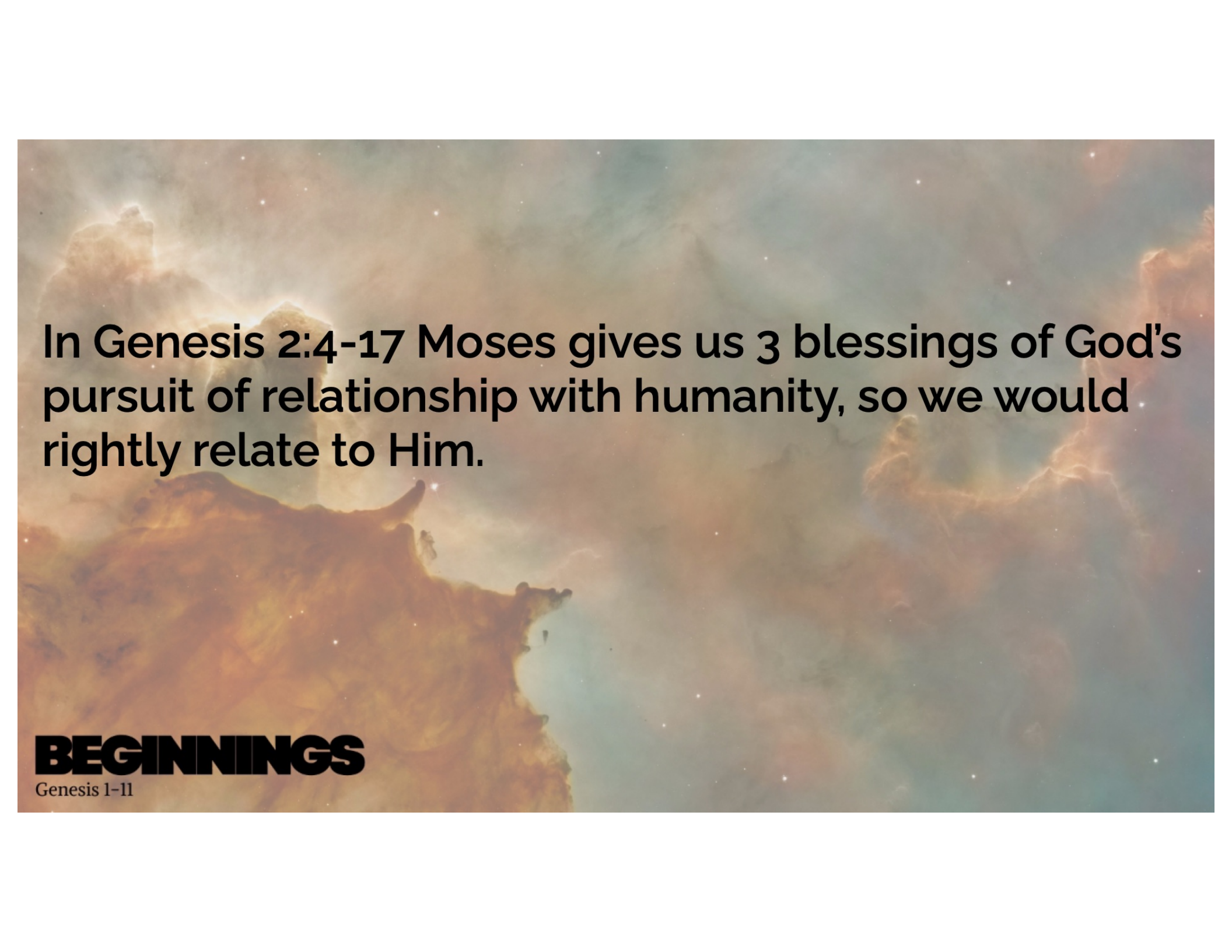


BEGINNINGS


Genesis 1-11

A vibrant, ethereal image of a cosmic nebula or galaxy, featuring swirling clouds of orange, yellow, and blue, with numerous small white stars scattered throughout. The overall tone is majestic and divine.

In Genesis 2:4-17 Moses gives us 3 blessings of God's pursuit of relationship with humanity, so we would rightly relate to Him.

BEGINNINGS

Genesis 1-11

A vibrant, ethereal image of a cosmic nebula or galaxy, featuring swirling clouds of orange, yellow, and blue, with numerous small white stars scattered throughout. The overall effect is one of deep space and celestial wonder.

God, The Potter of Man is the first blessing. God created humanity to be in relationship with Him. This is in verses 4-7.


BEGINNINGS

Genesis 1-11

4 These are the records of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation. At the time that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, 5 no shrub of the field had yet grown on the land, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground. 6 But mist would come up from the earth and water all the ground. 7 Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

BEGINNINGS

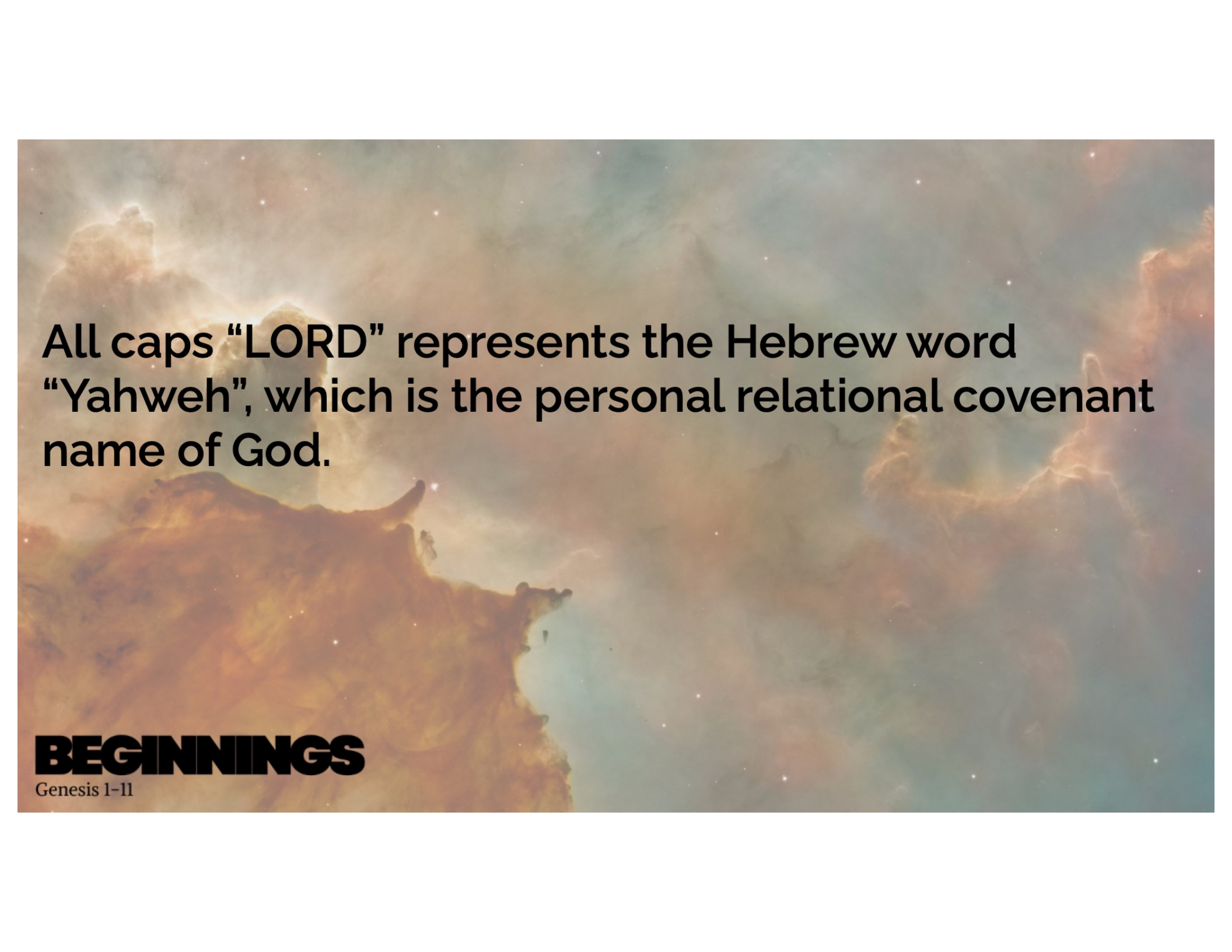
Genesis 1-11

A background image of a cosmic nebula with swirling clouds of gas and dust in shades of orange, red, and blue, with small white stars scattered throughout.

Previously in Genesis 1-2:3 it was a wide-angle lens of creation, but starting here in verse 4, the camera zooms in on God's special relationship with humanity.

BEGINNINGS

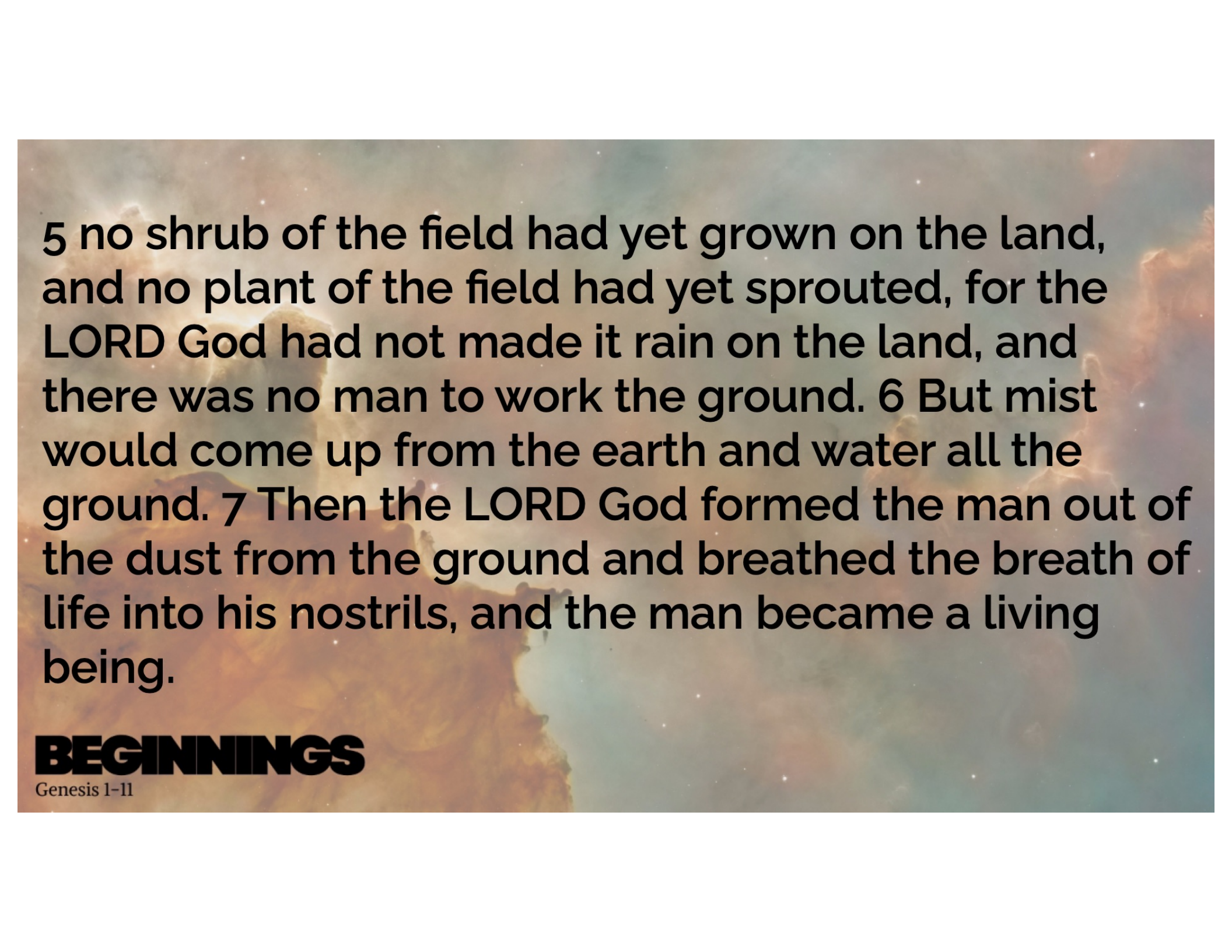
Genesis 1-11

A vibrant, ethereal image of a cosmic nebula or galaxy, featuring swirling clouds of gas and dust in shades of orange, red, and blue, with numerous small stars scattered throughout.

All caps “LORD” represents the Hebrew word
“Yahweh”, which is the personal relational covenant
name of God.

BEGINNINGS

Genesis 1-11

A background image of a cosmic nebula with swirling orange, yellow, and blue clouds and scattered white stars.

5 no shrub of the field had yet grown on the land, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground. 6 But mist would come up from the earth and water all the ground. 7 Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

BEGINNINGS


Genesis 1-11

A vibrant, ethereal image of a cosmic nebula or galaxy, featuring swirling clouds of orange, yellow, and blue, with numerous small white stars scattered throughout. The overall effect is one of vastness and divine light.

The second blessing of God's pursuit of relationship with humanity is, God's Prescence with Man. This is verses 8-14.

BEGINNINGS

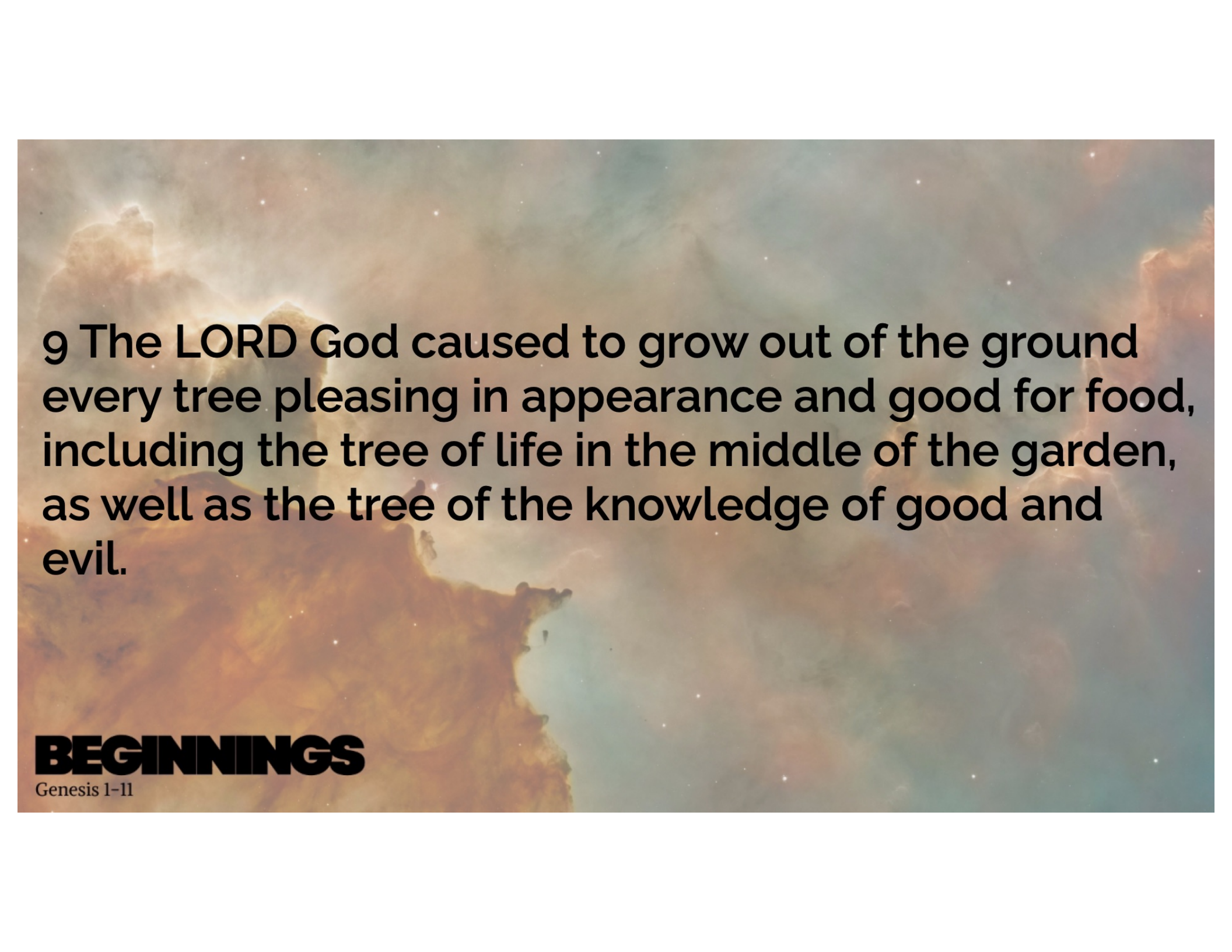
Genesis 1-11

A vibrant, ethereal image of a cosmic nebula or galaxy, featuring swirling clouds of orange, yellow, and blue, with numerous small white stars scattered throughout. The overall effect is one of deep space and celestial wonder.

8 The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed.

BEGINNINGS

Genesis 1-11

A vibrant, ethereal image of a cosmic nebula or galaxy, featuring swirling clouds of orange, red, and yellow gas against a dark, star-speckled background. The light from the nebula creates a soft, glowing effect.

9 The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

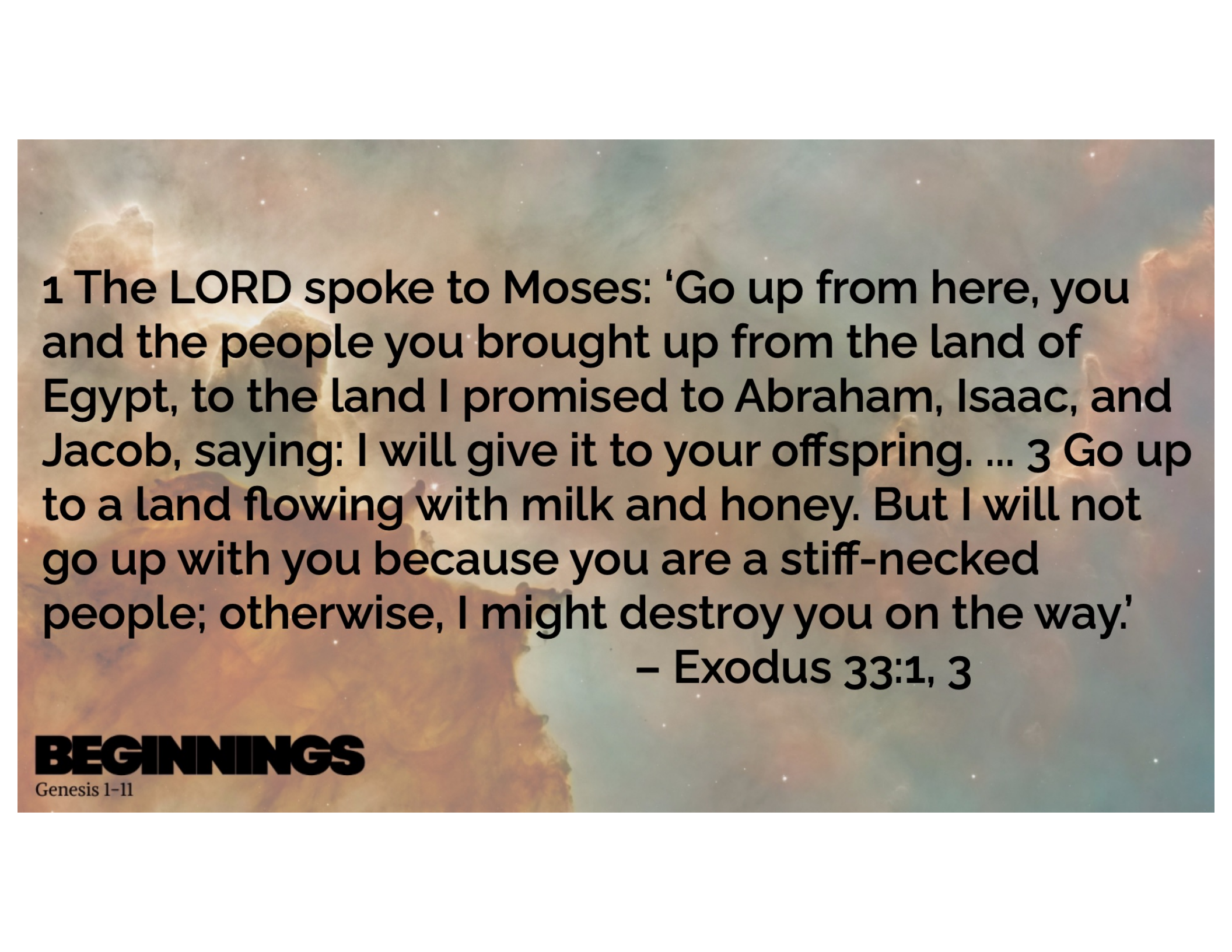
BEGINNINGS

Genesis 1-11

10 A river went out from Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became the source of four rivers. 11 The name of the first is Pishon, which flows through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 Gold from that land is pure; bdellium and onyx are also there. 13 The name of the second river is Gihon, which flows through the entire land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is Tigris, which runs east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

BEGINNINGS

Genesis 1-11

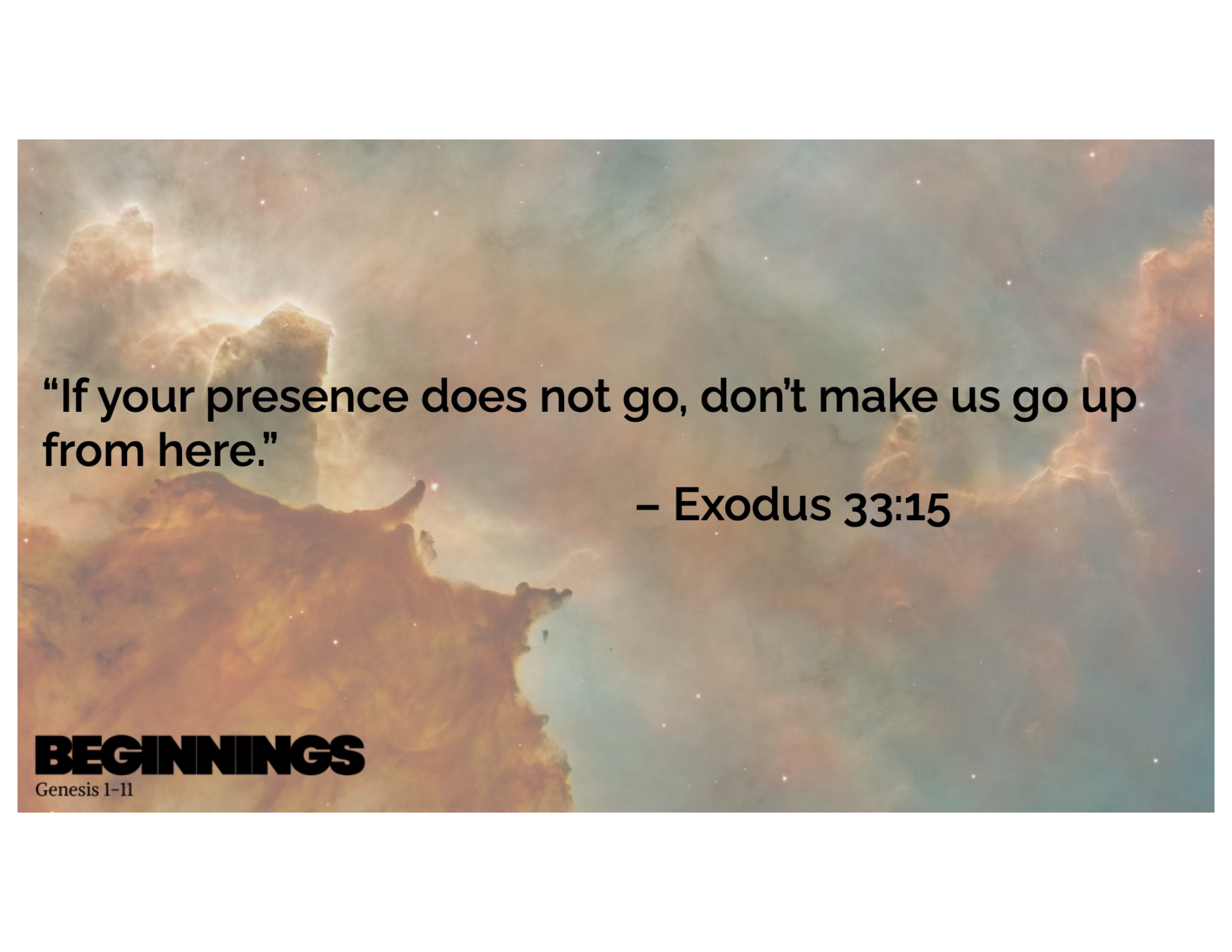
A vibrant, ethereal image of a cosmic nebula or galaxy, featuring swirling clouds of orange, red, and blue, with numerous small white stars scattered throughout. The overall effect is one of deep space and celestial wonder.

1 The LORD spoke to Moses: 'Go up from here, you and the people you brought up from the land of Egypt, to the land I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying: I will give it to your offspring. ... 3 Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go up with you because you are a stiff-necked people; otherwise, I might destroy you on the way.'

– Exodus 33:1, 3

BEGINNINGS

Genesis 1-11

A vibrant, ethereal image of a cosmic nebula or galaxy, featuring swirling clouds of gas and dust in shades of orange, yellow, and blue, with numerous small stars scattered throughout.

**“If your presence does not go, don’t make us go up
from here.”**

– Exodus 33:15

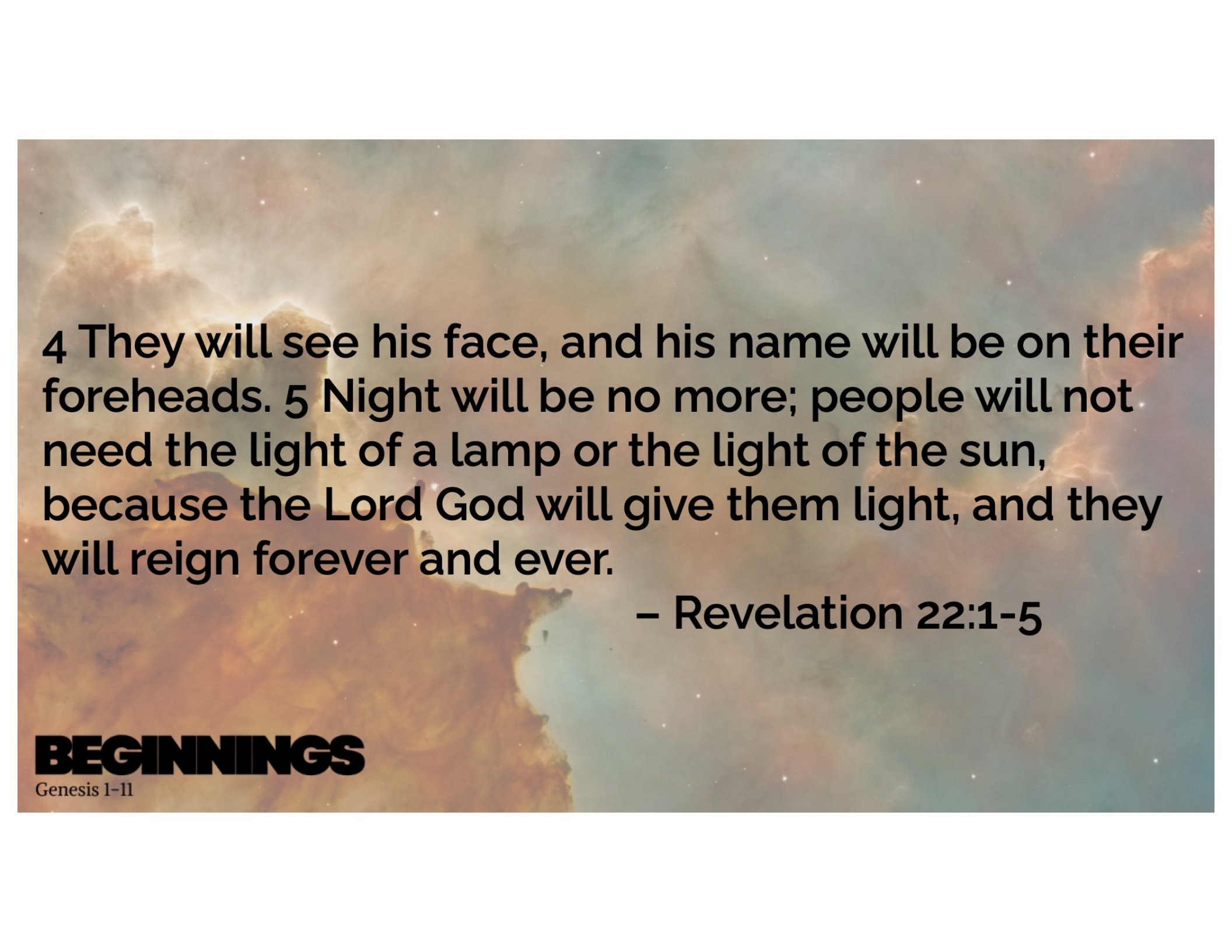
BEGINNINGS

Genesis 1-11

1 Then [the angel] showed me the river of the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb **2** down the middle of the city's main street. The tree of life was on each side of the river, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree are for healing the nations, **3** and there will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him.

BEGINNINGS

Genesis 1-11


A vibrant cosmic nebula with swirling clouds of orange, red, and blue, punctuated by numerous small white stars, serving as the background for the text.

4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 Night will be no more; people will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give them light, and they will reign forever and ever.

– Revelation 22:1-5

BEGINNINGS

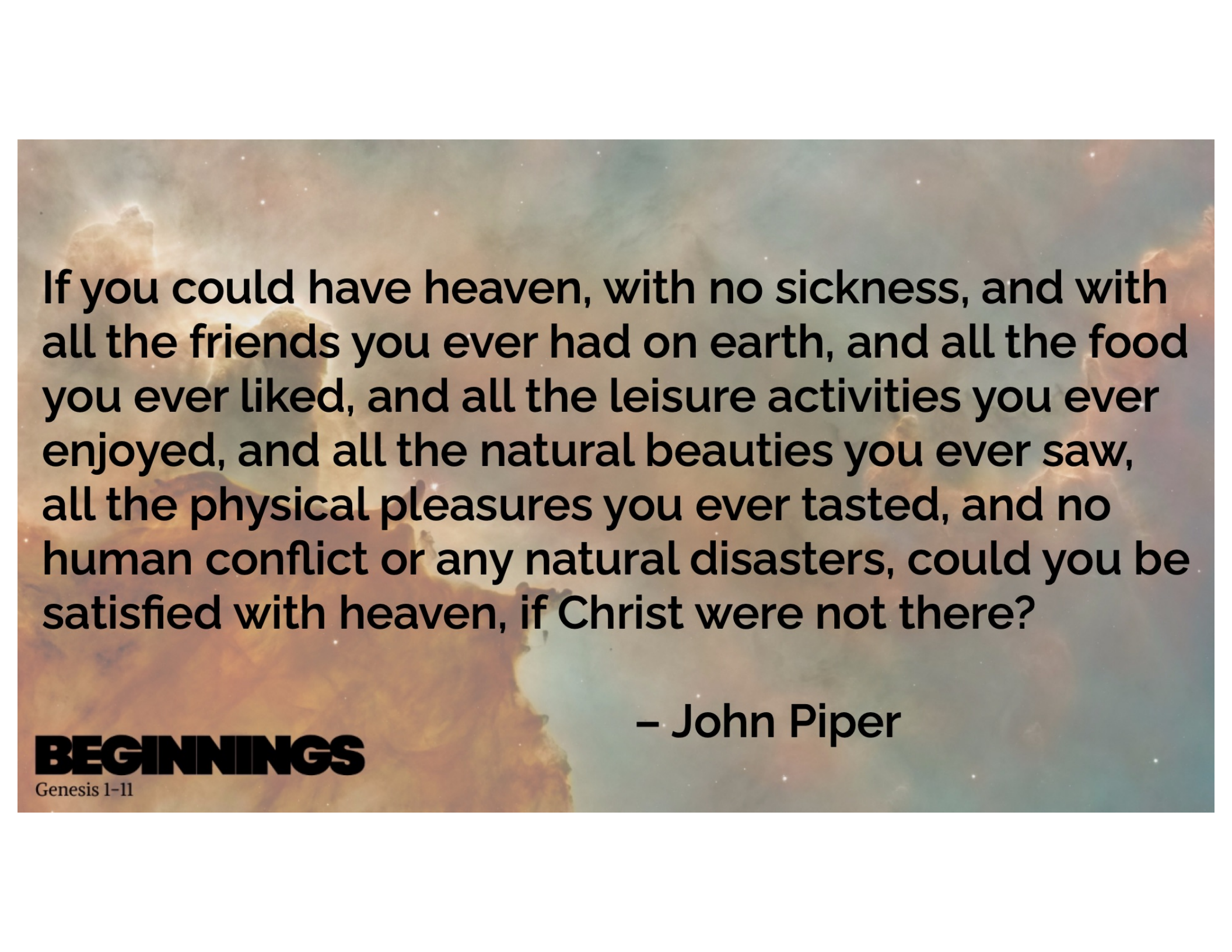
Genesis 1-11

A vibrant, ethereal image of a cosmic nebula or galaxy, featuring swirling clouds of gas and dust in shades of orange, yellow, and blue, with numerous small stars scattered throughout.

“If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.” – John 14:3

BEGINNINGS

Genesis 1-11


A background image of a cosmic nebula with swirling orange, yellow, and blue clouds and scattered white stars.

If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ were not there?

– John Piper

BEGINNINGS


Genesis 1-11

A vibrant, ethereal image of a cosmic nebula or galaxy, featuring swirling clouds of orange, yellow, and blue, with numerous small white stars scattered throughout. The overall tone is majestic and divine.

The third and final blessing of God's pursuit of relationship with humanity is, God's Purpose for Man. This is in verses 15-17.

BEGINNINGS

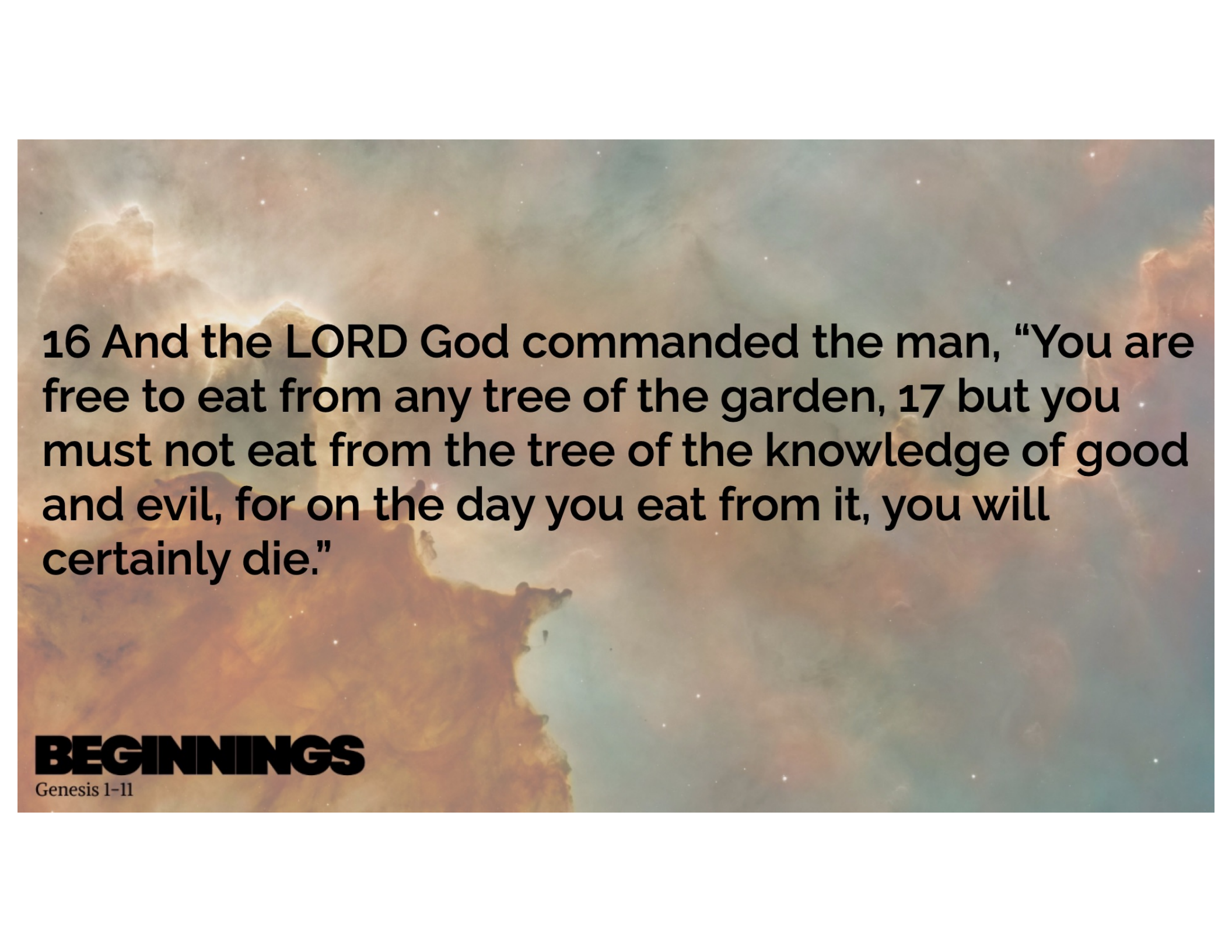
Genesis 1-11

A vibrant, ethereal image of a cosmic nebula or galaxy, featuring swirling clouds of orange, yellow, and blue, with numerous small white stars scattered throughout. The overall effect is one of deep space and celestial wonder.

15 The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.

BEGINNINGS

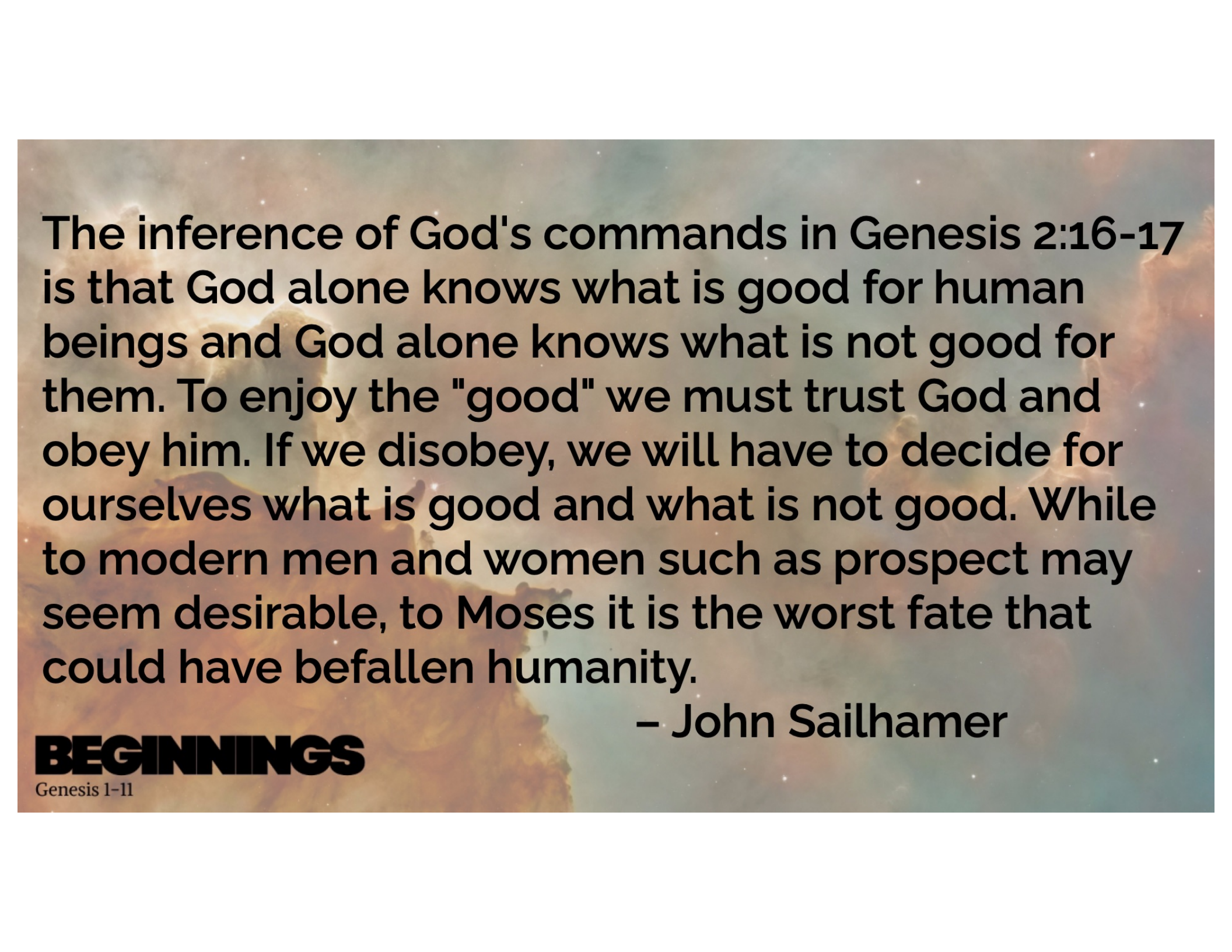
Genesis 1-11

A vibrant, ethereal image of a cosmic nebula or galaxy, featuring swirling clouds of orange, red, and yellow gas against a dark, star-speckled background. The light from the nebula creates a soft, glowing effect.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.”

BEGINNINGS

Genesis 1-11

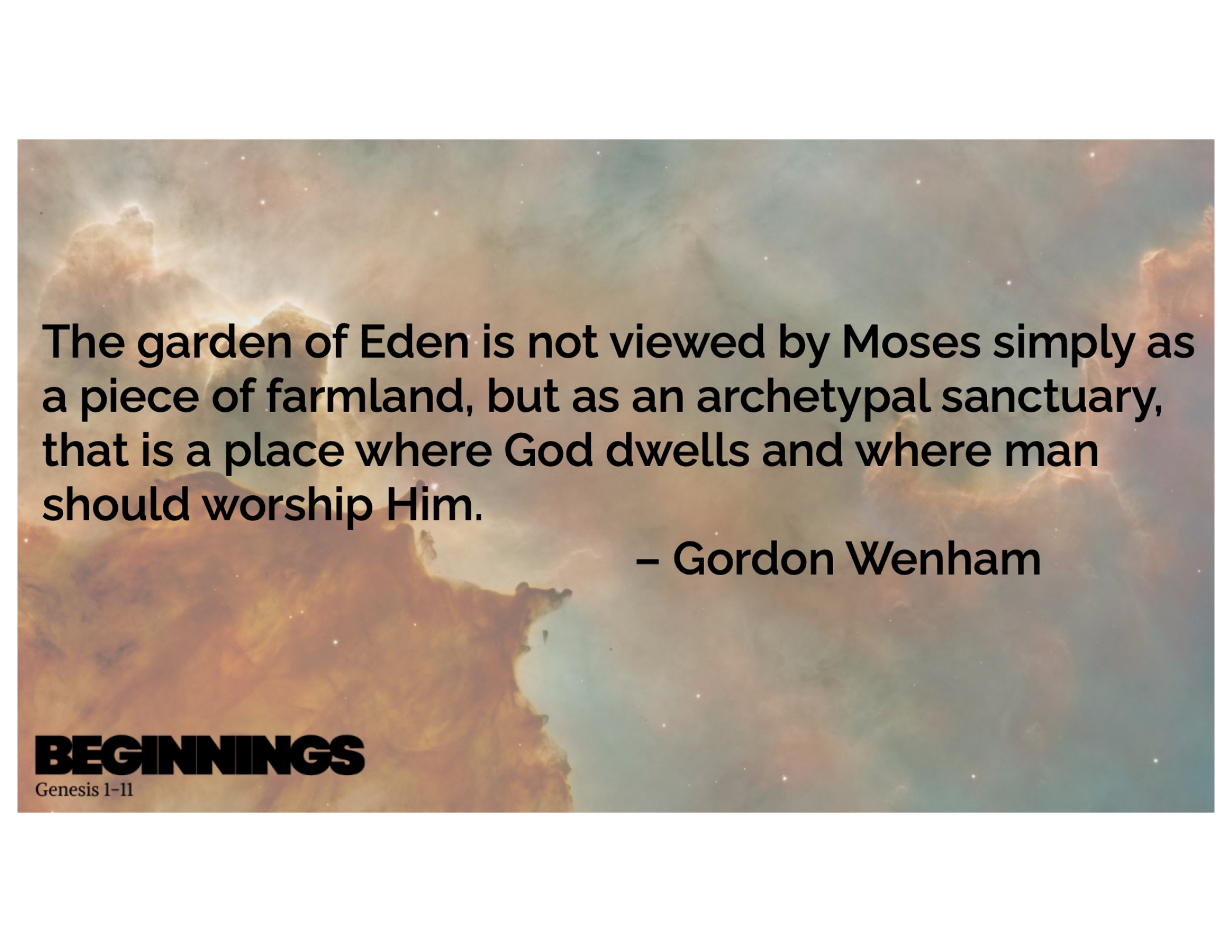
The background of the slide is a vibrant, ethereal image of a cosmic nebula. It features swirling clouds of gas and dust in shades of orange, red, and yellow, set against a deep blue and black space filled with distant stars. The overall effect is one of vastness and divine creation.

The inference of God's commands in Genesis 2:16-17 is that God alone knows what is good for human beings and God alone knows what is not good for them. To enjoy the "good" we must trust God and obey him. If we disobey, we will have to decide for ourselves what is good and what is not good. While to modern men and women such as prospect may seem desirable, to Moses it is the worst fate that could have befallen humanity.

– John Sailhamer

BEGINNINGS

Genesis 1-11

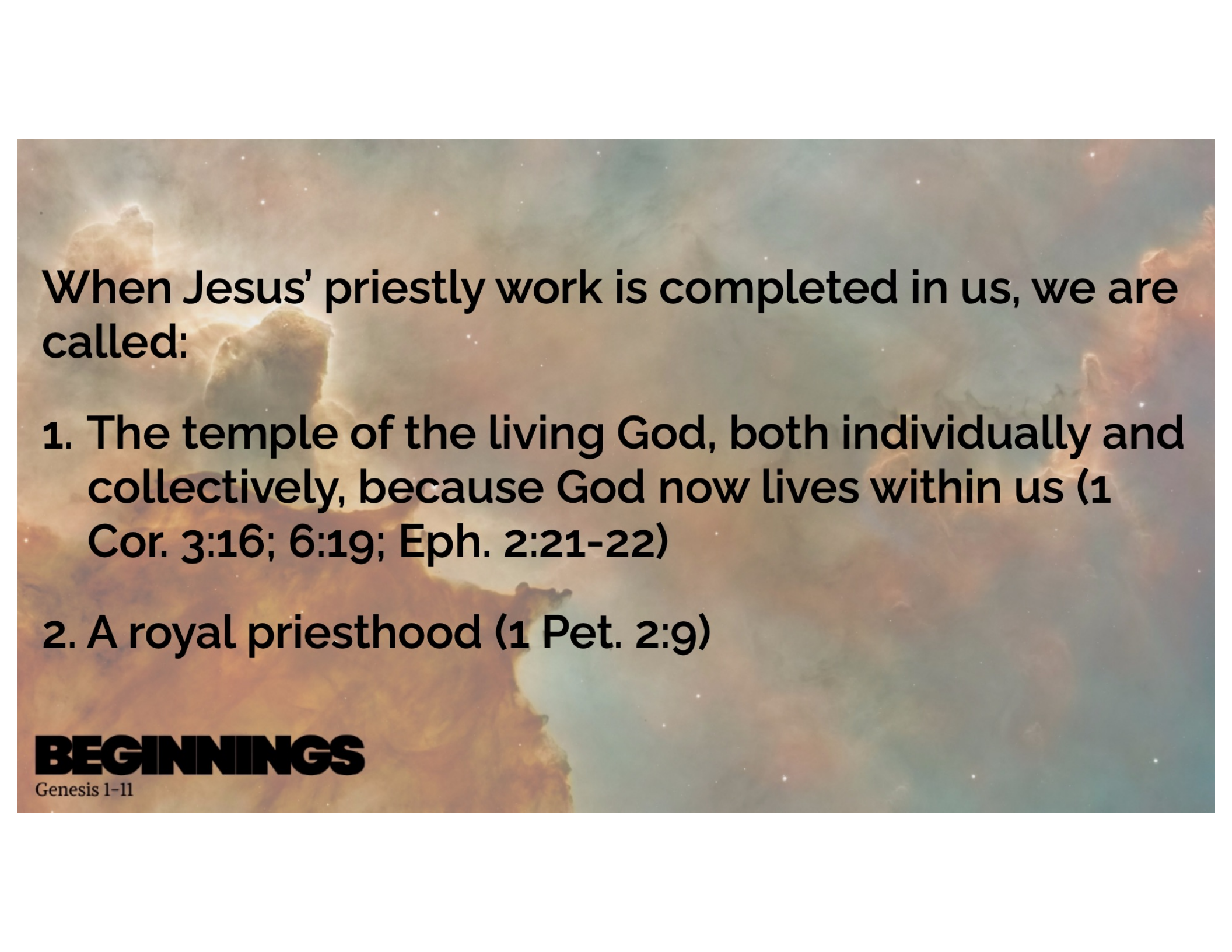
A vibrant, ethereal image of a cosmic nebula or galaxy, featuring swirling clouds of orange, red, and yellow gas against a dark, star-speckled background. The light from the nebula creates a soft, glowing effect.

The garden of Eden is not viewed by Moses simply as a piece of farmland, but as an archetypal sanctuary, that is a place where God dwells and where man should worship Him.

– Gordon Wenham

BEGINNINGS

Genesis 1-11

A vibrant, ethereal image of a cosmic nebula or galaxy, featuring swirling clouds of orange, red, and blue, with numerous small white stars scattered throughout. The overall effect is one of divine light and celestial wonder.

When Jesus' priestly work is completed in us, we are called:

- 1. The temple of the living God, both individually and collectively, because God now lives within us (1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; Eph. 2:21-22)**
- 2. A royal priesthood (1 Pet. 2:9)**

BEGINNINGS

Genesis 1-11