

A close-up photograph of a hummingbird hovering over a pink flower. The bird is positioned in the upper right quadrant, facing left towards the flower. Its wings are blurred, suggesting motion. The flower is in the lower center, with several other pink flowers visible in the foreground and background, all slightly out of focus. The background is a dark, blurred green, likely foliage.

Joy, Joy, Joy!

Joy is a Choice!

Jesus lived a Joy-filled life

Hebrews 1:9 (NLT2)

“You love justice and hate evil. Therefore, O God, your God has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else.”



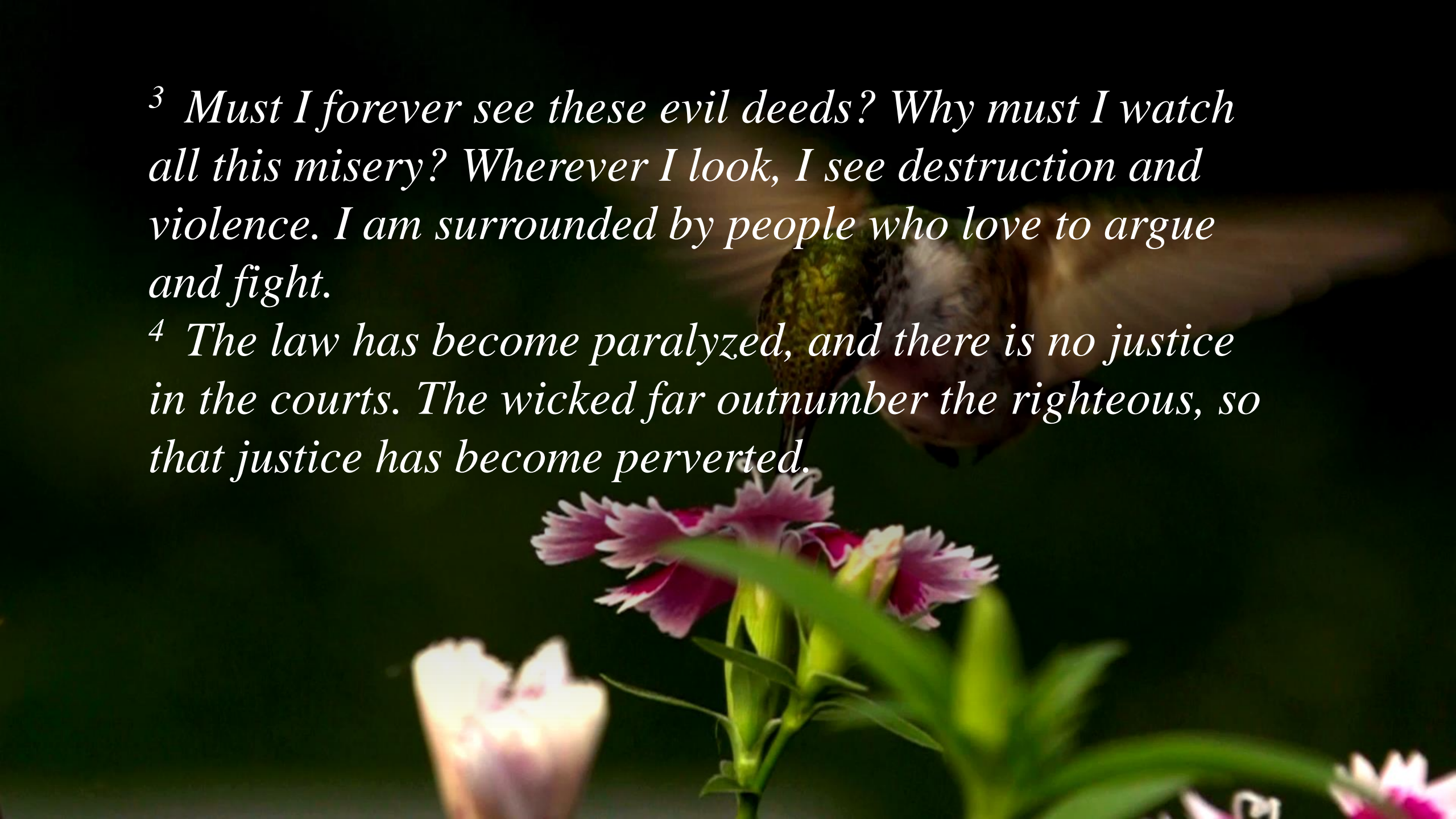
Habakkuk's Complaint

Habakkuk 1:1-4 (NLT2)

¹ This is the message that the prophet Habakkuk received in a vision.

² How long, O LORD, must I call for help? But you do not listen! "Violence is everywhere!" I cry, but you do not come to save.



A hummingbird with iridescent green and blue feathers is hovering over a cluster of pink and white flowers. The background is dark and out of focus, highlighting the bird and the flowers.

³ Must I forever see these evil deeds? Why must I watch all this misery? Wherever I look, I see destruction and violence. I am surrounded by people who love to argue and fight.

⁴ The law has become paralyzed, and there is no justice in the courts. The wicked far outnumber the righteous, so that justice has become perverted.

1. LOOK UP!



God's Reply

Habakkuk 1:5-11 (NLT2)

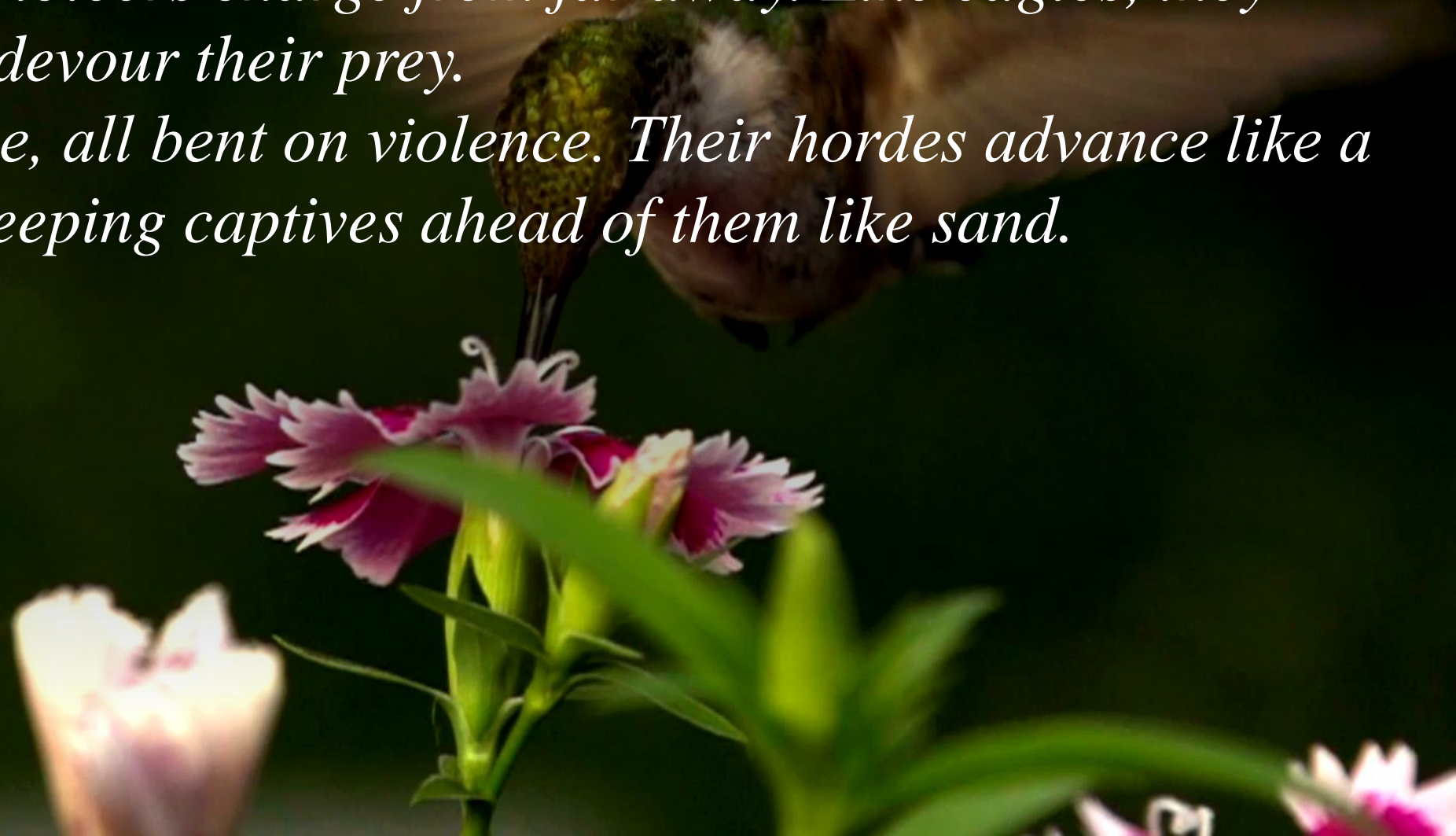
The LORD replied, "Look around at the nations; look and be amazed! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it.

⁶ I am raising up the Babylonians, a cruel and violent people. They will march across the world and conquer other lands.

They are notorious for their cruelty and do whatever they like.

Their horses are swifter than cheetahs and fiercer than wolves at dusk. Their charioteers charge from far away. Like eagles, they swoop down to devour their prey.

“On they come, all bent on violence. Their hordes advance like a desert wind, sweeping captives ahead of them like sand.



*They scoff at kings and princes and scorn all their fortresses.
They simply pile ramps of earth against their walls and capture
them!*

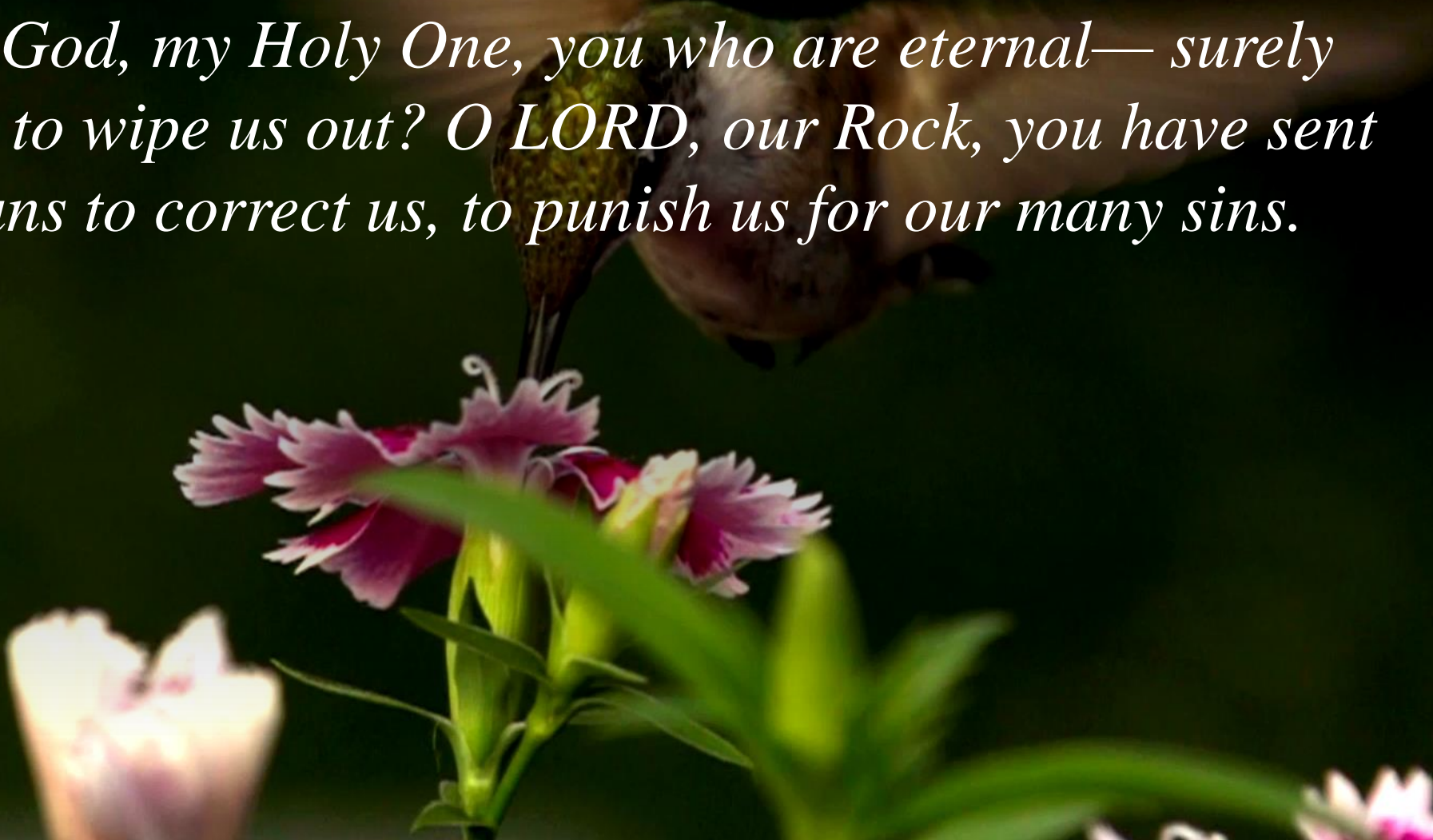
*“ They sweep past like the wind and are gone. But they are
deeply guilty, for their own strength is their god.”*

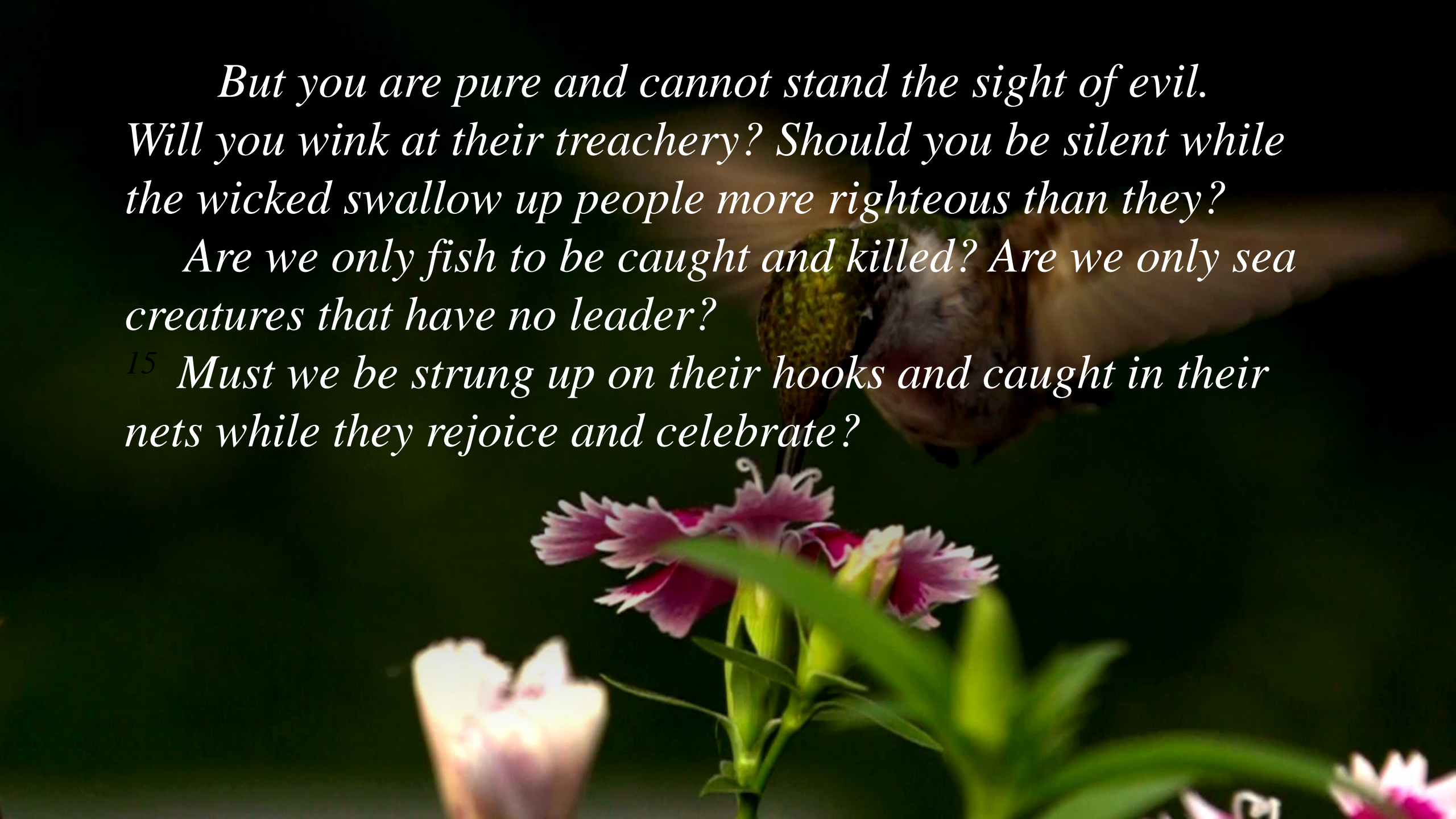


Habakkuk's Second Complaint

Habakkuk 1:12-17 (NLT2)

O LORD my God, my Holy One, you who are eternal— surely you do not plan to wipe us out? O LORD, our Rock, you have sent these Babylonians to correct us, to punish us for our many sins.

A close-up photograph of a hummingbird hovering over a cluster of pink flowers. The bird is in sharp focus, with its wings blurred from motion. The background is dark and out of focus, highlighting the bird and the flowers.

A hummingbird with iridescent green and blue feathers is hovering over a cluster of pink and white flowers. The background is dark and out of focus, highlighting the bird and the flowers.

*But you are pure and cannot stand the sight of evil.
Will you wink at their treachery? Should you be silent while
the wicked swallow up people more righteous than they?*

*Are we only fish to be caught and killed? Are we only sea
creatures that have no leader?*

*¹⁵ Must we be strung up on their hooks and caught in their
nets while they rejoice and celebrate?*

Then they will worship their nets and burn incense in front of them. “These nets are the gods who have made us rich!” they will claim.

Will you let them get away with this forever? Will they succeed forever in their heartless conquests?



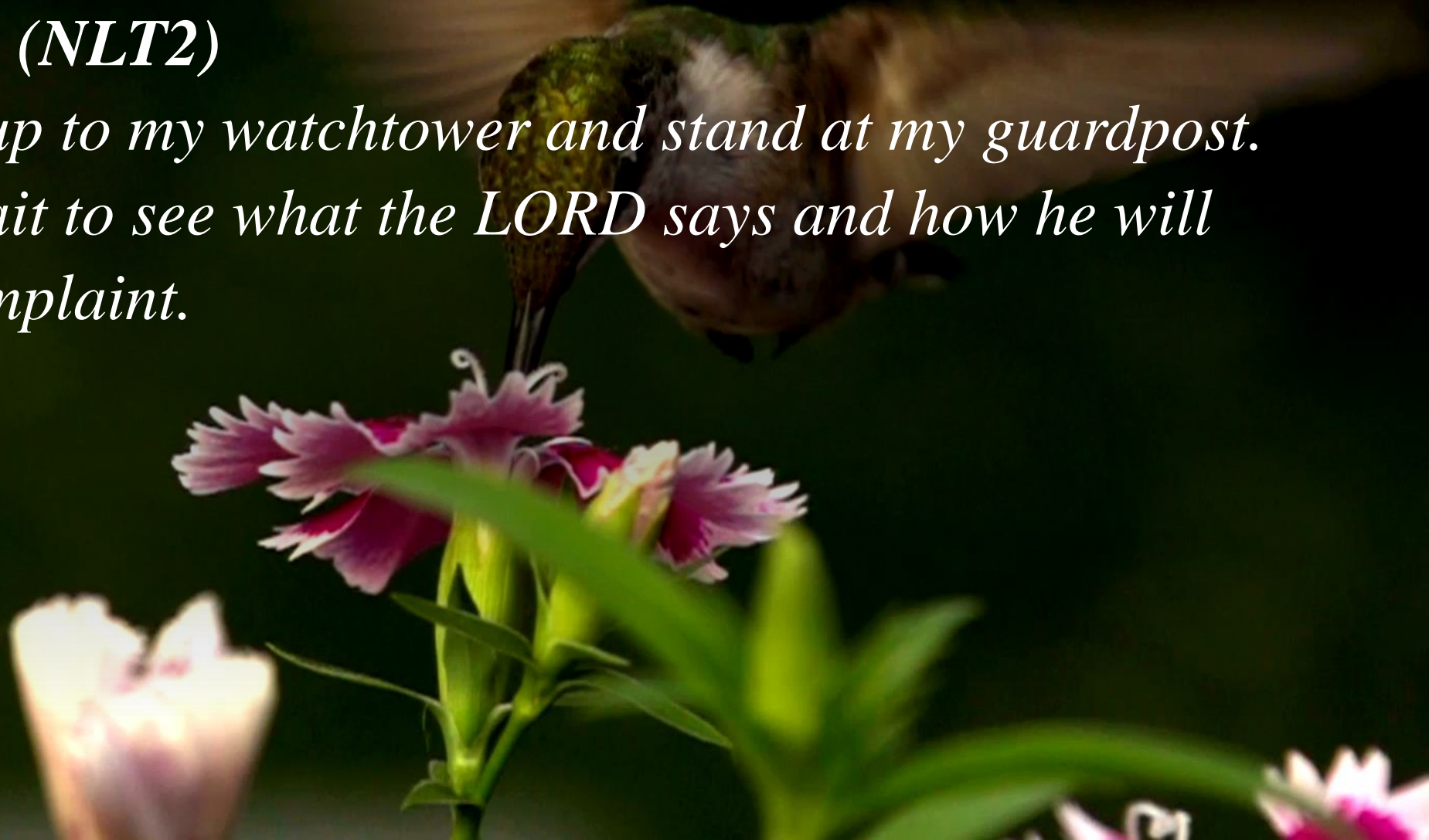
2. FESS UP!



Habakkuk waits for an answer.

Habakkuk 2:1 (NLT2)

*I will climb up to my watchtower and stand at my guardpost.
There I will wait to see what the LORD says and how he will
answer my complaint.*



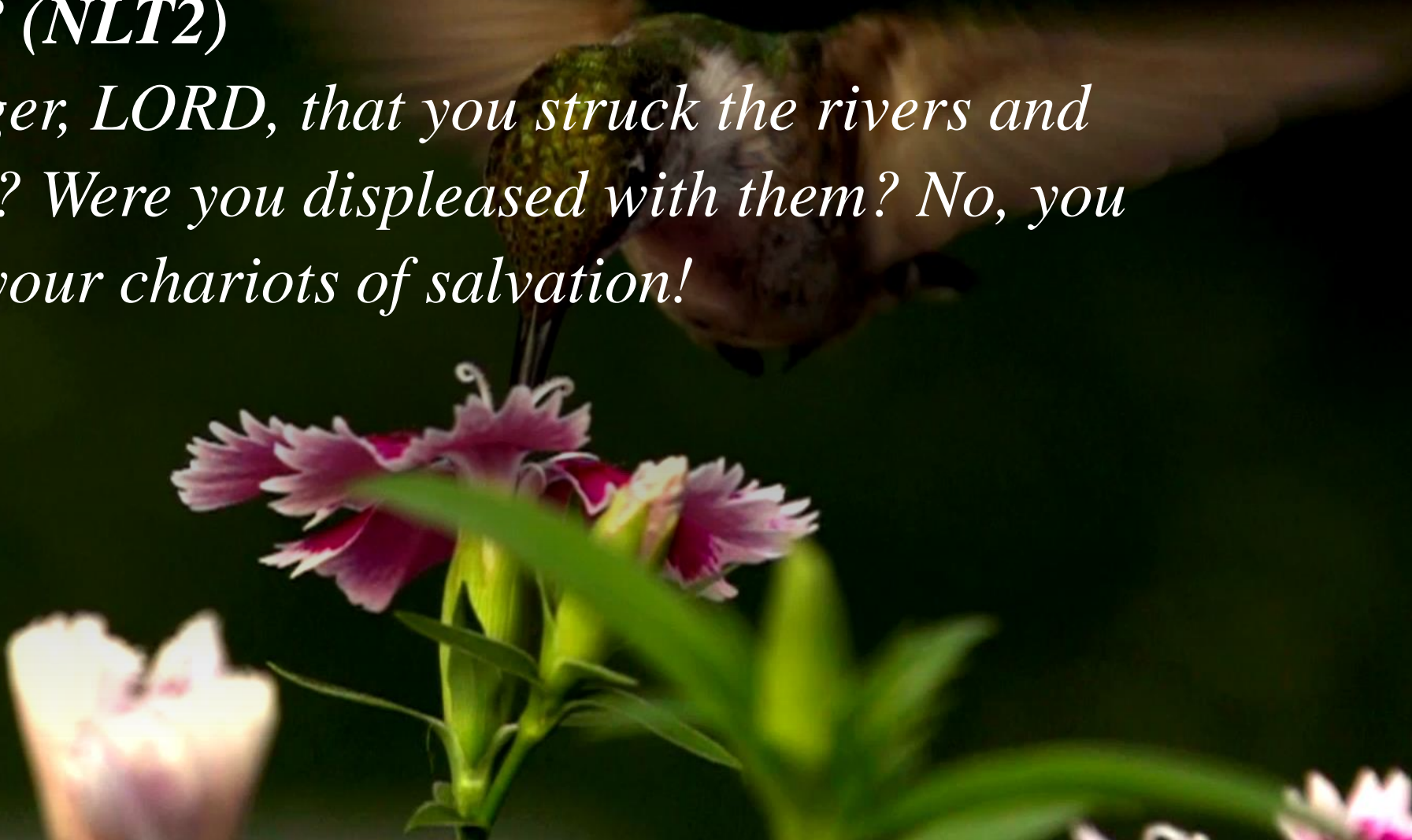
3. LISTEN UP!



God Reveals His Long Range Plan.

Habakkuk 3:8 (NLT2)

Was it in anger, LORD, that you struck the rivers and parted the sea? Were you displeased with them? No, you were sending your chariots of salvation!

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Habakkuk 3:12-13 (NLT2)

You marched across the land in anger and trampled the nations in your fury.

¹³ You went out to rescue your chosen people, to save your anointed ones. You crushed the heads of the wicked and stripped their bones from head to toe.



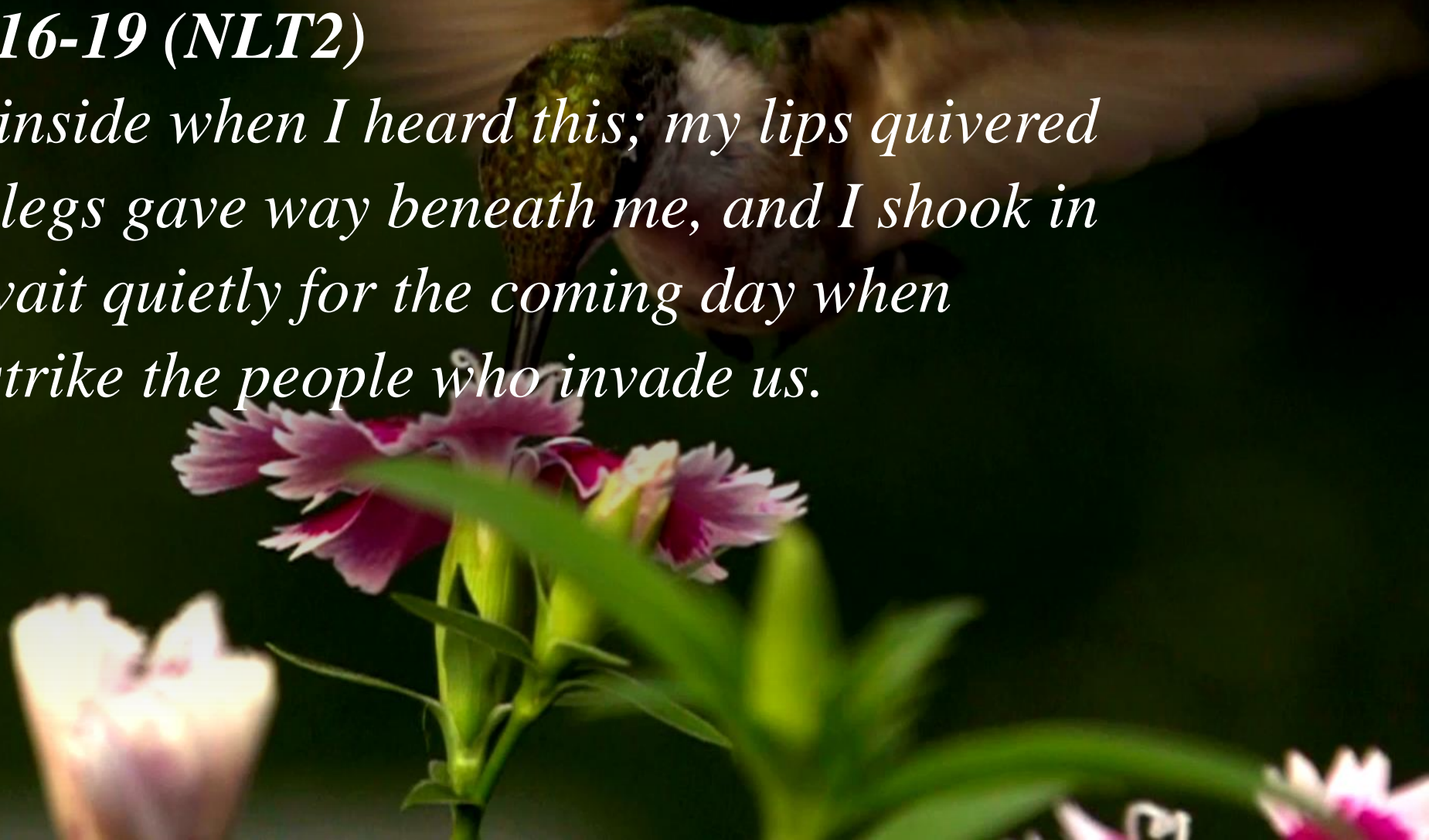
God's Plan is
Redemption - Always!




Habakkuk's Response

Habakkuk 3:16-19 (NLT2)

I trembled inside when I heard this; my lips quivered with fear. My legs gave way beneath me, and I shook in terror. I will wait quietly for the coming day when disaster will strike the people who invade us.



A close-up photograph of a hummingbird with iridescent green and blue feathers feeding from a vibrant pink flower. The background is dark and out of focus, highlighting the bird and the flower. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty,

¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!

¹⁹ The Sovereign LORD is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights.

4. LIFT UP!

