

**Jesus said... "I will build my church."
Matthew 16:18 NLT**



No Longer Strangers



No Longer Strangers

Ephesians 2:19 NKJV

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

A close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones stacked on top of each other in a circle, symbolizing unity, support, and community. The hands are wearing various colored sleeves, including grey, brown, and light blue. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

No Longer Strangers

Genesis 1:1 NLT

**In the beginning God created the
heavens and the earth.**

No Longer Strangers

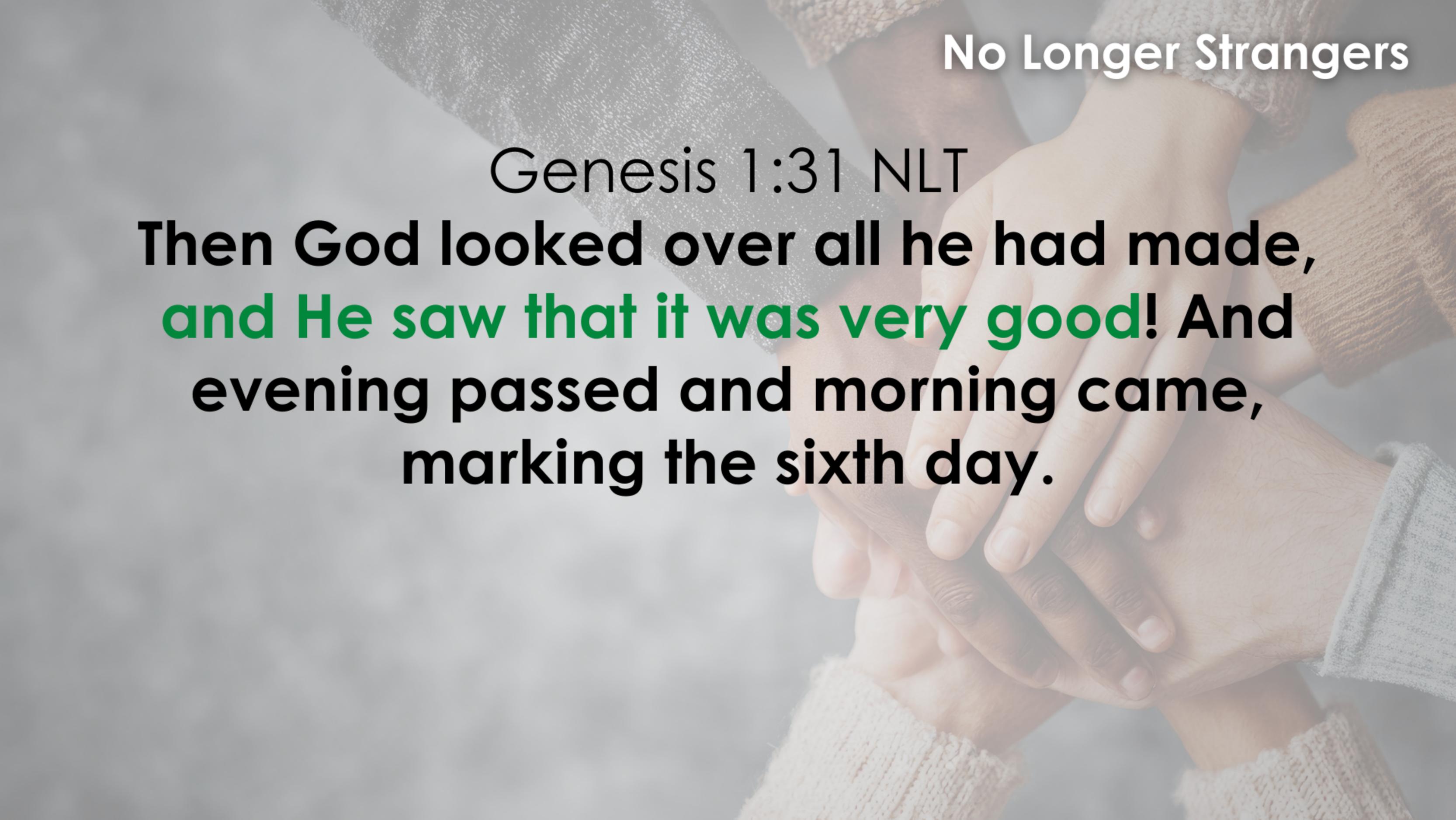
Genesis 1:26-28 NLT

Then God said, **“Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”** **So God created human beings in his own image.**

No Longer Strangers

Genesis 1:26-28 NLT

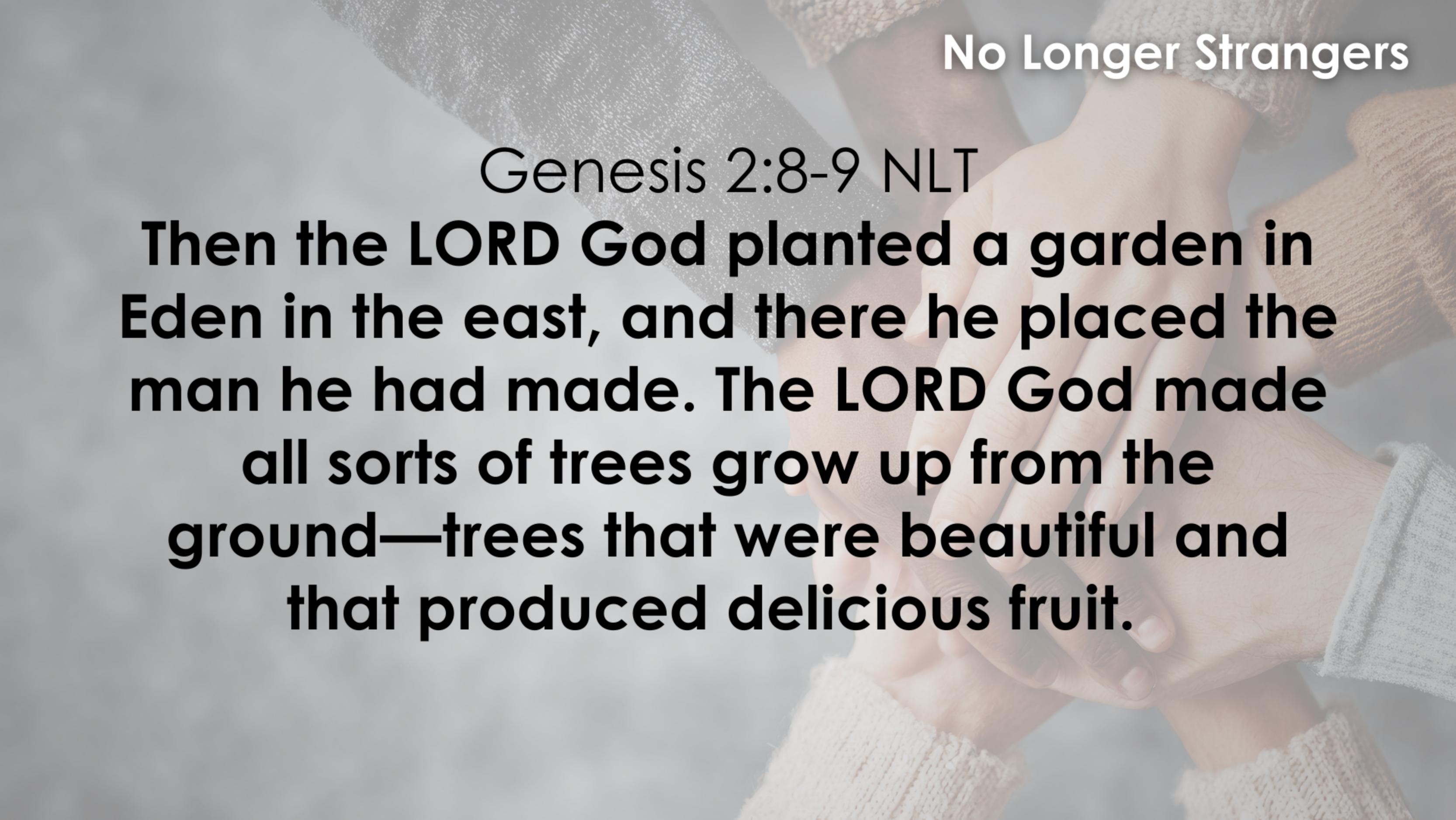
In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”



No Longer Strangers

Genesis 1:31 NLT

**Then God looked over all he had made,
and He saw that it was very good! And
evening passed and morning came,
marking the sixth day.**



No Longer Strangers

Genesis 2:8-9 NLT

Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. The LORD God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit.



No Longer Strangers

Genesis 2:8-9 NLT

**In the middle of the garden he placed
the tree of life and the tree of the
knowledge of good and evil.**

No Longer Strangers

Genesis 2:15-17 NLT

The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But the LORD God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden - except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”

A close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones stacked together in a supportive grip. The hands are positioned in a way that suggests unity and mutual support. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey. The text is overlaid on the top right of the image.

No Longer Strangers

- **God is the creator of ALL things.**



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- **Everything that God created was very good.**

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- **Everything that God created was very good.**
- **God provided everything needed for Adam in the garden.**
- **Mankind was commanded to be fruitful and govern God's creation.**
- **Mankind was given free will, a choice to either Trust and Obey God or Disobey God.**

No Longer Strangers

Genesis 3:1-10 NLT

The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made.

One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?**” “Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat.**

No Longer Strangers

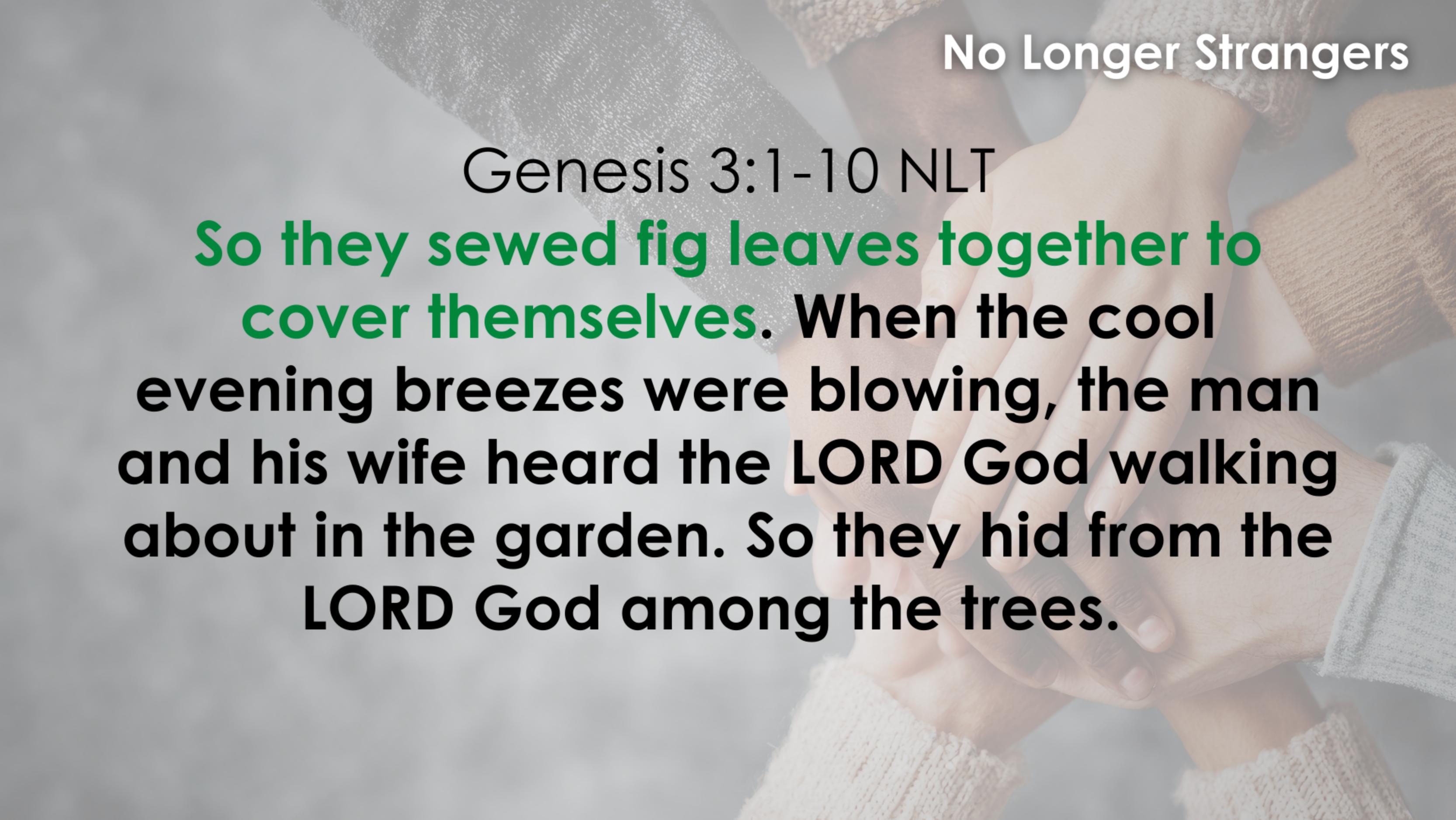
Genesis 3:1-10 NLT

God said, “You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.” “**You won’t die!**” the serpent replied to the woman. “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and **you will be like God**, knowing both good and evil.” The woman was convinced.

No Longer Strangers

Genesis 3:1-10 NLT

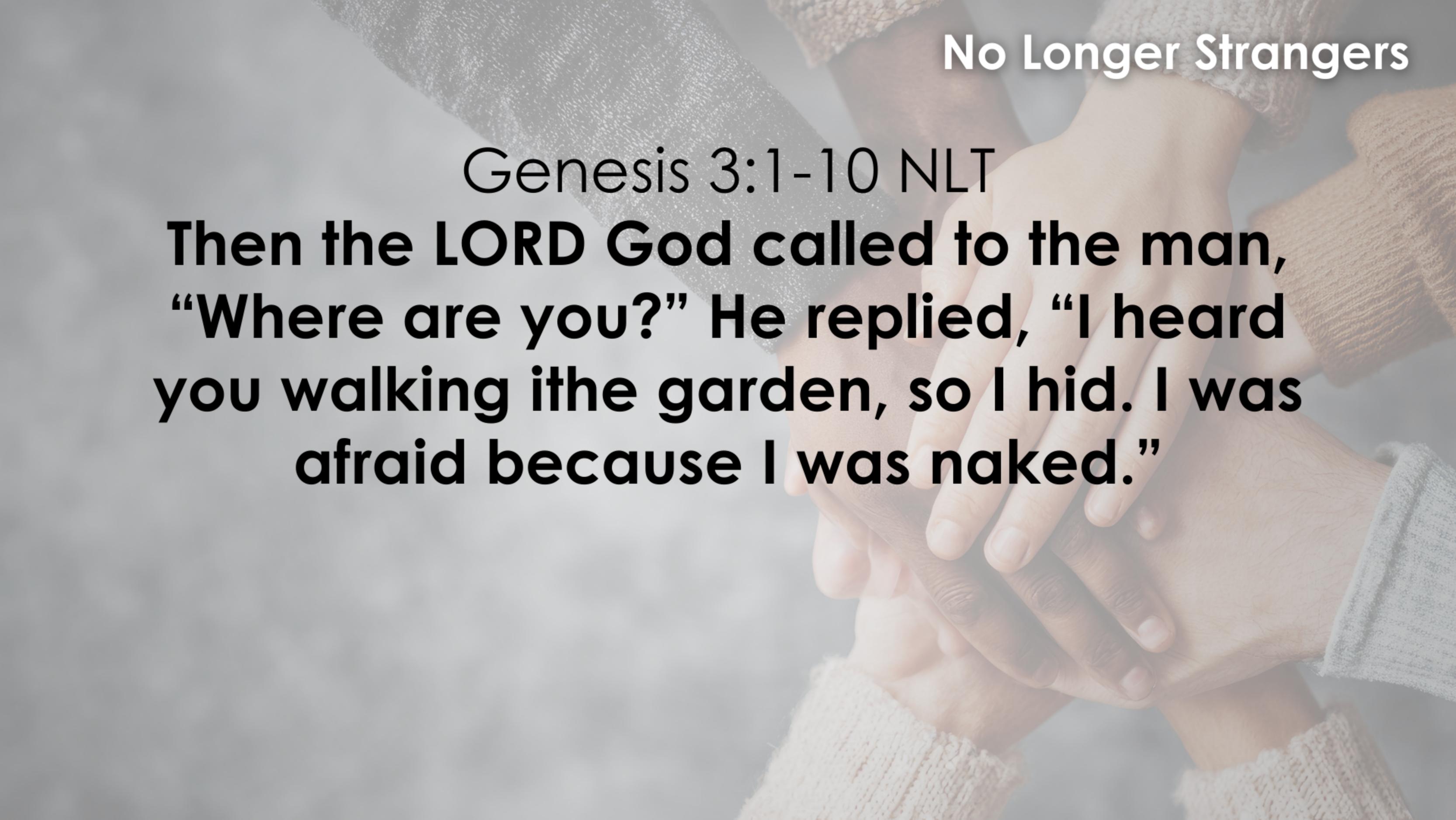
She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. At that moment their eyes were opened, and **they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness.**



No Longer Strangers

Genesis 3:1-10 NLT

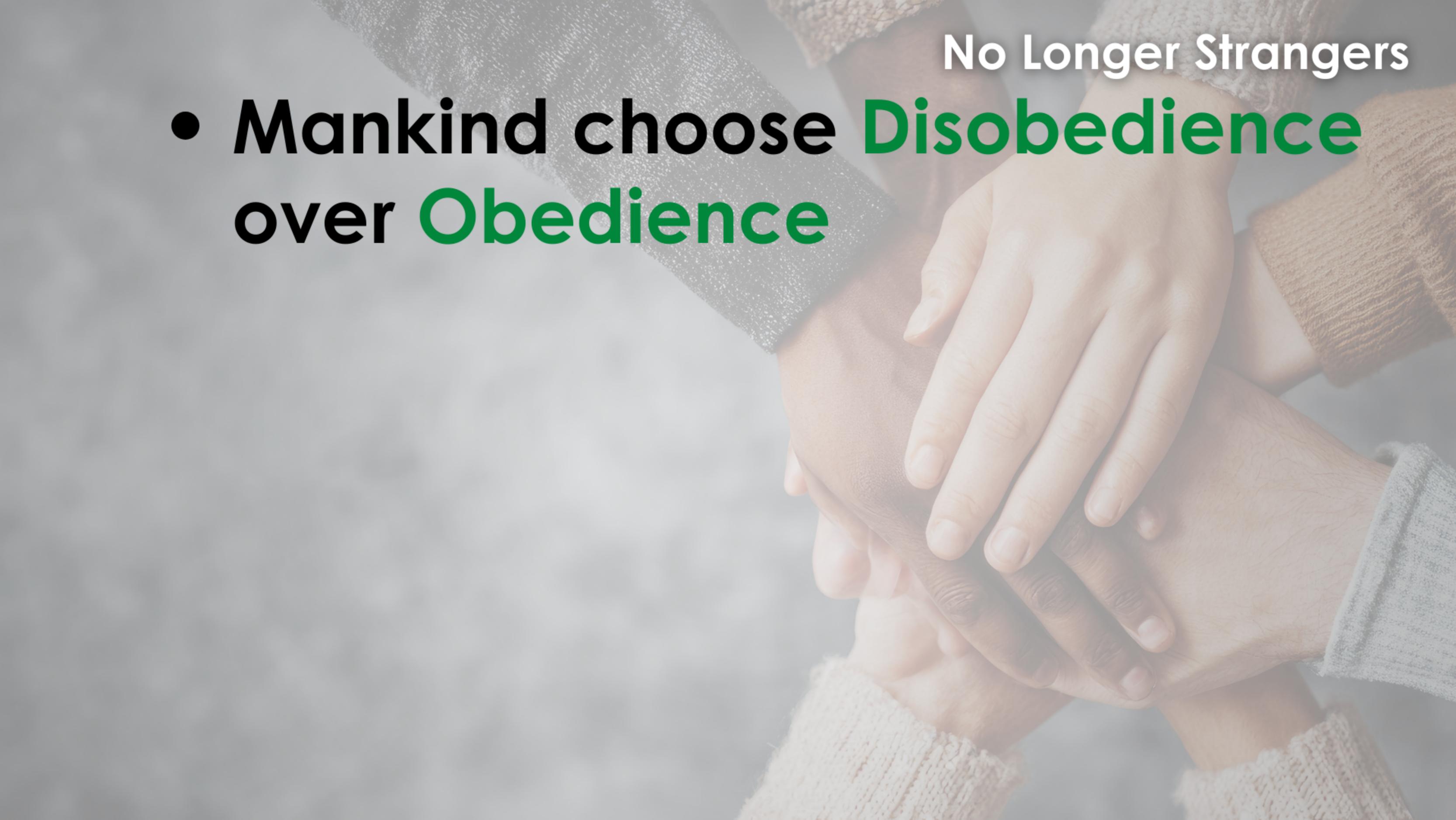
So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees.



No Longer Strangers

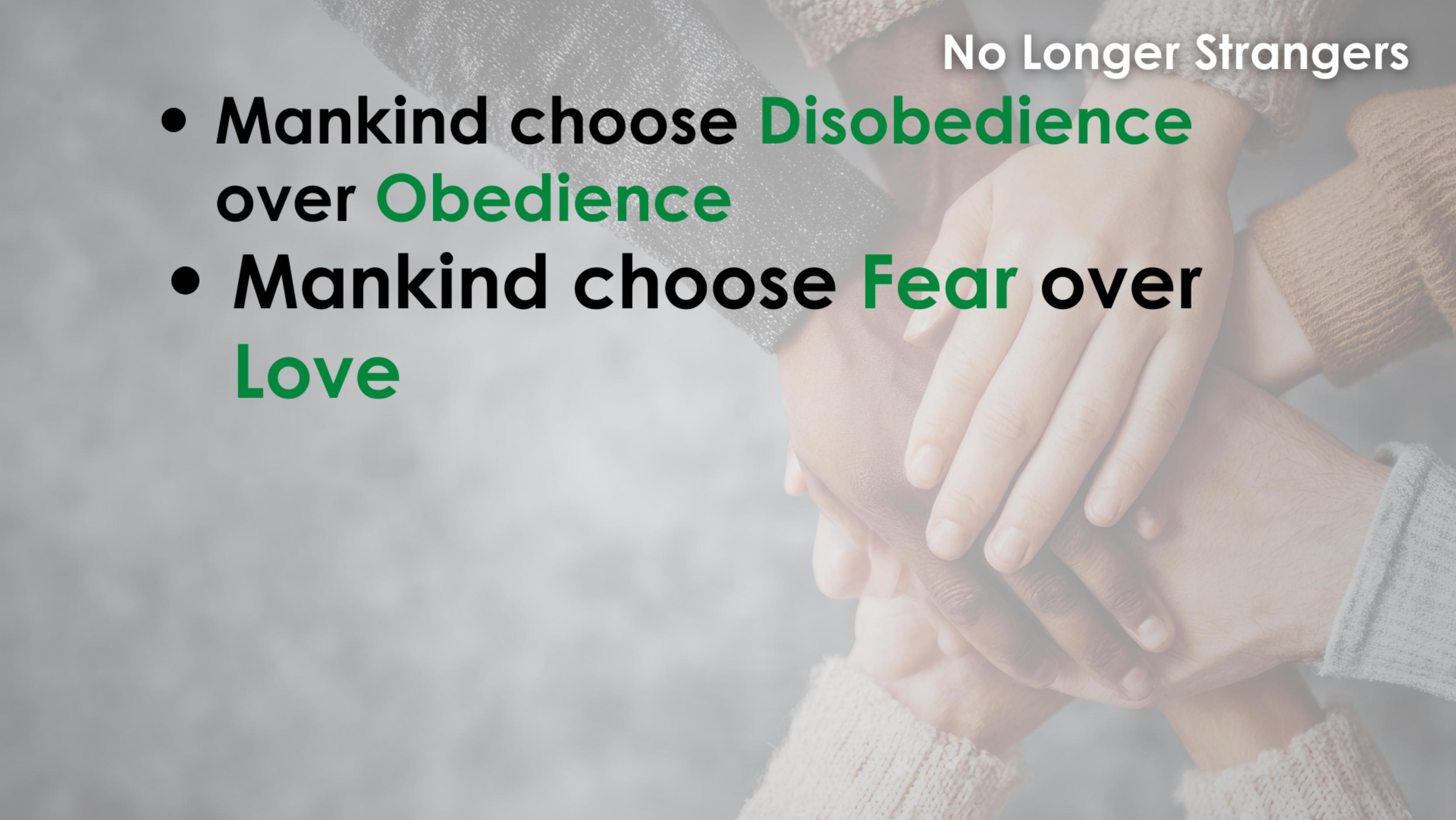
Genesis 3:1-10 NLT

Then the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?” He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”

A close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones stacked together in a supportive gesture. The hands are positioned in a circular pattern, with some resting on top of others. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey. The overall mood is one of solidarity and community.

No Longer Strangers

- Mankind choose **Disobedience** over **Obedience**

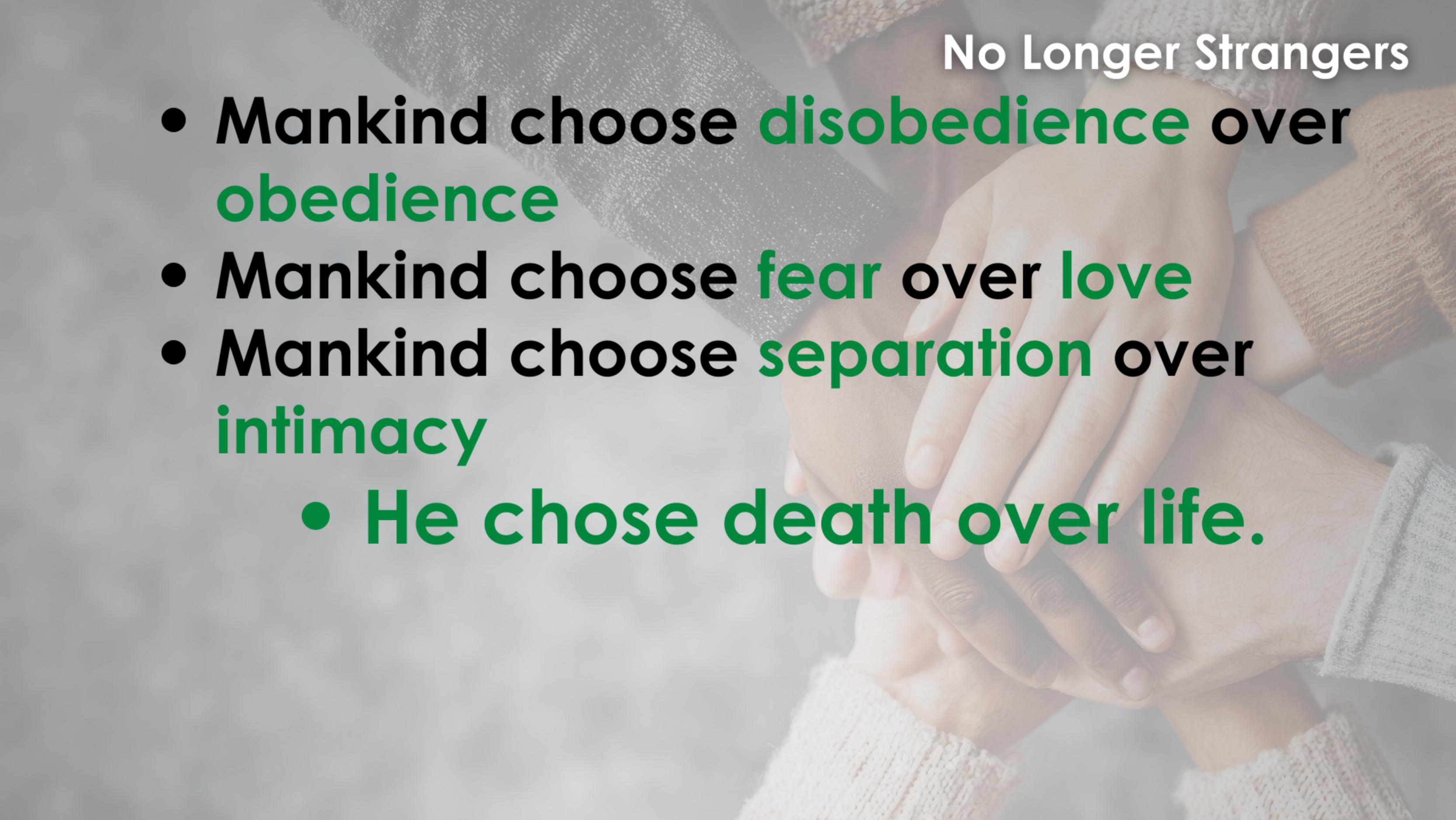
A close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones stacked together in a supportive gesture. The hands are positioned in a way that suggests a group or community. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey. The text is overlaid on the image, with the title at the top right and two bullet points on the left side.

No Longer Strangers

- Mankind choose **Disobedience** over **Obedience**
- Mankind choose **Fear** over **Love**

No Longer Strangers

- Mankind choose **Disobedience** over **Obedience**
- Mankind choose **Fear** over **Love**
- Mankind choose **Separation** over **Intimacy**

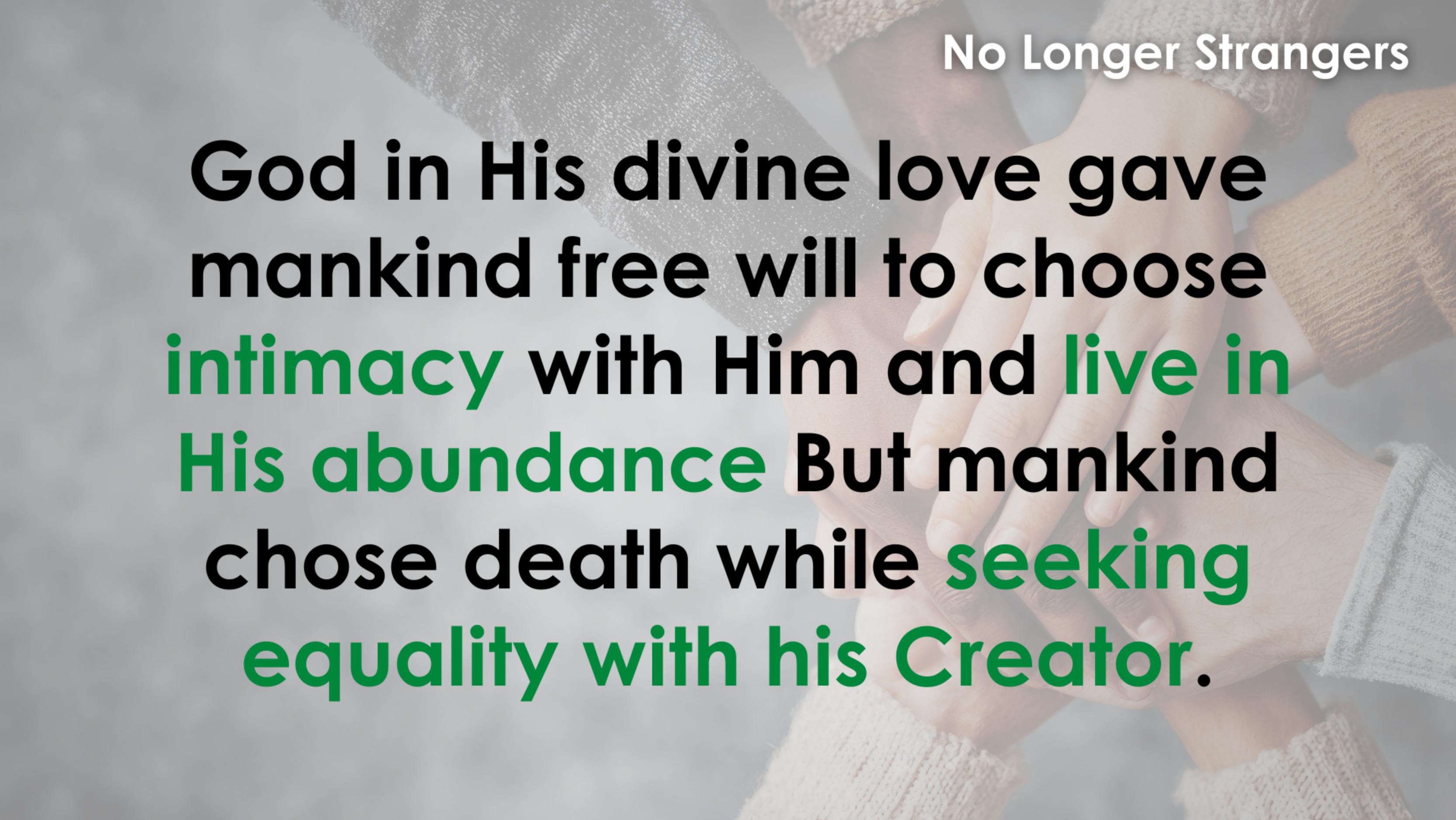


No Longer Strangers

- Mankind choose **disobedience** over **obedience**
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 - **He chose death over life.**

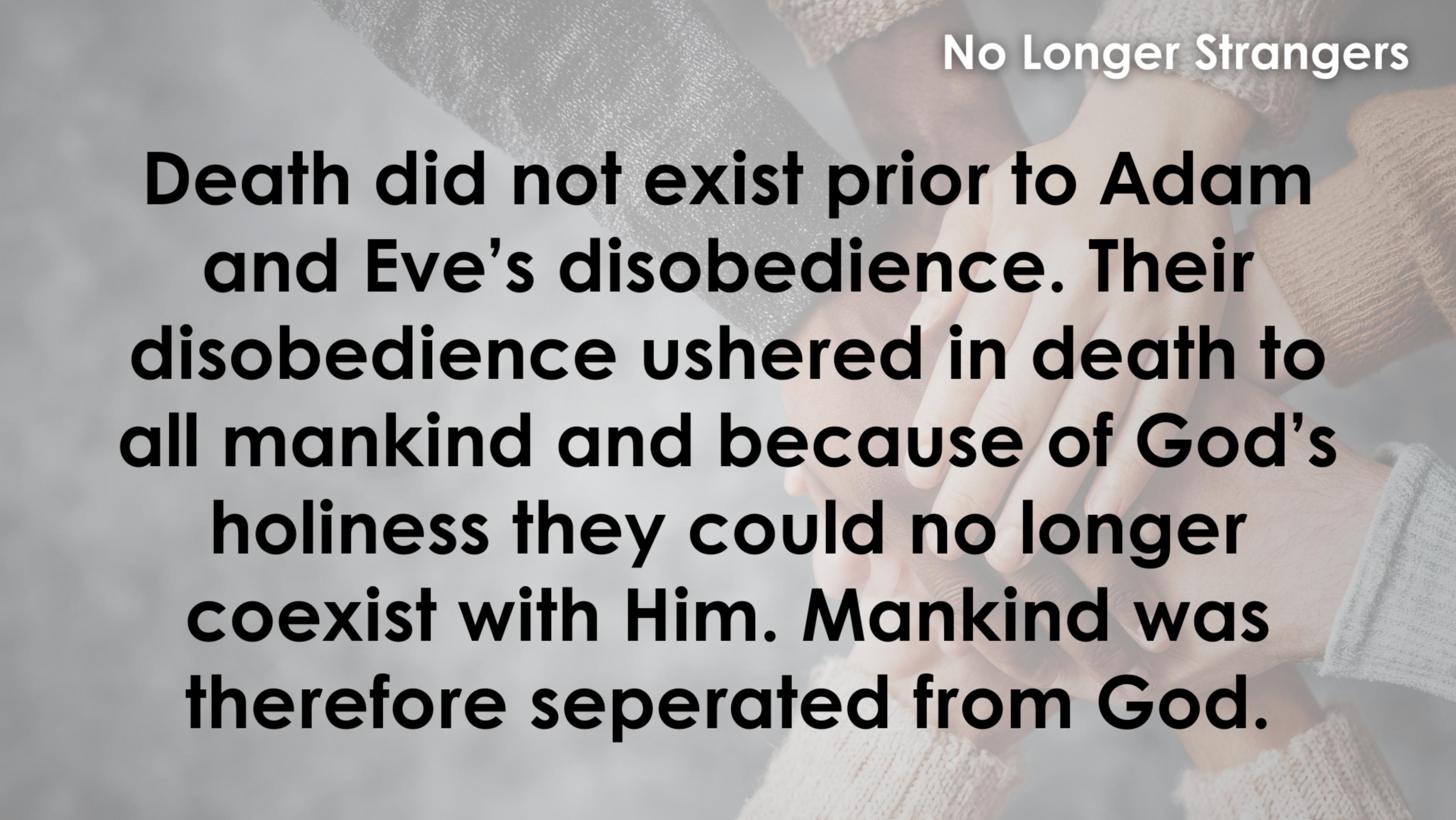
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- Mankind choose **disobedience** over **obedience**
- Mankind choose **fear** over **love**
- Mankind choose **separation** over **intimacy**
 - He chose **death** over **life**.
 - **Death** was mankind's choice and not **God's** design.



No Longer Strangers

God in His divine love gave mankind free will to choose **intimacy** with Him and **live in His abundance** But mankind chose death while **seeking equality** with his **Creator**.



No Longer Strangers

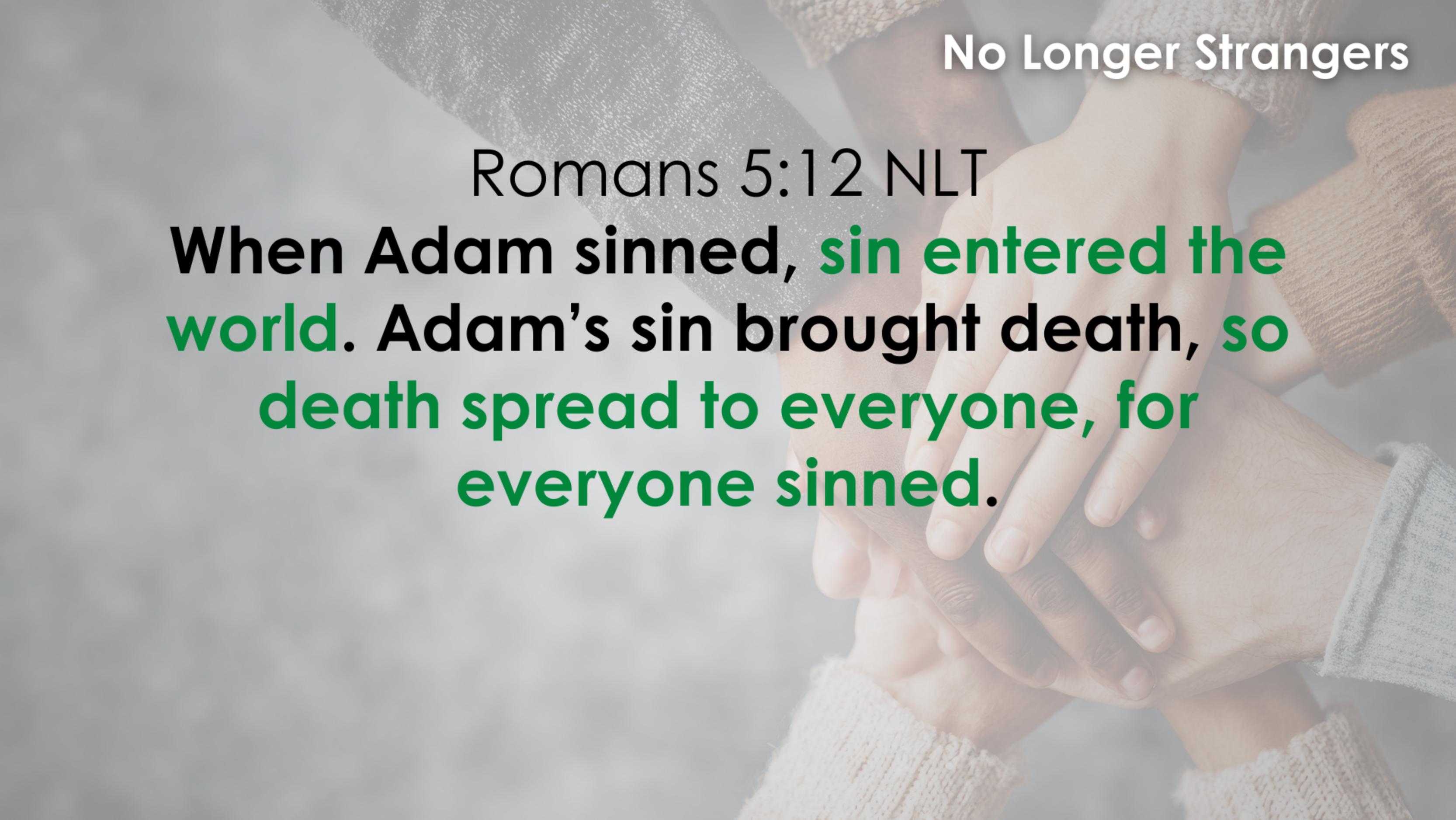
Death did not exist prior to Adam and Eve's disobedience. Their disobedience ushered in death to all mankind and because of God's holiness they could no longer coexist with Him. Mankind was therefore seperated from God.



No Longer Strangers

Psalms 5:4 NASB

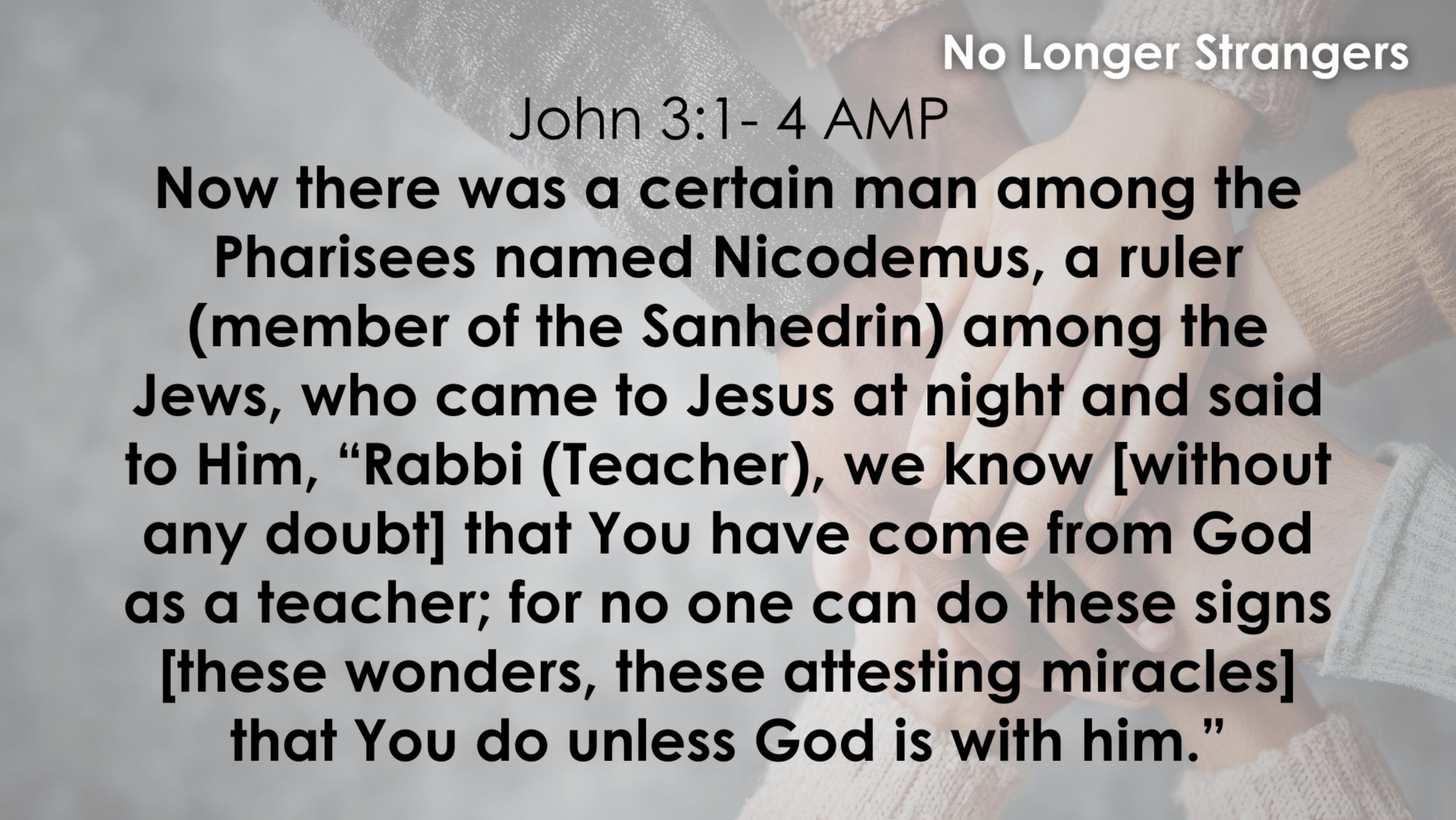
**For You are not a God who takes
pleasure in wickedness; No evil can
dwell with You.**



No Longer Strangers

Romans 5:12 NLT

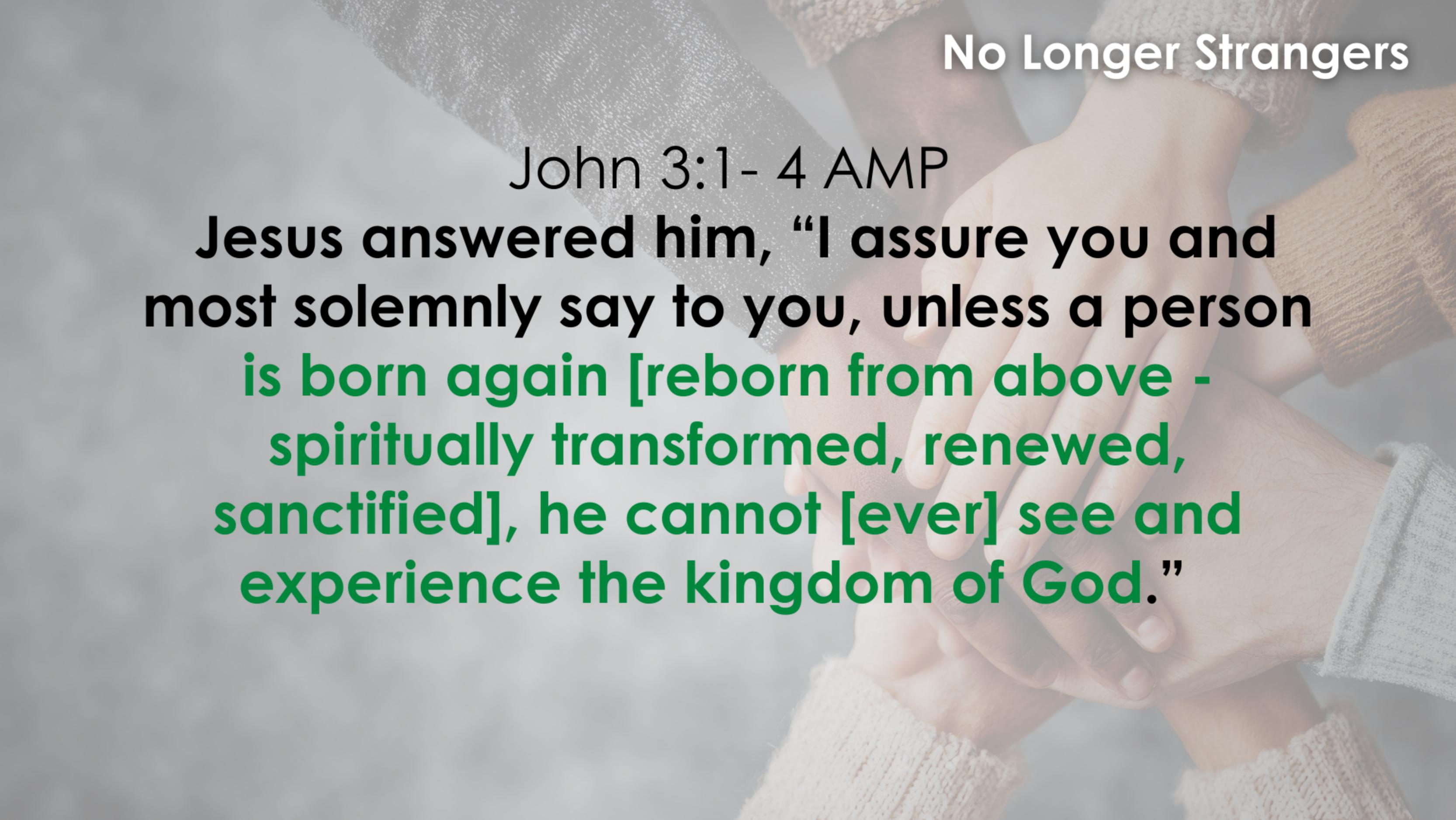
When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.



No Longer Strangers

John 3:1- 4 AMP

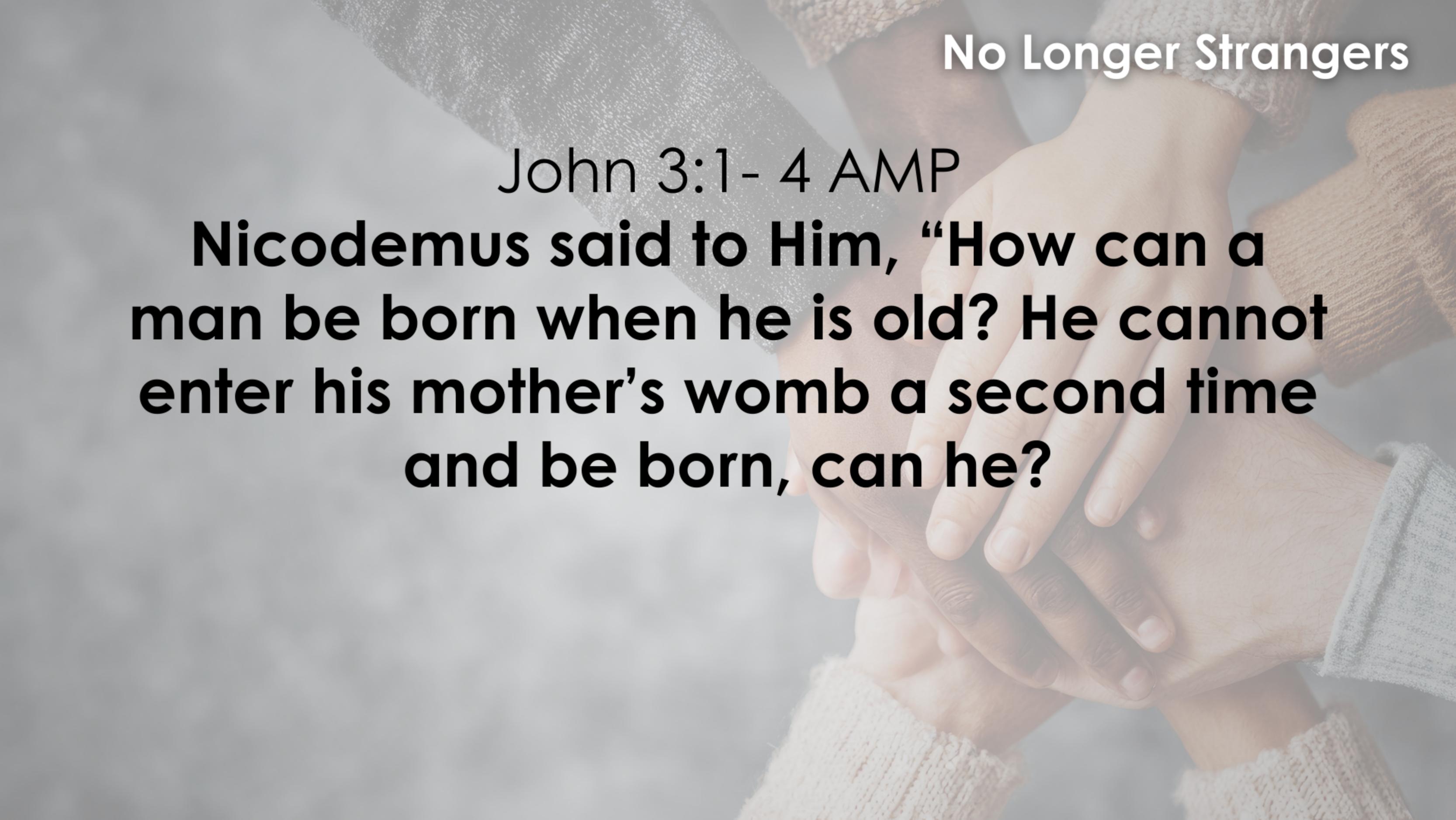
Now there was a certain man among the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler (member of the Sanhedrin) among the Jews, who came to Jesus at night and said to Him, “Rabbi (Teacher), we know [without any doubt] that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs [these wonders, these attesting miracles] that You do unless God is with him.”



No Longer Strangers

John 3:1- 4 AMP

Jesus answered him, “I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless a person is born again [reborn from above - spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified], he cannot [ever] see and experience the kingdom of God.”



No Longer Strangers

John 3:1- 4 AMP

Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born, can he?”



No Longer Strangers

Romans 5:12 NLT

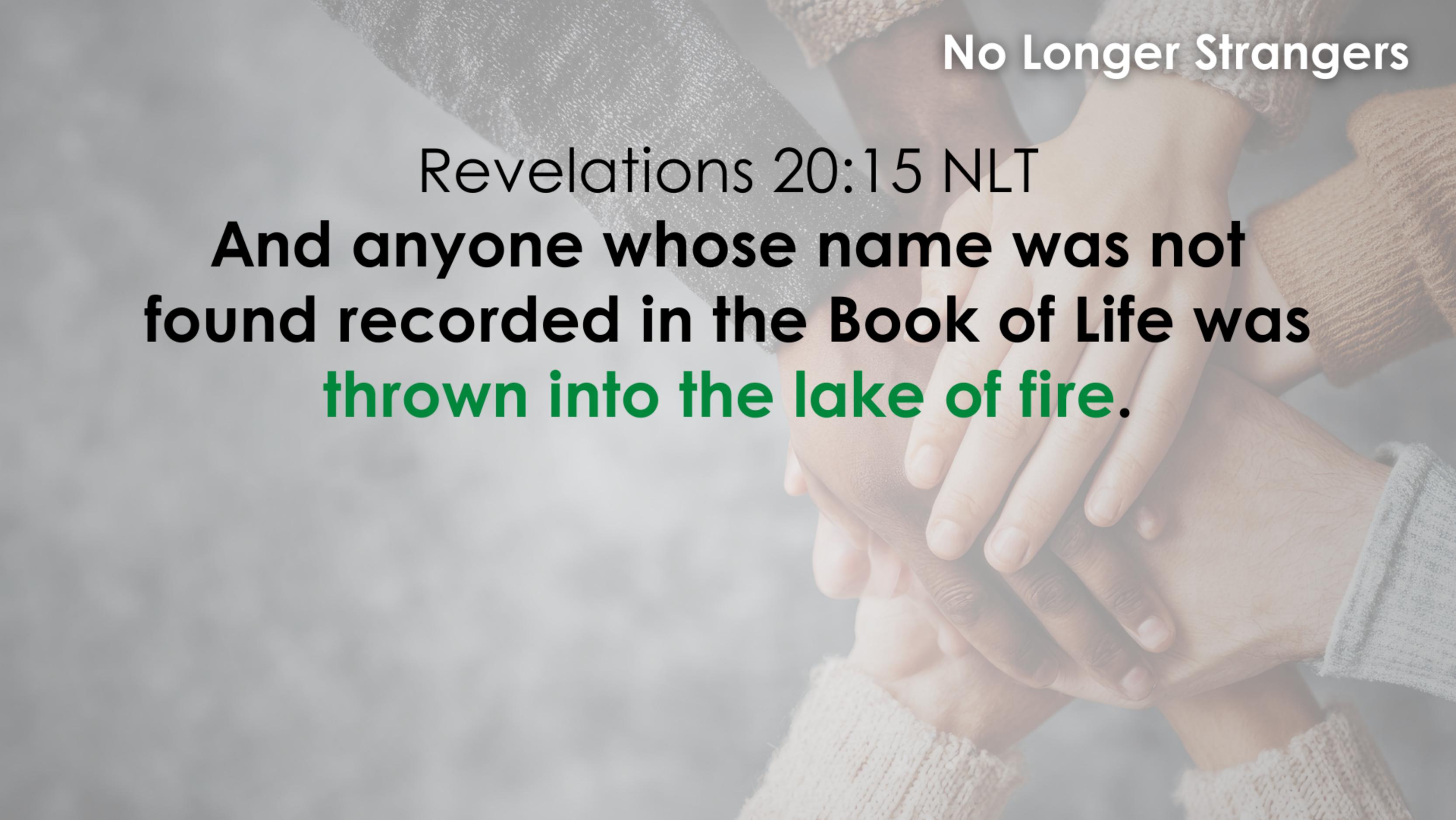
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No Longer Strangers

Romans 3:20 NLT

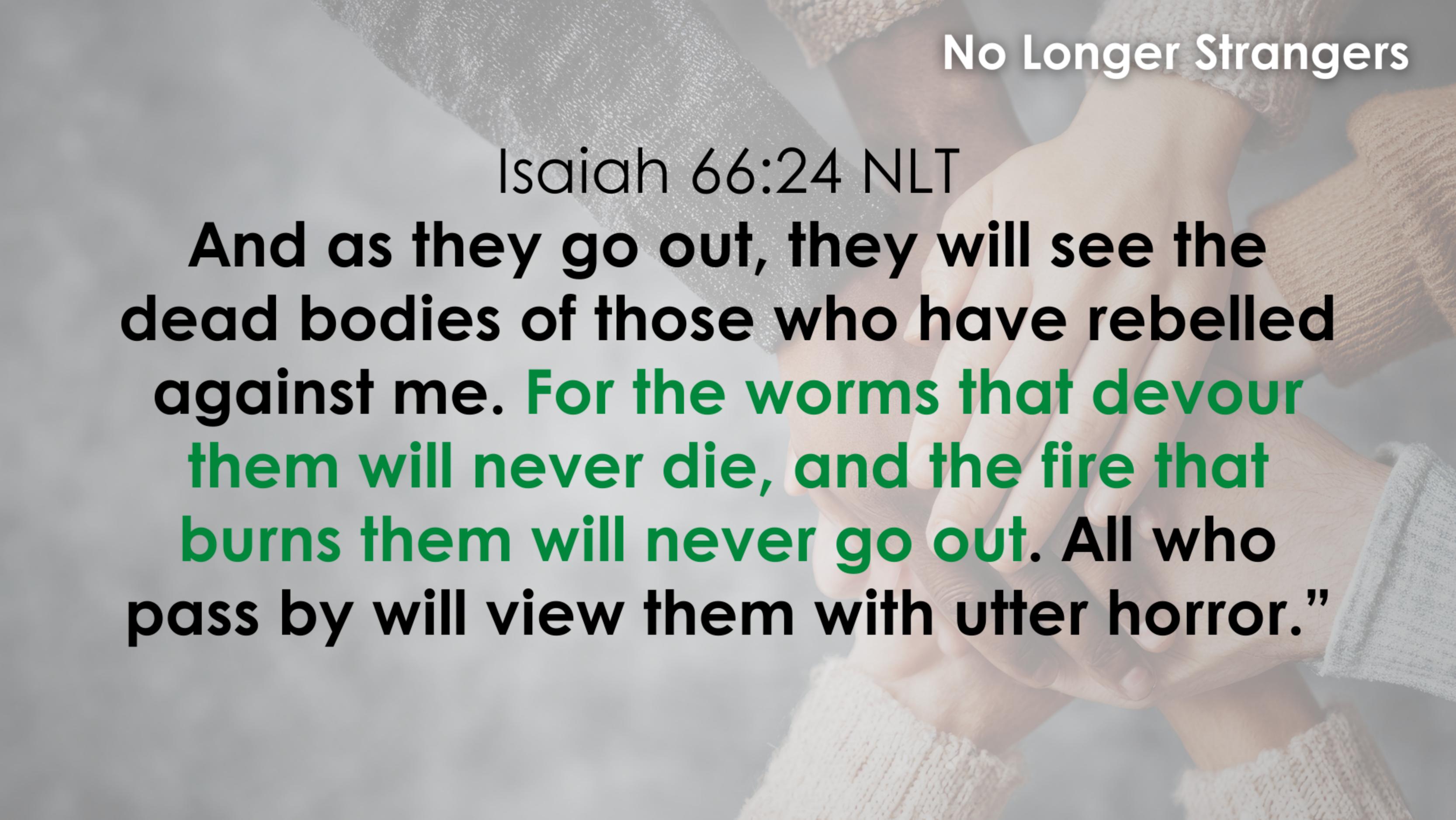
For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.



No Longer Strangers

Revelations 20:15 NLT

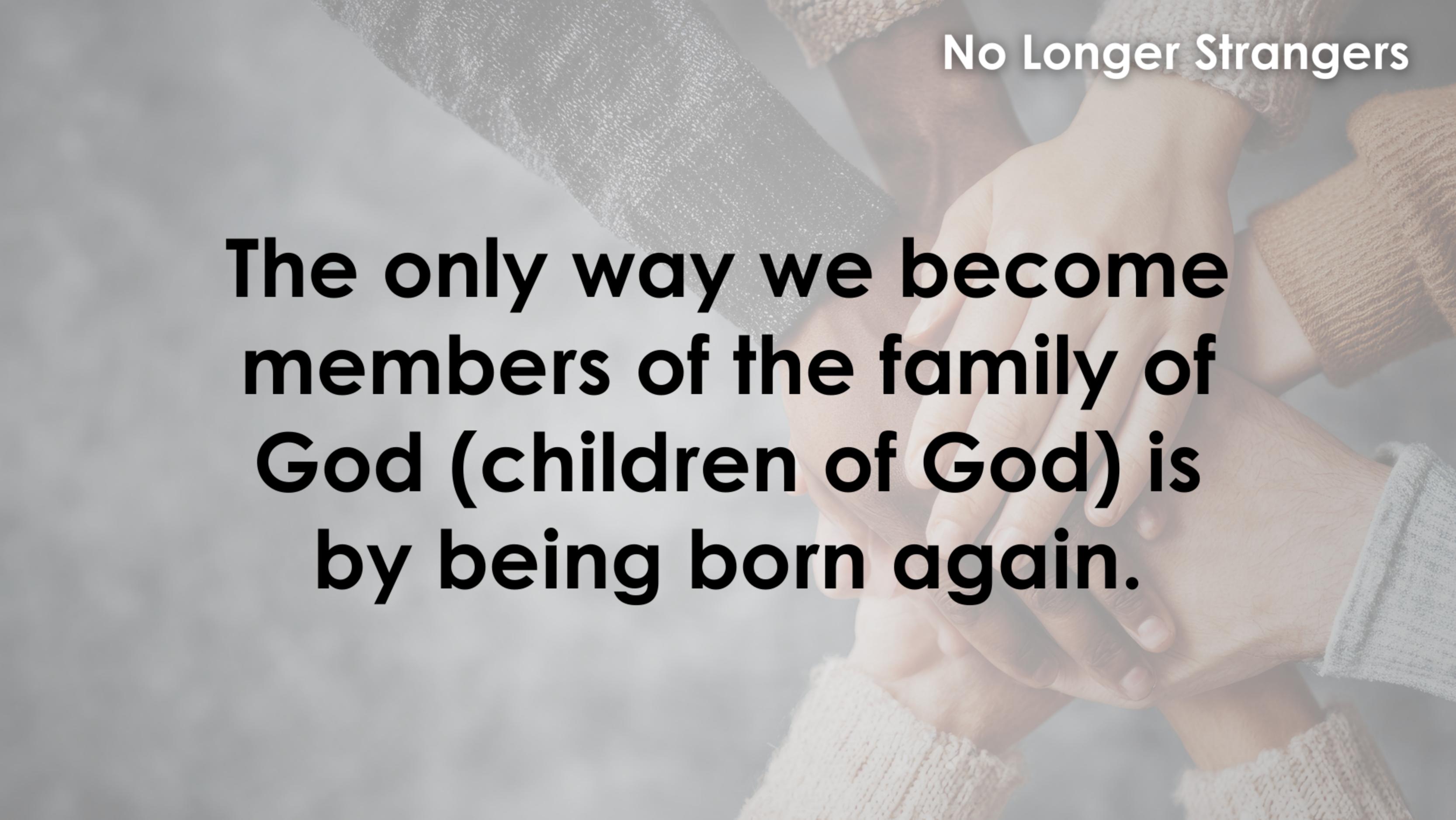
**And anyone whose name was not
found recorded in the Book of Life was
thrown into the lake of fire.**



No Longer Strangers

Isaiah 66:24 NLT

And as they go out, they will see the dead bodies of those who have rebelled against me. For the worms that devour them will never die, and the fire that burns them will never go out. All who pass by will view them with utter horror.”



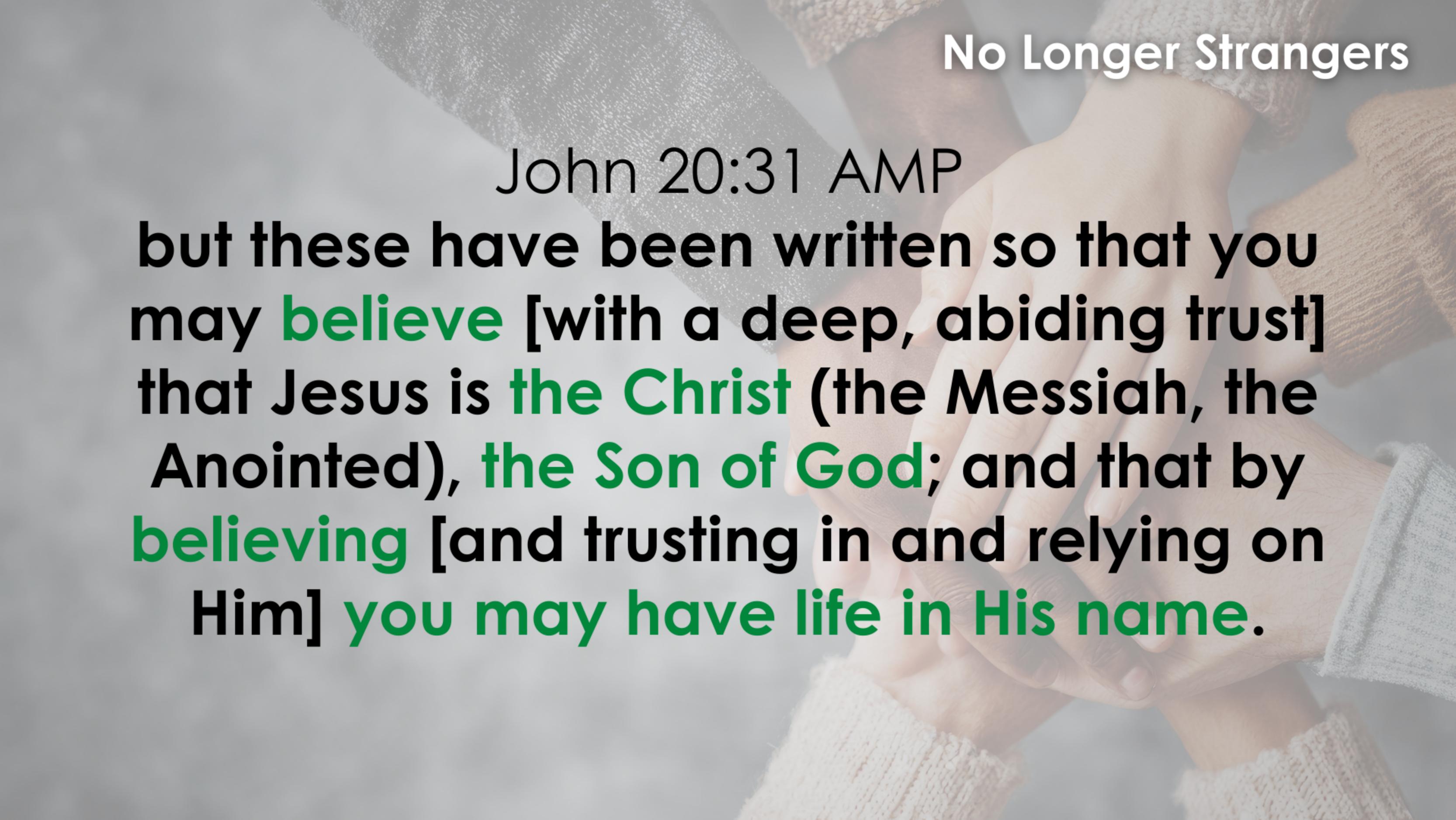
No Longer Strangers

The only way we become members of the family of God (children of God) is by being born again.

No Longer Strangers

John 5:24 AMP

I assure you and most solemnly say to you, **the person who hears My word** [the one who heeds My message], and **believes and trusts in Him who sent Me**, has (possesses now) eternal life [that is, eternal life actually begins--the believer is transformed], and does not come into judgment and condemnation, but has passed [over] from death into life.



No Longer Strangers

John 20:31 AMP

but these have been written so that you may **believe** [with a deep, abiding trust] that Jesus is **the Christ** (the Messiah, the Anointed), **the Son of God**; and that by **believing** [and trusting in and relying on Him] **you may have life in His name.**

Jesus

- is the Christ - Anointed one (Messiah)

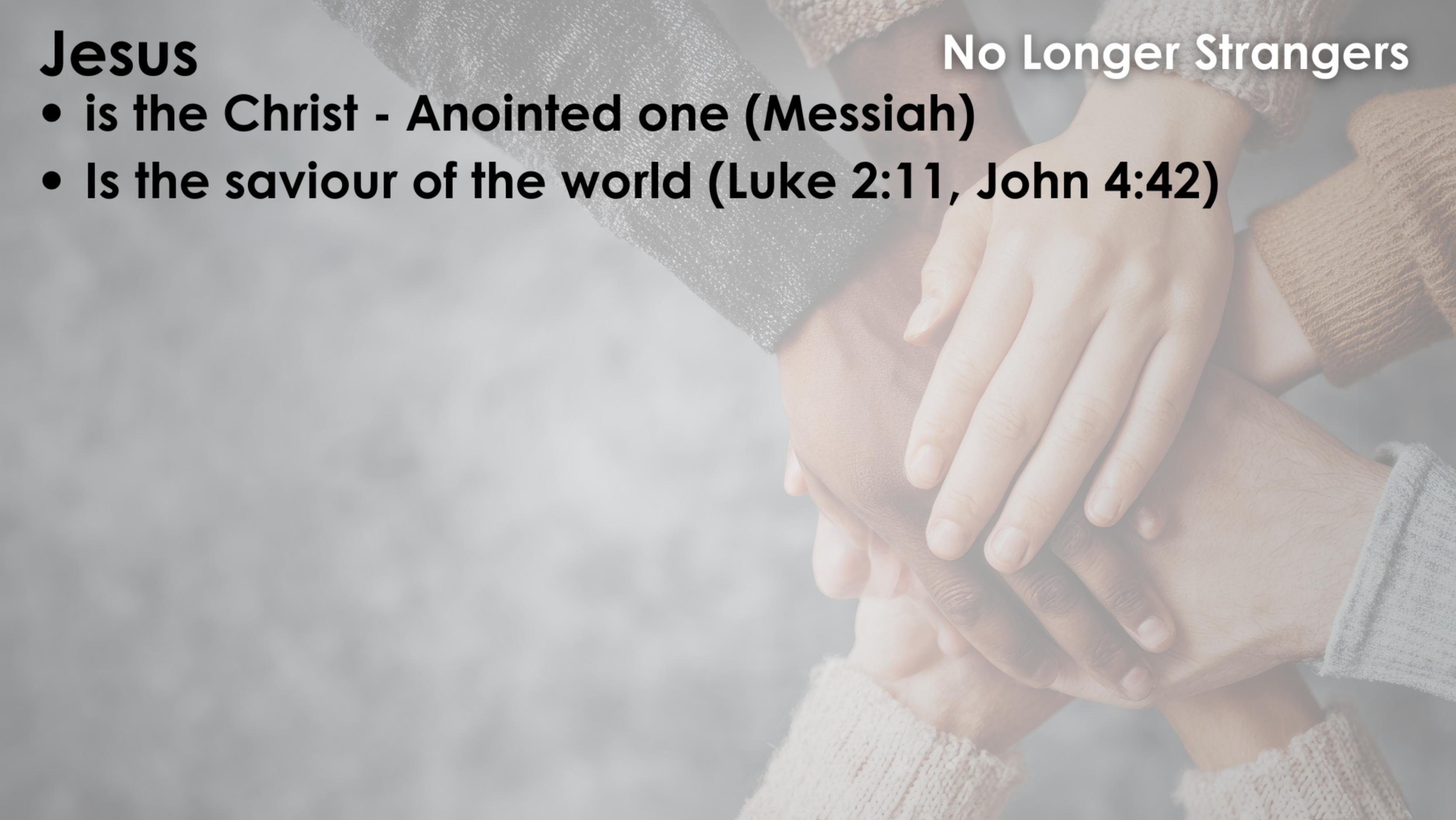
No Longer Strangers



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- Is the saviour of the world (Luke 2:11, John 4:42)

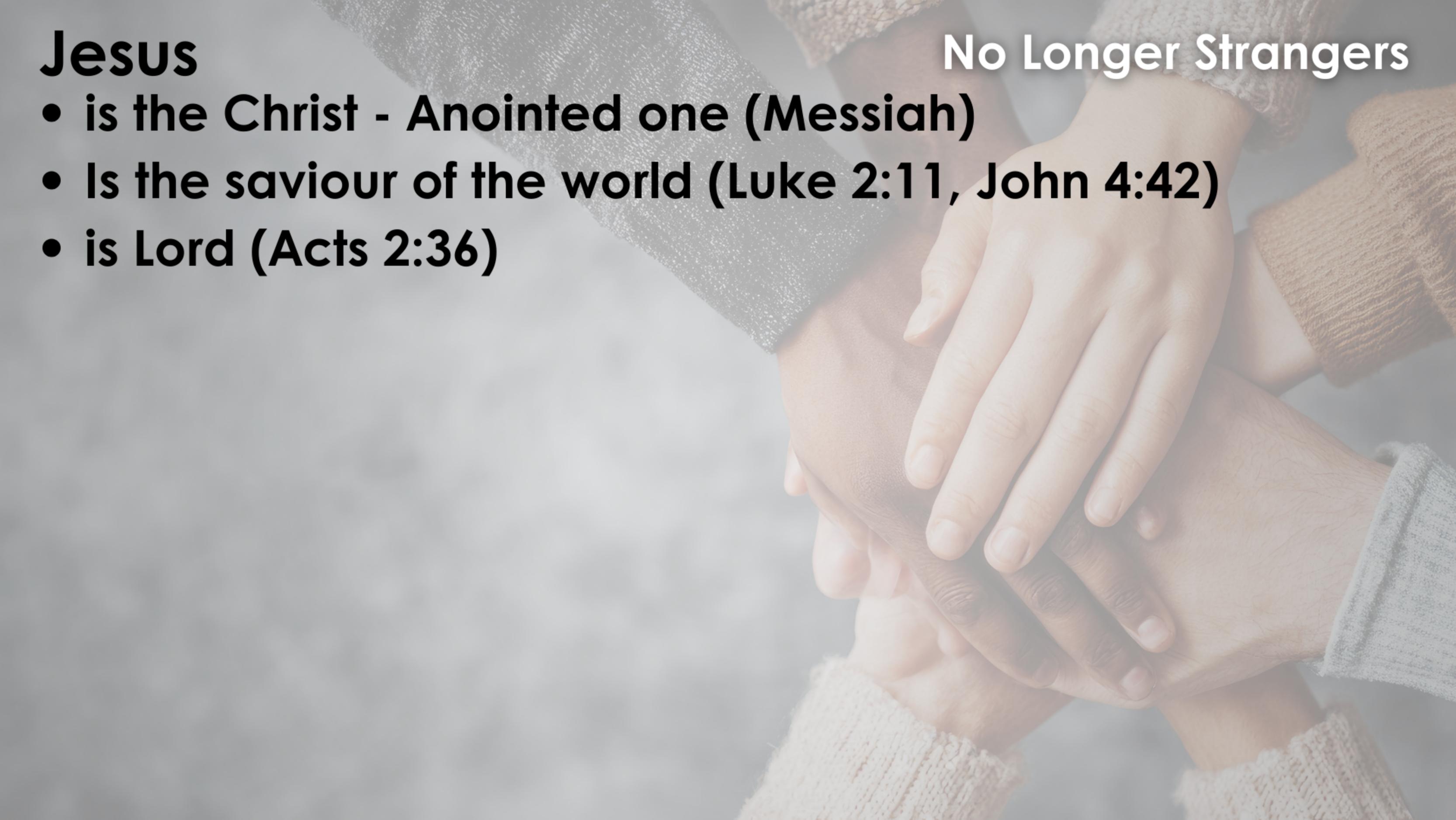
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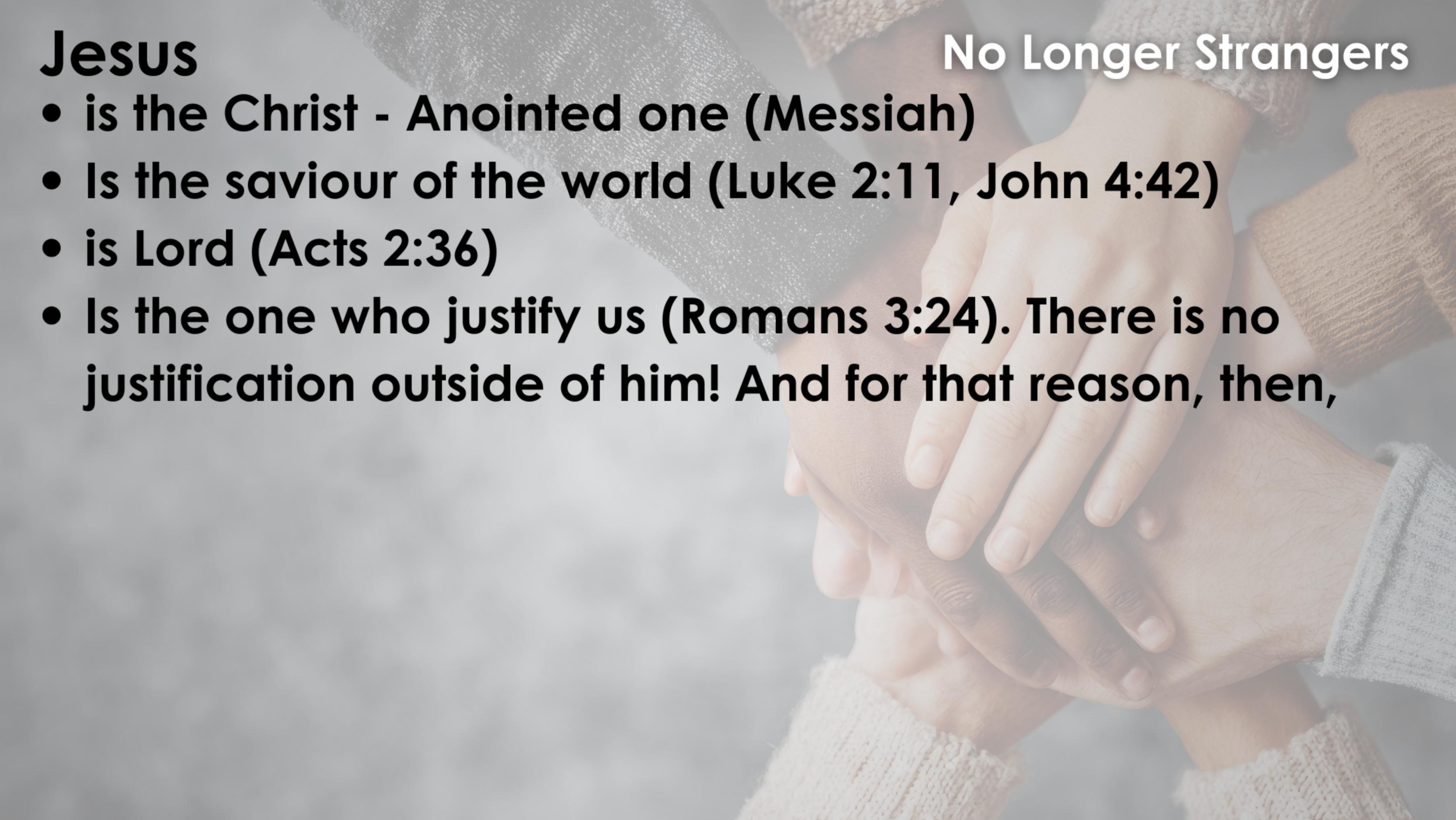
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- He is the only way to heaven (John 14:6)
- Salvation is only found in Him and no one else (Acts 4:12)

No Longer Strangers

Romans 10:9-10 NLT

If you **openly declare** that Jesus is Lord and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved**. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.



No Longer Strangers

John 1:12 NLT

But to all who **believed him and accepted him**, he gave the right to become children of God.



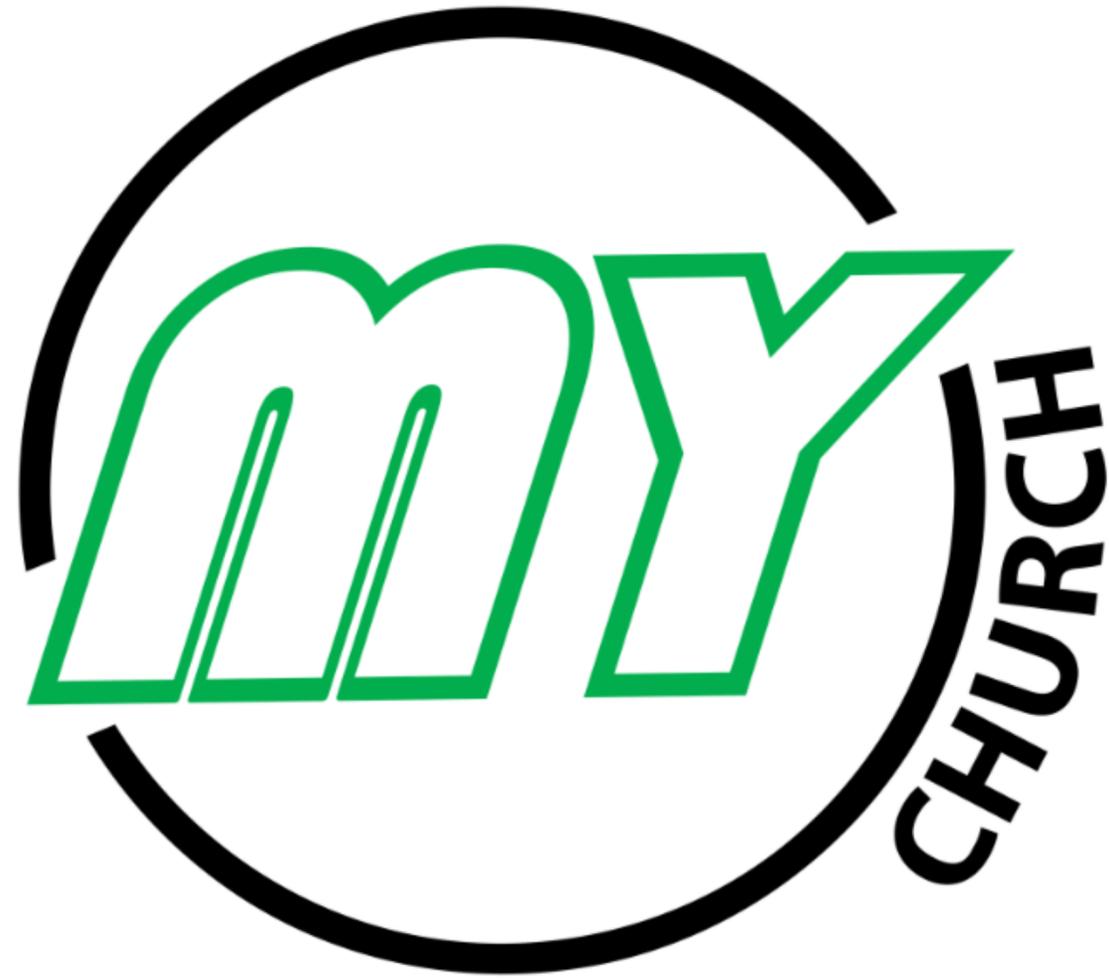
No Longer Strangers

2 Corinthians 1:1-2 NLT

It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.



No Longer Strangers



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Matthew 16:18 NLT**