



ARE YOU READY?

ARE YOU READY?

- **CAESAR'S CENSUS**
- **HEROD'S EGOTISTICAL
MANIA**

GOD'S PERFECT PLAN



ARE YOU READY?

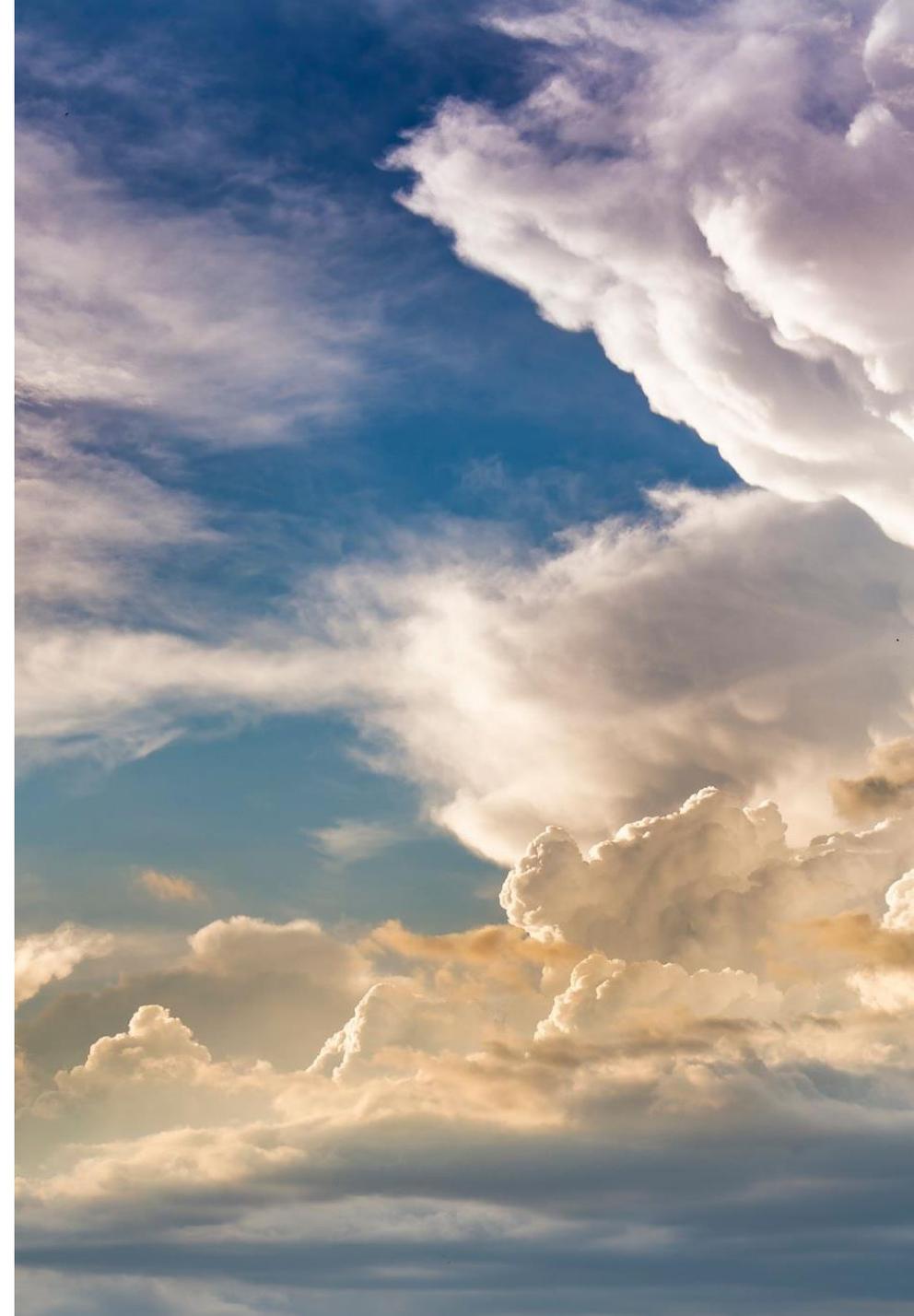
Zechariah and Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-24)

- **RIGHTEOUS BEFORE
GOD**
- **BLAMELESS IN ALL THE
COMMANDMENTS OF
THE LORD**



Psalms 119:1-8

1 BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE WAY IS
BLAMELESS,
WHO WALK IN THE LAW OF THE LORD!
2 BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO KEEP HIS
TESTIMONIES,
WHO SEEK HIM WITH THEIR WHOLE HEART,
3 WHO ALSO DO NO WRONG,
BUT WALK IN HIS WAYS!
4 YOU HAVE COMMANDED YOUR PRECEPTS
TO BE KEPT DILIGENTLY.



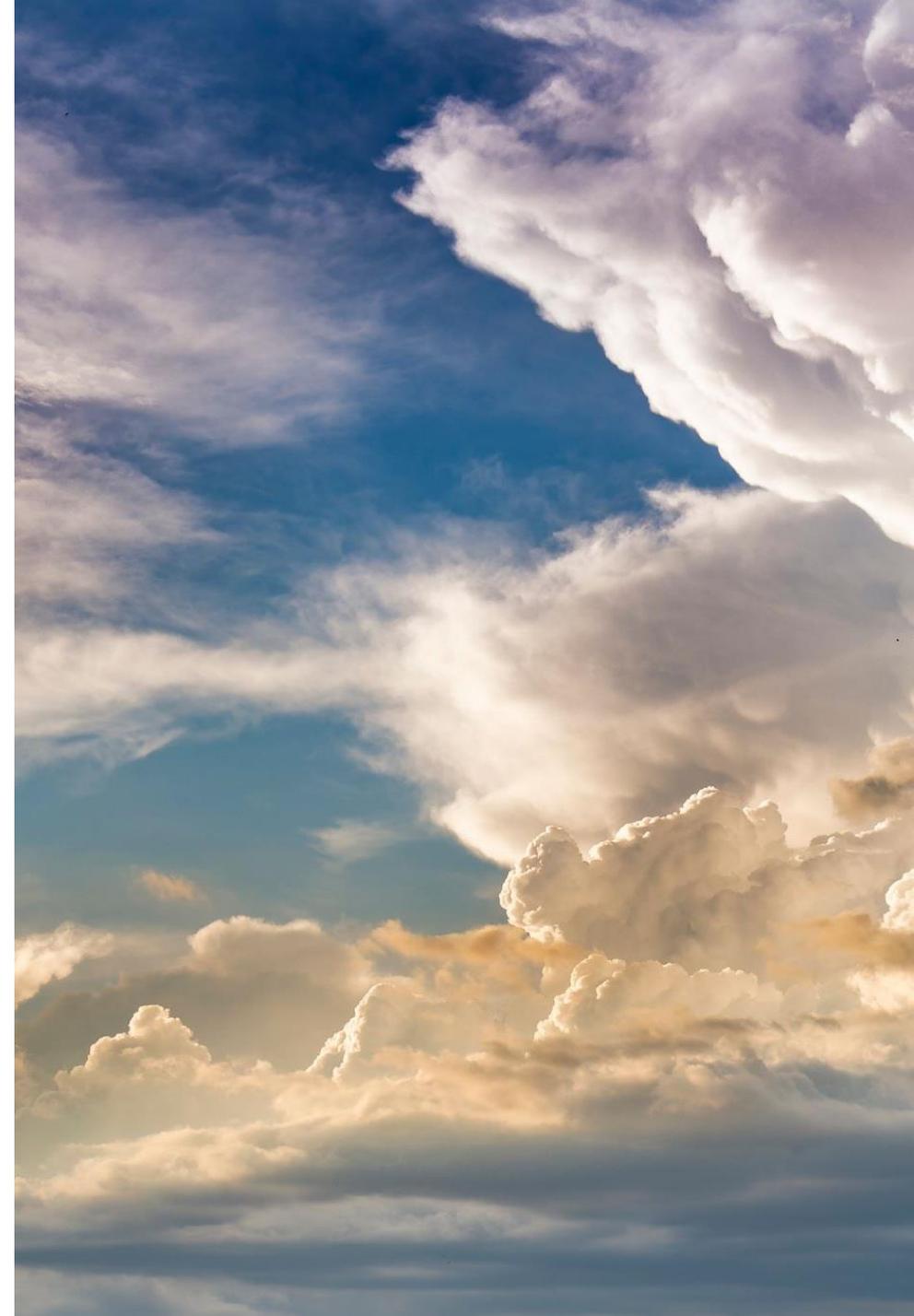
Psalms 119:1-8

5 OH THAT MY WAYS MAY BE STEADFAST
IN KEEPING YOUR STATUTES!

6 THEN I SHALL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME,
HAVING MY EYES FIXED ON ALL YOUR
COMMANDMENTS.

7 I WILL PRAISE YOU WITH AN UPRIGHT HEART,
WHEN I LEARN YOUR RIGHTEOUS RULES.

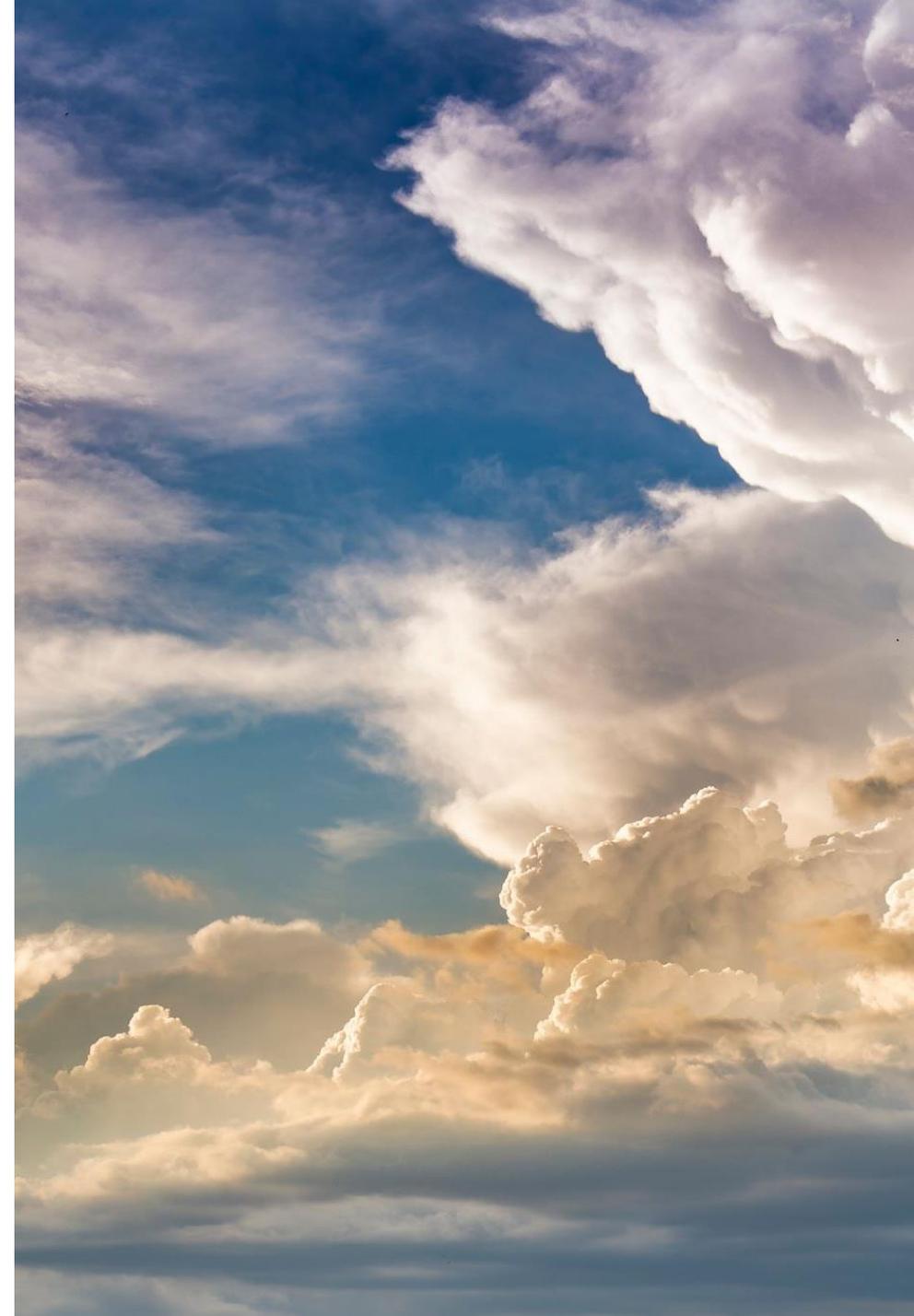
8 I WILL KEEP YOUR STATUTES;
DO NOT UTTERLY FORSAKE ME!



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- DO WE LAUGH AT SIN?
 - DO WE TAKE IT LIGHTLY?

 - DO WE GRIEVE WHEN OUR TESTIMONY FOR GOD IS AFFECTED BY OUR ACTIONS?
 - ARE WE SEEKING HIM WITH OUR WHOLE HEART?

 - OR ARE WE JUST LOOKING FOR WAYS TO FEEL BETTER ABOUT OURSELVES?



ARE YOU READY?

Zechariah and Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-24)

- **RIGHTEOUS BEFORE GOD**
- **BLAMELESS IN ALL THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD**
- **KNEW HOW TO PRAY**

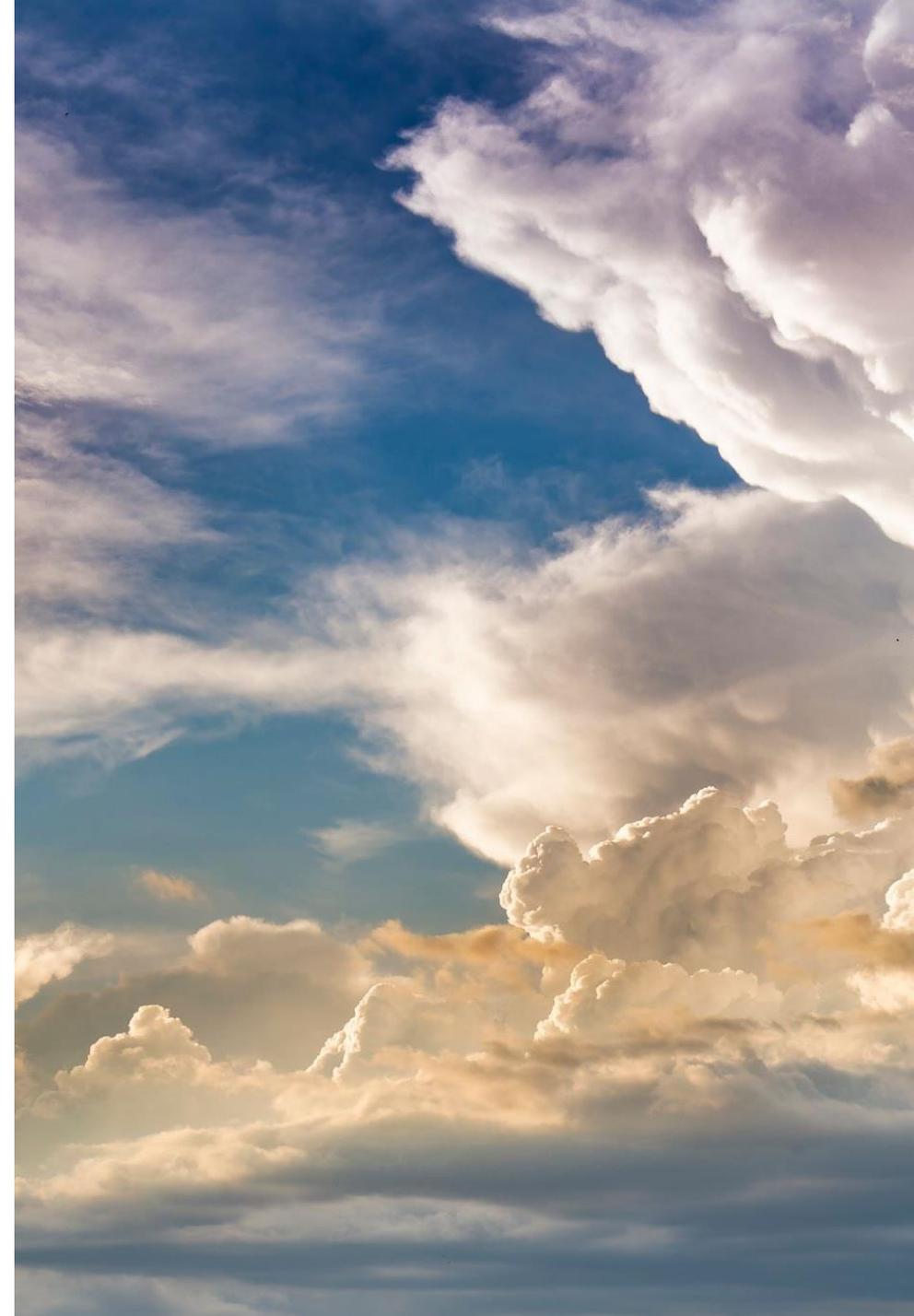


Psalms 102:17

17 HE REGARDS THE PRAYER OF THE
DESTITUTE AND DOES NOT DESPISE
THEIR PRAYER.



-
- THEY BELIEVED IN GOD'S POWER AND PROVISION
 - THEY TRUSTED IN HIS PLAN
 - NEVER FEAR YOU ARE TOO "DESTITUTE" TO PRAY



Everything Points to Jesus

- HANNAH ALSO BARREN
- ANSWERED IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

- SAMUEL WOULD ANOINT KING DAVID
- JOHN WOULD ANOINT THE KING OF KINGS

- SAMUEL: "GOD HEARS"
- JOHN: "GOD IS GRACIOUS"



ARE YOU READY?

Mary
(Luke 1:26-38)

- **FAVORED OF GOD**



Psalms 84:11

11 FOR THE LORD GOD IS A SUN AND
SHIELD;

THE LORD BESTOWS FAVOR AND
HONOR.

NO GOOD THING DOES HE WITHHOLD
FROM THOSE WHO WALK UPRIGHTLY.



ARE YOU READY?

Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

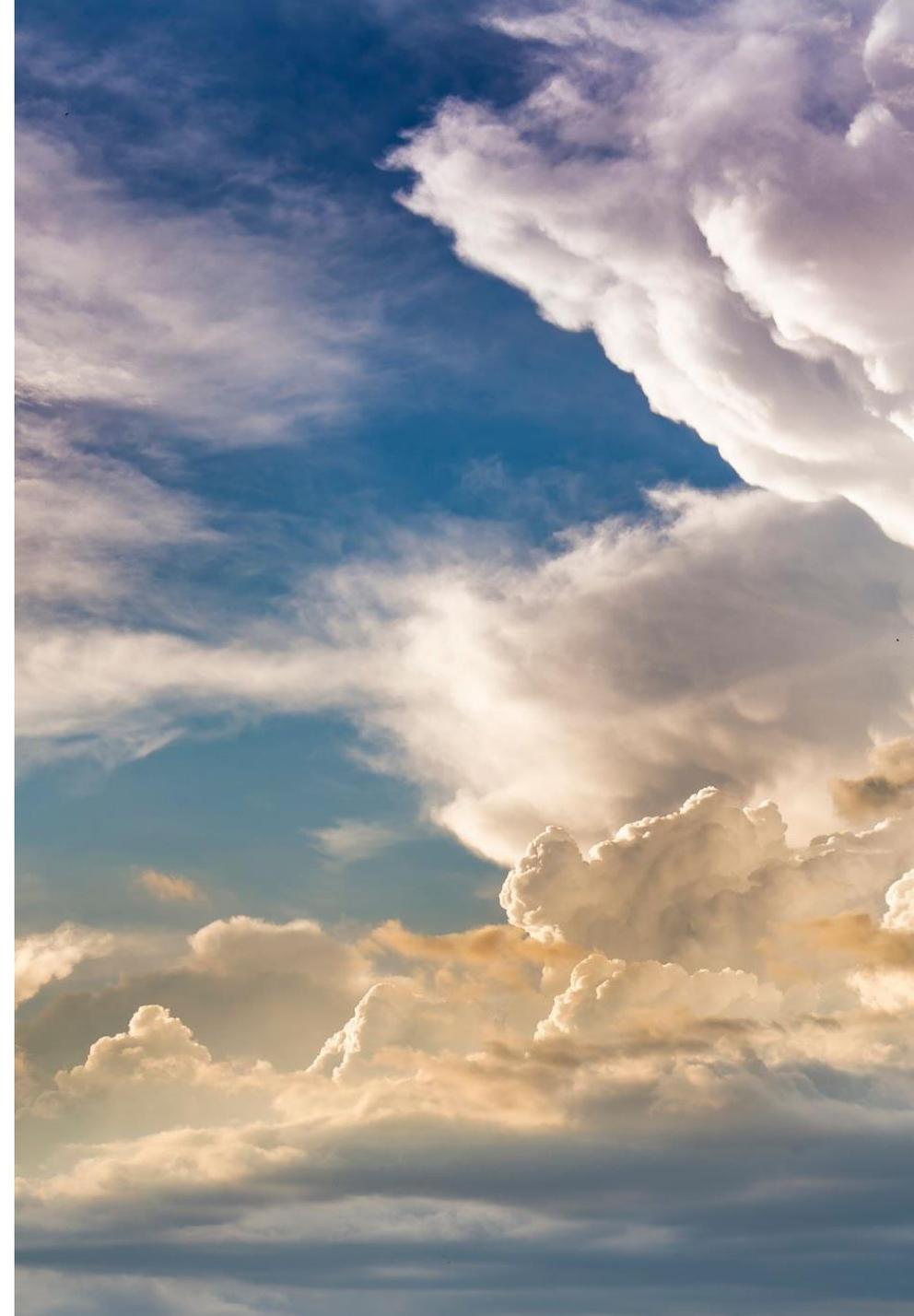
- **FAVORED OF GOD**
- **BELIEVED GOD**
- **HUMBLE OBEDIENCE
AND SUBMISSION**



Luke 1:38

“BEHOLD, I AM THE SERVANT OF THE LORD; LET IT BE TO ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD.”

- **MAY WE BE AS WILLING TO ACCEPT GOD’S CALL ON OUR LIVES!**



ARE YOU READY?

Joseph (Matthew 1:19-25)

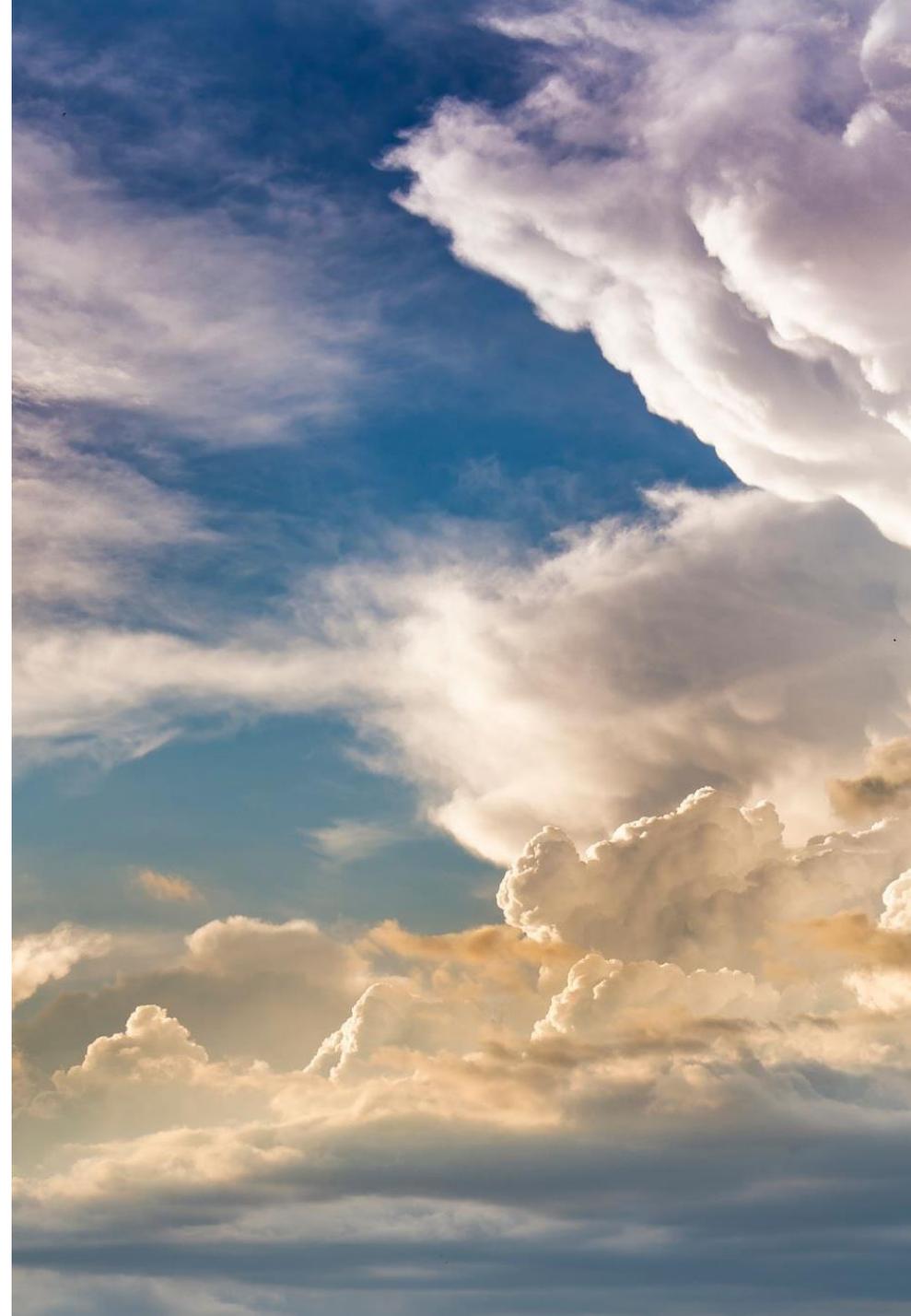
- **A JUST MAN**
- **UNWILLING TO PUT MARY TO SHAME**
- **WAS QUICKLY OBEDIENT**
- **SELF-CONTROLLED**



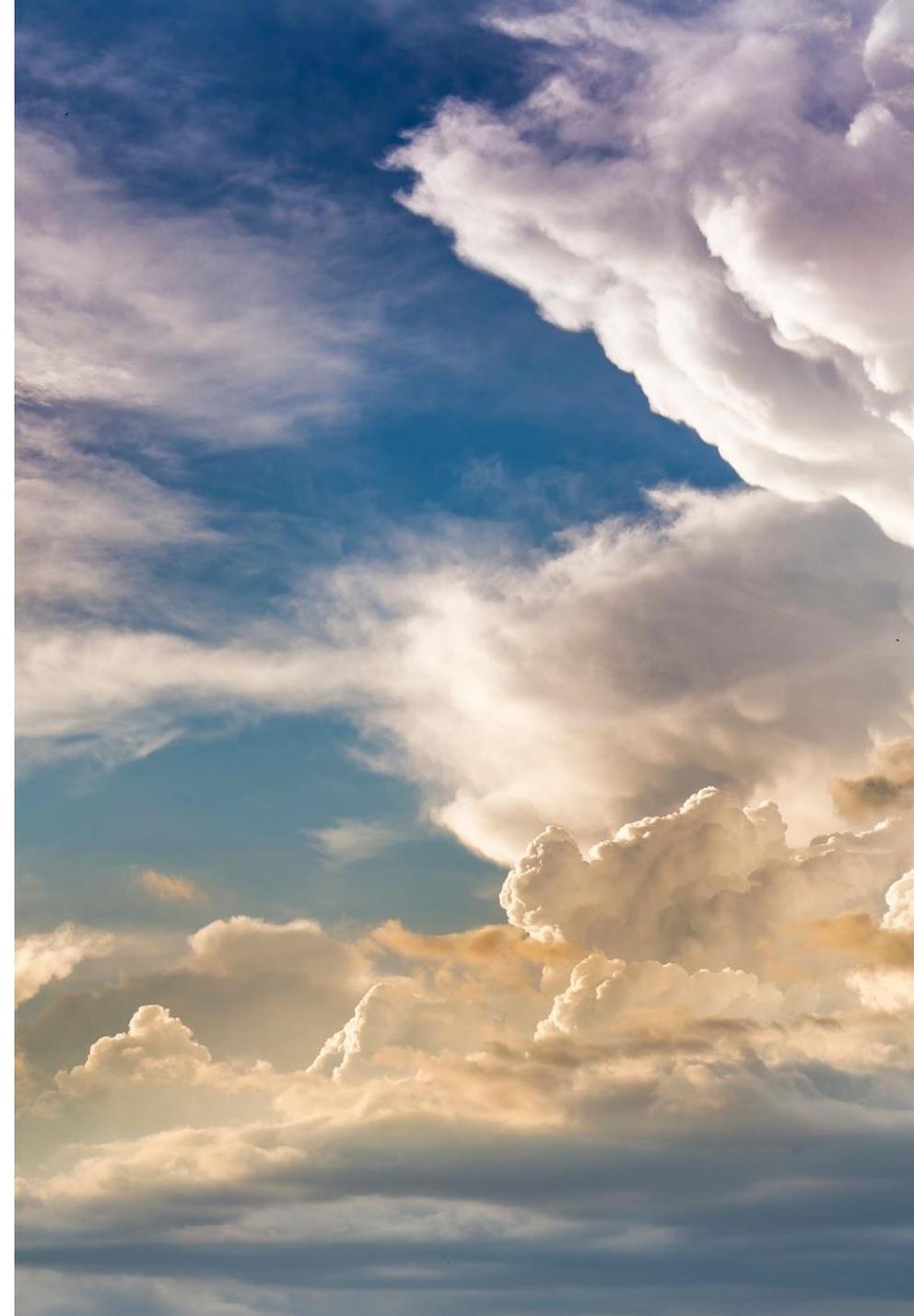
Micah 6:8

8 HE HAS TOLD YOU, O MAN, WHAT IS GOOD;

AND WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU BUT TO DO JUSTICE, AND TO LOVE KINDNESS, AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD?



-
- JOSEPH DIDN'T TAKE JOY IN ANOTHER'S SHAME
 - MUST HAVE BELIEVED SHE WAS UNFAITHFUL
 - YET HE WAS READY TO PROTECT MARY
 - WAS HUMBLE IN HIS ACCEPTANCE



ARE YOU READY?

Simeon (Luke 2:25-35)

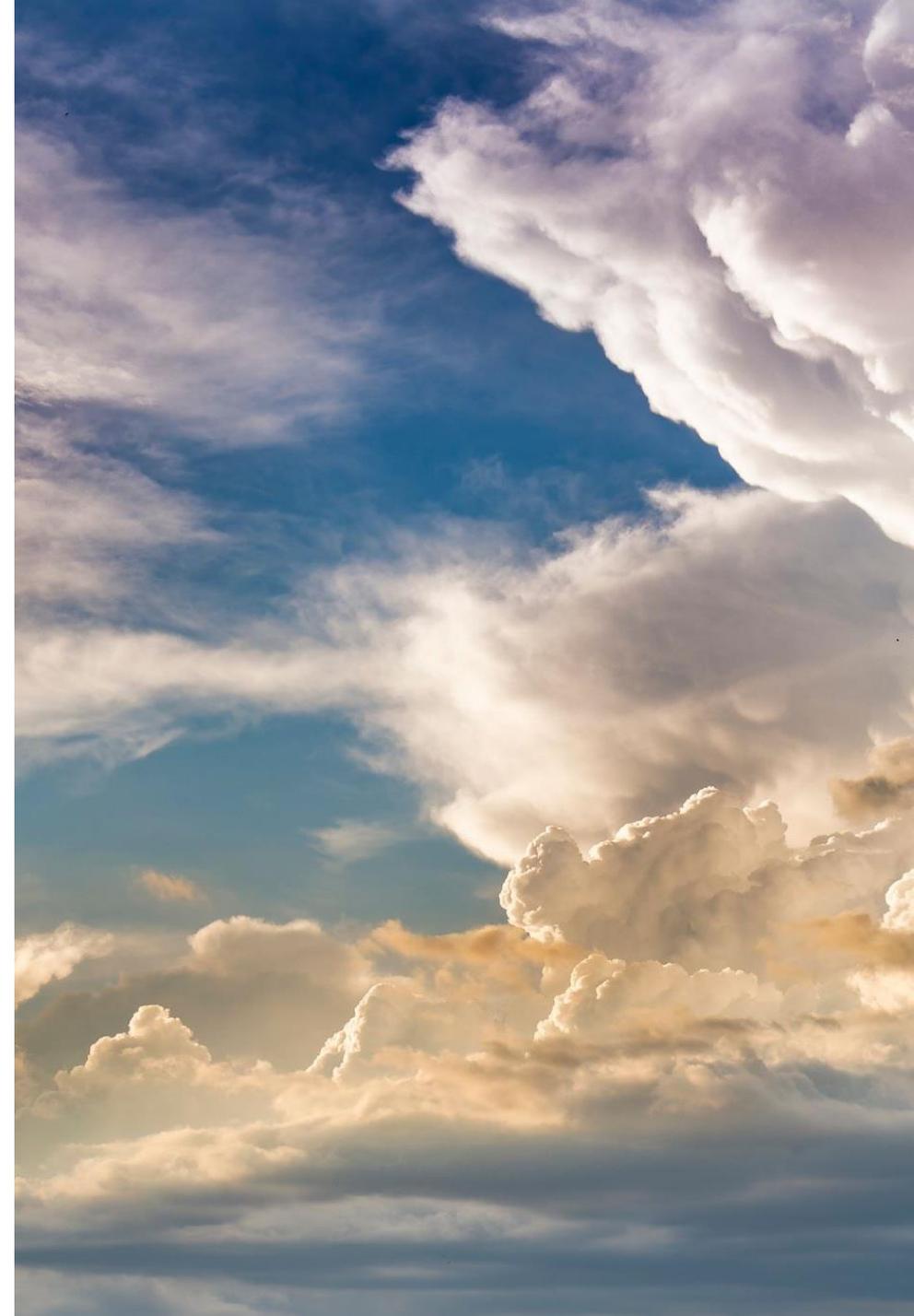
- **RIGHTEOUS AND DEVOUT**
- **VISITED THE TEMPLE REGULARLY**
- **AWAITING THE COMFORT OF HIS PEOPLE**



Psalms 130:5-6

5 I WAIT FOR THE LORD, MY SOUL WAITS,
AND IN HIS WORD I HOPE;

6 MY SOUL WAITS FOR THE LORD MORE
THAN WATCHMEN FOR THE MORNING,
MORE THAN WATCHMEN FOR THE
MORNING.



ARE YOU READY?

Anna
(Luke 2:36-38)

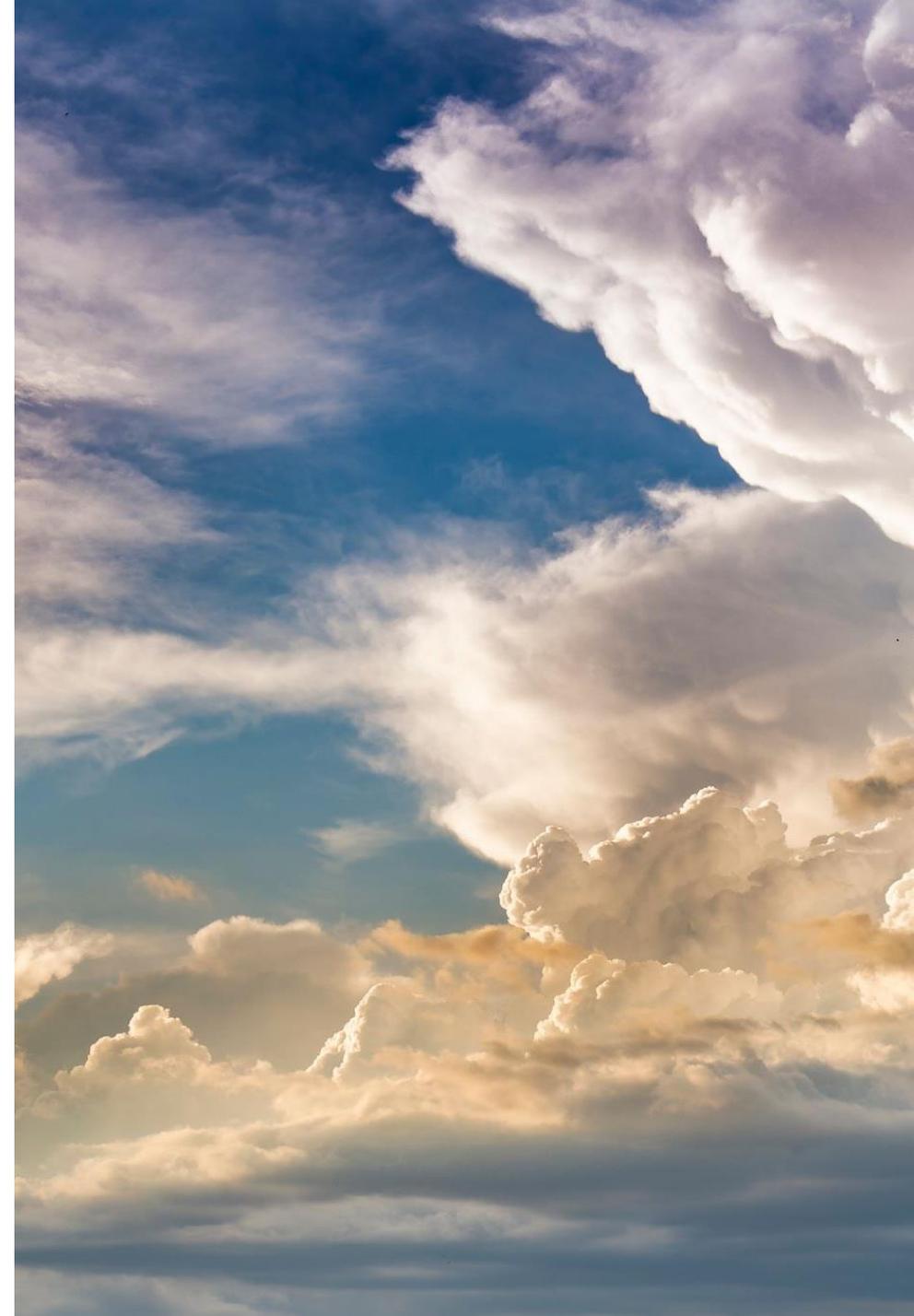
- **DIDN'T DEPART THE TEMPLE**
- **WORSHIPING WITH FASTING AND PRAYING**



Psalms 27:4-5

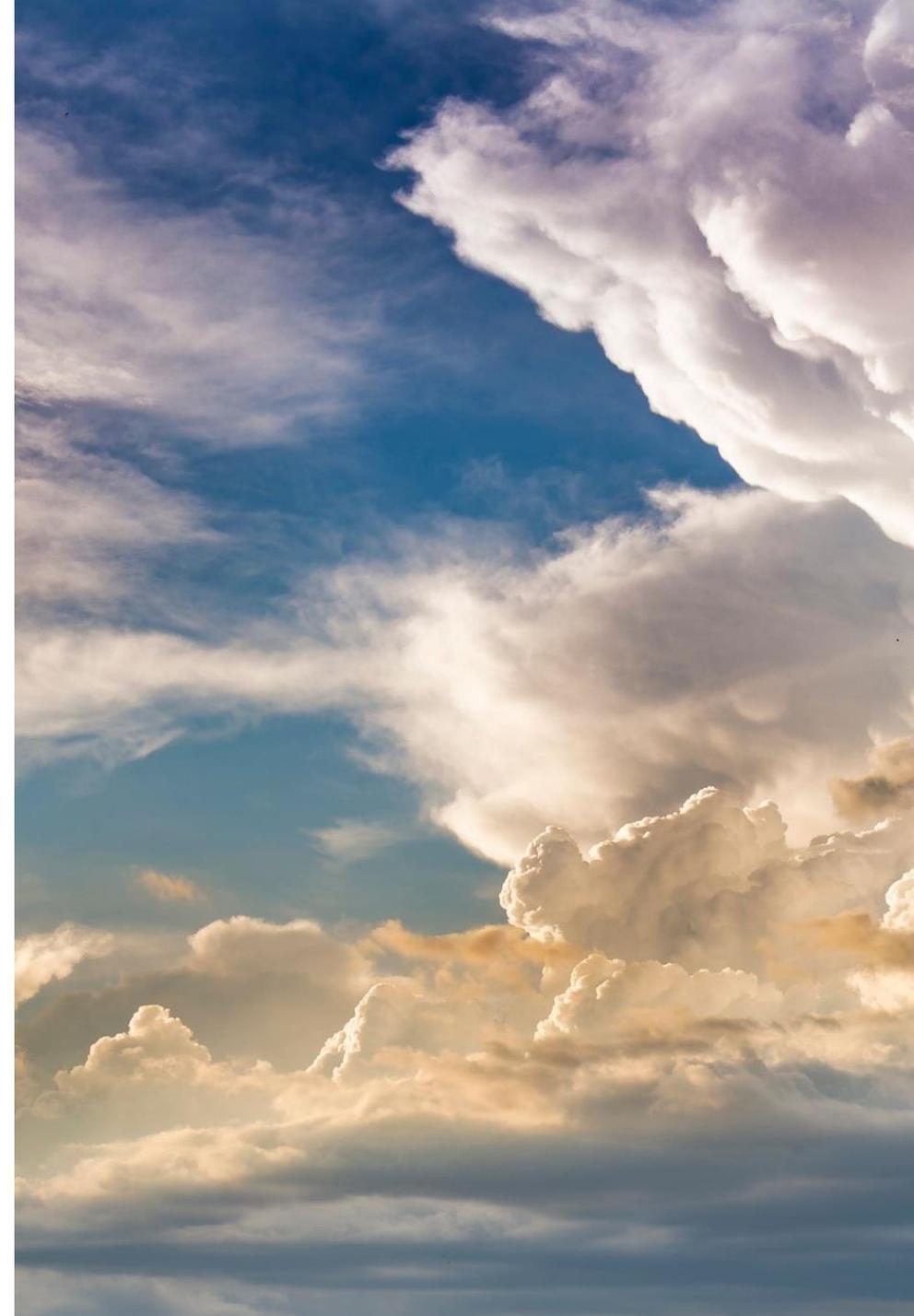
4 ONE THING HAVE I ASKED OF THE LORD,
THAT WILL I SEEK AFTER: THAT I MAY DWELL
IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD ALL THE DAYS
OF MY LIFE, TO GAZE UPON THE BEAUTY OF
THE LORD AND TO INQUIRE IN HIS TEMPLE.

5 FOR HE WILL HIDE ME IN HIS SHELTER IN
THE DAY OF TROUBLE; HE WILL CONCEAL
ME UNDER THE COVER OF HIS TENT; HE
WILL LIFT ME HIGH UPON A ROCK.



Exodus 33:15

15 AND HE SAID TO HIM, "IF YOUR PRESENCE WILL NOT GO WITH ME, DO NOT BRING US UP FROM HERE."



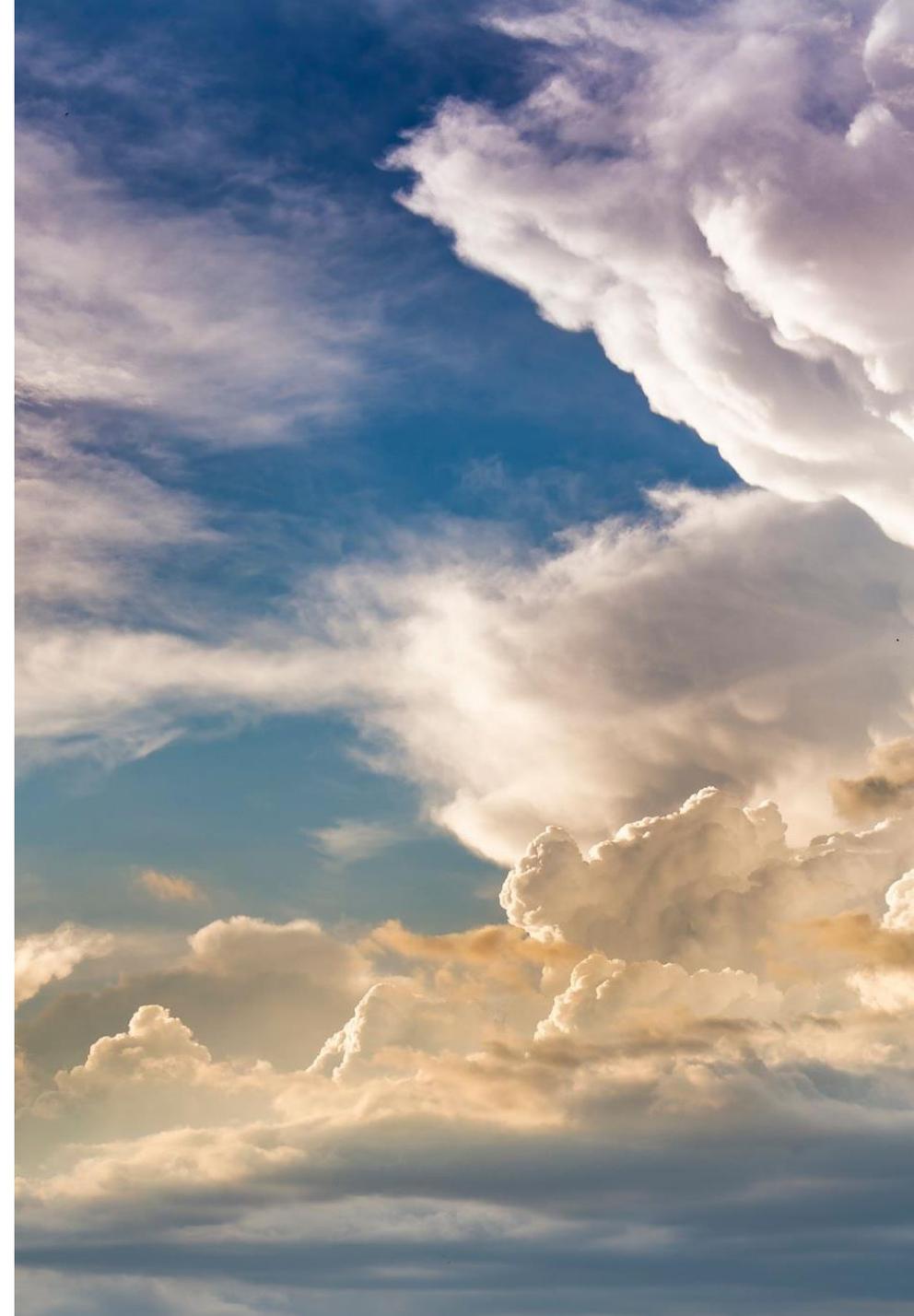


THE WORD AS FLESH

Colossians 1:15-17

15 HE IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE
GOD, THE FIRSTBORN OF ALL CREATION.

16 FOR BY HIM ALL THINGS WERE
CREATED, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH,
VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE, WHETHER
THRONES OR DOMINIONS OR RULERS
OR AUTHORITIES—



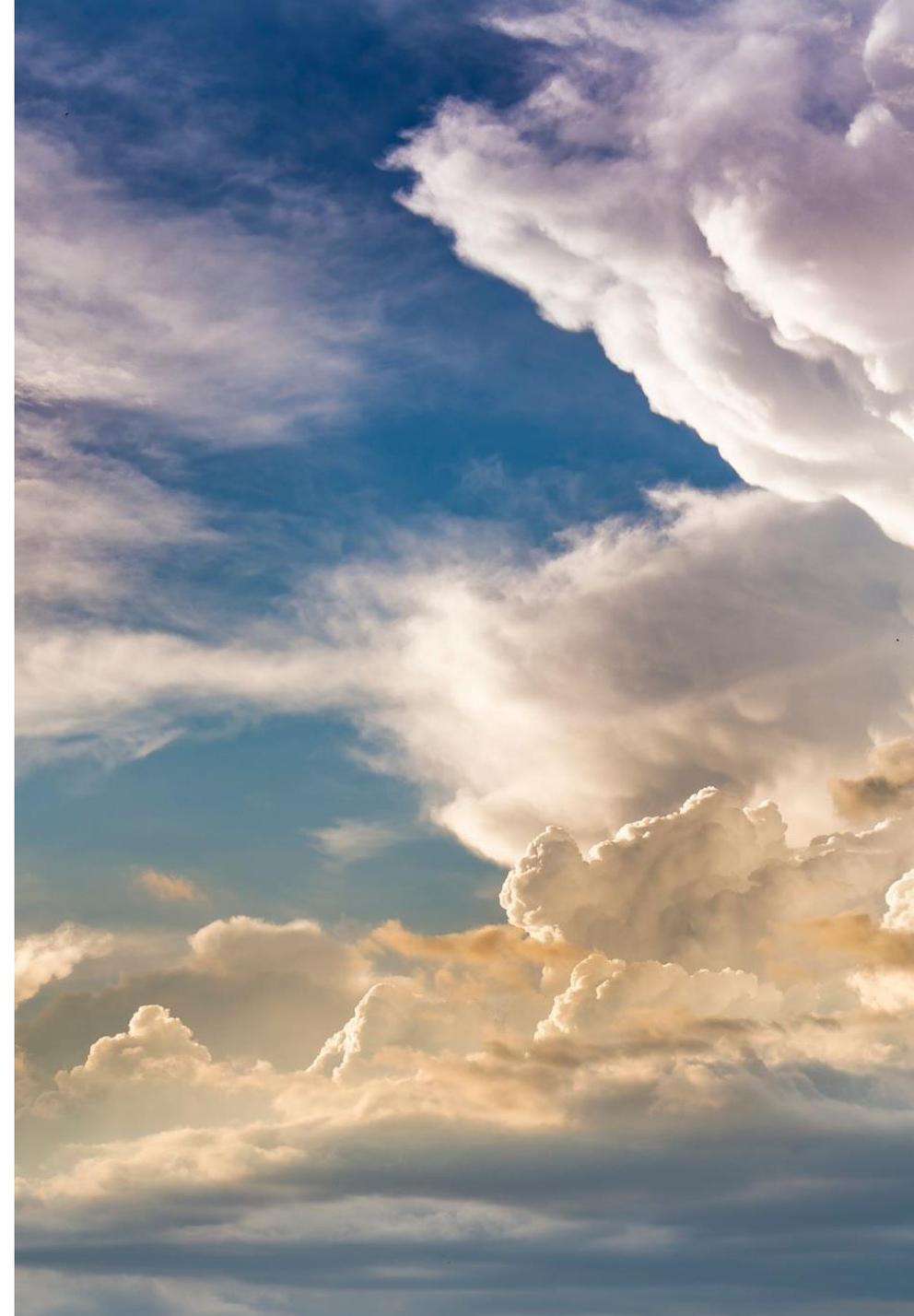
Colossians 1:15-17

–ALL THINGS WERE CREATED THROUGH HIM AND FOR HIM. 17 AND HE IS BEFORE ALL THINGS, AND IN HIM ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER.



John 1:14

14 THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND
DWELT AMONG US, AND WE HAVE SEEN
HIS GLORY, GLORY AS OF THE ONLY SON
FROM THE FATHER, FULL OF GRACE AND
TRUTH.

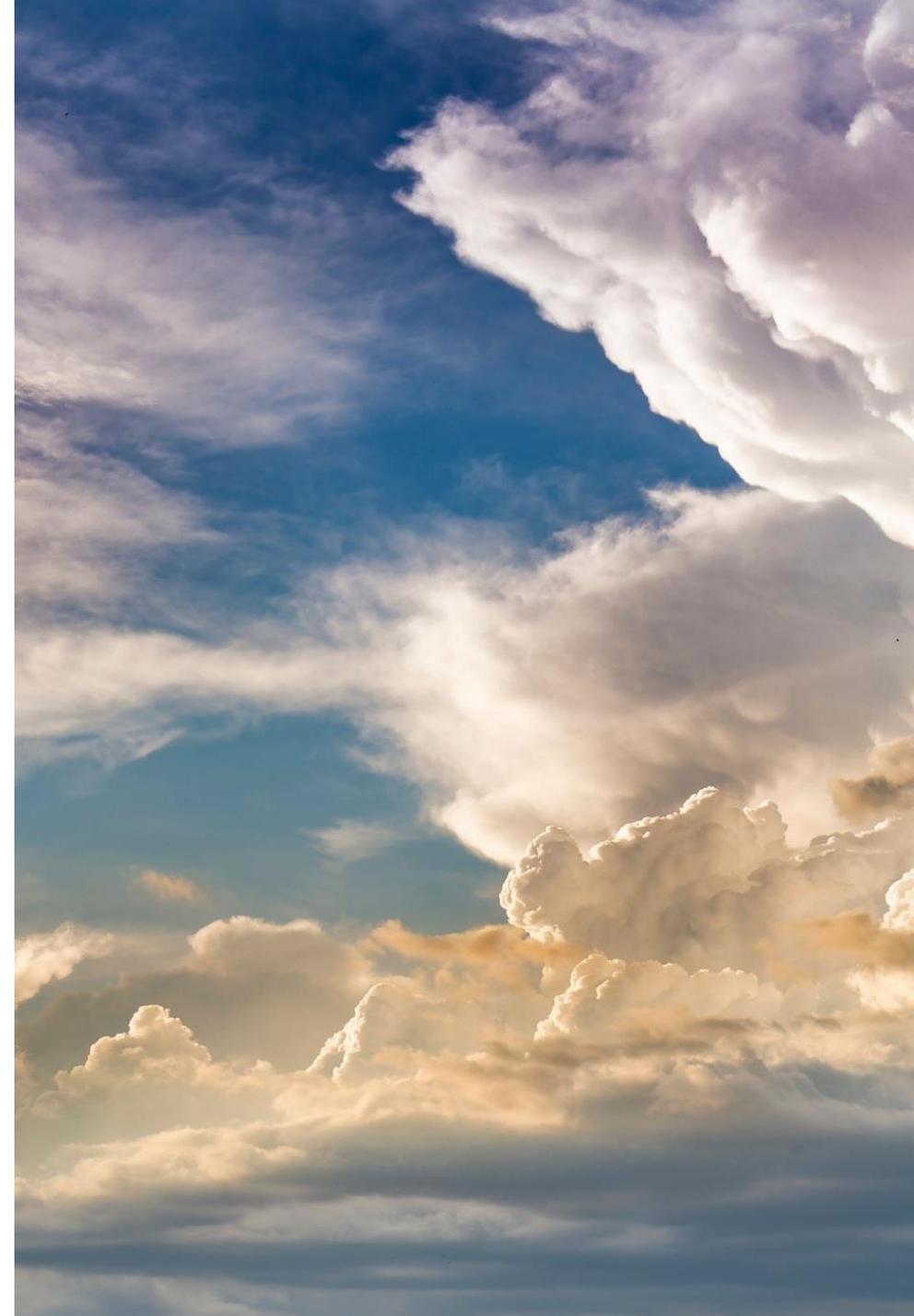


Matthew 1:23

23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL
CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON, AND THEY
SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL"

(WHICH MEANS, GOD WITH US).

- CITED FROM ISAIAH 7:14

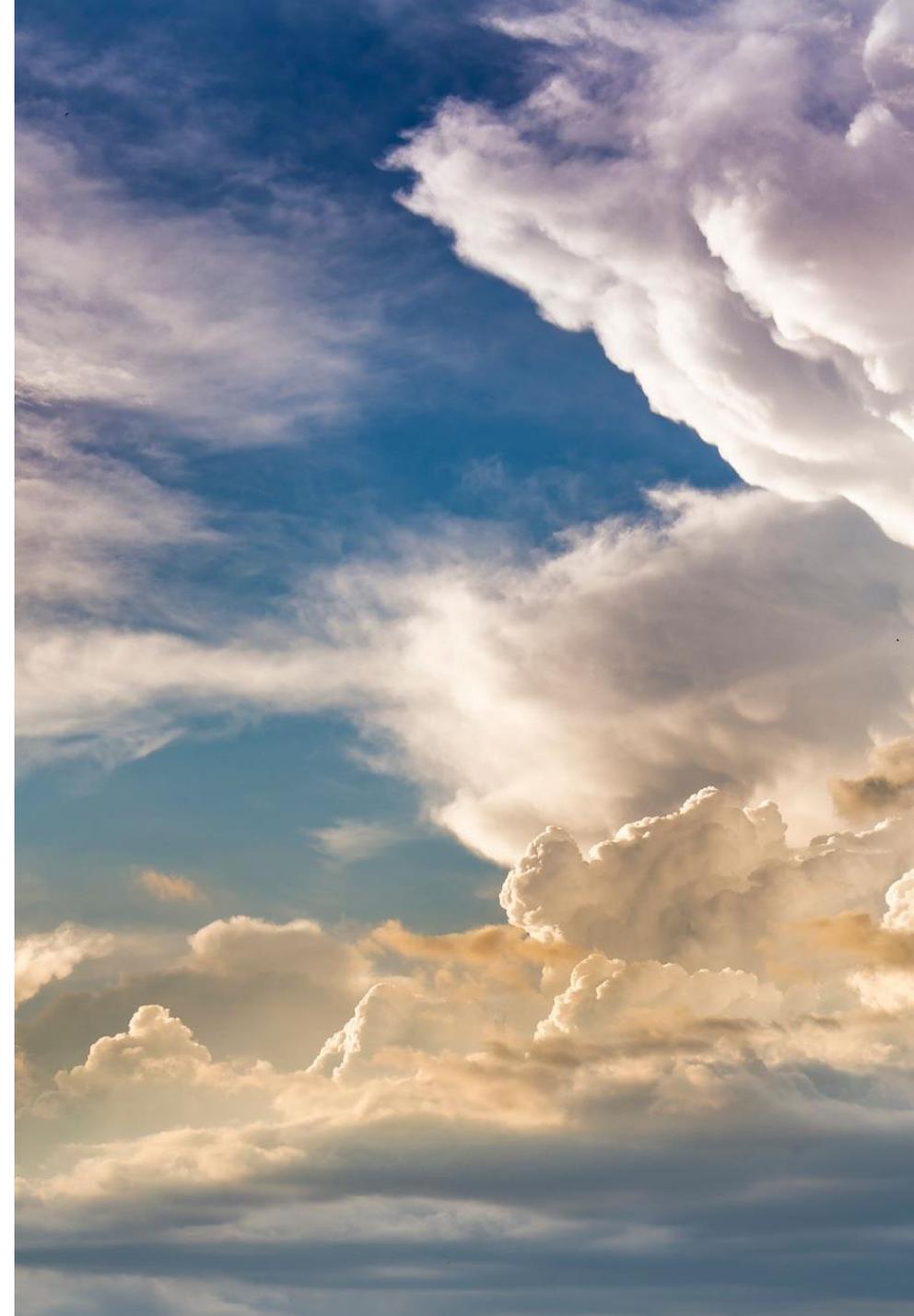


Luke 1:78-79 (Zechariah)

78 BECAUSE OF THE TENDER MERCY OF
OUR GOD, WHEREBY THE SUNRISE SHALL
VISIT US FROM ON HIGH

79 TO GIVE LIGHT TO THOSE WHO SIT IN
DARKNESS AND IN THE SHADOW OF
DEATH, TO GUIDE OUR FEET INTO THE
WAY OF PEACE.

- POSSIBLY REFERENCES TO MALACHI 4:2 AND
ISAIAH 42:7



-
- GIVES LIGHT TO THOSE IN DARKNESS
 - GUIDES OUR FEET INTO THE WAY OF PEACE



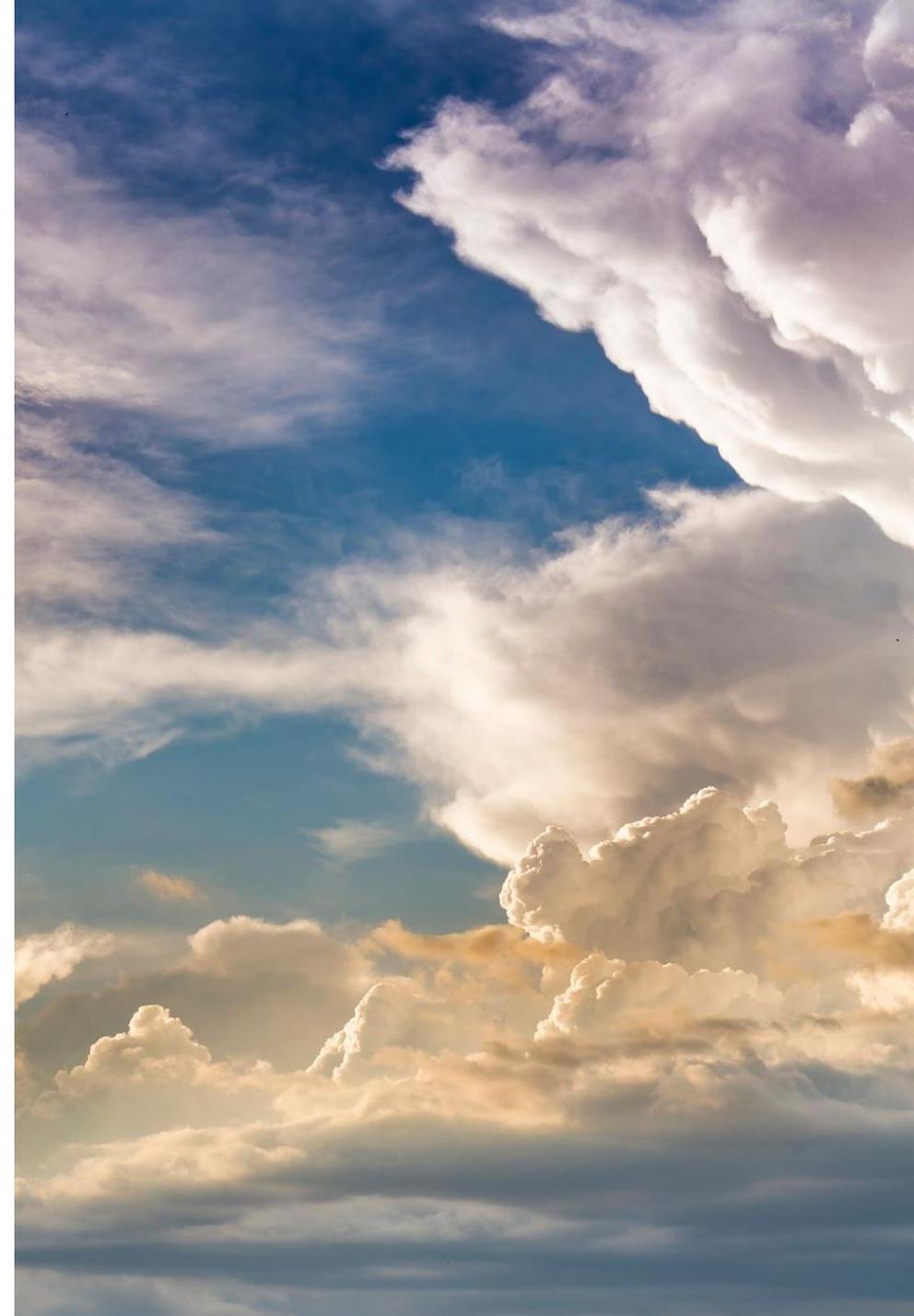
THE WORD AS FLESH

- **WRAPPED IN STRIPS OF CLOTH - LUKE 2:7**
- **CIRCUMCISED - LUKE 2:21**
- **PURIFIED - LUKE 2:22**
- **GREW IN STRENGTH AND WISDOM - LUKE 2:40**
- **GREW IN STATURE AND FAVOR - LUKE 2:51**
- **OBEYED HIS PARENTS - LUKE 2:51**

Hebrews 4:14

14 SINCE THEN WE HAVE A GREAT HIGH PRIEST WHO HAS PASSED THROUGH THE HEAVENS, JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, LET US HOLD FAST OUR CONFESSON.

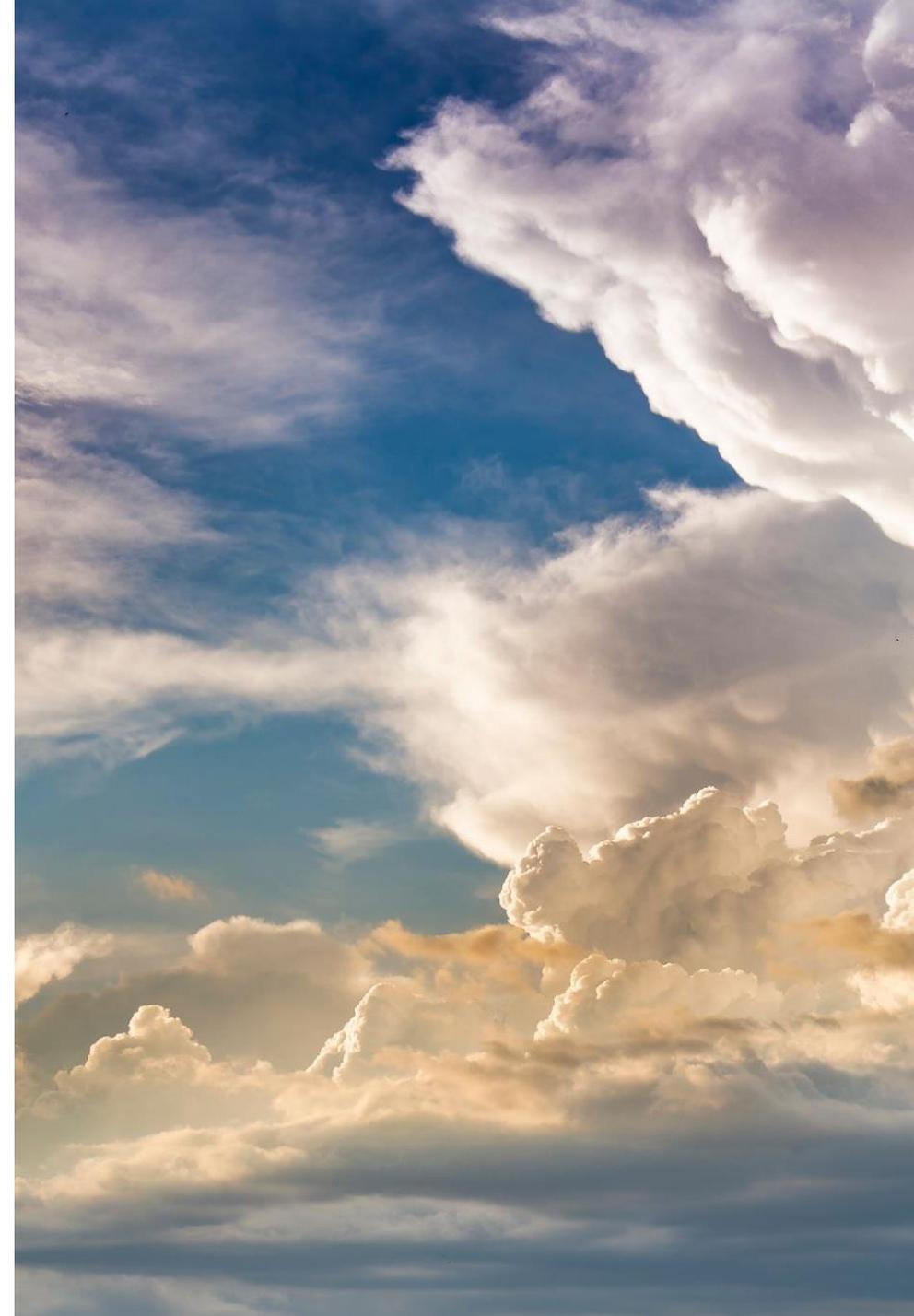
- HE LEADS FROM THE FRONT!



Hebrews 4:15

5 FOR WE DO NOT HAVE A HIGH PRIEST WHO IS UNABLE TO SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR WEAKNESSES, BUT ONE WHO IN EVERY RESPECT HAS BEEN TEMPTED AS WE ARE, YET WITHOUT SIN.

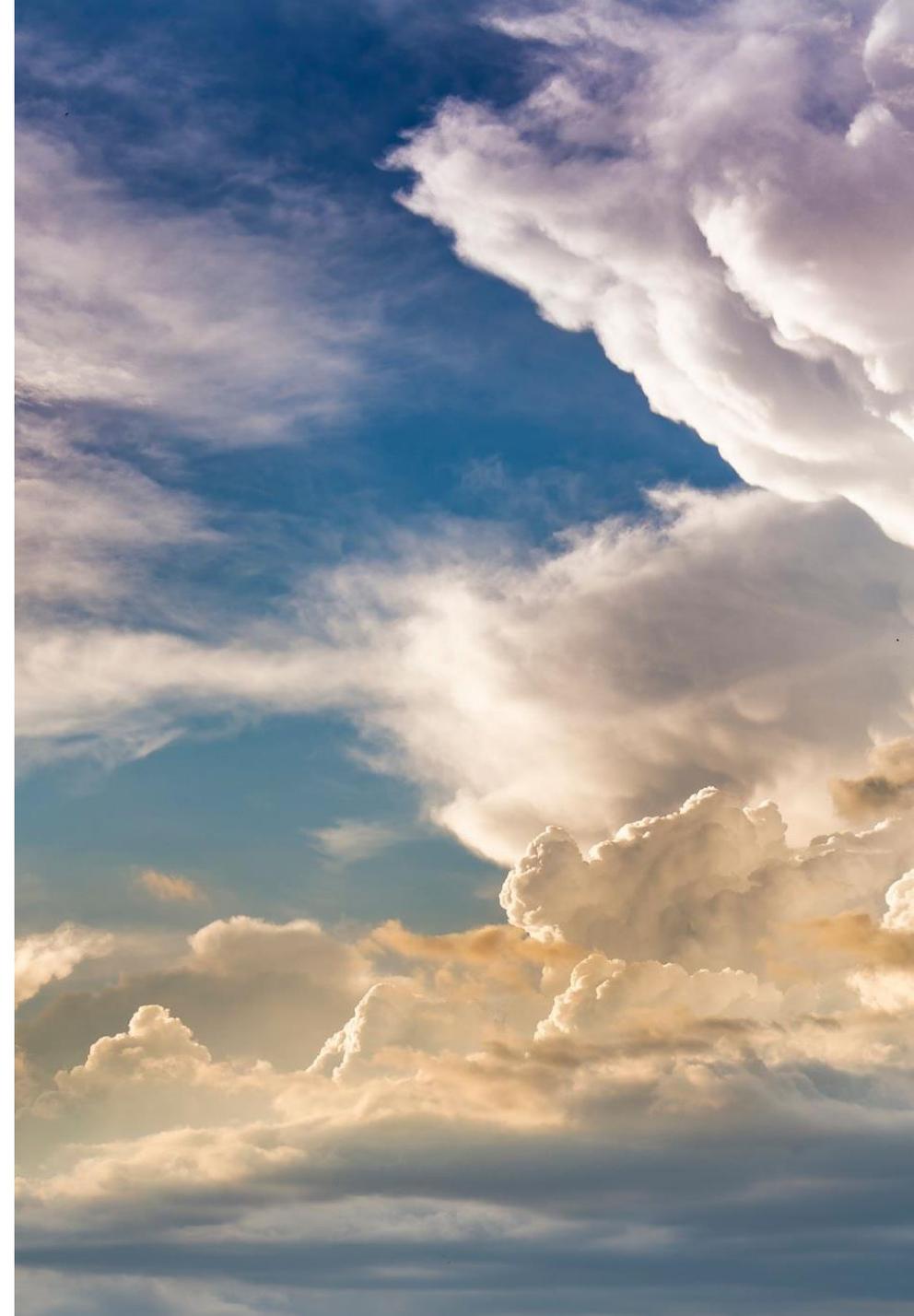
- HE HAS FELT THE WEAKNESS



Hebrews 4:16

16 LET US THEN WITH CONFIDENCE
DRAW NEAR TO THE THRONE OF GRACE,
THAT WE MAY RECEIVE MERCY AND
FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED.

- HE HAS OVERCOME!



John 1:16-17

16 FOR FROM HIS FULLNESS WE HAVE
ALL RECEIVED, GRACE UPON GRACE.

17 FOR THE LAW WAS GIVEN THROUGH
MOSES;

GRACE AND TRUTH CAME THROUGH
JESUS CHRIST.

