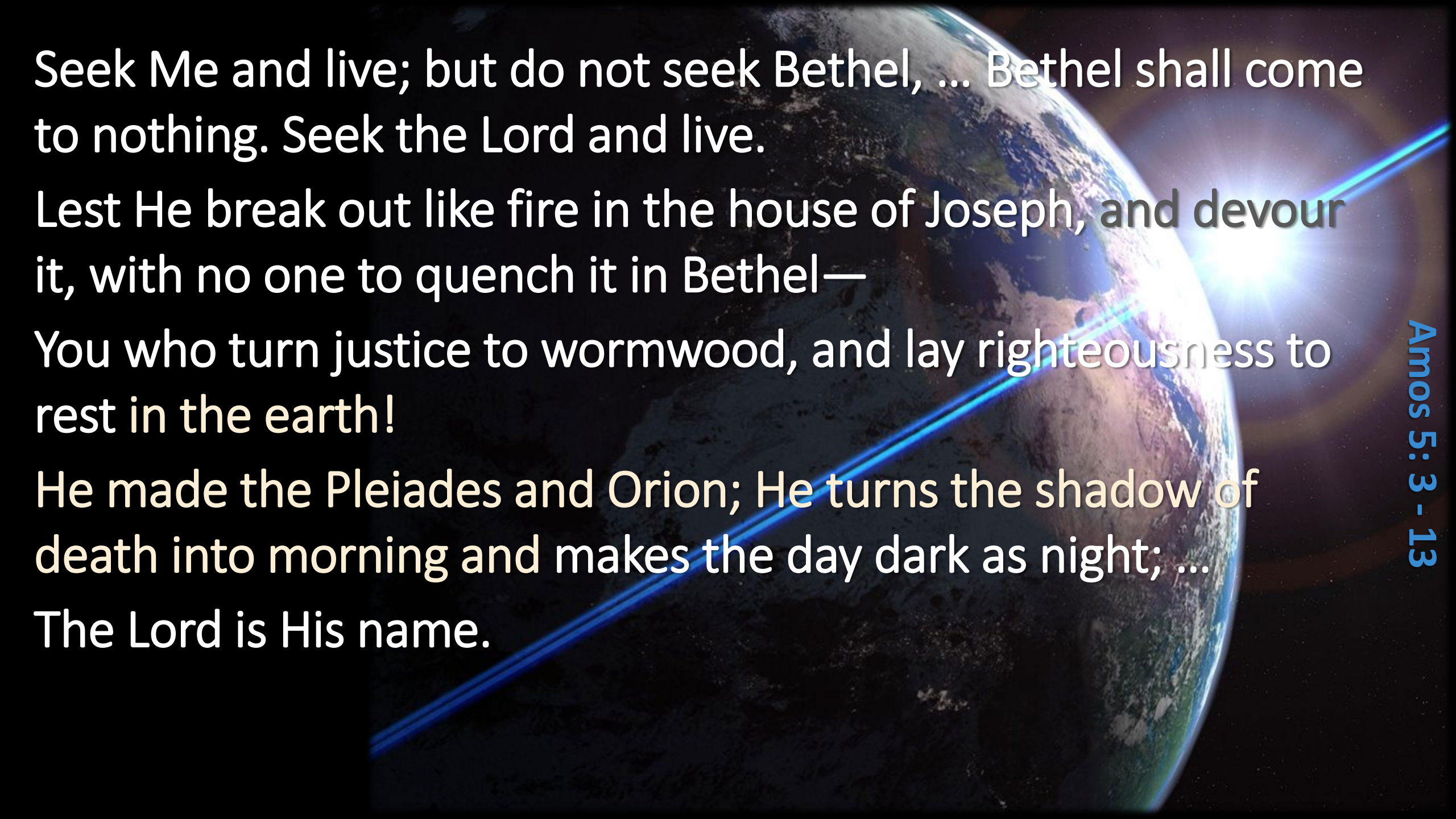




the
LORD
is his name

Justice in Amos 5



Seek Me and live; but do not seek Bethel, ... Bethel shall come to nothing. Seek the Lord and live.

Lest He break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, with no one to quench it in Bethel—

You who turn justice to wormwood, and lay righteousness to rest in the earth!

He made the Pleiades and Orion; He turns the shadow of death into morning and makes the day dark as night; ...

The Lord is His name.

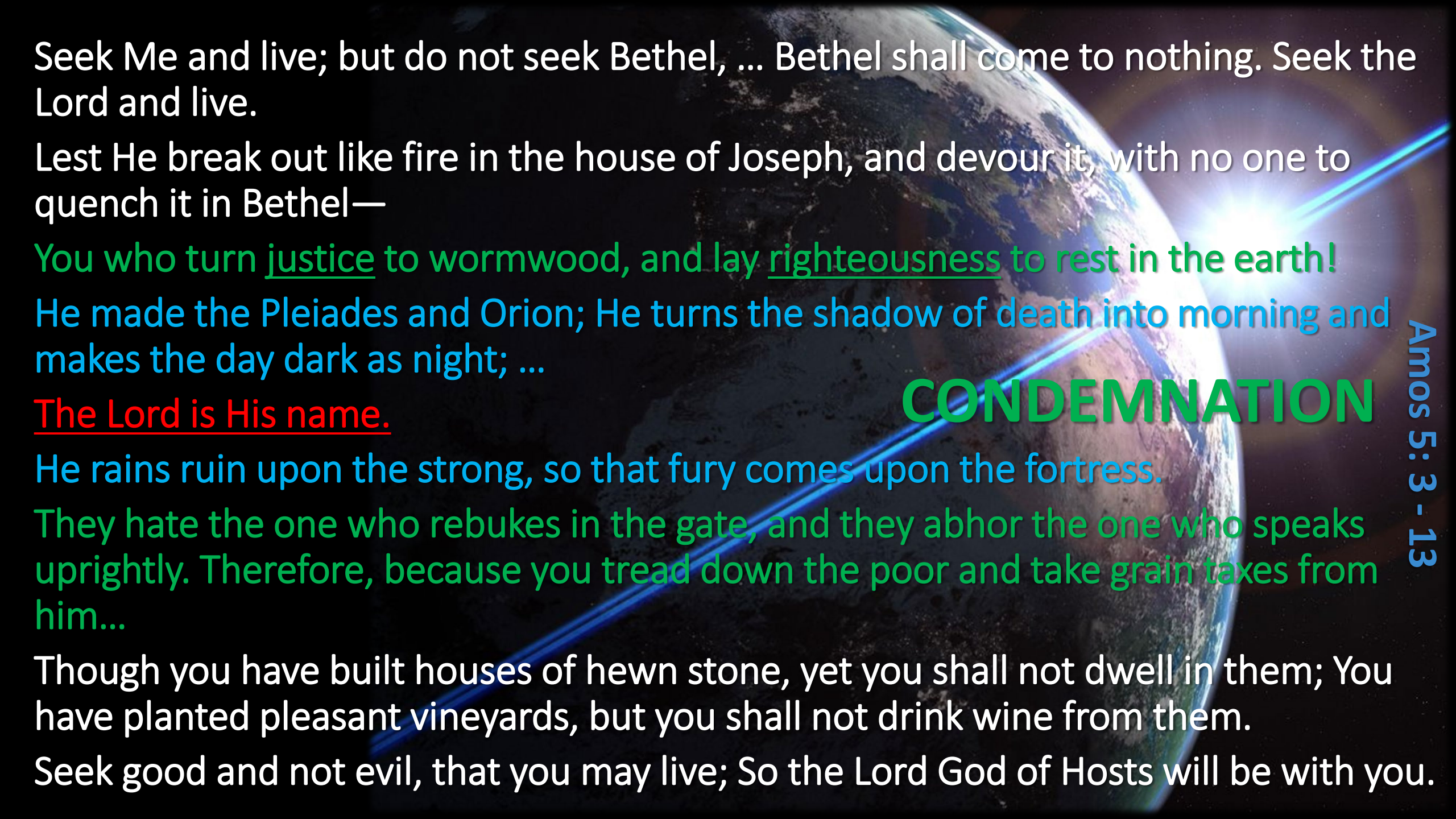


He rains ruin upon the strong, so that fury comes upon the fortress.

They hate the one who rebukes in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks uprightly. Therefore, because you tread down the poor and take grain taxes from him ...

Though you have built houses of hewn stone, yet you shall not dwell in them; You have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink wine from them.

Seek good and not evil, that you may live; So the Lord God of Hosts will be with you.



Seek Me and live; but do not seek Bethel, ... Bethel shall come to nothing. Seek the Lord and live.

Lest He break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, with no one to quench it in Bethel—

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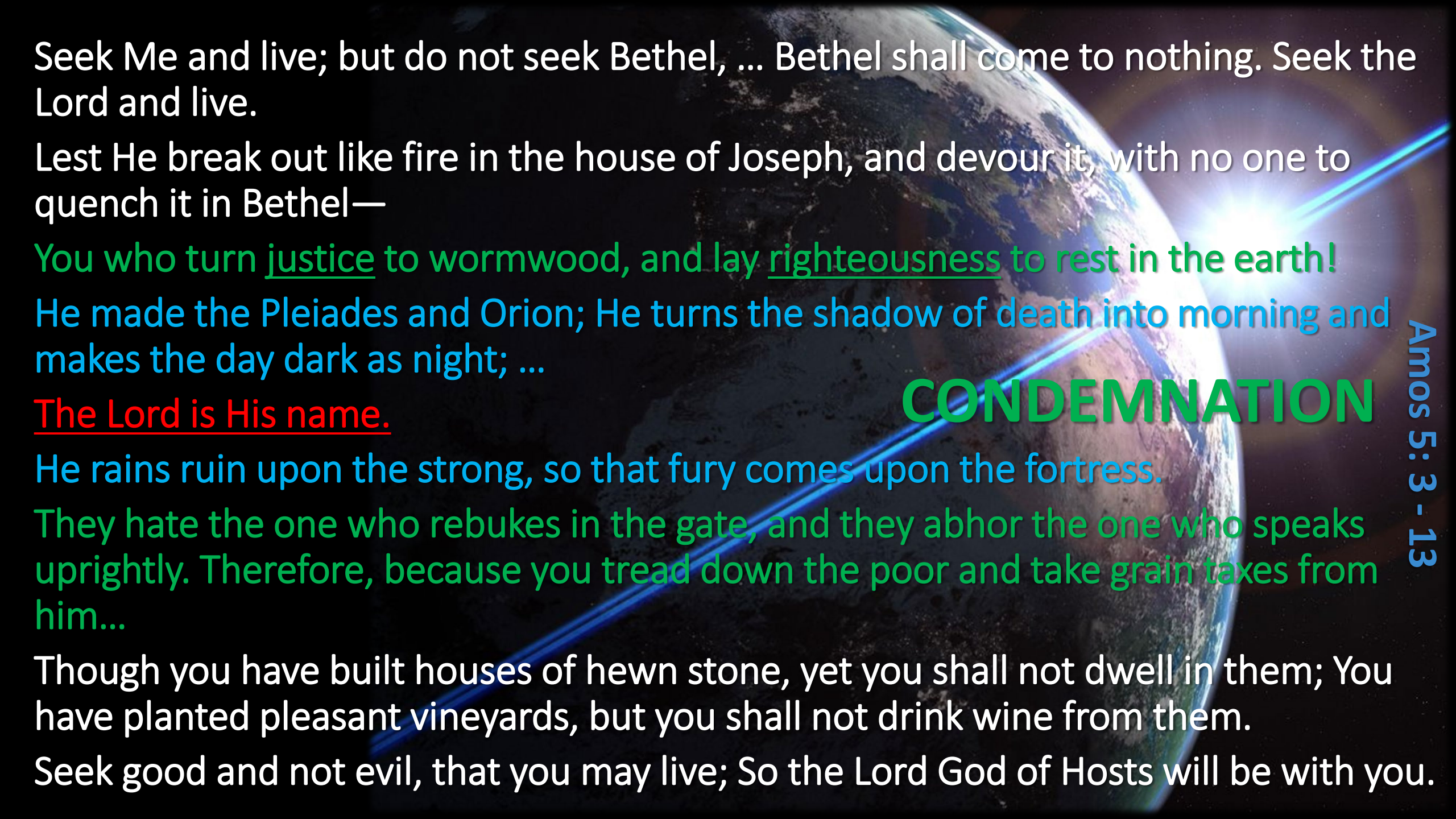
CENTRAL

He rains ruin upon the strong, so that fury comes upon the fortress.

They hate the one who rebukes in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks uprightly. Therefore, because you tread down the poor and take grain taxes from him ...

Though you have built houses of hewn stone, yet you shall not dwell in them; You have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink wine from them.

Seek good and not evil, that you may live; So the Lord God of Hosts will be with you.



Seek Me and live; but do not seek Bethel, ... Bethel shall come to nothing. Seek the Lord and live.

Lest He break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, with no one to quench it in Bethel—

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The Lord is His name.

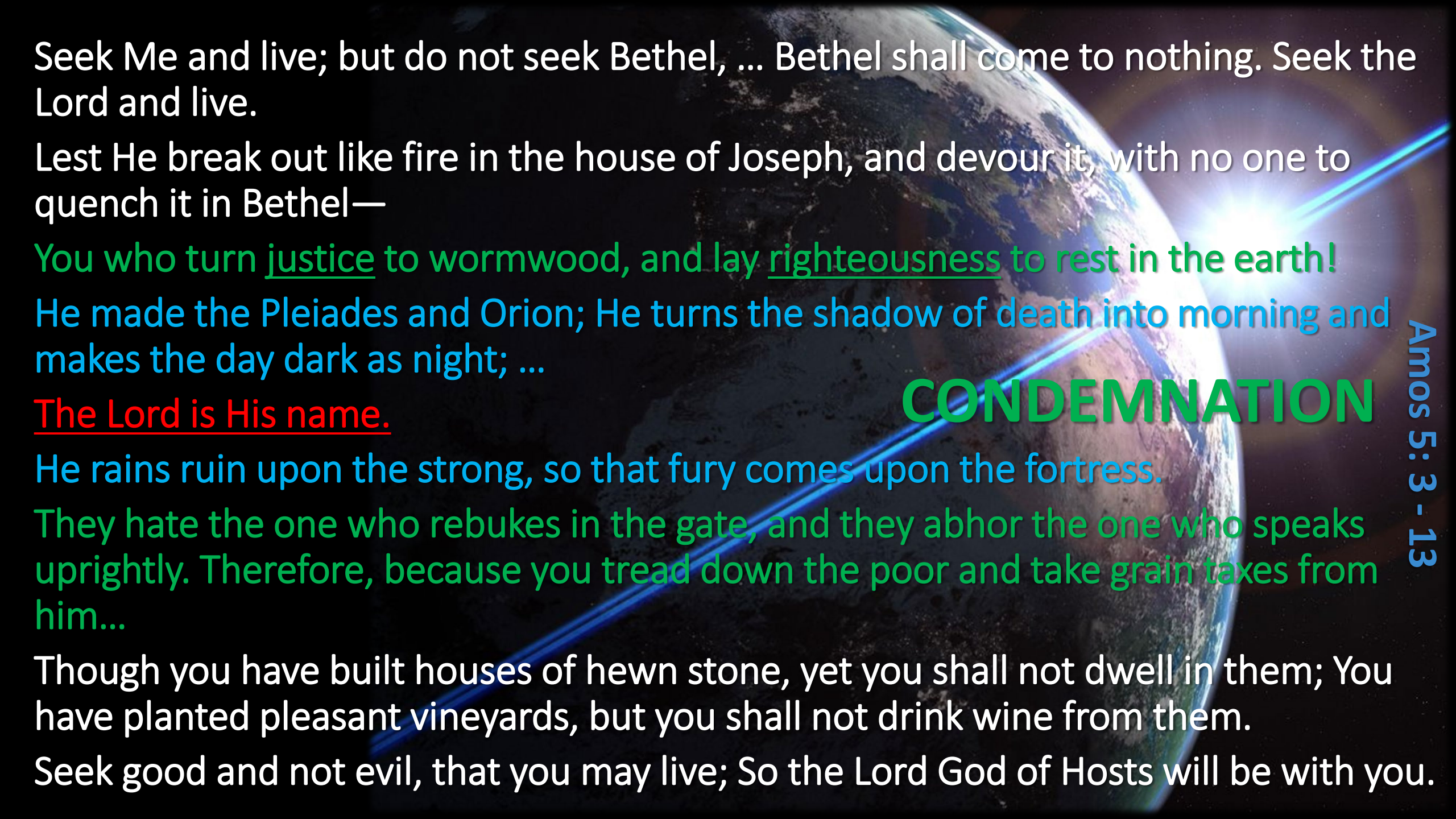
PROCLAMATION

He rains ruin upon the strong, so that fury comes upon the fortress.

They hate the one who rebukes in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks uprightly. Therefore, because you tread down the poor and take grain taxes from him ...

Though you have built houses of hewn stone, yet you shall not dwell in them; You have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink wine from them.

Seek good and not evil, that you may live; So the Lord God of Hosts will be with you.



Seek Me and live; but do not seek Bethel, ... Bethel shall come to nothing. Seek the Lord and live.

Lest He break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, with no one to quench it in Bethel—

You who turn justice to wormwood, and lay righteousness to rest in the earth!

He made the Pleiades and Orion; He turns the shadow of death into morning and makes the day dark as night; ...

The Lord is His name.

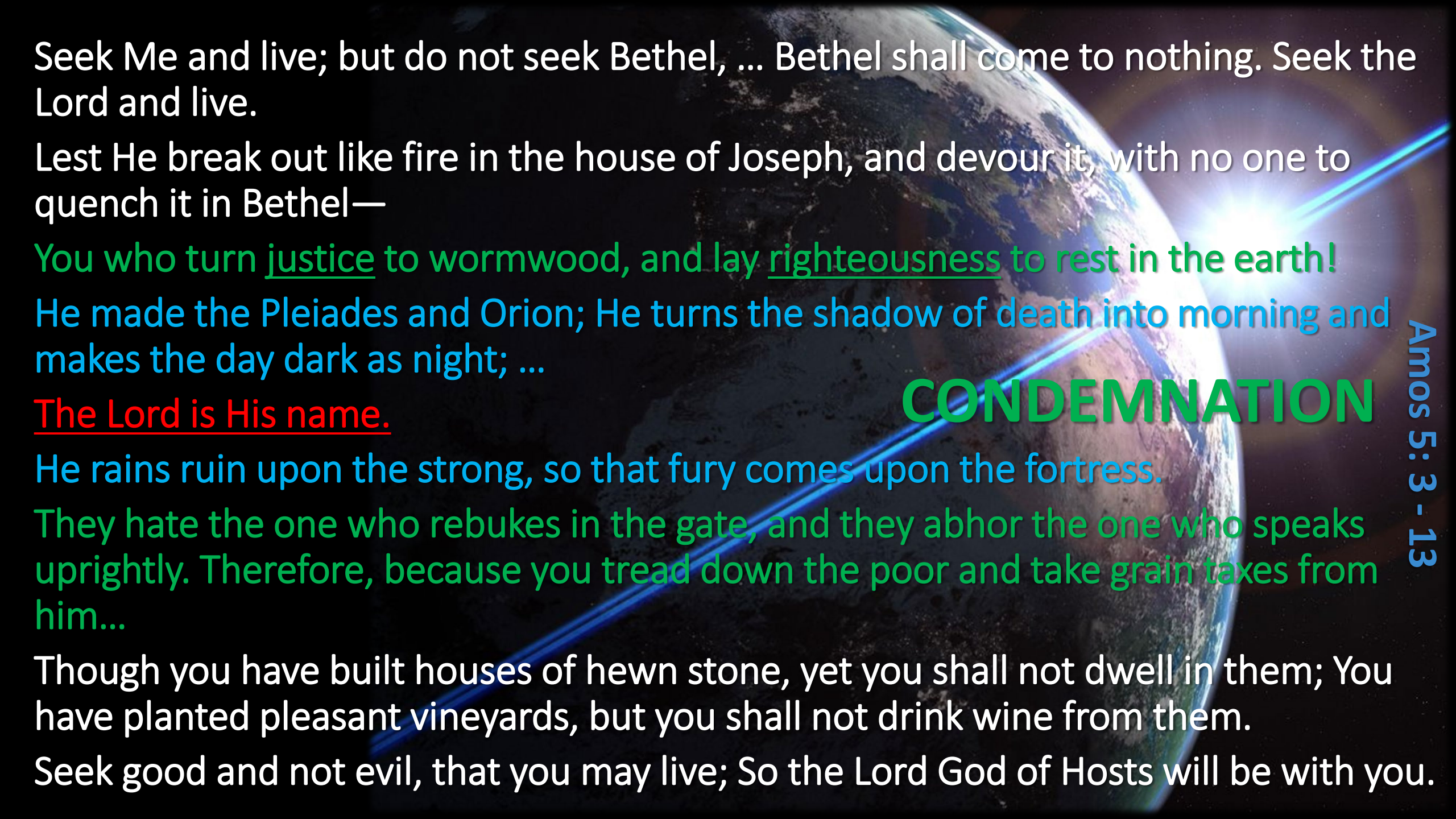
CONDEMNATION

He rains ruin upon the strong, so that fury comes upon the fortress.

They hate the one who rebukes in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks uprightly. Therefore, because you tread down the poor and take grain taxes from him...

Though you have built houses of hewn stone, yet you shall not dwell in them; You have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink wine from them.

Seek good and not evil, that you may live; So the Lord God of Hosts will be with you.



Seek Me and live; but do not seek Bethel, ... Bethel shall come to nothing. Seek the Lord and live.

Lest He break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, with no one to quench it in Bethel—

You who turn justice to wormwood, and lay righteousness to rest in the earth!

He made the Pleiades and Orion; He turns the shadow of death into morning and makes the day dark as night; ...

The Lord is His name.

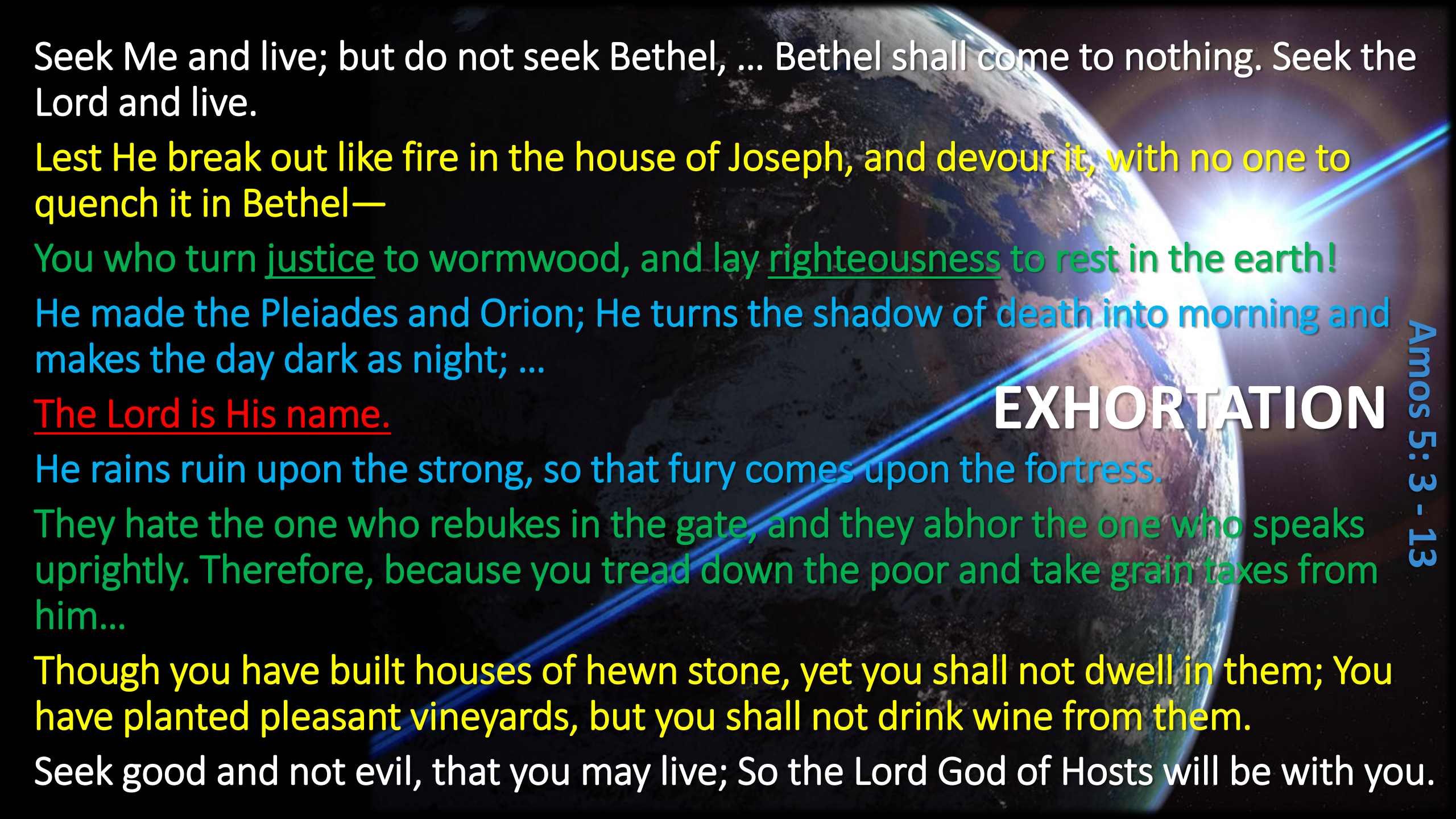
JUDGMENT

He rains ruin upon the strong, so that fury comes upon the fortress.

They hate the one who rebukes in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks uprightly. Therefore, because you tread down the poor and take grain taxes from him...

Though you have built houses of hewn stone, yet you shall not dwell in them; You have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink wine from them.

Seek good and not evil, that you may live; So the Lord God of Hosts will be with you.



Seek Me and live; but do not seek Bethel, ... Bethel shall come to nothing. Seek the Lord and live.

Lest He break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, with no one to quench it in Bethel—

You who turn justice to wormwood, and lay righteousness to rest in the earth!

He made the Pleiades and Orion; He turns the shadow of death into morning and makes the day dark as night; ...

The Lord is His name.


EXHORTATION

He rains ruin upon the strong, so that fury comes upon the fortress.

They hate the one who rebukes in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks uprightly. Therefore, because you tread down the poor and take grain taxes from him...

Though you have built houses of hewn stone, yet you shall not dwell in them; You have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink wine from them.

Seek good and not evil, that you may live; So the Lord God of Hosts will be with you.

A total solar eclipse is visible in the upper left portion of the image, with the sun's corona glowing around the dark disk of the moon. Below the sun, a horizontal band of the Milky Way galaxy stretches across the dark sky. The lower half of the image shows a vast, flat, light-colored landscape, possibly a desert or a frozen body of water, under a clear blue sky.

Amos 5:23-24

Take away from me the noise of
your songs...

But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-
flowing stream.


Biblical foundation of Justice

Rooted in

- **Imago Dei** (*each person created in image of God*)
 - *Intrinsic value, moral accountability*
- **Mission Dei** (*redeem, reconcile and restore*)
 - *Sin infested individuals, ideas, institutions and infrastructure*

Biblical concept of Justice

- procedural justice (*fair courts*)
- commutative justice (*fair commercial practice*)
- distributive justice (*social equity and
equal access to resources*)
- restorative justice

A total solar eclipse is visible in the upper left portion of the image, with the sun's corona glowing around the dark disk of the moon. The background is a deep blue night sky filled with stars and a prominent band of the Milky Way galaxy stretching across the middle. Below the sky, a vast, flat, light-colored landscape, possibly a desert or a frozen body of water, extends to the horizon under the soft light of the eclipse.

Equal access to
social power and resources

Leviticus 25:35-36

“If a member of your community becomes poor in that their power slips with you, you shall make them strong... that they may live with you.”

Biblical concept of Justice

- equal treatment
- special concern weak
 - “the orphan, the widow, the foreigner, the poor”
 - *charity / advocacy / intervention (liberation, empowerment)*
- radical generosity



Advocacy

Proverbs 31:8

Open your mouth for the mute, for the
rights of all who are destitute.

Open your mouth, judge righteously,
defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Biblical restoration of Justice

- Repentance
- Relating
- Restitution
- Reconnected

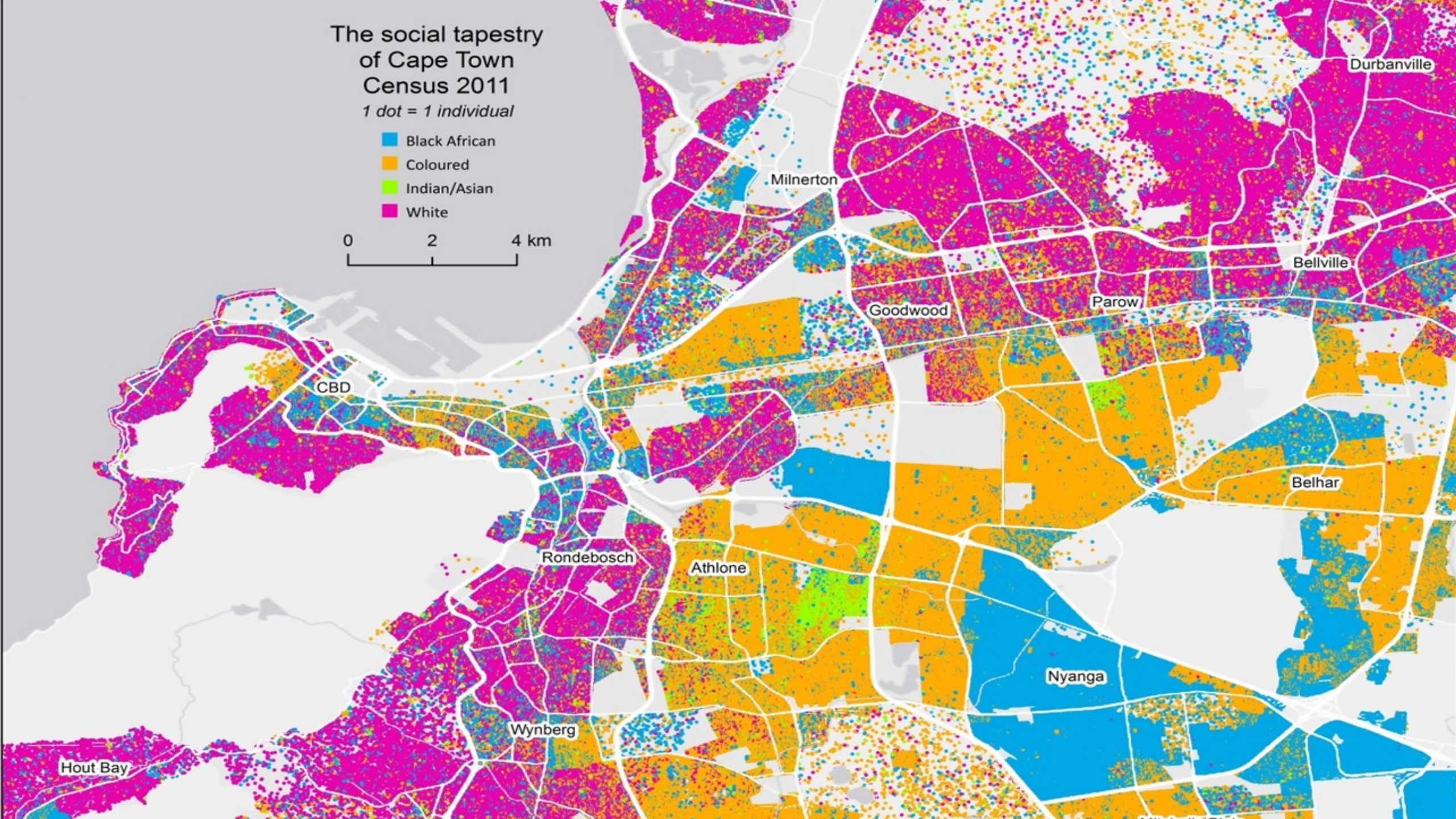


The social tapestry of Cape Town Census 2011

1 dot = 1 individual

- Black African
- Coloured
- Indian/Asian
- White

0 2 4 km



Luke 18:7

And will not God give justice to his
elect, who cry to him day and night?
Will he delay long over them?

How should we respond?





Exodus 22:21

“You must not mistreat or oppress foreigners in any way. Remember, you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt.”

Exodus 22:22-23; 23:6

“Do not take advantage of / do not deny justice to the fatherless or widows. If you do and they cry out to me. I will certainly hear their cry.”

Deuteronomy 24-26 – Generously share

Harvesting edges, Sabbath year harvest, 3rd year tithe.

