



Thomas Goodwin
(1600-1679)

14

THE RETVRNE OF PRAYERS.

A Treatise,
VVHEREIN THIS CASE

[How to discerne Gods Answers to our Prayers]
is briefly resolved:

WITH
Other Observations upon *Psalm 85.8.*
concerning Gods speaking Peace, &c.

By THO: GOODWIN, B.D.

HAB. 2. 1.

I will watch to see what he will say to me.

L O N D O N,
Printed by M. F. for R. Dawlman. 1643.

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THE RETURN OF PRAYERS

SOWING SEEDS OF PRAYER AND WAITING ON GOD
FOR A HARVEST OF ANSWERS



THOMAS GOODWIN

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*The main observation
and subject of this
discourse . . That
God's people are
diligently to observe
the answers to their
prayers.*



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Yet many who are true investors in prayer neglect to watch for the return of answers. When the voyage of their prayers proves long, they grow discouraged, as though their ships were lost at sea.

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*A reproof of those
that pray, but look not
after the return of
their prayers; the
causes of this neglect.*



**I. Your assurance is weak
that God accepts you.**



- I. Your assurance is weak that God accepts you.**
- II. You are discouraged about the weakness of your prayers.**



- I. Your assurance is weak that God accepts you.**
- II. You are discouraged about the weakness of your prayers.**
- III. You feel that your prayers are seldom answered.**



**III. You feel that your prayers
are seldom answered.**

1 Then you have even more reason to wait.



**Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread,
Are big with mercy and shall break,
In blessings on your heads.**

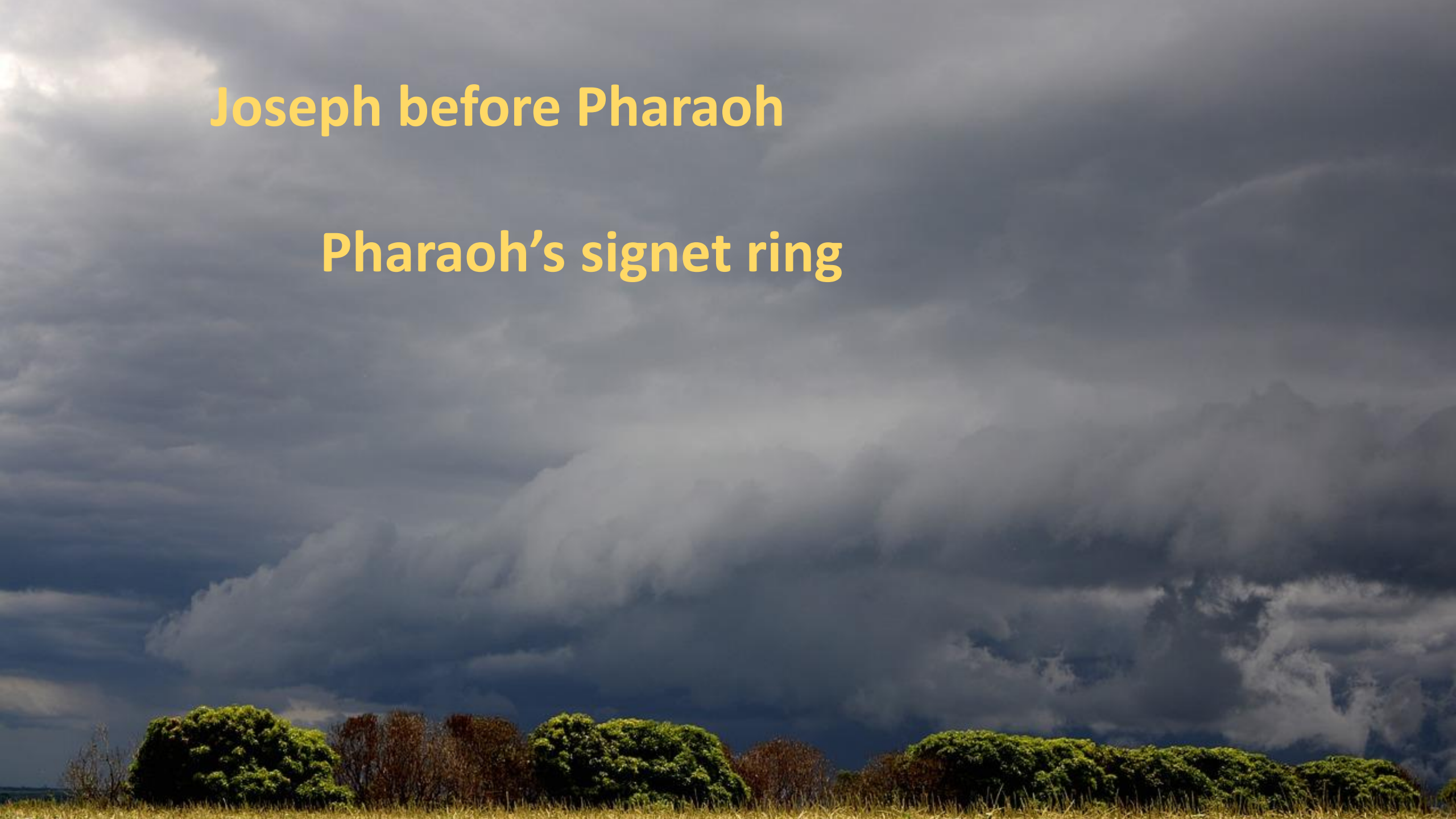


Joseph before Pharaoh



Joseph before Pharaoh

Pharaoh's signet ring





The background of the slide is a photograph of a landscape. The sky is filled with heavy, dark, grey clouds, suggesting an approaching storm. A small patch of lighter clouds is visible in the upper left corner. The foreground consists of a grassy field with several rounded, green bushes or small trees. The overall mood is dramatic and intense.

Joseph before Pharaoh

Pharaoh's signet ring
Garments of fine linen

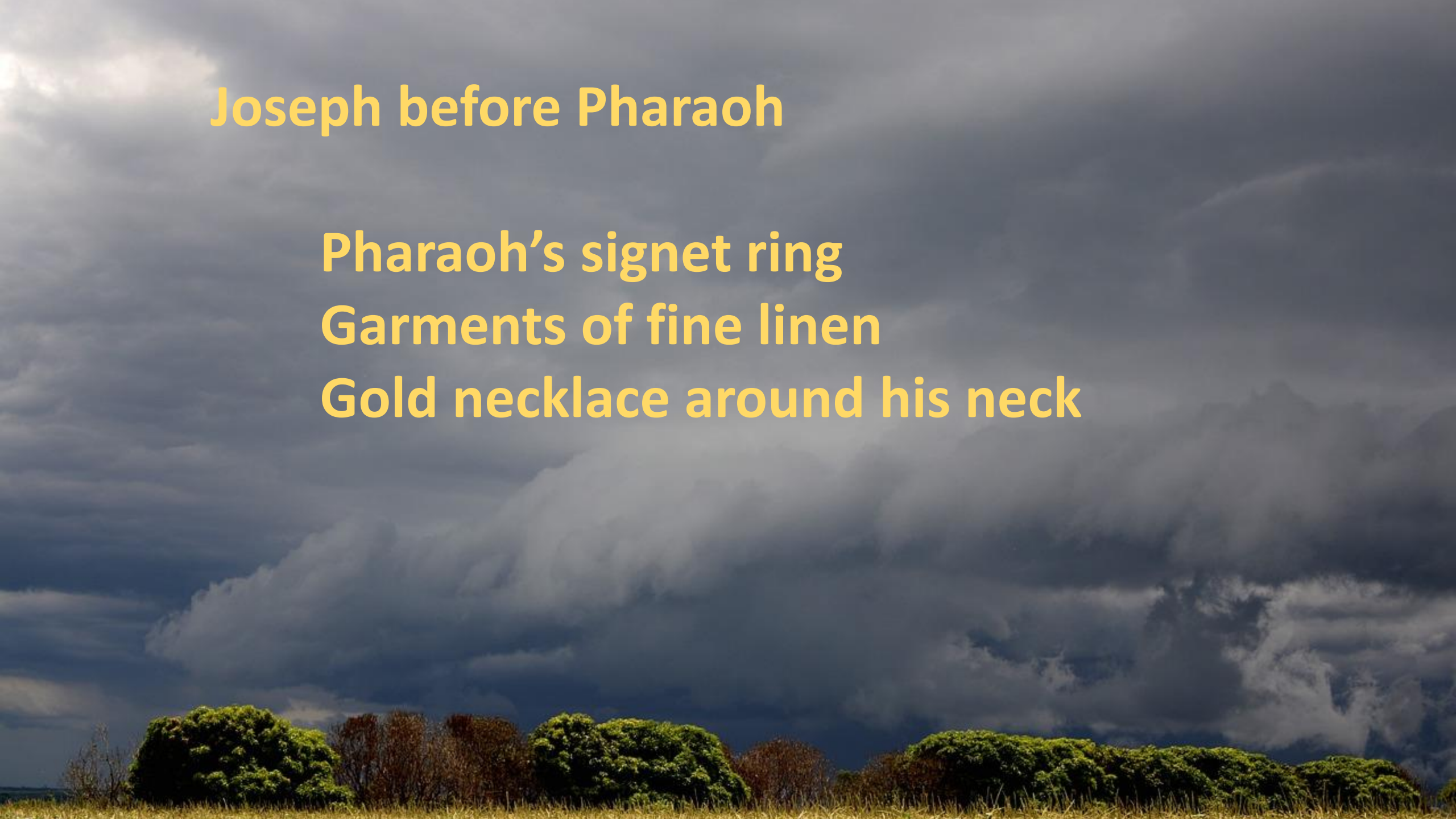


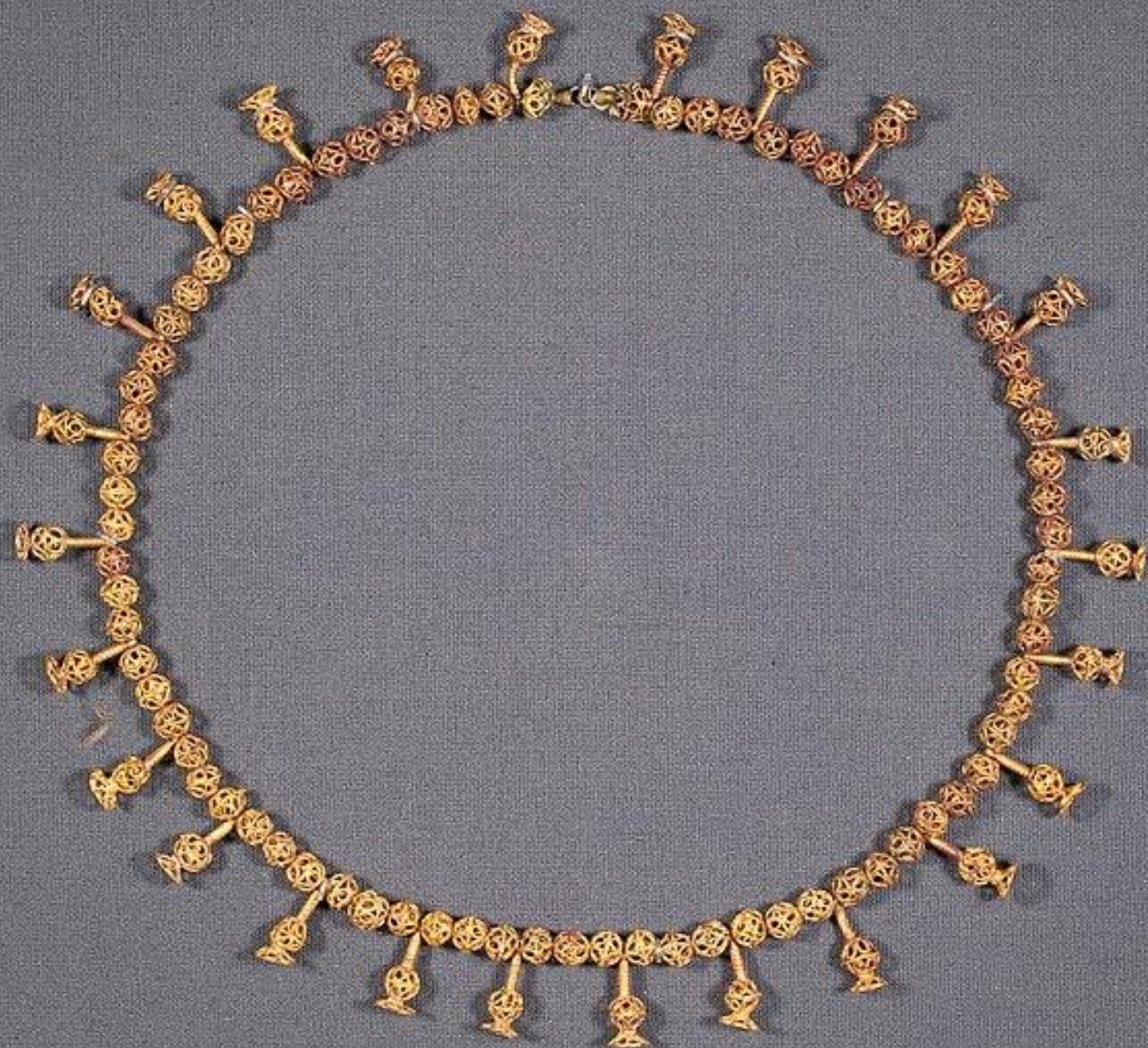
Joseph before Pharaoh

Pharaoh's signet ring

Garments of fine linen

Gold necklace around his neck





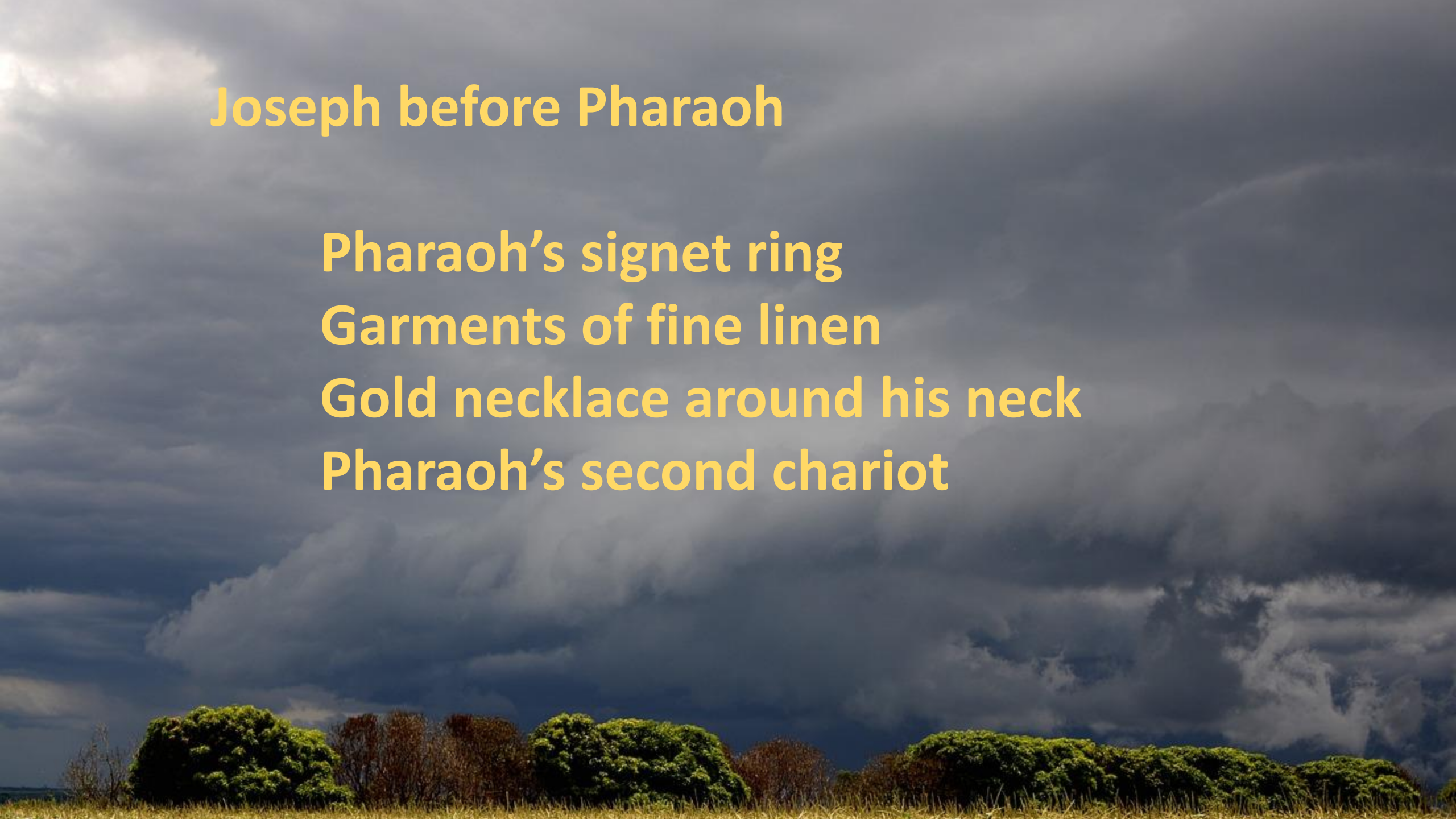
Joseph before Pharaoh

Pharaoh's signet ring

Garments of fine linen

Gold necklace around his neck

Pharaoh's second chariot



Joseph before Pharaoh

Pharaoh's signet ring

Garments of fine linen

Gold necklace around his neck

Pharaoh's second chariot

Proclaimed before him, *Bow the knee*



Joseph before Pharaoh

Pharaoh's signet ring

Garments of fine linen

Gold necklace around his neck

Pharaoh's second chariot

Proclaimed before him, *Bow the knee*

Over all the land of Egypt

Joseph before Pharaoh

Pharaoh's signet ring

Garments of fine linen

Gold necklace around his neck

Pharaoh's second chariot

Proclaimed before him, *Bow the knee*

Over all the land of Egypt

Asenath to be his wife

Joseph before Pharaoh

Jacob to Egypt

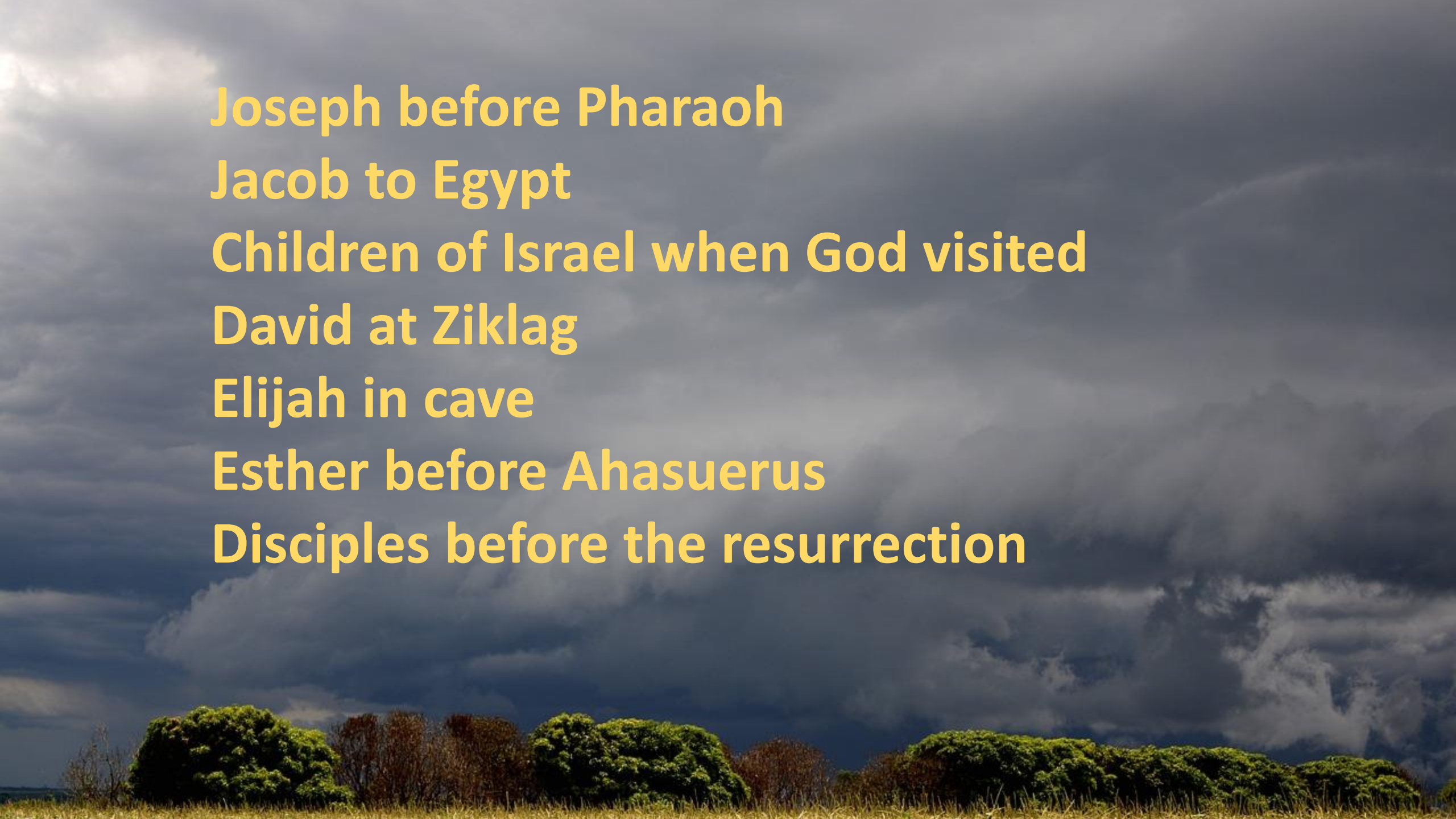
Children of Israel when God visited

David at Ziklag

Elijah in cave

Esther before Ahasuerus

Disciples before the resurrection





**III. You feel that your prayers
are seldom answered.**

1 Then you have even more reason to wait.

2 Your reward is with the Lord.

It is in praying as in preaching, a man may preach faithfully many a year, and yet not convert a soul, and yet a man is not to give over waiting, but to observe after every sermon what good is done. . .

And if none be converted, yet, “a man’s reward is with the Lord” (Is. 49:4).

And if none be converted, yet, “a man’s reward is with the Lord” (Is. 49:4). “Every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor” (1 Cor. 3:8). . .

So it is with praying; though you miss again and again, and nothing succeeds as you pray for, yet be not discouraged, for your reward is with the Lord, which will come in one day.



III. You feel that your prayers are seldom answered.

1 Then you have even more reason to wait.

2 Your reward is with the Lord.

3 You are given more opportunity for faithfulness.

***Because He has inclined His ear to me,
therefore I shall call upon Him as long
as I live (Psalm 116:2).***



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