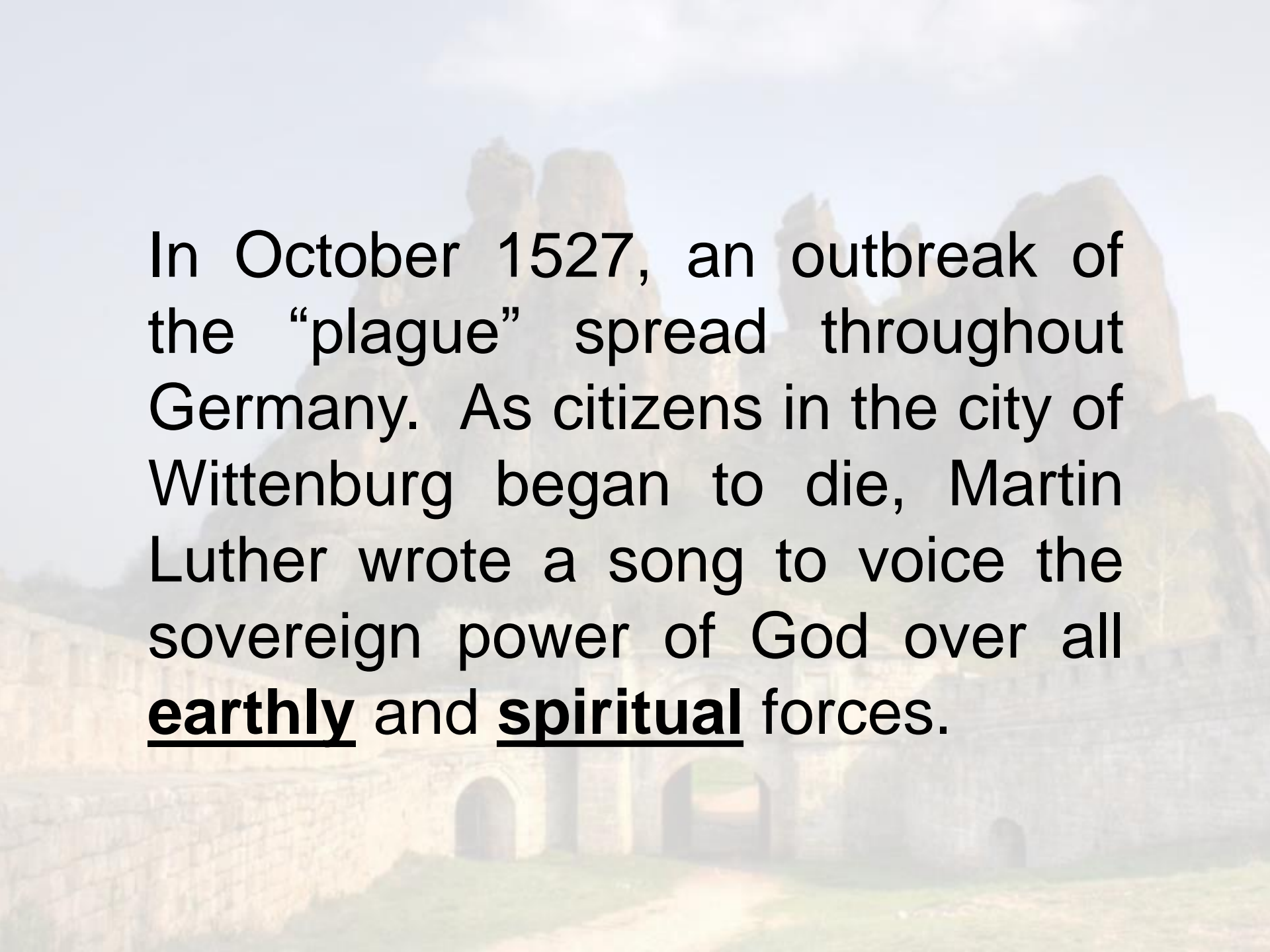
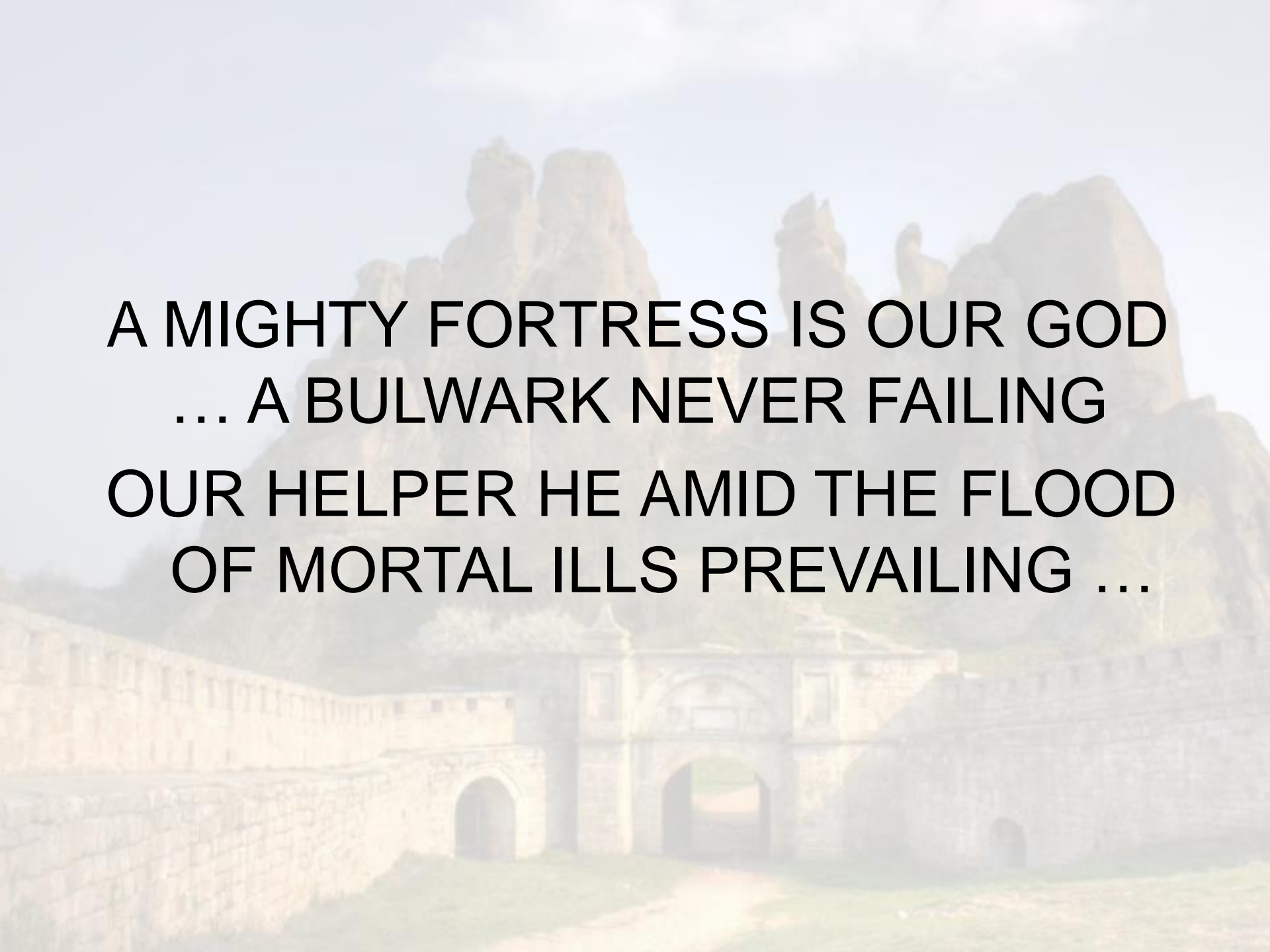


A MIGHTY FORTRESS





In October 1527, an outbreak of the “plague” spread throughout Germany. As citizens in the city of Wittenburg began to die, Martin Luther wrote a song to voice the sovereign power of God over all **earthly** and **spiritual** forces.



**A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD
... A BULWARK NEVER FAILING
OUR HELPER HE AMID THE FLOOD
OF MORTAL ILLS PREVAILING ...**

- based on Psalm 46
- gained immense popularity across Europe, was woven into the web of Reformation history, and became the true national hymn of Protestant Germany
- At times when he was discouraged or angry at political events, Luther would say to his friend, Philip Melanchthon, “Come Philip, let’s sing Psalm 46”.

Many reasons to be AFRAID

- **trouble** (1)
- **disasters** (2-3)
- **wars** (6)

A stone fortress with a central archway and a large, jagged rock formation in the background. The fortress is built with light-colored stone blocks and features a prominent central archway with a smaller archway below it. The background is dominated by a massive, craggy rock formation with several sharp peaks. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

Our natural world sometimes goes crazy.









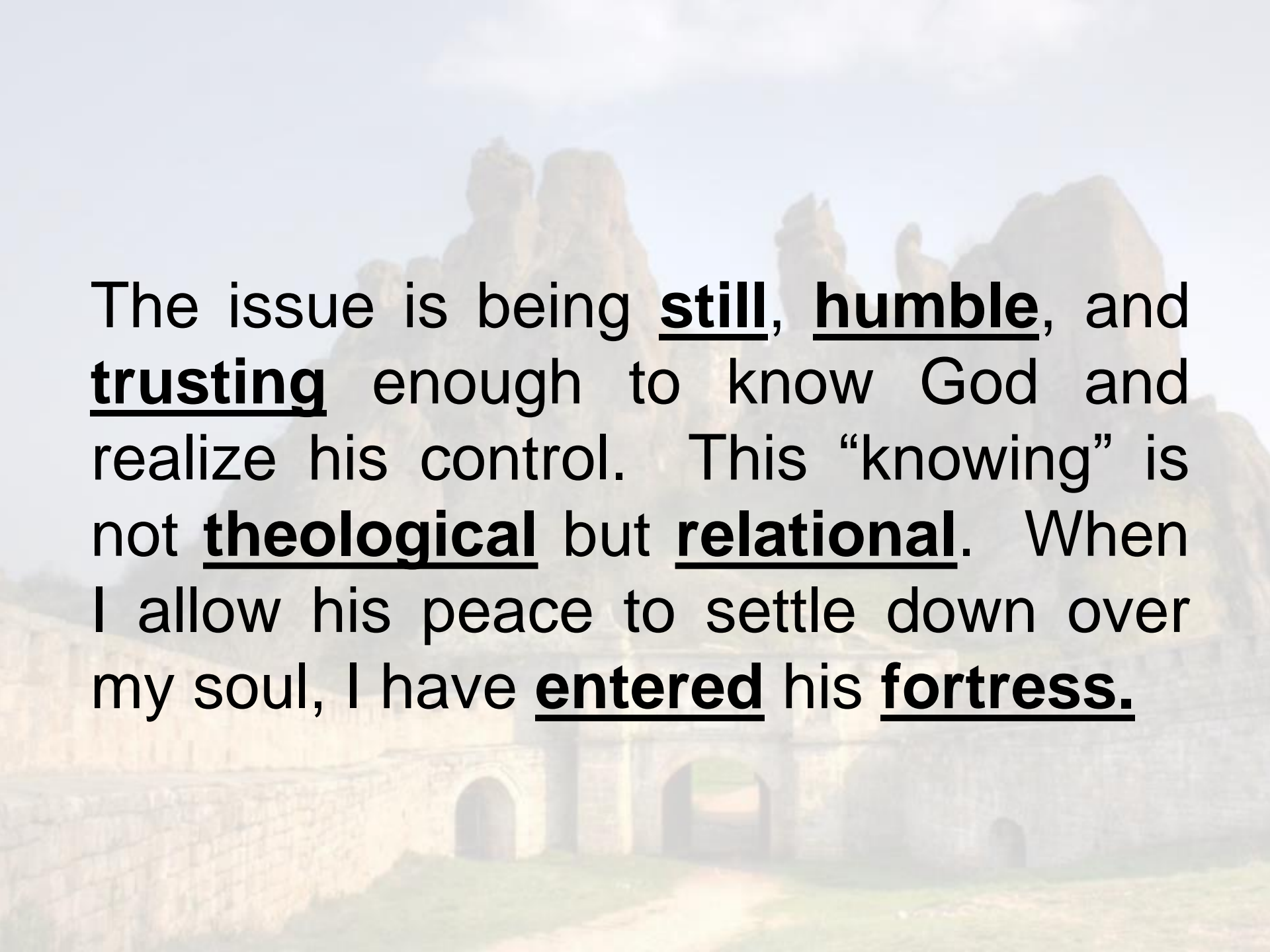
A stone fortress with a central archway and a large rocky mountain in the background. The fortress is built with light-colored stone blocks and features a prominent central archway with a smaller archway below it. The mountain behind it is composed of large, jagged rock formations. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

So also, our relationships go crazy.



One reason NOT to be AFRAID

“Be still and know that I AM GOD. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth.” (vs. 10)

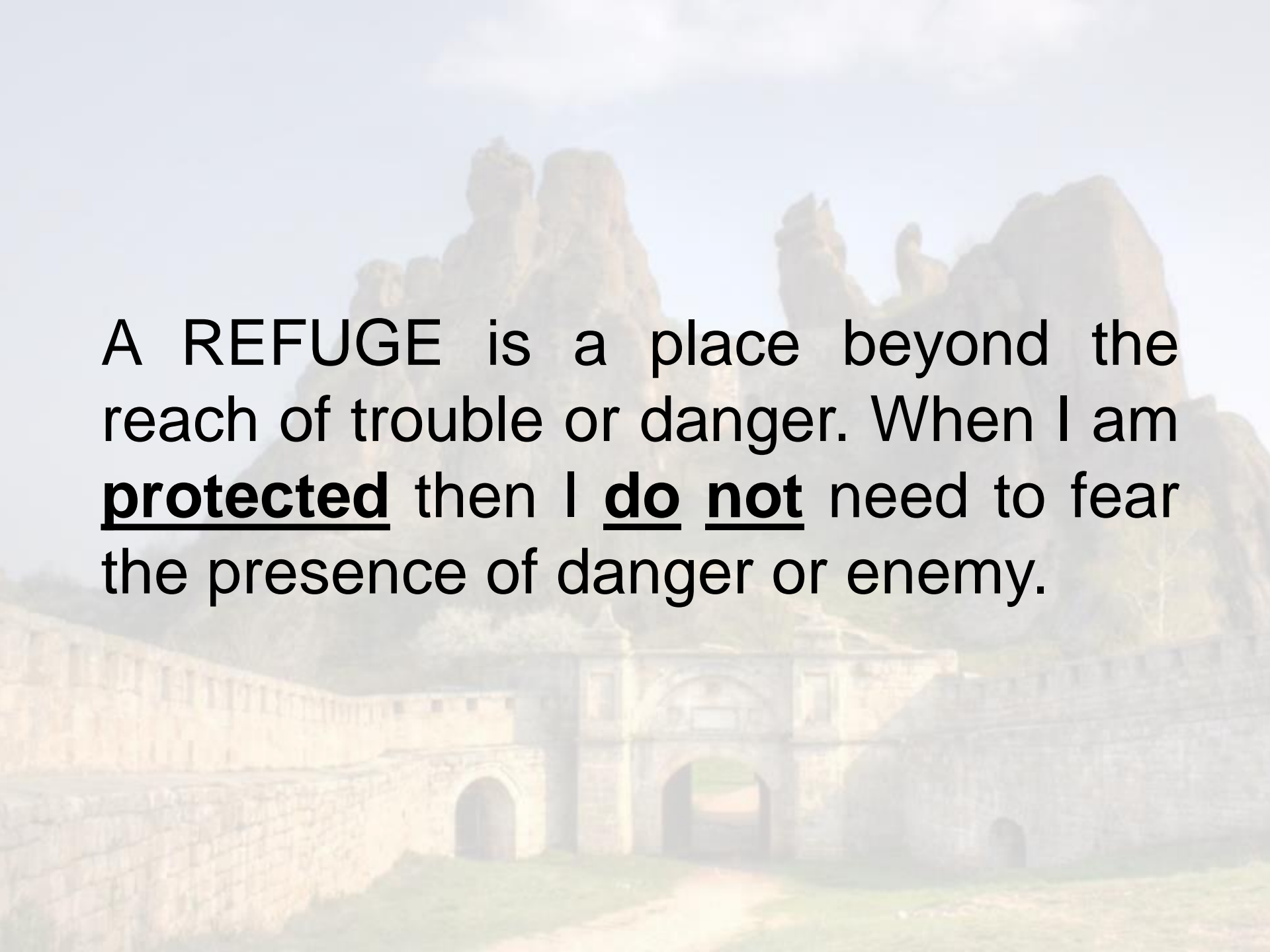


The issue is being **still**, **humble**, and **trusting** enough to know God and realize his control. This “knowing” is not **theological** but **relational**. When I allow his peace to settle down over my soul, I have **entered** his **fortress**.







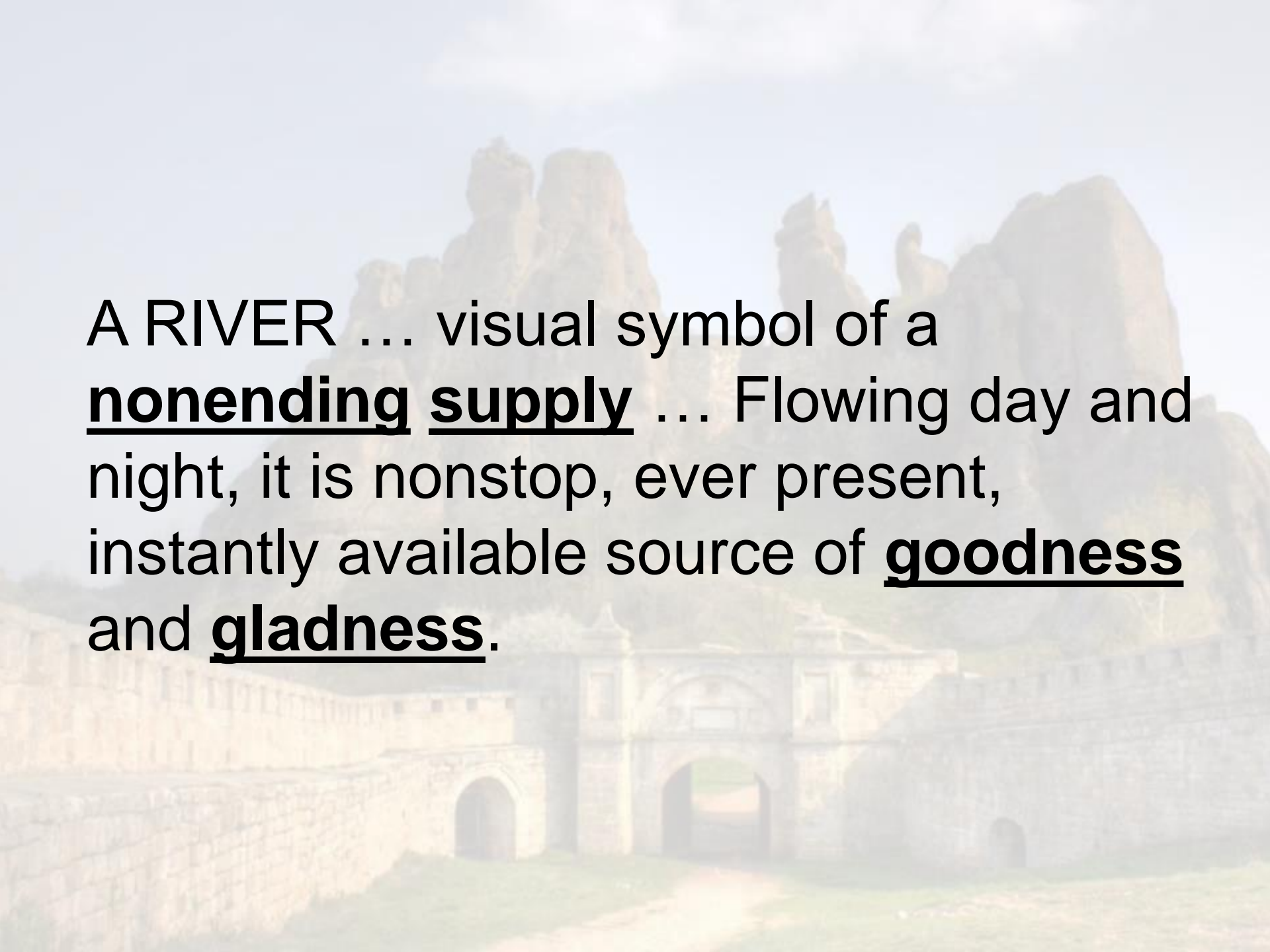


A REFUGE is a place beyond the reach of trouble or danger. When I am **protected** then I **do not** need to fear the presence of danger or enemy.

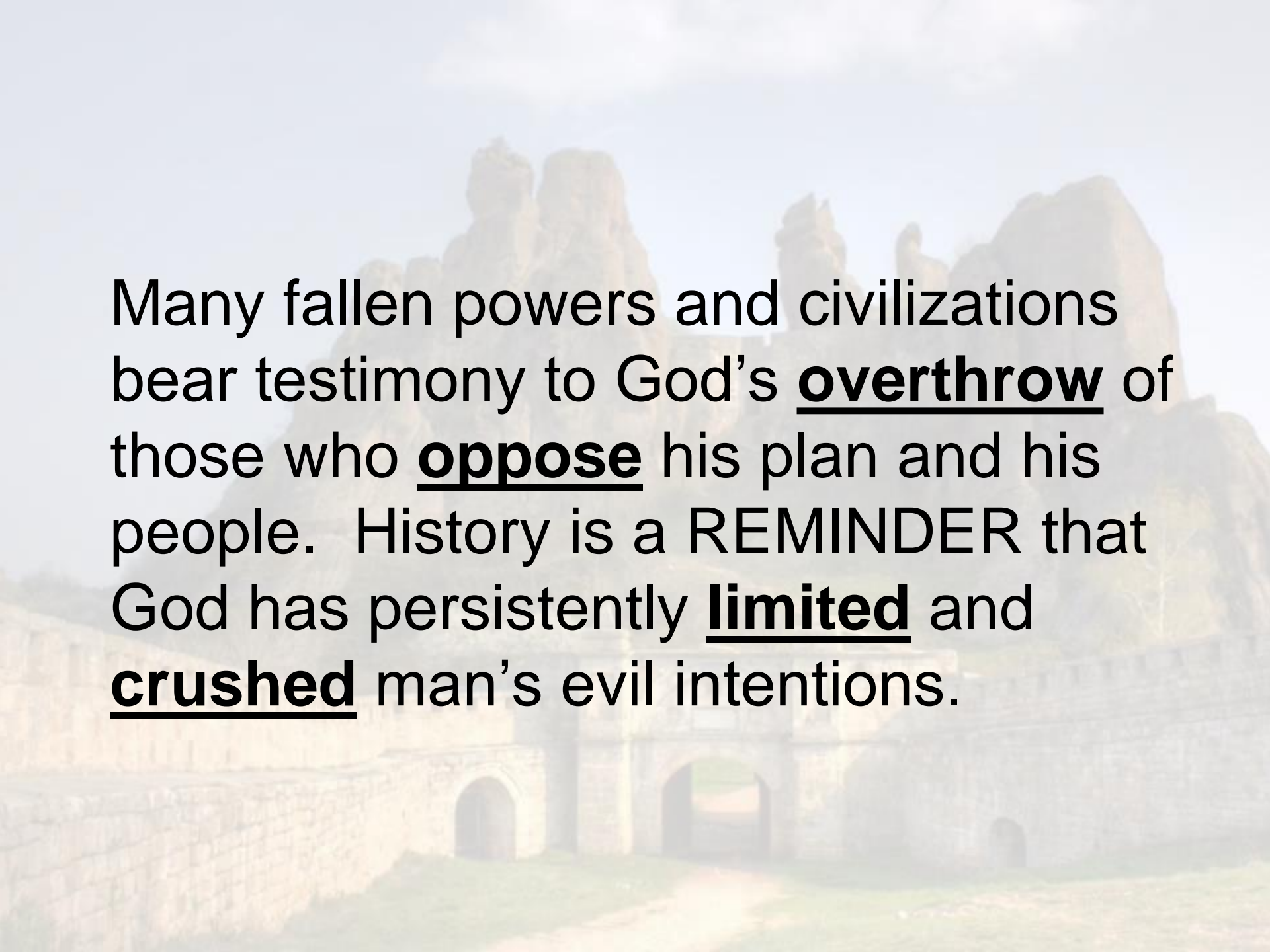








A RIVER ... visual symbol of a **nonending supply** ... Flowing day and night, it is nonstop, ever present, instantly available source of **goodness** and **gladness**.



Many fallen powers and civilizations bear testimony to God's **overthrow** of those who **oppose** his plan and his people. History is a REMINDER that God has persistently **limited** and **crushed** man's evil intentions.

A MIGHTY FORTRESS

