

"Be Strong"

With Bishop Ronald K. Powell



A Real Bad Dude

- An old fellow had been in the north woods for weeks by himself, camping out. Each night at dusk he built a campfire, boiled water for coffee, and took out his skillet to fry up some bacon for dinner. As he was sitting by the fire one night, the water boiling and the bacon sizzling, he heard a tremendous racket in the brush. The sound was like a roaring freight train, and as trees fell over and branches snapped, the biggest bear he'd ever seen lumbered into the clearing. On the bear's back was a tough-looking hombre holding a seven-foot live rattlesnake in his hands.
- The man shouted and screamed as he brought the bear to a skidding halt, bit the head off the rattlesnake, and flung it into the brush. Then he slid off the bear's back, turned, and hit him between the eyes, knocking him unconscious.; The camper was speechless as this wild-eyed renegade walked over to the fire, tossed the boiling coffee down his throat, drank the hot grease from the skillet, and ate all of the bacon in one bite. As he wiped his hands with poison ivy and slapped the bear back to consciousness, he turned to the camper and said, "Partner, I'm sorry I can't stay around and visit with you a while, but I've got to keep moving 'cause a real bad dude is chasing me!"
- From *Bad Beginnings to Happy Endings*, by Ed Young, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publ., 1994), PP. 94-95

Ephesians 6:10

- 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.



- God's commands are His promises, which enable us to carry out His precepts.

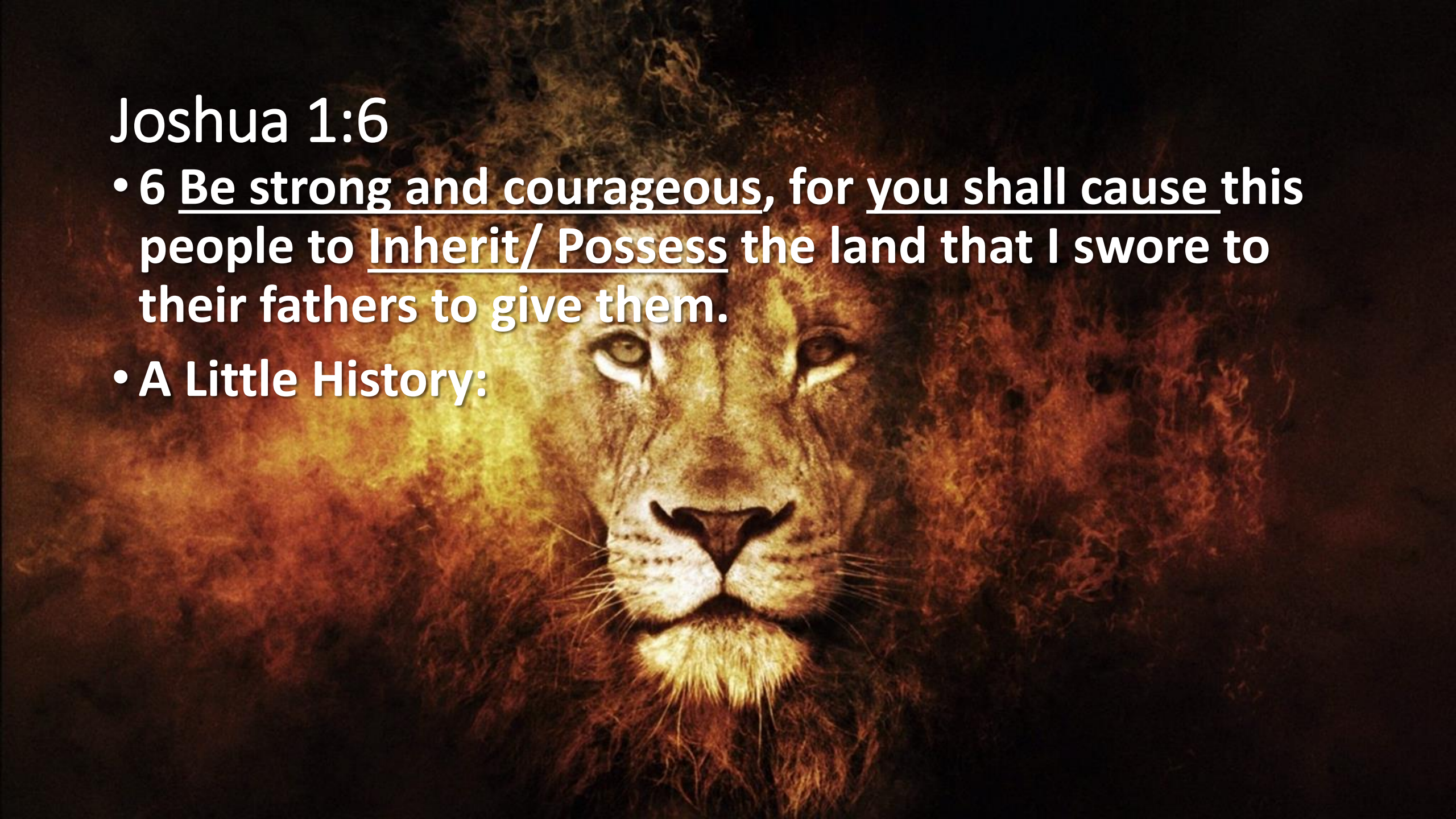


Character of Flesh

- A person who calls himself frank and candid can very easily find himself becoming tactless and cruel.
- A person who prides himself on being tactful can find eventually that he has become evasive and deceitful.
- A person with firm convictions can become pigheaded.
- A person who is inclined to be temperate and judicious can sometimes turn into someone with weak convictions and banked fires of resolution . . .
- Loyalty can lead to fanaticism. Caution can become timidity. Freedom can become license. Confidence can become arrogance. Humility can become servility.
- All these are ways in which strength can become weakness.
- Dore Schary, Bits & Pieces, December 9, 1993, pp. 3-4.

Joshua 1:6

- 6 Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to Inherit/ Possess the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.
- A Little History:



- Be strong” to Obey Jehovah’s commands,
by unfaltering response to them—



Possess:

- To seize and take control of : take into one's possession.



Joshua 1:7

- 7 Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to OBEY/do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.



Obey:

- **Carry out, perform, act on, execute, discharge, put into effect, implement, fulfill.**

Difficulties

- trouble, distress, crisis, hardship.



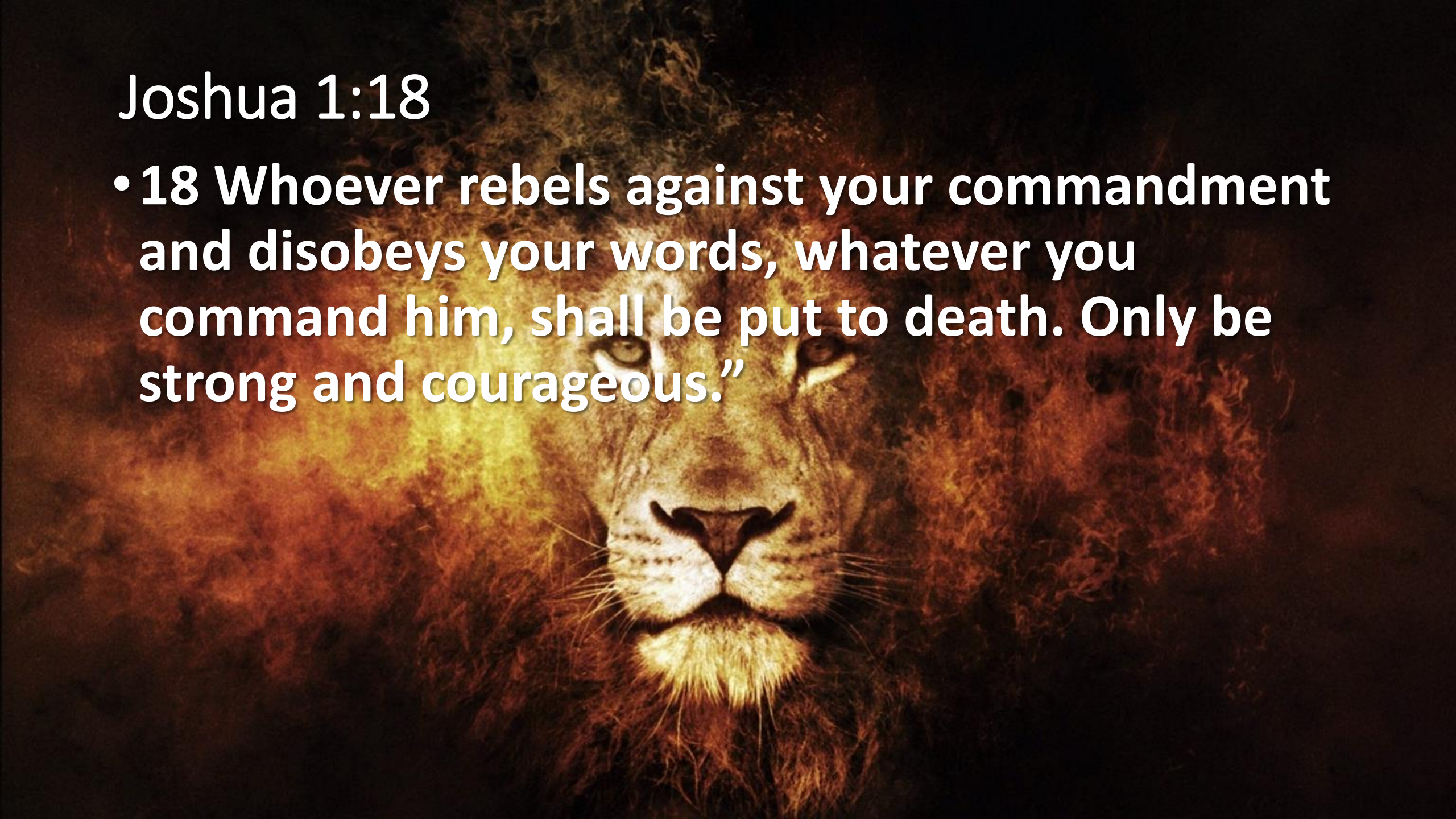
Joshua 1:9

- 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”



Joshua 1:18

- **18 Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous.”**



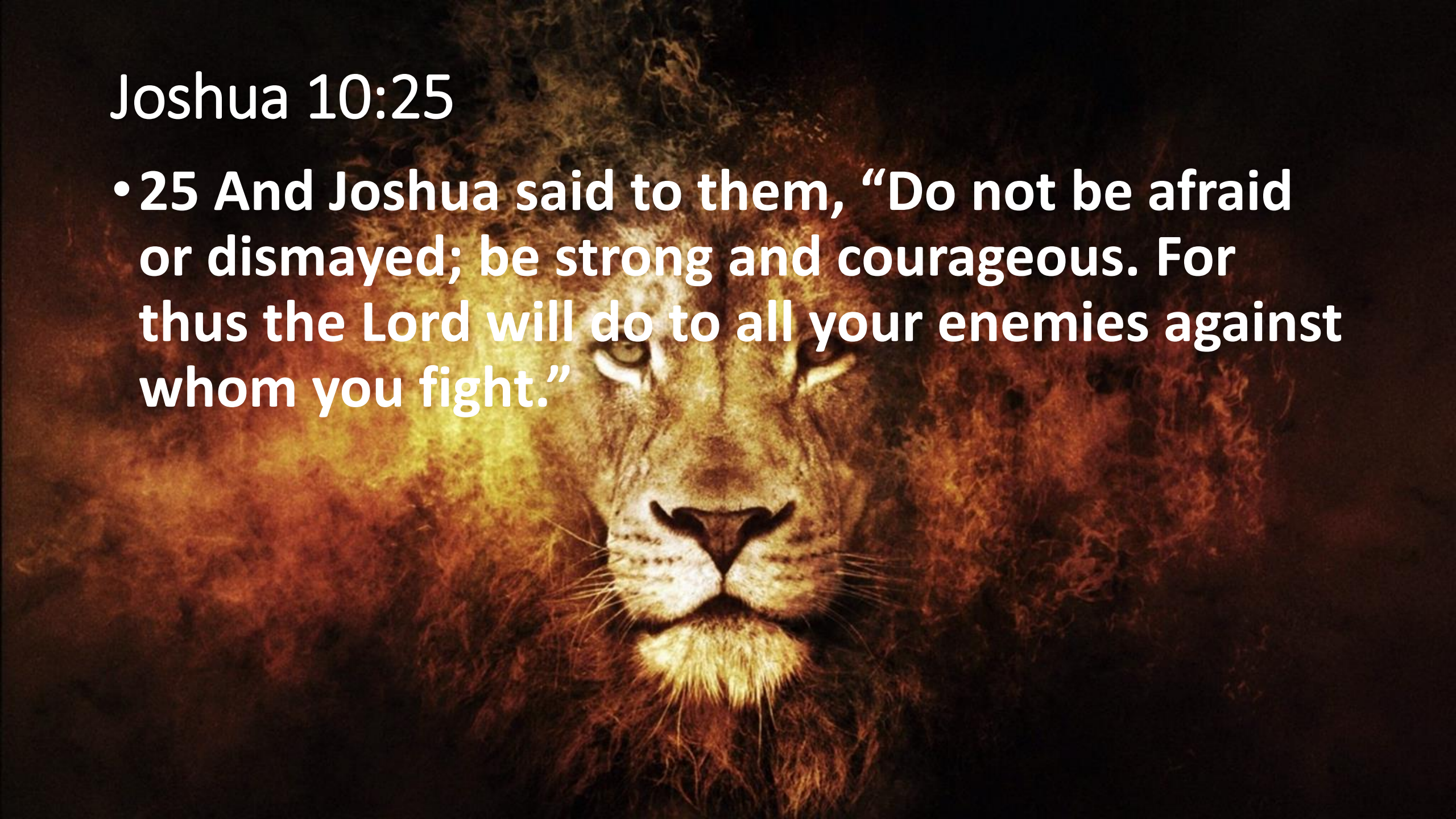
Declension

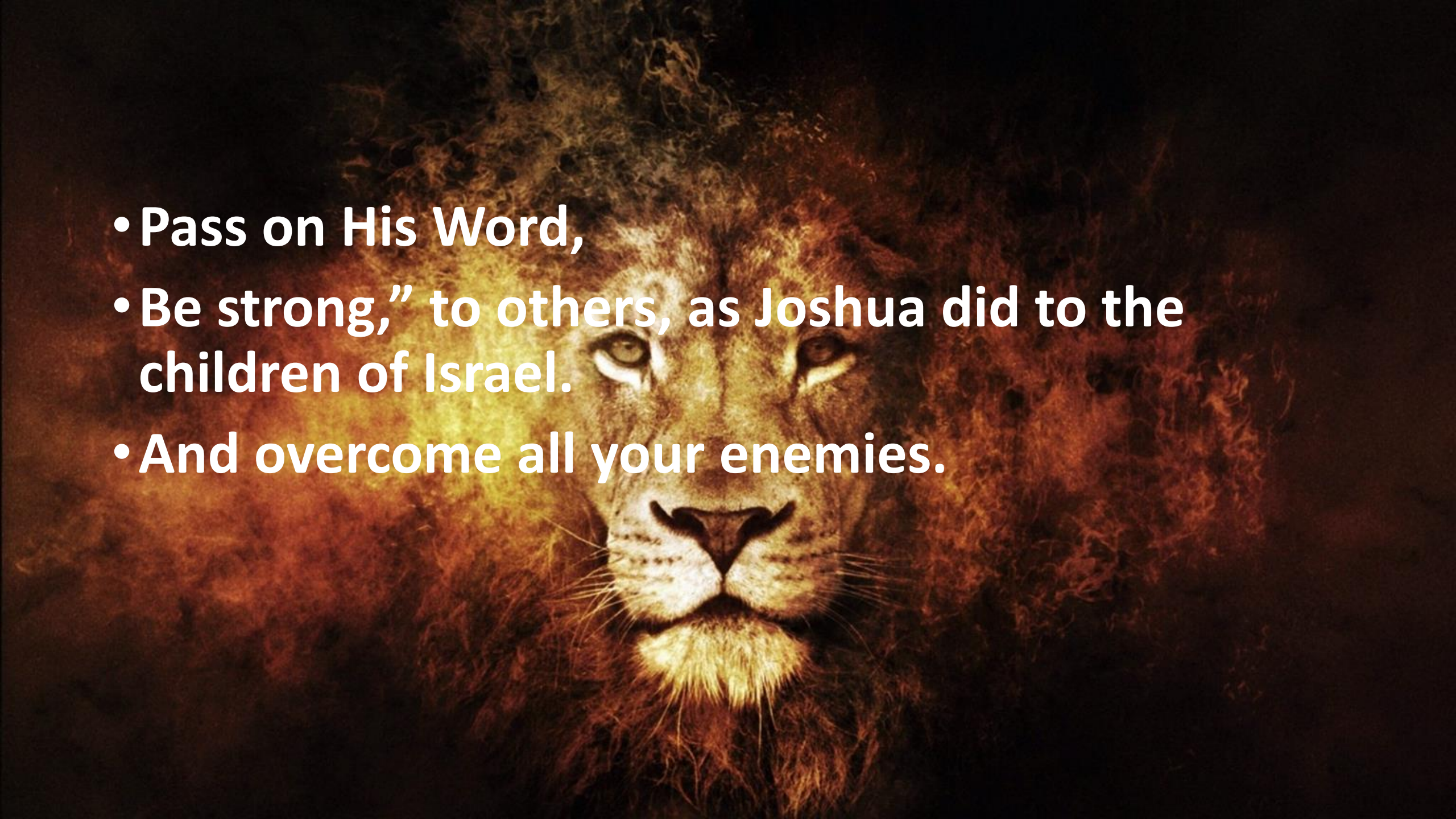
- Condition of decline or moral deterioration.”
- The declension of the new generation”

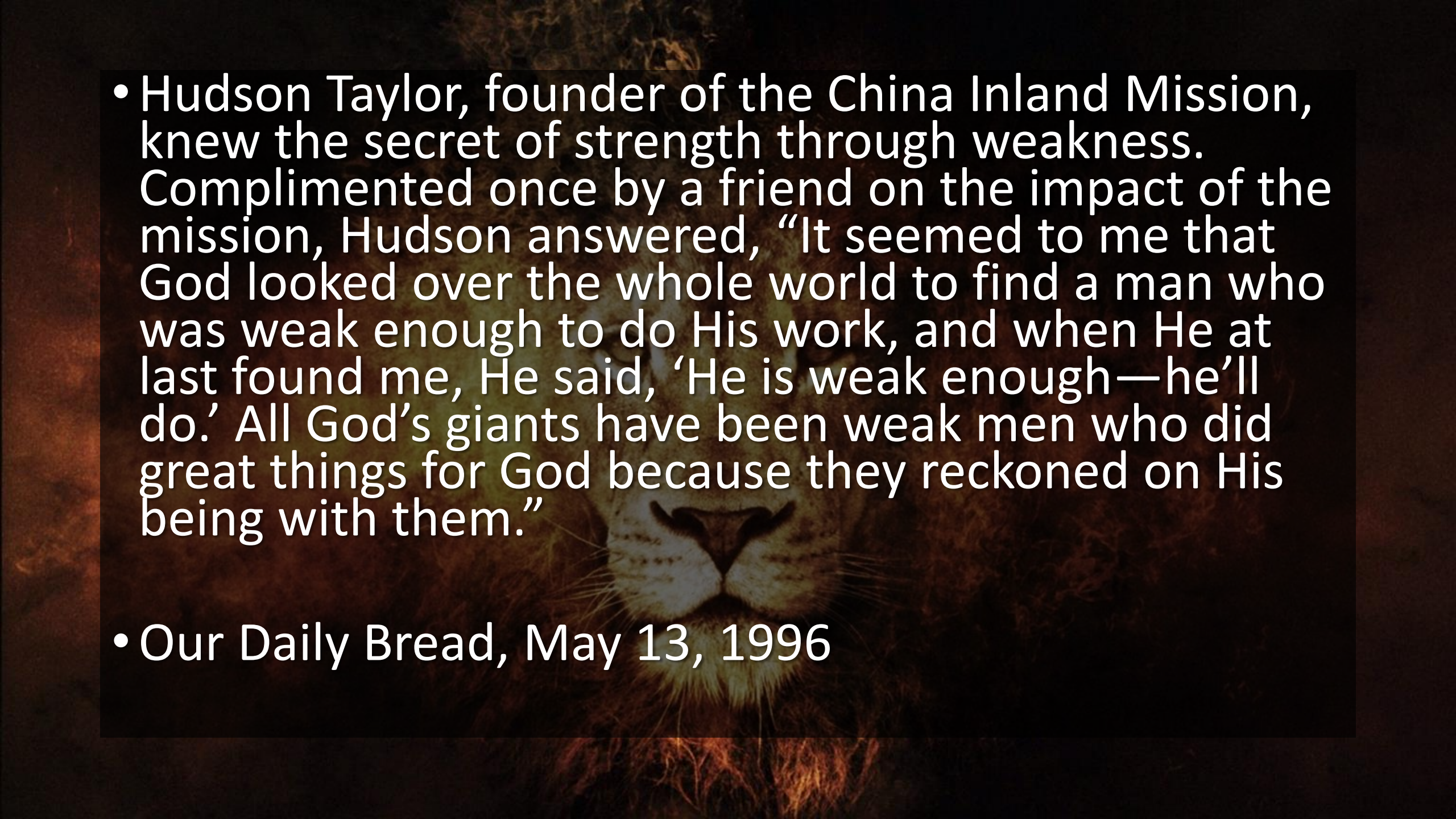


Joshua 10:25

- 25 And Joshua said to them, “Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous. For thus the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight.”



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- Pass on His Word,
 - Be strong,” to others, as Joshua did to the children of Israel.
 - And overcome all your enemies.



- Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission, knew the secret of strength through weakness. Complimented once by a friend on the impact of the mission, Hudson answered, “It seemed to me that God looked over the whole world to find a man who was weak enough to do His work, and when He at last found me, He said, ‘He is weak enough—he’ll do.’ All God’s giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on His being with them.”

- Our Daily Bread, May 13, 1996

Ephesians 6:10

- 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might,



Let's Pray

