

## SERMON: Miracles of Protection (Acts 16:22-36)

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Have you ever had an experience where you feel that God protected you? Why is it that sometimes we are more inclined to think something is a coincidence rather than a miracle of protection? Clearly we have many biblical examples of God protecting His people. We see God protecting the Israelites as they pass through the Red Sea, Joseph as his brothers sell him into slavery, Daniel as he's thrown into the Lion's Den, and the Apostles as they are persecuted for the Gospel of Jesus. Time and time again, God shows us that He is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. May we take great comfort knowing that He is with us - in the storms of life, and even through the valley of the shadow of death. This is a miracle, isn't it?

*He rescues me unharmed from the battle waged against me, even though many oppose me. – Psalm 55:18*

**Our God \_\_\_\_\_ . But He doesn't protect \_\_\_\_\_ all the time.**

**Long before you face a \_\_\_\_\_, God already has a \_\_\_\_\_.**

Genesis 6-7, Exodus 15, Jonah 2

**God has the \_\_\_\_\_ to miraculously \_\_\_\_\_.**

Daniel 3, Daniel 6, Mark 4:35-41, Acts 16:22-36

*Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.* Acts 16:26

**Even when we don't \_\_\_\_\_ God's Power, we \_\_\_\_\_ Him.**

*Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. – Hebrews 13:15*

**God often \_\_\_\_\_ you in ways you don't \_\_\_\_\_.**

**God's eternal \_\_\_\_\_ don't always align with our temporary \_\_\_\_\_.**

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one – Matthew 6:13*



Questions for individual or group reflection:

Have you ever experienced a miracle of protection? What happened?

Why is it hard to accept that God miraculously intervenes with protection?

What are some common misconceptions about God's protection?

Discuss the meaning of the expression: "Before you face a problem, God has a plan."

Have you known this to be true?

What are some things God DIDN'T protect you from, that you can look back and see worked for good?

Thinking of some problems you're facing right now ... how might God be working them together for good?

What are you currently praying for protection from?

Read Acts 16:22-36. How did the Apostle Paul face his situation? How might you live that out in your life?

Read Mark 4:35-41. How does Jesus' behavior change the way you react when things don't look good?

*Pray: God, You are a miracle-working God. We've read Your stories of protection in the Bible, and we've seen them in our own lives. We trust You to protect us from what could destroy us ... and to expose us to what will grow us. Thank You for Your good plans for our lives. We love You and trust You. In Jesus' powerful name. Amen!*

**Do: Write down the miracle you're asking God for, and share it with another person.**

Taking it home / Memory Verse:

*He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. – Mark 4:39*

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# MIRACLES

DO YOU BELIEVE?

*Miracles of Protection*





# MIRACLES

DO YOU BELIEVE?

*Miracles of Deliverance*





# MIRACLES

DO YOU BELIEVE?

*Miracles of Healing*





# MIRACLES

DO YOU BELIEVE?

*Miracles of **Protection***





# MIRACLES

DO YOU BELIEVE?

*Miracles of Protection*









He **rescues me unharmed** from the battle waged  
against me, even though many oppose me.

Psalm 55:18



Our God PROTECTS. But He doesn't  
protect EVERYONE all the time.



Image of Twin Towers in NYC



Long before you face a **PROBLEM**,  
God already has a **PLAN**.



Long before you face a **PROBLEM**,  
God already has a **PLAN**.

Image of Ark in the rain



Long before you face a **PROBLEM**,  
God already has a **PLAN**.

Image of Jonah begin swallowed by the whale



Long before you face a **PROBLEM**,  
God already has a **PLAN**.

Image of Moses parting the Red Sea.



God has the **POWER** to miraculously **SAVE**.



God has the **POWER** to miraculously **SAVE**.

Image of Fiery Furnace



God has the **POWER** to miraculously **SAVE**.

Image of Daniel in the Lion's Den



God has the **POWER** to miraculously **SAVE**.

Image of Jesus calming the waves in the boat.



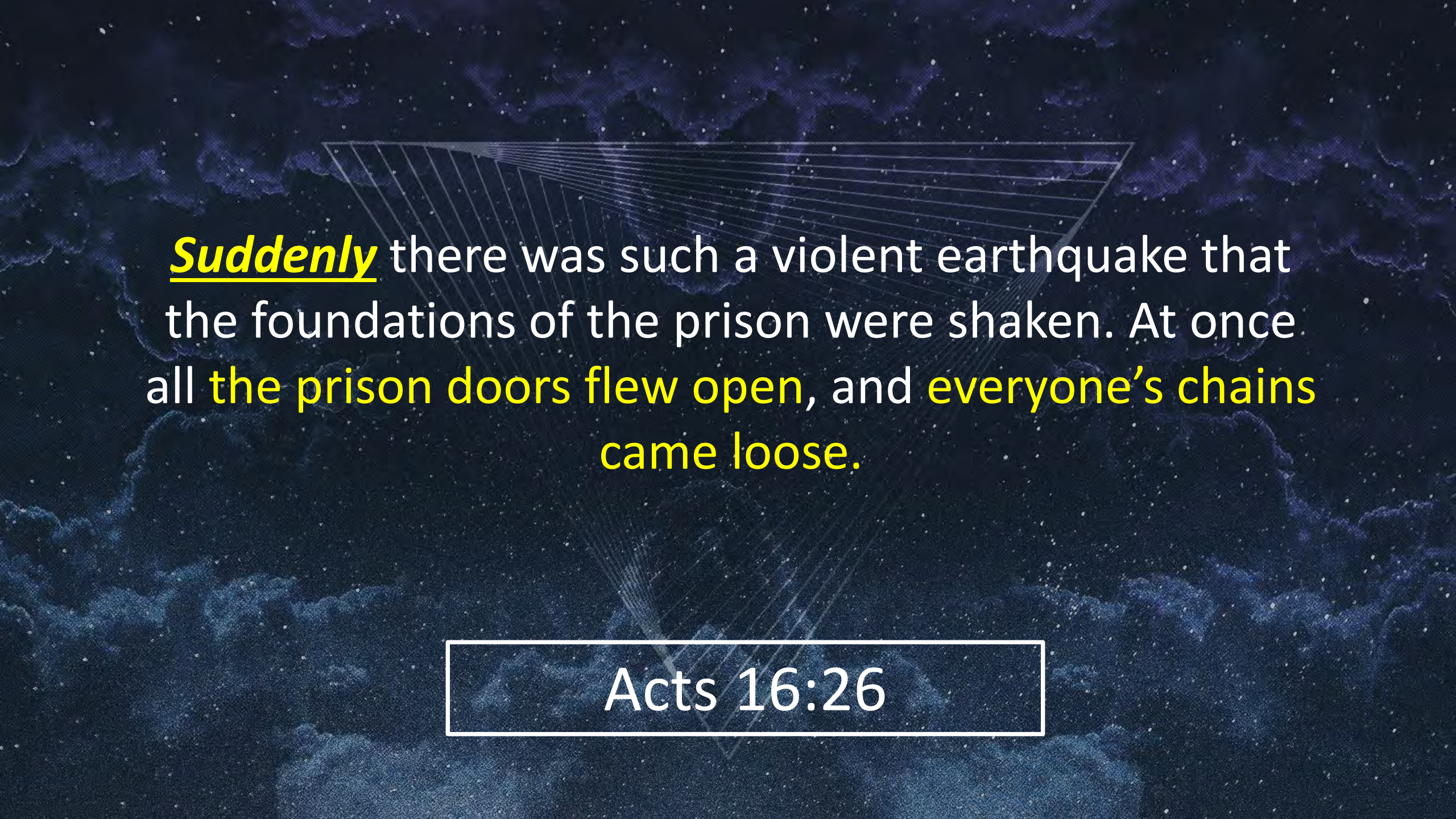
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Image of Paul in jail praying.





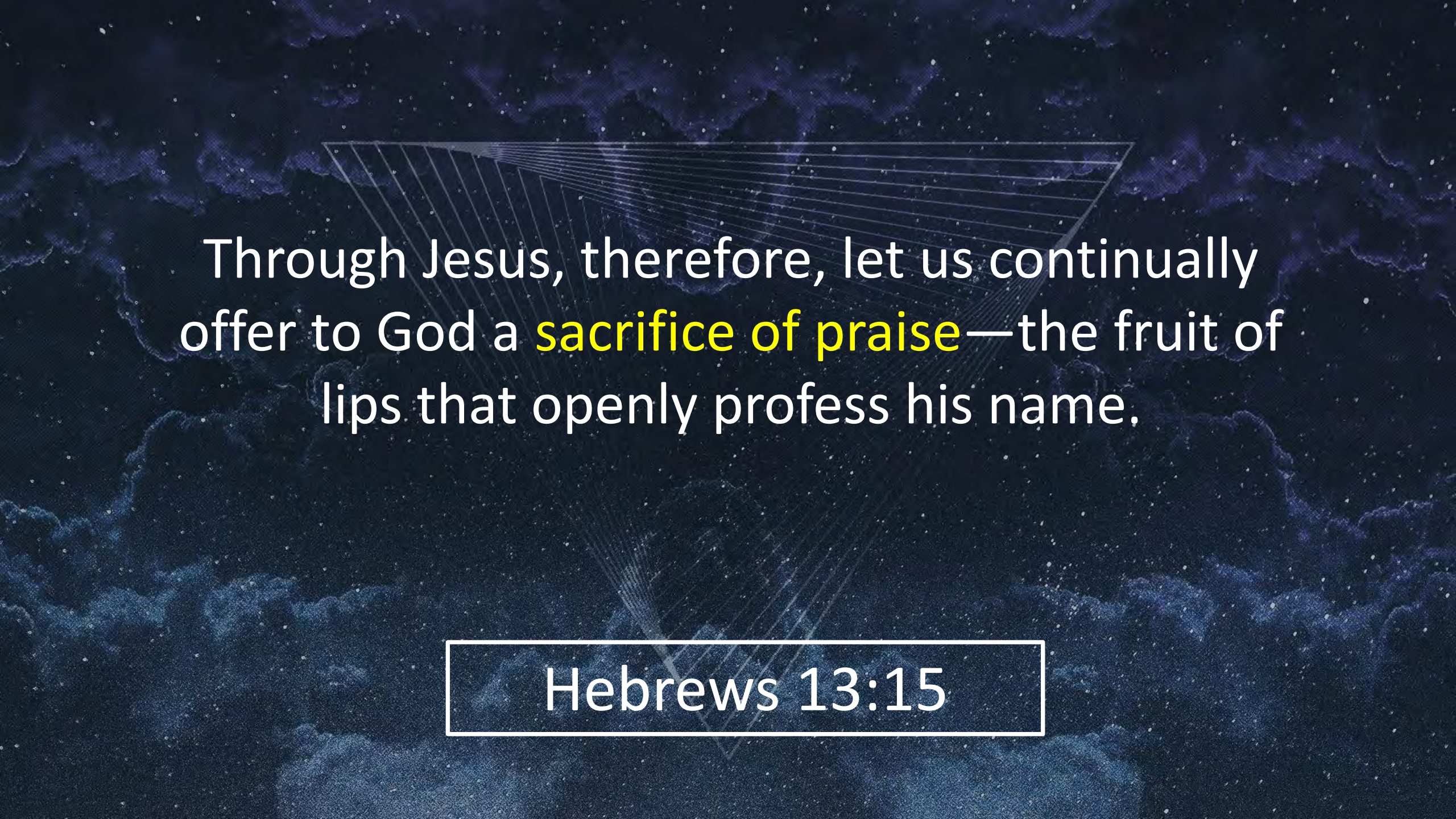
**Suddenly** there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.

Acts 16:26



Even when we don't SEE God's Power, we  
WORSHIP Him.





Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a **sacrifice of praise**—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

Hebrews 13:15



God often **PROTECTS** you in ways you  
don't **UNDERSTAND.**



God's eternal **PURPOSES** don't always  
align with our temporary **PLANS**.



Image of Paul & Silas at the open door of the jail with the jailer.



God's eternal **PURPOSES** don't always  
align with our temporary **PLANS**.





And lead us not into temptation,  
but **deliver us from the evil one.**

Matthew 6:13



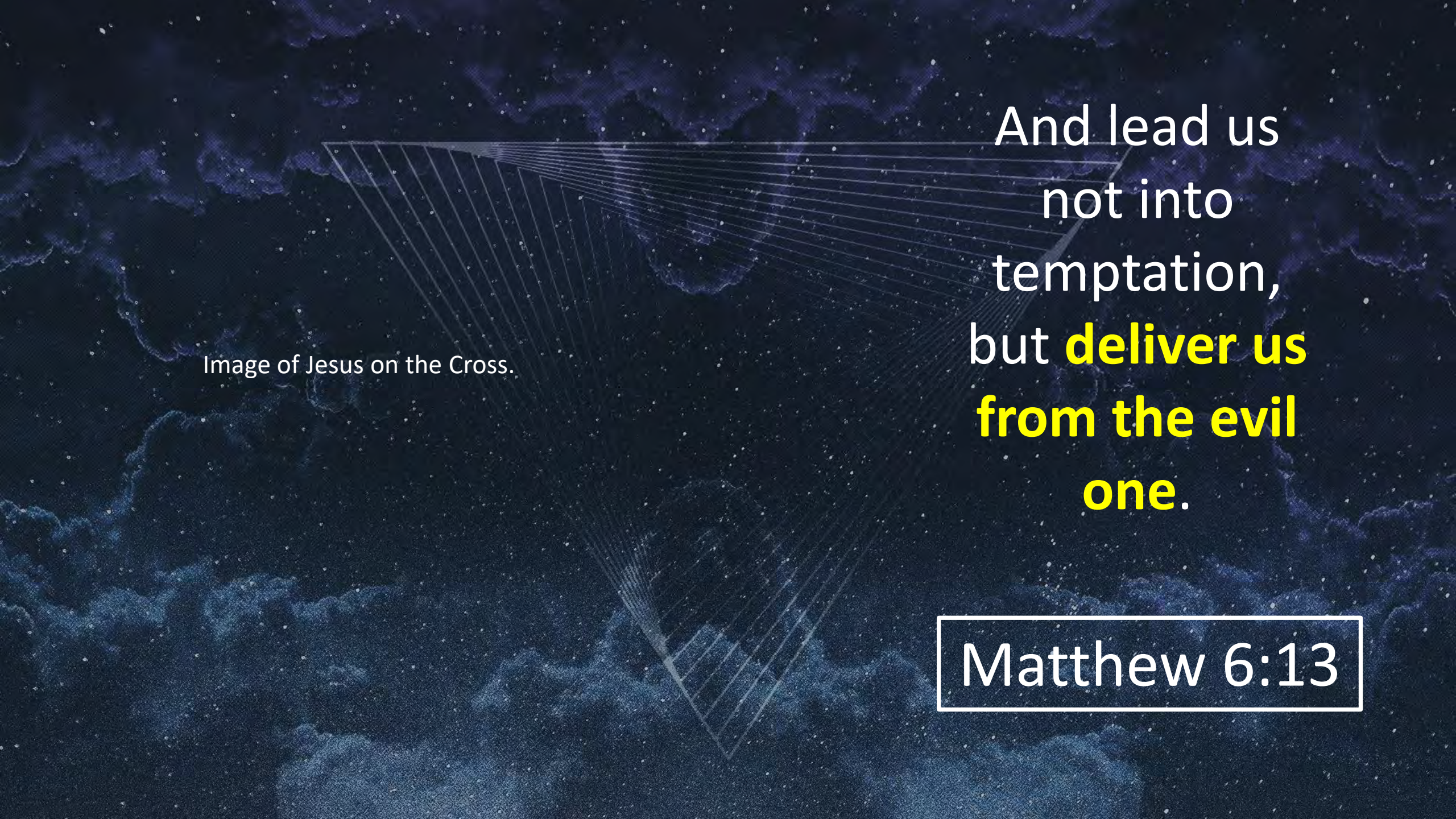


Image of Jesus on the Cross.

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but **deliver us**  
**from the evil**  
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Matthew 6:13



