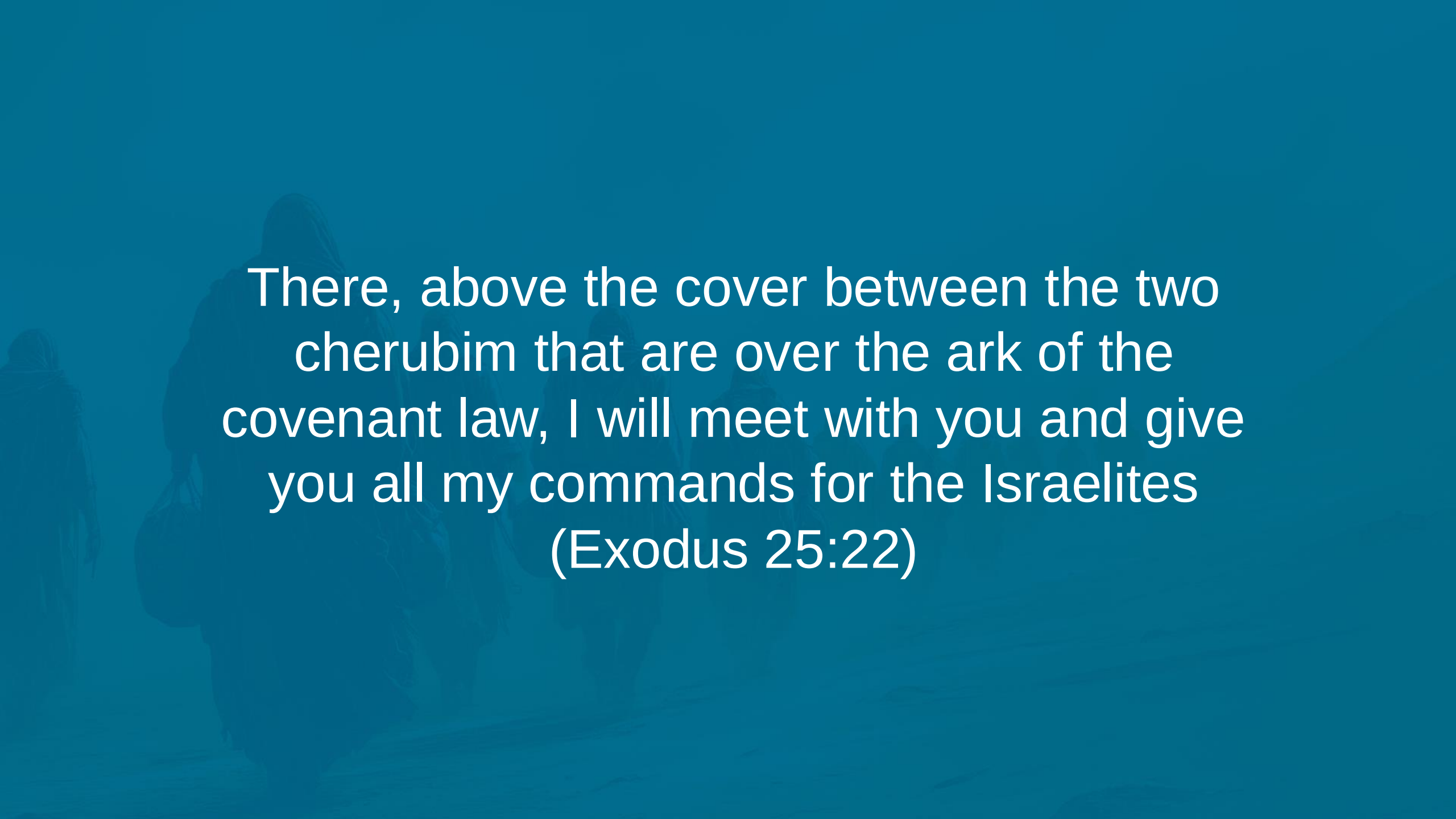
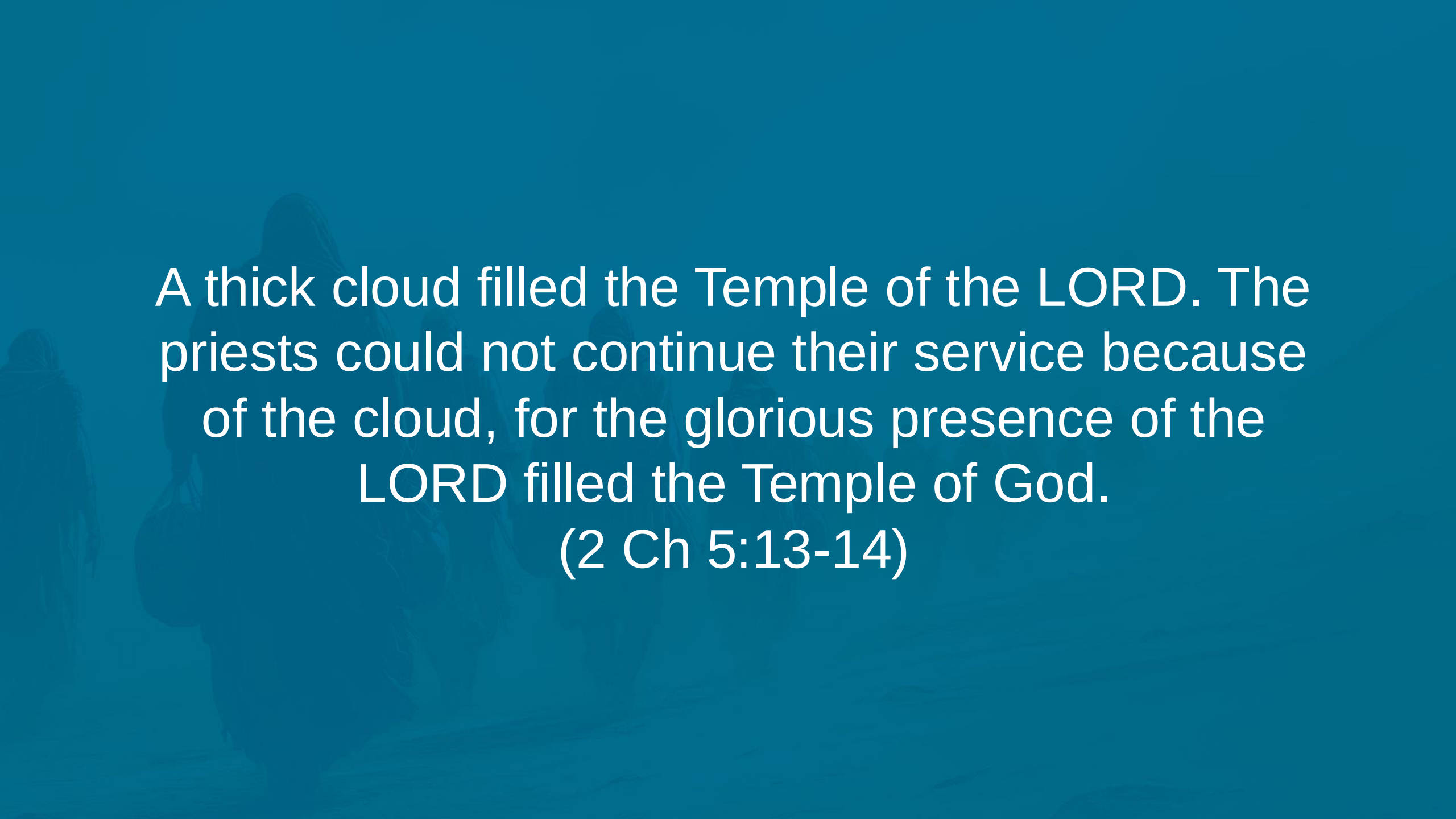


Stories from EXILE



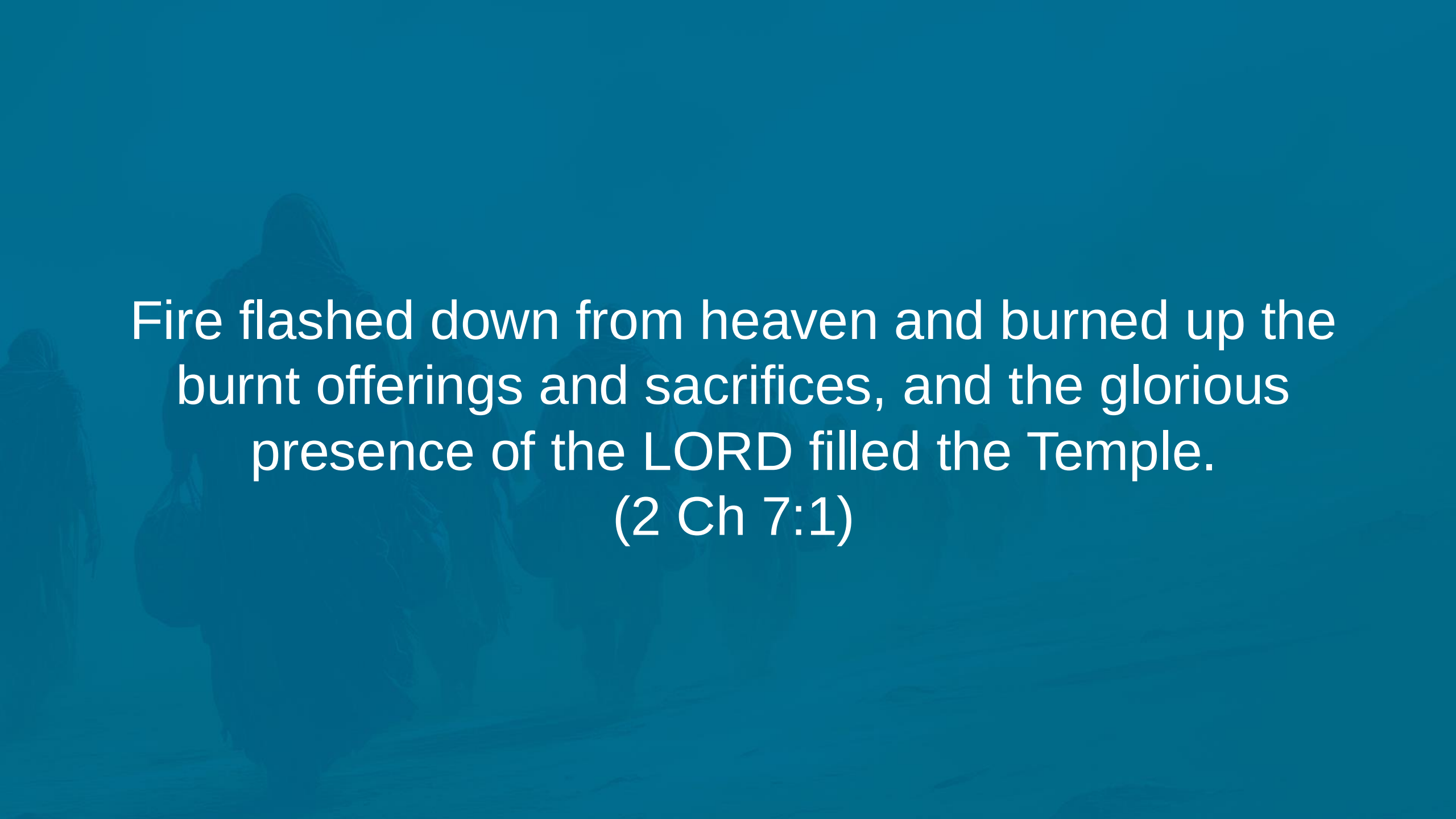
The background of the slide features a dark blue gradient. On the left side, there are faint, semi-transparent silhouettes of several people walking away from the viewer, carrying bags, which suggests a journey or pilgrimage. The text is centered and written in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

There, above the cover between the two
cherubim that are over the ark of the
covenant law, I will meet with you and give
you all my commands for the Israelites
(Exodus 25:22)



A thick cloud filled the Temple of the LORD. The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the LORD filled the Temple of God.

(2 Ch 5:13-14)



Fire flashed down from heaven and burned up the
burnt offerings and sacrifices, and the glorious
presence of the LORD filled the Temple.
(2 Ch 7:1)



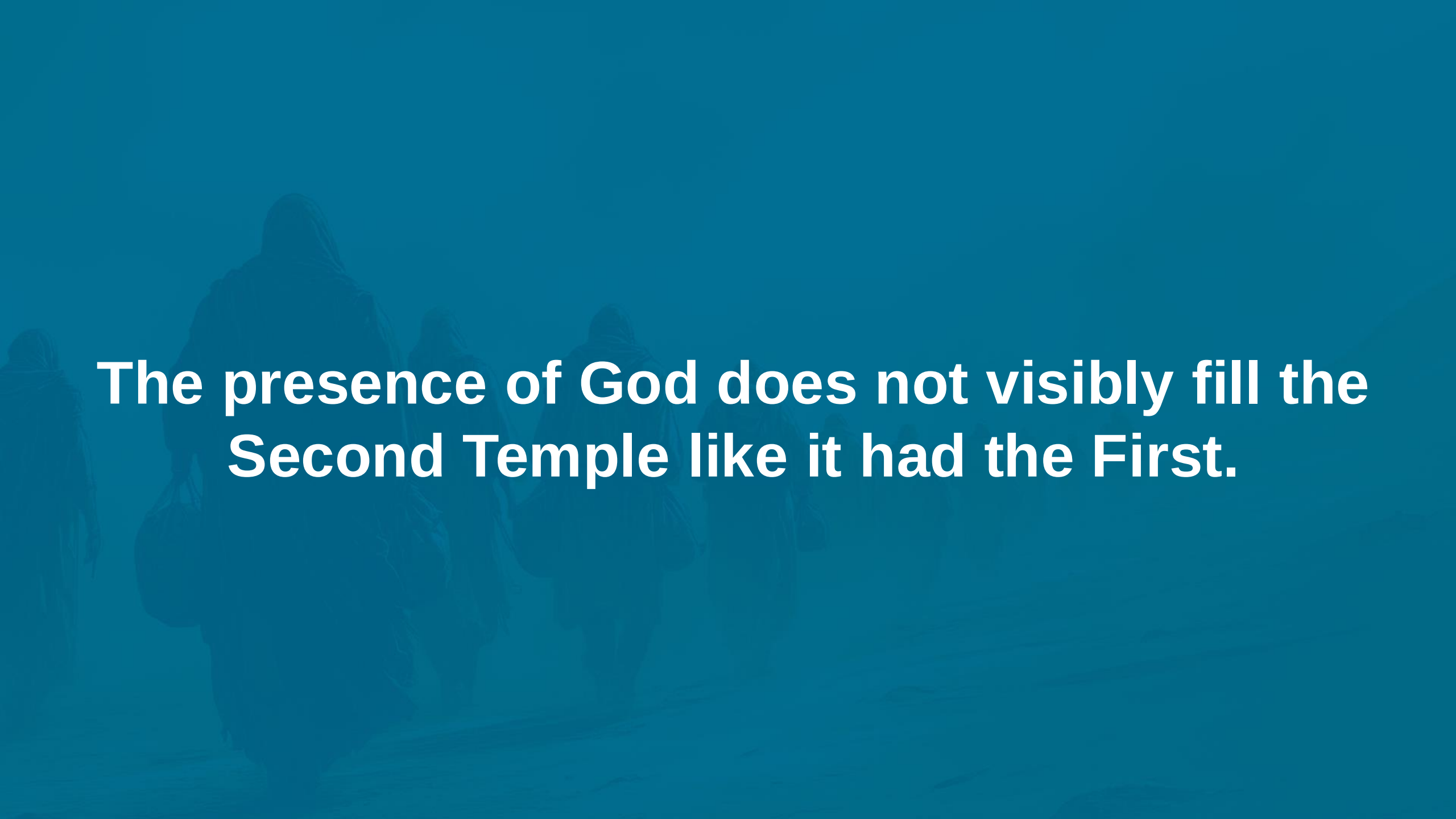
Ezra 3:10-13.

¹⁰ When the builders completed the foundation of the LORD's Temple, the priests put on their robes and took their places to blow their trumpets. And the Levites, descendants of Asaph, clashed their cymbals to praise the LORD, just as King David had prescribed. ¹¹ With praise and thanks, they sang this song to the LORD: "He is so good! His faithful love for Israel endures forever!"

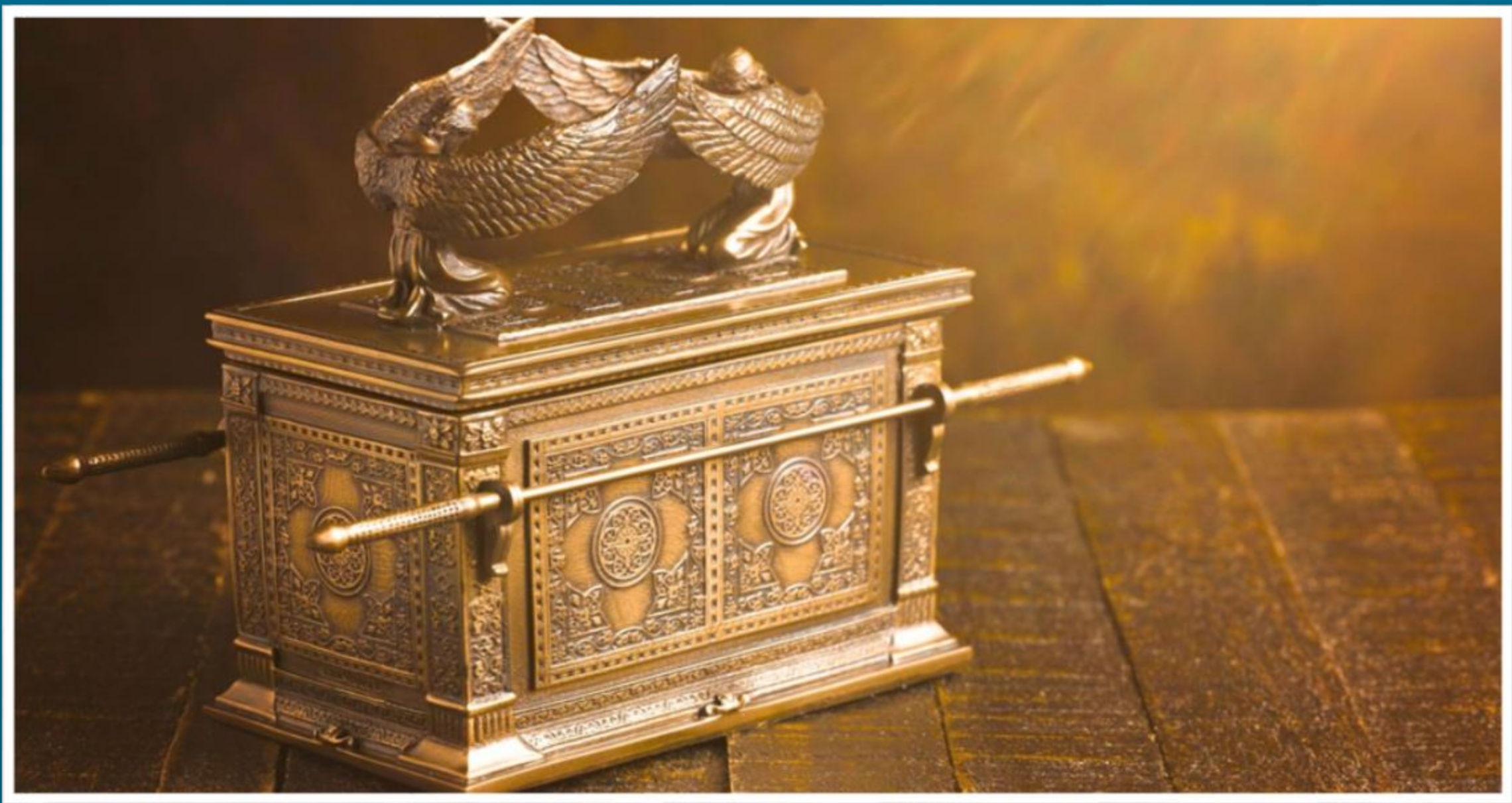
Then all the people gave a great shout, praising the LORD because the foundation of the LORD's Temple had been laid. ¹² But many of the older priests, Levites, and other leaders who had seen the first Temple wept aloud when they saw the new Temple's foundation. The others, however, were shouting for joy. ¹³ The joyful shouting and weeping mingled together in a loud noise that could be heard far in the distance.

Ezra 6:14-16

¹⁴ So the Jewish elders continued their work, and they were greatly encouraged by the preaching of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah son of Iddo. The Temple was finally finished, as had been commanded by the God of Israel and decreed by Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes, the kings of Persia. ¹⁵ The Temple was completed on March 12, during the sixth year of King Darius's reign. ¹⁶ The Temple of God was then dedicated with great joy by the people of Israel, the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the people who had returned from exile.

A group of people, mostly women wearing headscarves and carrying bags, are walking away from the camera on a dusty path. The scene is hazy, suggesting a desert or arid environment. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

**The presence of God does not visibly fill the
Second Temple like it had the First.**



Hag 2:1–9

¹ Then on October 17 of that same year, the LORD sent another message through the prophet Haggai. ² “Say this to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of God’s people there in the land: ³ ‘Does anyone remember this house—this Temple—in its former splendor? How, in comparison, does it look to you now? It must seem like nothing at all! ⁴ But now the LORD says: Be strong, Zerubbabel. Be strong, Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people still left in the land. And now get to work, for I am with you, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.

Hag 2:1–9

⁵ My Spirit remains among you, just as I promised when you came out of Egypt. So do not be afraid.’ ⁶ “For this is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies says: In just a little while I will again shake the heavens and the earth, the oceans and the dry land. ⁷ I will shake all the nations, and the treasures of all the nations will be brought to this Temple. I will fill this place with glory, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. ⁸ The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. ⁹ The future glory of this Temple will be greater than its past glory, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. And in this place I will bring peace. I, the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, have spoken!”

“Immanuel”

“became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.” (Jn 1:14)

“visible image of the invisible God” (Col 1:15)

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!” (Jn 14:9)

Acts 2:1-4.

¹ On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. ² Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. ³ Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. ⁴ And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

"While many assume a private residence, the context and subsequent crowd response make the Temple courts a more likely venue. The term 'house' need not exclusively mean a domestic dwelling." - F.F. Bruce

"The Temple, as the house of God, is a fitting location for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, symbolizing the fulfilment of God's promises and the inauguration of a new covenant community." - Richard Baucham

Are we treating our bodies like their God's dwelling place?

¹⁹ Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰ for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. (1 Cor 6:19-20)

Are we treating others as part of God's Temple?

⁴ You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. ⁵ And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. (1 Peter 2:4-5)