

When you look into

My Glory

YOU WILL BE INSTANTLY CHANGED

— ISAIAH 42:8 —

THE PLAN OF GOD

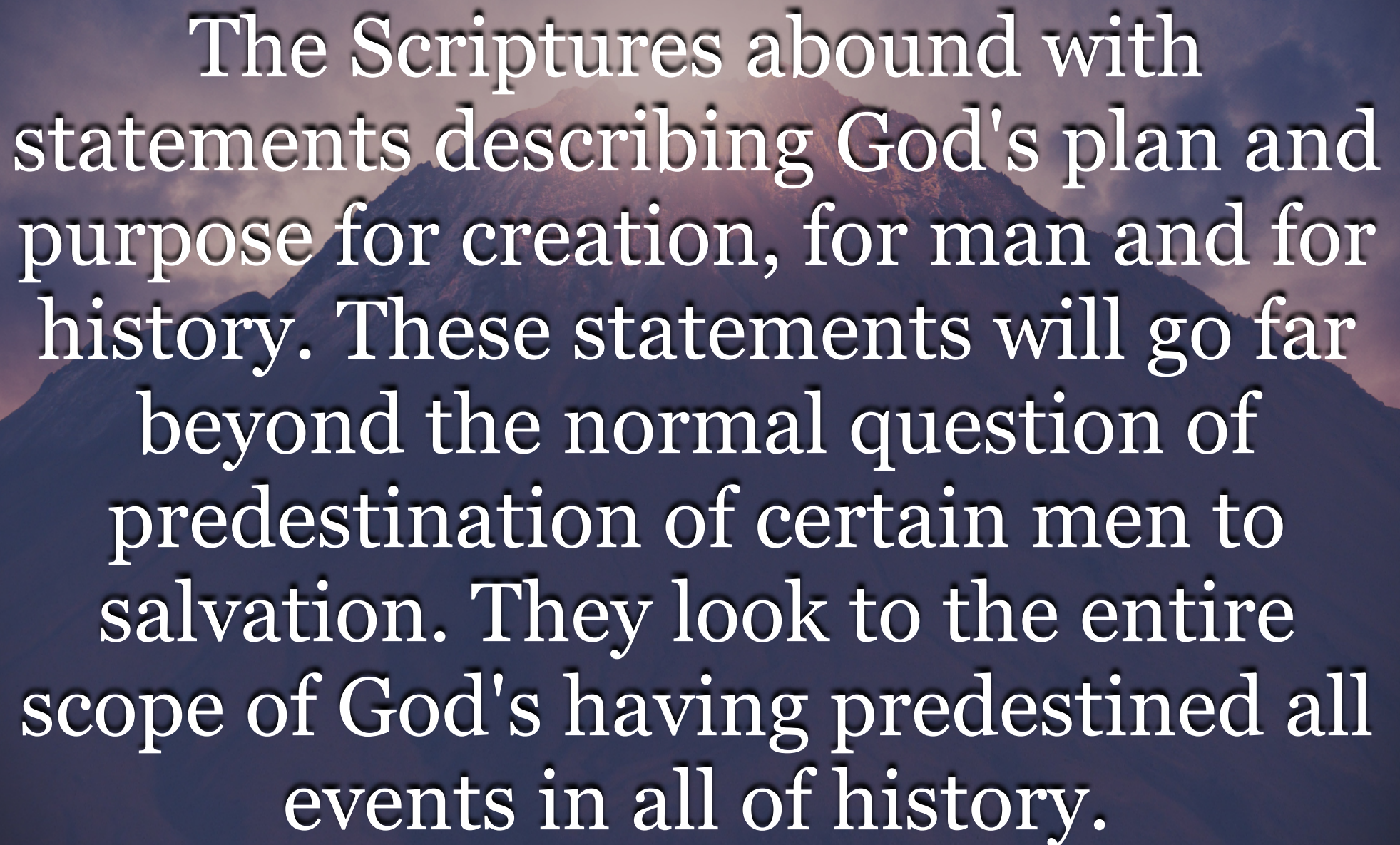
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Isaiah 14:26-27 (NASB)

26 This is the plan devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations. **27 For the Lord of hosts has planned**, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?”



The Scriptures abound with statements describing God's plan and purpose for creation, for man and for history. These statements will go far beyond the normal question of predestination of certain men to salvation. They look to the entire scope of God's having predestined all events in all of history.

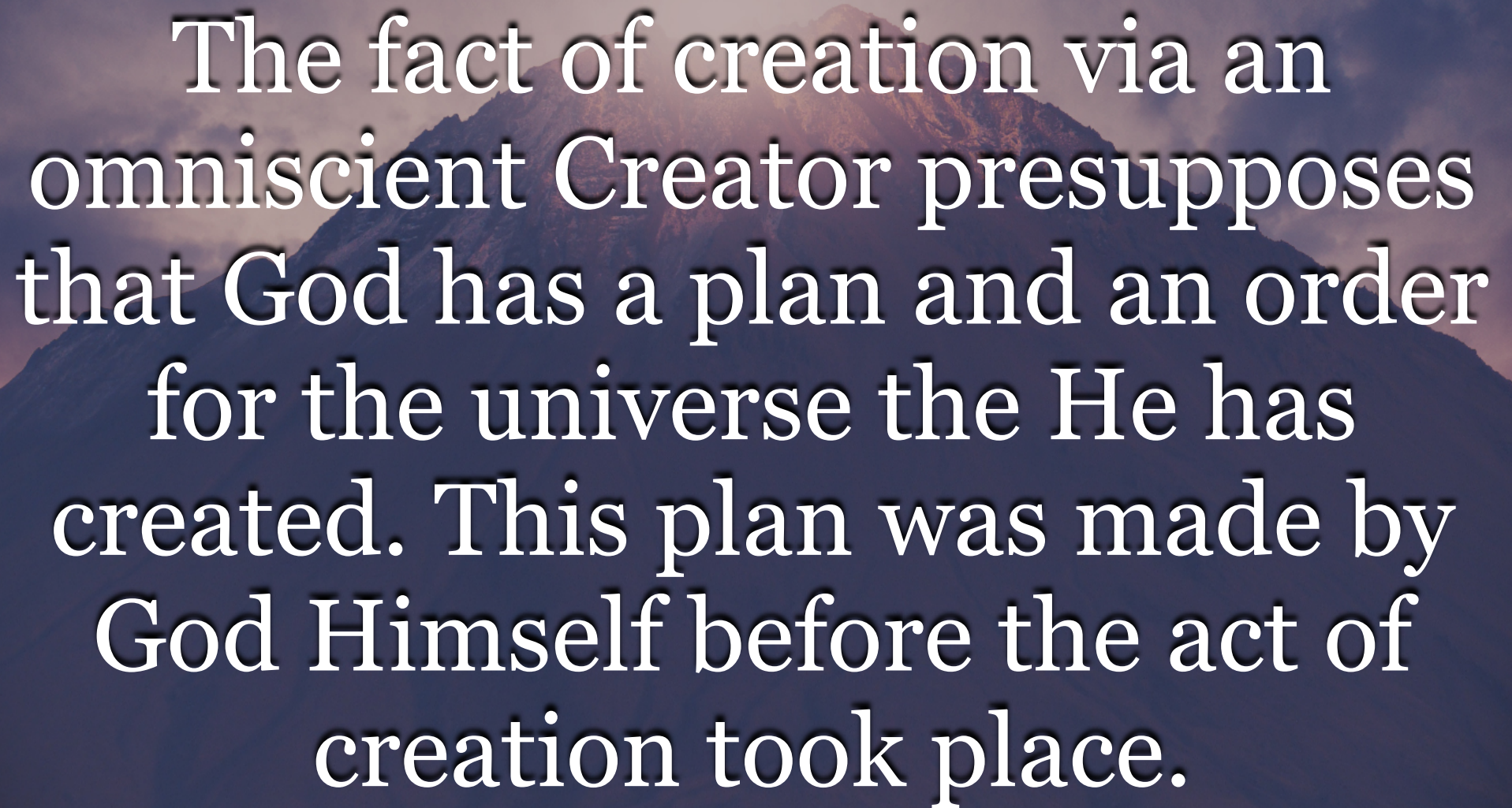
THE EXTENT OF THE PLAN OF GOD

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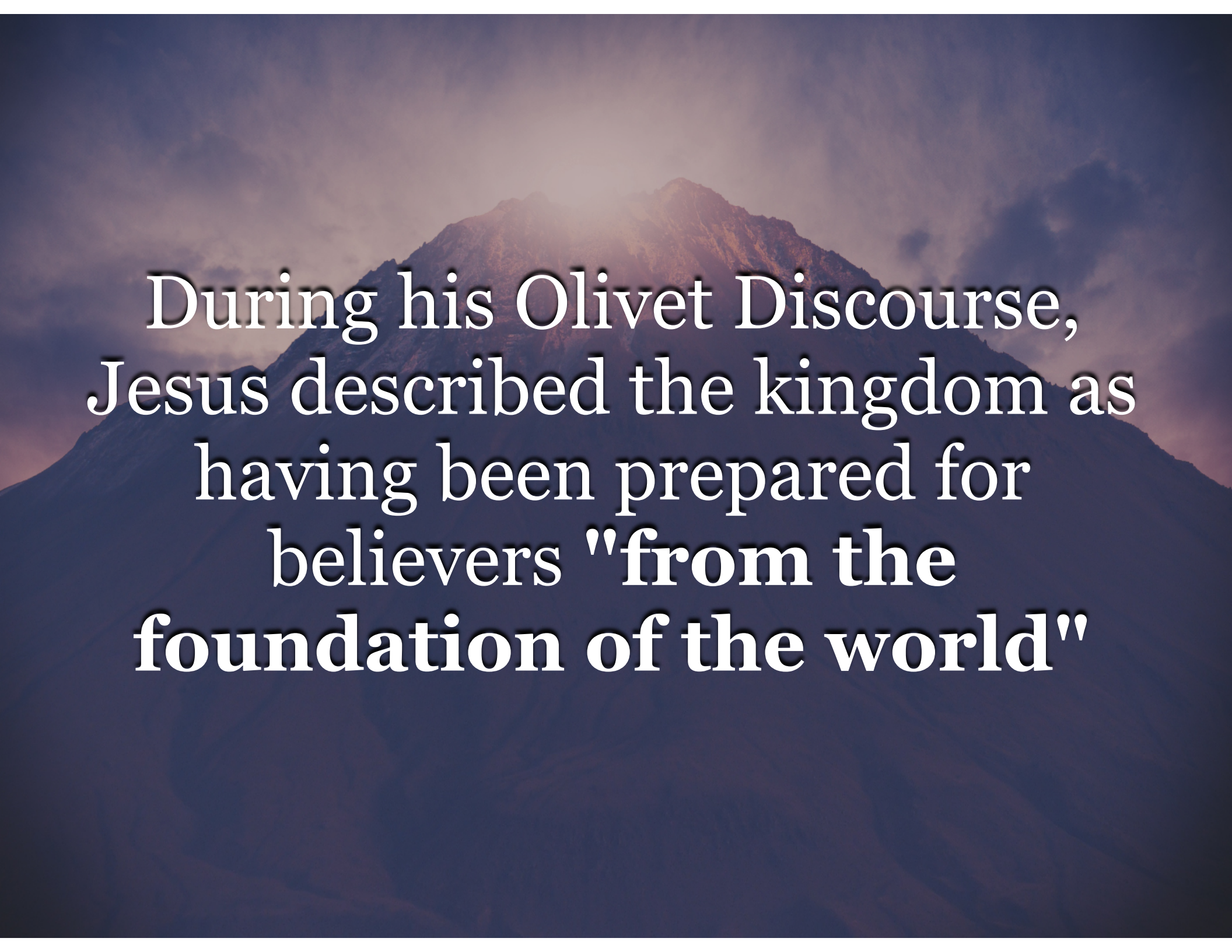
The fact of creation via an omniscient Creator presupposes that God has a plan and an order for the universe the He has created. This plan was made by God Himself before the act of creation took place.

1. God's Plan was formed before the Creation.

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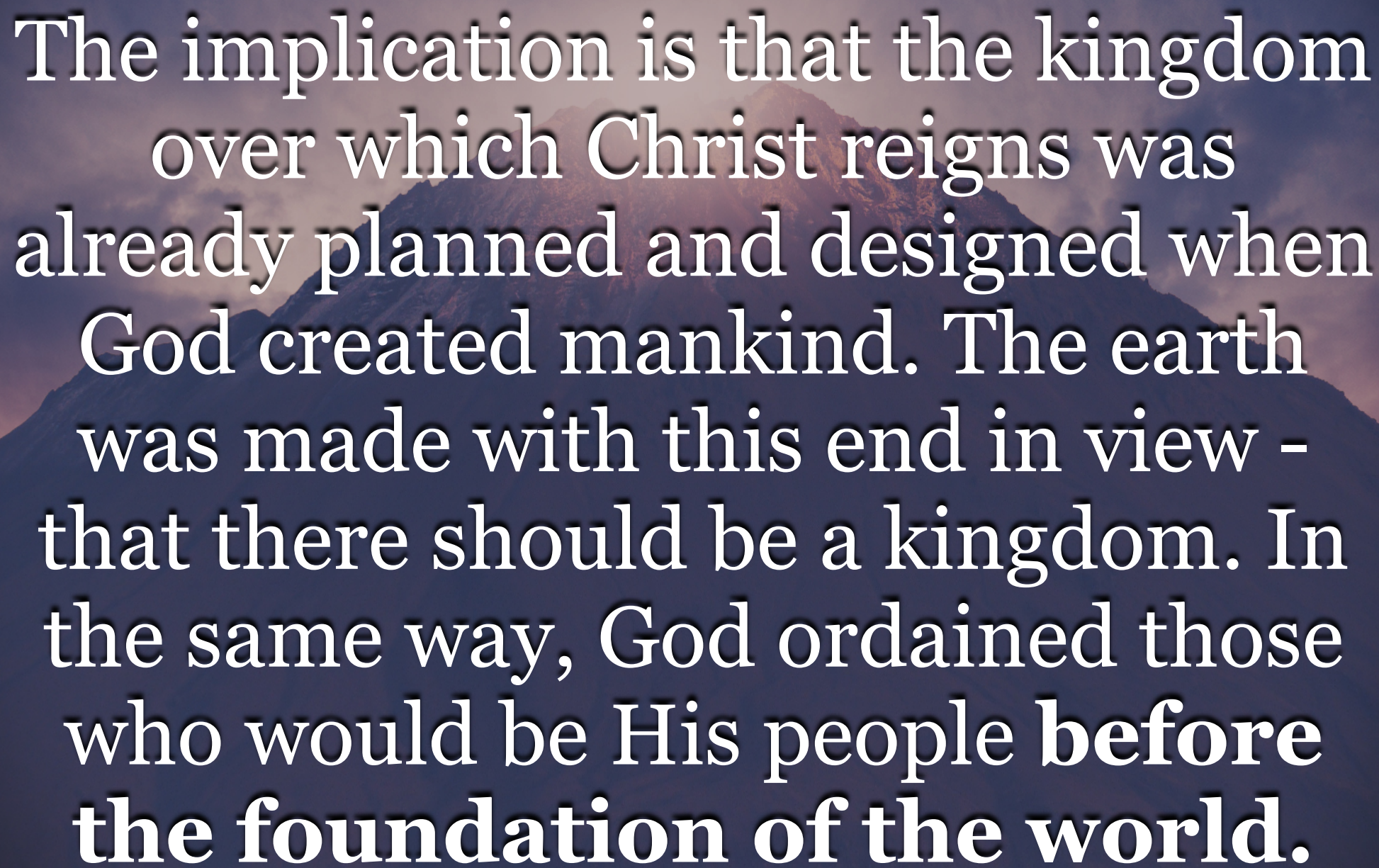
— ISAIAH 42:8 —



During his Olivet Discourse,
Jesus described the kingdom as
having been prepared for
believers **"from the
foundation of the world"**

Matthew 25:34 (NASB)

34 “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’

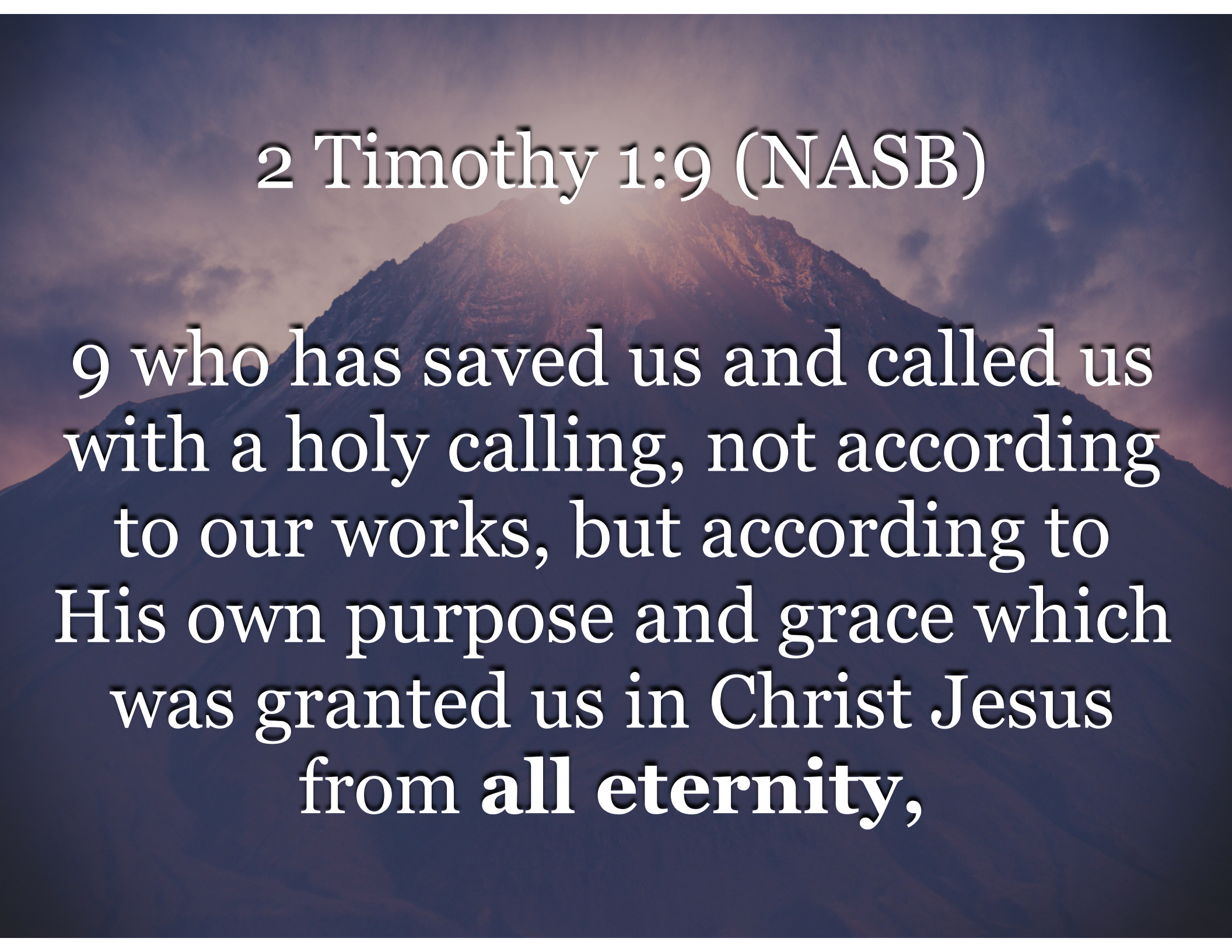


The implication is that the kingdom over which Christ reigns was already planned and designed when God created mankind. The earth was made with this end in view - that there should be a kingdom. In the same way, God ordained those who would be His people **before the foundation of the world.**



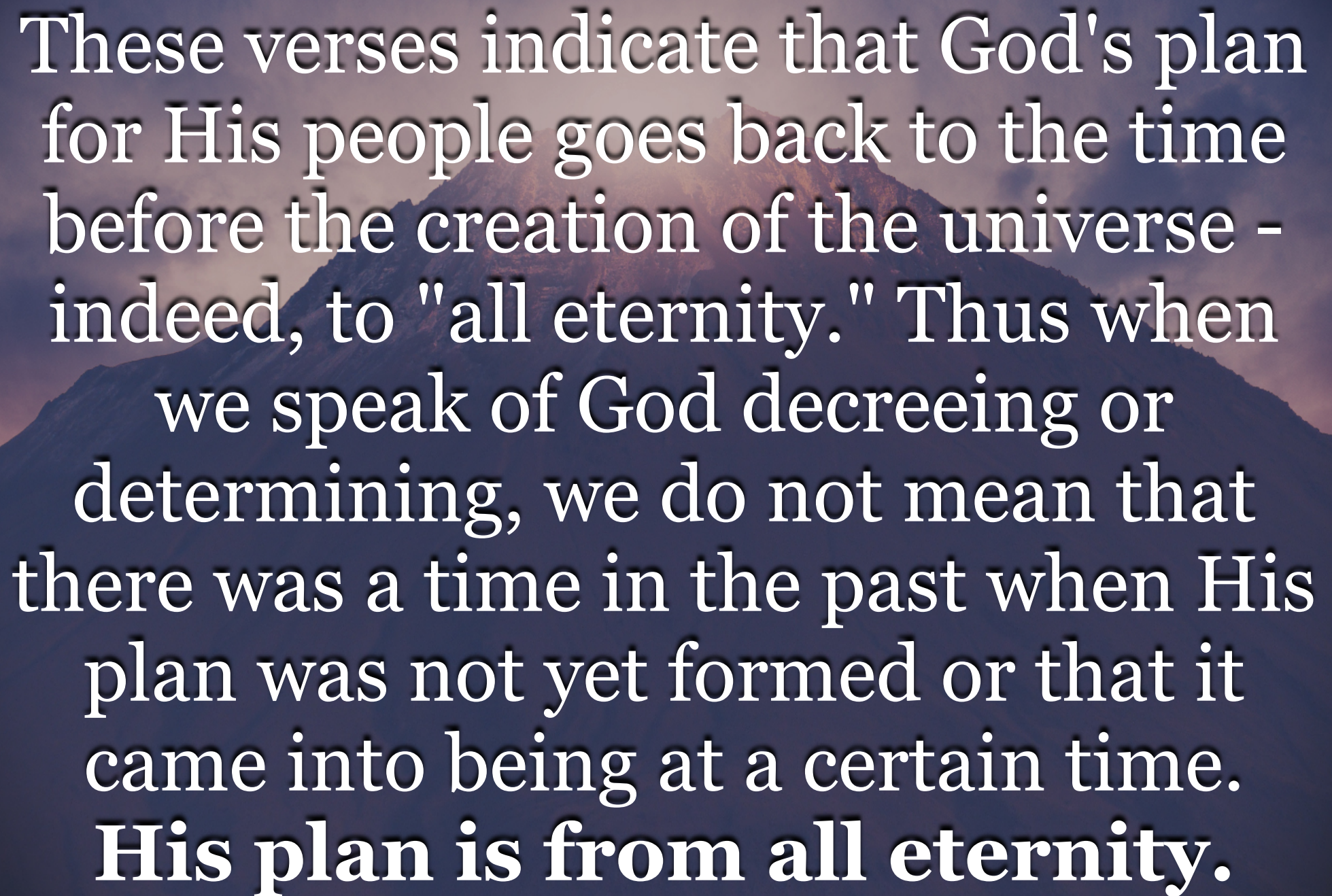
Ephesians 1:4(NASB)

4 Just as He chose us in Him
before the foundation of the
world, that we would be holy and
blameless before Him. In love



2 Timothy 1:9 (NASB)

9 who has saved us and called us
with a holy calling, not according
to our works, but according to
His own purpose and grace which
was granted us in Christ Jesus
from **all eternity,**



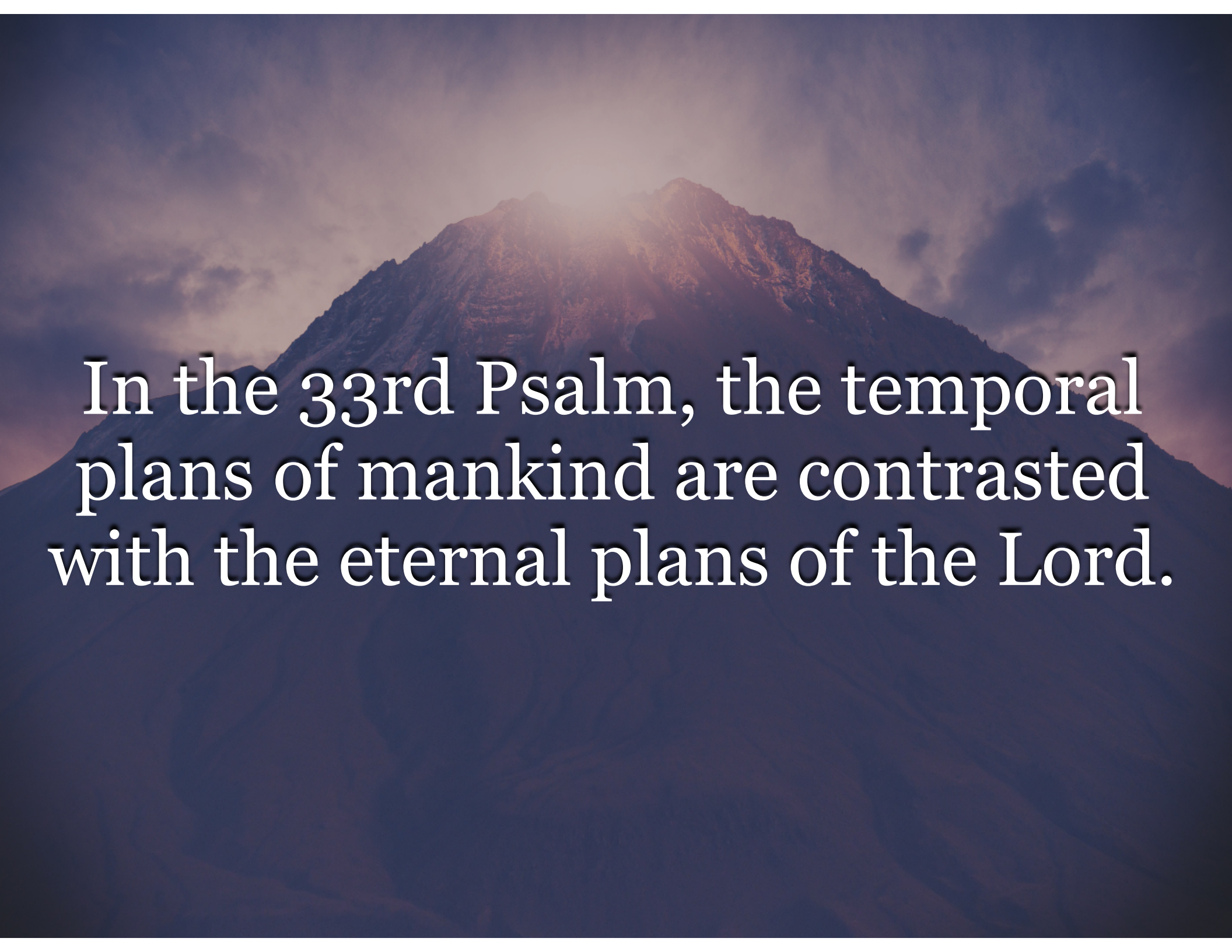
These verses indicate that God's plan for His people goes back to the time before the creation of the universe - indeed, to "all eternity." Thus when we speak of God decreeing or determining, we do not mean that there was a time in the past when His plan was not yet formed or that it came into being at a certain time. **His plan is from all eternity.**

2. God's Plan is Everlasting.

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In the 33rd Psalm, the temporal plans of mankind are contrasted with the eternal plans of the Lord.

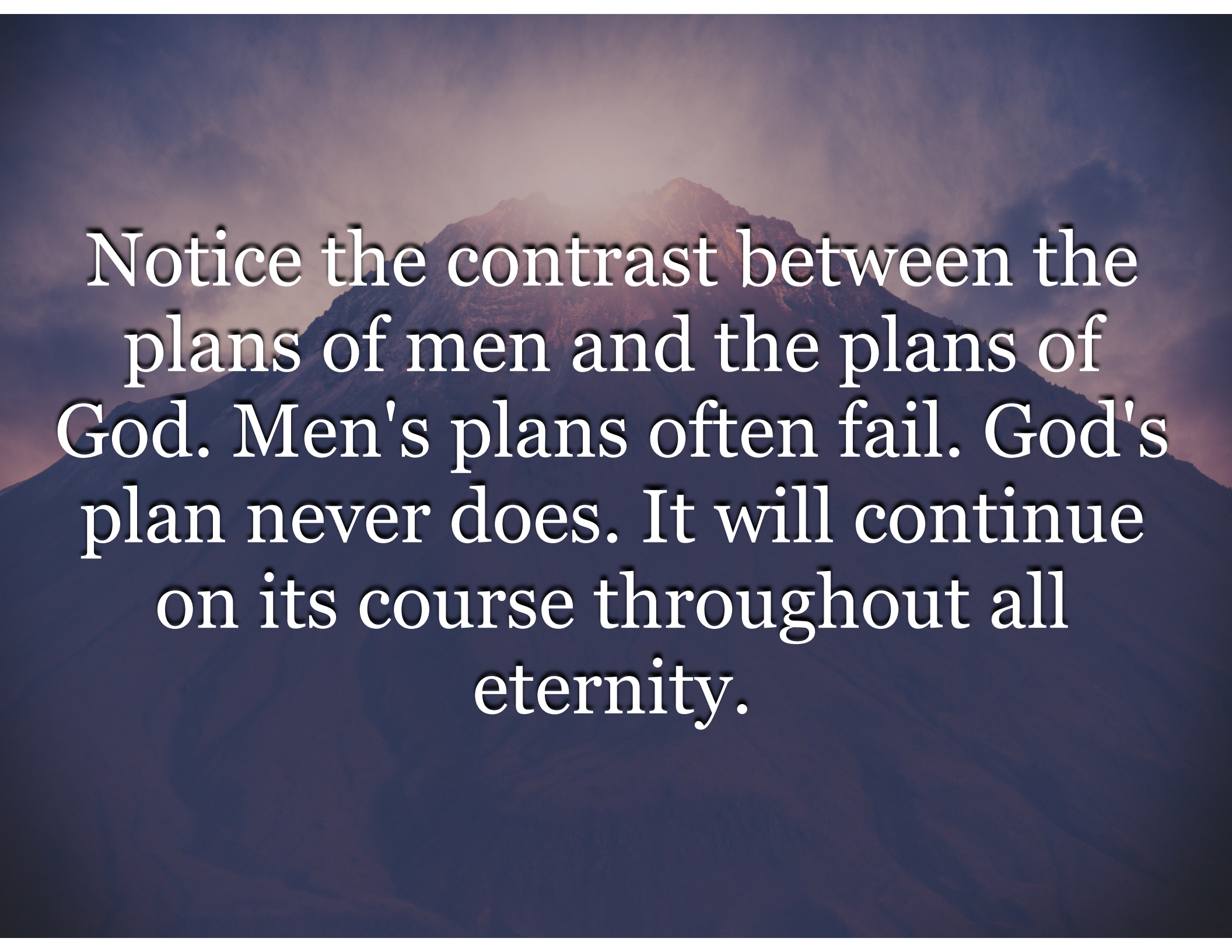
Psalm 33:10-11 (NASB)

10 The Lord nullifies the counsel of the
nations;

He frustrates the plans of the peoples.

11 The counsel of the Lord stands
forever,

**The plans of His heart from
generation to generation.**



Notice the contrast between the plans of men and the plans of God. Men's plans often fail. God's plan never does. It will continue on its course throughout all eternity.

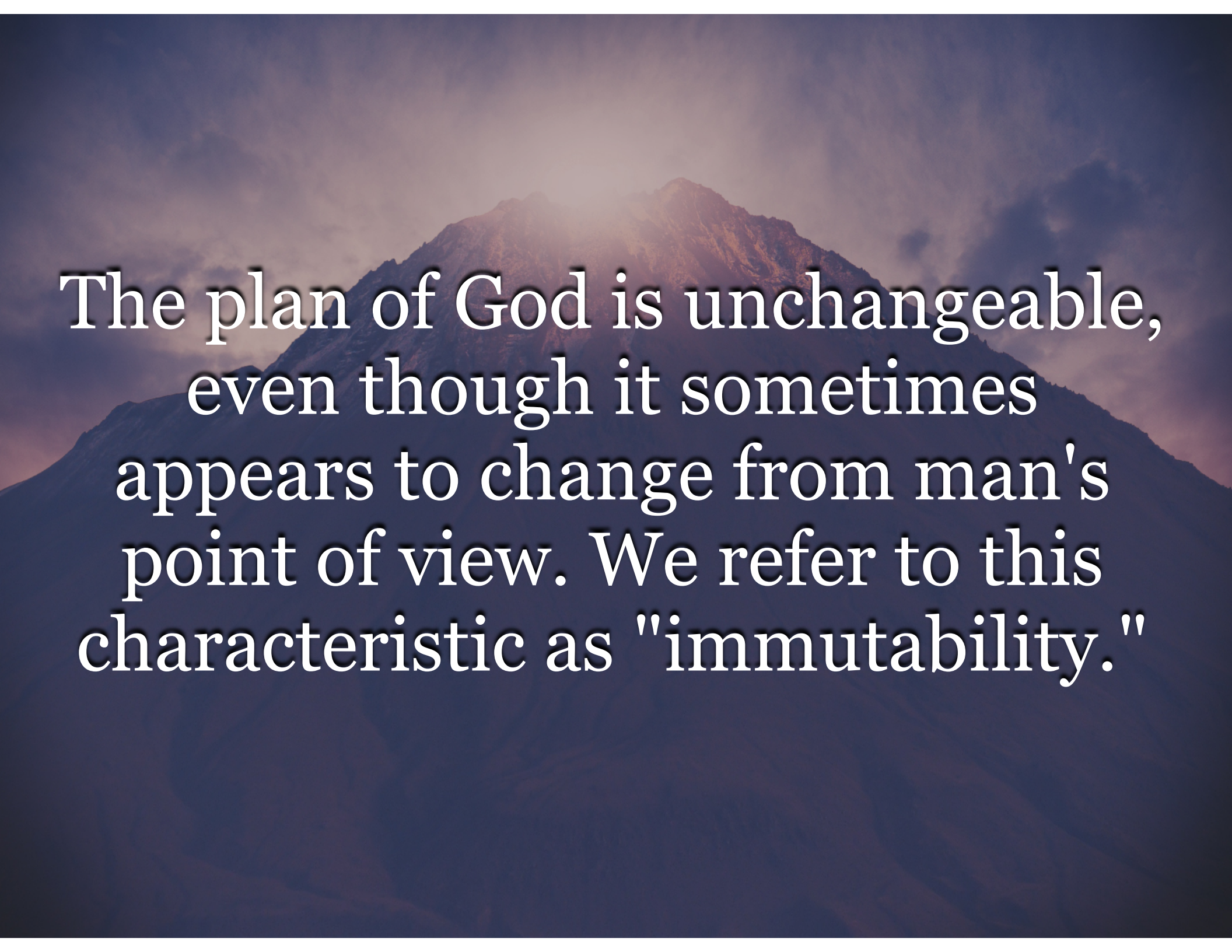
3. God's Plan is Unchangeable.

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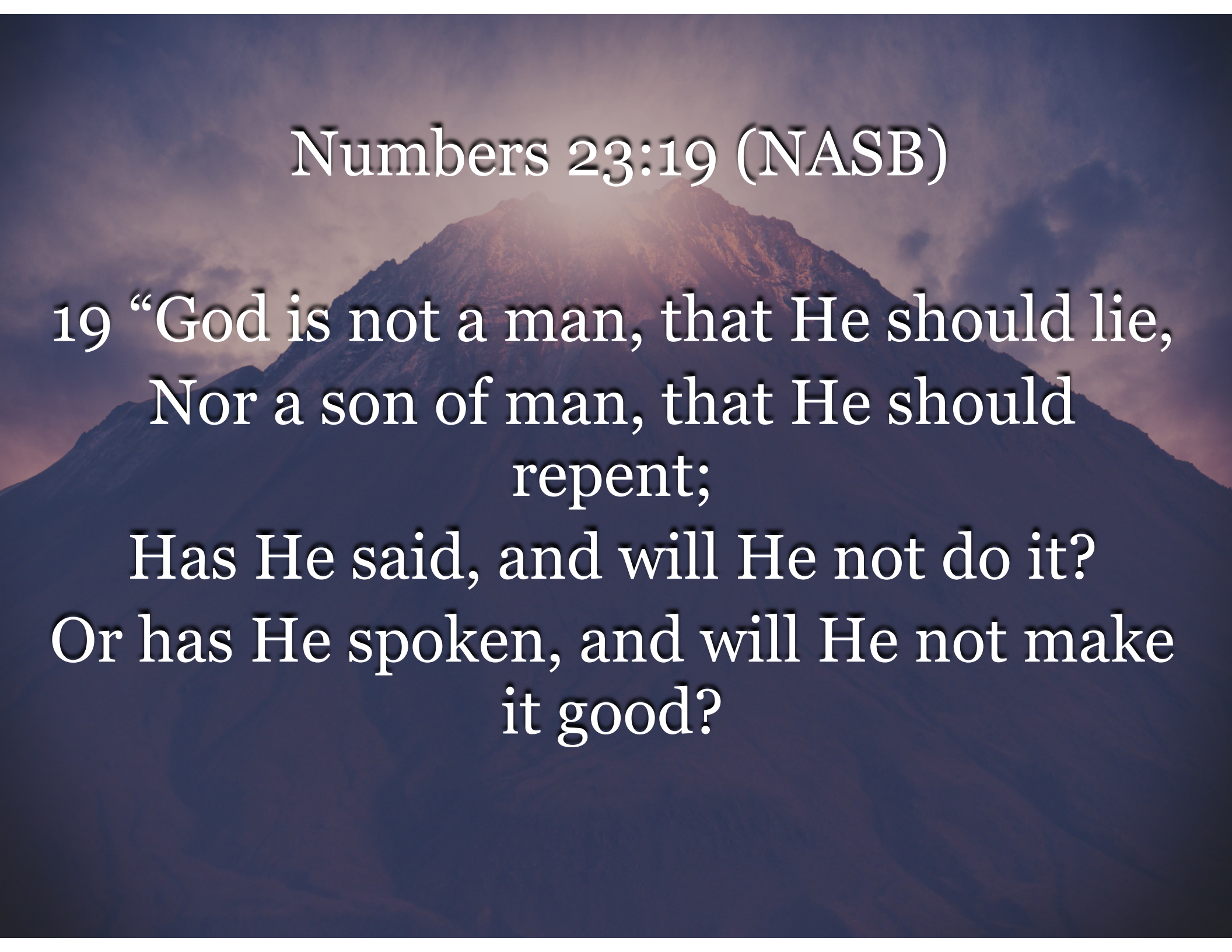


The plan of God is unchangeable,
even though it sometimes
appears to change from man's
point of view. We refer to this
characteristic as "immutability."



James 1:17 (NASB)

17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom **there is no variation or shifting shadow.**

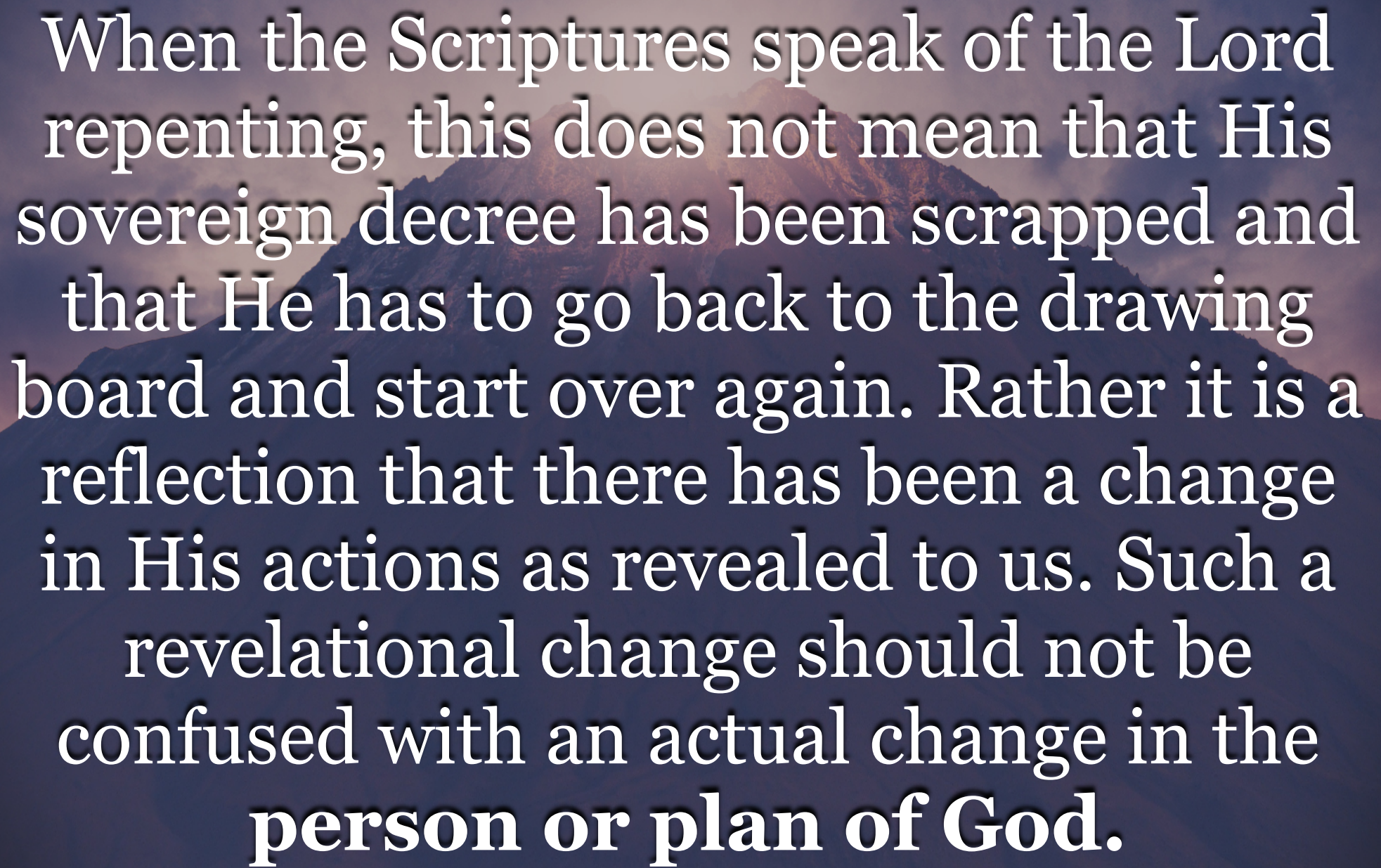


Numbers 23:19 (NASB)

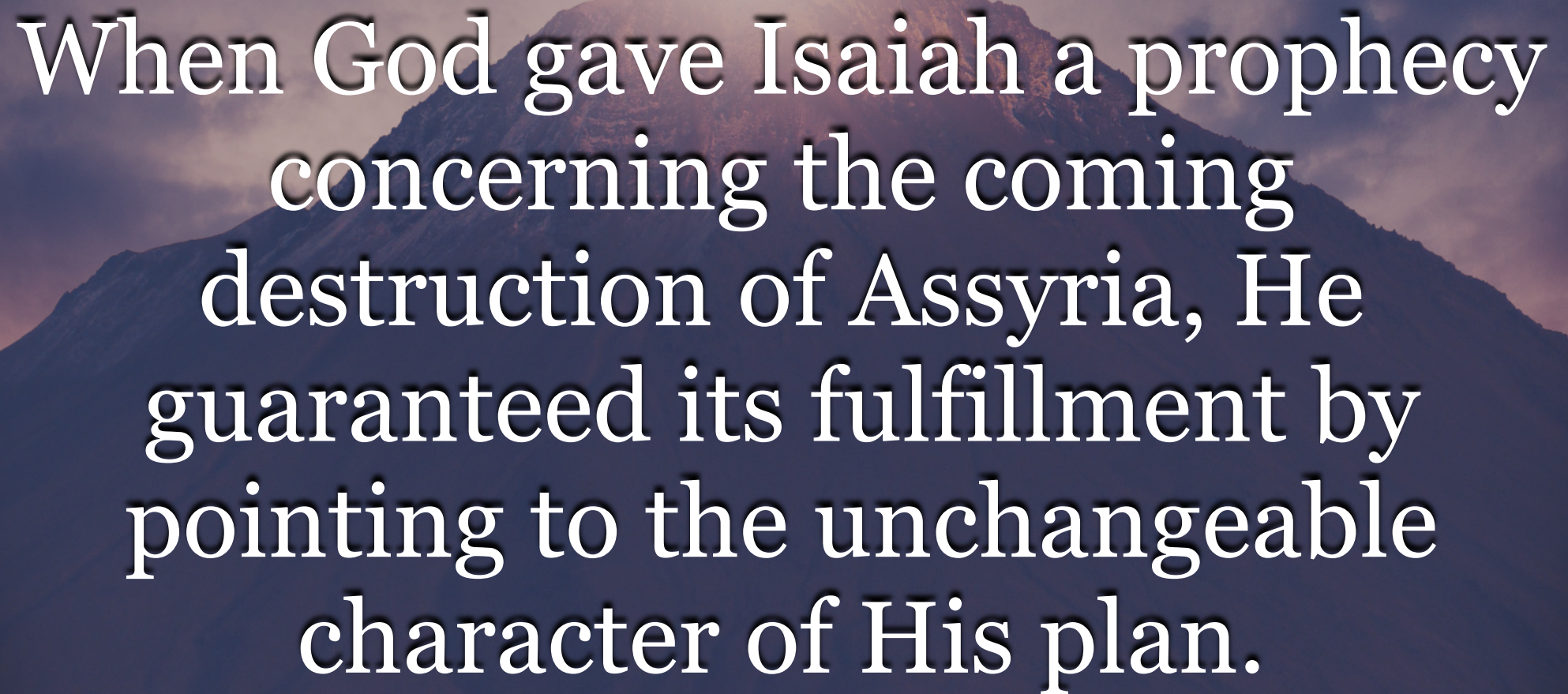
19 “God is not a man, that He should lie,
Nor a son of man, that He should
repent;

Has He said, and will He not do it?

Or has He spoken, and will He not make
it good?



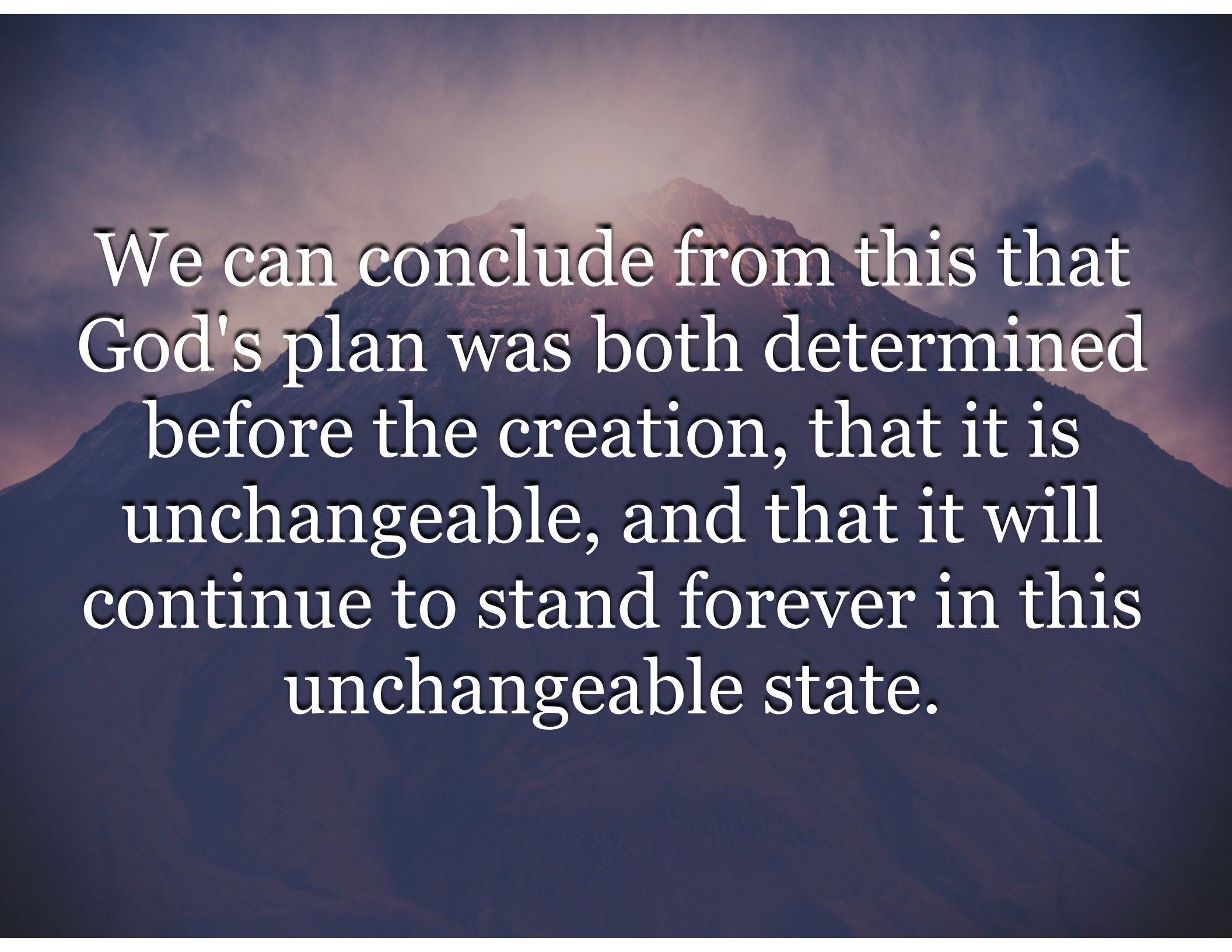
When the Scriptures speak of the Lord repenting, this does not mean that His sovereign decree has been scrapped and that He has to go back to the drawing board and start over again. Rather it is a reflection that there has been a change in His actions as revealed to us. Such a revelational change should not be confused with an actual change in the **person or plan of God.**



When God gave Isaiah a prophecy concerning the coming destruction of Assyria, He guaranteed its fulfillment by pointing to the unchangeable character of His plan.

Isaiah 14:26-27 (NASB)

26 This is the plan devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations. **27 For the Lord of hosts has planned**, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?”



We can conclude from this that God's plan was both determined before the creation, that it is unchangeable, and that it will continue to stand forever in this unchangeable state.

Matthew 13:35 (NASB)

35 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

“I will open My mouth in parables;
I will utter things hidden since the
foundation of the world.”



Luke 11:50(NASB)

50 so that the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation,

John 17:24 (NASB)

24 Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.