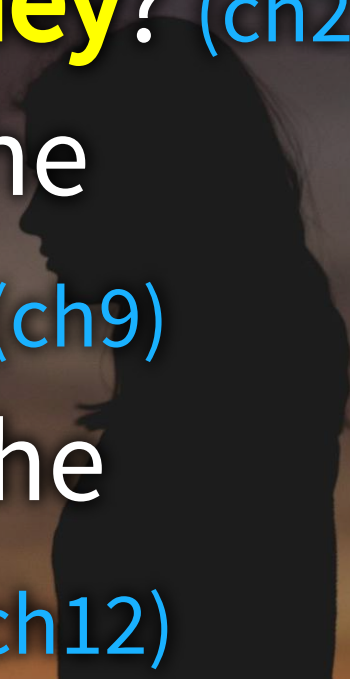


Wisdom

Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

The Search for Meaning (1/4)

**What is the
meaning of life?**

- 
1. Sat pm: What is **Wisdom**? (ch1)
 2. Sun am: Is there meaning in **Ambition** + **Money**? (ch2,5)
 3. Sun pm: What is the **Fate** of mankind? (ch9)
 4. Mon am: What is the meaning of **Life**? (ch12)

12 I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.

13 And I applied my heart to seek and to search out
by wisdom all that is done under heaven.

It is an unhappy business that God has given
to the children of man to be busy with.

Ecclesiastes 1:12-13 (ESV) (p.1/5)

14 I have seen everything that is done under the sun,
and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

15 What is crooked cannot be made straight,
and what is lacking cannot be counted.

Ecclesiastes 1:14-15 (ESV) (p.2/5)

16 I said in my heart, “I have acquired great wisdom,
surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me,
and my heart has had great experience
of wisdom and knowledge.”

Ecclesiastes 1:16 (ESV) (p.3/5)

17 And I applied my heart to know wisdom
and to know madness and folly.

I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind.

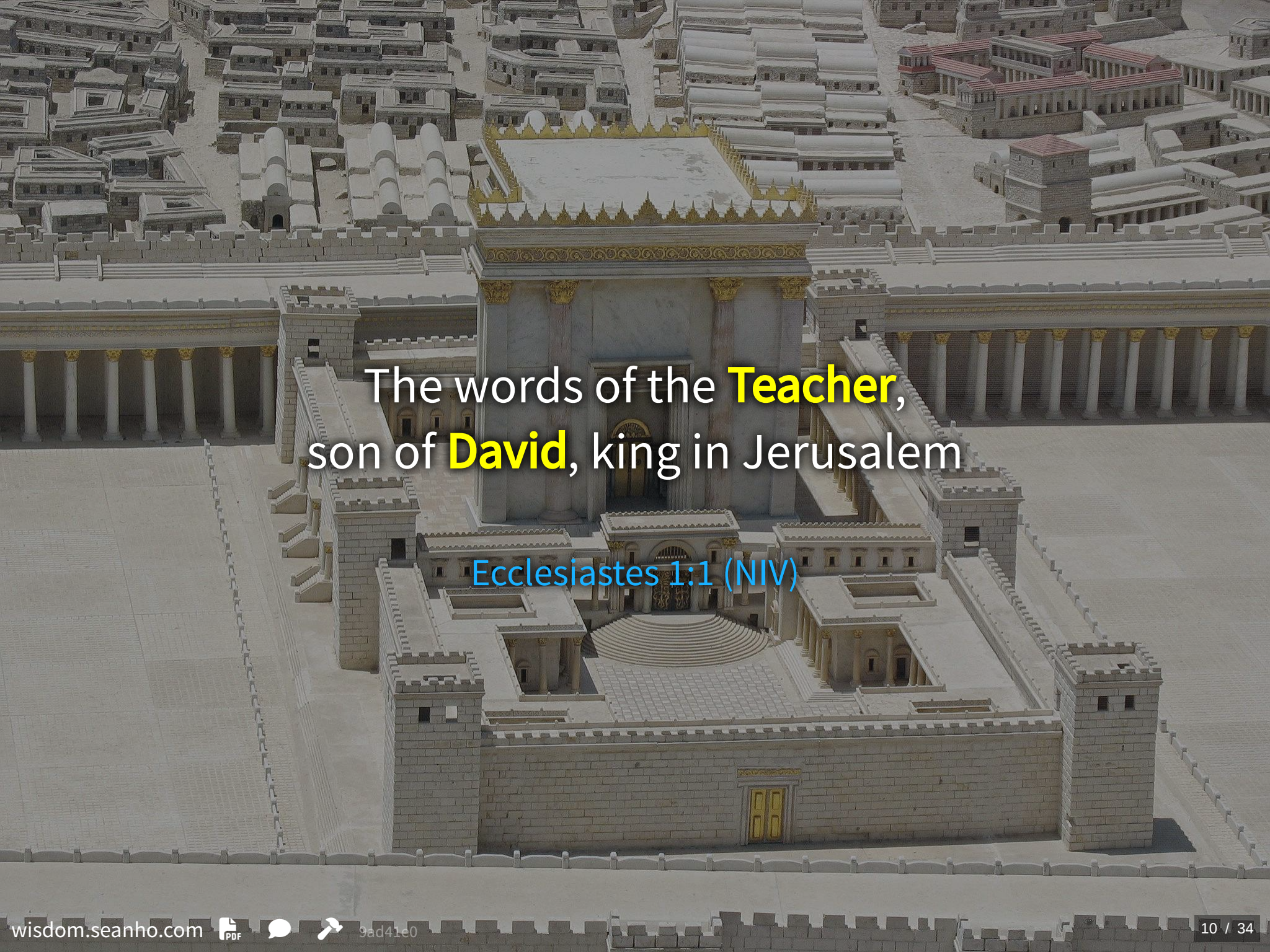
Ecclesiastes 1:17 (ESV) (p.4/5)

18 For in much wisdom is much vexation,
and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

Ecclesiastes 1:18 (ESV) (p.5/5)

Wisdom (Ecc 1)

1. **Searching** (v12-13a)
2. **Achievements** (v13b-15)
3. **Wisdom** (v16-18)



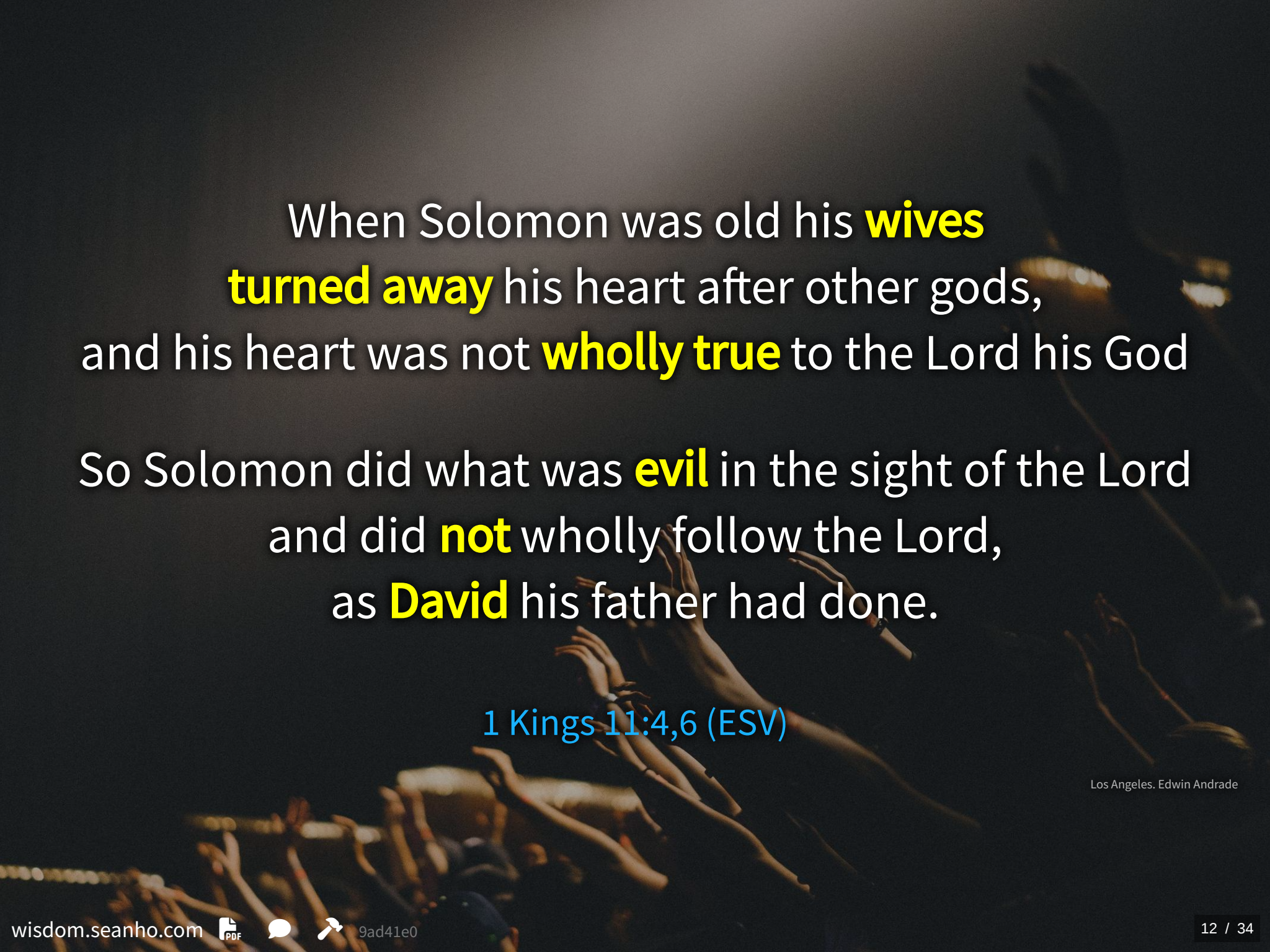
The words of the **Teacher**,
son of **David**, king in Jerusalem

Ecclesiastes 1:1 (NIV)

Behold, I give you a **wise** and discerning mind,
so that none like you has been **before** you
and none like you shall arise **after** you.

1 Kings 3:12 (ESV)


Ryan Hutton



When Solomon was old his **wives**
turned away his heart after other gods,
and his heart was not **wholly true** to the Lord his God
So Solomon did what was **evil** in the sight of the Lord
and did **not** wholly follow the Lord,
as **David** his father had done.

1 Kings 11:4,6 (ESV)

Los Angeles. Edwin Andrade

A man in a light blue t-shirt and khaki shorts stands with his back to the camera on a grassy mountain ridge. He is looking out over a vast mountain landscape. In the background, several sharp, jagged mountain peaks rise against a sky filled with white and grey clouds. The foreground shows a steep, rocky slope with patches of green grass. The overall scene conveys a sense of vastness and contemplation.

I applied my **heart** to seek and to **search** out
by **wisdom** all that is done **under heaven**.

Ecclesiastes 1:13 (ESV)

If any of you lacks **wisdom**, let him **ask God**,
who gives **generously** to all without **reproach**,
and it will be given him.

James 1:5 (ESV)

**Have I considered
if I'm on
the right path?**

Wisdom (Ecc1)

1. Searching (v12-13a)
2. **Achievements** (v13b-15)
3. Wisdom (v16-18)

I have seen everything that is **done** under the **sun**,
and behold, all is **vanity** and a striving after wind.

What is **crooked** cannot be made straight,
and what is **lacking** cannot be counted.

Ecclesiastes 1:14-15 (ESV)

Claudio Testa

“If you add all the hundreds of **billions of dollars** that have been spent in this **war on drugs**,
[had we not] spent one **nickel** in the last **25 years** the situation would not be any **better** or any **worse**.
It had absolutely no effect, it was **wasted money**.”

Michael Levine, former DEA station chief

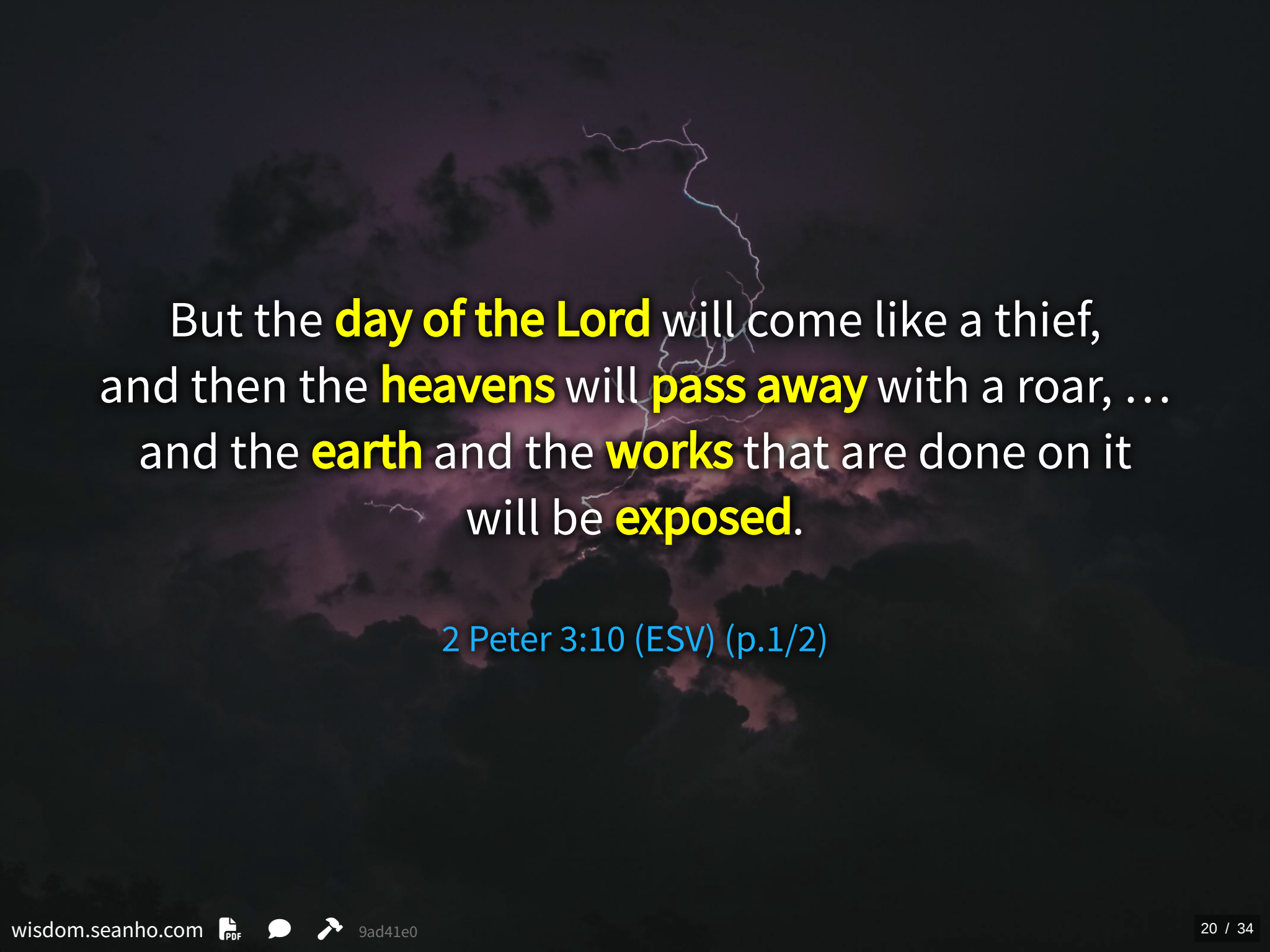


What does man **gain** by all the **toil**
at which he toils under the **sun**?

A generation goes, and a generation comes,
but the **earth** remains forever.

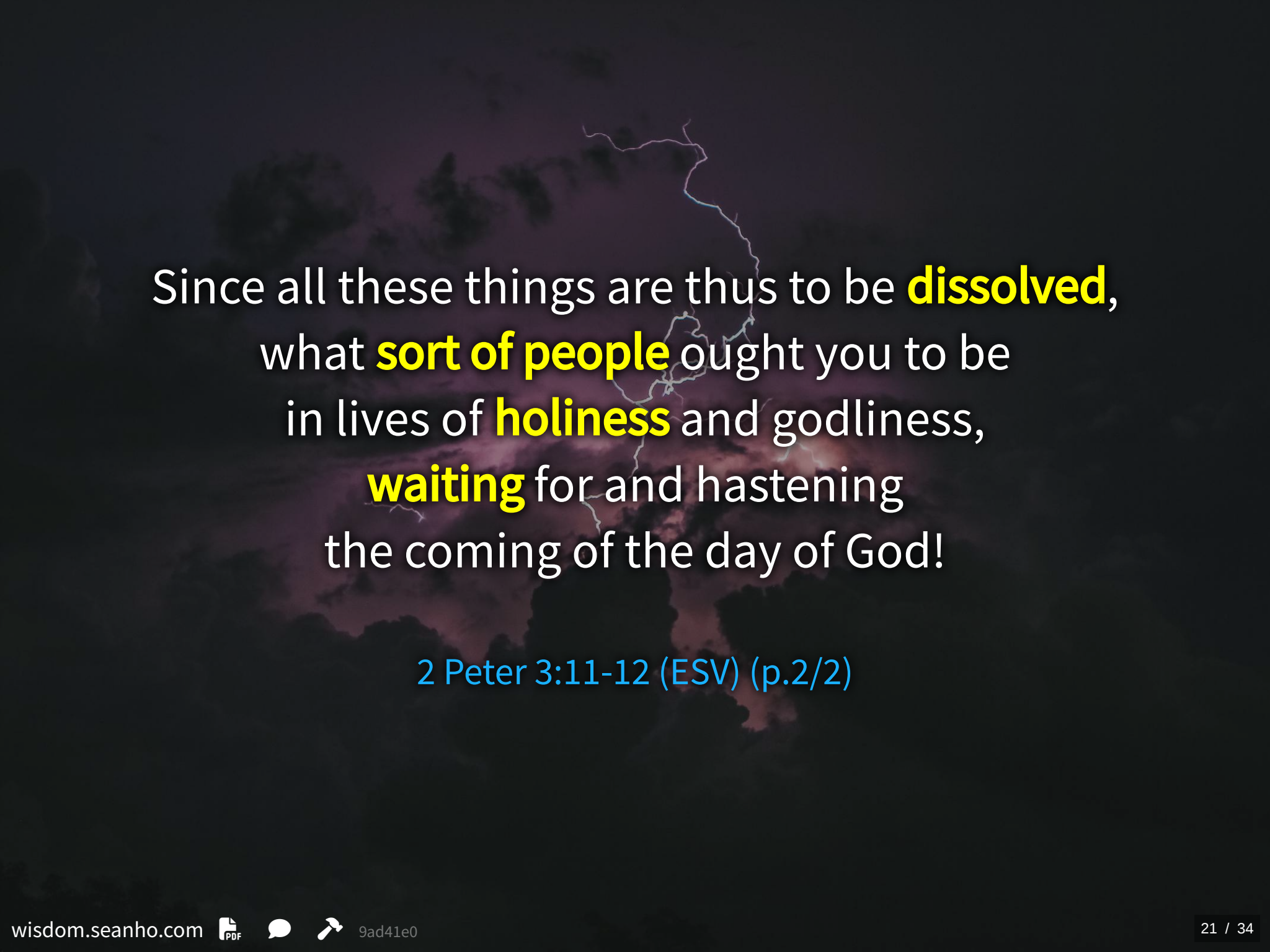
Ecclesiastes 1:3-4 (ESV)

Gulf of Mexico. NASA



But the **day of the Lord** will come like a thief,
and then the **heavens** will **pass away** with a roar, ...
and the **earth** and the **works** that are done on it
will be **exposed**.

2 Peter 3:10 (ESV) (p.1/2)

A dramatic, dark sky with swirling clouds and a bright, jagged lightning bolt striking down from the upper right. The overall tone is somber and powerful, serving as a background for the text.

Since all these things are thus to be **dissolved**,
what **sort of people** ought you to be
in lives of **holiness** and godliness,
waiting for and hastening
the coming of the day of God!

2 Peter 3:11-12 (ESV) (p.2/2)

What **projects** of mine
have been **chasing** after
the wind?

Wisdom (Ecc1)

1. Searching (v12-13a)
2. Achievements (v13b-15)
3. **Wisdom** (v16-18)

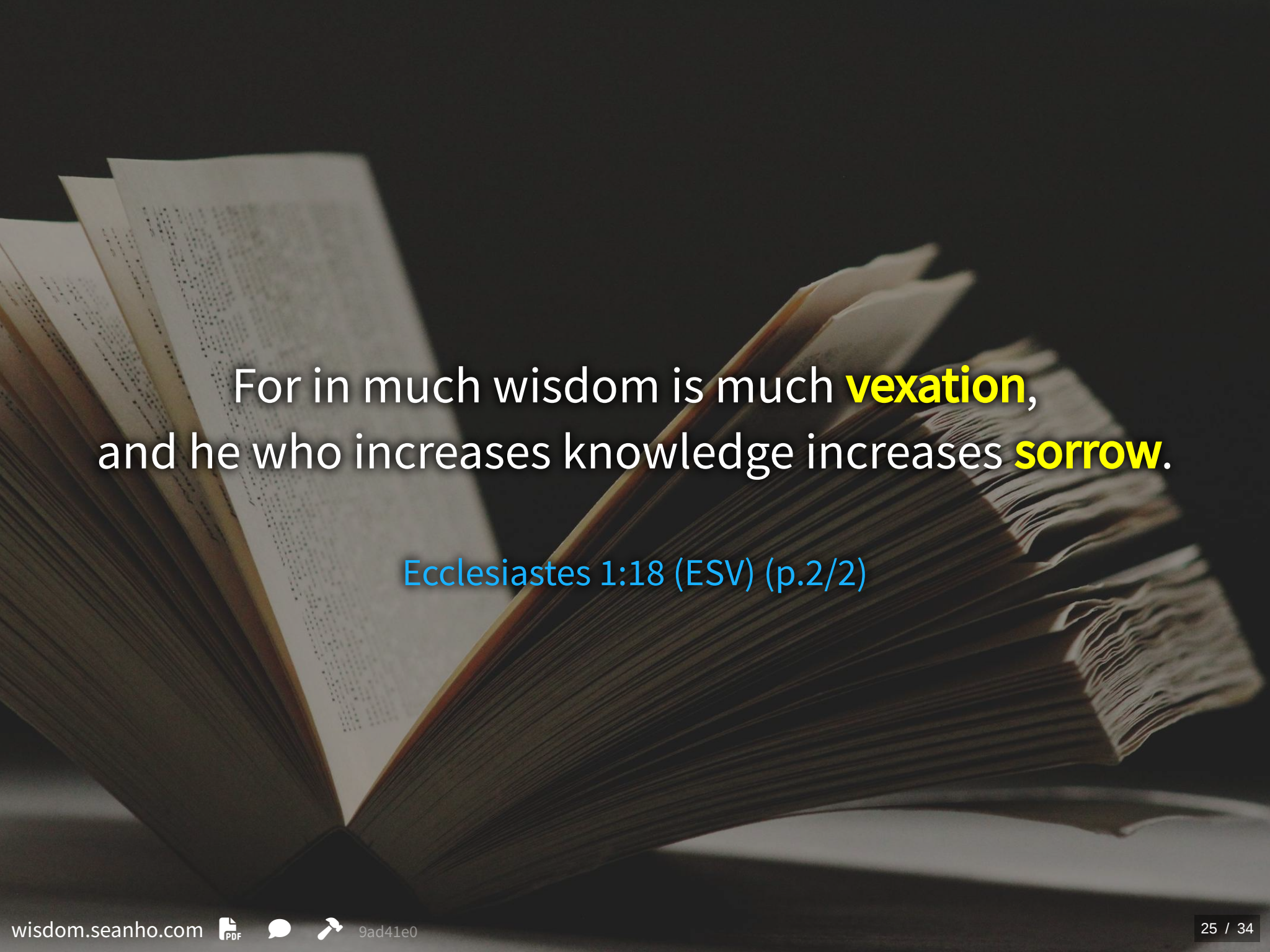


And I applied my **heart** to know **wisdom**
and to know **madness** and **folly**.

I perceived that this also is but a **striving after wind**.

Ecclesiastes 1:17 (ESV) (p.1/2)

Brandi Redd



For in much wisdom is much **vexation**,
and he who increases knowledge increases **sorrow**.

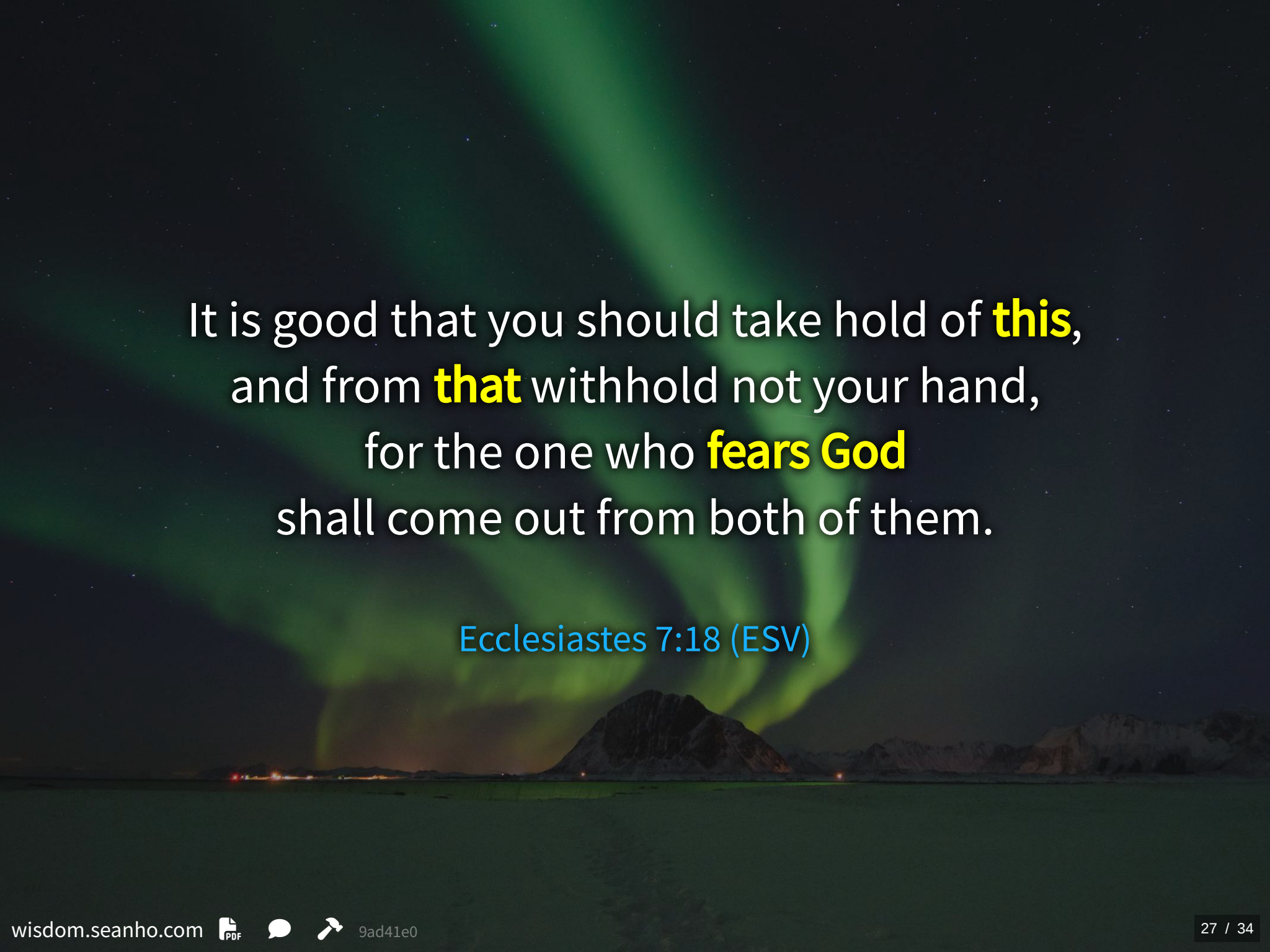
Ecclesiastes 1:18 (ESV) (p.2/2)

A photograph of a night landscape featuring a vibrant green aurora borealis (northern lights) dancing across a dark sky. Below the lights, a calm body of water reflects the scene, and a range of dark, snow-capped mountains is visible on the horizon under a starry sky.

Be not overly **righteous**,
and do not make yourself too **wise**.
Why should you **destroy** yourself?

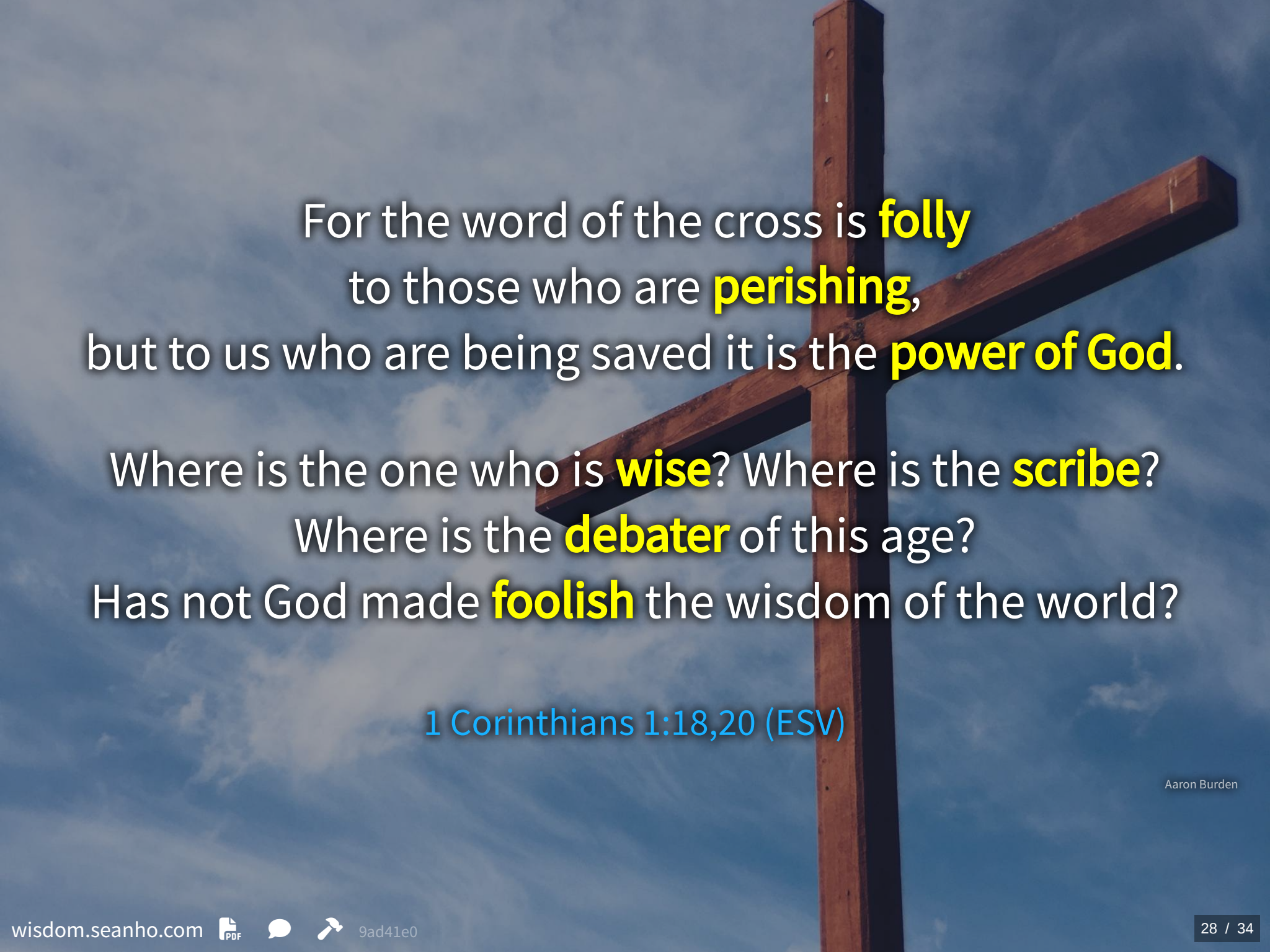
Be not overly **wicked**, neither be a **fool**.
Why should you **die** before your time?

Ecclesiastes 7:16-17 (ESV)

A photograph of the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) in a dark night sky, with green and yellow light streaks. Below the sky, a dark, snow-covered mountain range is visible under a dark sky. The foreground is a dark, flat, snow-covered landscape.

It is good that you should take hold of **this**,
and from **that** withhold not your hand,
for the one who **fears God**
shall come out from both of them.

Ecclesiastes 7:18 (ESV)




For the word of the cross is **folly**
to those who are **perishing**,
but to us who are being saved it is the **power of God**.

Where is the one who is **wise**? Where is the **scribe**?
Where is the **debater** of this age?
Has not God made **foolish** the wisdom of the world?

1 Corinthians 1:18,20 (ESV)


Aaron Burden



For the **foolishness** of God is **wiser** than men,
and the **weakness** of God is **stronger** than men.

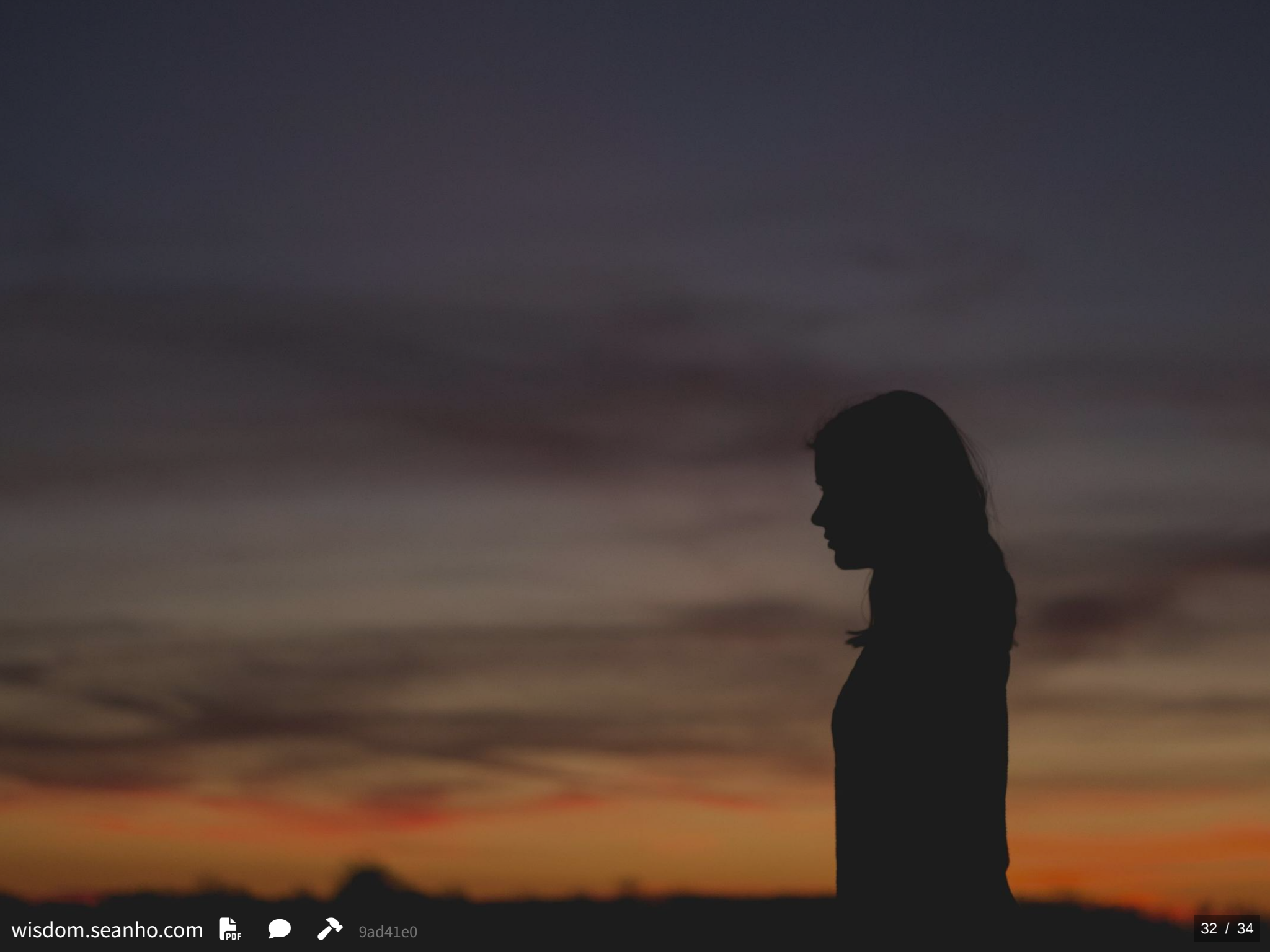
1 Corinthians 1:25 (ESV)

**What does it mean
to be wise?**

A large wooden cross is positioned diagonally across the frame, set against a bright blue sky filled with wispy white clouds. The cross is made of two thick, weathered wooden beams. The text of the verse is overlaid on the cross and the sky.

For the **foolishness** of God is **wiser** than men,
and the **weakness** of God is **stronger** than men.

1 Corinthians 1:25 (ESV)



Devos: Ecc 3 (Sun), 11 (Mon)

- Find a **quiet**, undistracted spot
- **Settle** your heart, **pray** to be receptive to God's Word
- **Read** straight through: reactions, questions
- Re-read, now **deeper**: context, xrefs, word study
 - Outline? **Why** is this passage in the Bible?
 - What does God want to **communicate**?
- Re-read, now **slower**: pause, silence, listen
 - What is God saying to **you**?
 - **Pray** your response to God
- Re-read straight through to **retain** it

1. Have I **considered** if I'm on the
right **path**? (Jam1:5)

2. What **projects** of mine have been
chasing after the wind? (2Pet3:10-12)

3. What does it mean to be **wise**?
(1Cor1:18-25)