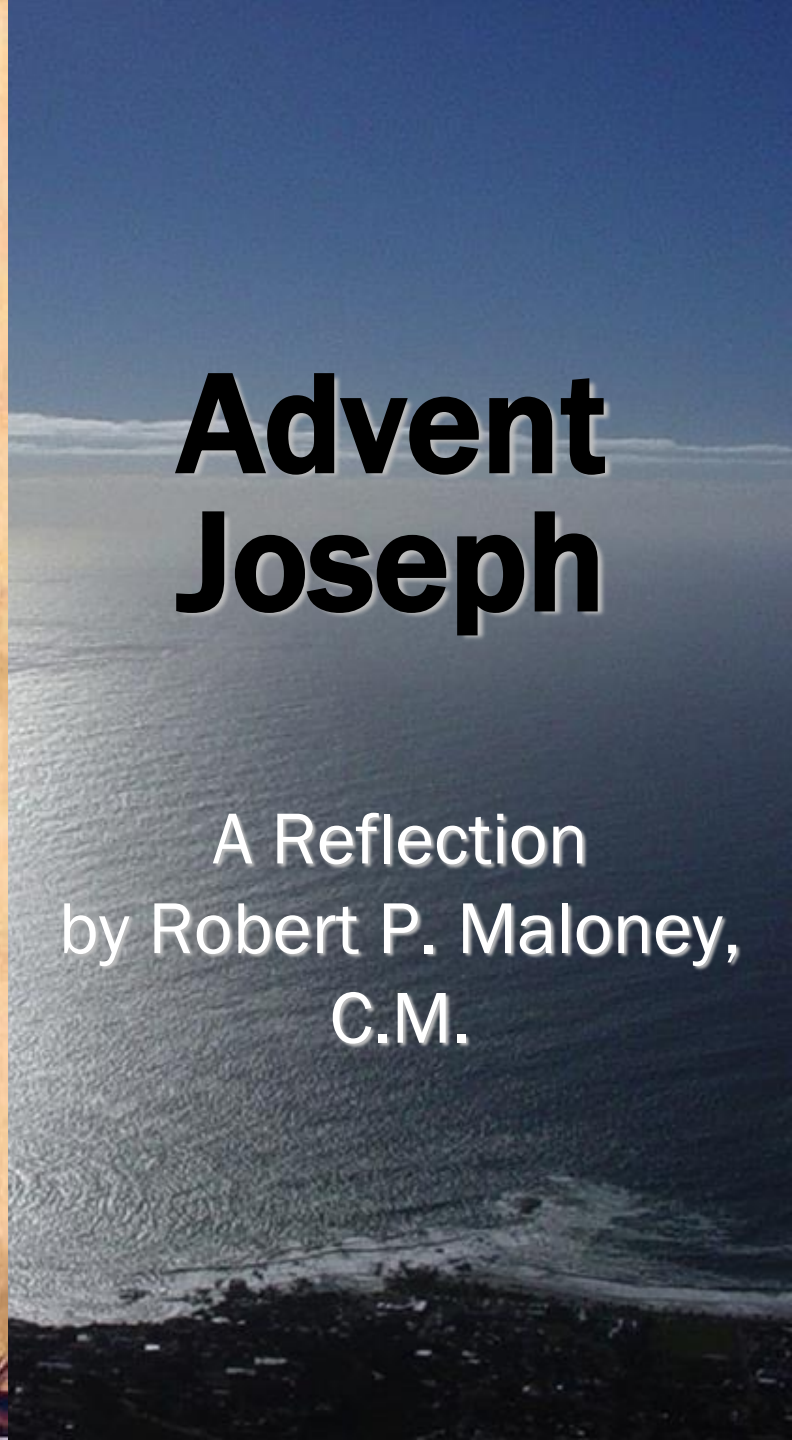




# Advent Joseph

A Reflection  
by Robert P. Maloney,  
C.M.



A wide-angle photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a large body of water. The sun is positioned low on the horizon, creating a bright, shimmering path of light that reflects across the water's surface. The sky is a deep, clear blue, and a thin layer of white clouds is visible just above the horizon. In the foreground, the dark, silhouetted edge of a rocky shore is visible, contrasting with the bright light of the sun. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Joseph teaches us how to walk with God.

A wide-angle photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a large body of water. The sun is a bright, glowing orb on the horizon, creating a shimmering path of light across the water's surface. The sky is a deep, clear blue, and a thin layer of white clouds is visible just above the horizon. In the foreground, the dark, silhouetted rocks of a shoreline are visible, contrasting with the bright light of the sun.

Joseph knew how to listen to God's  
word and act upon it.

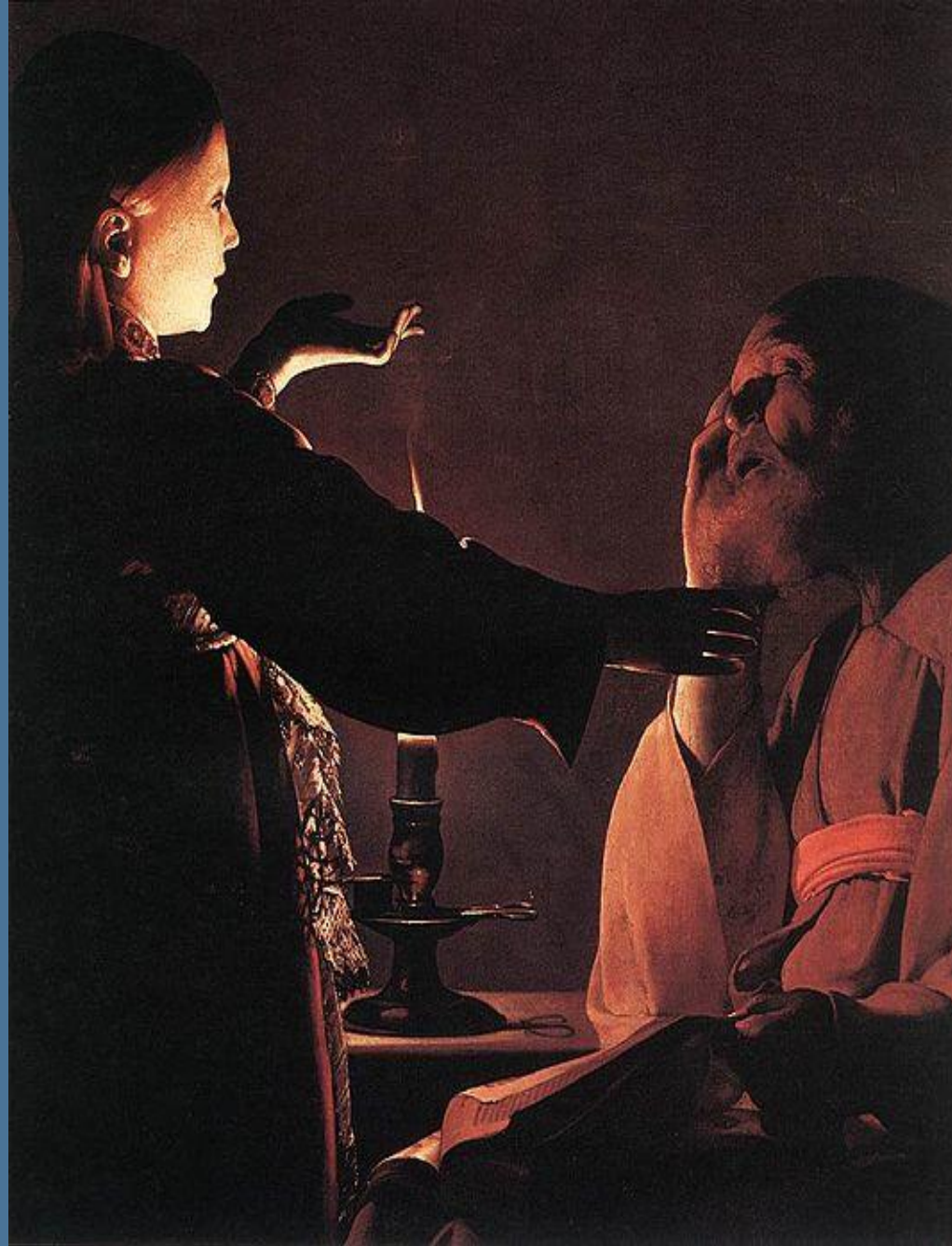
# God spoke to Joseph in dreams:

Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife-- Joseph received her into his home.

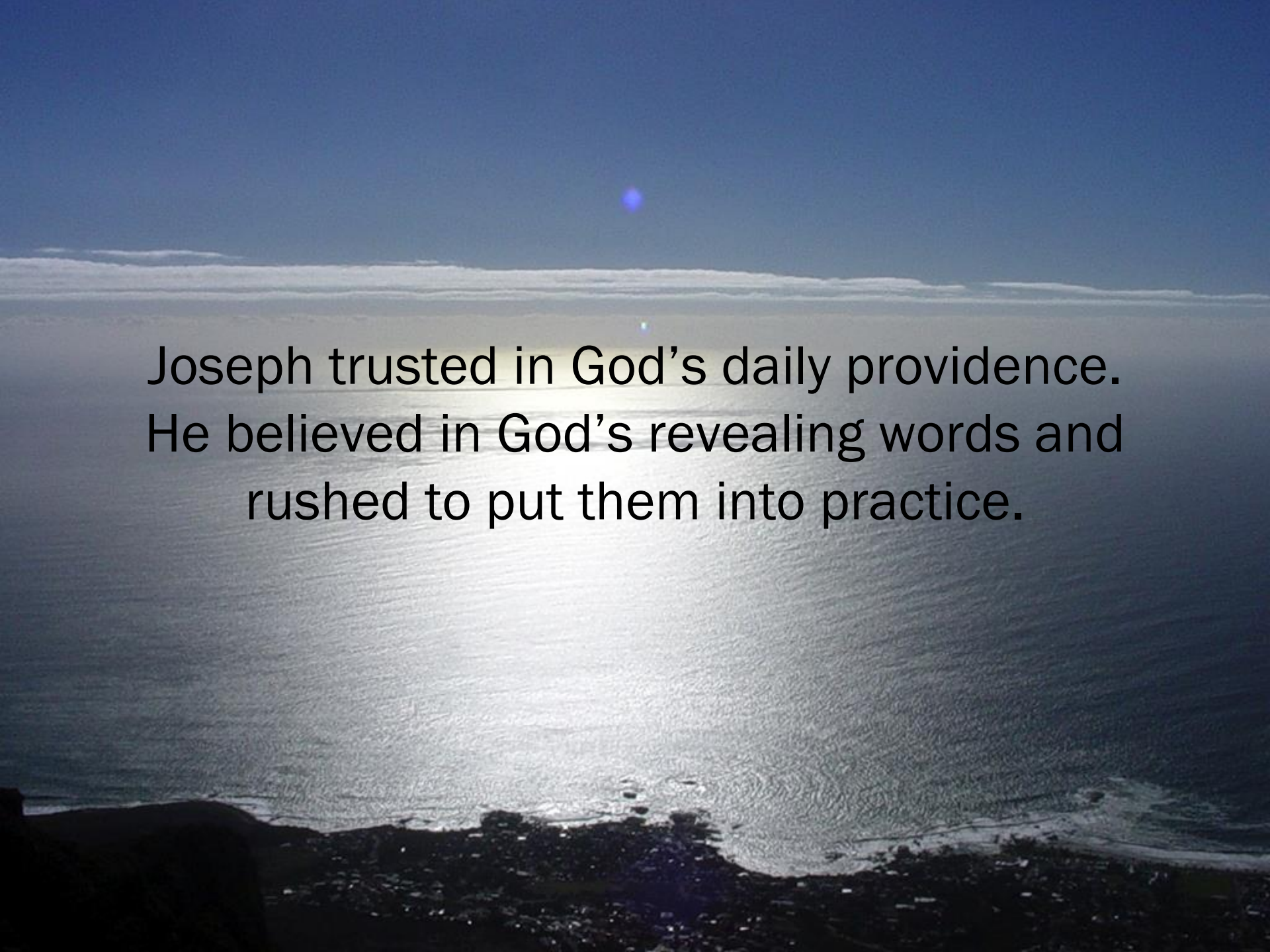
Take the child and his mother to Egypt-- they left that very night.

Set out for Israel-- he departs immediately.

Do not go to Judea-- he changes his route and settles in Galilee.



*The Dream of St. Joseph*, oil on canvas by Georges de la Tour, circa 1640



Joseph trusted in God's daily providence.  
He believed in God's revealing words and  
rushed to put them into practice.

A wide-angle photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a large body of water. The sun is a bright, glowing orb just above the horizon, creating a shimmering path of light across the water's surface. The sky is a deep, clear blue, and a thin layer of white clouds stretches across the horizon. In the foreground, a dark, rocky shoreline is visible, with some small waves lapping at the rocks. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Joseph has much to say to those  
who live in the Vincentian tradition.



For Joseph,  
the word of  
God is  
paramount.

For Vincent,  
this word  
“never fails”.



Detail (Original in Daughters of Charity  
Provincial House, Zaragoza)

*St. Joseph and the Christ Child,*  
El Greco, 1599



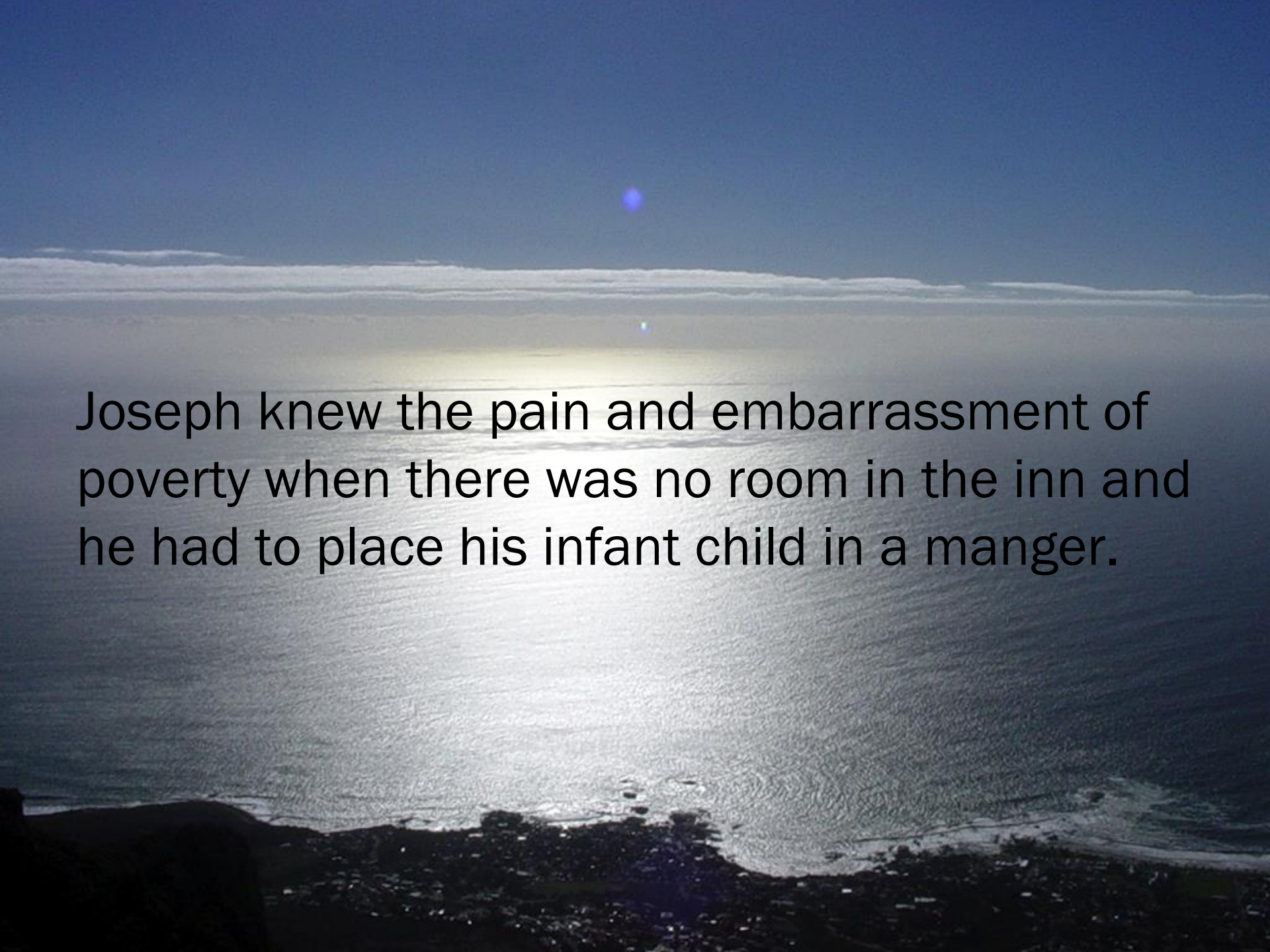


Is the word of God central for you?

Is it water that gives you life when your hearts and minds are dry?

Is it a hammer for you when you are too set to budge?

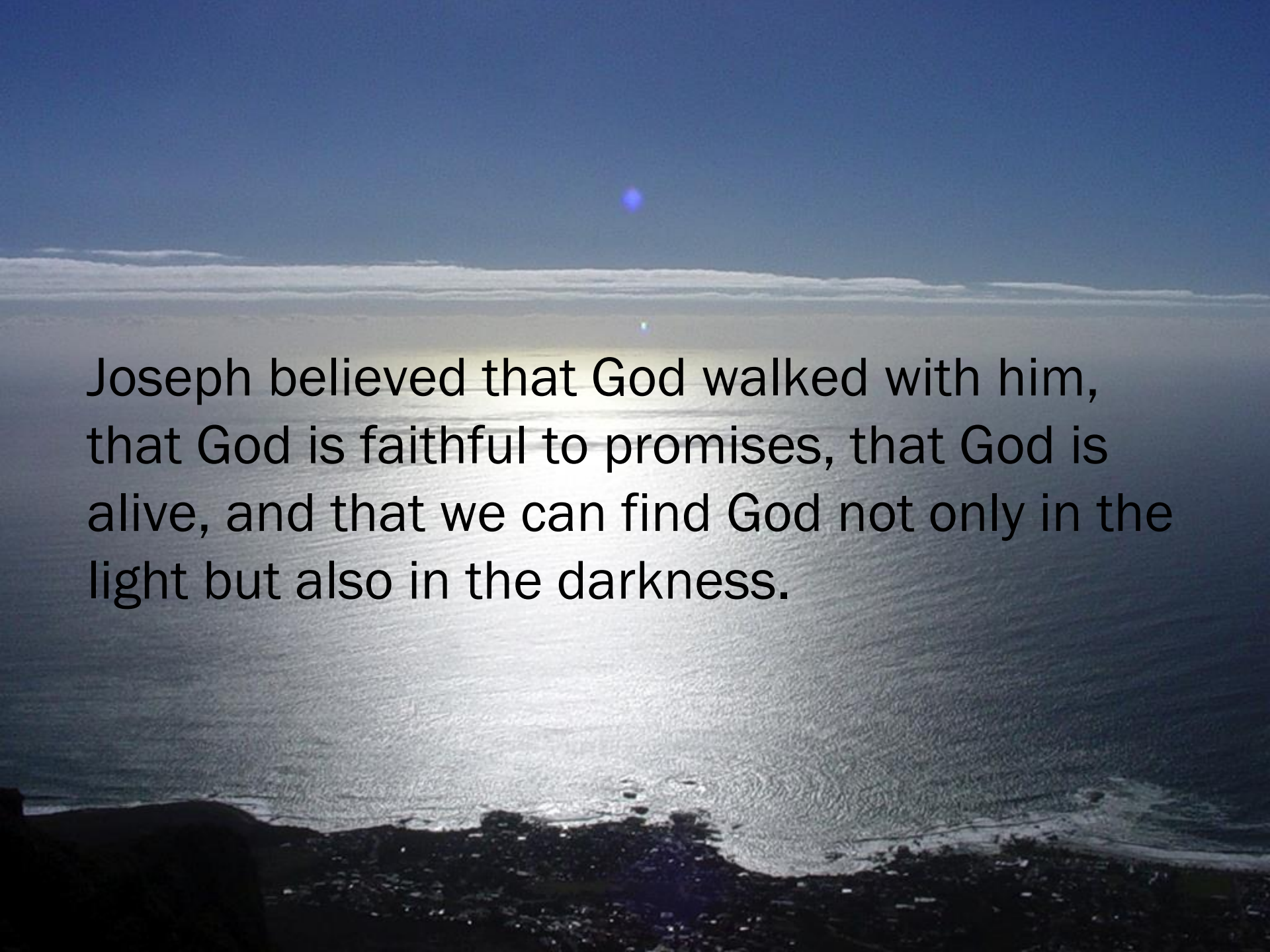
Is it food that is sweeter than honey when you are hungering to know what God is asking for you?

A photograph of a sunset over a large body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, shimmering reflection on the water's surface. The sky is a deep blue, and there are some thin clouds near the horizon. In the foreground, there is a dark, rocky shoreline. The text is overlaid on the middle of the image.

Joseph knew the pain and embarrassment of poverty when there was no room in the inn and he had to place his infant child in a manger.



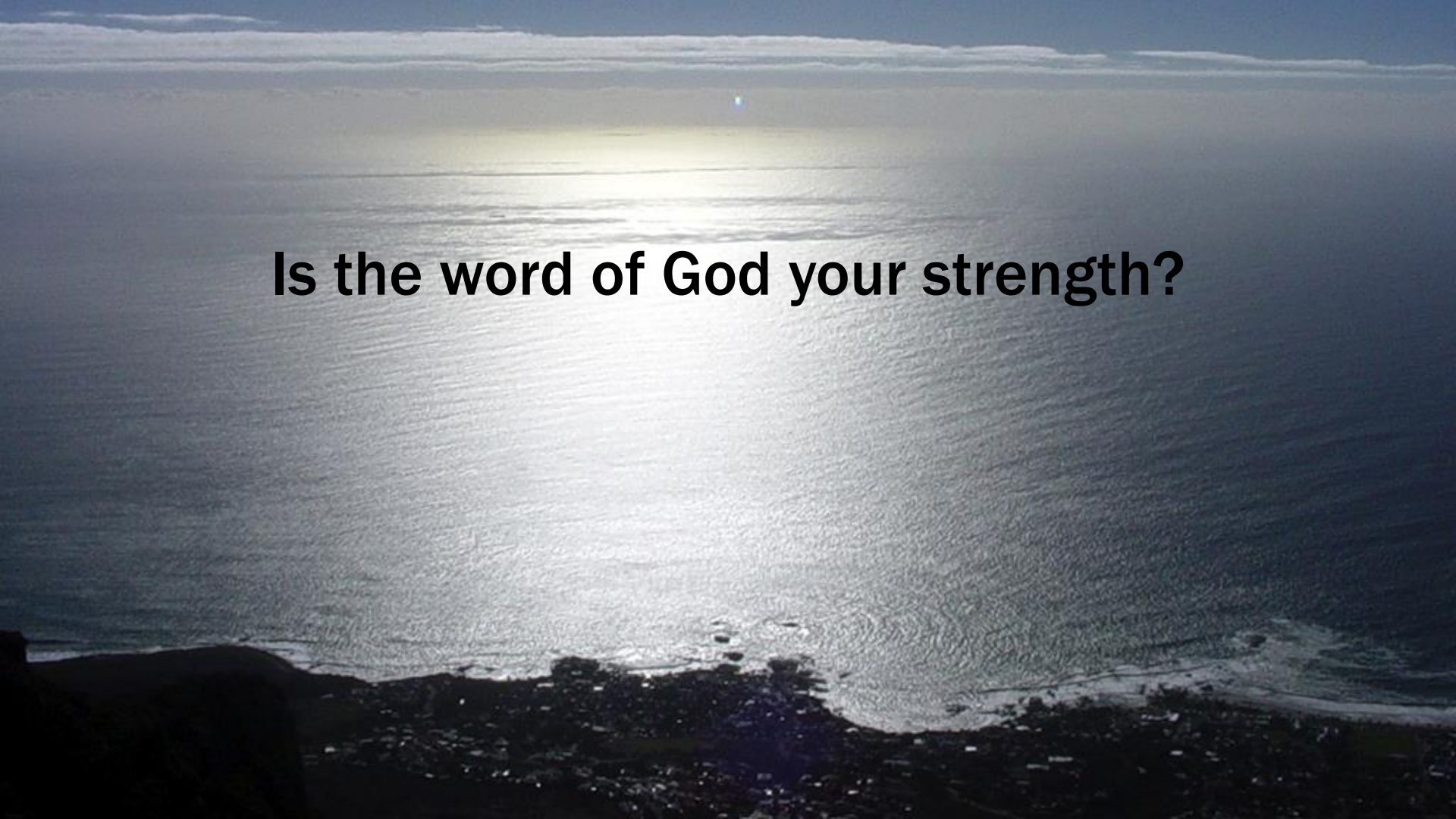
*Nativity of Christ*, by Lorenzo Lotto, 1523

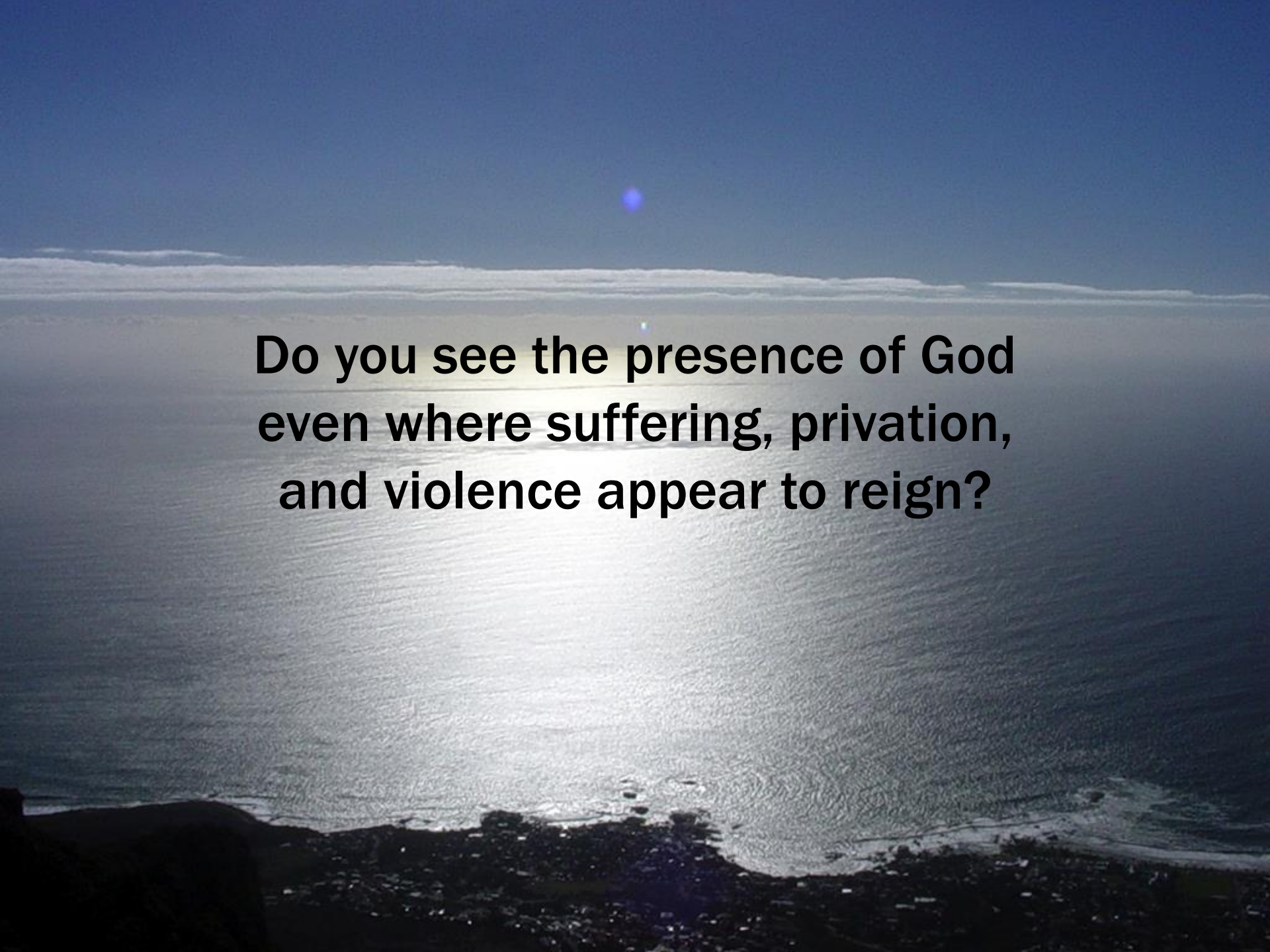
A serene landscape of a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, shimmering reflection on the water's surface. The sky is a deep, clear blue, and the foreground is a dark, rocky shoreline. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Joseph believed that God walked with him, that God is faithful to promises, that God is alive, and that we can find God not only in the light but also in the darkness.

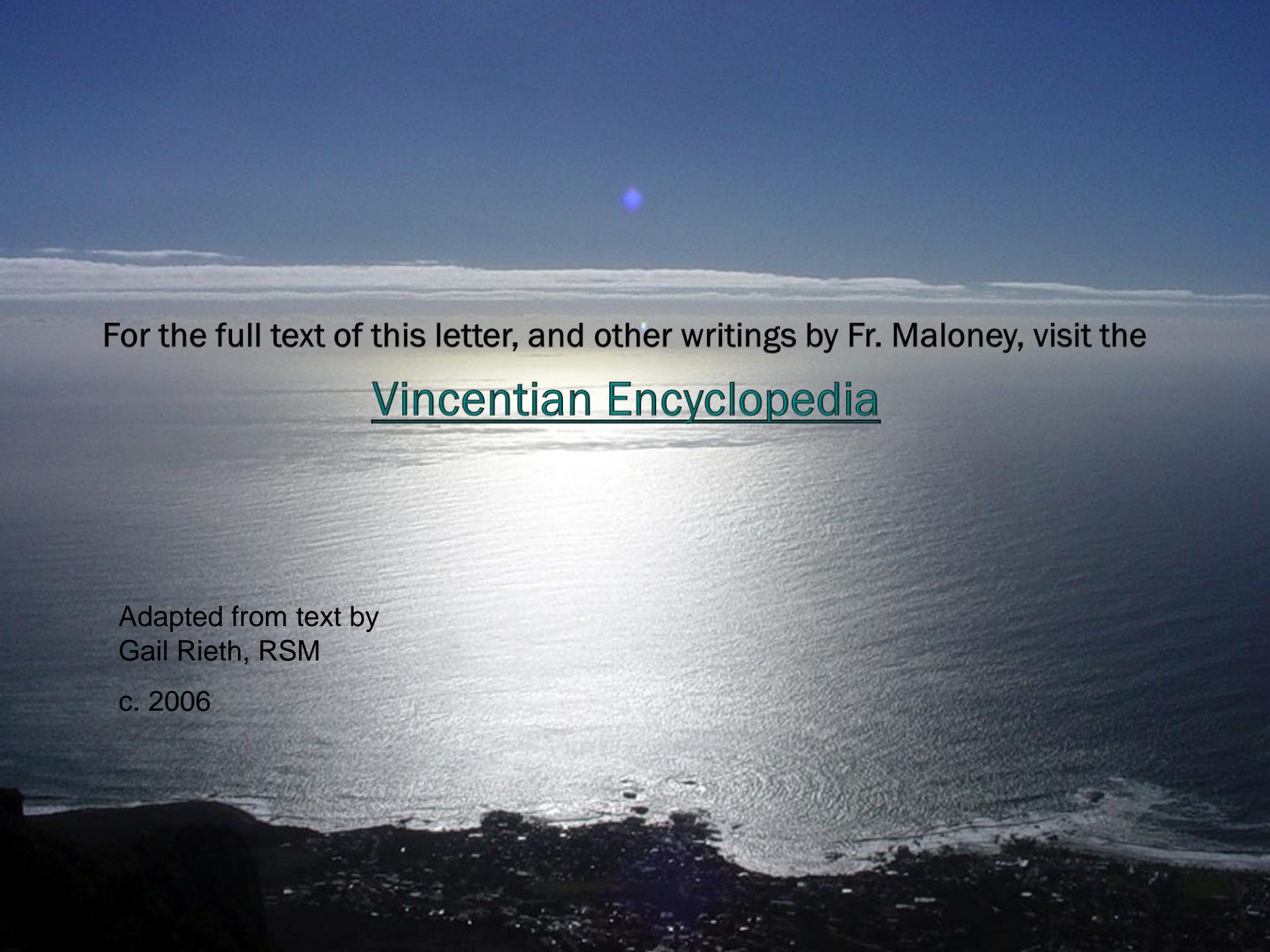
The word of God was his strength. Deep faith was his light in the darkness.

**Is the word of God your strength?**





**Do you see the presence of God  
even where suffering, privation,  
and violence appear to reign?**



For the full text of this letter, and other writings by Fr. Maloney, visit the

[Vincentian Encyclopedia](#)

Adapted from text by  
Gail Rieth, RSM

c. 2006