

Jephthah's

PROMISE



“You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the LORD your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment.



Deuteronomy 16:18



Joshua
Executive



Moses
legislative

Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor, but he was the son of a harlot; and Gilead begot Jephthah.

Judges 11:1





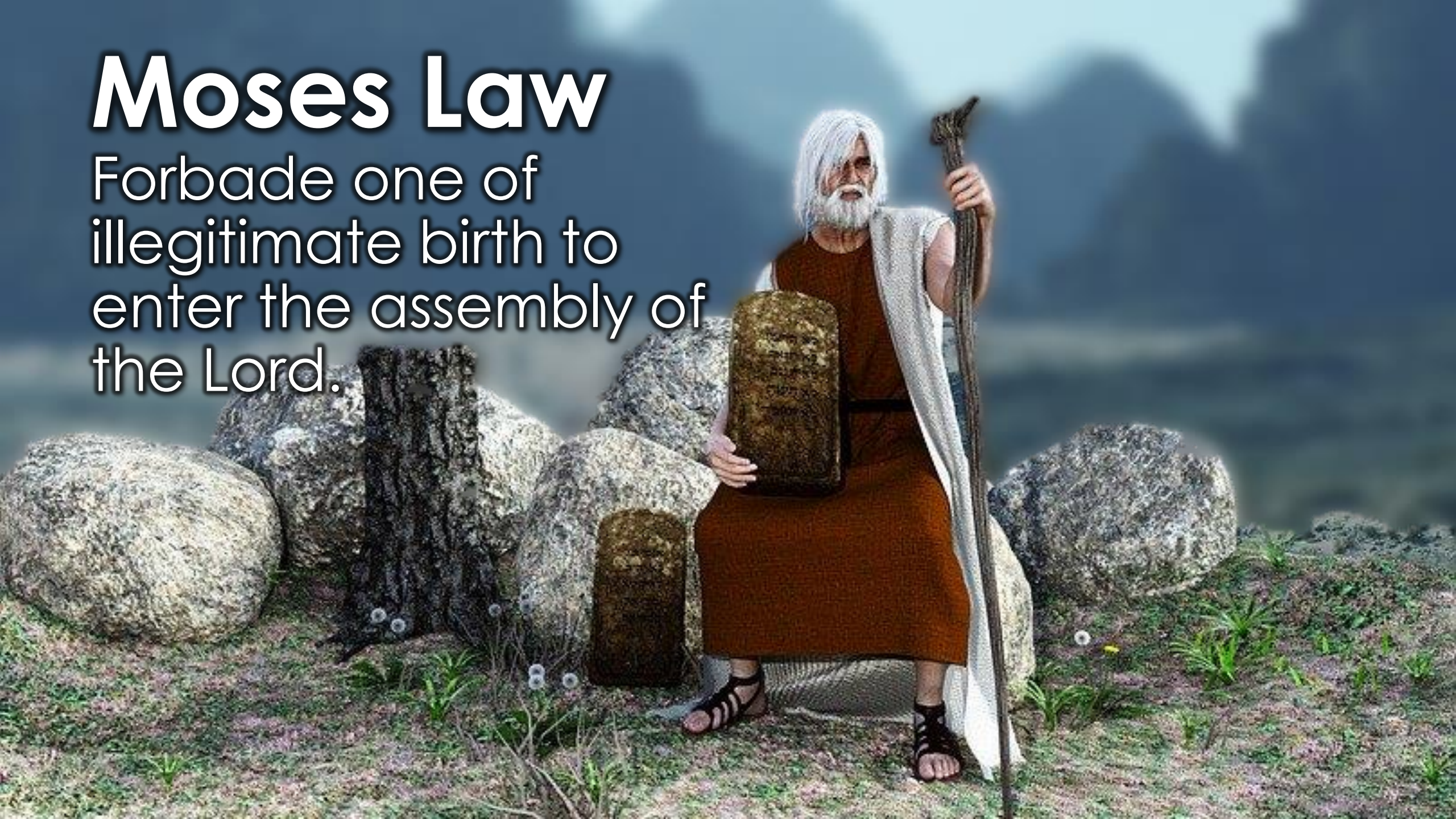
Gilead's wife bore sons; and when his wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out, and said to him, "You shall have no inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman."

Judges 11:2



Moses Law

Forbade one of illegitimate birth to enter the assembly of the Lord.



Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and dwelt in the land of Tob; and worthless men banded together with Jephthah and went out *raiding* with him.

Judges 11:3





Jephthah becomes a

MERCENARY

ART

ME

**Then the Spirit of the LORD came
upon Jephthah...**

Judges 11:29





And **Jephthah** made a vow to **the LORD**, and said, “If You will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands,

Judges 11:30





**IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG
WITH A VOW?**

then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD's, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering.”

Judges 11:31



A white door is centered in a dimly lit room. A spotlight effect illuminates the door and the text overlaid on it. The door has a simple panel design and a small doorknob.

?

**Who would come out of
the door**

A digital illustration of Moses, an elderly man with a long white beard and hair, wearing a brown tunic and a white shawl. He is holding a wooden staff in his right hand and a large, rectangular stone tablet with Hebrew text in his left hand. He stands on a rocky, hilly landscape under a blue sky with soft clouds. The overall scene is a classic representation of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments.

Law of Moses

And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

Leviticus 18:21



VICTORY!

When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, there was his daughter, coming out to meet him with timbrels and dancing; and she was *his only child*. Besides her he had neither son nor daughter.

Judges 11:34



Jephthah's DAUGHTER



And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he tore his clothes, and said, “Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low!

Judges 11:35a



You are among those who trouble me! For I have given my word to the LORD, and I cannot go back on it.”

Judges 11:35b



VOW

Simple vow = neder, the one who vows it is not under obligation to keep it if it binds him to perform a wrong act.

Devotion = cherem, bound to keep upon threat of death

So she said to him, “My father, *if you have given your word to the LORD, do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, because the LORD has avenged you of your enemies, the people of Ammon.*”

Judges 11:36



Then she said to her father, “Let this thing be done for me: let me alone for two months, that I may go and wander on the mountains and bewail my virginity, my friends and I.”

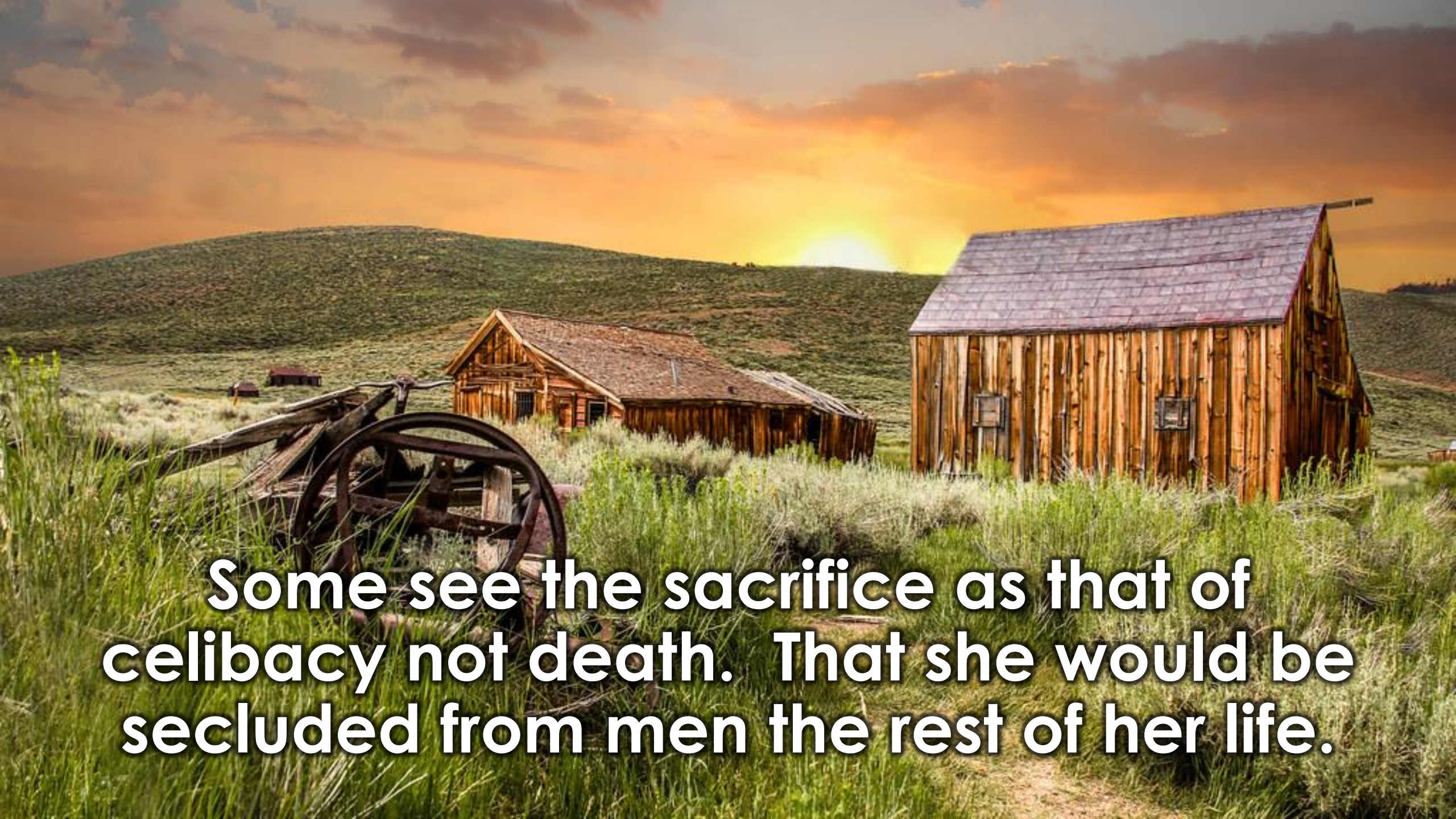
Judges 11:37



So he said, “Go.” And he sent her away *for two months*; and she went with her friends, and bewailed her virginity on the mountains.

Judges 11:38





Some see the sacrifice as that of celibacy not death. That she would be secluded from men the rest of her life.



And it was so at the end of two months that she returned to her father, and **he carried out his vow** with her which he had vowed. **She knew no man.**

Judges 11:39





And it became a custom in Israel ⁴⁰ *that* the daughters of Israel went four days each year to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite.

Judges 11:40



**But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and
your 'No,' 'No.'**

~ Matthew 5:37 ~

**Our faith is not based on our promise to
God, but God's promise to us.**



Jephthah's

PROMISE



CLOSING SONG
Hymn # 337

**He
Leadeth
Me**

