

# The Throne of Grace

## Hebrews 4 Verse by Verse

**Introduction**

**Be  
Diligent  
4:1-11**

**Be  
Vulnerable  
4:12-13**

**Come  
Boldly  
4:14-16**

**Conclusions**



# Introduction

## Background of Hebrews

- Hebrews is a sermon, written by someone well-trained in the Scriptures and familiar with a rabbinical style of teaching.
- It is written to Christians with a Jewish background who were under pressure for their faith.
- Their participation in the church was riskier than their original involvement in traditional Jewish Religion.
- Therefore, there was a strong temptation to fall back into traditional Judaism, rather than continuing in Christ.

Previously in  
Hebrews

What's in  
Hebrews 4?

Our Key  
Verses

# Previously in Hebrews

- In **Chapter 3** the author compared Jesus to **Moses**, showing that Jesus is superior.
- He is better just as son is superior to a servant in the same house.
- The author also challenged us to do better than the children of Israel when they came out of Egypt.
- Many of those freed from Egypt did not reach the Promised Land.
- We face a similar choice whether to persevere.

# Introduction

## Background of Hebrews

- Hebrews is a sermon, written by someone well-trained in the Scriptures and familiar with a rabbinical style of teaching.
- It is written to Christians with a Jewish background who were under pressure for their faith.
- Their participation in the church was riskier than their original involvement in traditional Jewish Religion.
- Therefore, there was a strong temptation to fall back into traditional Judaism, rather than continuing in Christ.

Previously in  
Hebrews

What's in  
Hebrews 4?

Our Key  
Verses

# What's in Hebrews 4?

- The Chapter begins with a continuation of two previous themes.
  1. That we need to **enter the rest** God has promised, unlike the Israelites who failed to enter the land.
  2. That the best time to enter that rest is "**Today.**"
- The author then reminds us of the importance and power of the Word of God.
- The chapter ends with a mention of Jesus as our high priest - a theme which will continue into upcoming chapters.

# Introduction

## Background of Hebrews

- Hebrews is a sermon, written by someone well-trained in the Scriptures and familiar with a rabbinical style of teaching.
- It is written to Christians with a Jewish background who were under pressure for their faith.
- Their participation in the church was riskier than their original involvement in traditional Jewish Religion.
- Therefore, there was a strong temptation to fall back into traditional Judaism, rather than continuing in Christ.

Previously in  
Hebrews

What's in  
Hebrews 4?

Our Key  
Verses

## Key Verses: Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

# Introduction

## Background of Hebrews

- Hebrews is a sermon, written by someone well-trained in the Scriptures and familiar with a rabbinical style of teaching.
- It is written to Christians with a Jewish background who were under pressure for their faith.
- Their participation in the church was riskier than their original involvement in traditional Jewish Religion.
- Therefore, there was a strong temptation to fall back into traditional Judaism, rather than continuing in Christ.

Previously in  
Hebrews

What's in  
Hebrews 4?

Our Key  
Verses



# The Throne of Grace

## Hebrews 4 Verse by Verse

**Introduction**

**Be  
Diligent  
4:1-11**

**Be  
Vulnerable  
4:12-13**

**Come  
Boldly  
4:14-16**

**Conclusions**





## Be Diligent 4:1-11

- **4:1** Let's begin with **3:16** to pick up the flow of the rabbi's point.
- As we have seen earlier in this letter, the author wants his audience to do better than that early generation of Israelites.
- Their lack of faith kept them from entering the Promised Land - and led to rebellion.
- Read **Numbers 13:25 - 14:10**.

Hebrews  
3:16-19

Old  
Testament  
References

Being  
Diligent

## Hebrews 3:16-19

16 For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses?  
17 And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? 19 So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.



## Be Diligent 4:1-11

- **4:1** Let's begin with **3:16** to pick up the flow of the rabbi's point.
- As we have seen earlier in this letter, the author wants his audience to do better than that early generation of Israelites.
- Their lack of faith kept them from entering the Promised Land - and led to rebellion.
- Read **Numbers 13:25 - 14:10**.

Hebrews  
3:16-19

Old  
Testament  
References

Being  
Diligent

# Old Testament References

The rabbi now connects what He is saying to the Hebrew Scriptures or our Old Testament.

**4:3** See Psalm **95:11**

**4:4** See Genesis **2:2**

**4:5** See Psalm **95:11** (again)

**4:7** See Psalm **95:7-8**

**4:9** The word used here is unique (*sabbatismos*) and is correctly translated as a "Sabbath rest."



## Be Diligent 4:1-11

- **4:1** Let's begin with **3:16** to pick up the flow of the rabbi's point.
- As we have seen earlier in this letter, the author wants his audience to do better than that early generation of Israelites.
- Their lack of faith kept them from entering the Promised Land - and led to rebellion.
- Read **Numbers 13:25 - 14:10**.

Hebrews  
3:16-19

Old  
Testament  
References

Being  
Diligent

# Being Diligent

- **4:11** To **be diligent**, (ESV **strive**) means to do your best, to put forth earnest effort, to be eager and alert.
- This almost sounds contradictory, "to work hard to make sure that you rest."
- But the rabbi is aware of something that we sometimes ignore - **our tendency toward self-righteousness.**
- **Diligence** is required to abandon this natural inclination toward personal merit and receive the righteousness of Christ.



## Be Diligent 4:1-11

- **4:1** Let's begin with **3:16** to pick up the flow of the rabbi's point.
- As we have seen earlier in this letter, the author wants his audience to do better than that early generation of Israelites.
- Their lack of faith kept them from entering the Promised Land - and led to rebellion.
- Read **Numbers 13:25 - 14:10**.

Hebrews  
3:16-19

Old  
Testament  
References

Being  
Diligent



# The Throne of Grace

## Hebrews 4 Verse by Verse

**Introduction**

**Be  
Diligent  
4:1-11**

**Be  
Vulnerable  
4:12-13**

**Come  
Boldly  
4:14-16**

**Conclusions**





## Be Vulnerable 4:12-13

- God's Word has the power to expose our hearts.
- This is why we need continuous exposure to God's Word.
- The **living and active** nature of it may be experienced whenever that Word is read, studied, taught or its truth is preached.
- This is especially true when met by faith in the hearer. (Remember the Israelites!)

God's Word  
as a Sword

King Josiah

# God's Word as a Sword

**Ephesians 6:17** and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

**Revelation 1:16** In his right hand he held seven stars, **from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword**, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

**Revelation 2:12** And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: "**The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.**"

**Revelation 2:16** Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with **the sword of my mouth.**

**Revelation 19:11, 15** 11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war...  
15 **From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations**, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

**Revelation 19:19-21** 19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. 20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet ...These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 And **the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse**, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

# U S W O R D as a S W O R D

**Ephesians 6:17** and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

**Revelation 1:16** In his right hand he held seven stars, **from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword** and his face was like the sun shining in

**Revelation 1:16** In his right hand he held seven stars, **from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword**, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

**Revelation 2:12** And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: "**The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.**"

**Revelation 2:16** Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with **the sword of my mouth**.

**Revelation 19:11, 15** 11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war....

**15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations,** and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

**Revelation 19:19-21** 19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. 20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet ...These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 And **the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse**, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.



## Be Vulnerable 4:12-13

- God's Word has the power to expose our hearts.
- This is why we need continuous exposure to God's Word.
- The **living and active** nature of it may be experienced whenever that Word is read, studied, taught or its truth is preached.
- This is especially true when met by faith in the hearer. (Remember the Israelites!)

God's Word  
as a Sword

King Josiah



# King Josiah

- Early in his reign, when **Josiah** was still young, he decided to renovate the temple.
- Both his father and grandfather had abandoned the worship of God and let the temple fall into disrepair.
- When the high priest went there to consult with the workmen, he (re)discovered the **Book of the Law**.
- Let's read **2 Kings 22:8-13**.
- This passage shows us what the Bible can do when we give it access to our hearts.



## Be Vulnerable 4:12-13

- God's Word has the power to expose our hearts.
- This is why we need continuous exposure to God's Word.
- The **living and active** nature of it may be experienced whenever that Word is read, studied, taught or its truth is preached.
- This is especially true when met by faith in the hearer. (Remember the Israelites!)

God's Word  
as a Sword

King Josiah

# The Throne of Grace

## Hebrews 4 Verse by Verse

**Introduction**

**Be  
Diligent  
4:1-11**

**Be  
Vulnerable  
4:12-13**

**Come  
Boldly  
4:14-16**

**Conclusions**





## Come Boldly 4:14-16

- These verses may be the key, not only to this chapter, but to this entire rabbinical sermon to the **Hebrews**.
- The concepts mentioned here will be broken down and discussed all the way through **Chapter 10**.
- **4:14** In ancient Judaism, the high priest was the only one who had access to the **Holy of Holies** in the temple, symbolizing immediate access to God.
- Jesus, the Son of God, has taken our cause directly to heaven, into the very presence of God the Father.

Jesus and  
Temptation

The Throne  
of Grace

The Rabbi's  
Conclusion

# Jesus and Temptation

1 Corinthians  
10:13

- We might be *tempted* to think that Jesus' temptation was somehow less than ours.
- He is God, after all, right?
- But he resisted temptation in the wilderness and in the Garden of Gethsemane as a man.
- His victory came through:
  1. Recalling the Scriptures
  2. Relying on the power of the Holy Spirit
  3. Maintaining a prayerful relationship with God the Father.

# 1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

- Another *temptation* for us is to believe that our trials are somehow much greater than those that others face.
- Not so, according to this verse.

# Jesus and Temptation

1 Corinthians  
10:13

- We might be *tempted* to think that Jesus' temptation was somehow less than ours.
- He is God, after all, right?
- But he resisted temptation in the wilderness and in the Garden of Gethsemane as a man.
- His victory came through:
  1. Recalling the Scriptures
  2. Relying on the power of the Holy Spirit
  3. Maintaining a prayerful relationship with God the Father.



## Come Boldly 4:14-16

- These verses may be the key, not only to this chapter, but to this entire rabbinical sermon to the **Hebrews**.
- The concepts mentioned here will be broken down and discussed all the way through **Chapter 10**.
- **4:14** In ancient Judaism, the high priest was the only one who had access to the **Holy of Holies** in the temple, symbolizing immediate access to God.
- Jesus, the Son of God, has taken our cause directly to heaven, into the very presence of God the Father.

Jesus and  
Temptation

The Throne  
of Grace

The Rabbi's  
Conclusion



# The Throne of Grace

- When we think of the throne of God, we might first think of power, authority or even judgment.
- These are all valid pictures of God on his throne.
- This one place in the Bible, however, the throne is called "the throne of grace."
- God is waiting to bestow his favor upon us.
- It is favor that we do not deserve.
- He offers supernatural ability to overcome trials and strength to resist the attraction of sin.



## Come Boldly 4:14-16

- These verses may be the key, not only to this chapter, but to this entire rabbinical sermon to the **Hebrews**.
- The concepts mentioned here will be broken down and discussed all the way through **Chapter 10**.
- **4:14** In ancient Judaism, the high priest was the only one who had access to the **Holy of Holies** in the temple, symbolizing immediate access to God.
- Jesus, the Son of God, has taken our cause directly to heaven, into the very presence of God the Father.

Jesus and  
Temptation

The Throne  
of Grace

The Rabbi's  
Conclusion

# The Rabbi's Conclusion

- Jesus in his humanity experienced and resisted actual temptation in all of its essential forms.
- Jesus as our truly human High Priest presented Himself as an unblemished offering for our sins.
- Jesus, still a man, has gone into heaven before us.
- Therefore, we should follow, confidently coming before the Father in prayer to receive mercy and grace to help in our every time of need.



## Come Boldly 4:14-16

- These verses may be the key, not only to this chapter, but to this entire rabbinical sermon to the **Hebrews**.
- The concepts mentioned here will be broken down and discussed all the way through **Chapter 10**.
- **4:14** In ancient Judaism, the high priest was the only one who had access to the **Holy of Holies** in the temple, symbolizing immediate access to God.
- Jesus, the Son of God, has taken our cause directly to heaven, into the very presence of God the Father.

Jesus and  
Temptation

The Throne  
of Grace

The Rabbi's  
Conclusion

# The Throne of Grace

## Hebrews 4 Verse by Verse

**Introduction**

**Be  
Diligent  
4:1-11**

**Be  
Vulnerable  
4:12-13**

**Come  
Boldly  
4:14-16**

**Conclusions**



# Conclusions

- One again, like the early Israelites, we are faced with the challenge to obey God's Word.
- There are promises to obtain, and victories to experience.
- These, however, take faith and involve a complete lack of self-reliance or merit-based favor from God.
- We need to let God's Word to its work within us.
- And then we need to confidently approach God's throne of grace.

Key Verses

An Old Hymn

A Final Prayer

## Key Verses: Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

# Conclusions

- One again, like the early Israelites, we are faced with the challenge to obey God's Word.
- There are promises to obtain, and victories to experience.
- These, however, take faith and involve a complete lack of self-reliance or merit-based favor from God.
- We need to let God's Word to its work within us.
- And then we need to confidently approach God's throne of grace.

Key Verses

An Old Hymn

A Final Prayer



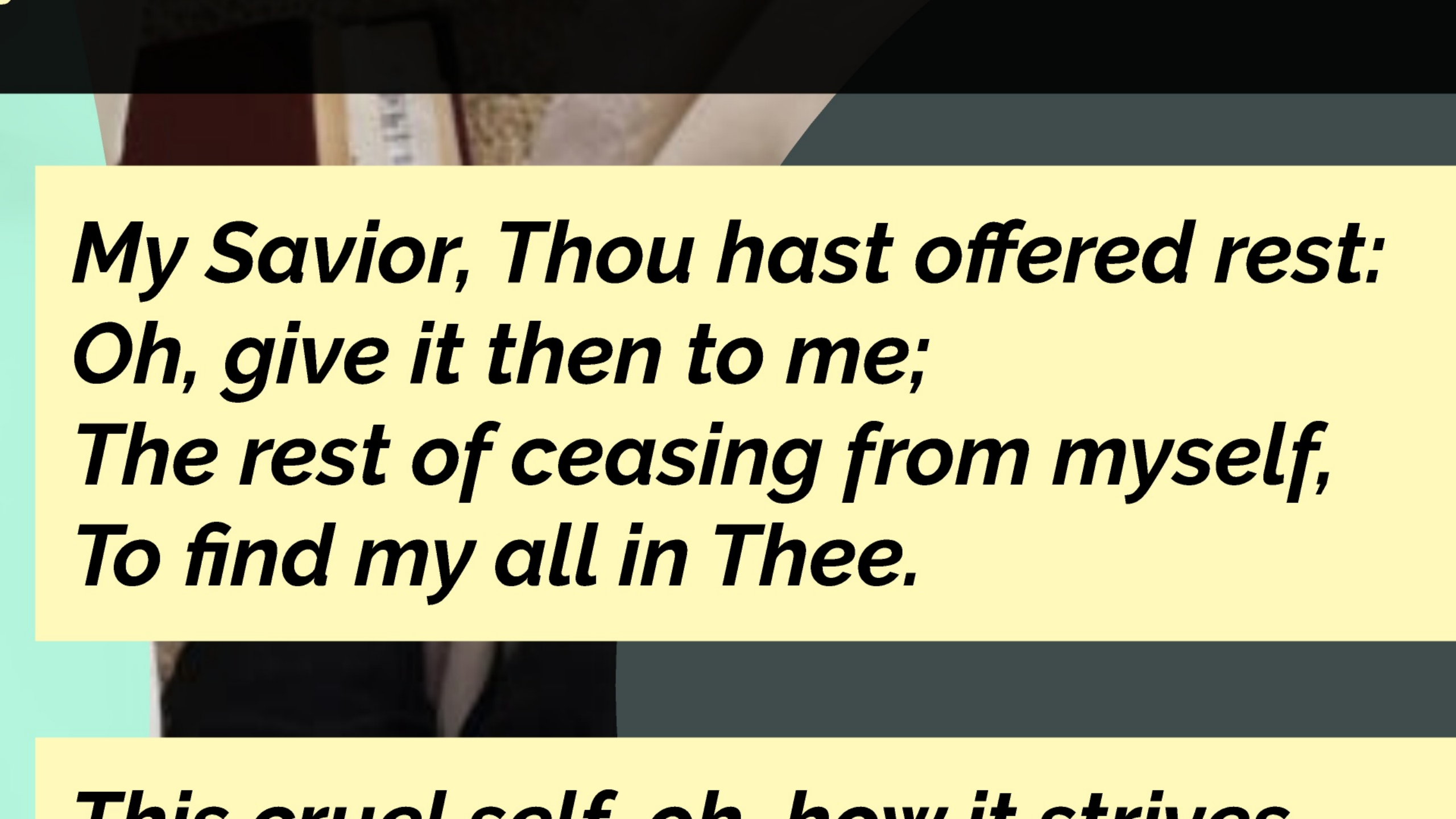
# **My Saviour Thou Hast Offered**

*My Savior, Thou hast offered rest:  
Oh, give it then to me;  
The rest of ceasing from myself,  
To find my all in Thee.*

*This cruel self, oh, how it strives  
And works within my breast,  
To come between Thee and  
my soul,  
And keep me back from rest.*

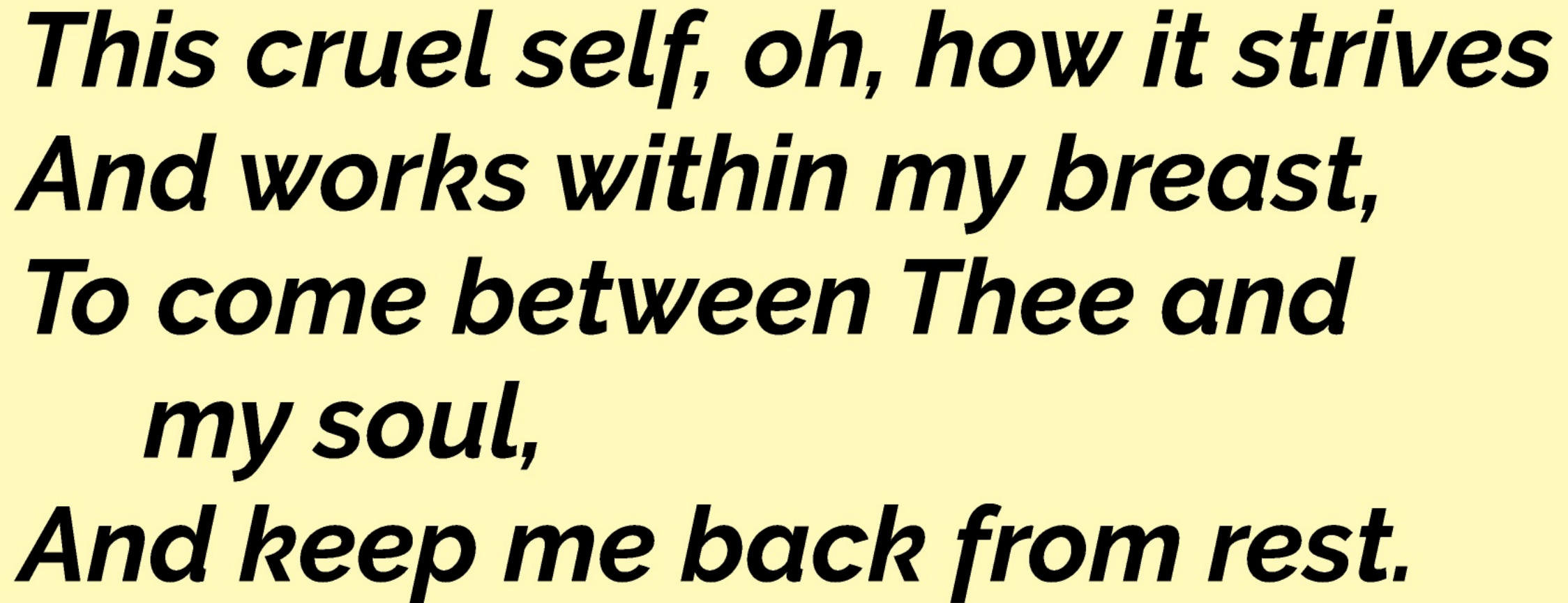
*How many subtle forms it takes  
Of seeming verity,  
As if it were not safe to rest  
And venture all on Thee.*

*O Lord, I seek a holy rest,  
A victory over sin;  
I seek that Thou alone  
shouldst reign  
O'er all without, within.*

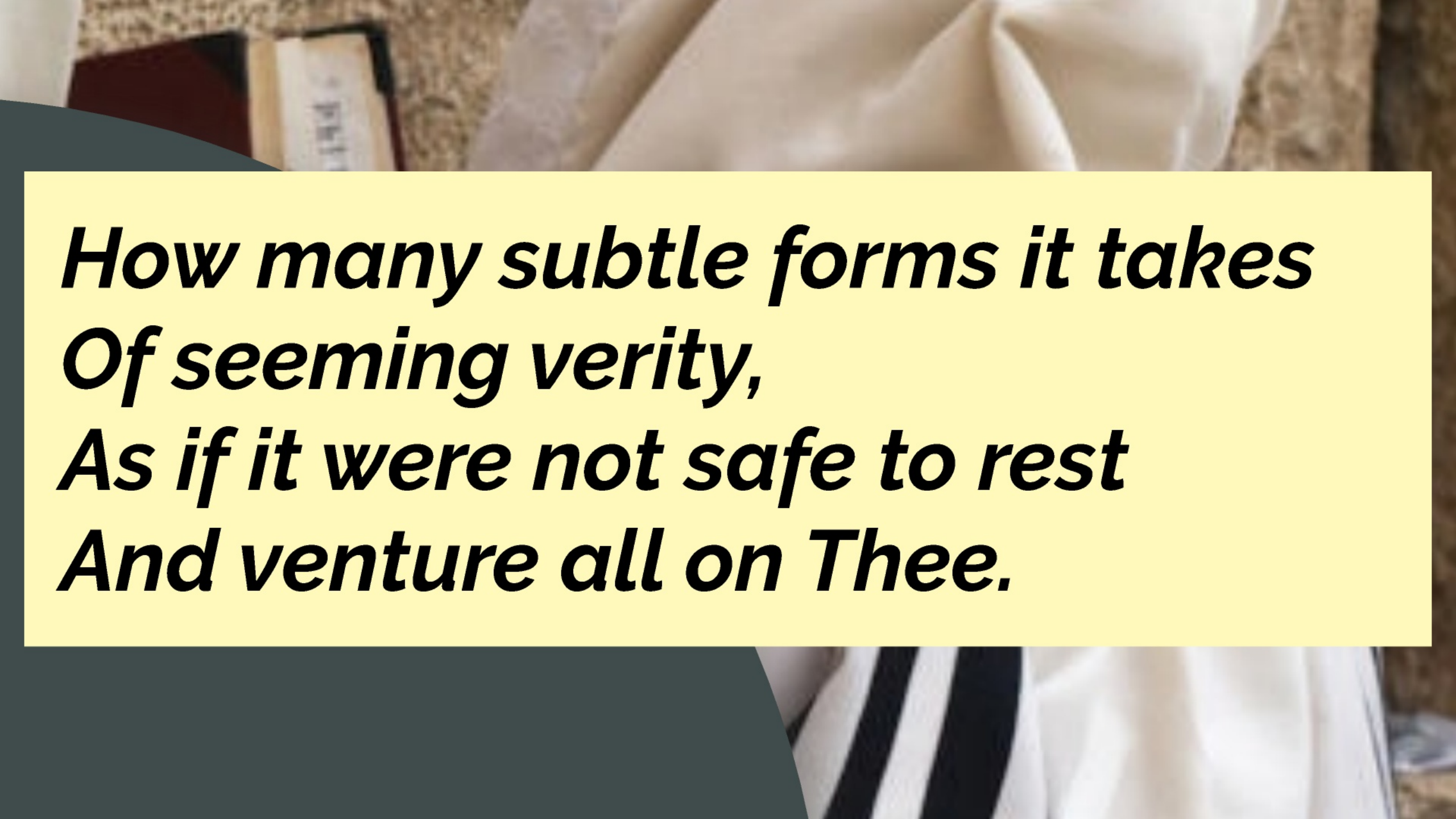


***My Savior, Thou hast offered rest:  
Oh, give it then to me;  
The rest of ceasing from myself,  
To find my all in Thee.***

***This cruel self oh how it strives***



***This cruel self, oh, how it strives  
And works within my breast,  
To come between Thee and  
my soul,  
And keep me back from rest.***



***How many subtle forms it takes  
Of seeming verity,  
As if it were not safe to rest  
And venture all on Thee.***

***O Lord, I seek a holy rest,  
A victory over sin;  
I seek that Thou alone  
shouldst reign  
O'er all without, within.***

# Conclusions

- One again, like the early Israelites, we are faced with the challenge to obey God's Word.
- There are promises to obtain, and victories to experience.
- These, however, take faith and involve a complete lack of self-reliance or merit-based favor from God.
- We need to let God's Word to its work within us.
- And then we need to confidently approach God's throne of grace.

Key Verses

An Old Hymn

A Final Prayer

# A Final Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,

- Thank you for giving us a Savior who can identify with us in our struggles and temptations.
- Thank you that he was tempted even as we are and was yet without sin.
- Father, we come confidently before you.
- We ask for forgiveness, we ask for strength and we ask for your grace.
- Please help us live more completely for you than we ever have before.
- In Christ,
- Amen.

# Conclusions

- One again, like the early Israelites, we are faced with the challenge to obey God's Word.
- There are promises to obtain, and victories to experience.
- These, however, take faith and involve a complete lack of self-reliance or merit-based favor from God.
- We need to let God's Word to its work within us.
- And then we need to confidently approach God's throne of grace.

Key Verses

An Old Hymn

A Final Prayer



# The Throne of Grace

## Hebrews 4 Verse by Verse

**Introduction**

**Be  
Diligent  
4:1-11**

**Be  
Vulnerable  
4:12-13**

**Come  
Boldly  
4:14-16**

**Conclusions**

