



1. The Faith Refinery

Malachi 2:17-36

Jesus said...

“In this world you will have trouble”

“You will be persecuted”

“You will be hated because you follow me

John 16:33; Matthew 24:9, 10:22

2 Timothy 3:12

YES, AND ALL WHO DESIRE TO LIVE GODLY
IN CHRIST JESUS WILL SUFFER PERSECUTION.



crude
oil



boiler



distillation
column

gas

naphtha

gasoline

kerosene

diesel

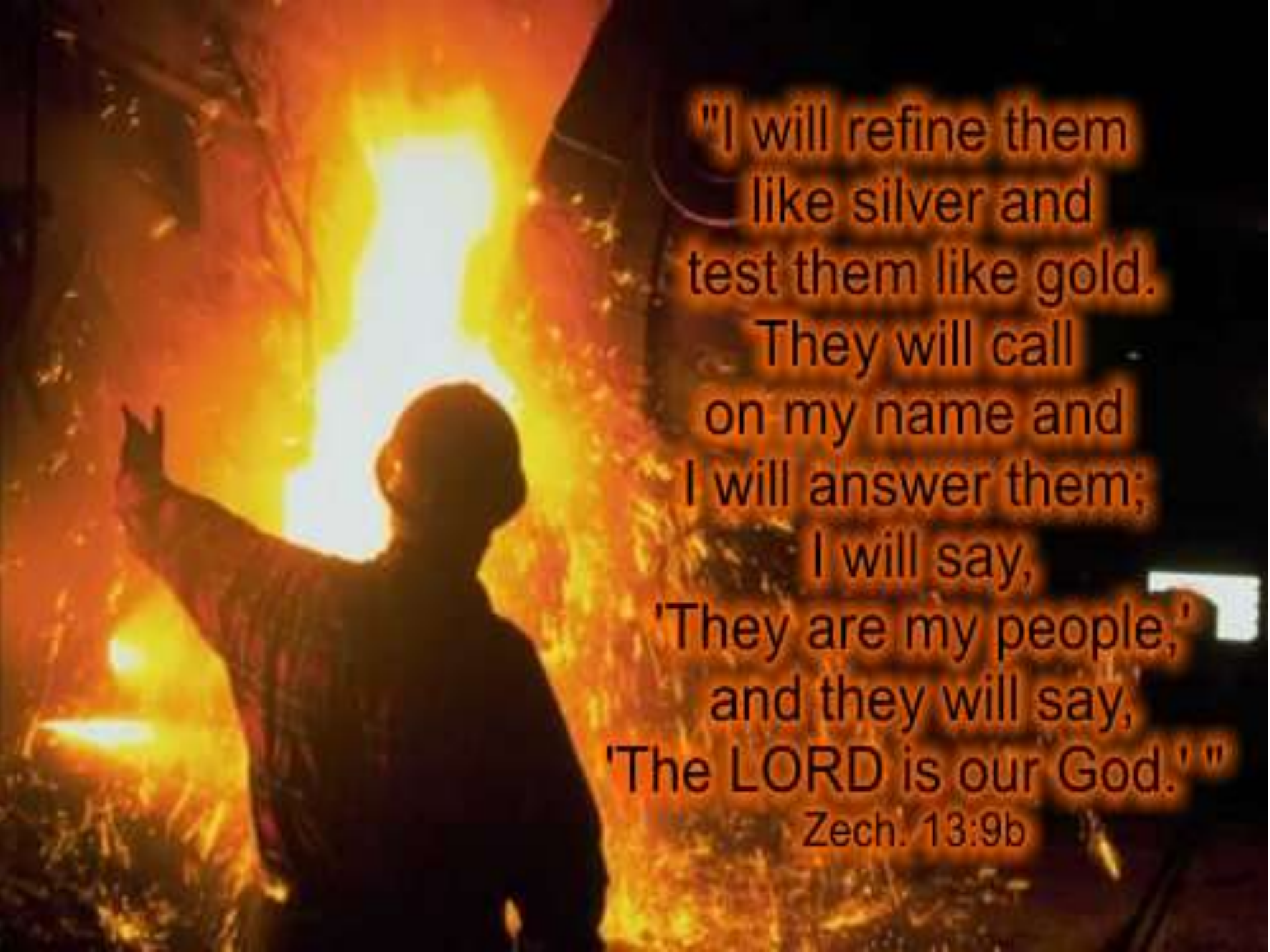
lubr oil

heavy oil

residual

heat
(steam)





"I will refine them
like silver and
test them like gold.

They will call
on my name and
I will answer them;
I will say,

'They are my people,'
and they will say,
'The LORD is our God.' "

Zech. 13:9b

CHRISTIANS



TROUBLE



PERSECUTIONS

**SPIRITUAL MATURITY
A LIFE OF FAITH**

hope

patience

gentleness

compassion

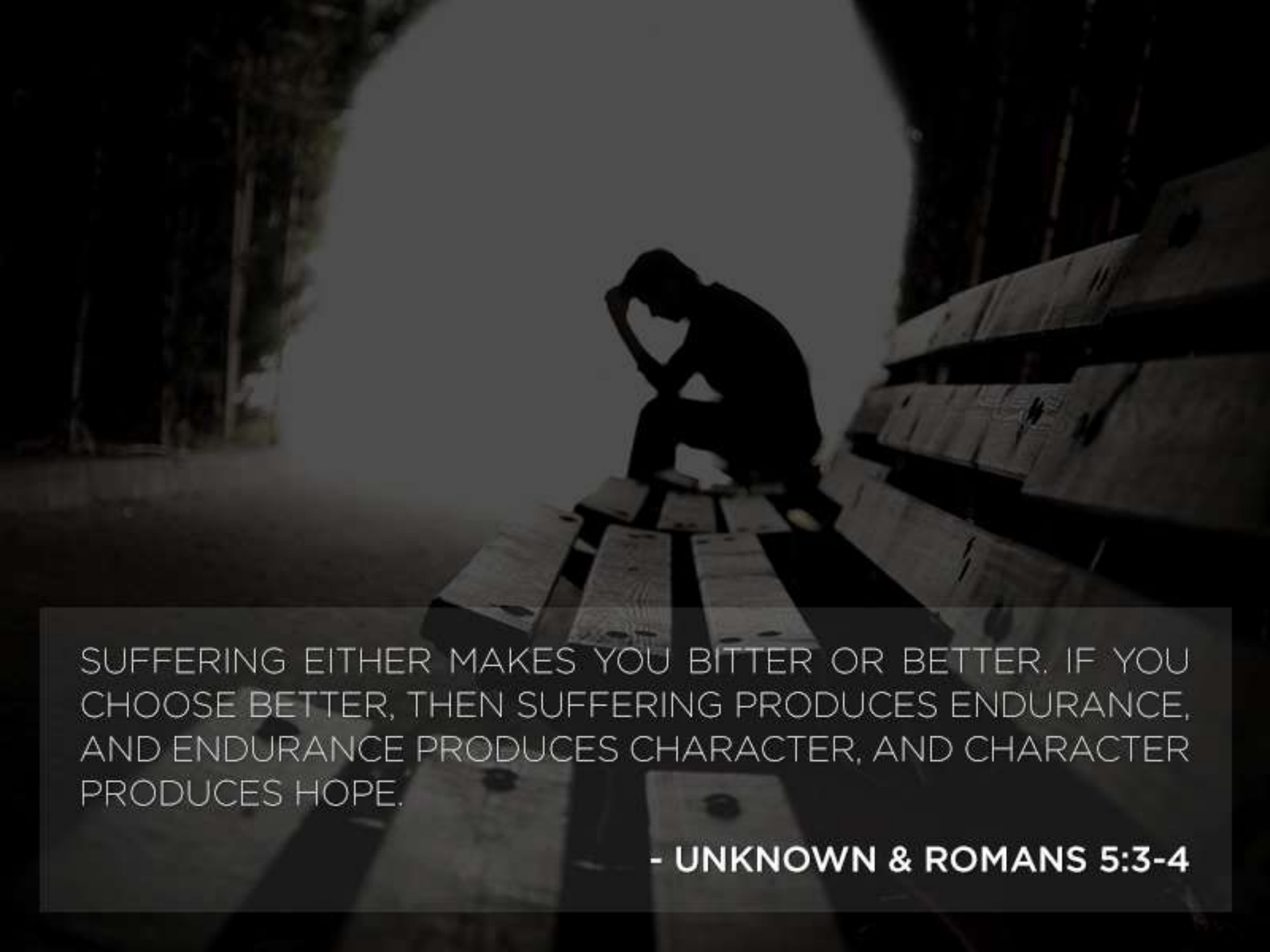
courage

strength

character

endurance

**WHAT THE
REFINERY PRODUCES**

A silhouette of a person sitting on a wooden bench, resting their head on their hand, symbolizing suffering or contemplation. The person is positioned in the center of the frame, with their body angled towards the right. The bench is made of several parallel wooden planks. The background is a bright, overexposed area, possibly a sky or a large opening, which creates a strong contrast with the dark silhouette of the person. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

SUFFERING EITHER MAKES YOU BITTER OR BETTER. IF YOU CHOOSE BETTER, THEN SUFFERING PRODUCES ENDURANCE, AND ENDURANCE PRODUCES CHARACTER, AND CHARACTER PRODUCES HOPE.

- UNKNOWN & ROMANS 5:3-4

For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers.

Romans 8:29



D the Lord
Disciplines

the one He
Loves

Hebrews 12:6

Each according
TO THE MEASURE
OF FAITH
that God
HAS ASSIGNED.

Romans 12:3

2. The Refiner



Lucy Johnston

John Piper...

It does not say in verse 2 that the LORD is like a forest fire, or like an incinerator's fire. It says that He is like a refiner's fire.

A forest fire destroys indiscriminately. An incinerator consumes completely. But verse 6 says, "I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed—you are not destroyed."

John Piper...

But it does say, he is like a REFINER'S fire, and therefore this is not merely a word of warning, but a tremendous word of hope.

The furnace of affliction in the family of God is always for refinement, never for destruction.

God will have no alloys, no dross, in heaven. There will be people in Heaven, redeemed, purified, people. His banquet hall will be full. And therefore he must be a refiner's fire.

If God were only a forest fire, heaven would be empty. If he were only an incinerating fire, heaven would be empty. And if he were no fire, heaven would be empty.

PERSEVERANCE DR

3. THE PURPOSE

Malachi 3:3-4

³ He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, **That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.** Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the Lord.

Psalm 24:3-5

³ Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place?

⁴ **He who has clean hands and a pure heart,** Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. ⁵ He shall receive blessing from the LORD, And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

*Blessed are the Pure of Heart
for they will see God
- Matthew 5:8*




Malachi 3:6

6 "For I *am* the LORD, I do not change;
Therefore you are not consumed,
O sons of Jacob.

... and thou shalt call His Name ...

יֵשׁוּעָ

Yeshua



Now may the God of peace
who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead,
THAT GREAT SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP,
through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
make you complete **TO DO HIS WILL,**
in every good work
working in you what is well pleasing in His sight,
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST,
to whom be glory forever and ever. *Amen.*

HEBREWS 13:20-21

4. The Unrefined

"Our God is a consuming fire..."

-Hebrews 12:29



Malachi 3:5

**⁵ And I will come near you for judgment;
I will be a swift witness Against sorcerers,
Against adulterers, Against perjurers,
Against those who exploit wage earners
and widows and orphans, And against
those who turn away an alien—
Because they do not fear Me,
Says the LORD of hosts.**

The UNREFINED

PSALM 15:1-5

PSALM 24:3-5

Malachi 4:1

¹ "For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch.

Revelation 21:8

⁸ But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

¹² All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. ¹³ Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body *is* not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

14 And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not!

16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For "*the two,*" He says, "*shall become one flesh.*"

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. **18** Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is in you*, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

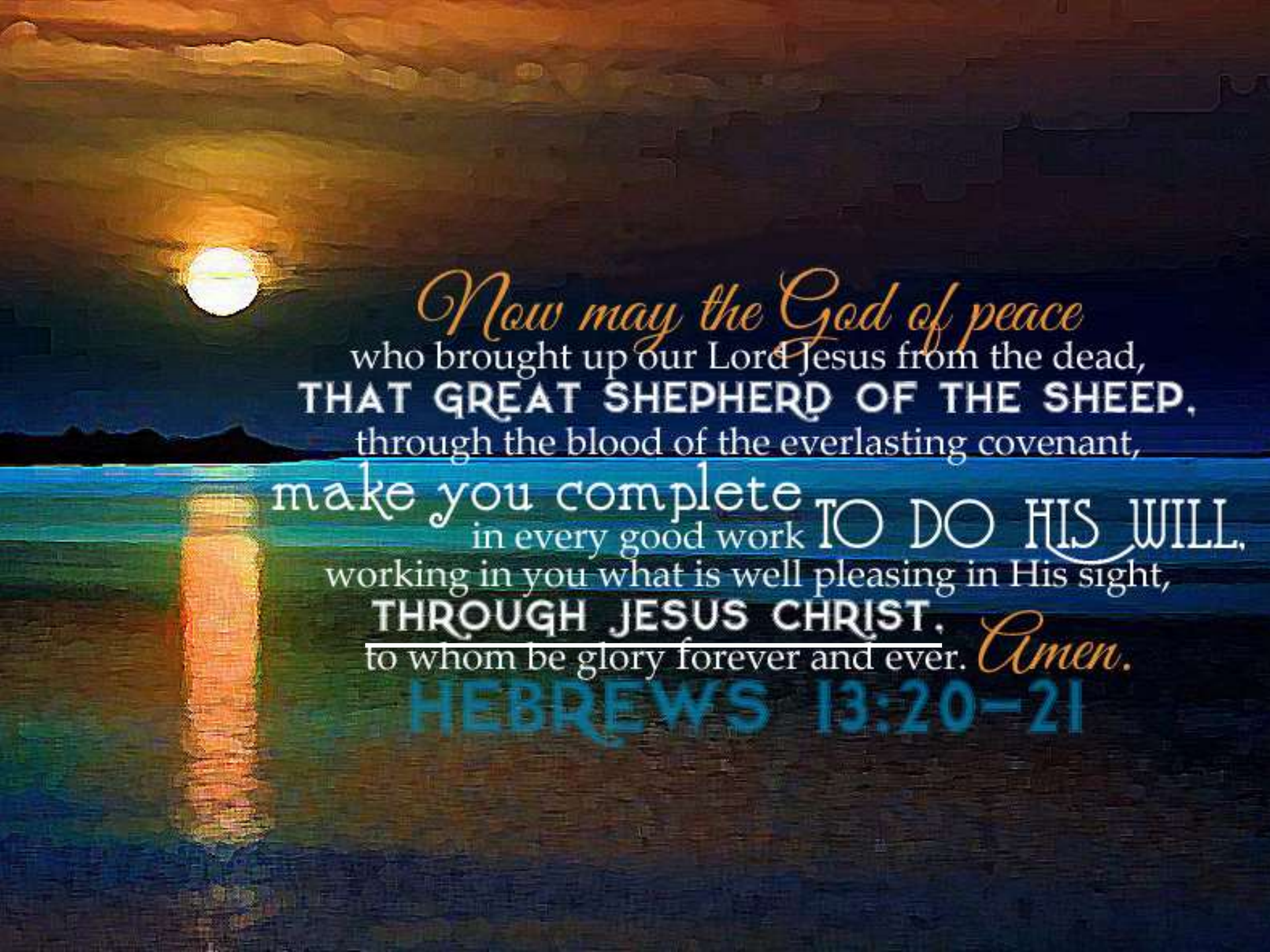
²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Some are being refined



Some will be consumed





Now may the God of peace
who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead,
THAT GREAT SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP,
through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
make you complete **TO DO HIS WILL,**
in every good work
working in you what is well pleasing in His sight,
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST,
to whom be glory forever and ever. *Amen.*

HEBREWS 13:20-21

"Come now,
and let us reason together,"

says the Lord,

"Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall be as wool."

Isaiah 1:18



GOD HAS SPOKEN

Isaiah 1:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword"; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.