



New Years Resolutions

Setting Goals

Resolve, v.i.

To fix in opinion or purpose; to determine in mind.

— *Noah Webster (1828)*

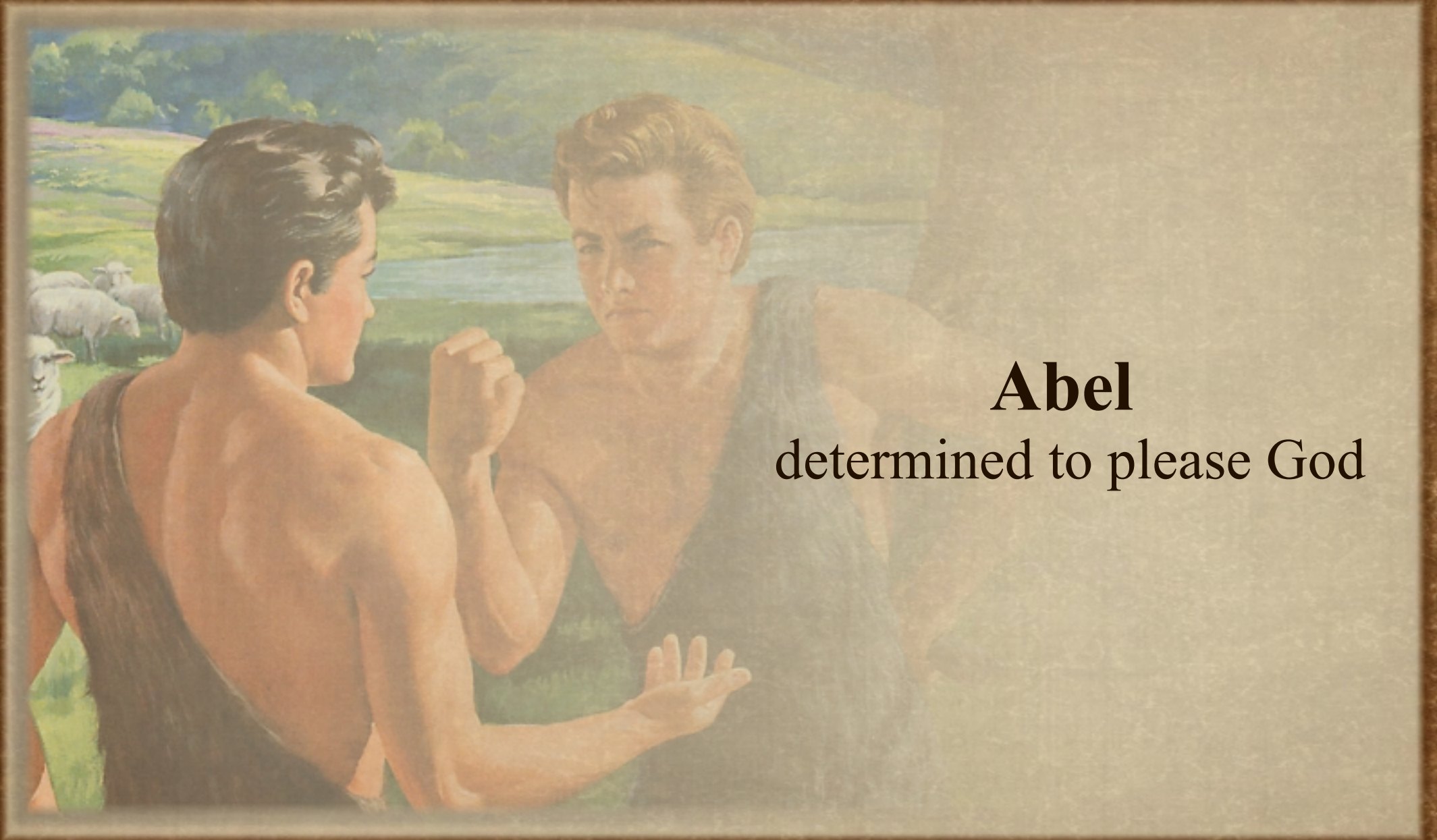
“The Youth’s Instructor,” Feb. 11, 1908

Although in one sense the first day of a new year is no more to God than any other day, yet he often puts into the heart of his children at that time a desire to begin the new year with good resolves, — perhaps with plans to carry out some worthy enterprise, — and with purposes to depart from the wrongs of the old year, and to live the new year with new determinations.

Philippians 2:13

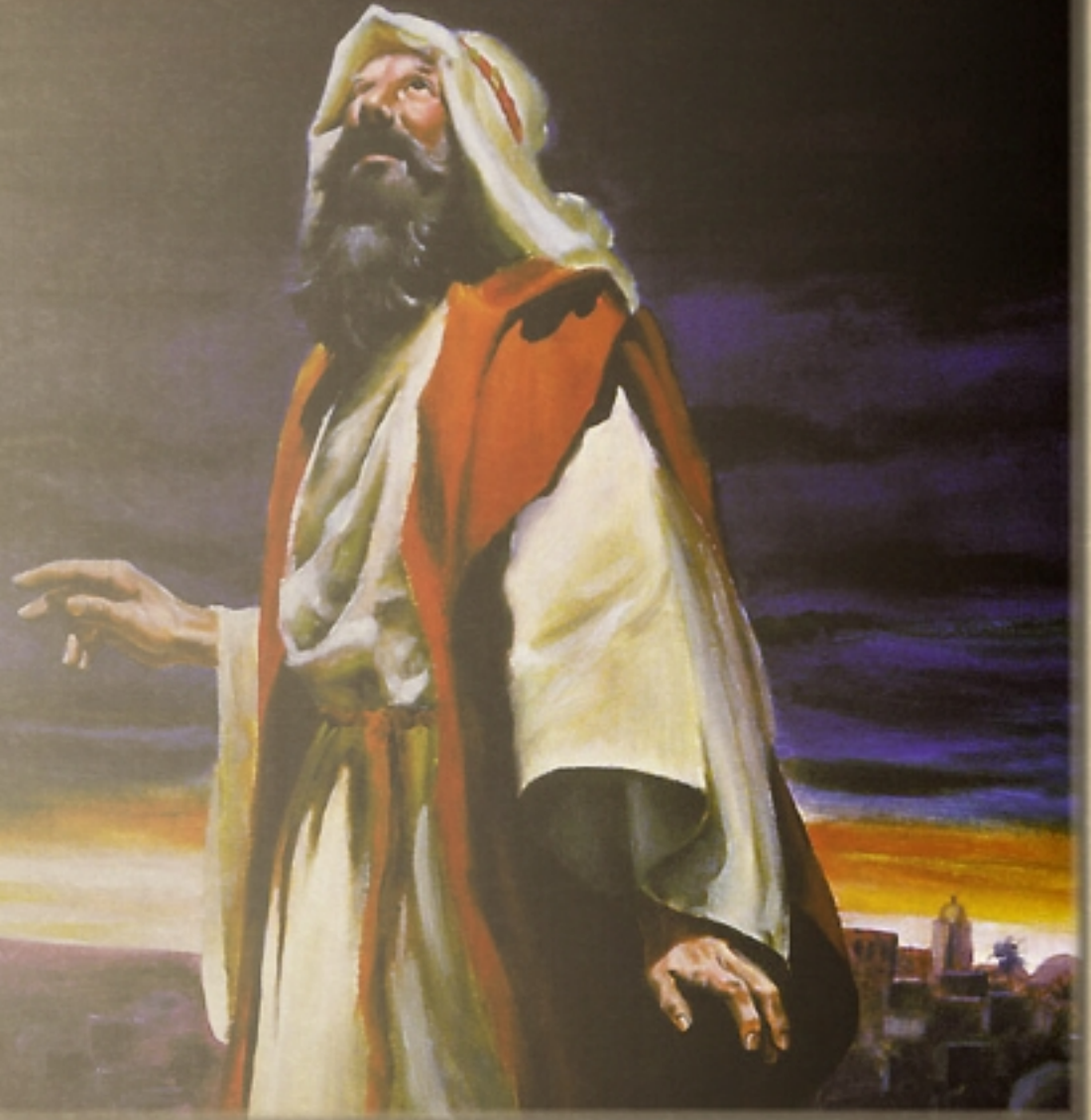
“For it is God which worketh in you both **to will** and **to do** of his good pleasure.”

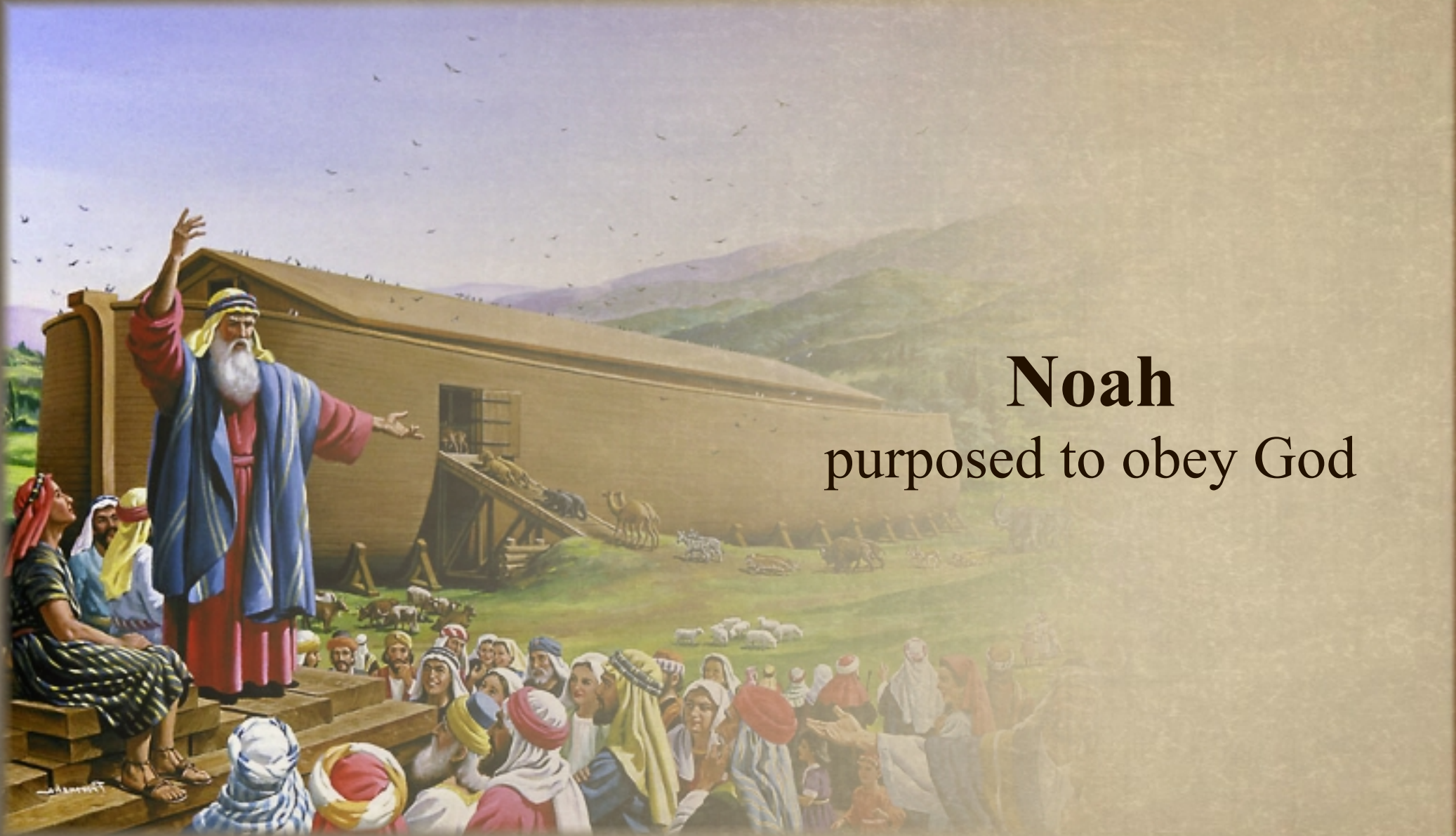
Some Good Examples



Abel
determined to please God

Enoch
determined to walk with
God

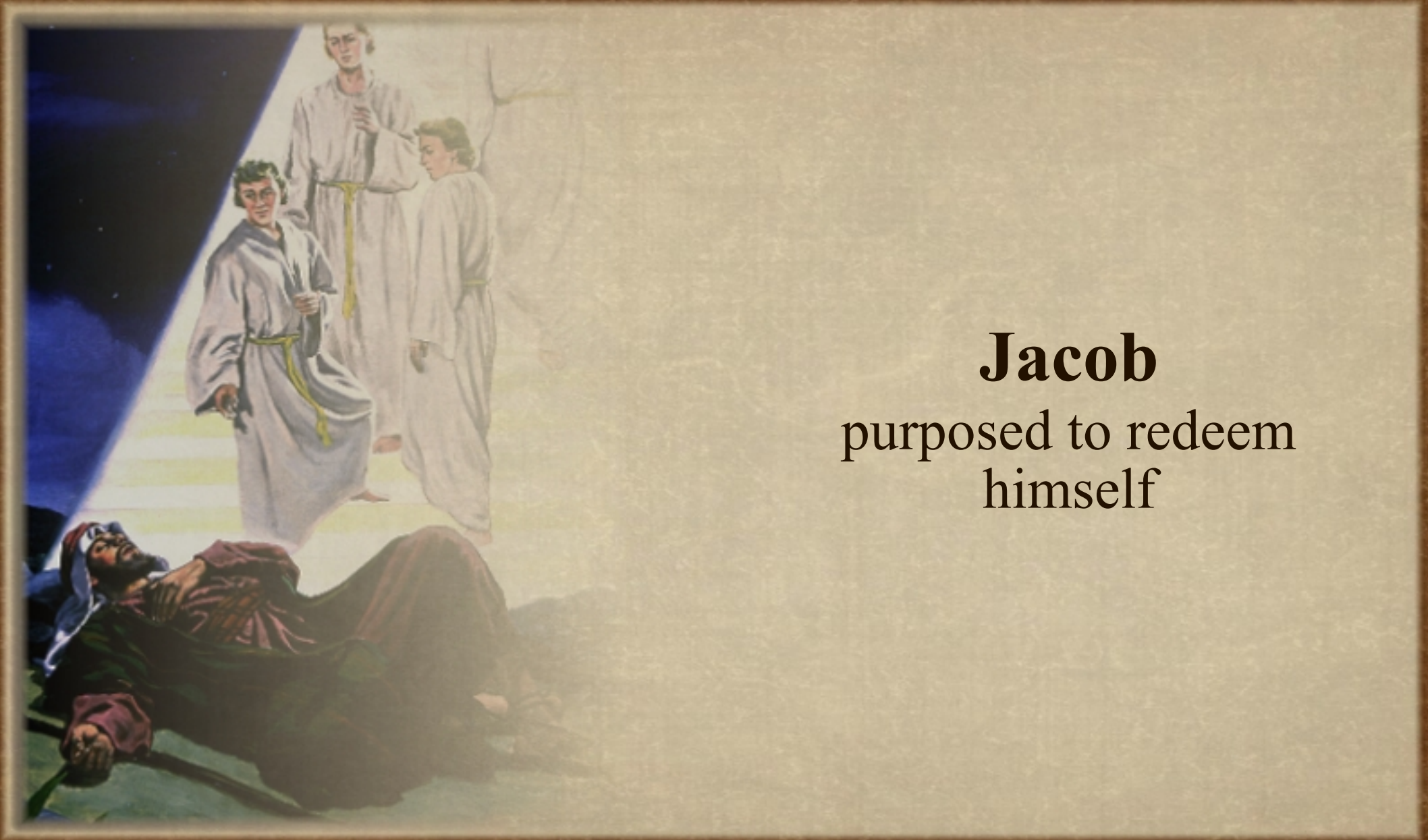




Noah
purposed to obey God

Abraham
determined to believe
God's promise

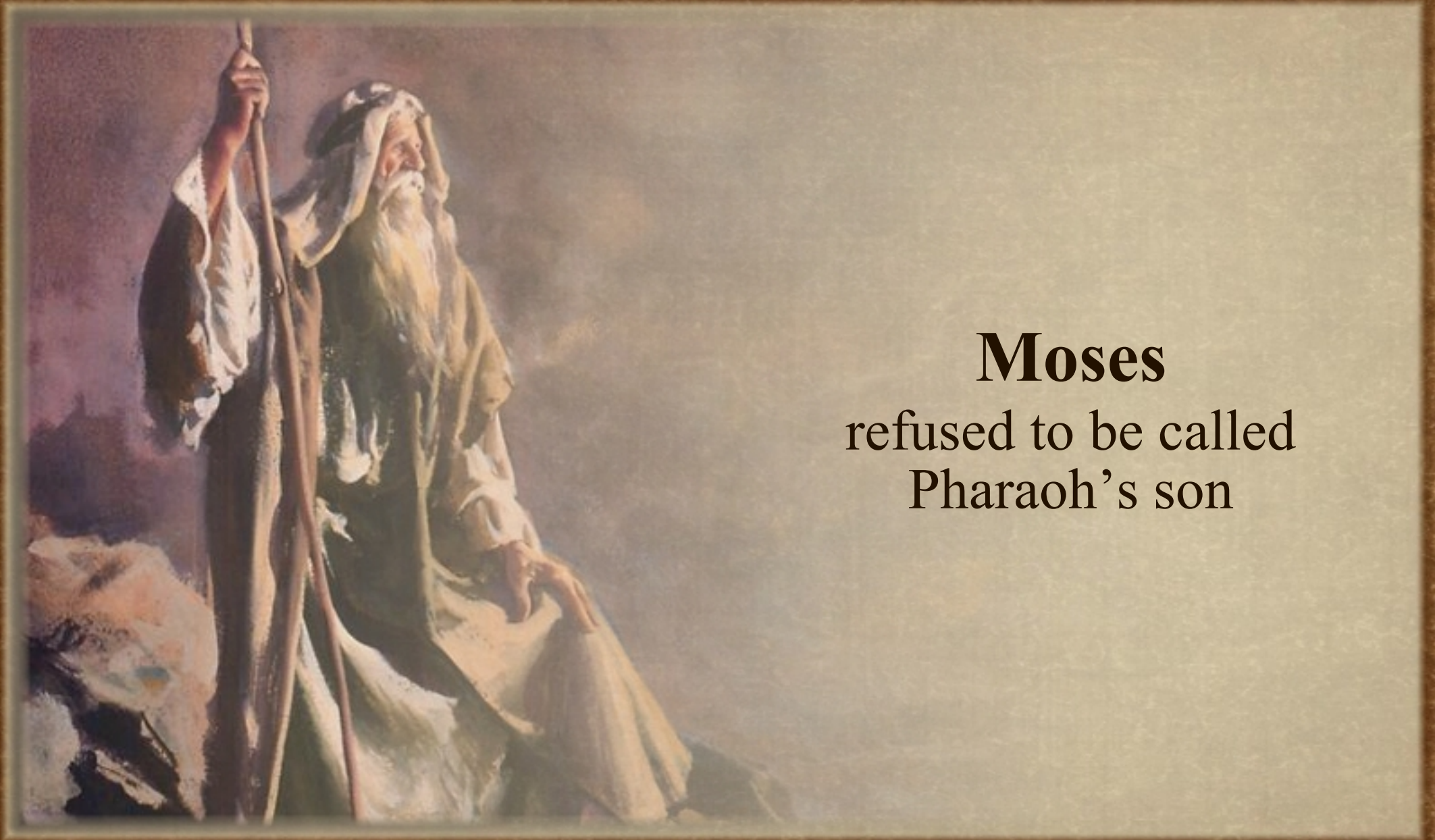




Jacob
purposed to redeem
himself

Joseph
determined to preserve his
integrity





Moses
refused to be called
Pharaoh's son

Daniel
purposed not to defile
himself



Luke 9:51

“And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem.”

Some Good Resolutions

Philippians 3:13-15

“This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.”

Psalm 17:3

“ . . . I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.”

2 Chronicles 2:1

“Solomon determined to build an house for the name of the LORD, . . .”

Psalm 119:5, 15-16, 46

“O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!”

“I will meditate in thy precepts, and **have respect** [Heb. *look*] unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.”

“I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.”

1 Corinthians 2:2

“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”

Philippians 1:17

“... I am set for the defence of the gospel.”

2 Corinthians 10:5-6

“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having in a readiness to **revenge** [*make right*] all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.”

Godly Ambition

Hebrews 12:2

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of
our faith; . . .”

Psalm 5:3

“My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.”

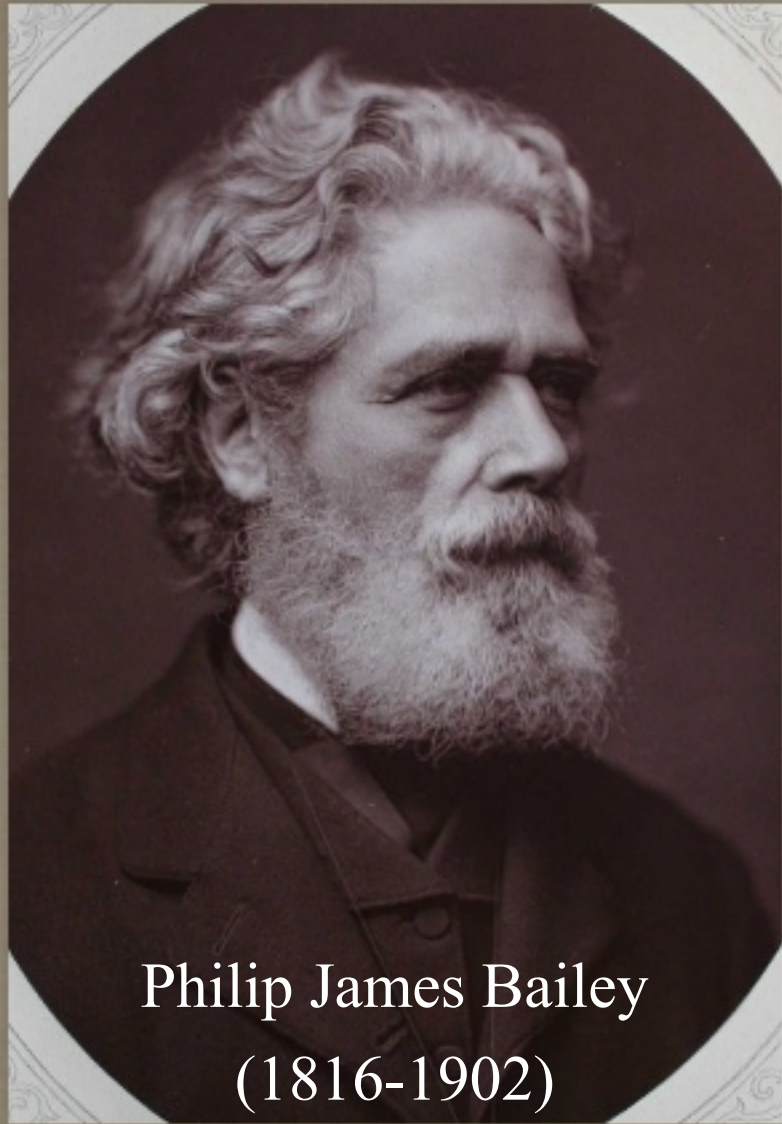
Romans 12:1-2

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Matthew 7:7-8

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”

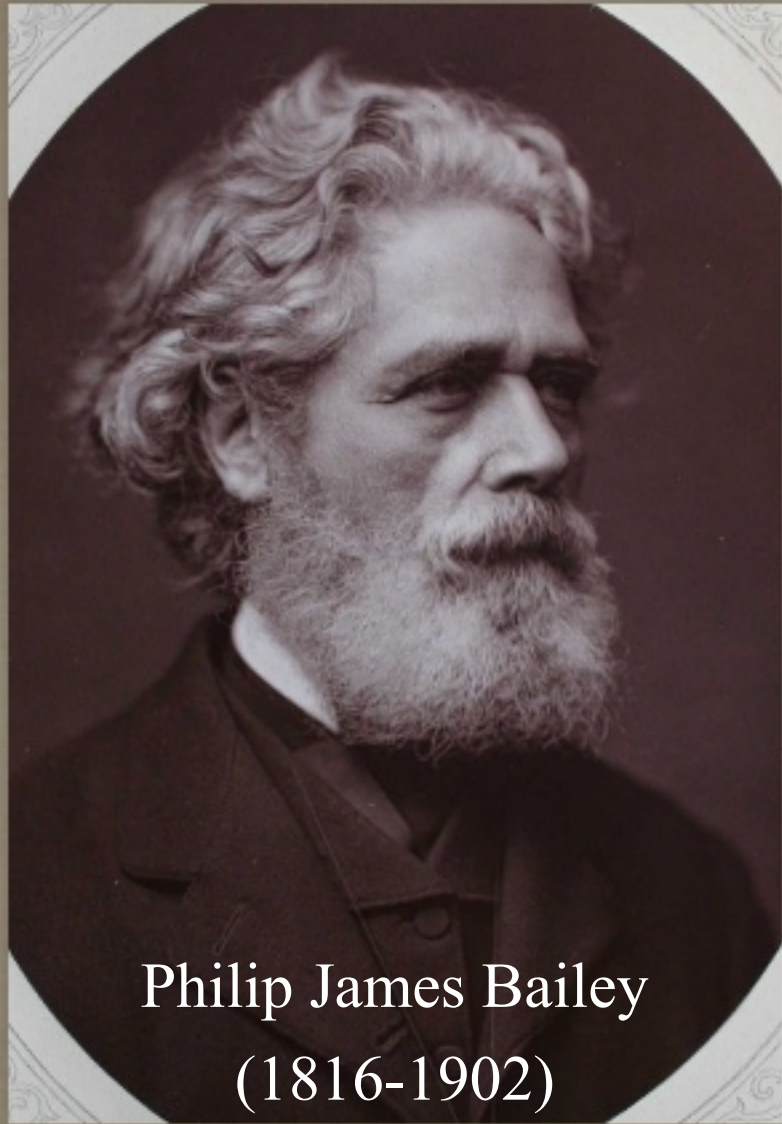
Closing Thought



Philip James Bailey
(1816-1902)

“We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths; in feelings, not in figures on a dial. We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.”

— *“Festus: A Poem”* (1839)



Philip James Bailey
(1816-1902)

“Let each man think himself an act of God, his mind a thought, his life a breath of God; and let each try, by great thoughts and good deeds, to show the most of Heaven he hath in him.”

— *ibid*

1 Timothy 6:12

“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”

2 Timothy 4:7

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”



The End