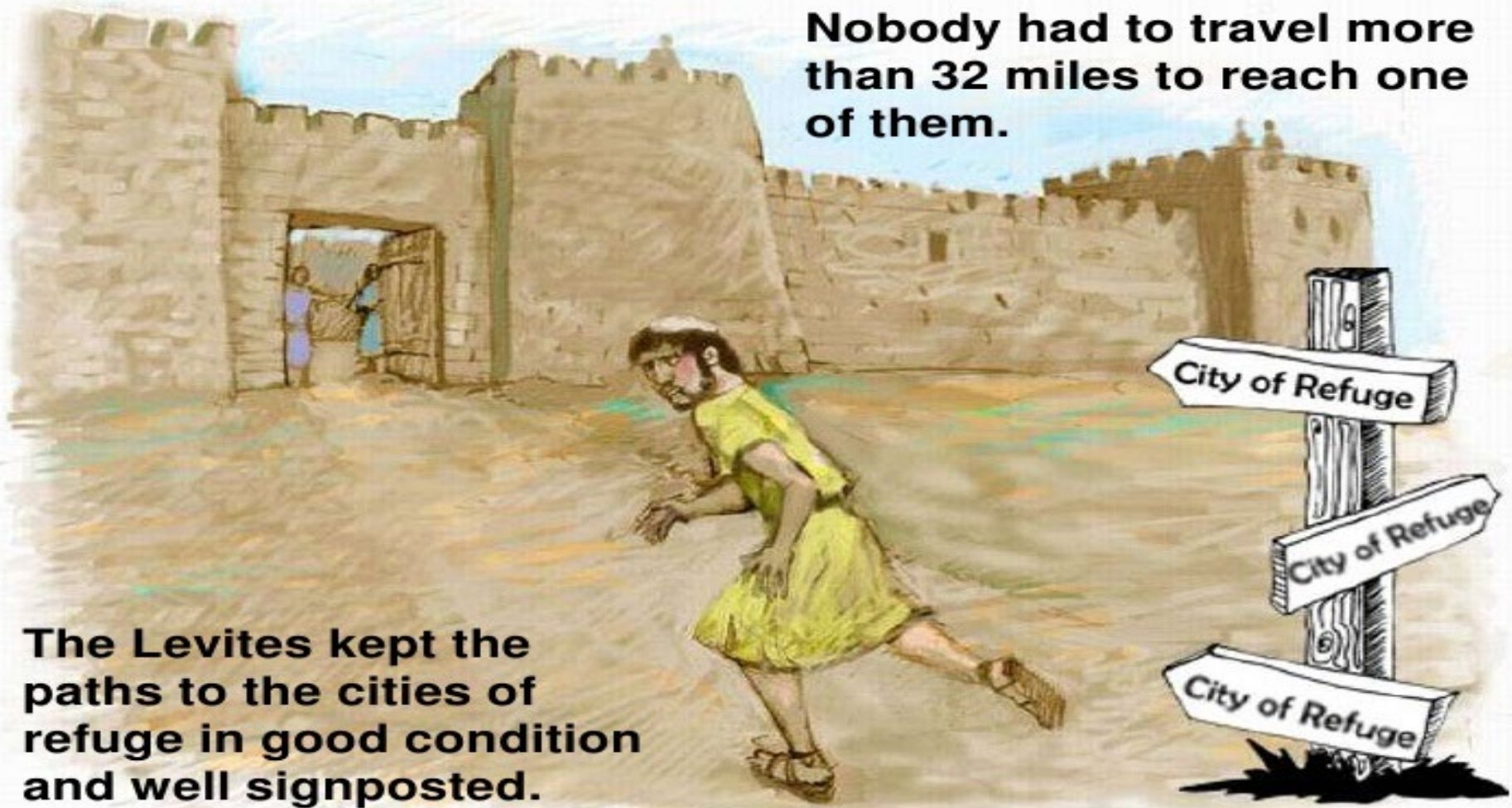


City of Refuge

An aerial photograph of a multi-lane highway filled with cars, viewed from above. To the right of the highway is a long, high stone wall with a crenelated top edge. In the background, a city with buildings and mountains is visible under a cloudy sky. The text 'City of Refuge' is overlaid in the center in a large, bold, black font.

Nobody had to travel more than 32 miles to reach one of them.

The Levites kept the paths to the cities of refuge in good condition and well signposted.



Cities of Refuge

1. **Kedesh:** to sanctify, set apart, consecrate and therefore to make holy.
2. **Shechem:** between the shoulders or burden bearer.
3. **Hebron:** Joining or fellowship.
4. **Bezer:** signifies a fortified place
5. **Ramoth:** signifying to be high, raised up, exalted.
6. **Golan:** is rejoicing through deliverance.

1 Peter 2:9 NLT

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You **are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession.** As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

A stone wall with a crenelated top, featuring the text "JESUS IS OUR CITY OF REFUGE" in large, red, distressed letters. The wall is made of light-colored, weathered stone blocks. The text is painted in a bold, sans-serif font with a rough, textured appearance. The background shows a clear blue sky and some sparse, dry vegetation in the foreground.

JESUS IS OUR CITY OF REFUGE

Elders in the Gate



- Gen 19:1
- Deut. 21:19; 22:15; 25:7
- Ruth 4:1
- Lam 5:14
- Job 29:7
- Proverbs 31:23



Importance of the Gate

The background of the slide features a stone wall with a crenelated top edge, extending from the right side towards the center. In the foreground, a road with several cars is visible, leading towards a gate in the wall. The scene is set at night or dusk, with a warm, golden light illuminating the wall and the road.

Mat 16:18

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Gen 22:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which *is* on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.



The 2 gates



70 Year Captivity

prophesied by Jeremiah

Nebuchadnezzar
attacks
Jerusalem

Cyrus' Decree
to Free
the Jews

Death of
King Josiah

Jer. 25:11-12, 29:10

Kingdom of Judah

Babylonian Captivity

Rebuilding...

628 624

607 603

580

569

561

538 534

Nebuchadnezzar

Belshazzar

↑
ch 2

↑
ch 3

↑
ch 4

↑
ch 7

↑
ch 8

↑
ch 9

↑
10-12

Daniel

624 - 534

Jeremiah

629 - 588

Ezekiel

595 - 574



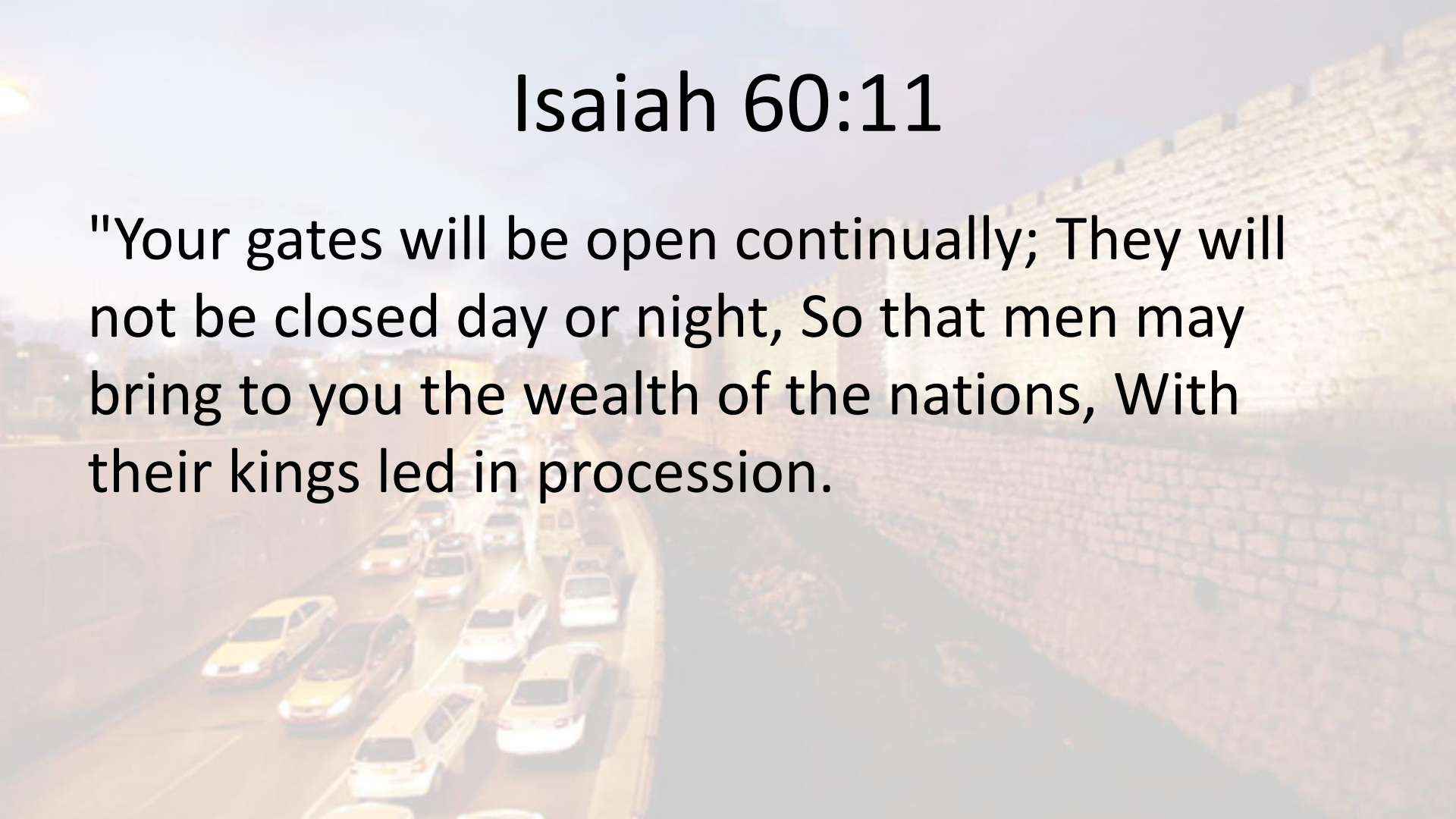
City of Refuge

Watchman on the walls

Part III

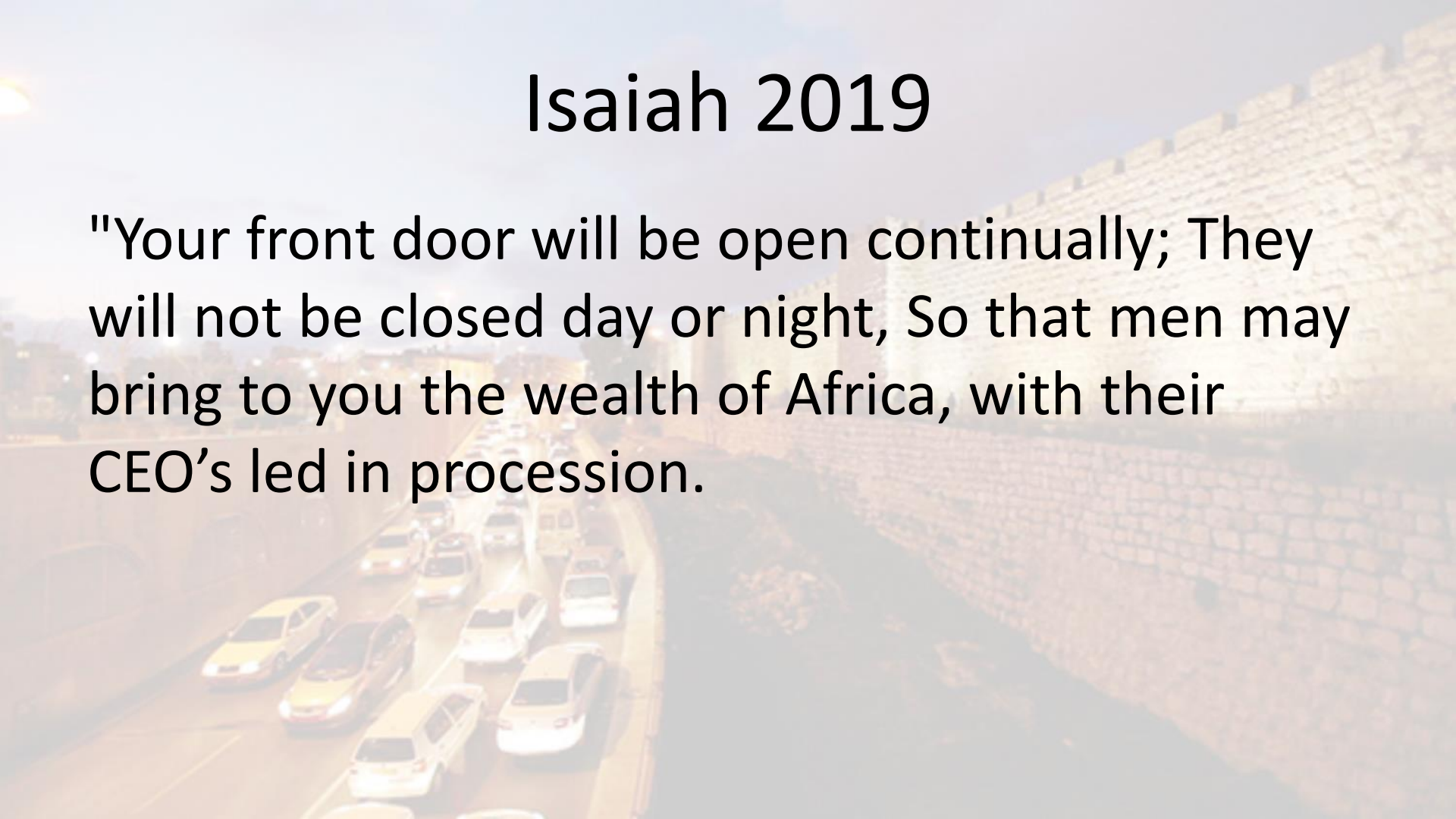
Isaiah 60:11

"Your gates will be open continually; They will not be closed day or night, So that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations, With their kings led in procession.



Isaiah 2019

"Your front door will be open continually; They will not be closed day or night, So that men may bring to you the wealth of Africa, with their CEO's led in procession.

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a multi-lane highway at night. The road is filled with cars, their headlights and taillights creating a flow of light. To the right of the highway, a large, ancient stone wall with a crenelated top edge stretches across the frame. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light sources being the vehicles and some distant city lights.

Matthew 21:12-13 (ESV)

¹² And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. ¹³ He said to them, “**It is written**, ‘**My house shall be called a house of prayer**,’ but you make it a den of robbers.”

Isaiah 56:6-7 (ESV)

“And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—

Isaiah 56:6-7 (ESV)

these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them **joyful** in my **house** of **prayer**;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.”

Watchmen



Ezekiel 3:17

“Son of man, I have appointed you as a watchman for Israel. Whenever you receive a message from me, warn people immediately.

Watchmen

Ezekiel 33:3,6-7

When the watchman sees the enemy coming, he sounds the alarm to warn the people.

But if the watchman sees the enemy coming and doesn't sound the alarm to warn the people, he is responsible for their captivity. They will die in their sins, but I will hold the watchman responsible for their deaths.' "Now, son of man, I am making you a watchman for the people of Israel. Therefore, listen to what I say and warn them for me.

Position

Prov 18:10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous runs into it and is safe.

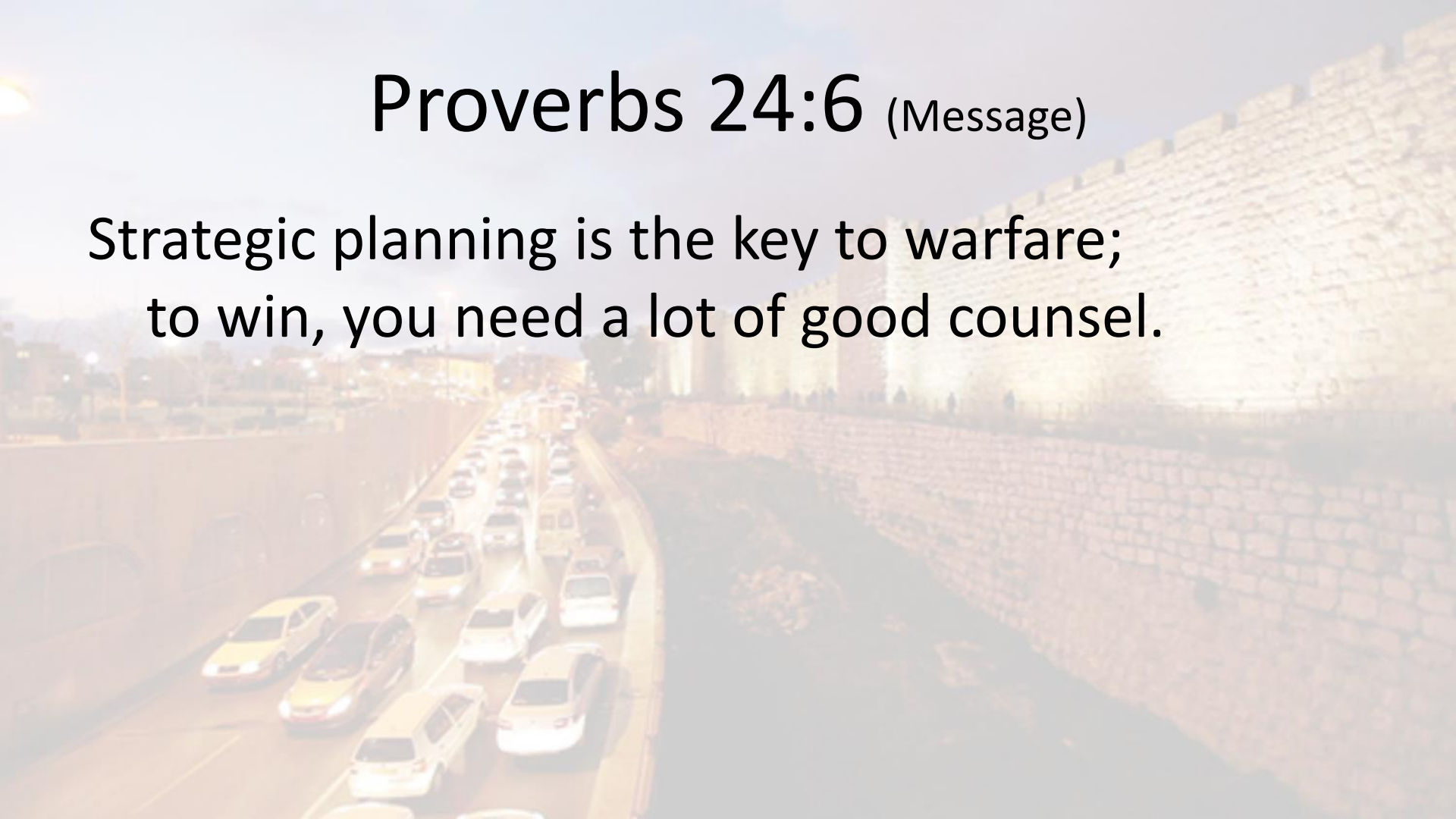
Ps 18:2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strong rock, in him will I trust; my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower.



THE
NAME
OF THE
LORD IS A
STRONG
TOWER
PROVERBS 18:10

Proverbs 24:6 (Message)

Strategic planning is the key to warfare;
to win, you need a lot of good counsel.

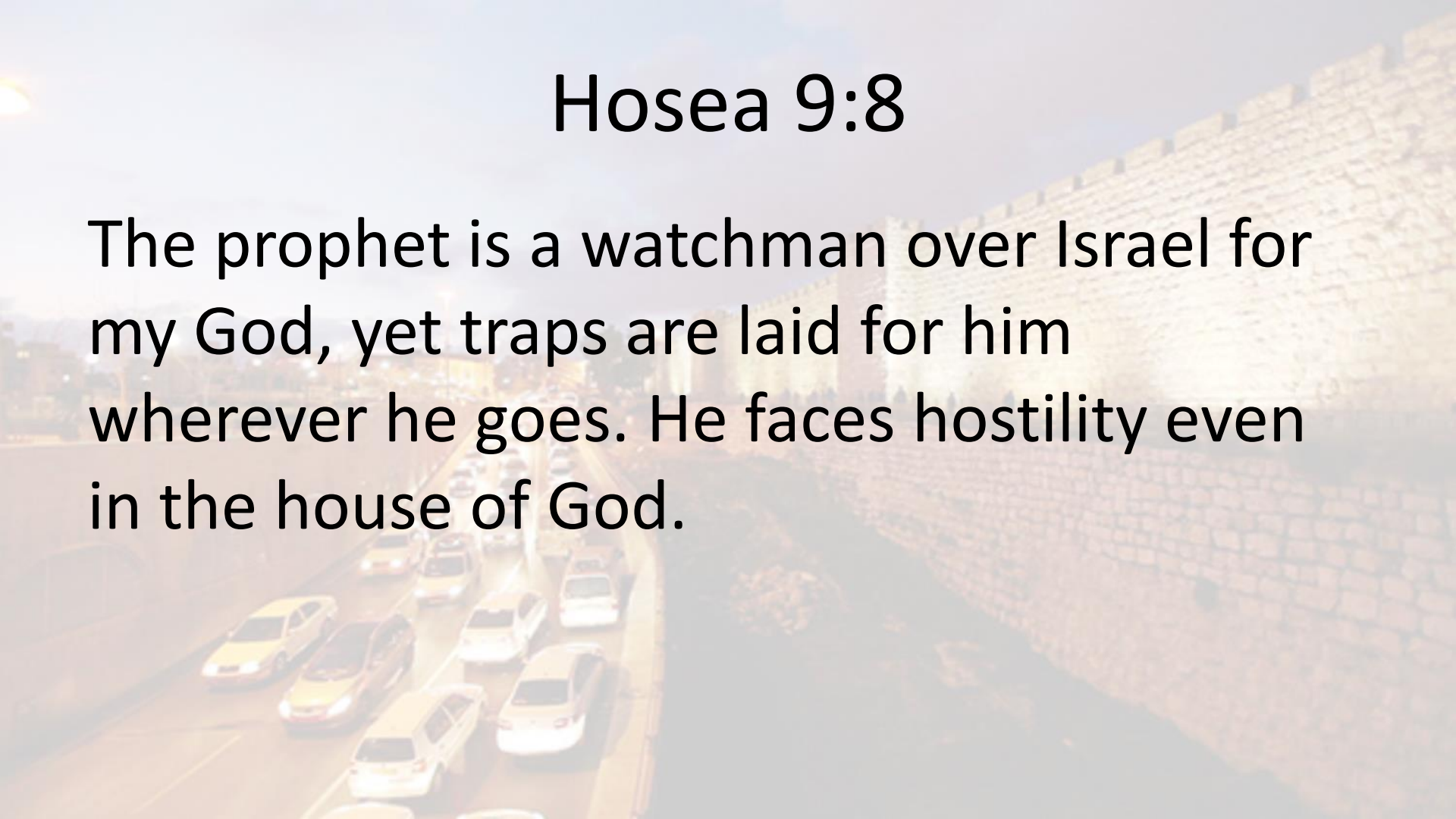


1 Peter 2:9 NLT

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You **are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession.** As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

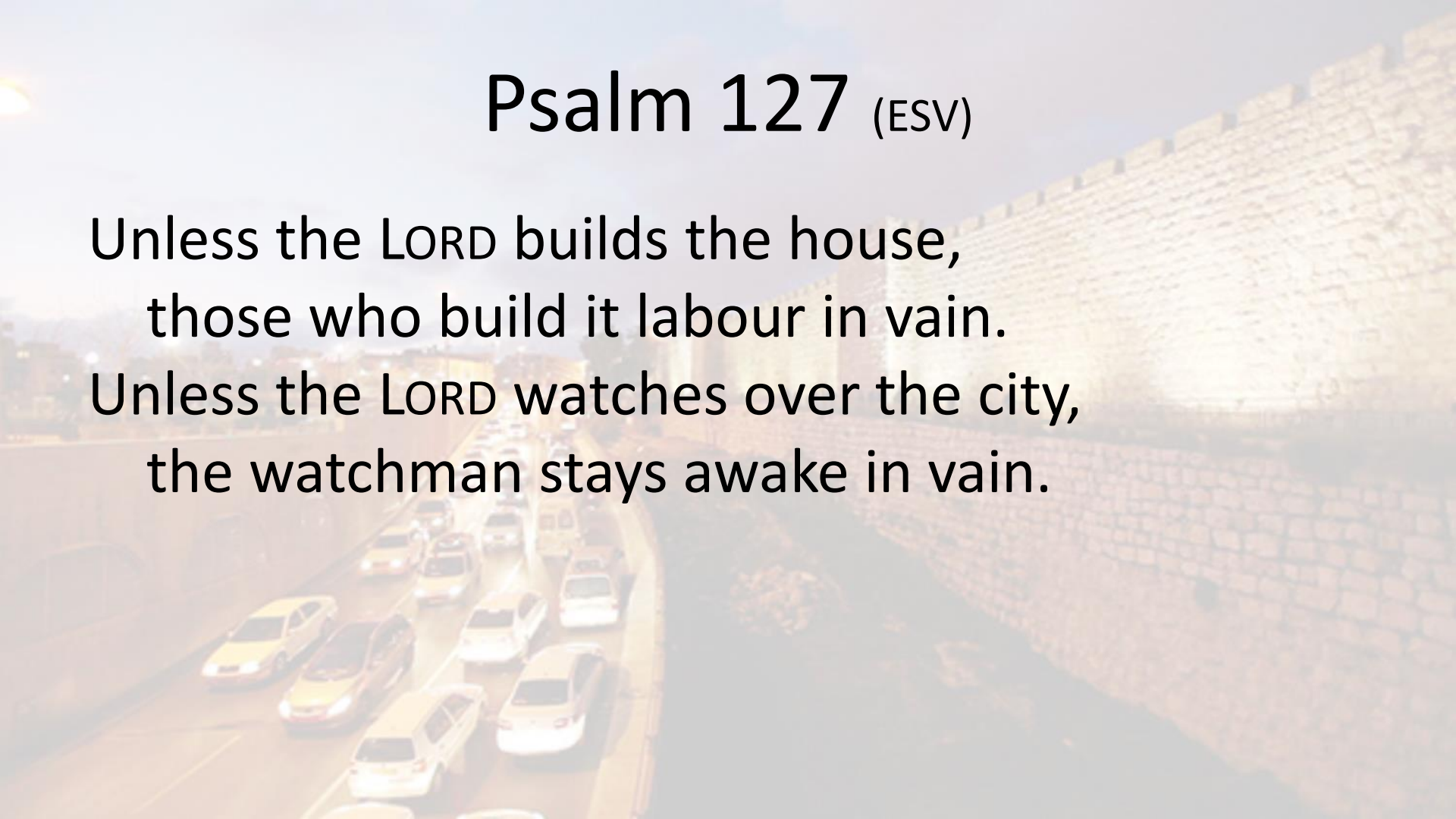
Hosea 9:8

The prophet is a watchman over Israel for my God, yet traps are laid for him wherever he goes. He faces hostility even in the house of God.

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a multi-lane highway filled with cars, viewed from above. The road curves to the right. In the background, a large, ancient stone wall with a crenelated top edge stretches across the frame. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting either sunrise or sunset. The overall image has a slightly hazy, ethereal quality.

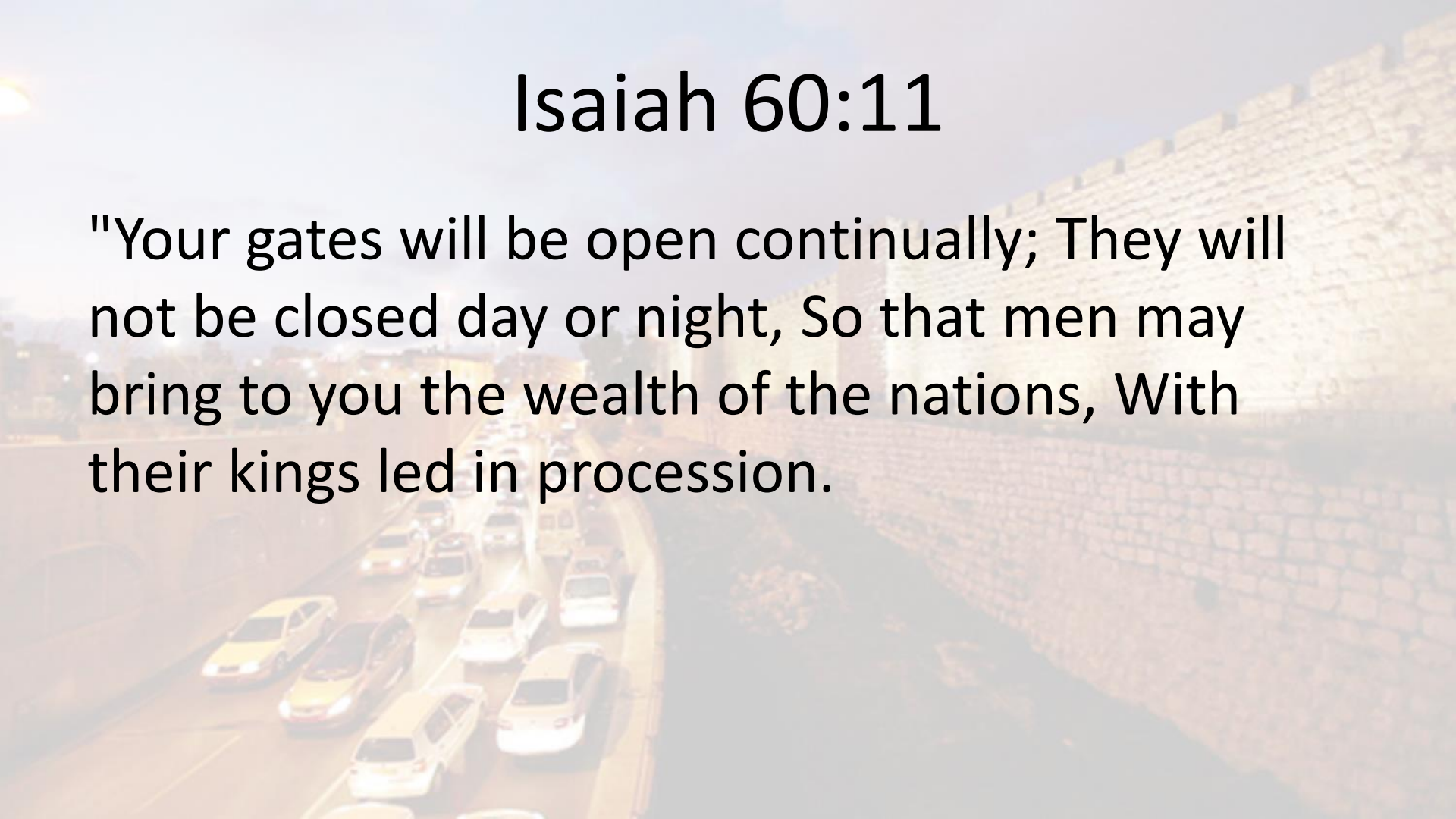
Psalm 127 (ESV)

Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labour in vain.
Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.



Isaiah 60:11

"Your gates will be open continually; They will not be closed day or night, So that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations, With their kings led in procession.

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a multi-lane highway at night. The road is filled with cars, their headlights and taillights glowing. To the right of the highway, a large, ancient stone wall with a crenelated top edge runs parallel to the road. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light sources being the vehicles and some distant city lights in the background.