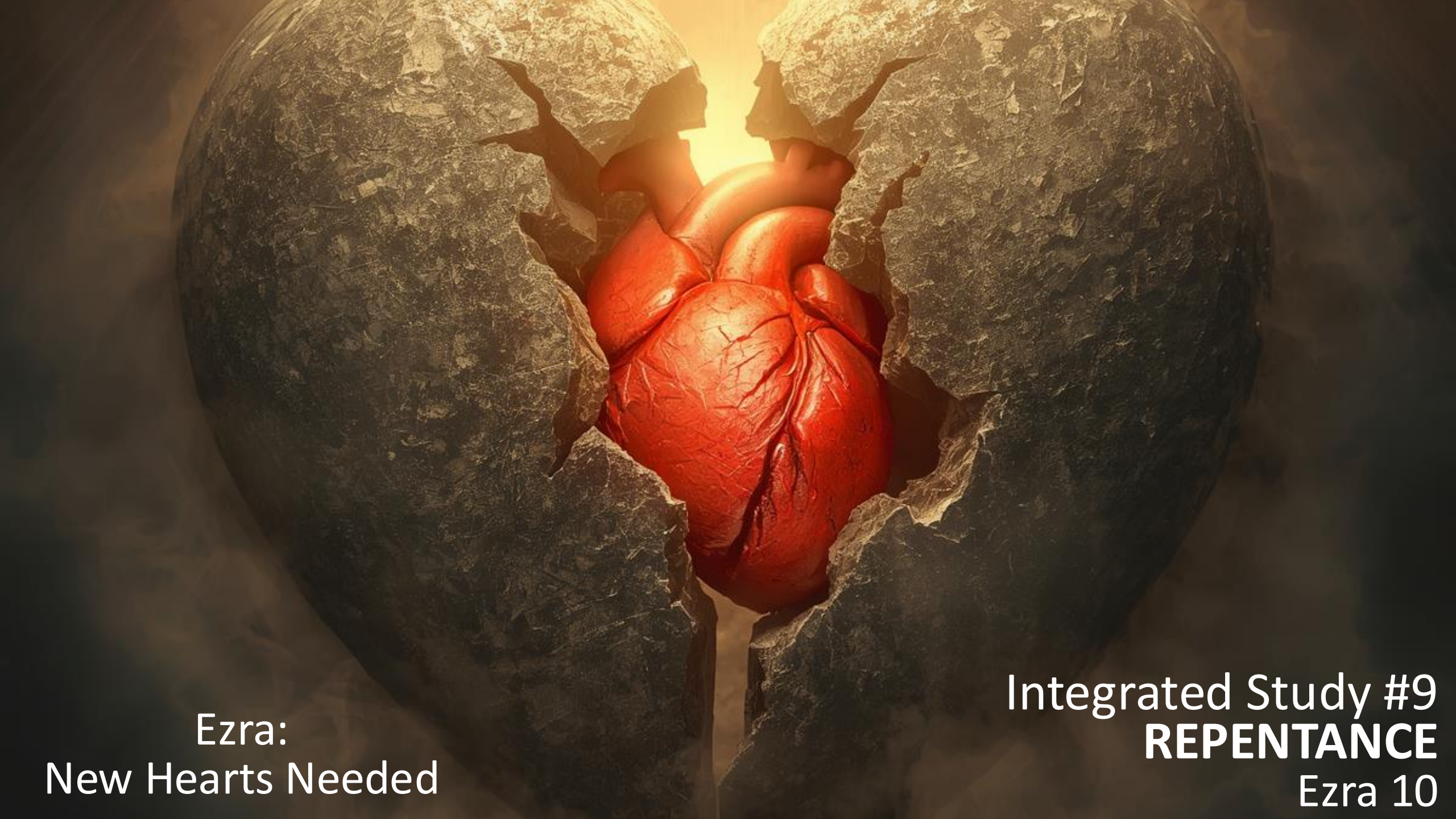




Ezra:
New Hearts Needed

Integrated Study #9
REPENTANCE
Ezra 10

New Hearts Needed !!!

in the RETURN (Ezra 1-2)

in the REBUILDING (Ezra 3)

in the ROADBLOCK (Ezra 4)

in 2nd REBUILDING (Ezra 5)

in the Temple REBUILT (Ezra 6)

in REFOCUSSING (Ezra 7)

in the 2nd RETURN (Ezra 8)

in the REMNANT (Ezra 9)

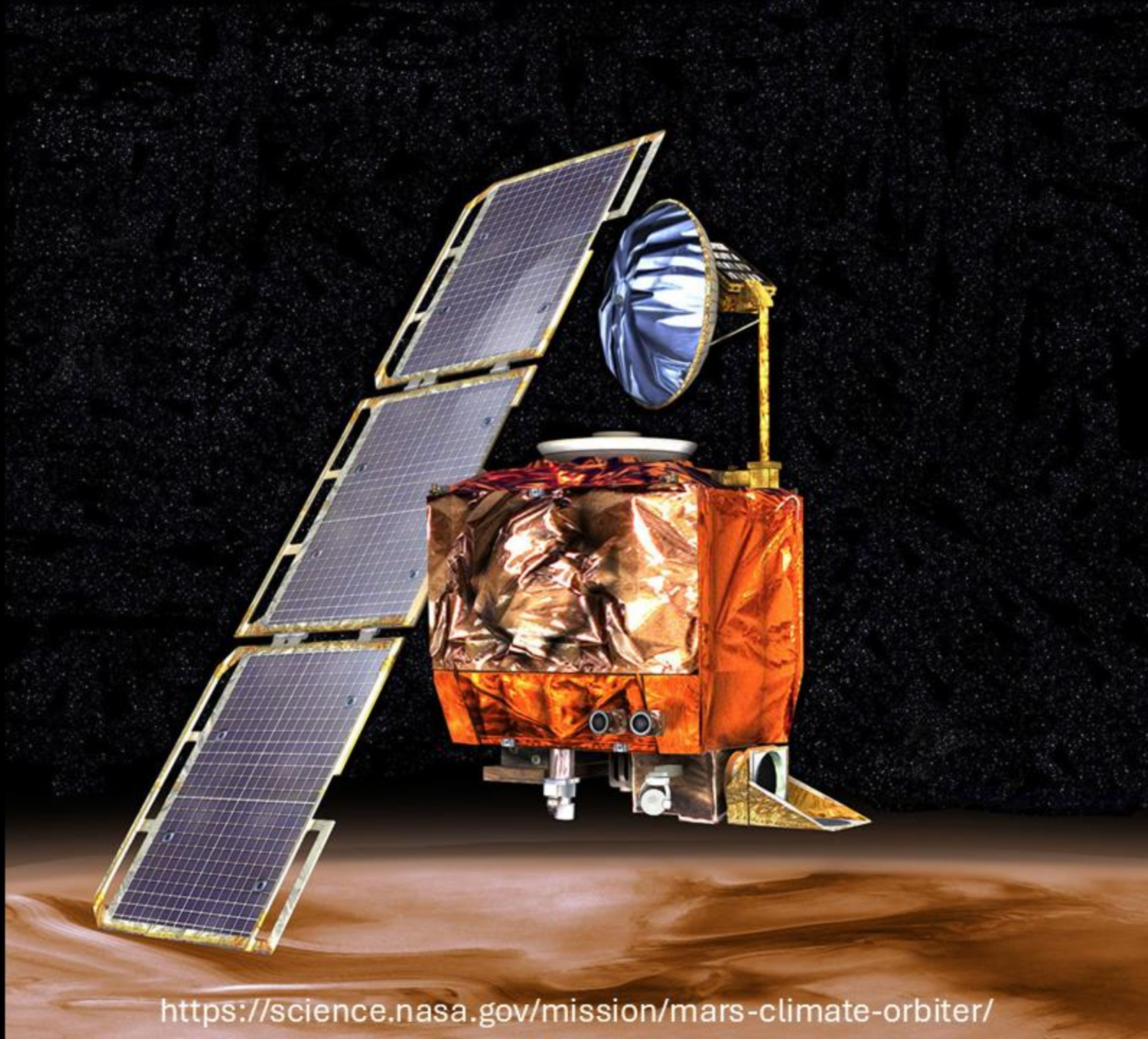
in REPENTANCE (Ezra 10)



**Q: DO WE TAKE
SIN SERIOUSLY
ENOUGH?**



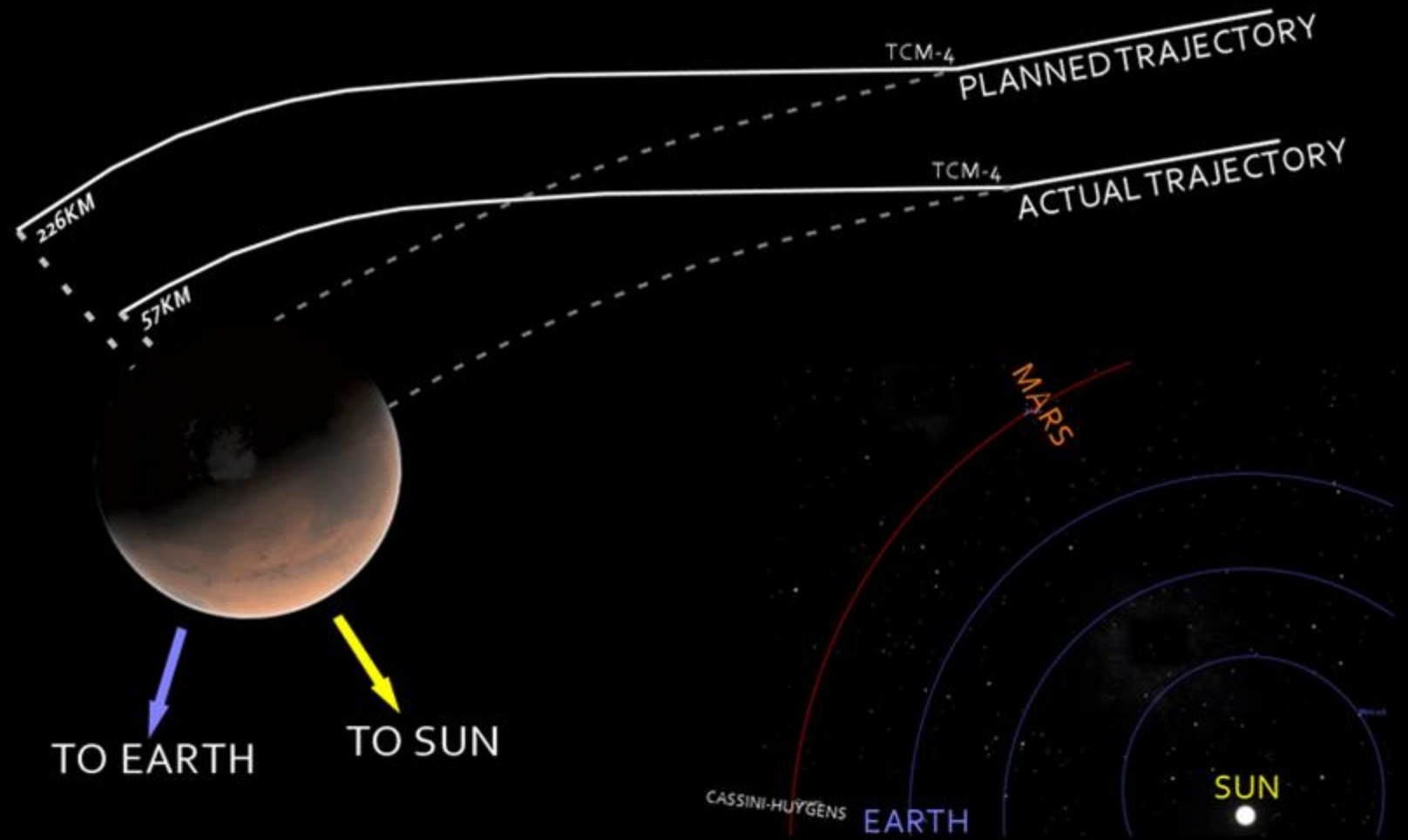
1998 Mars Climate Orbiter



<https://science.nasa.gov/mission/mars-climate-orbiter/>



1999 Mission Failure



**Great. Everything
is fixed!**



**Great. Everything
is fixed!**



Relationships that pulled them away from God...



Relationships that pulled them away from God...



“Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods.” **Deuteronomy 7:3-4 (NIV)**

I. A softened heart is grieved by sin.



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Ezra 10:1 (NIV)

1 While Ezra was praying and confessing, weeping and throwing himself down before the house of God, a large crowd of Israelites—men, women and children—gathered around him. They too wept bitterly.

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Ezra 10:2 (NIV)

2 Then Shekaniah son of Jehiel, one of the descendants of Elam, said to Ezra,
“**We have been unfaithful to our God** by marrying foreign women from the peoples around us.

I. A softened heart is grieved by sin. (v.1-2)

- We need to see our sin as God sees it. (v.2)

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- We need to see our sin as God sees it. (v.2)
- Our sin is first and foremost an affront to the character and authority of God (cf. Psalm 51:4)
- Psalm 51:4 (NIV)
- “Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.”



**I want to live
my life my way
not God's way!**

GOD

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“We never know what sin really is till we have learned to think of it in terms of God, and to measure it, not by human standards, but by the yardstick of his total demand on our lives.”

J.I. Packer

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- Humility & Godly sorrow are the right responses to sin (2 Corinthians 7:10)

2 Corinthians 7:10

“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”



REPENTANCE
TURN AROUND



I feel bad about
what happened.

REGRET



I was going the
wrong way, and
I want to turn around.

REPENTANCE

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2 ...“We have been unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women from the peoples around us. **But in spite of this, there is still hope for Israel.**

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- We need to see our sin as God sees it. (v.2)
- Our sin is first and foremost an affront to the character and authority of God (cf. Psalm 51:4)
- Humility & Godly sorrow are the right responses to sin (2 Corinthians 7:10)
- The seriousness of sin helps us to see the beauty of God's grace.

2. A softened heart gets serious about holiness. (v.3-17)

Ezra 10:3 (NIV)

³ Now let us make a covenant before our God to send away all these women and their children, in accordance with the counsel of my lord and of those who fear the commands of our God. Let it be done according to the Law.

2. A softened heart gets serious about holiness. (v.3-17)

Ezra 10:4 (NIV)

⁴ Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and do it.”

2. A softened heart gets serious about holiness. (v.3-17)

- Genuine sorrow over sin will normally produce genuine seriousness when dealing with sin.

Matthew 5:29-30 (NIV)

²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

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- If we belong to Jesus, then we cannot continue to live as though sin is our master.

Romans 6:15

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace?

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Romans 6:15

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? **By no means!**

2. A softened heart gets serious about holiness. (v.3-17)

Romans 6:16-18

¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.



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- Genuine sorrow over sin will normally produce genuine seriousness when dealing with sin.
- If we belong to Jesus, then we cannot continue to live as though sin is our master.
- God's grace does not give us permission to make peace with sin — it sets us free to fight it!

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Q: Is there some sin in your life that you have made peace with?

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- Practical considerations:
 - ✓ Dealing with sin requires a plan.

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- Practical considerations:
 - ✓ Dealing with sin requires a plan.
 - ✓ Dealing with sin will be inconvenient.
 - ✓ Dealing with sin requires accountability.
 - ✓ **Dealing with sin requires prayer.**

Don't just pray "Lord, forgive me" also pray,
"Lord, show me what needs to change?".

(cf. Ps 139:23-24)

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- The problem wasn't interracial marriage but covenant compromise – worship of other gods.
- God did not tell them to divorce their wives & abandon their kids.
- The NT teaches that Christians with unbelieving spouses who are willing to remain in the marriage are NOT to divorce them. (1 Cor 7:12-13)

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- Our application is not copying exactly Ezra 10 but rather recognising how seriously God's people were prepared to deal with their unfaithfulness.
- Repentance is often costly and obedience is not always easy (remember sin is costly too).
- In spite of all this, there is still hope (Ezra 10:2).

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Ezra 1:1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfil the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, **the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia...**

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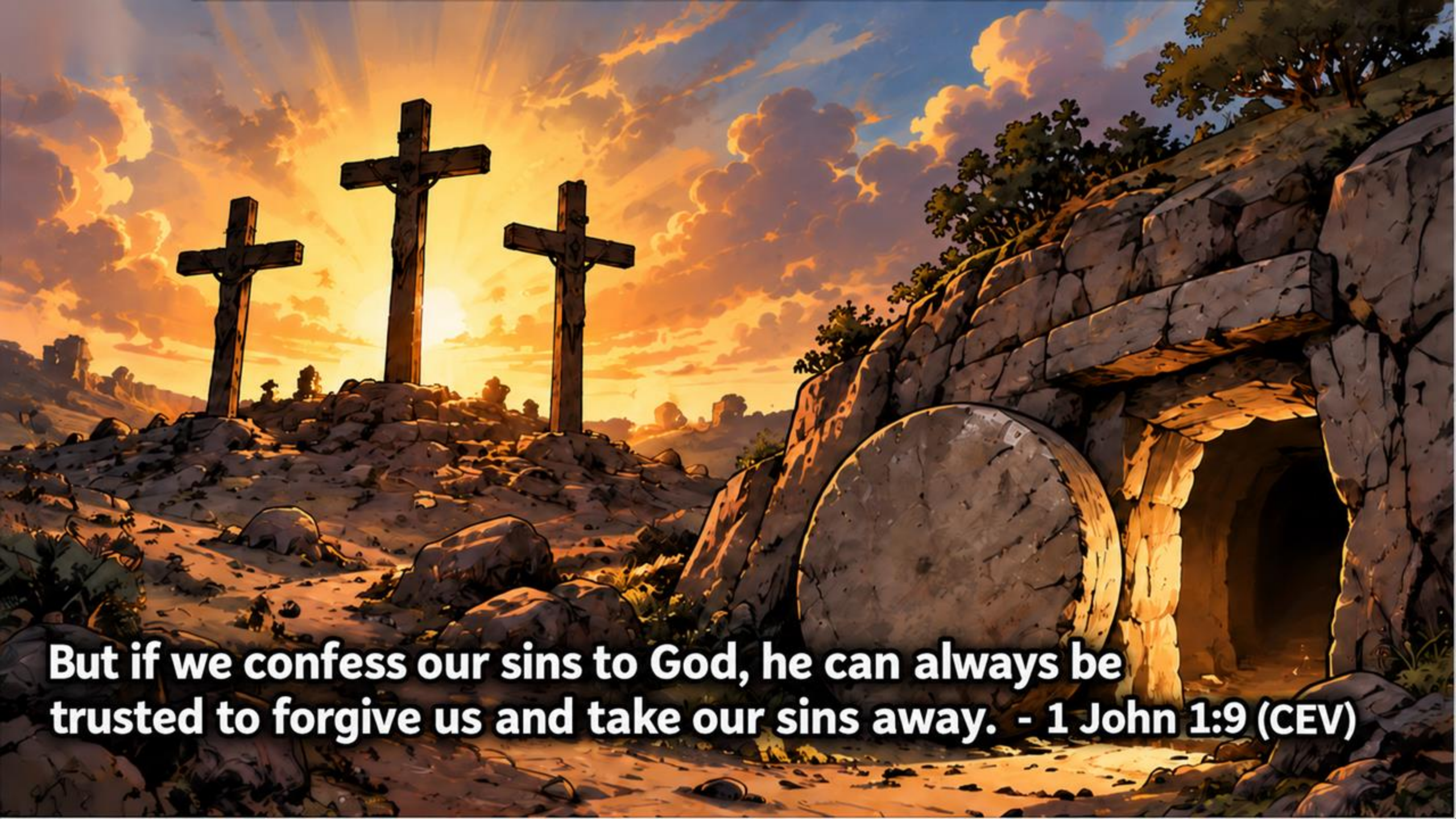
- Ezra 10:44 All these had married foreign women, and some of them had children by these wives.



GOD

**I will give you
a new heart**

- Ezekiel 36:26



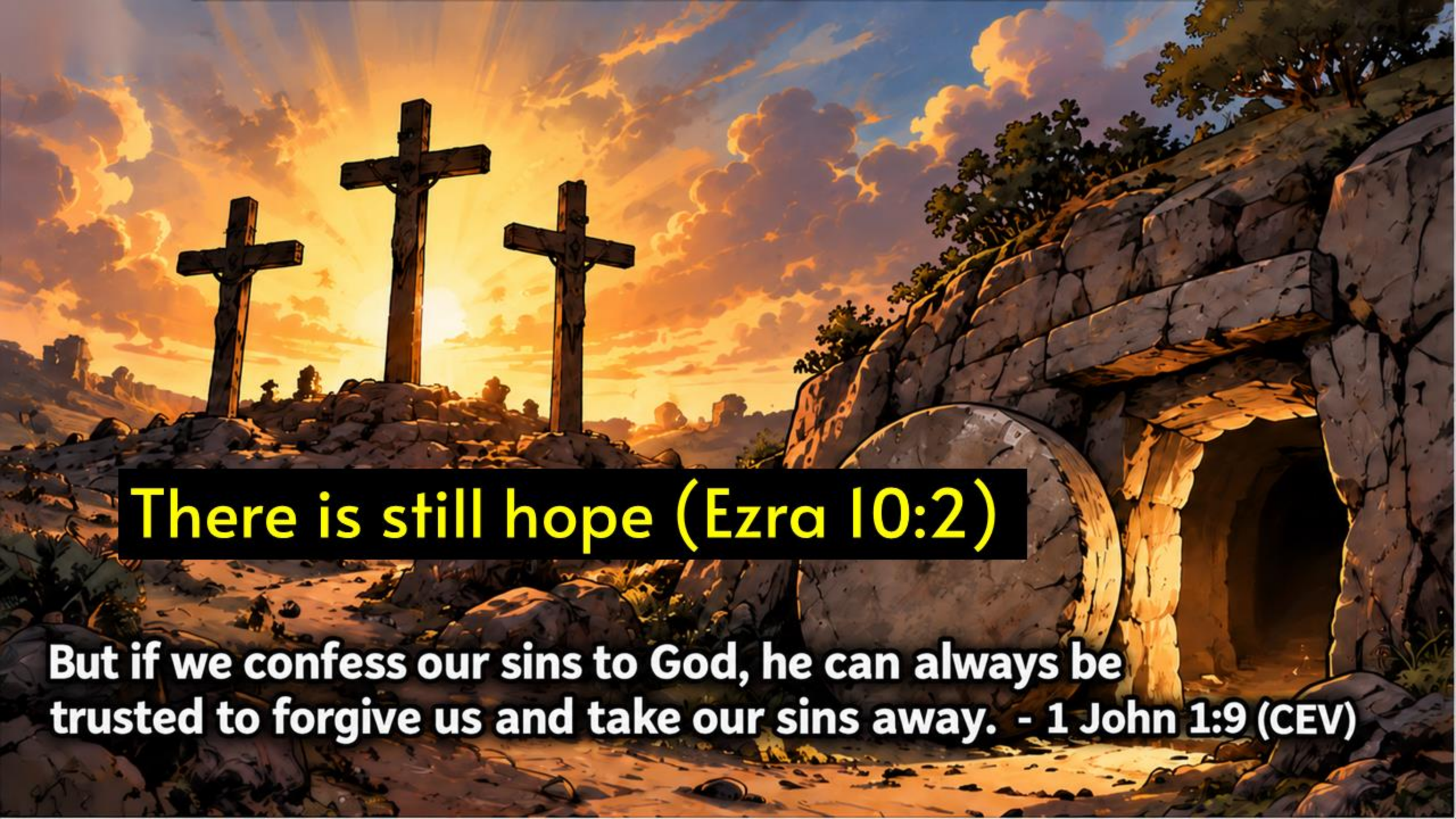
But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away. - 1 John 1:9 (CEV)

For those not yet sure about Jesus:

Q: What if it really is true that God knows everything about you — the good things and the bad things — and still wants you to come to him?

For Christians:

Q: Is there something
in your life that you know
is pulling you away from God,
but you keep making
excuses for it?



There is still hope (Ezra 10:2)

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