

## According to God's Word what is a local church?

. . . the church in Ephesus. . . the church in Smyrna. . . the church in Pergamum. . . the church in Thyatira. . . the church in Sardis. . . the church in Philadelphia. . . the church in Laodicea (NASB; Rev. 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14).

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. . . Be on guard among yourselves and for all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has made you overseers (NASB; Acts 20:17, 28a).

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons (NASB; Phil. 1:1b ).

John 4:23-24; Acts 2:42; I Thess. 1:8; I Pet. 4:10-11

**According to God's Word a local church is an assembly of mutually acknowledged Christians, organized in one locale under scriptural leadership, for the purposes of worship, apostolic instruction, prayer, fellowship, evangelism, service, and the observance of the ordinances.**



## According to God's Word what are a local church's scriptural leaders?

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons (NASB; Phil. 1:1b).

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. . . Be on guard among yourselves and for all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood (NASB; Acts 20:17; 28).

See I Peter 5:1-4 for the ministry of elders.

See Acts 6:1-7 for the early church's first ordination of Spirit-filled men who were not elders, but whose wise ministry it would be to assist the Apostles.

**According to God's Word a local church's scriptural leaders are elders, who oversee and shepherd (pastor), and deacons, who assist them.**

*An able and faithful ministry, next to the sanctifying operations of the Spirit, is the greatest benefit than can be conferred upon a people (Samuel Miller, in his inaugural address at the founding of Princeton Theological Seminary in 1812).*



## What are the ordinances a local church is to observe?

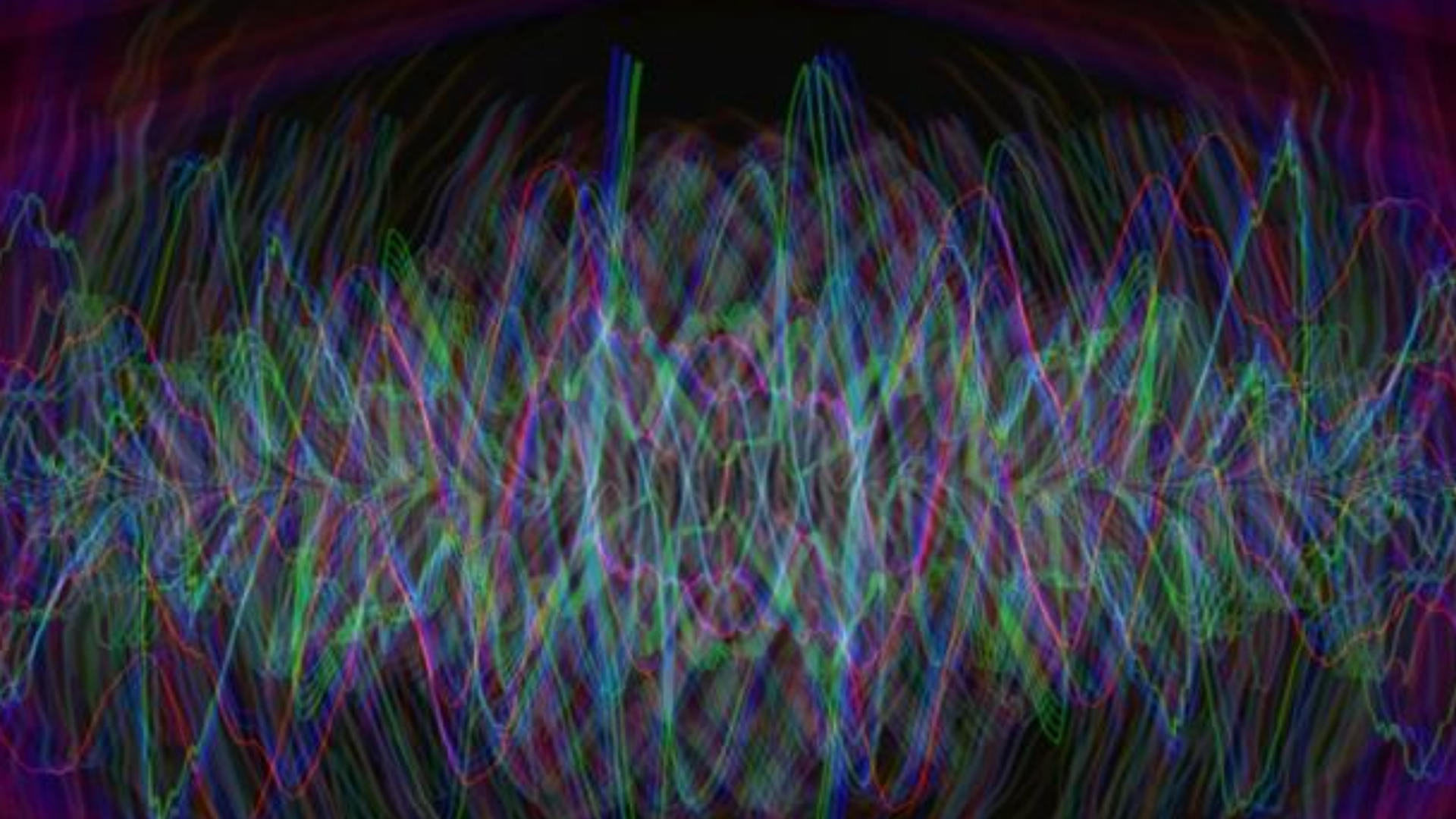
Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (NASB; Matthew 28:19).

I Corinthians 11:23-26

# The ordinances a local church is to observe are baptism and the Lord's table.

An ordinance is a practice ordained by Jesus Christ in which His people are to use physical actions (immersion, eating, and drinking) and materials (water, bread, and the fruit of the vine) both to signify and to identify themselves with the spiritual realities of His redemptive work on their behalf.





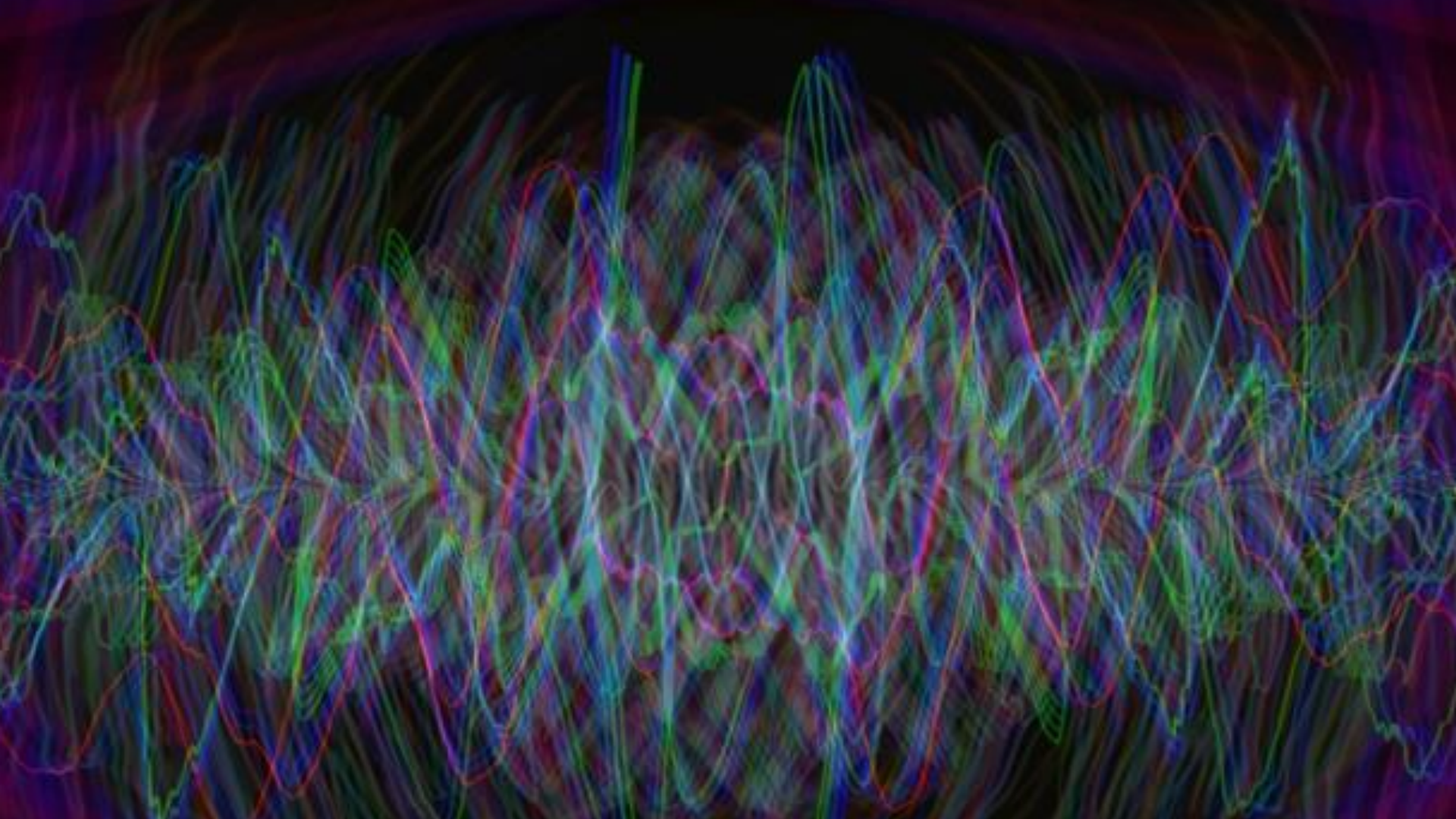
*THE KINGDOM OF*

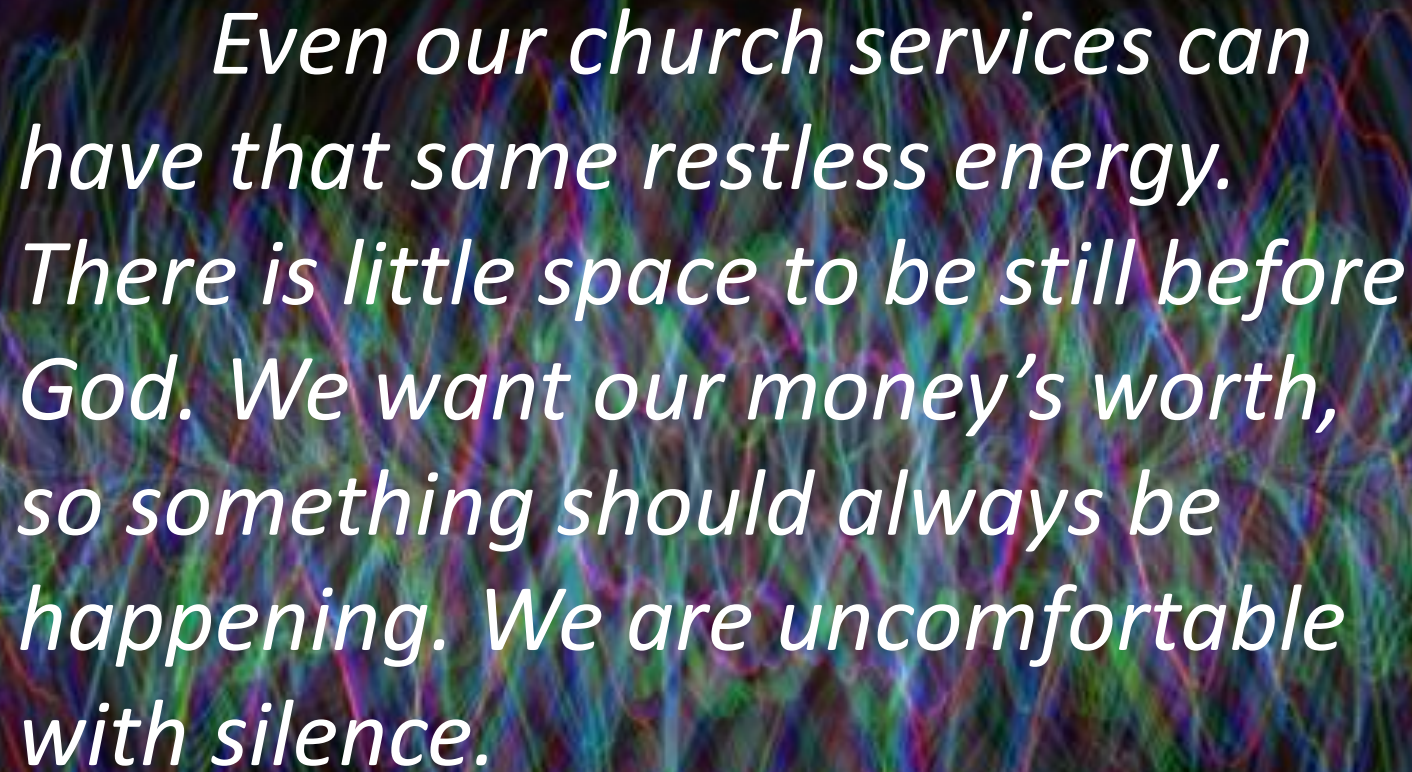
The background of the image is a dark, textured field filled with a dense, chaotic network of thin, glowing lines. These lines are primarily in shades of blue, green, and red, with some purple and yellow highlights. They appear to be moving or vibrating, creating a sense of dynamic energy and complexity. The overall effect is reminiscent of a microscopic view of a complex material or a digital representation of a neural network or data flow.



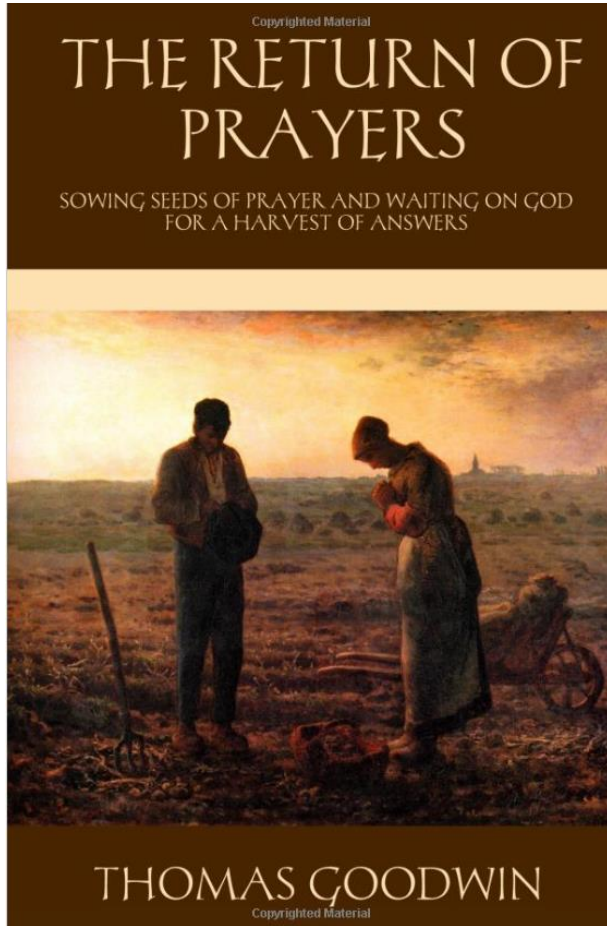
*THE KINGDOM OF*

*NOISE!*





*Even our church services can  
have that same restless energy.  
There is little space to be still before  
God. We want our money's worth,  
so something should always be  
happening. We are uncomfortable  
with silence.*



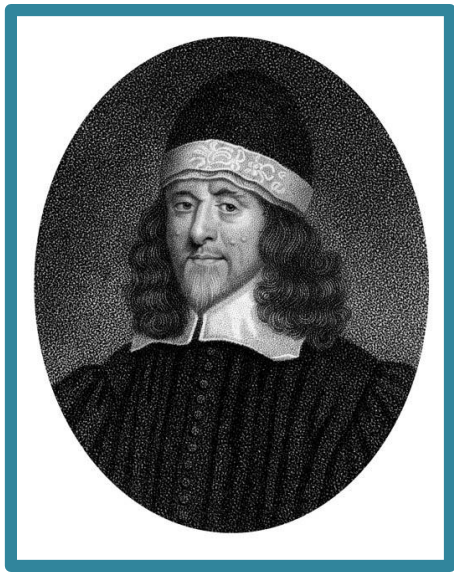
## Psalm 85:8

**I will hear what  
God the LORD will  
say. . .**



# Thomas Goodwin (1600-1679)



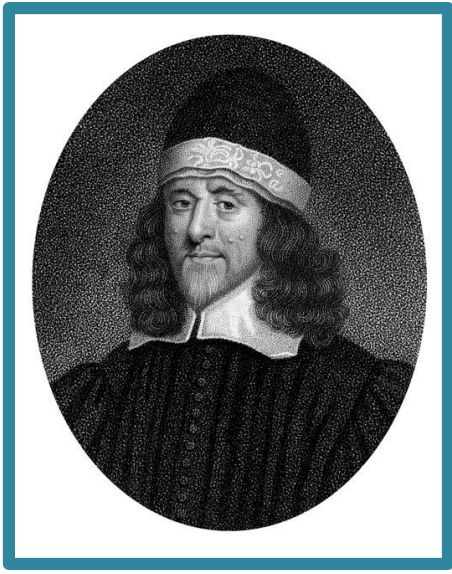


**I. IF IT COMES TO PASS. . .**



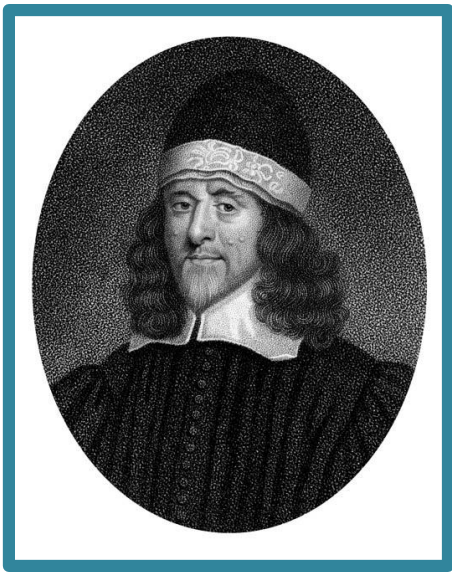
## I. IF IT COMES TO PASS. . .

*At one of our prayer seminars, a man who was struggling with typical garden-variety Christian cynicism challenged me whether this wasn't just the law of averages. That is, lots of things will happen naturally over the course of time. Maybe I was giving God credit for what would have happened anyway (4475=136).*



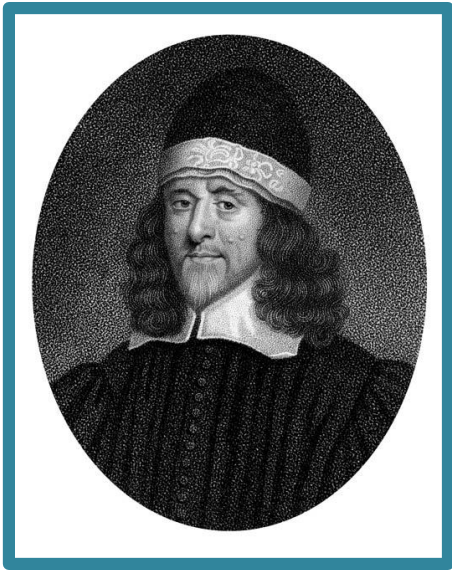
I. IF IT COMES TO PASS. . .

*. . . such is the infidelity  
of our hearts. . . that we are  
apt to look but to things below  
and the second causes of them. . .*



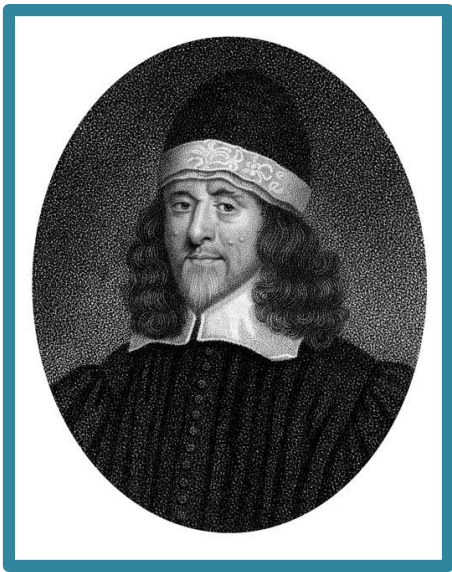
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# **I. IT COMES TO PASS.**

**1 In ways in which His hand  
is unusually displayed.**

**By overcoming many  
difficulties.**

## **Psalm 126:1-3**

**When the LORD brought back the  
captive ones of Zion, we were like those  
who dream. Then our mouth was filled  
with laughter and our tongue with joyful  
shouting. . .**

## **Psalm 126:1-3**

**Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”**

**The LORD has done great things for us;  
We are glad.**

$$\frac{6k}{n\pi}$$

$$\frac{2(ab + 5k)}{n\pi}$$

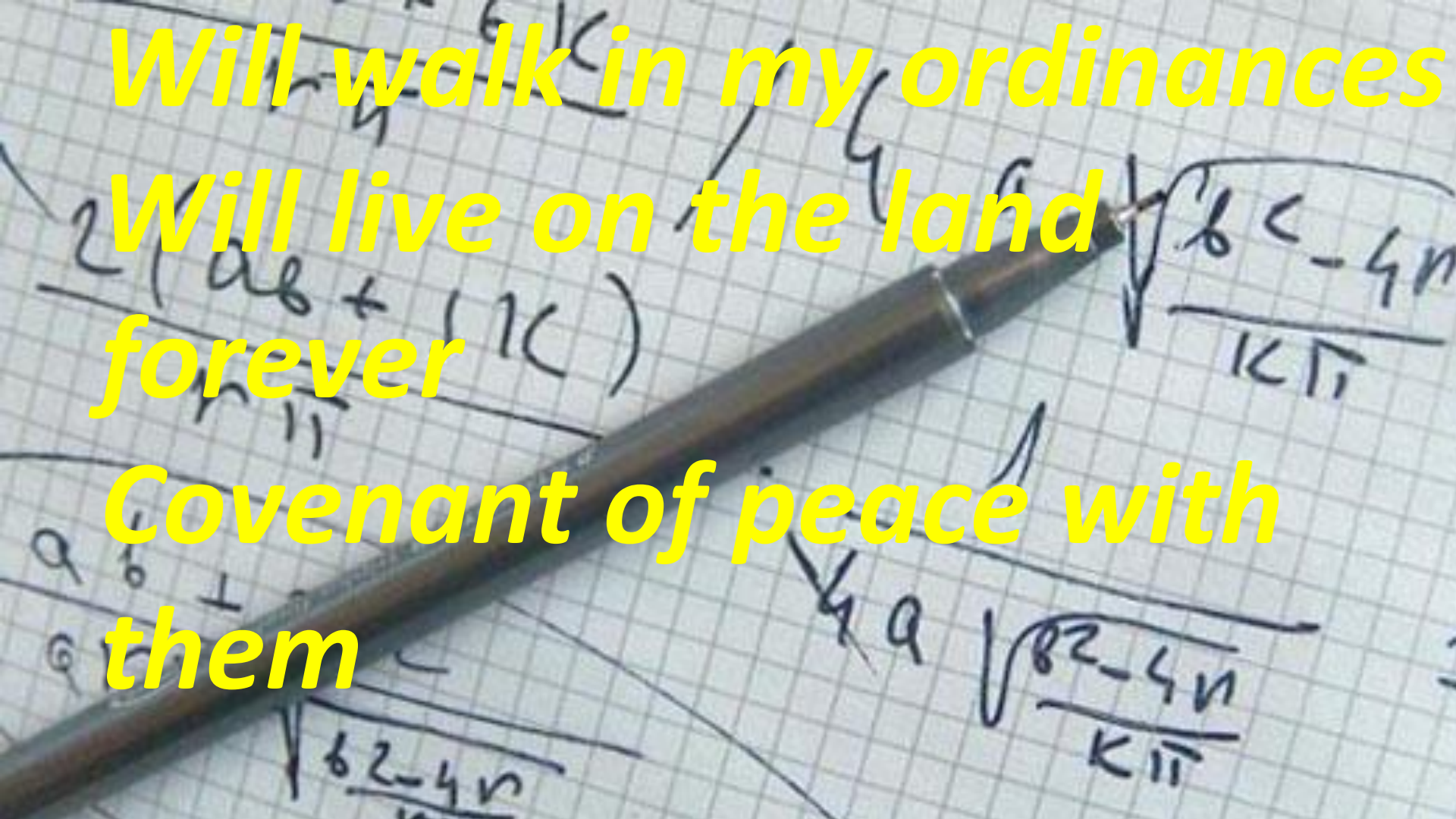
$$\frac{ab + 5k}{n\pi}$$

$$\frac{9\sqrt{8k - 4n}}{k\pi}$$

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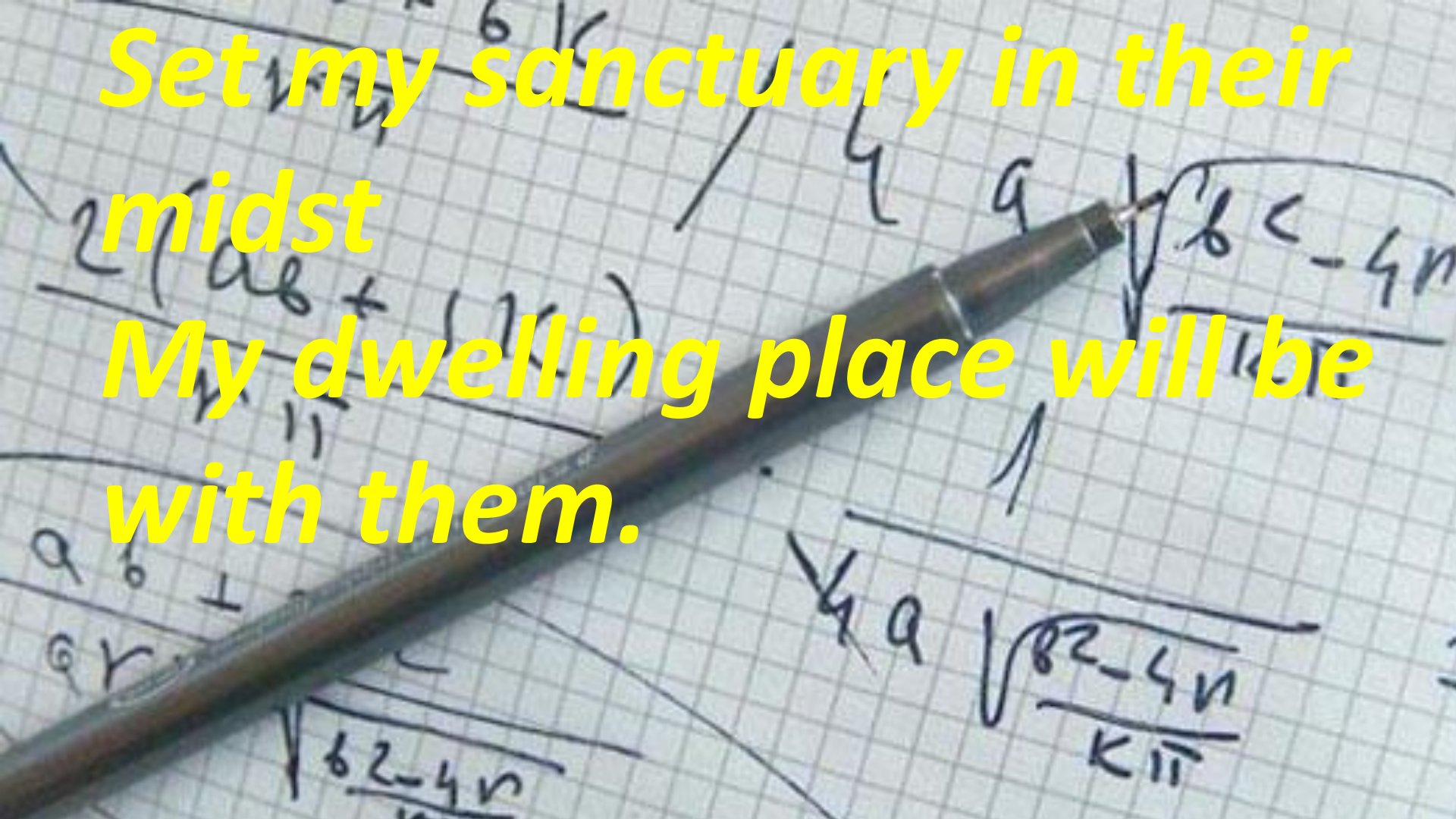
*Then you will  
know that I am  
the LORD.*

***Gather the nation  
Bring into their own land  
Make of them one nation  
One king for all of them***

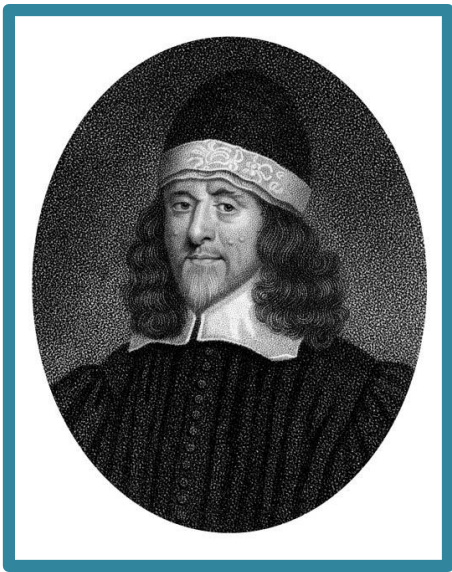


***Will walk in my ordinances  
Will live on the land  
forever  
Covenant of peace with  
them***

*Set my sanctuary in their  
midst  
My dwelling place will be  
with them.*



***And the nations  
will know that I  
am the LORD.***



# **I. IT COMES TO PASS.**

**1 In ways in which His hand  
is unusually displayed.**

**By doing it very suddenly,  
after long delay.**

## **II Chronicles 29:36**

**Then Hezekiah and all the people  
rejoiced over what God had prepared  
for the people,**

## II Chronicles 29:36

Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced over what God had prepared for the people, because the thing came about suddenly.

## Isaiah 48:3

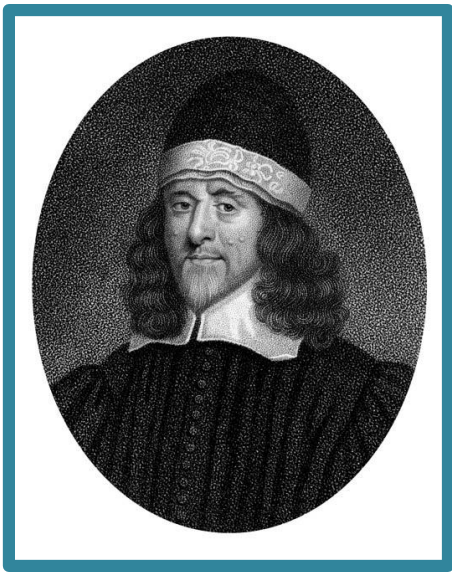
**“I declared the former things long ago  
And they went forth from My mouth,  
and I proclaimed them.”**

## Isaiah 48:3

"I declared the former things long ago  
And they went forth from My mouth,  
and I proclaimed them. Suddenly I acted,  
and they came to pass.

## Isaiah 48:4

*Because I know you are obstinate,  
and your neck is an iron sinew and your  
forehead bronze.*



# **I. IT COMES TO PASS.**

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is unusually displayed.**

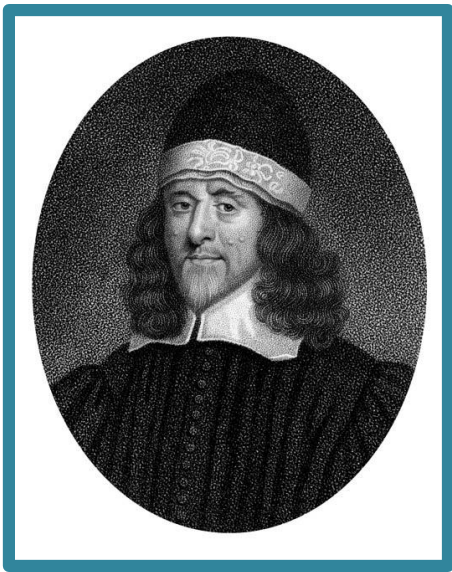
**By adding to it an  
overplus of mercies.**

# Solomon

*He asked but wisdom, and he gave him more than he asked, “peace, riches, honor” (1 Kings 3:12, 13).*

# Hannah

*The LORD visited Hannah; and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters (1 Samuel 2:21a).*



# **I. IT COMES TO PASS.**

**1 In ways in which His hand  
is unusually displayed.**

**2**

**John 4:46-54**

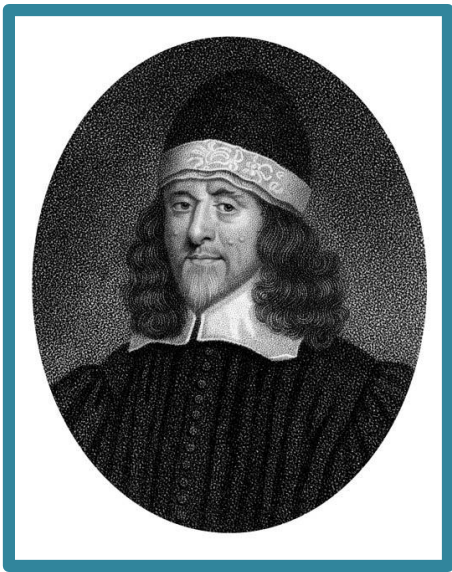


# **I. IT COMES TO PASS.**

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**2 At a certain time.**

**John 4:46-54**



# **I. IT COMES TO PASS.**

**1 In ways in which His hand  
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**2 At a certain time.**

**John 4:46-54**

**Acts 12:12-17**

***And it will come to pass  
that before they call, I will  
answer (Isaiah 65:24a).***

**Peter Jennings, former ABC anchor man, used to tell the reporters,  
*When you ask someone, “What got you through the crisis?” And they say, “God,” don’t say, “No, what really got you through?”***

**(4475=107**

***I waited patiently for the  
LORD; and He inclined to me  
and heard my cry.***

**--Psalm 40:1**

