (proskyneō) suggests the common Eastern custom of prostrating oneself before a deity to show honor and respect. They submit their delegated authority to God in the act of laying their crowns before him. Their praise contrasts sharply with the worship of the emperor cult.



Revelation 4:11 (CSB) Our Lord and God, **you are worthy** to receive glory and honor and power, because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.

**You are worthy** – “taken from the political language of the day ... greeted the entrance of the emperor in triumphal procession” (Mounce, 140). For the Christian, only one is worthy, and He does not live on earth right now!



Revelation 4:11 (CSB) Our Lord and God, **you are worthy** to receive glory and honor and power, because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.

**You are worthy** – The title “Our Lord and God” (Latin: dominus et deus noster) demanded by Emperor Domitian is now rightfully applied to God, who alone is deserving of worship. God is specifically worshiped as Creator (4:11). The one who created this world is also its rightful Ruler.



Revelation 4:11 (CSB) Our Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, **because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.**

God willed it and it happened. God spoke it and it was so. Such a God is worthy of our praise. Such a God is worthy of our worship.

## Key Themes of Revelation 4:1–11

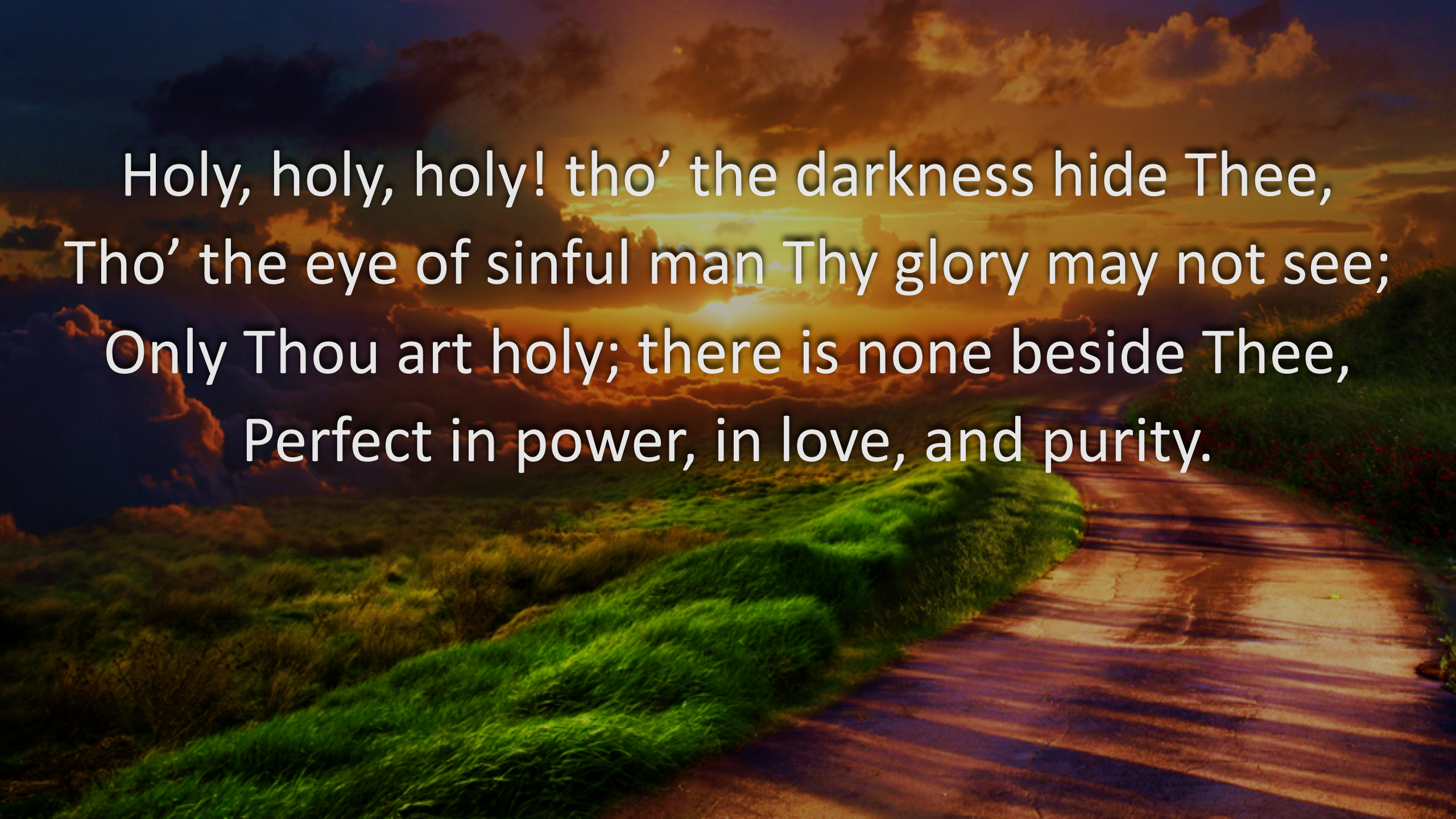
- God is firmly seated on his throne as the sovereign Ruler of the universe.
- God's eternal greatness stands in contrast to the temporary, counterfeit powers of earthly pagan rulers.
- God alone is worthy of worship as the holy, powerful, eternal Creator.
- The chief activity of heaven is worship.

A scenic landscape featuring a dirt road that curves through a field of tall, green grass. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, and a bright sun is setting or rising in the distance, creating a warm, golden glow. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

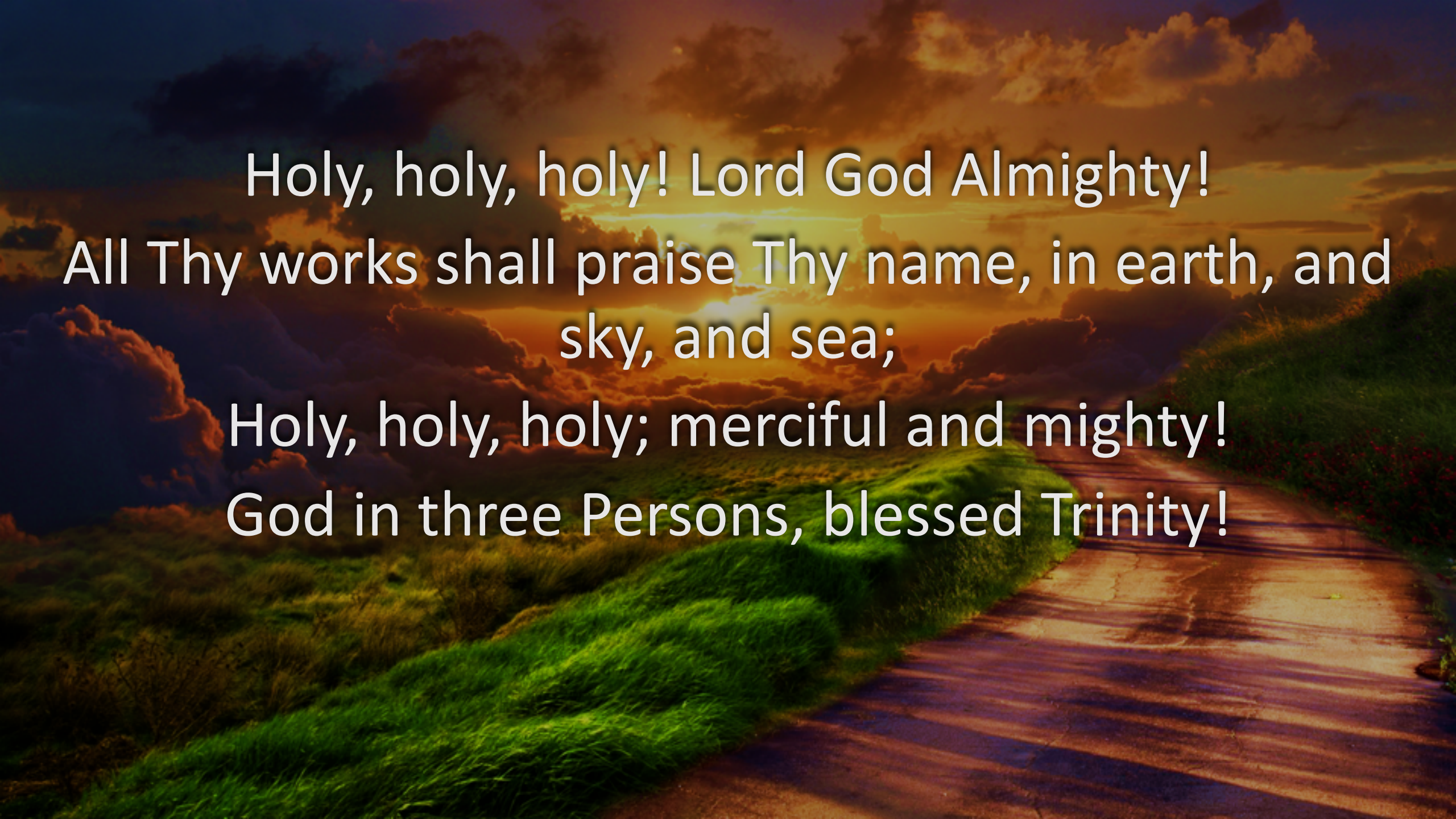
Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the  
glassy sea;

Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who, wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

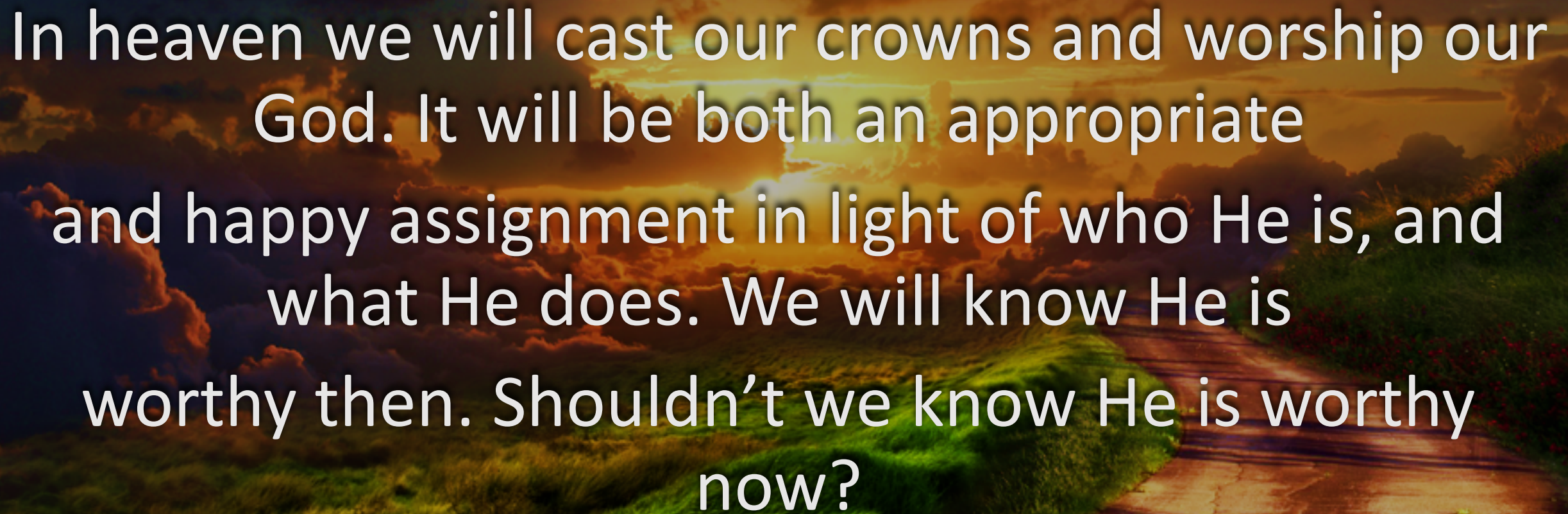


Holy, holy, holy! tho' the darkness hide Thee,  
Tho' the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.



Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth, and  
sky, and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

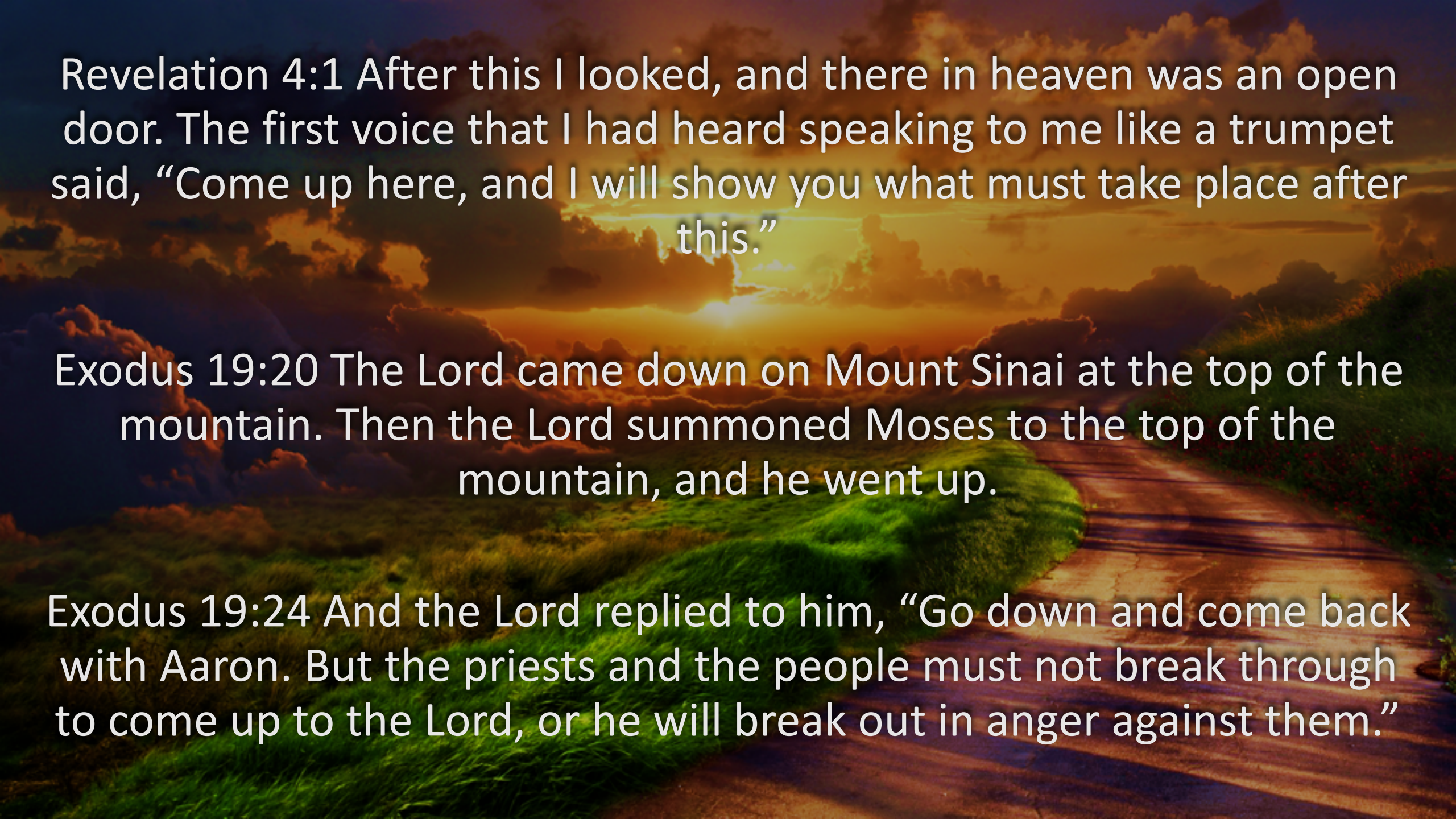


A scenic landscape featuring a paved path that curves through lush green grass. The sky is filled with dramatic, golden-hued clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

In heaven we will cast our crowns and worship our God. It will be both an appropriate and happy assignment in light of who He is, and what He does. We will know He is worthy then. Shouldn't we know He is worthy now?

# Old Testament Connections

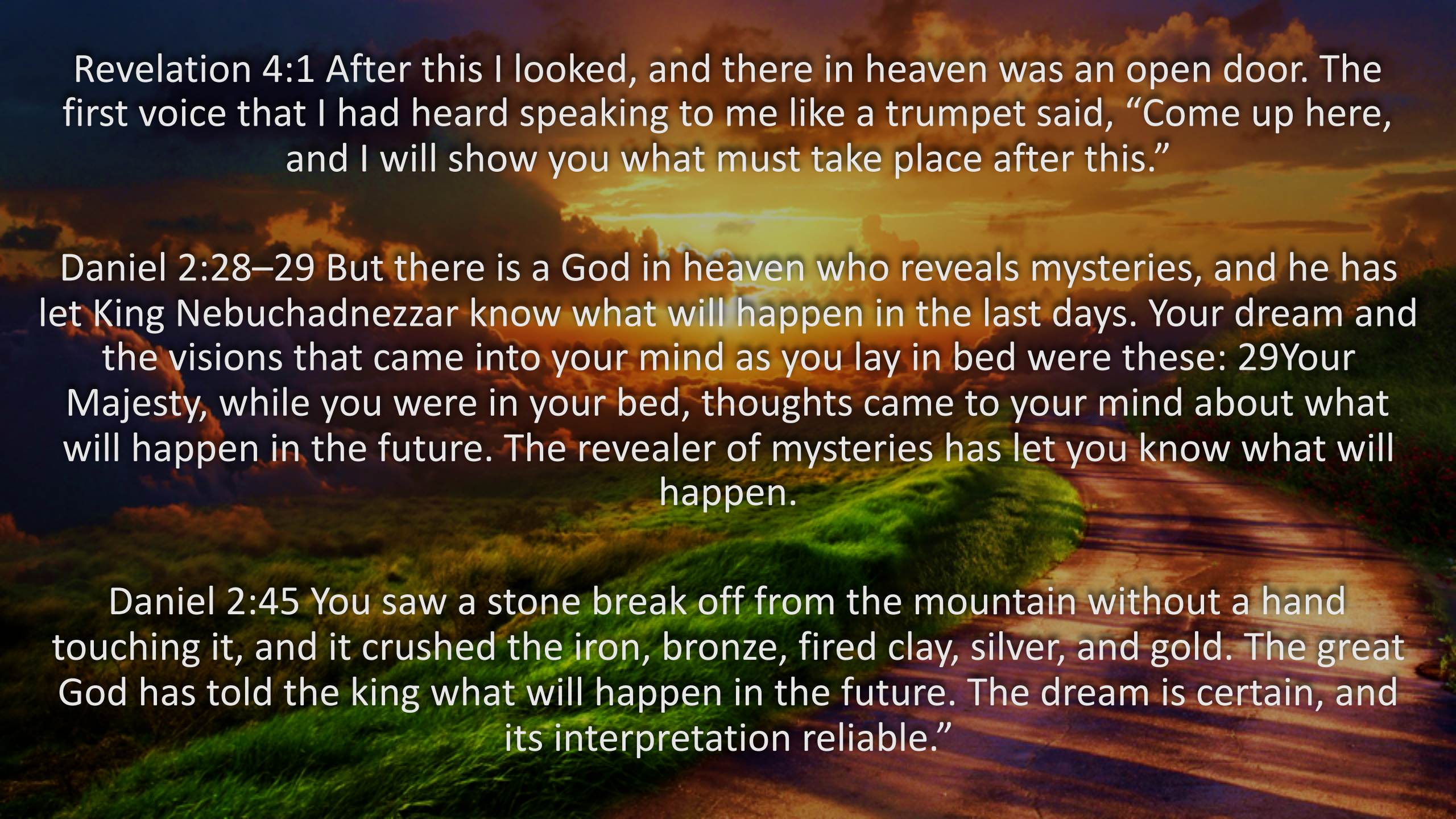




Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and there in heaven was an open door. The first voice that I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

Exodus 19:20 The Lord came down on Mount Sinai at the top of the mountain. Then the Lord summoned Moses to the top of the mountain, and he went up.

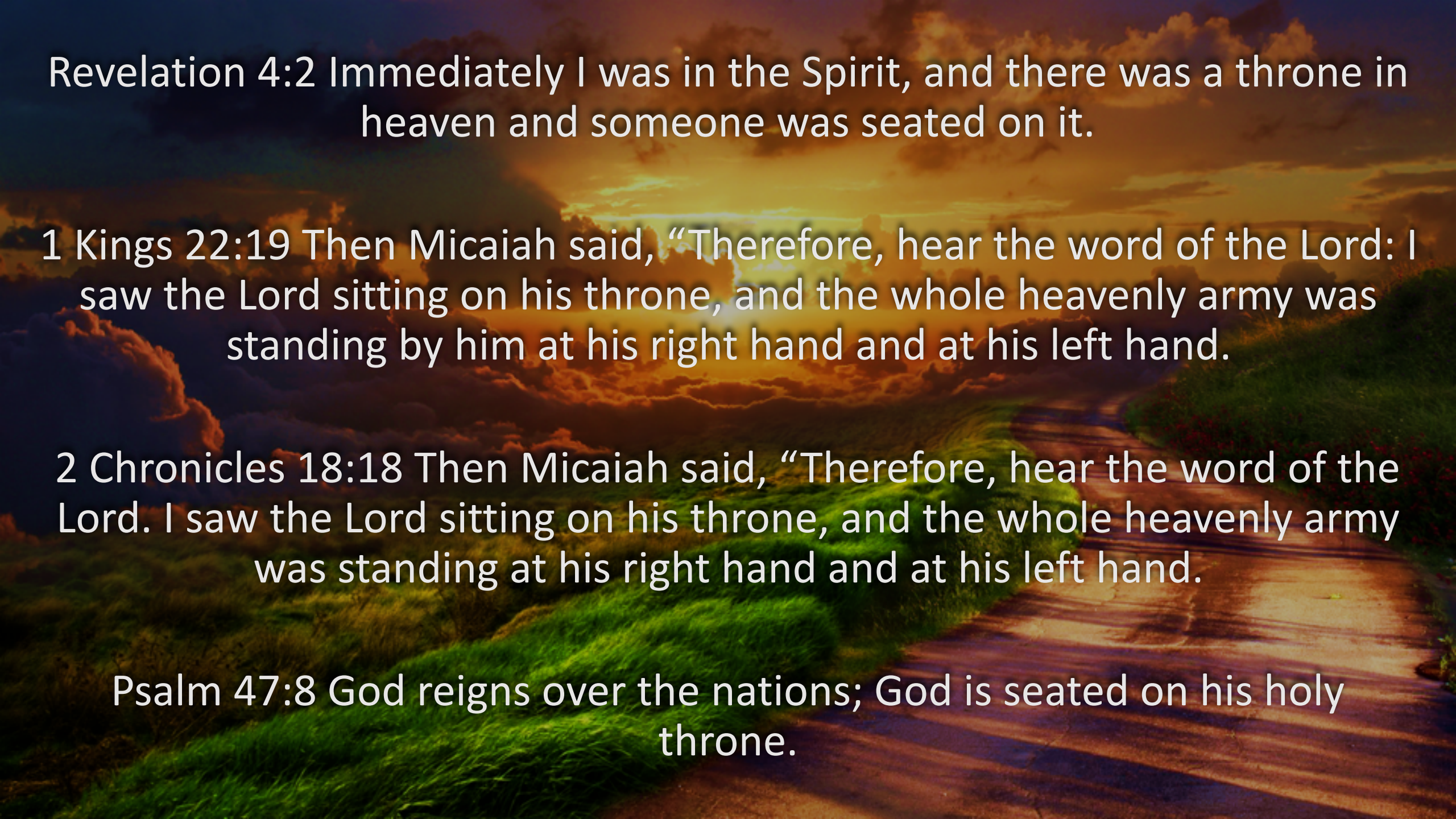
Exodus 19:24 And the Lord replied to him, “Go down and come back with Aaron. But the priests and the people must not break through to come up to the Lord, or he will break out in anger against them.”



Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and there in heaven was an open door. The first voice that I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

Daniel 2:28–29 But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has let King Nebuchadnezzar know what will happen in the last days. Your dream and the visions that came into your mind as you lay in bed were these: 29Your Majesty, while you were in your bed, thoughts came to your mind about what will happen in the future. The revealer of mysteries has let you know what will happen.

Daniel 2:45 You saw a stone break off from the mountain without a hand touching it, and it crushed the iron, bronze, fired clay, silver, and gold. The great God has told the king what will happen in the future. The dream is certain, and its interpretation reliable.”

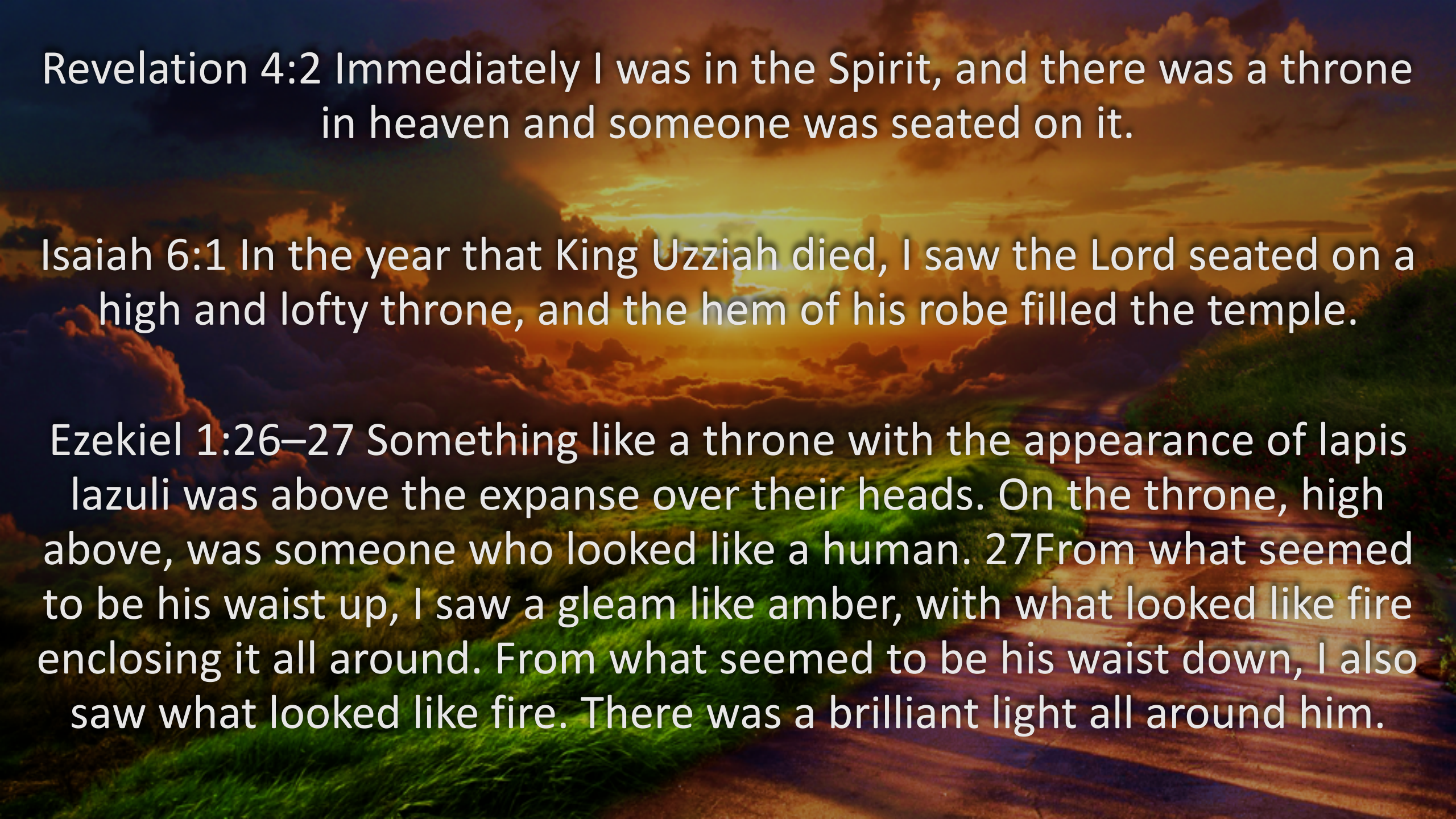
A dramatic landscape with a sunset or sunrise over a field of tall grass and a dirt road. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow. The grass is tall and green, and the dirt road is visible in the foreground.

Revelation 4:2 Immediately I was in the Spirit, and there was a throne in heaven and someone was seated on it.

1 Kings 22:19 Then Micaiah said, “Therefore, hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and the whole heavenly army was standing by him at his right hand and at his left hand.

2 Chronicles 18:18 Then Micaiah said, “Therefore, hear the word of the Lord. I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and the whole heavenly army was standing at his right hand and at his left hand.

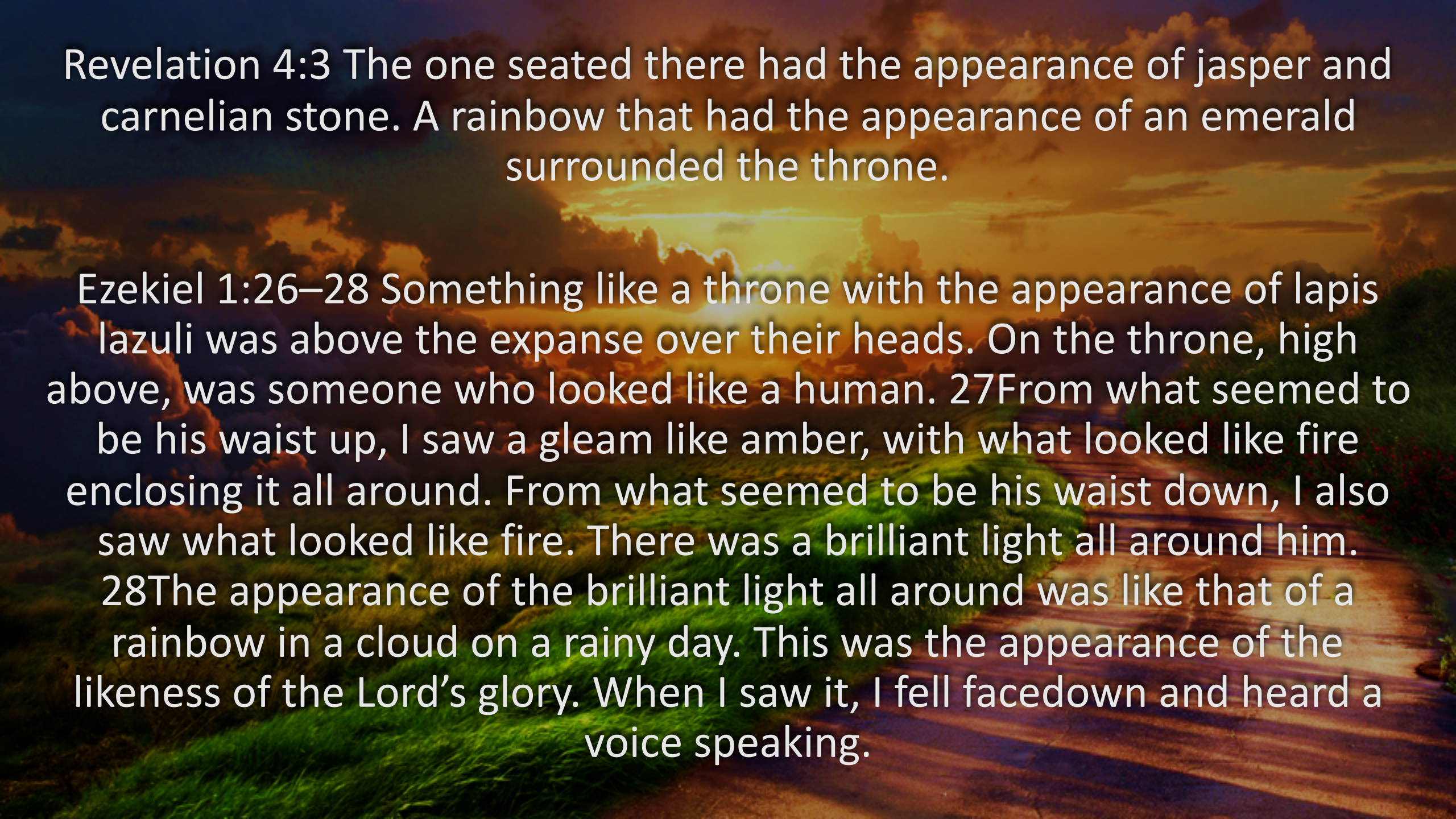
Psalms 47:8 God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.



Revelation 4:2 Immediately I was in the Spirit, and there was a throne in heaven and someone was seated on it.

Isaiah 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, and the hem of his robe filled the temple.

Ezekiel 1:26–27 Something like a throne with the appearance of lapis lazuli was above the expanse over their heads. On the throne, high above, was someone who looked like a human. 27 From what seemed to be his waist up, I saw a gleam like amber, with what looked like fire enclosing it all around. From what seemed to be his waist down, I also saw what looked like fire. There was a brilliant light all around him.

A sunset over a field with a rainbow in the sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the clouds and the grass. A rainbow is visible in the sky, arching over the field. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.

Revelation 4:3 The one seated there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian stone. A rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald surrounded the throne.

Ezekiel 1:26–28 Something like a throne with the appearance of lapis lazuli was above the expanse over their heads. On the throne, high above, was someone who looked like a human. 27From what seemed to be his waist up, I saw a gleam like amber, with what looked like fire enclosing it all around. From what seemed to be his waist down, I also saw what looked like fire. There was a brilliant light all around him. 28The appearance of the brilliant light all around was like that of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day. This was the appearance of the likeness of the Lord's glory. When I saw it, I fell facedown and heard a voice speaking.

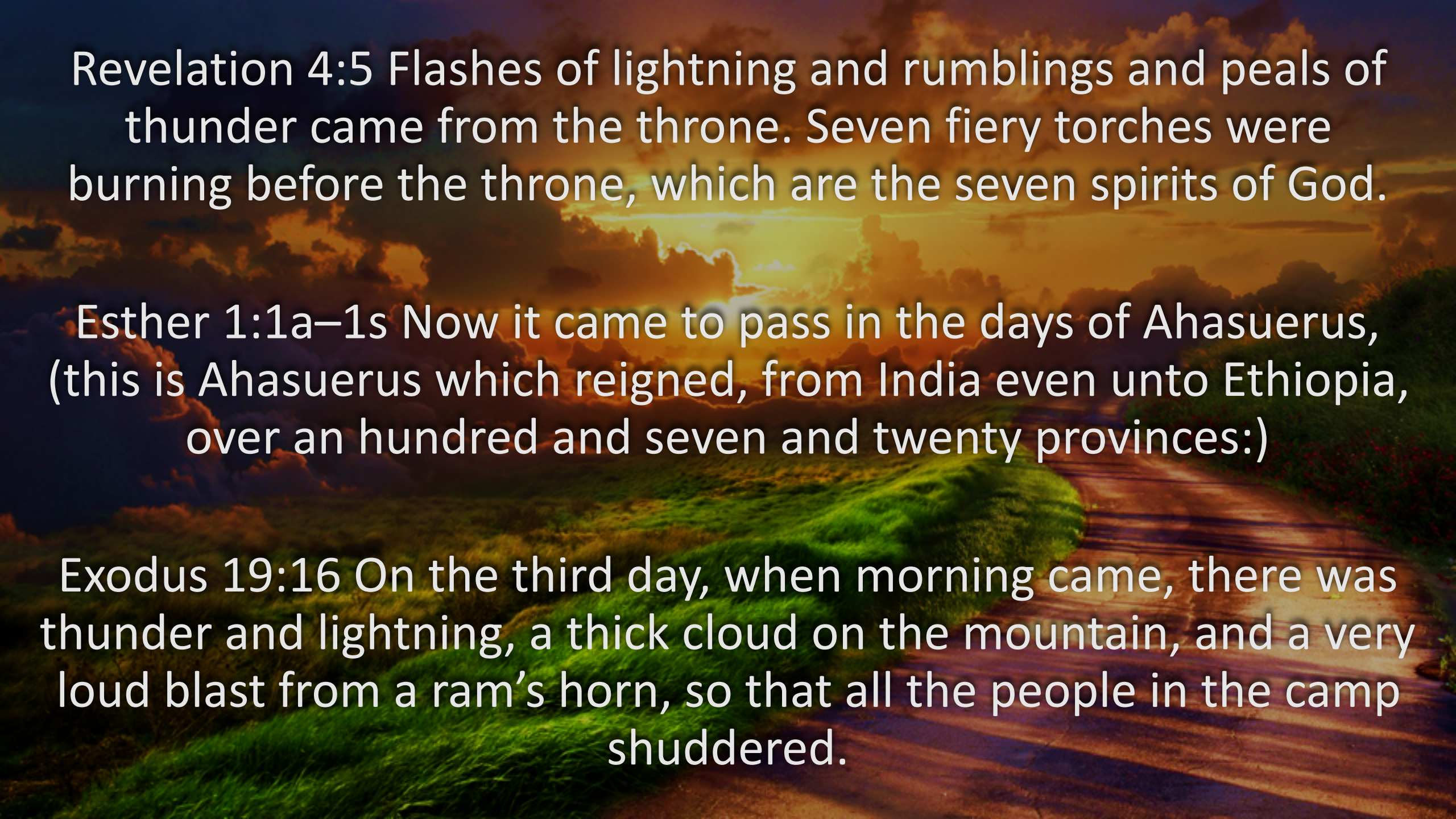
## Revelation 4:4

4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones sat twenty-four elders dressed in white clothes, with golden crowns on their heads.

## Isaiah 24:23

23 The moon will be put to shame and the sun disgraced, because the Lord of Armies will reign as king on Mount Zion in Jerusalem, and he will display his glory in the presence of his elders.

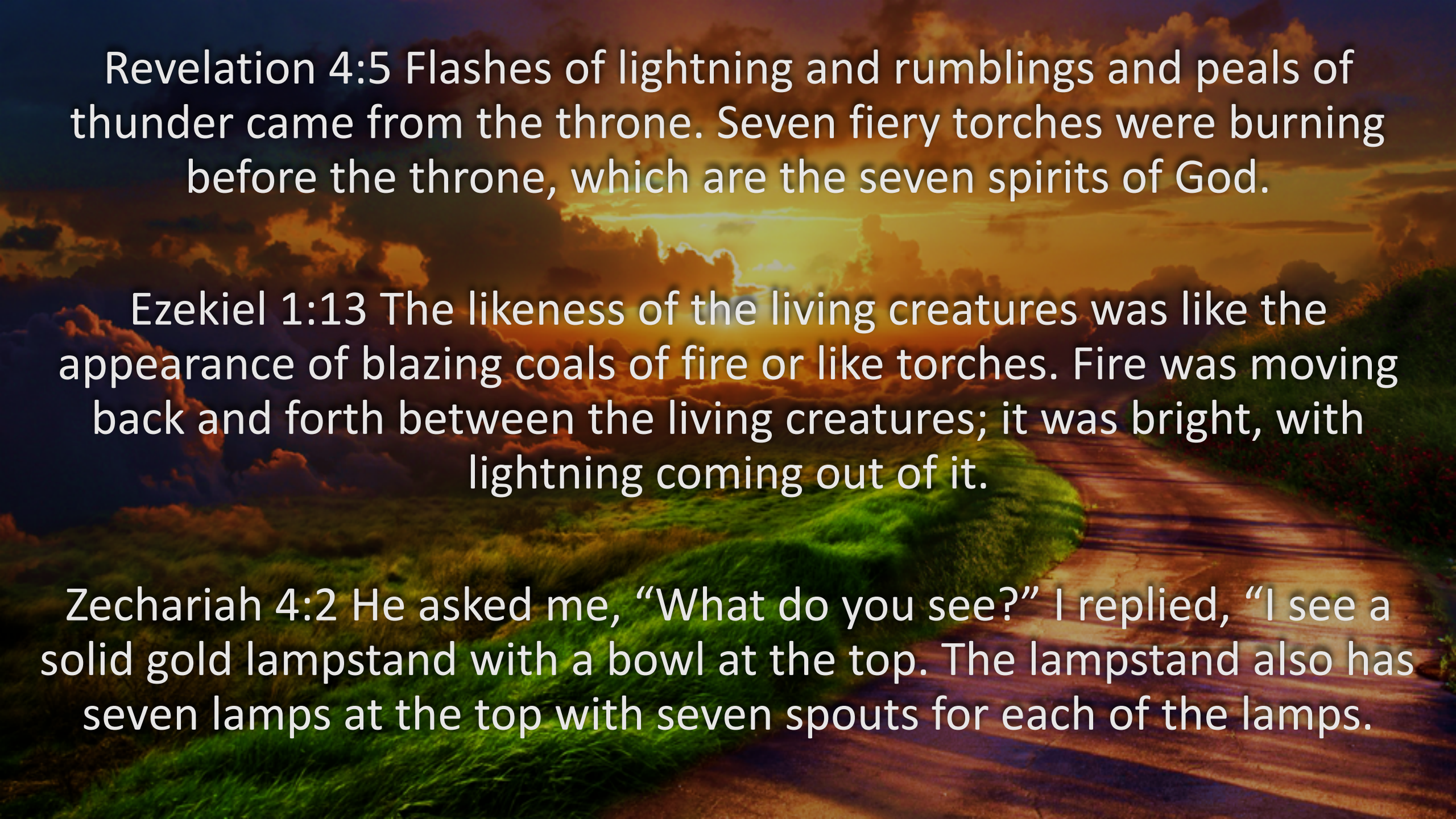




Revelation 4:5 Flashes of lightning and rumblings and peals of thunder came from the throne. Seven fiery torches were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God.

Esther 1:1a–1s Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:)

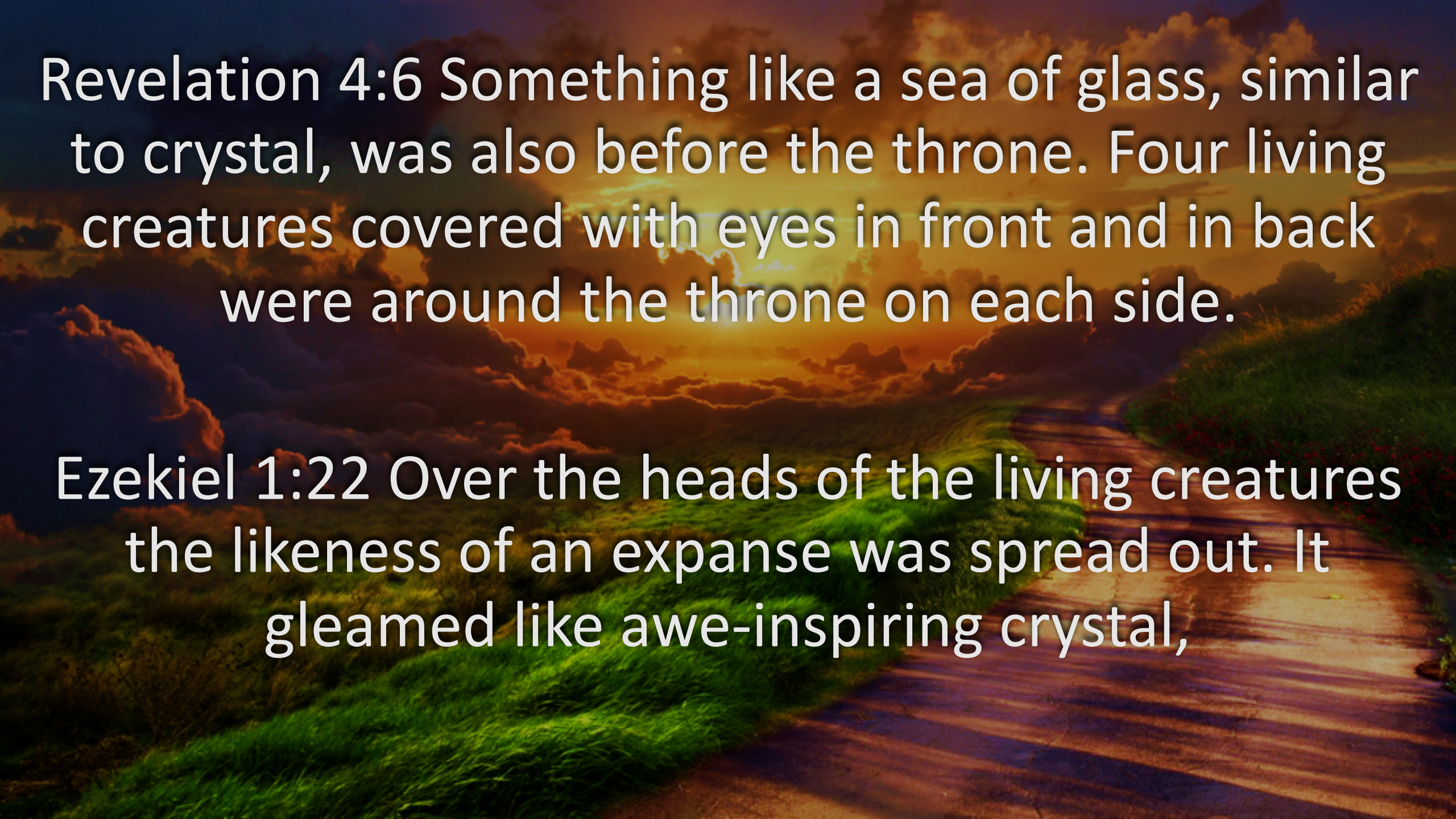
Exodus 19:16 On the third day, when morning came, there was thunder and lightning, a thick cloud on the mountain, and a very loud blast from a ram's horn, so that all the people in the camp shuddered.



Revelation 4:5 Flashes of lightning and rumblings and peals of thunder came from the throne. Seven fiery torches were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God.

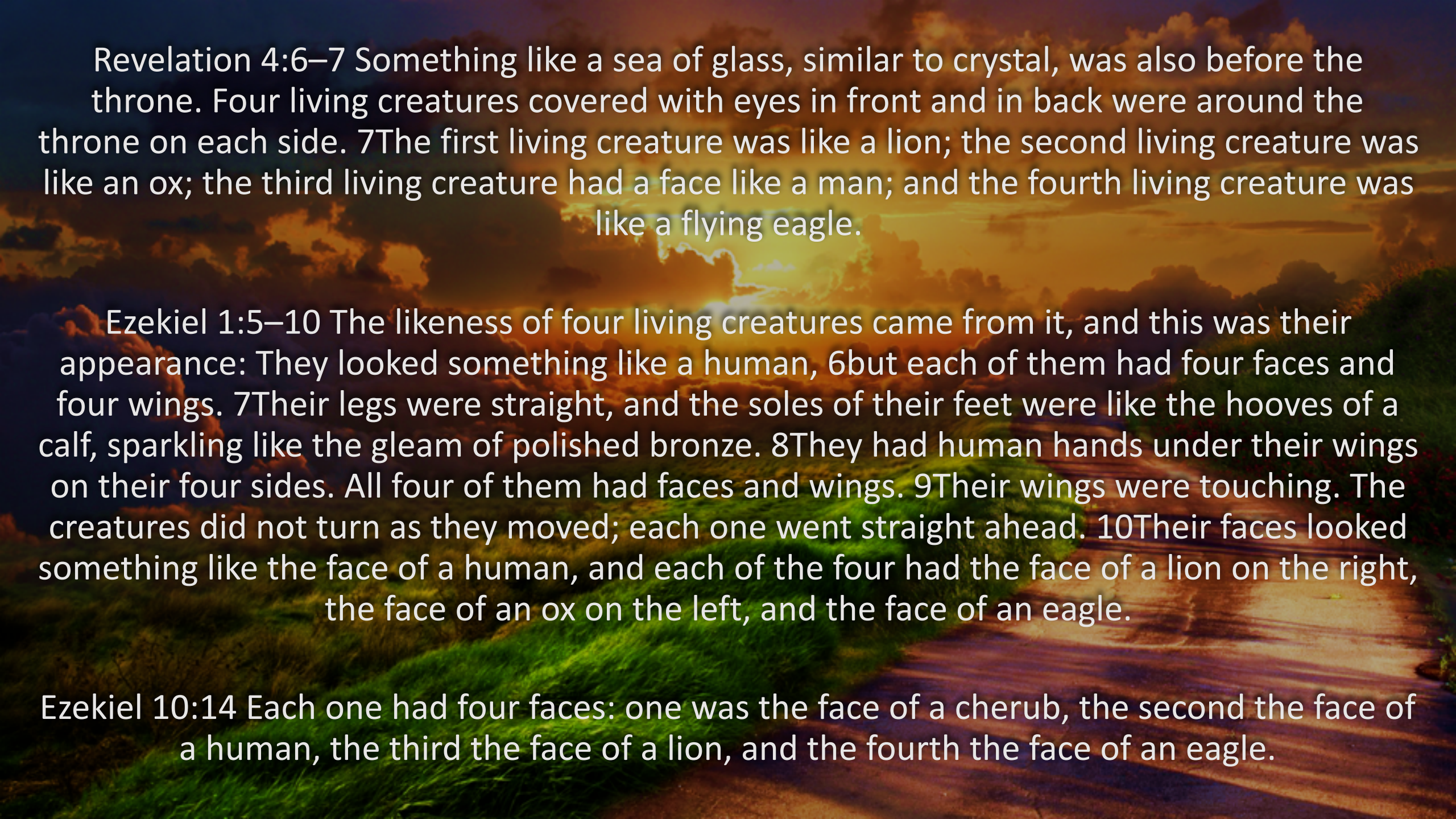
Ezekiel 1:13 The likeness of the living creatures was like the appearance of blazing coals of fire or like torches. Fire was moving back and forth between the living creatures; it was bright, with lightning coming out of it.

Zechariah 4:2 He asked me, "What do you see?" I replied, "I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top. The lampstand also has seven lamps at the top with seven spouts for each of the lamps.

A dramatic landscape featuring a dirt road that curves through a field of tall green grass. The sky is filled with large, dark clouds, and a bright light source, likely the sun, is positioned behind the clouds, creating a strong glow and casting long shadows. The overall atmosphere is one of natural beauty and tranquility.

Revelation 4:6 Something like a sea of glass, similar to crystal, was also before the throne. Four living creatures covered with eyes in front and in back were around the throne on each side.

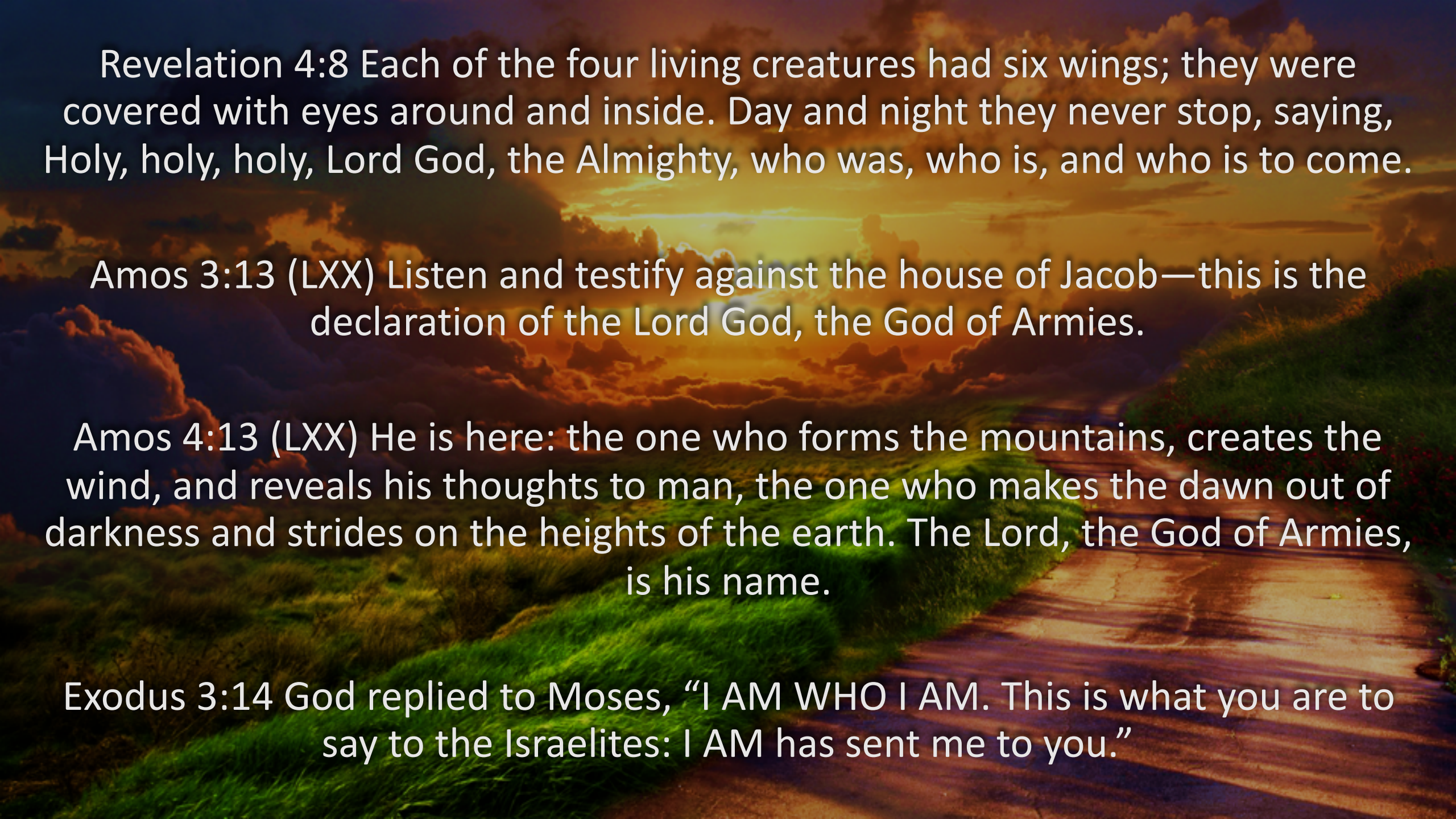
Ezekiel 1:22 Over the heads of the living creatures the likeness of an expanse was spread out. It gleamed like awe-inspiring crystal,



Revelation 4:6–7 Something like a sea of glass, similar to crystal, was also before the throne. Four living creatures covered with eyes in front and in back were around the throne on each side. 7The first living creature was like a lion; the second living creature was like an ox; the third living creature had a face like a man; and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.

Ezekiel 1:5–10 The likeness of four living creatures came from it, and this was their appearance: They looked something like a human, 6but each of them had four faces and four wings. 7Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the hooves of a calf, sparkling like the gleam of polished bronze. 8They had human hands under their wings on their four sides. All four of them had faces and wings. 9Their wings were touching. The creatures did not turn as they moved; each one went straight ahead. 10Their faces looked something like the face of a human, and each of the four had the face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle.

Ezekiel 10:14 Each one had four faces: one was the face of a cherub, the second the face of a human, the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.

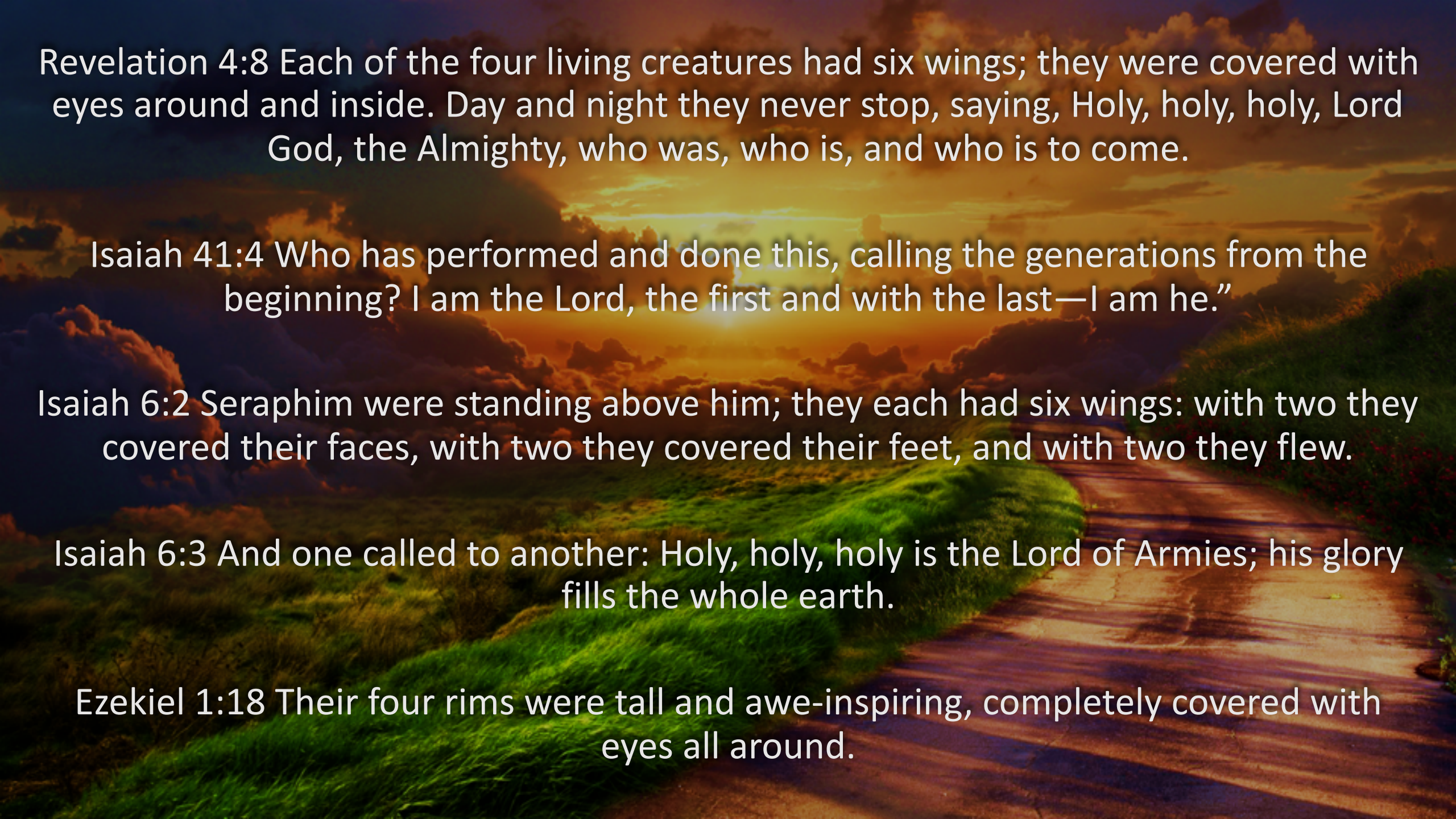


Revelation 4:8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings; they were covered with eyes around and inside. Day and night they never stop, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amos 3:13 (LXX) Listen and testify against the house of Jacob—this is the declaration of the Lord God, the God of Armies.

Amos 4:13 (LXX) He is here: the one who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals his thoughts to man, the one who makes the dawn out of darkness and strides on the heights of the earth. The Lord, the God of Armies, is his name.

Exodus 3:14 God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.”



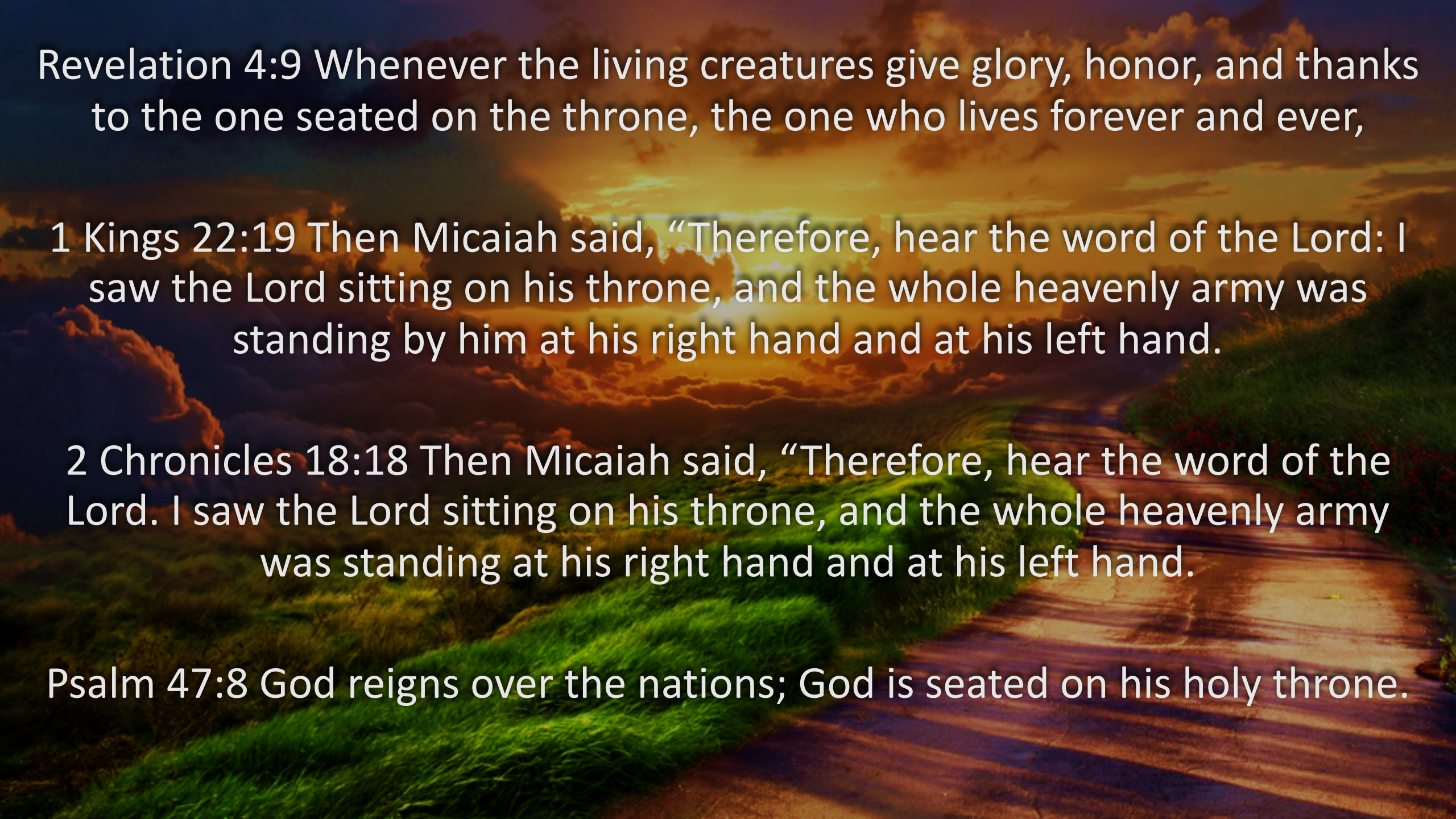
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Isaiah 41:4 Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I am the Lord, the first and with the last—I am he.”

Isaiah 6:2 Seraphim were standing above him; they each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

Isaiah 6:3 And one called to another: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Armies; his glory fills the whole earth.

Ezekiel 1:18 Their four rims were tall and awe-inspiring, completely covered with eyes all around.

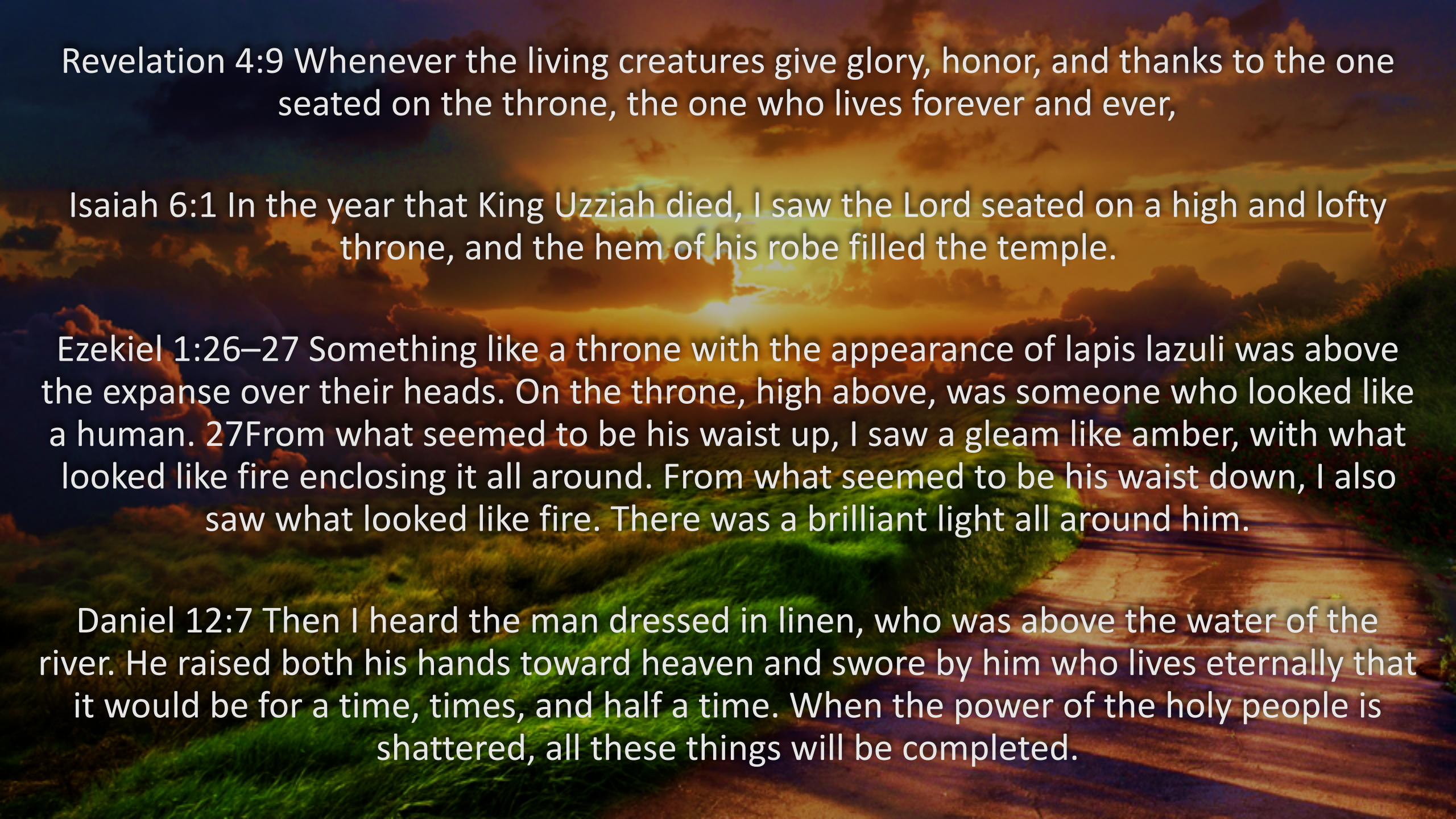


Revelation 4:9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one seated on the throne, the one who lives forever and ever,

1 Kings 22:19 Then Micaiah said, “Therefore, hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and the whole heavenly army was standing by him at his right hand and at his left hand.

2 Chronicles 18:18 Then Micaiah said, “Therefore, hear the word of the Lord. I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and the whole heavenly army was standing at his right hand and at his left hand.

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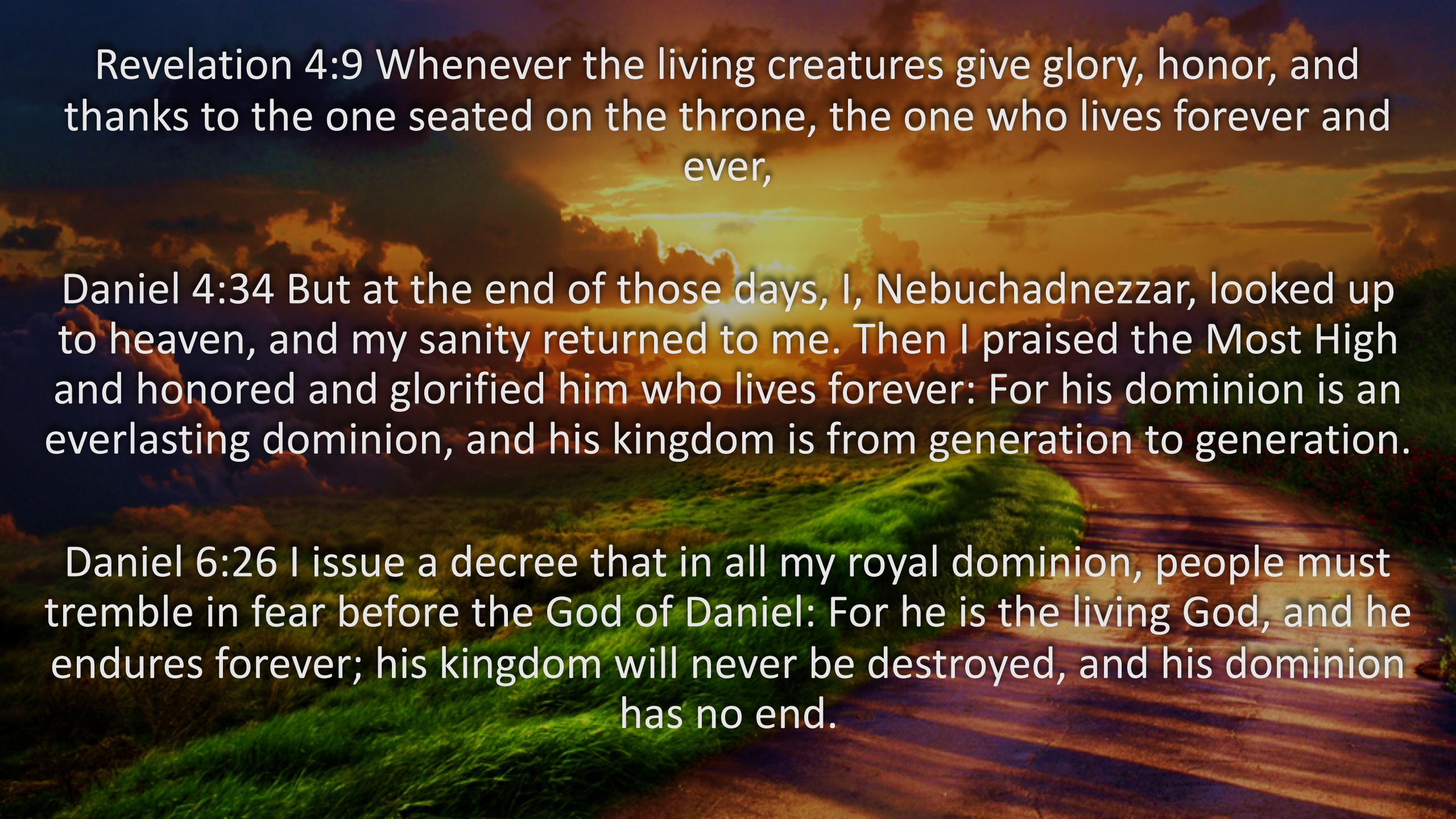
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Daniel 12:7 Then I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the water of the river. He raised both his hands toward heaven and swore by him who lives eternally that it would be for a time, times, and half a time. When the power of the holy people is shattered, all these things will be completed.

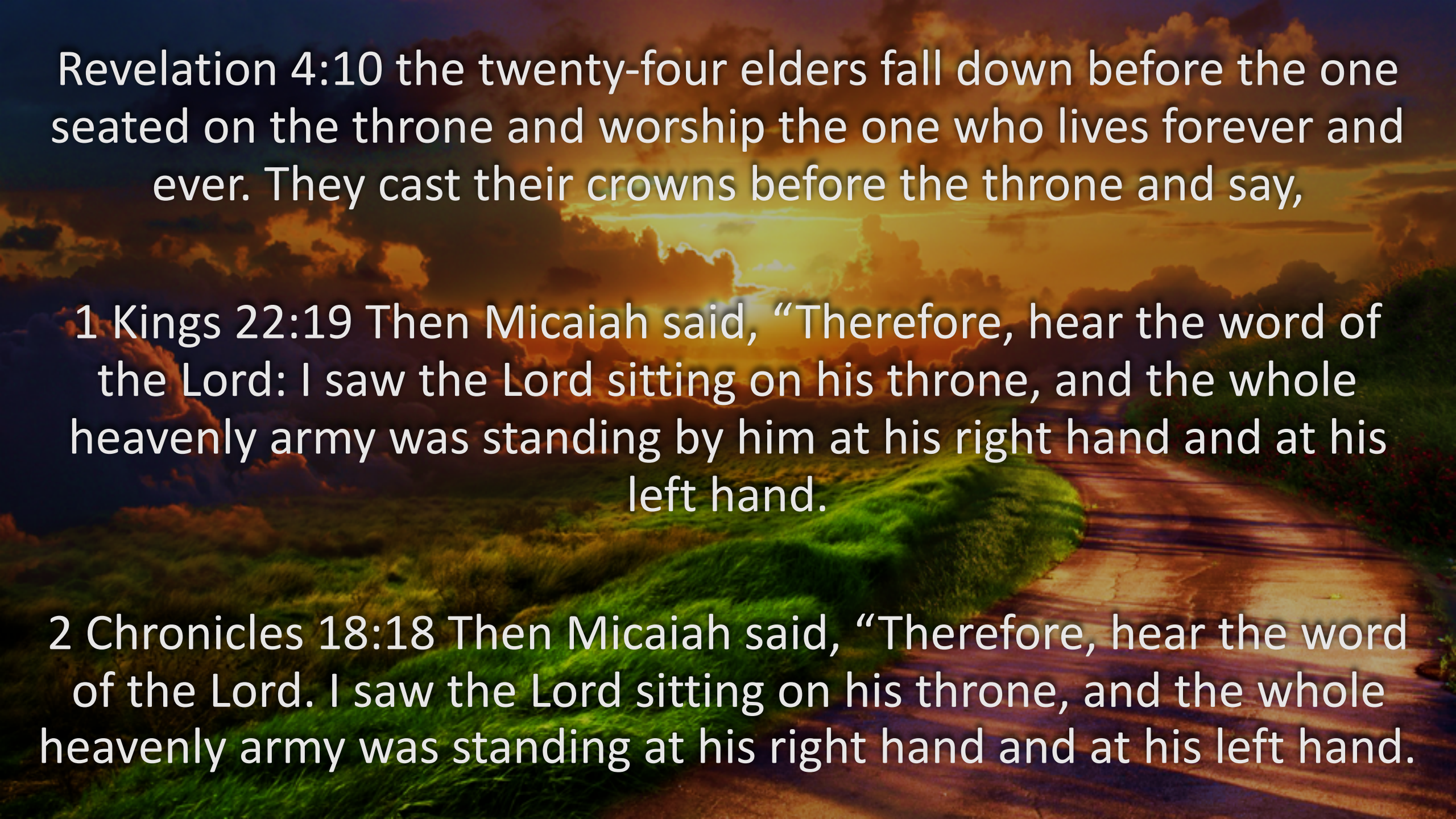




Revelation 4:9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one seated on the throne, the one who lives forever and ever,

Daniel 4:34 But at the end of those days, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven, and my sanity returned to me. Then I praised the Most High and honored and glorified him who lives forever: For his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation.

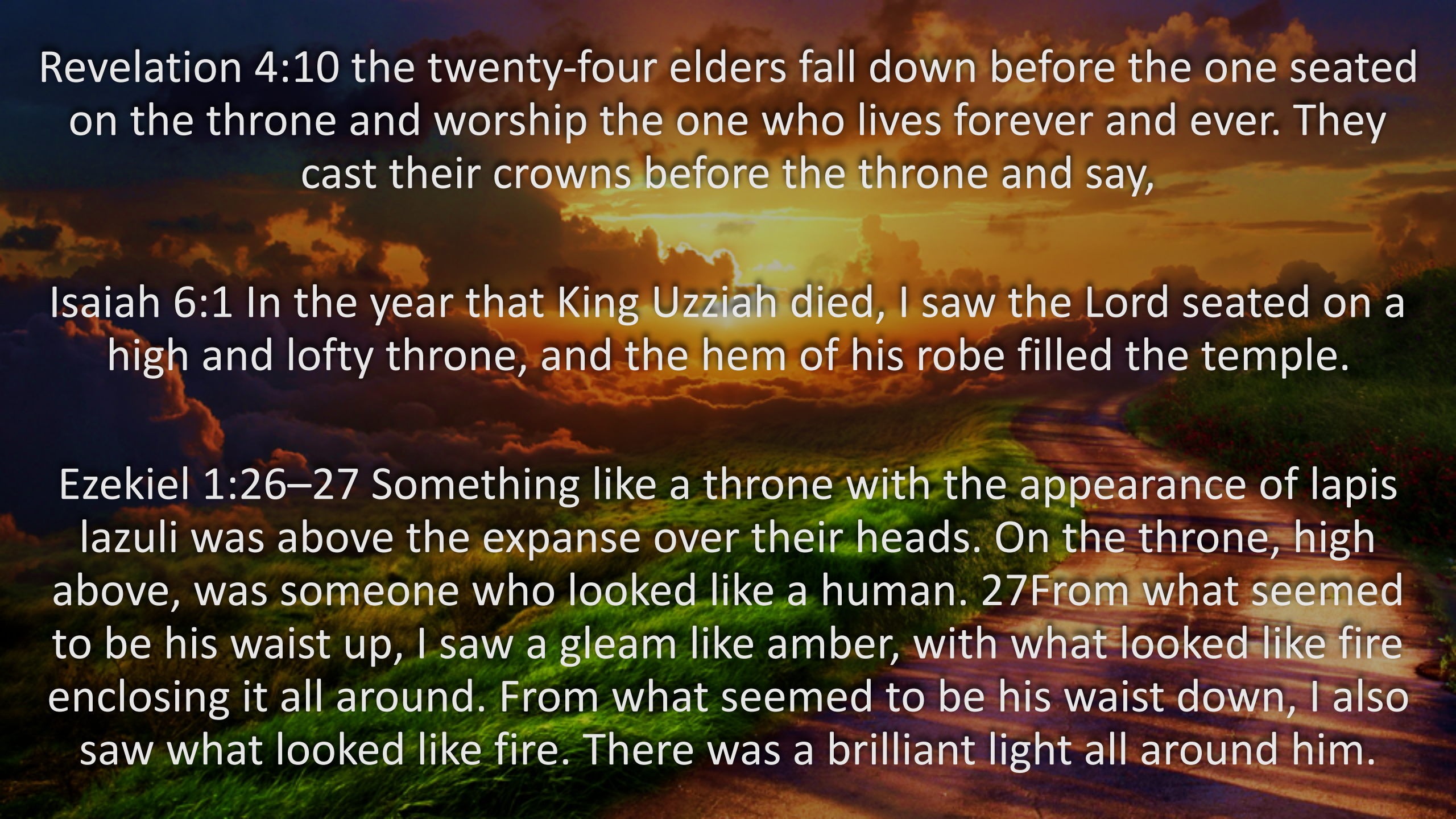
Daniel 6:26 I issue a decree that in all my royal dominion, people must tremble in fear before the God of Daniel: For he is the living God, and he endures forever; his kingdom will never be destroyed, and his dominion has no end.



Revelation 4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before the one seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne and say,

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A dramatic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by dark, heavy clouds, creating a bright, golden glow. The sky is filled with various cloud formations, some dark and some catching the light. In the foreground, a paved road curves through a lush green field. The overall mood is one of hope and divine light.

What Will Heaven Be Like?

**Revelation** 4:1-11