

An aerial photograph of a dry, winding riverbed in a desert landscape. The riverbed is light-colored and curves through the brown, arid terrain. A small figure of a person is visible on the right bank of the riverbed. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

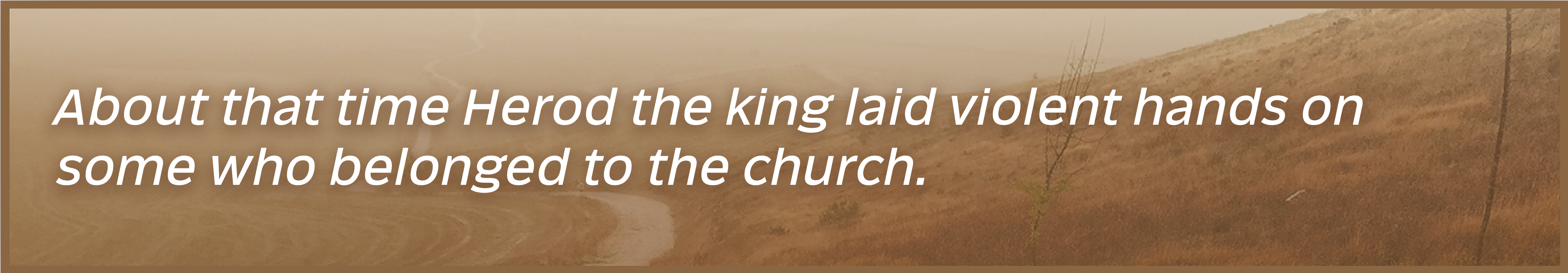
Advance Through Opposition

PASTOR ZAC HESS • ACTS 12:1-25

**SAVED
& SENT**
A SERIES IN ACTS

An aerial photograph of a dry, winding riverbed in a desert landscape. The riverbed is a light tan color, contrasting with the darker, brownish-green scrubland on either side. A small figure of a person is visible on the riverbed in the distance. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, suggesting a bright, sunny day. The overall scene conveys a sense of aridity and isolation.

Nothing can hinder the work of God.



About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church.

Acts 12:1



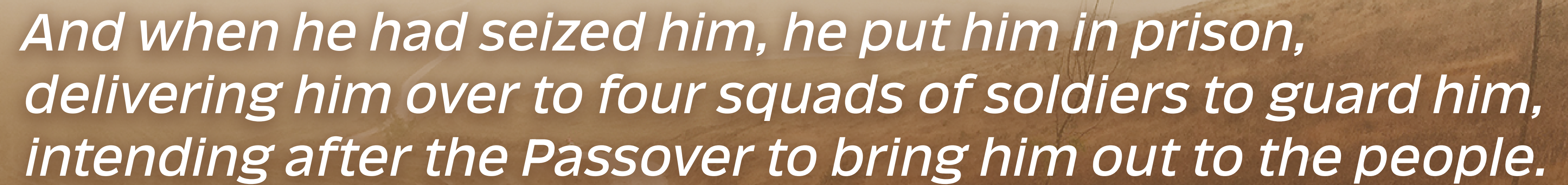
He killed James the brother of John with the sword,

Acts 12:2



and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread.

Acts 12:3



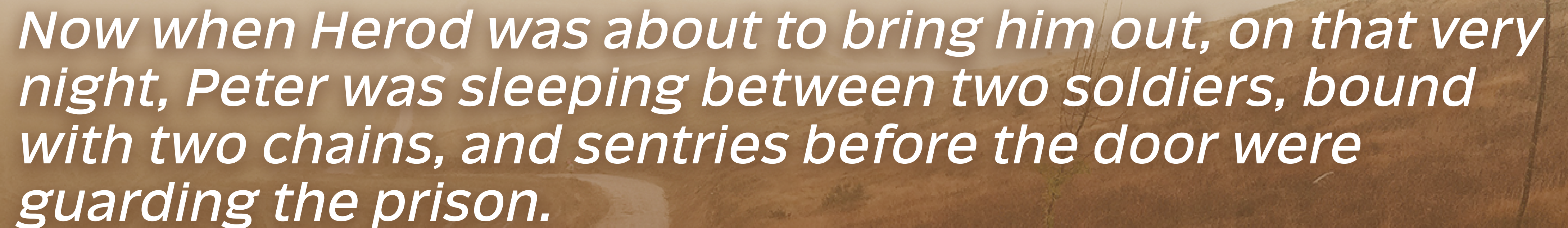
And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people.

Acts 12:4



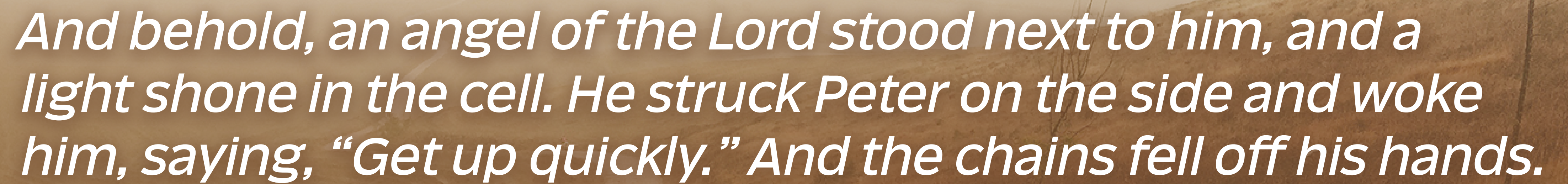
So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

Acts 12:5



Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison.

Acts 12:6

A landscape painting of a desert with a path leading to a hill. The scene is rendered in warm, earthy tones of brown and tan. A dirt path winds through the foreground, leading towards a low, rounded hill in the distance. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, suggesting a bright, clear day. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands.

Acts 12:7

A landscape photograph showing a dirt path leading through a field of dry, brownish vegetation towards a hillside under a hazy, overcast sky. The text is overlaid on this image.

And the angel said to him, “Dress yourself and put on your sandals.” And he did so. And he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.”

Acts 12:8

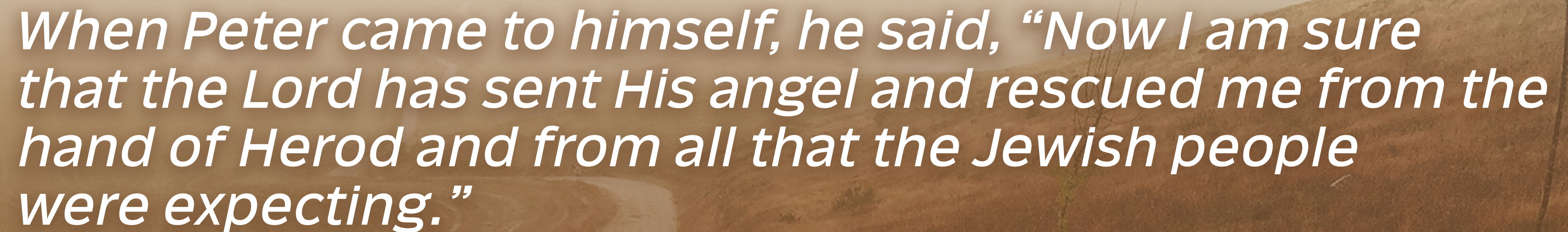


And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

Acts 12:9

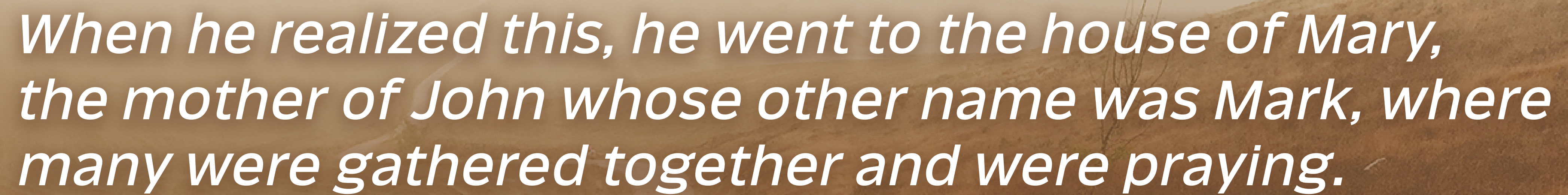
When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him.

Acts 12:10




When Peter came to himself, he said, “Now I am sure that the Lord has sent His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.”

Acts 12:11



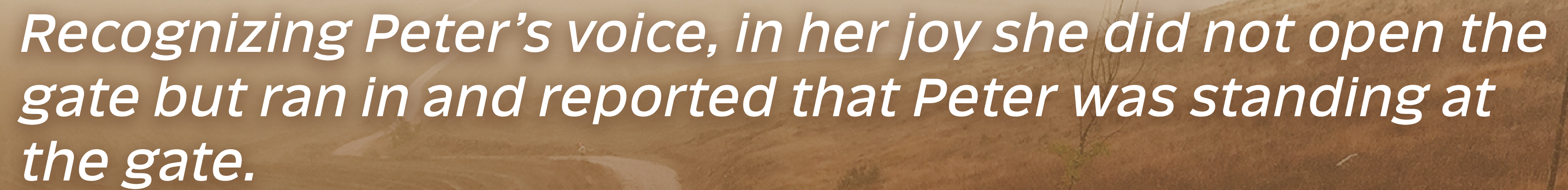
When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

Acts 12:12



And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer.

Acts 12:13



Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was standing at the gate.

Acts 12:14



They said to her, “You are out of your mind.” But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, “It is his angel!”

Acts 12:15

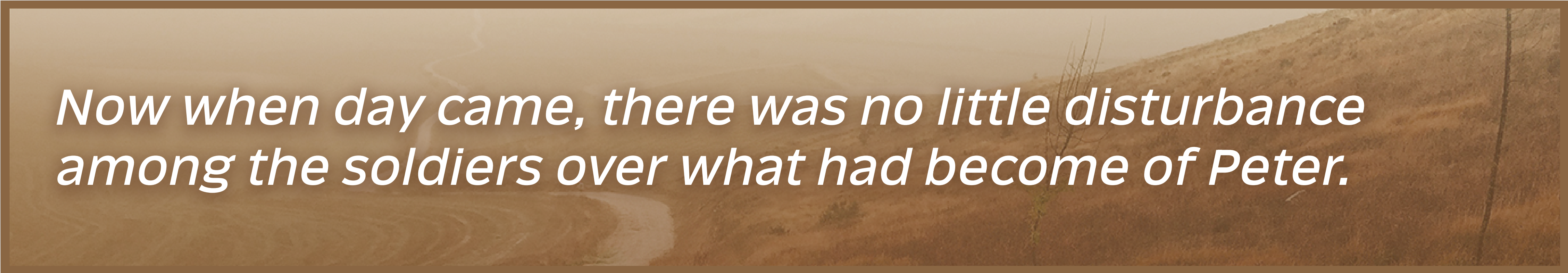


But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed.

Acts 12:16

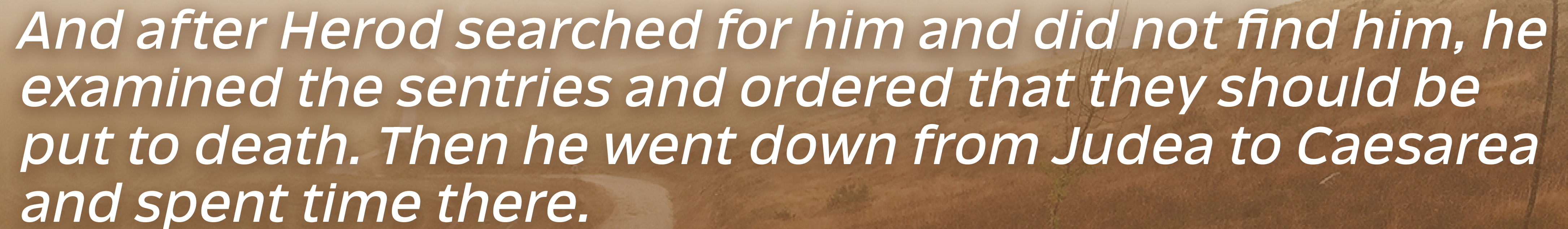
But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Tell these things to James and to the brothers." Then he departed and went to another place.

Acts 12:17



Now when day came, there was no little disturbance among the soldiers over what had become of Peter.

Acts 12:18



And after Herod searched for him and did not find him, he examined the sentries and ordered that they should be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and spent time there.

Acts 12:19

Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king's country for food.

Acts 12:20



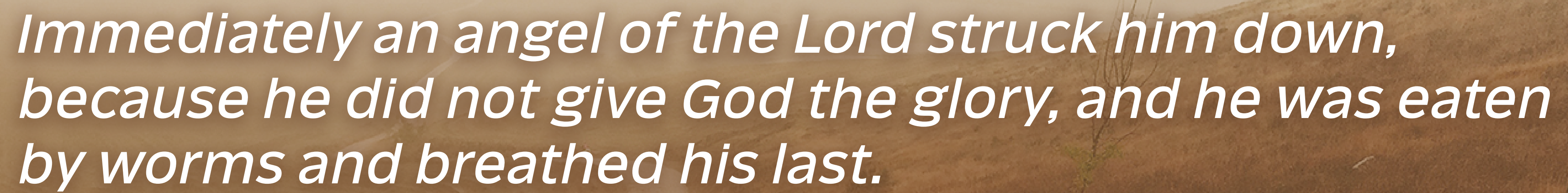
On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them.

Acts 12:21



And the people were shouting, “The voice of a god, and not of a man!”

Acts 12:22



Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

Acts 12:23



But the word of God increased and multiplied.

Acts 12:24



And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

Acts 12:25

An aerial photograph of a dry, hilly landscape. A dirt road winds through the terrain, and a small figure of a person is visible walking on it. The text is overlaid on the lower portion of the image.

**Persecution cannot hinder
the work of God. (12:1-11)**

An aerial photograph of a dry, hilly landscape. A dirt path winds through the terrain, and a small figure of a person is visible in the distance. The text is overlaid on the lower portion of the image.

**Uncertain prayer cannot hinder
the work of God. (12:12–17)**

An aerial photograph of a dry, hilly landscape. A dirt road winds through the terrain, and a small figure of a person is visible in the distance. The text is overlaid on the lower portion of the image.

**Arrogant leaders cannot hinder
the work of God. (12:18–23)**

An aerial photograph of a dry, hilly landscape. The terrain is brown and arid, with sparse vegetation. A dirt road winds through the hills. In the distance, a small figure of a person is visible on the road. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

The work of God advances in
every condition. (12:24,25)

An aerial photograph of a dry, winding riverbed in a desert landscape. The riverbed is a light tan color, contrasting with the darker, brownish-green scrubland on either side. A small figure of a person is visible on the riverbed in the distance. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, suggesting a bright, sunny day. The overall scene conveys a sense of aridity and isolation.

Nothing can hinder the work of God.