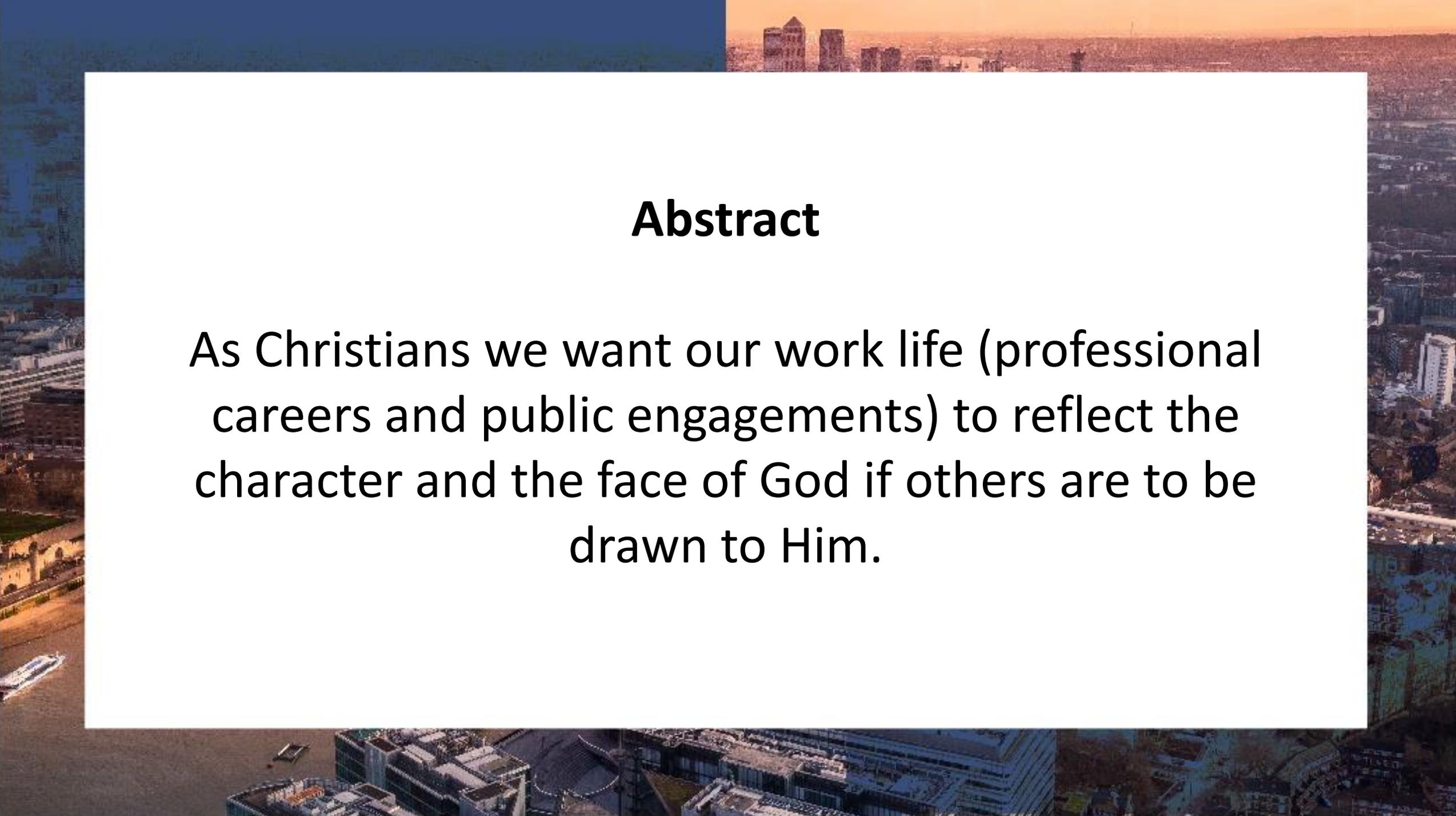


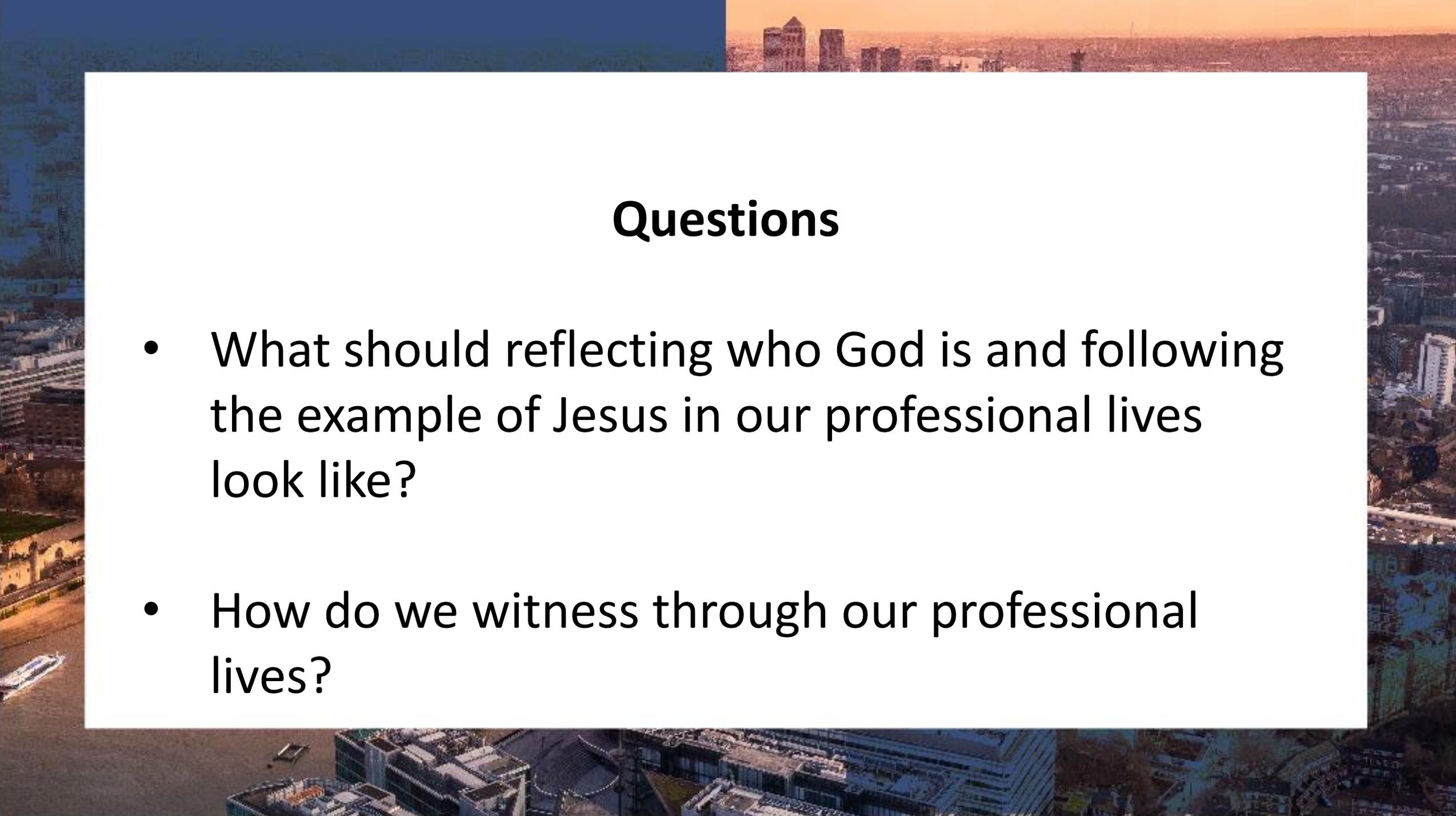
Reflecting God's Character in Your Professional Life: Witnessing in Your Workplace

Wagner Kuhn
Andrews University

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white text box overlaid in the center. The city features a mix of modern and older buildings, and a river is visible in the lower-left corner. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

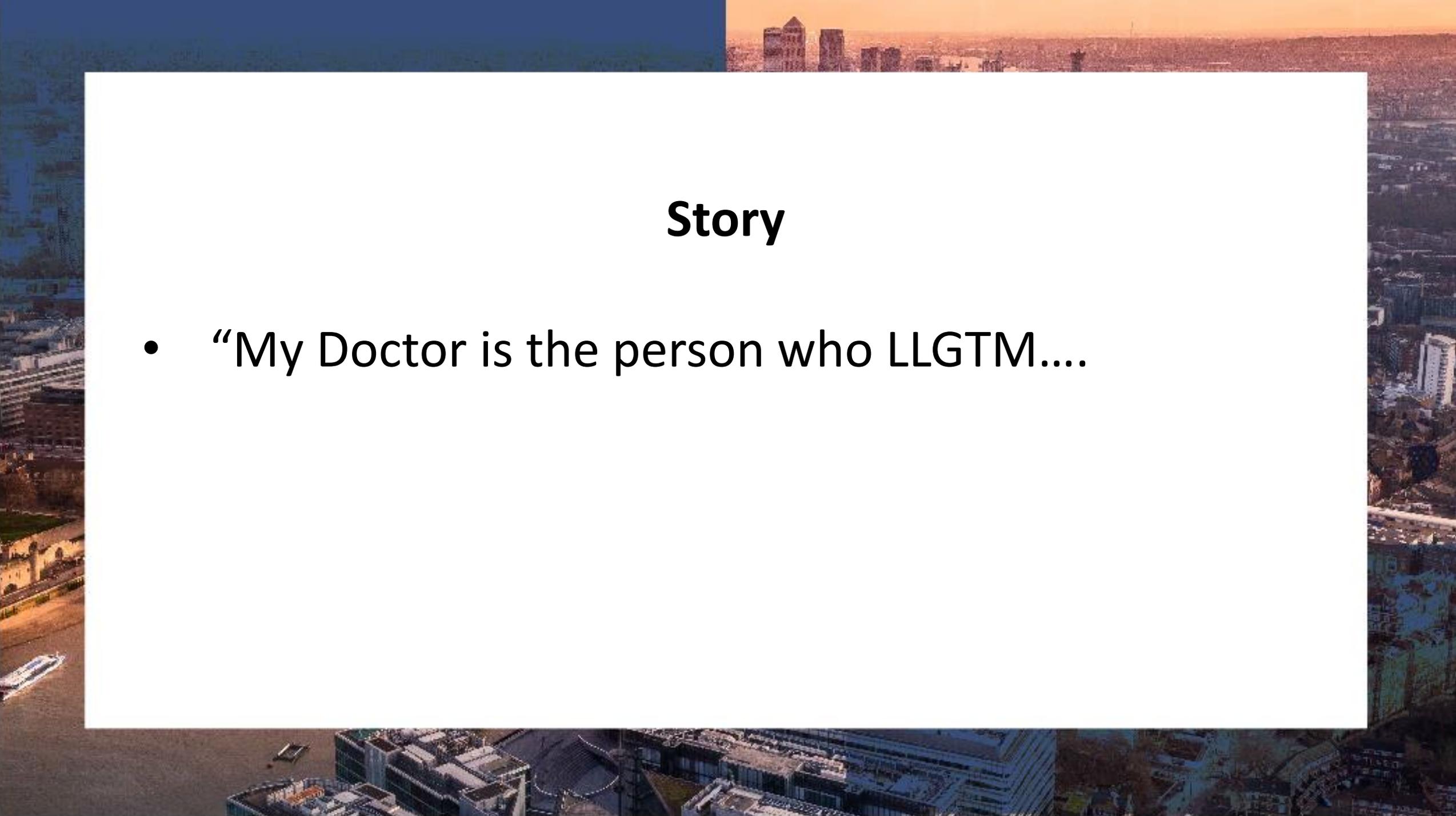
Abstract

As Christians we want our work life (professional careers and public engagements) to reflect the character and the face of God if others are to be drawn to Him.

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with the sky transitioning from orange to blue. The city features a mix of modern high-rise buildings and older, lower structures. A river or canal is visible in the lower-left corner, with a white boat on the water. The overall scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting sun.

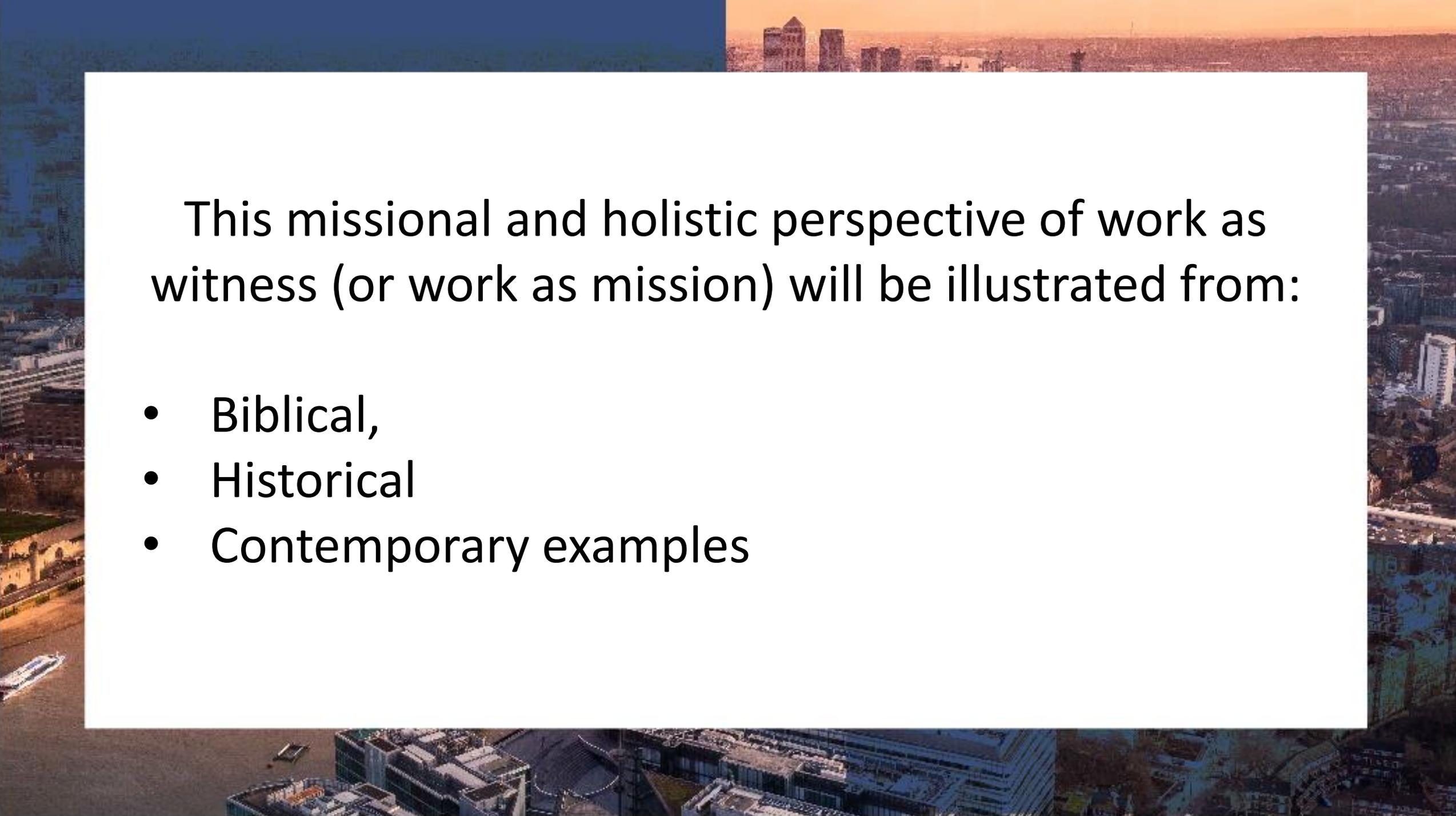
Questions

- What should reflecting who God is and following the example of Jesus in our professional lives look like?
- How do we witness through our professional lives?

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white rectangular box overlaid in the center. The city features a mix of modern and older buildings, and a river is visible in the lower-left corner. The sky is a mix of orange and blue.

Story

- “My Doctor is the person who LLGTM....”

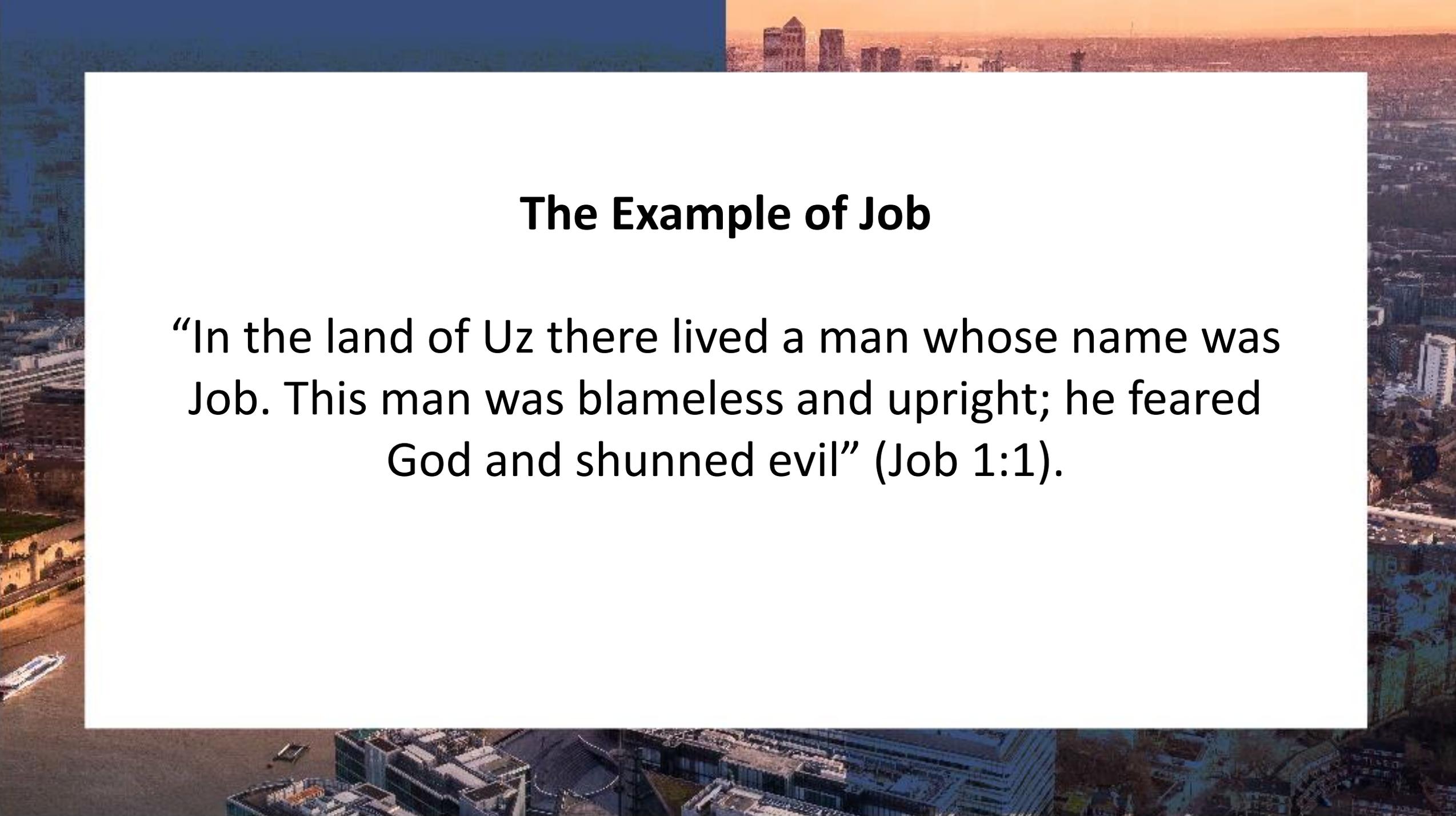
An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white rectangular text box overlaid in the center. The city features a mix of modern high-rise buildings and older structures, with a river or canal visible in the lower-left corner. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, transitioning to a dark blue at the top.

This missional and holistic perspective of work as witness (or work as mission) will be illustrated from:

- Biblical,
- Historical
- Contemporary examples

Biblical Examples

- Abraham (Genesis 12-25)
- Joseph (Genesis 37; and 39-45)
- Naaman's servant (2 Kings 5:2-19)
- Daniel and his Friends (Daniel)
- Other examples?

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white text box overlaid in the center. The city features a mix of modern and older buildings, and a river is visible in the lower-left corner. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

The Example of Job

“In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil” (Job 1:1).



SAUDI ARABIA
ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT
Al Jahra
Bandar-e Bushayr

BAHRAIN
MANAMA

QATAR
DOHA

ABU DHABI
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

MUSCAT

RIYADH
Al Kharj
Al Hiflah

OMAN

YEMEN
SANAA

ERITREA
ASMARA

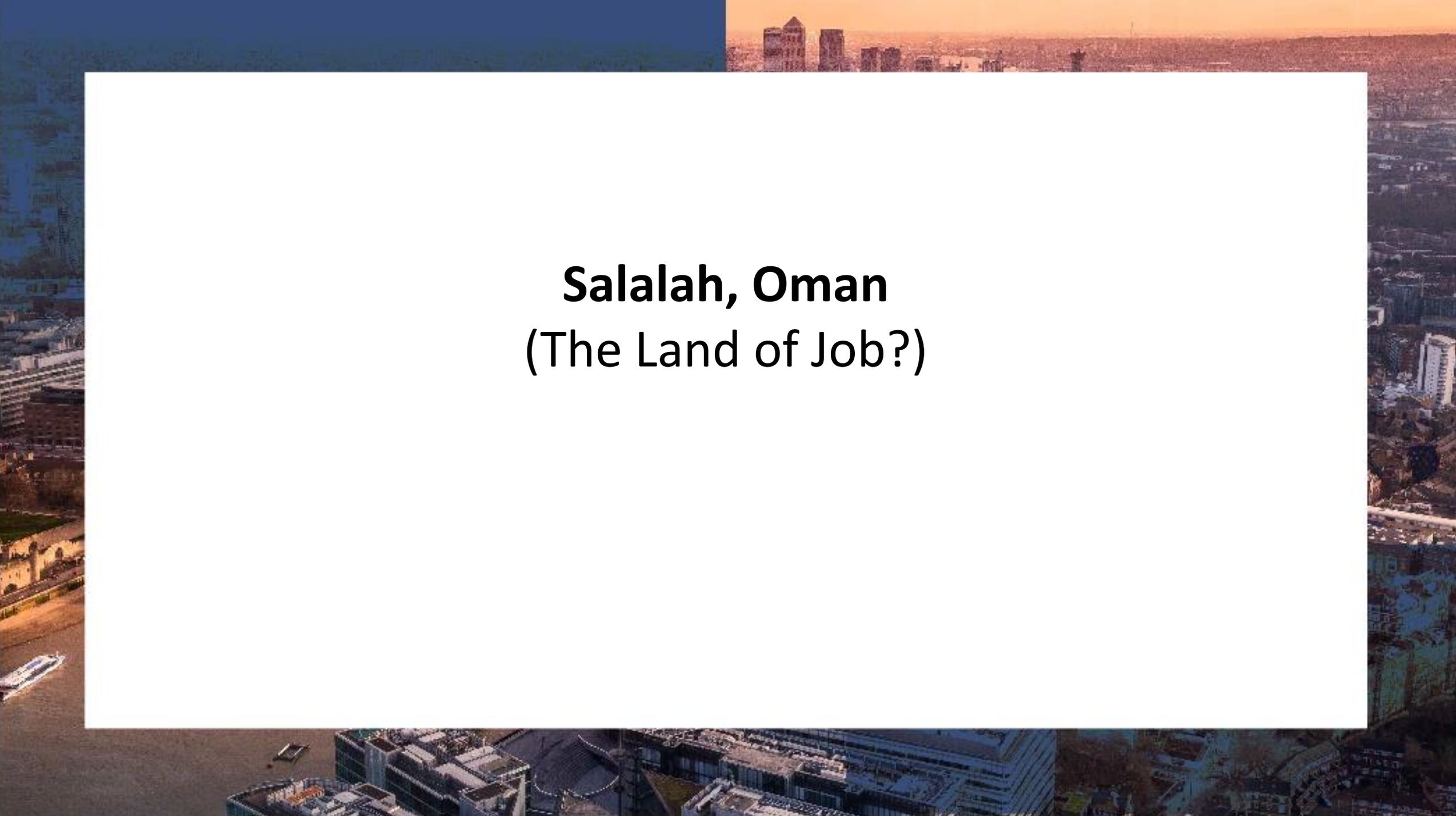
KHARTOUM

BALUCH

Red Sea

Gulf of Masira

Arabian Sea

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a large white rectangular box in the center containing text. The city features a mix of modern high-rise buildings and older structures, with a river or canal visible in the lower-left corner. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, transitioning to a dark blue at the top.

Salalah, Oman

(The Land of Job?)





The Tomb
of Job (?):
Salalah,
Oman



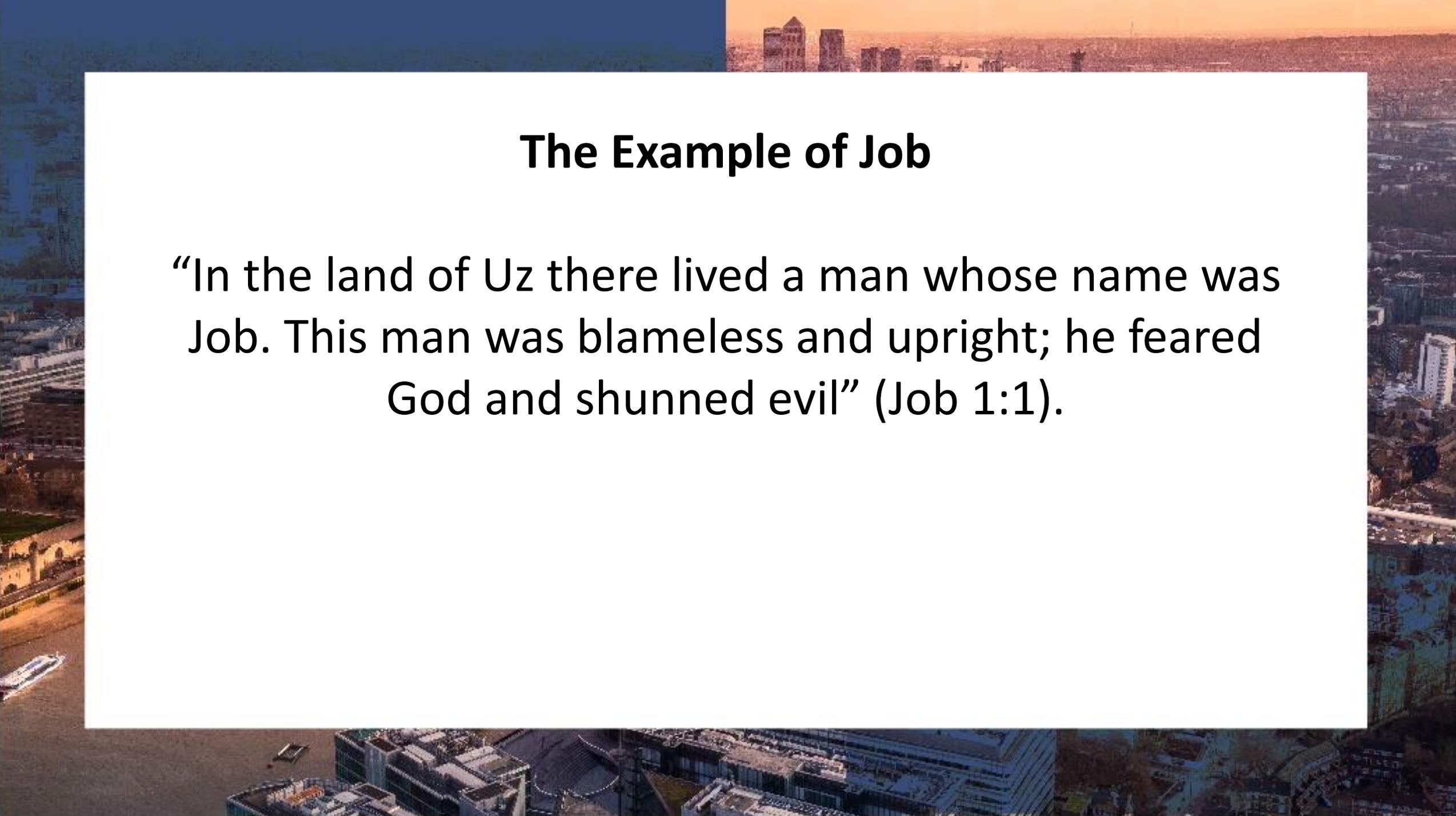


Job's Tomb (?): Salalah, Oman

PROPHET JOB'S TOMB, PEACE BE UPON HIM

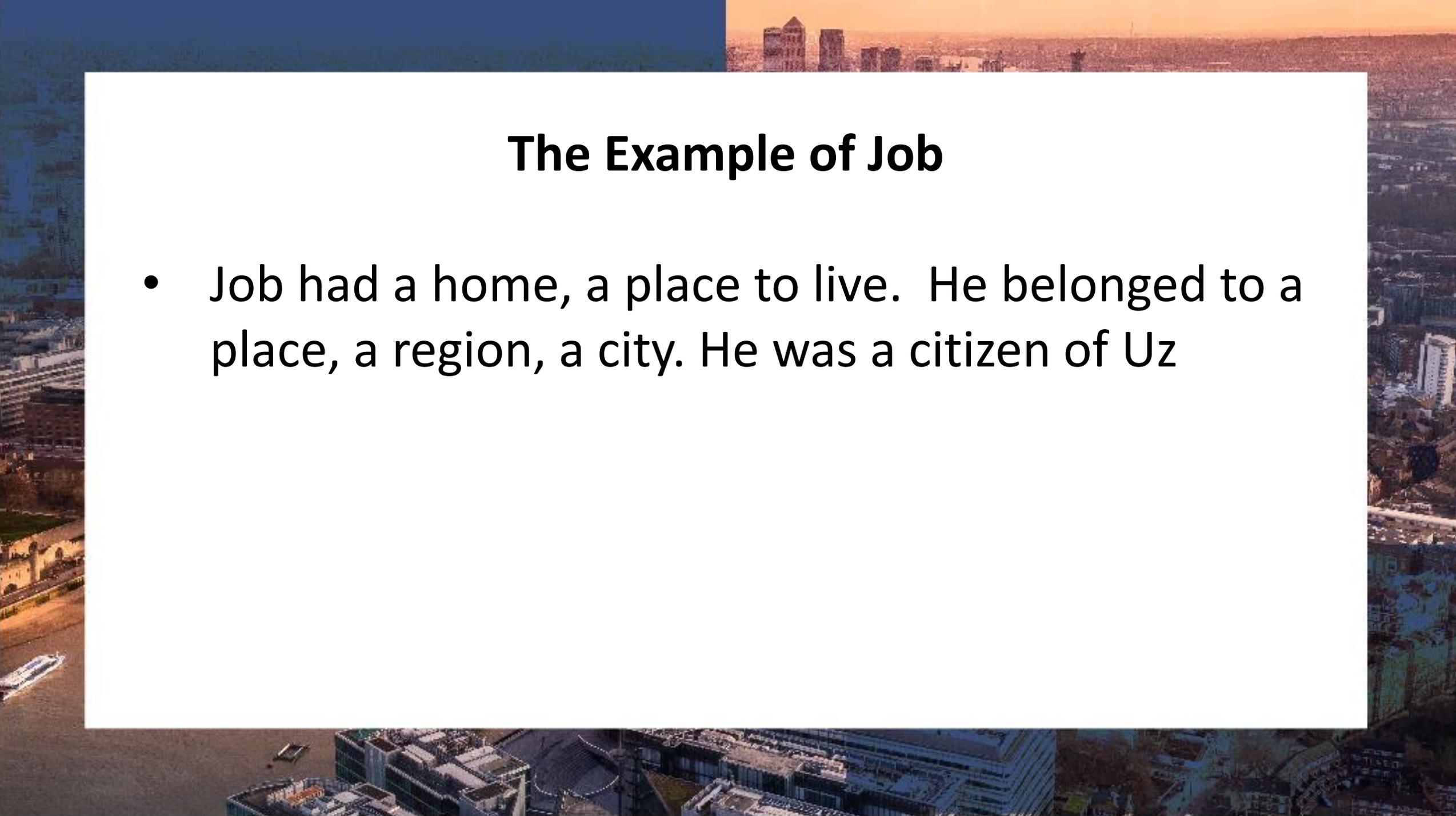
Prophet job's tomb is located in Beit Zarbij, 27 kilometers from salalah in the mountains. Beside it is an ancient praying place and footprints embedded in stone. Nearby is a spring called Sharsate that, according to legend, gushed out after the prophet job prayed to God.

prophet job's tomb is 4 metres long and 1.5 metres high. The Prophet was cited 4 times in the Holy Qur'an, and in the first chapter of the Holy Scriptures of job in the Old Testament. It is said that his native country was the land of Aouss which, according to the tenth chapter of Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament, was located towards Safar (Dhofar)

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white text box overlaid in the center. The city features a mix of modern high-rise buildings and older structures, with a river visible in the lower-left corner. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, transitioning to a dark blue at the top.

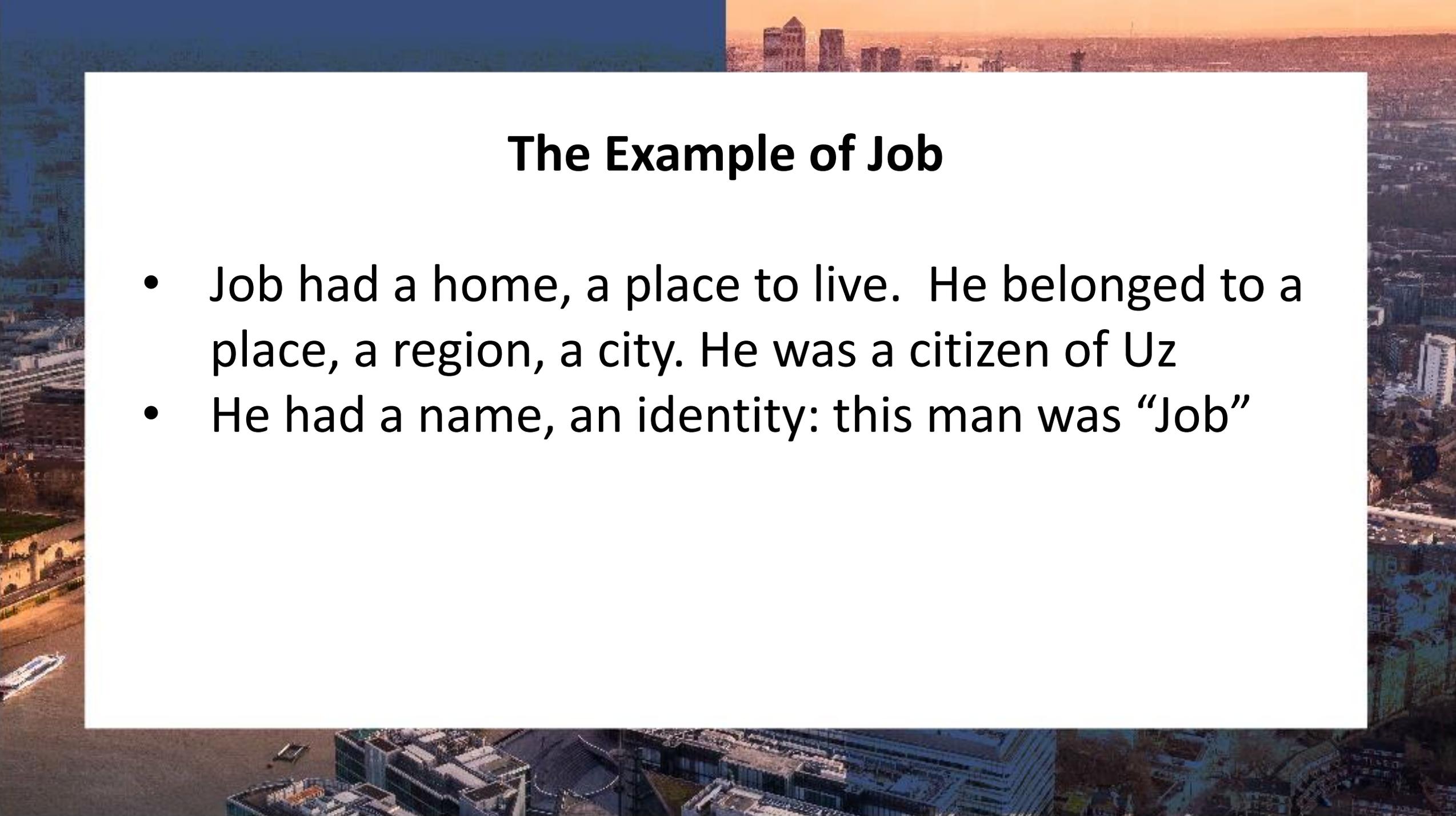
The Example of Job

“In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil” (Job 1:1).

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The city below is densely packed with buildings, and a river or canal is visible in the lower-left corner. The overall scene is a panoramic view of an urban landscape.

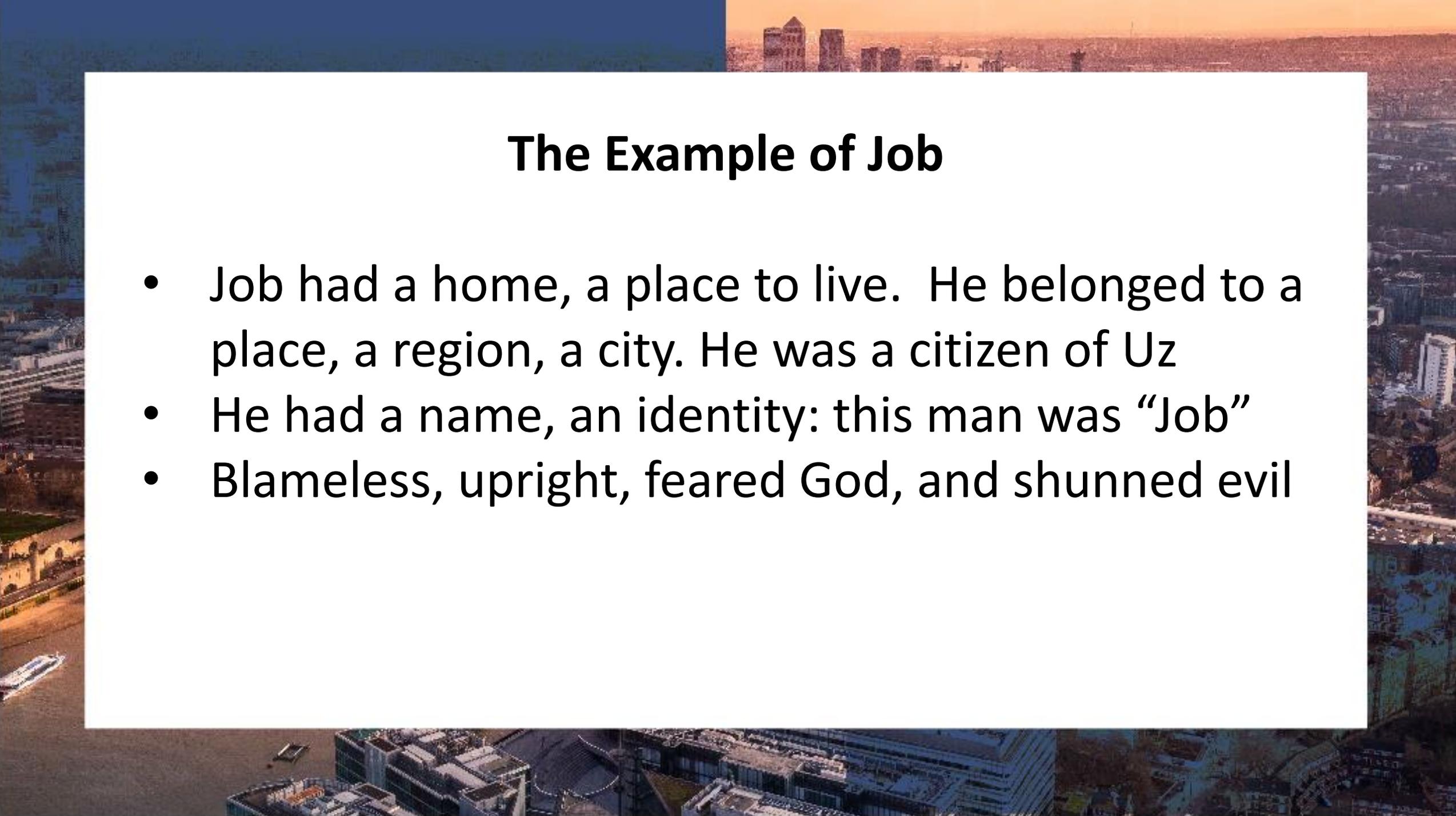
The Example of Job

- Job had a home, a place to live. He belonged to a place, a region, a city. He was a citizen of Uz

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white text box overlaid in the center. The city features a mix of modern and older buildings, a river with a boat, and a large stadium-like structure in the foreground. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

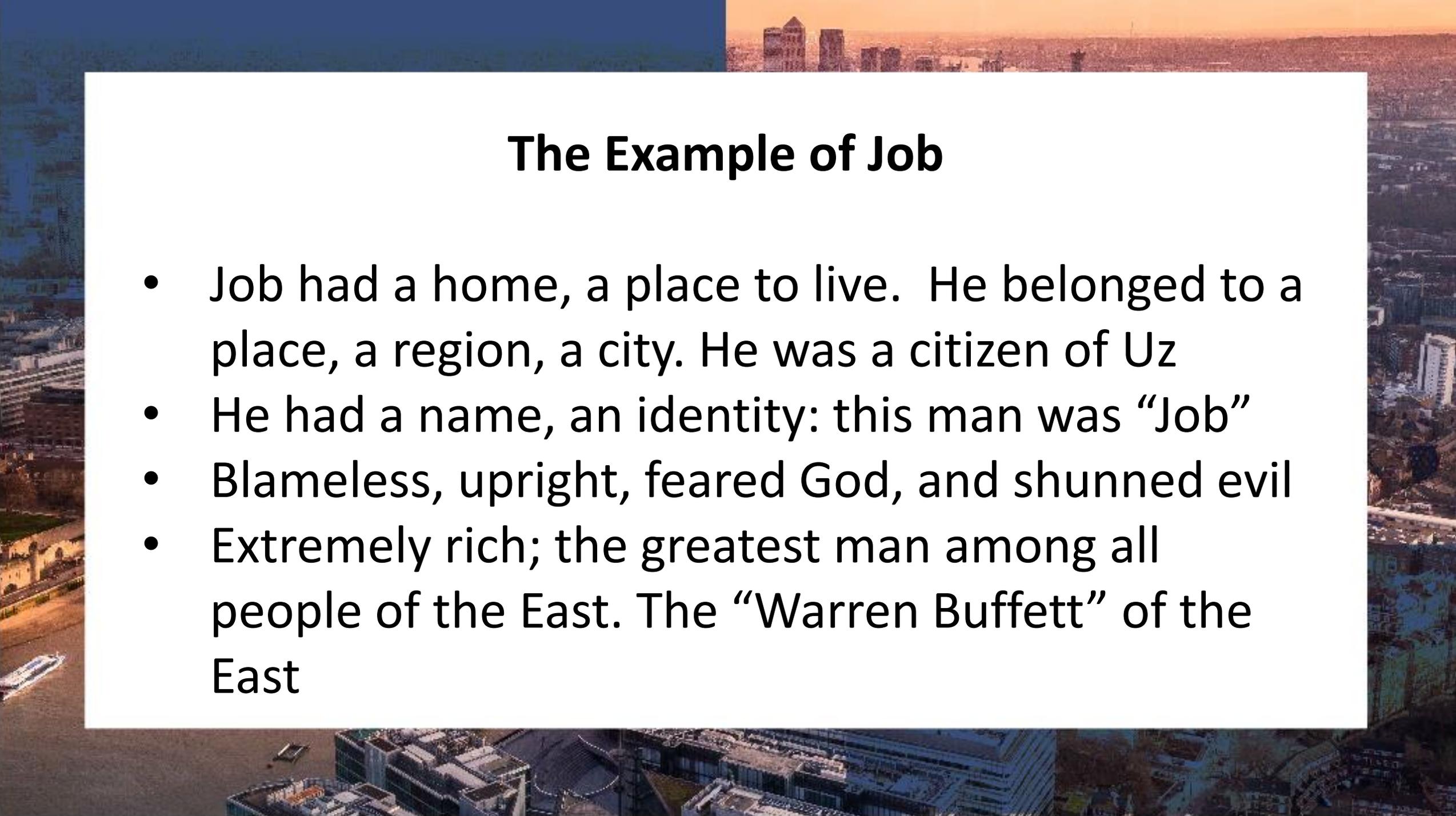
The Example of Job

- Job had a home, a place to live. He belonged to a place, a region, a city. He was a citizen of Uz
- He had a name, an identity: this man was “Job”

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white text box overlaid in the center. The city features a mix of modern high-rise buildings and older structures, with a river or canal visible in the lower-left corner. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, transitioning to a dark blue at the top.

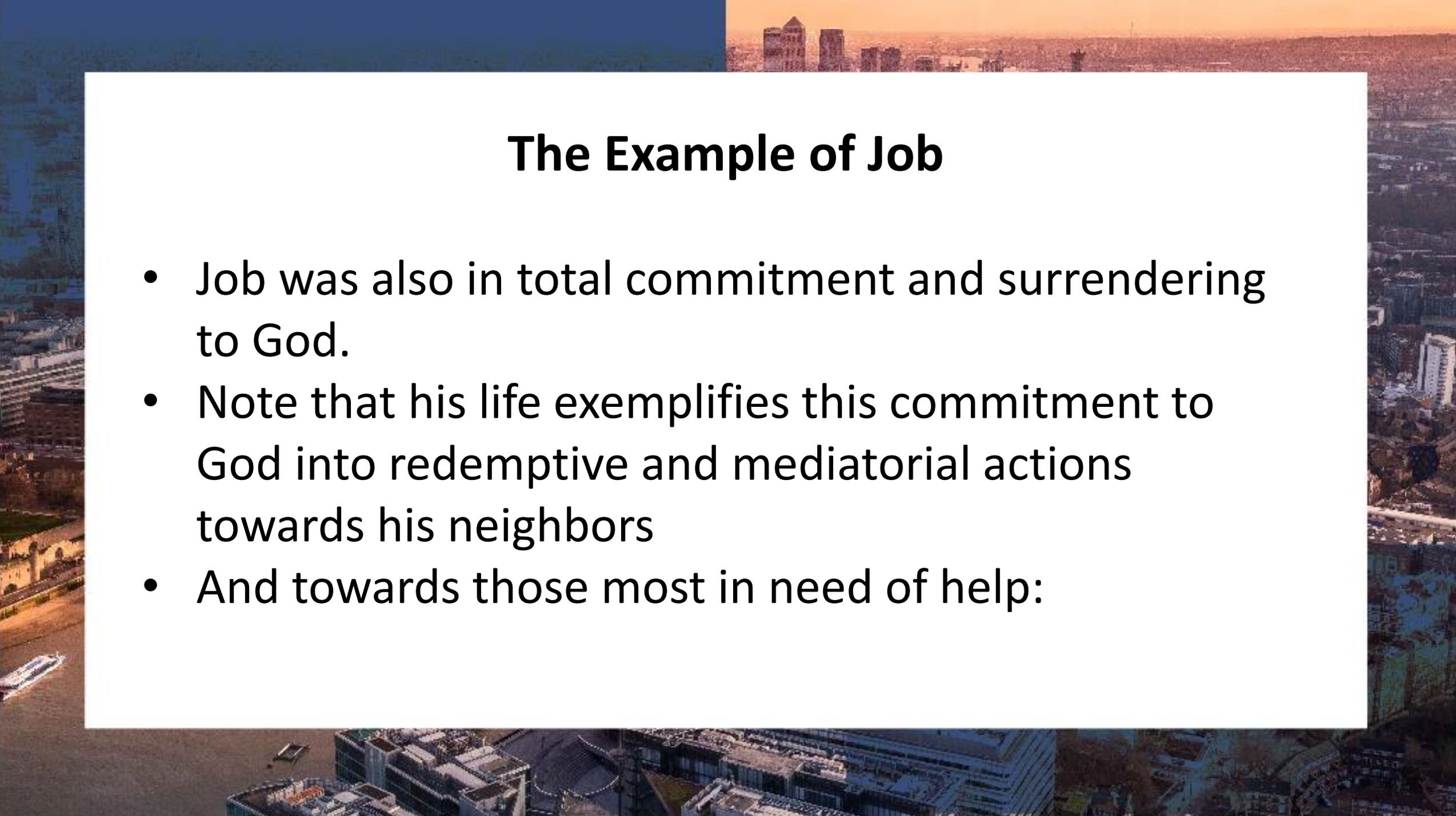
The Example of Job

- Job had a home, a place to live. He belonged to a place, a region, a city. He was a citizen of Uz
- He had a name, an identity: this man was “Job”
- Blameless, upright, feared God, and shunned evil

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with the sky transitioning from orange to blue. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright sky. The water in the foreground is dark, and a few boats are visible.

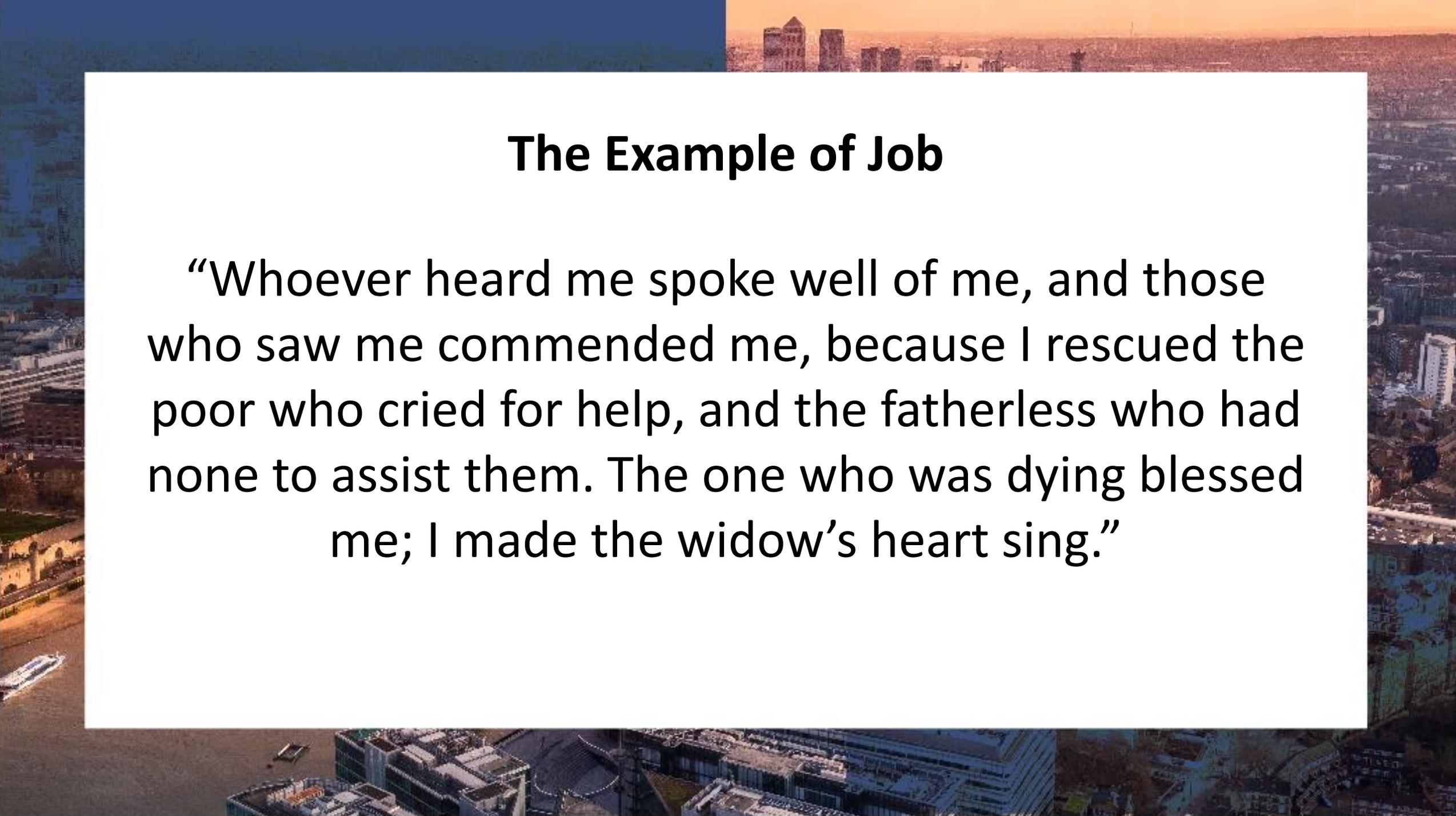
The Example of Job

- Job had a home, a place to live. He belonged to a place, a region, a city. He was a citizen of Uz
- He had a name, an identity: this man was “Job”
- Blameless, upright, feared God, and shunned evil
- Extremely rich; the greatest man among all people of the East. The “Warren Buffett” of the East

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white text box overlaid in the center. The city features a mix of modern and older buildings, and a river is visible in the lower-left corner. The sky is a warm orange and red color.

The Example of Job

- Job was also in total commitment and surrendering to God.
- Note that his life exemplifies this commitment to God into redemptive and mediatorial actions towards his neighbors
- And towards those most in need of help:

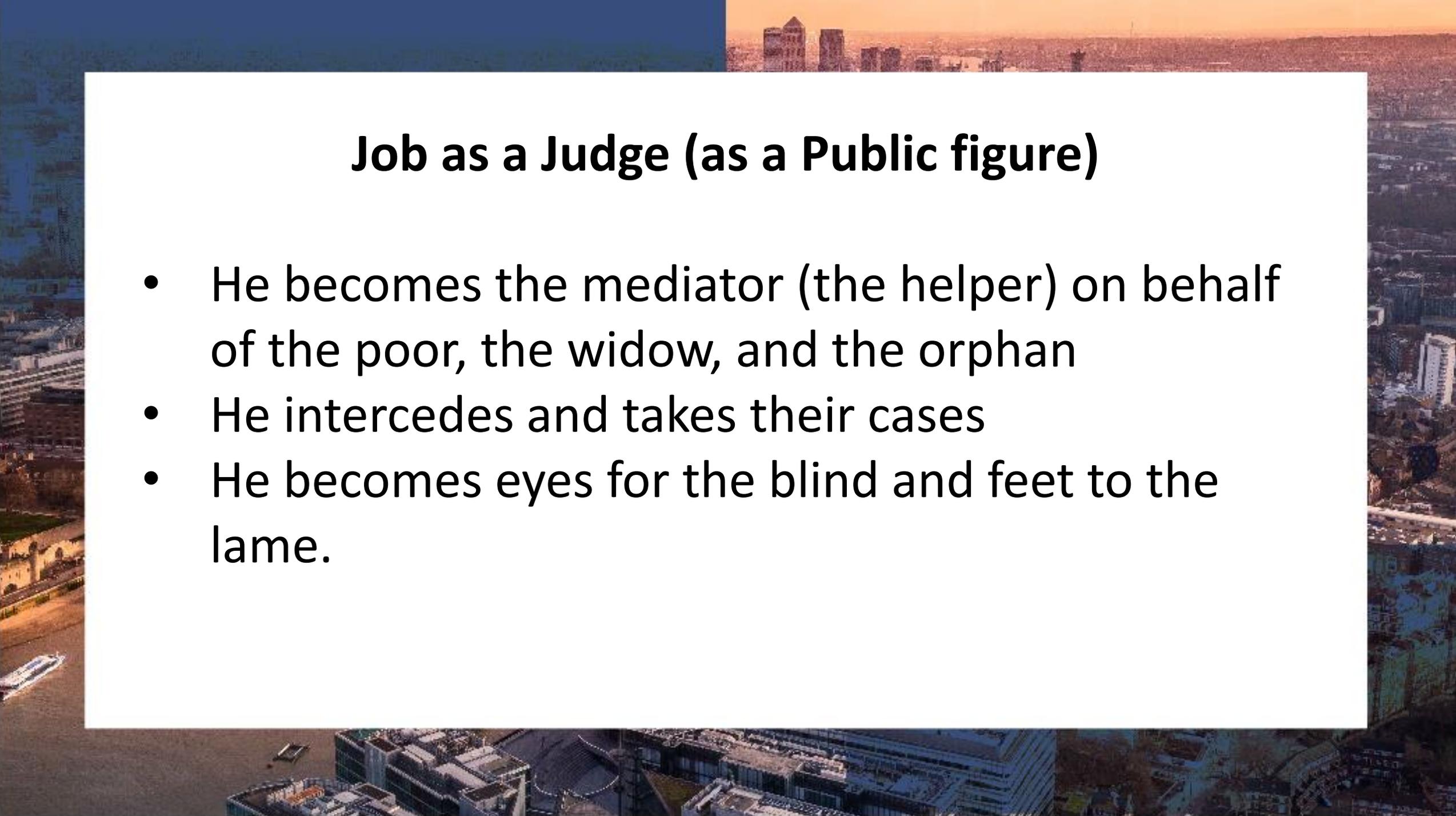
An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with the sky transitioning from orange to blue. The city features a mix of modern and older buildings, and a river is visible in the lower-left corner with a white boat. The text is overlaid on a white rectangular background.

The Example of Job

“Whoever heard me spoke well of me, and those who saw me commended me, because I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to assist them. The one who was dying blessed me; I made the widow’s heart sing.”

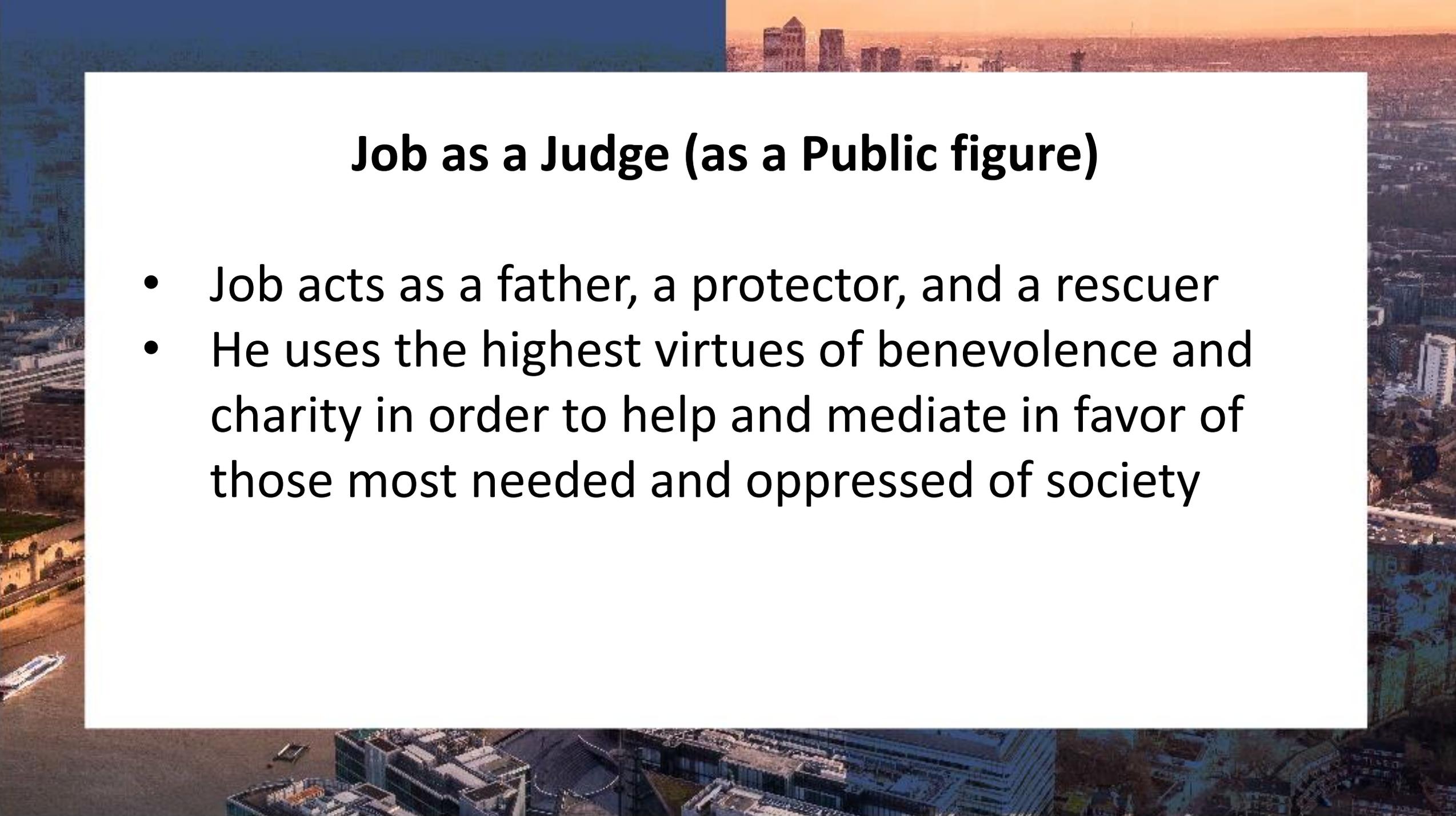
The Example of Job

“I put on righteousness as my clothing; justice was my robe and my turban. I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. I was a father to the needy; I took up the case of the stranger. I broke the fangs of the wicked and snatched the victims from their teeth”
(Job 29:11-17).

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with the sky transitioning from orange to blue. The city features a mix of modern high-rise buildings and older, lower structures. A river or canal is visible in the lower-left corner, with a white boat on the water. The overall scene is a panoramic view of an urban landscape.

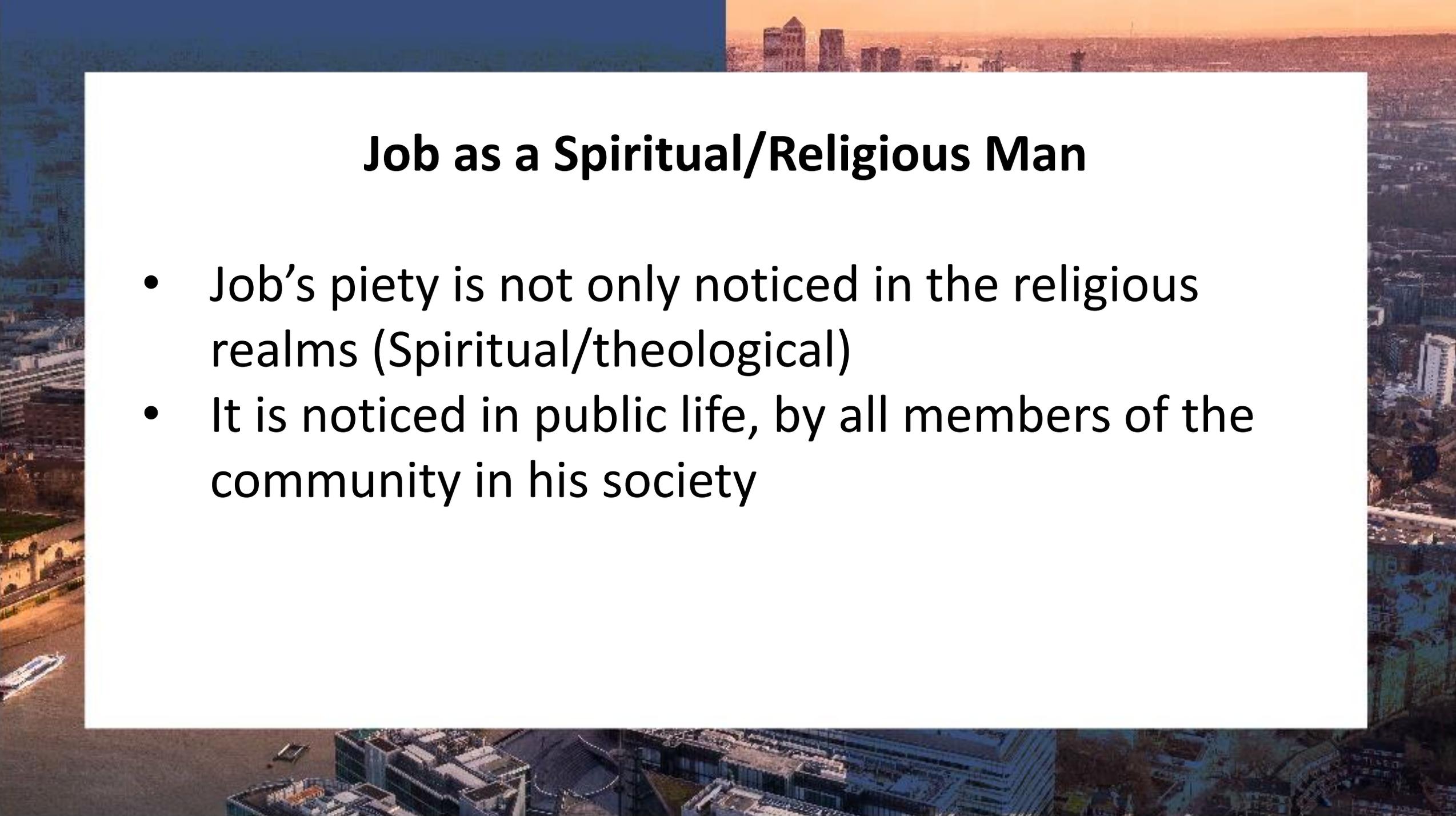
Job as a Judge (as a Public figure)

- He becomes the mediator (the helper) on behalf of the poor, the widow, and the orphan
- He intercedes and takes their cases
- He becomes eyes for the blind and feet to the lame.

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with the sky transitioning from orange to blue. The city features a mix of modern high-rise buildings and older, lower structures. A river or canal is visible in the lower-left corner, with a white boat moving along it. The overall scene is a panoramic view of an urban landscape.

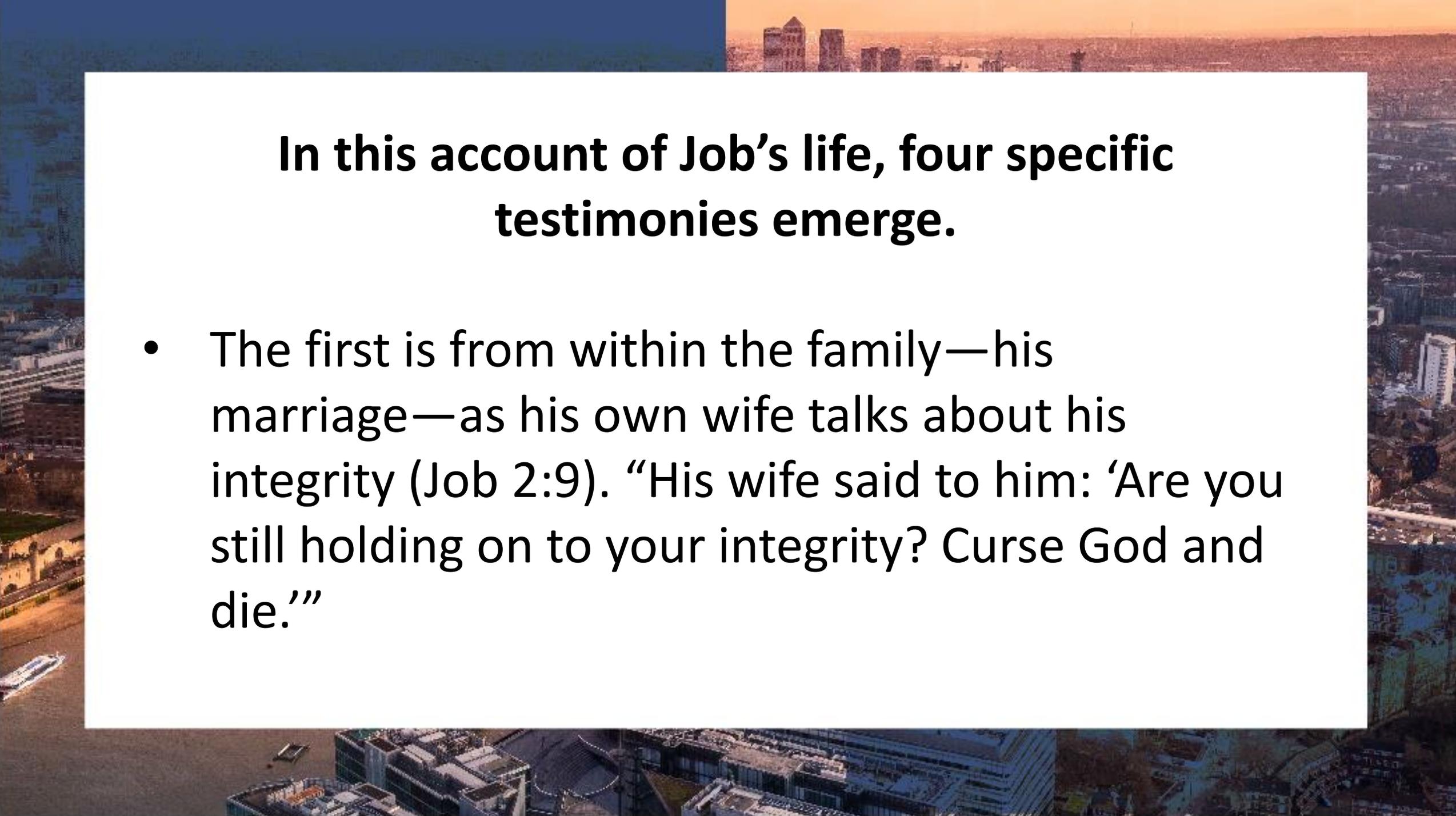
Job as a Judge (as a Public figure)

- Job acts as a father, a protector, and a rescuer
- He uses the highest virtues of benevolence and charity in order to help and mediate in favor of those most needed and oppressed of society

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white rectangular box overlaid in the center containing text. The city features a mix of modern and older buildings, and a river is visible in the lower-left corner.

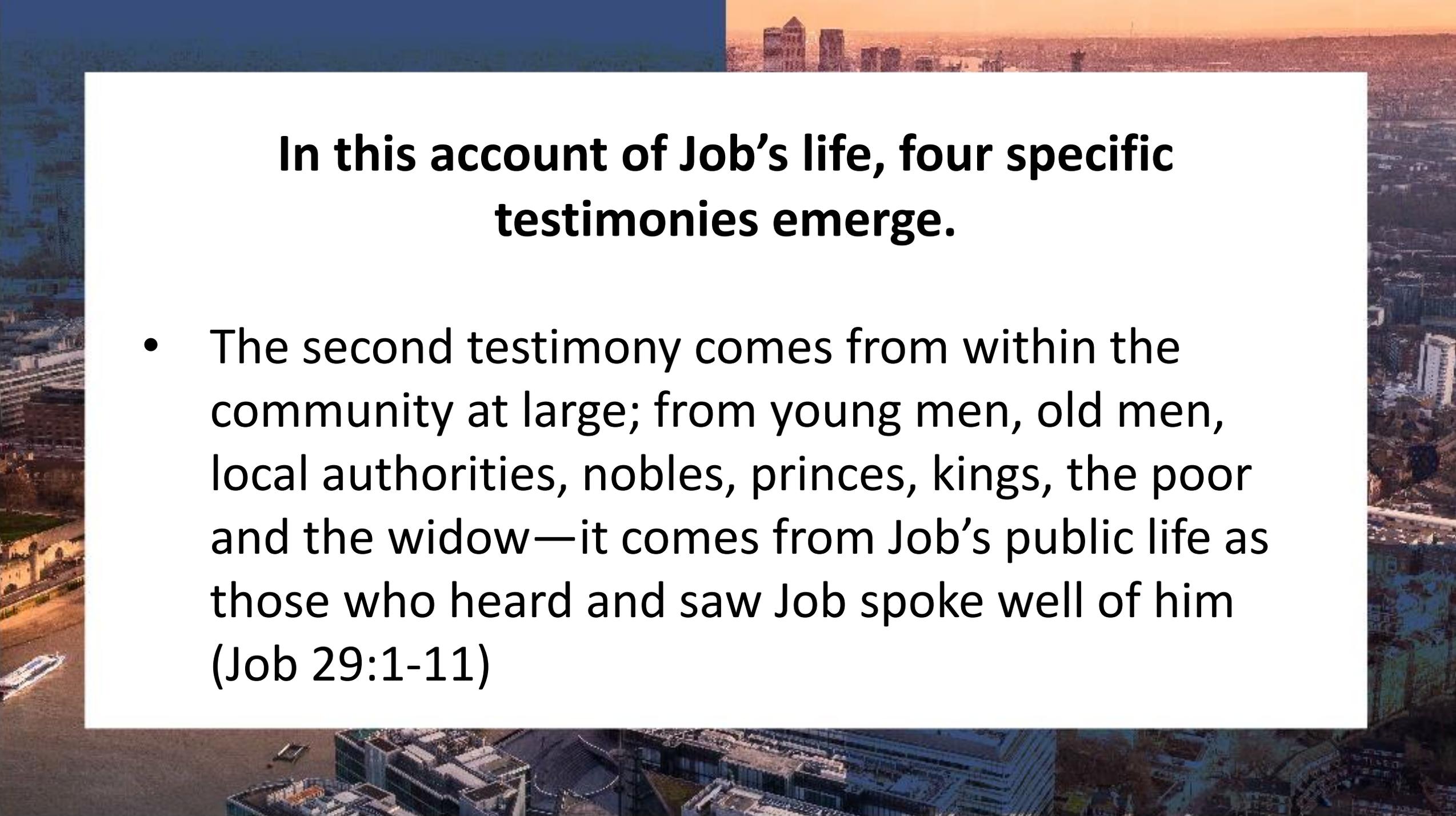
Job as a Spiritual/Religious Man

- Job's piety is not only noticed in the religious realms (Spiritual/theological)
- It is noticed in public life, by all members of the community in his society

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with buildings and a river visible. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and blue. The city is densely packed with buildings of various heights and colors. A river flows through the city, with a bridge visible in the distance. The overall scene is a panoramic view of a large urban area.

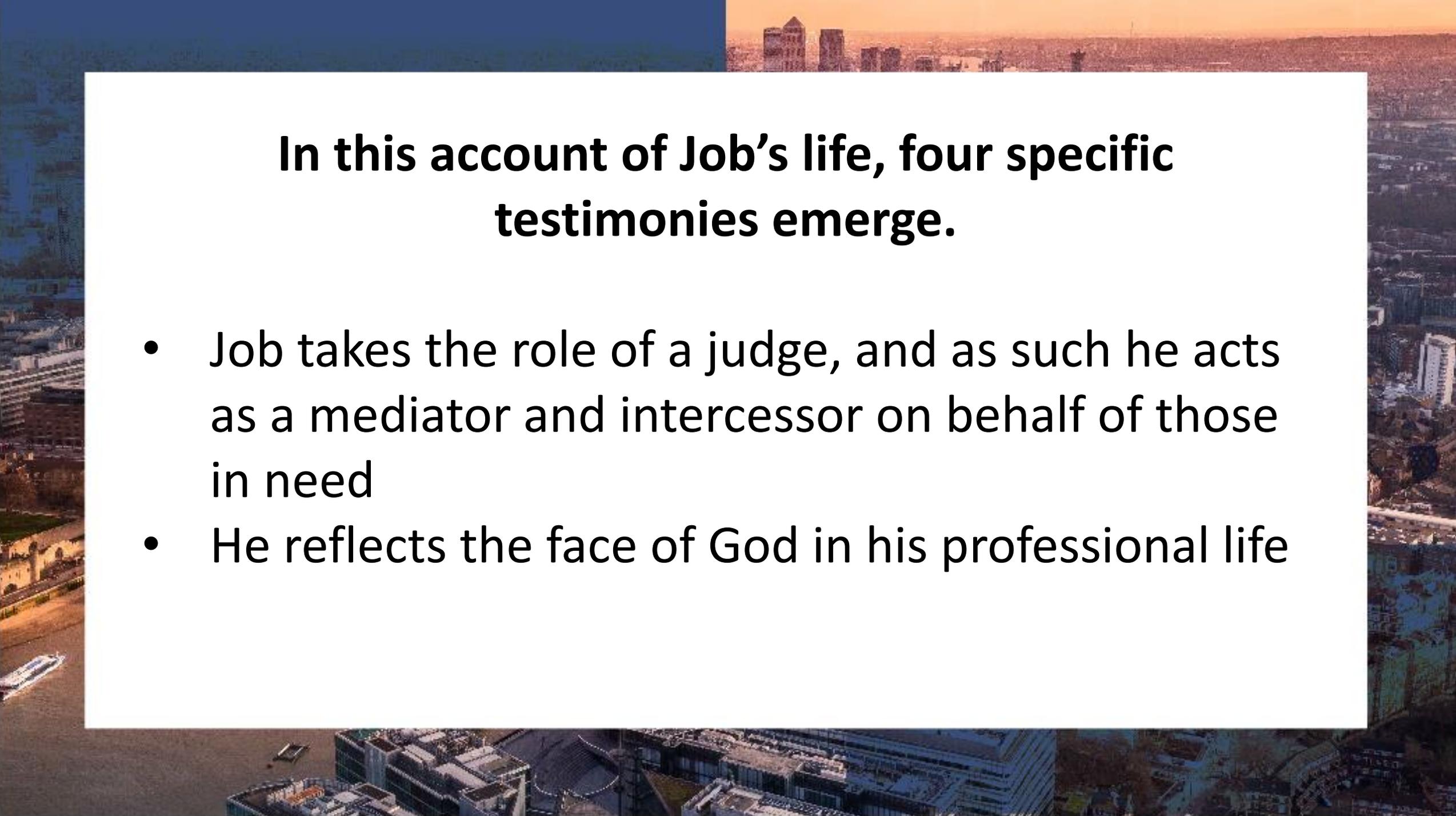
In this account of Job's life, four specific testimonies emerge.

- The first is from within the family—his marriage—as his own wife talks about his integrity (Job 2:9). “His wife said to him: ‘Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die.’”

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with the sky transitioning from orange to blue. The city features a mix of modern high-rise buildings and older, lower structures. A river or canal is visible in the lower-left corner, with a small boat on the water. The overall scene is a panoramic view of an urban landscape.

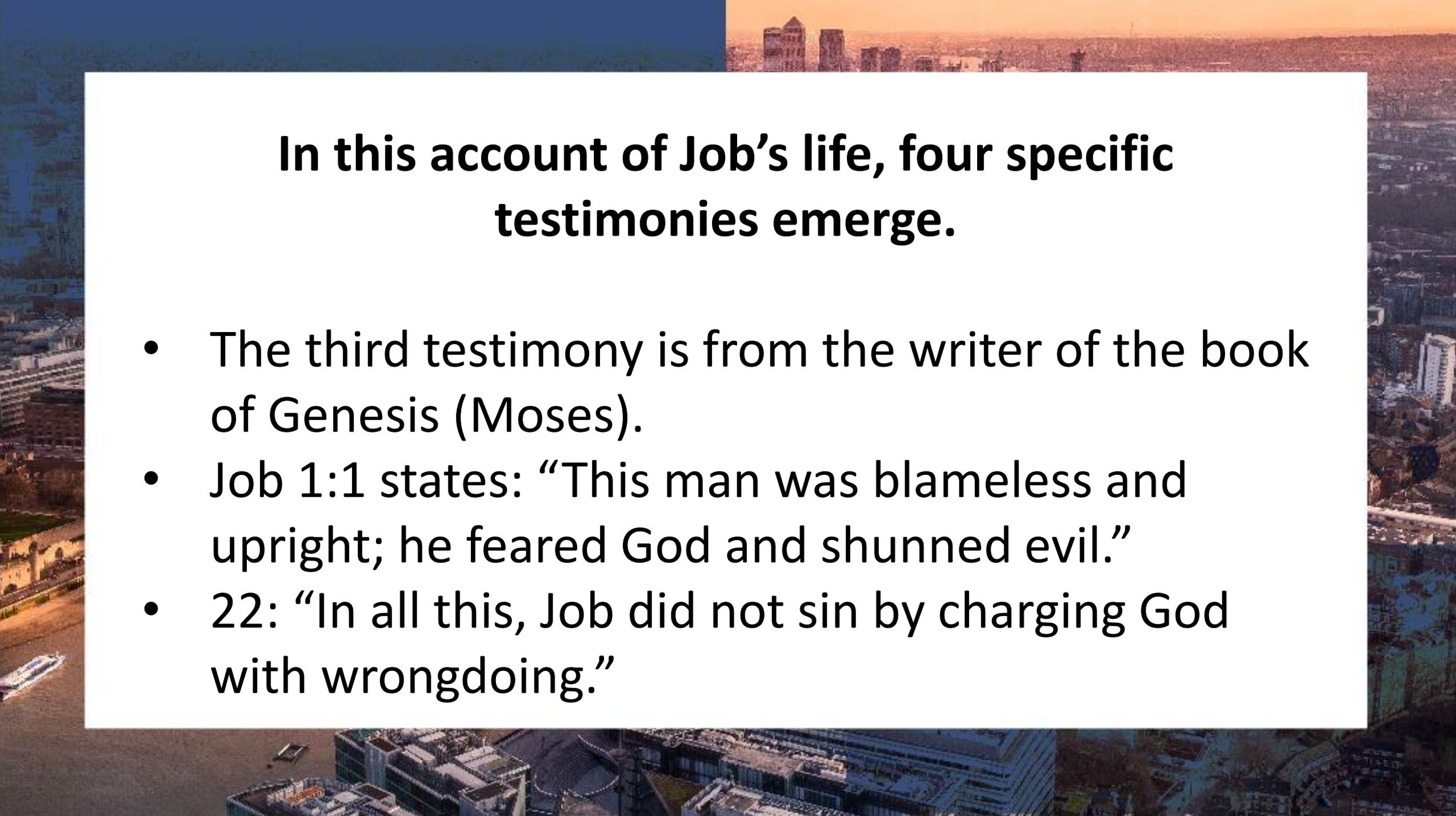
In this account of Job's life, four specific testimonies emerge.

- The second testimony comes from within the community at large; from young men, old men, local authorities, nobles, princes, kings, the poor and the widow—it comes from Job's public life as those who heard and saw Job spoke well of him (Job 29:1-11)

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with the sky transitioning from orange to blue. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright horizon. A large white body of water is visible in the lower-left corner, with a small boat on it.

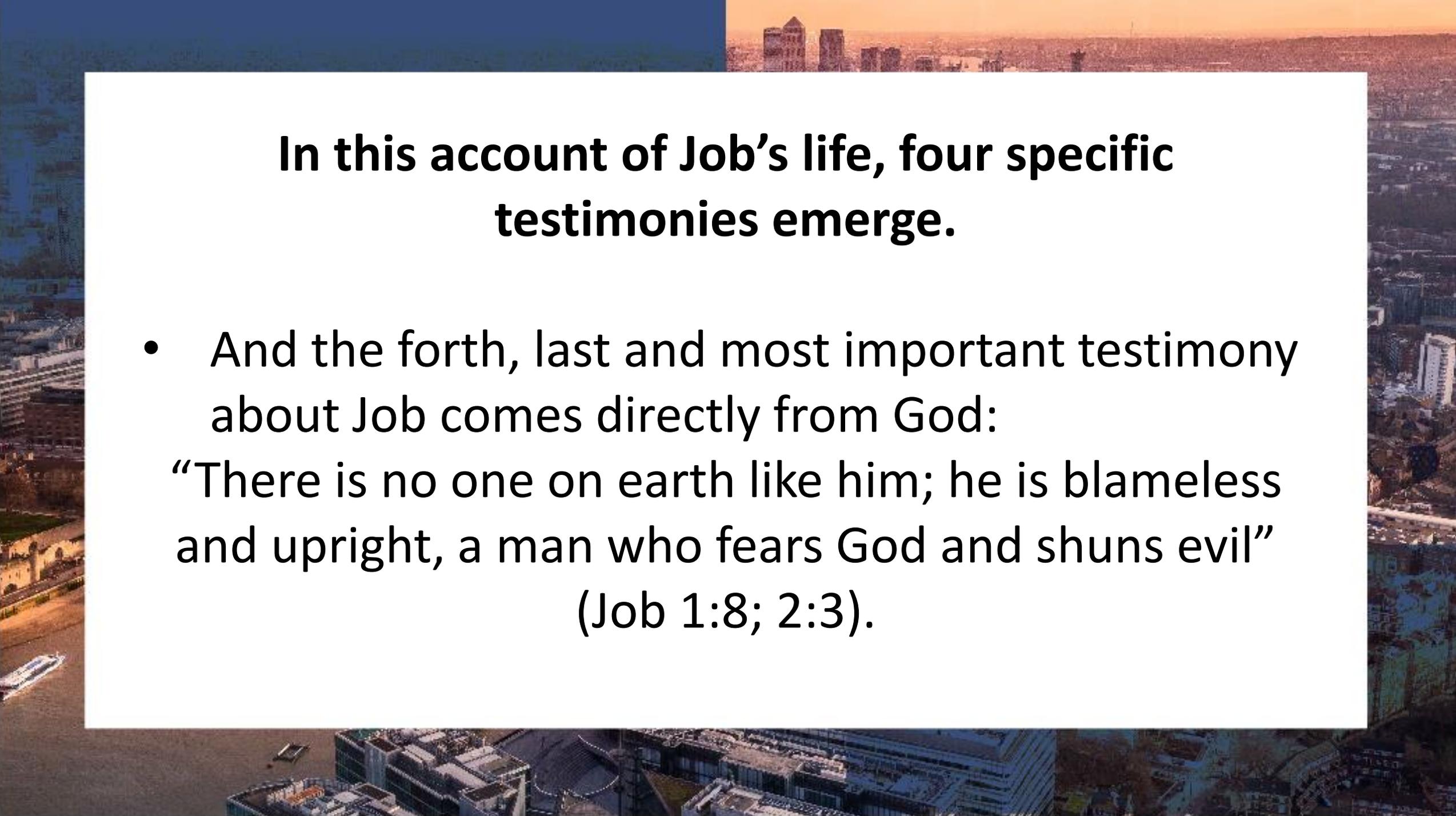
In this account of Job's life, four specific testimonies emerge.

- Job takes the role of a judge, and as such he acts as a mediator and intercessor on behalf of those in need
- He reflects the face of God in his professional life

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with buildings and a river visible. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and blue. The city is densely packed with buildings of various heights and colors. A river flows through the city, with a bridge visible in the distance. The overall scene is a panoramic view of a large urban area.

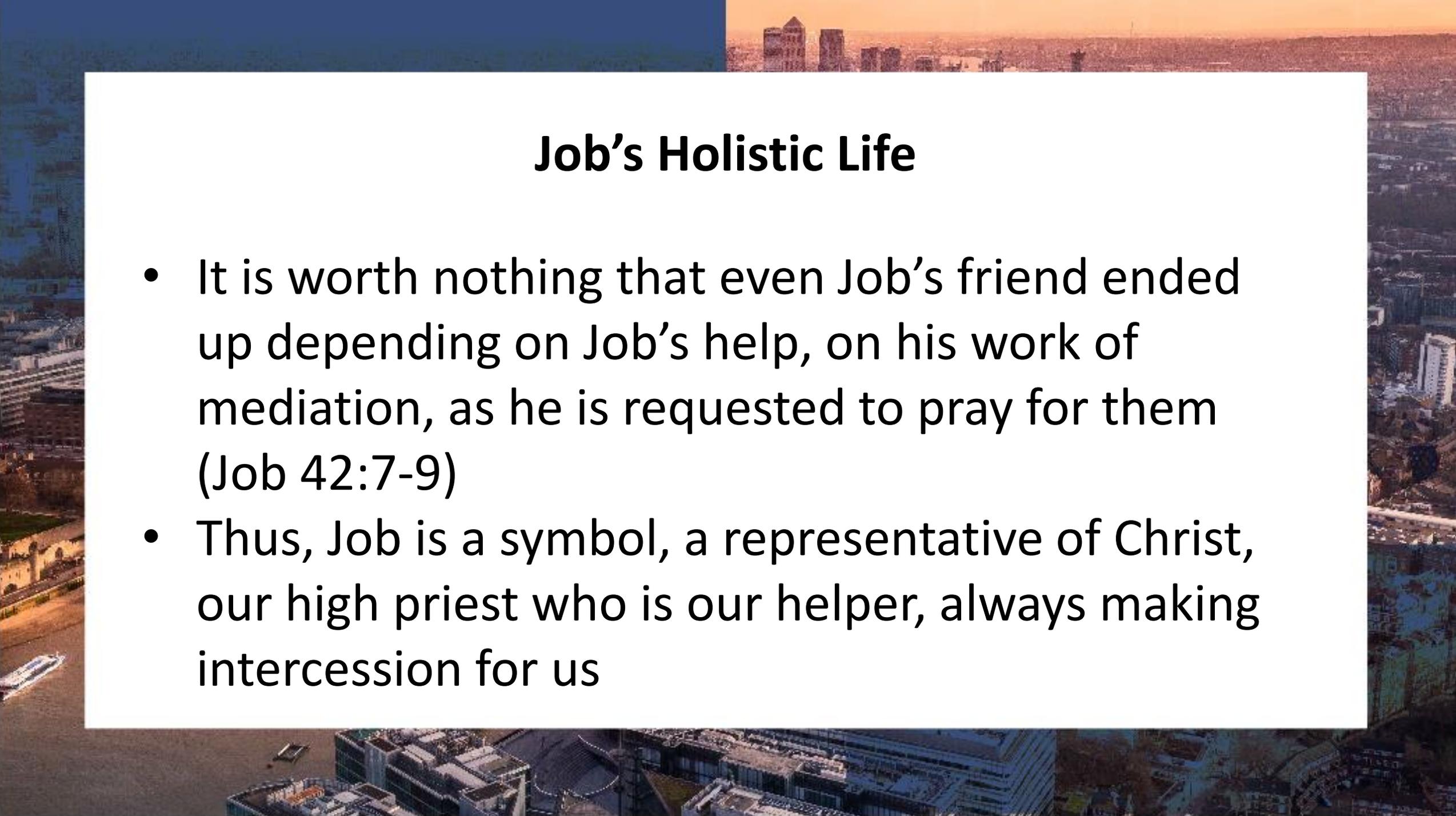
In this account of Job's life, four specific testimonies emerge.

- The third testimony is from the writer of the book of Genesis (Moses).
- Job 1:1 states: “This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.”
- 22: “In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.”

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with buildings and a river visible. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The city is densely packed with buildings of various heights and colors. A river flows through the city, with a bridge visible in the distance. The overall scene is a panoramic view of a large urban area.

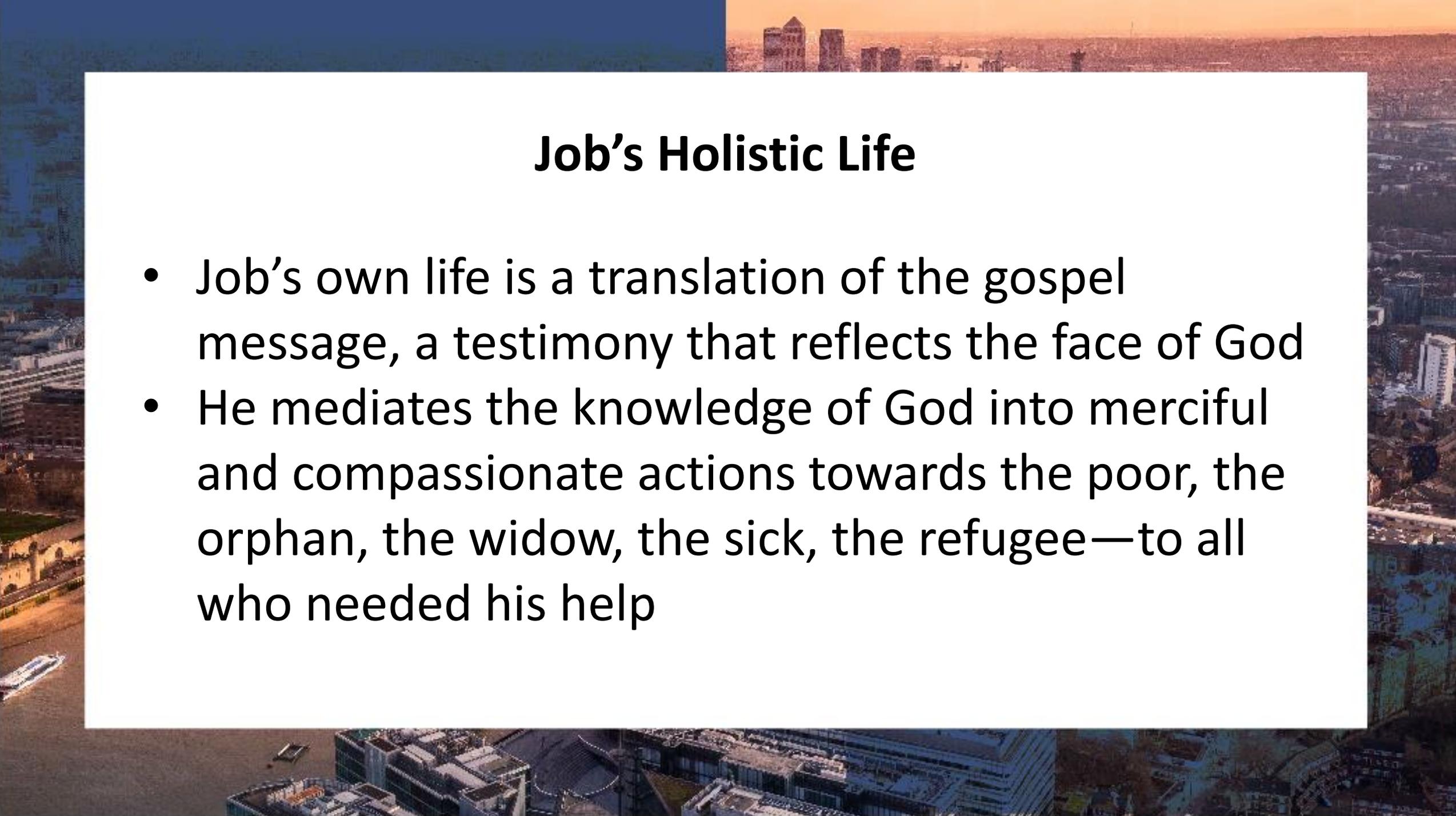
In this account of Job's life, four specific testimonies emerge.

- And the forth, last and most important testimony about Job comes directly from God:
“There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil”
(Job 1:8; 2:3).

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with buildings and a river visible. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and blue. The city is densely packed with buildings of various heights and colors. A river flows through the city, with a bridge visible in the distance. The overall scene is a panoramic view of a large urban area.

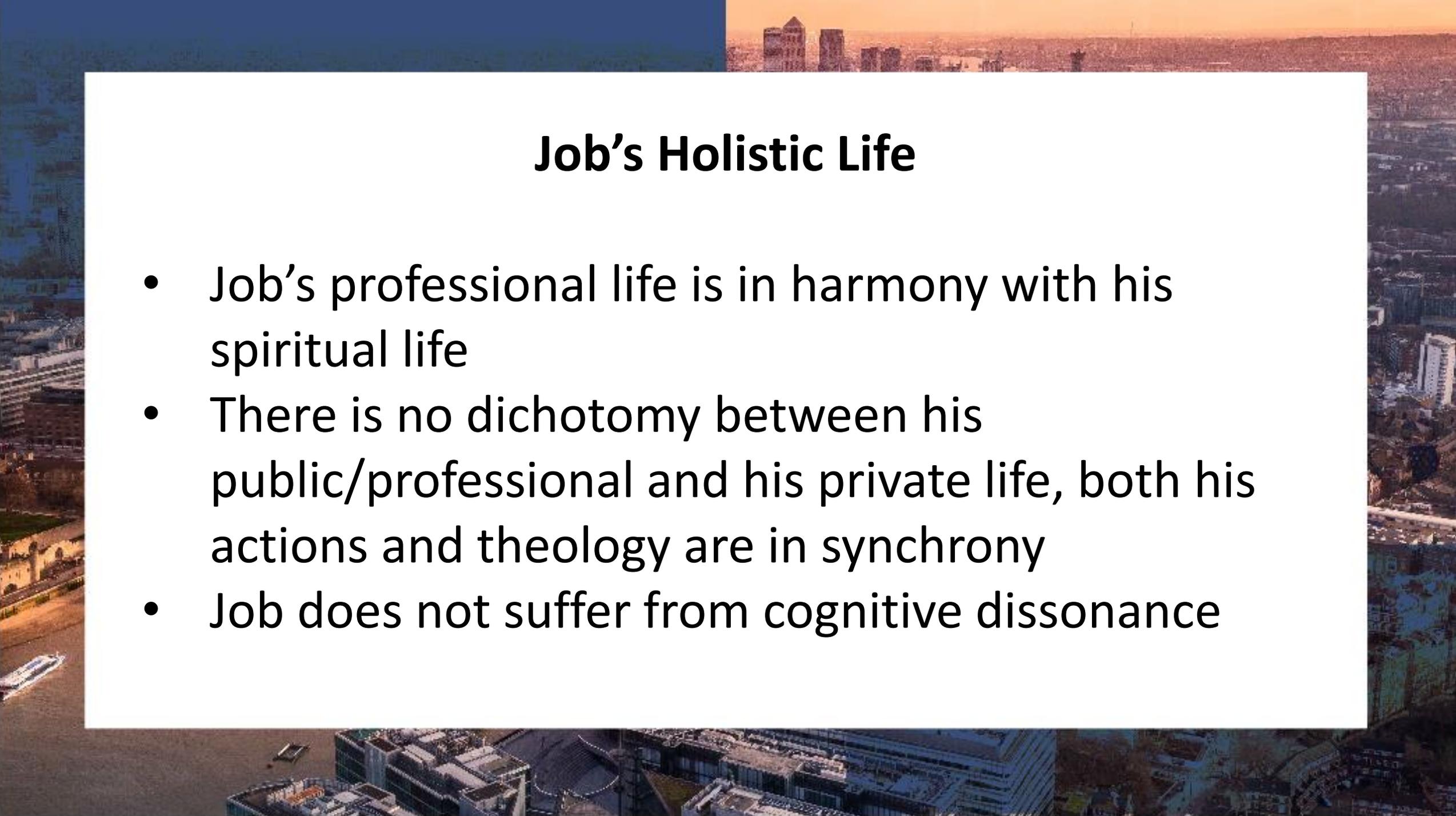
Job's Holistic Life

- It is worth nothing that even Job's friend ended up depending on Job's help, on his work of mediation, as he is requested to pray for them (Job 42:7-9)
- Thus, Job is a symbol, a representative of Christ, our high priest who is our helper, always making intercession for us

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with buildings and a river visible. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and blue. The city is densely packed with buildings of various heights and colors. A river flows through the city, with a bridge visible in the distance. The overall scene is a vibrant and detailed urban landscape.

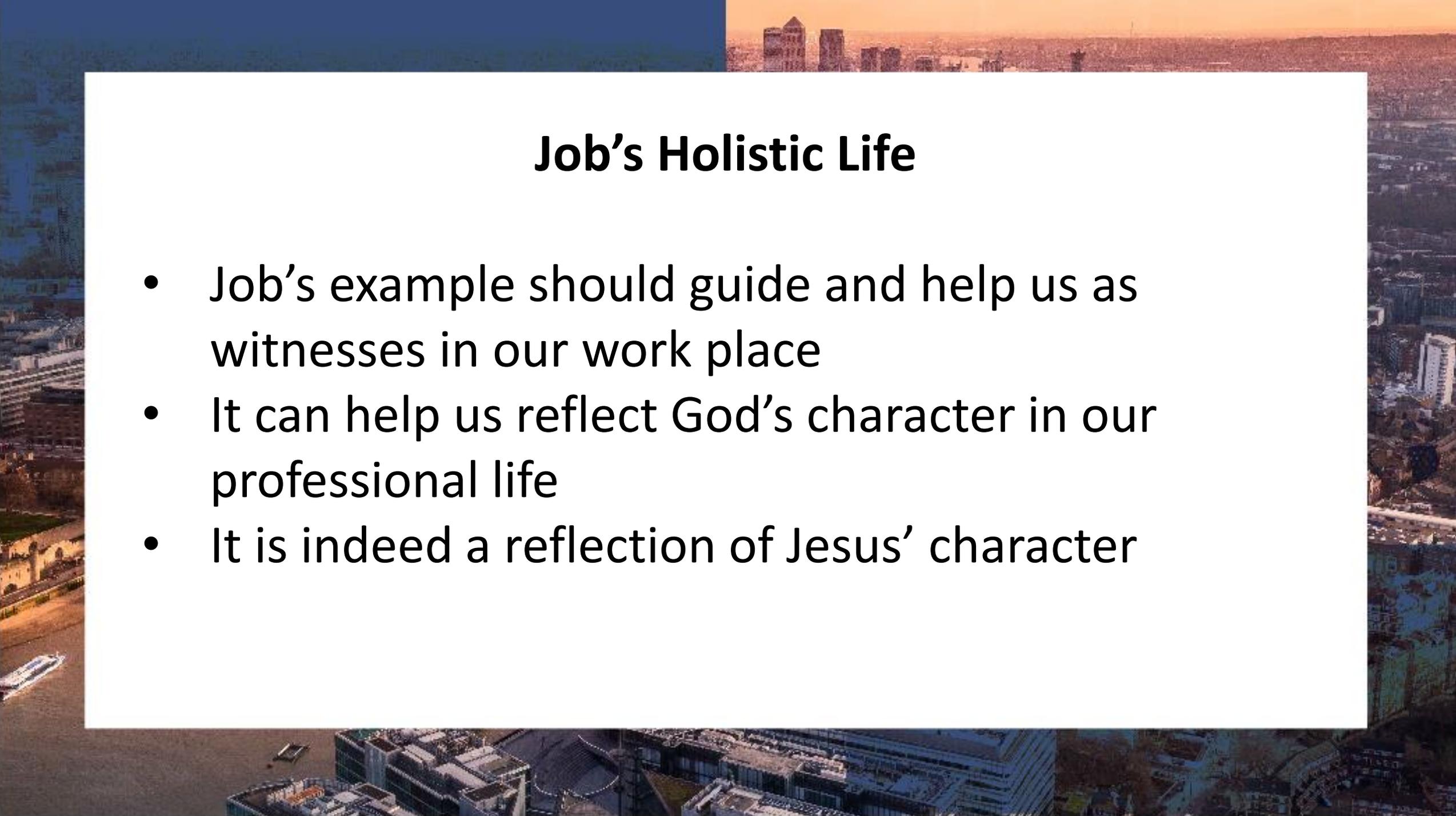
Job's Holistic Life

- Job's own life is a translation of the gospel message, a testimony that reflects the face of God
- He mediates the knowledge of God into merciful and compassionate actions towards the poor, the orphan, the widow, the sick, the refugee—to all who needed his help

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with the sky transitioning from orange to blue. The city features various buildings, including a prominent white dome structure, and a river with a boat in the foreground.

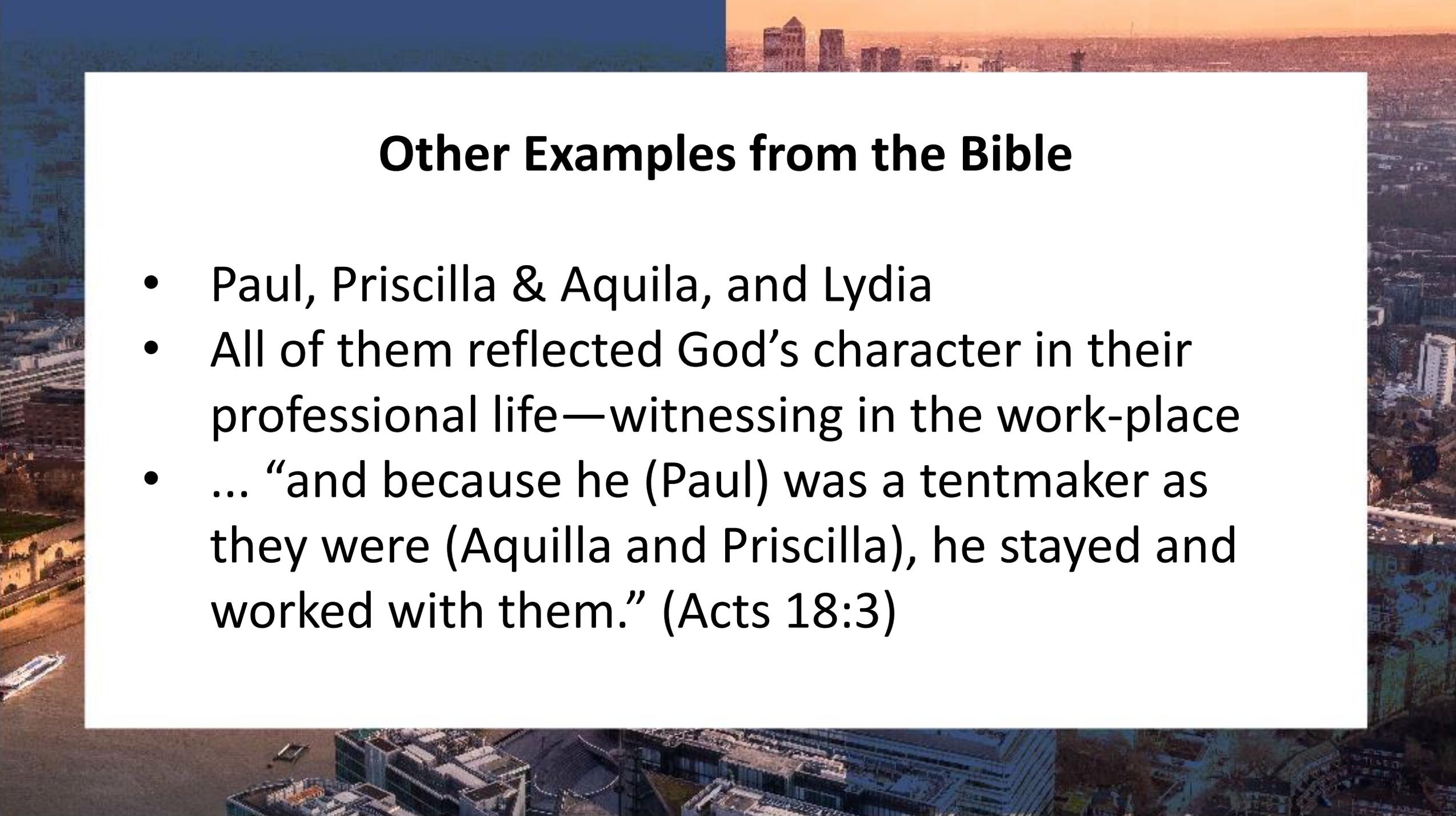
Job's Holistic Life

- Job's professional life is in harmony with his spiritual life
- There is no dichotomy between his public/professional and his private life, both his actions and theology are in synchrony
- Job does not suffer from cognitive dissonance

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with the sky transitioning from orange to blue. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright sky. A large white boat is visible in the water in the lower-left corner.

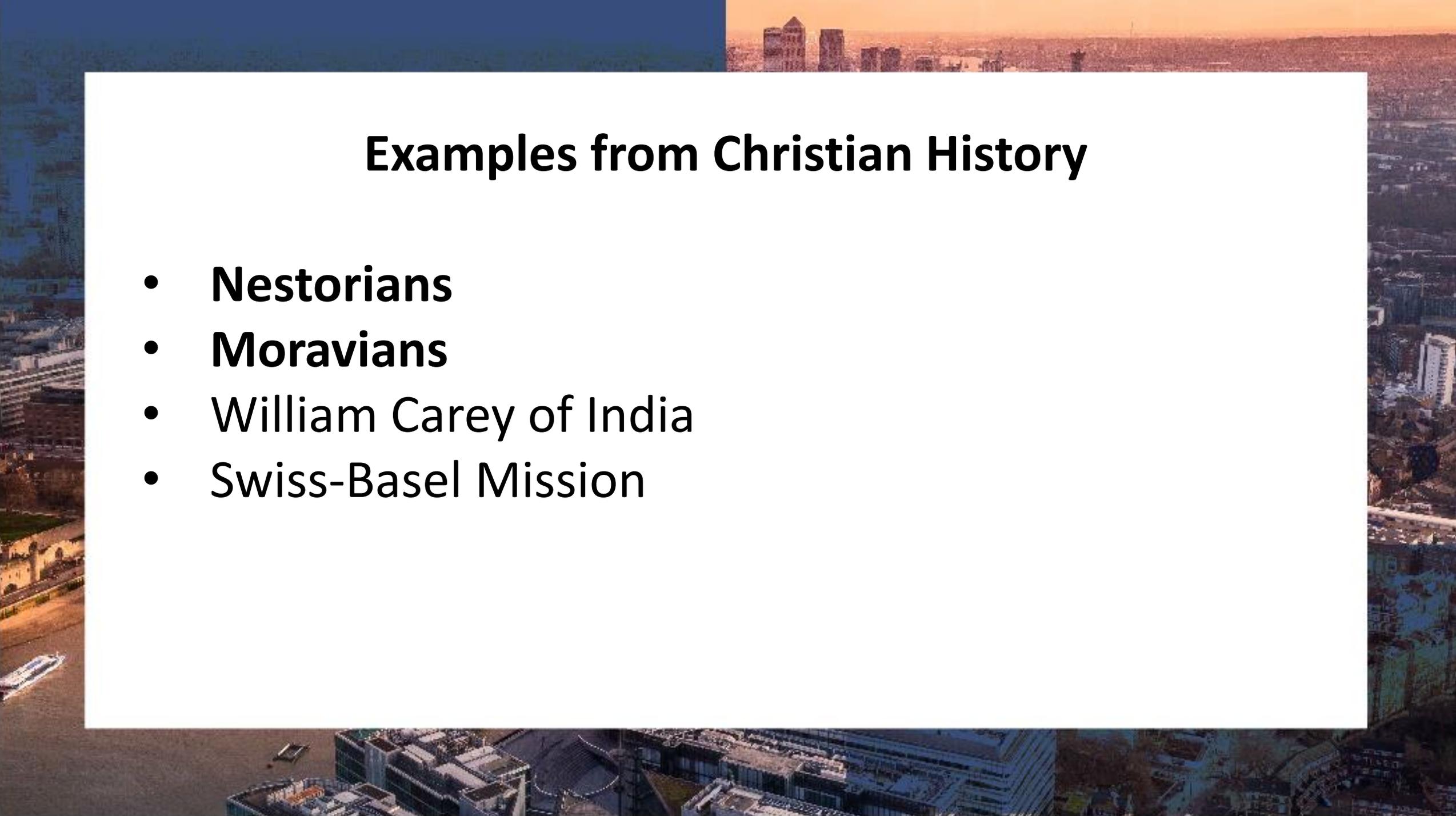
Job's Holistic Life

- Job's example should guide and help us as witnesses in our work place
- It can help us reflect God's character in our professional life
- It is indeed a reflection of Jesus' character

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with buildings and a river visible. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and blue. The city is densely packed with buildings of various heights and colors. A river flows through the city, with a bridge visible in the distance. The overall scene is a vibrant and detailed urban landscape.

Other Examples from the Bible

- Paul, Priscilla & Aquila, and Lydia
- All of them reflected God’s character in their professional life—witnessing in the work-place
- ... “and because he (Paul) was a tentmaker as they were (Aquila and Priscilla), he stayed and worked with them.” (Acts 18:3)

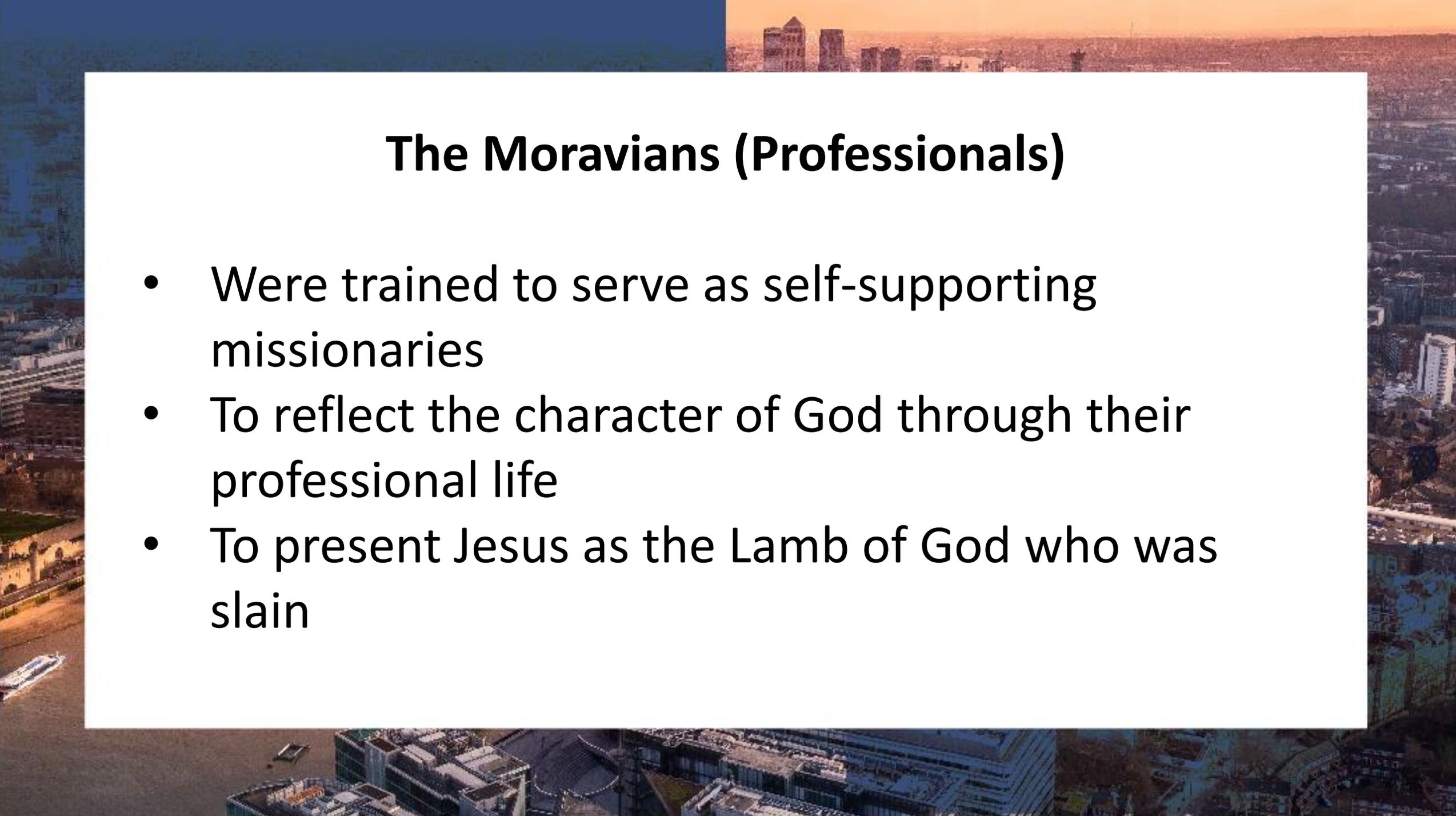
An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white rectangular box overlaid in the center containing text. The city features a mix of modern and older buildings, and a river is visible in the lower-left corner.

Examples from Christian History

- **Nestorians**
- **Moravians**
- William Carey of India
- Swiss-Basel Mission

Who Were the Nestorians

- Eastern Christians who fled to Persia
- Persecuted in 3rd-4th centuries
- Fled further East to China, Korea, Japan
- Worked their way East as Tentmakers
- Results: there were more Christians in Asia in the 11th Century than in Europe

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with the sky transitioning from orange to blue. The city features a mix of modern high-rise buildings and older structures. A river or canal is visible in the lower-left corner, with a white boat on the water. The overall scene is a panoramic view of an urban landscape.

The Moravians (Professionals)

- Were trained to serve as self-supporting missionaries
- To reflect the character of God through their professional life
- To present Jesus as the Lamb of God who was slain

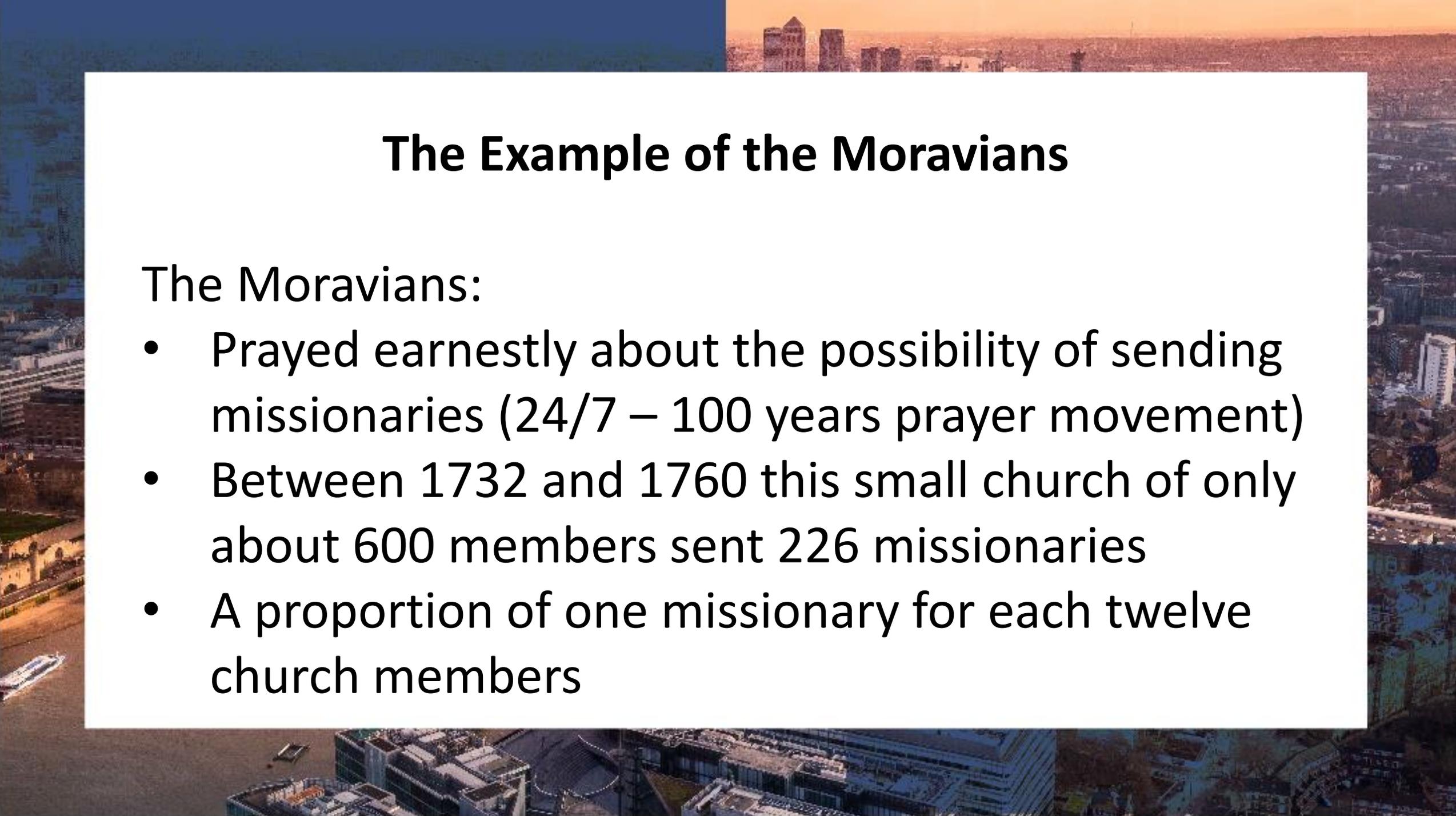
The Example of the Moravians

- For a long time, only the Moravians worked in Guiana as missionaries
- In no other land has work been carried out at a greater cost
- For years, each convert cost the life of a missionary
- Thus hundreds of missionaries lost their lives

The Example of the Moravians



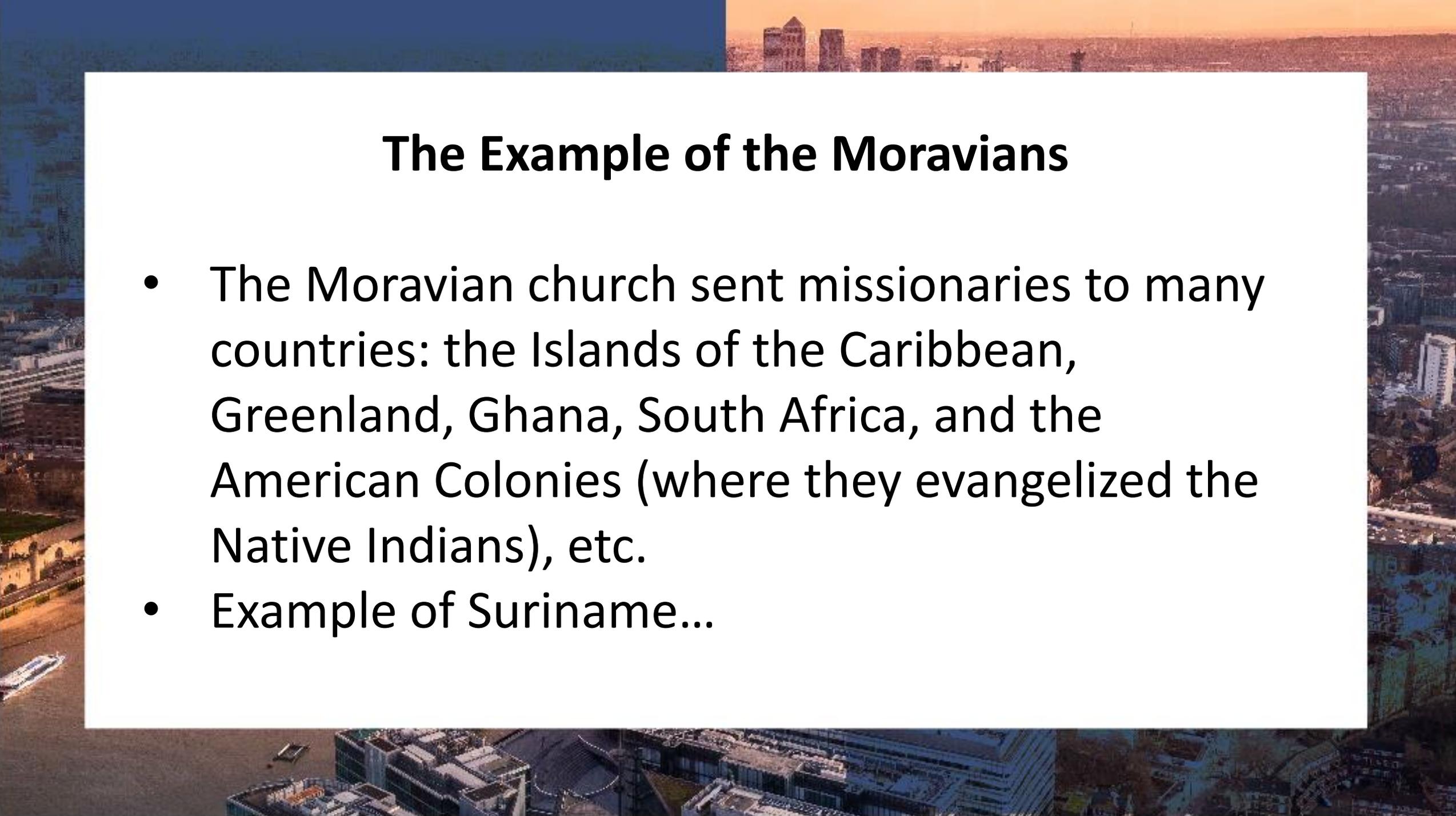
John Leonard Dober & David Nitschman
Left Copenhagen in 1732 to the Caribbean Islands

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white text box overlaid in the center. The city lights are visible in the background, and the sky is a mix of orange and blue. The text box contains the title and a list of bullet points.

The Example of the Moravians

The Moravians:

- Prayed earnestly about the possibility of sending missionaries (24/7 – 100 years prayer movement)
- Between 1732 and 1760 this small church of only about 600 members sent 226 missionaries
- A proportion of one missionary for each twelve church members

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with the sky transitioning from orange to blue. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright horizon. The image is used as a background for the slide.

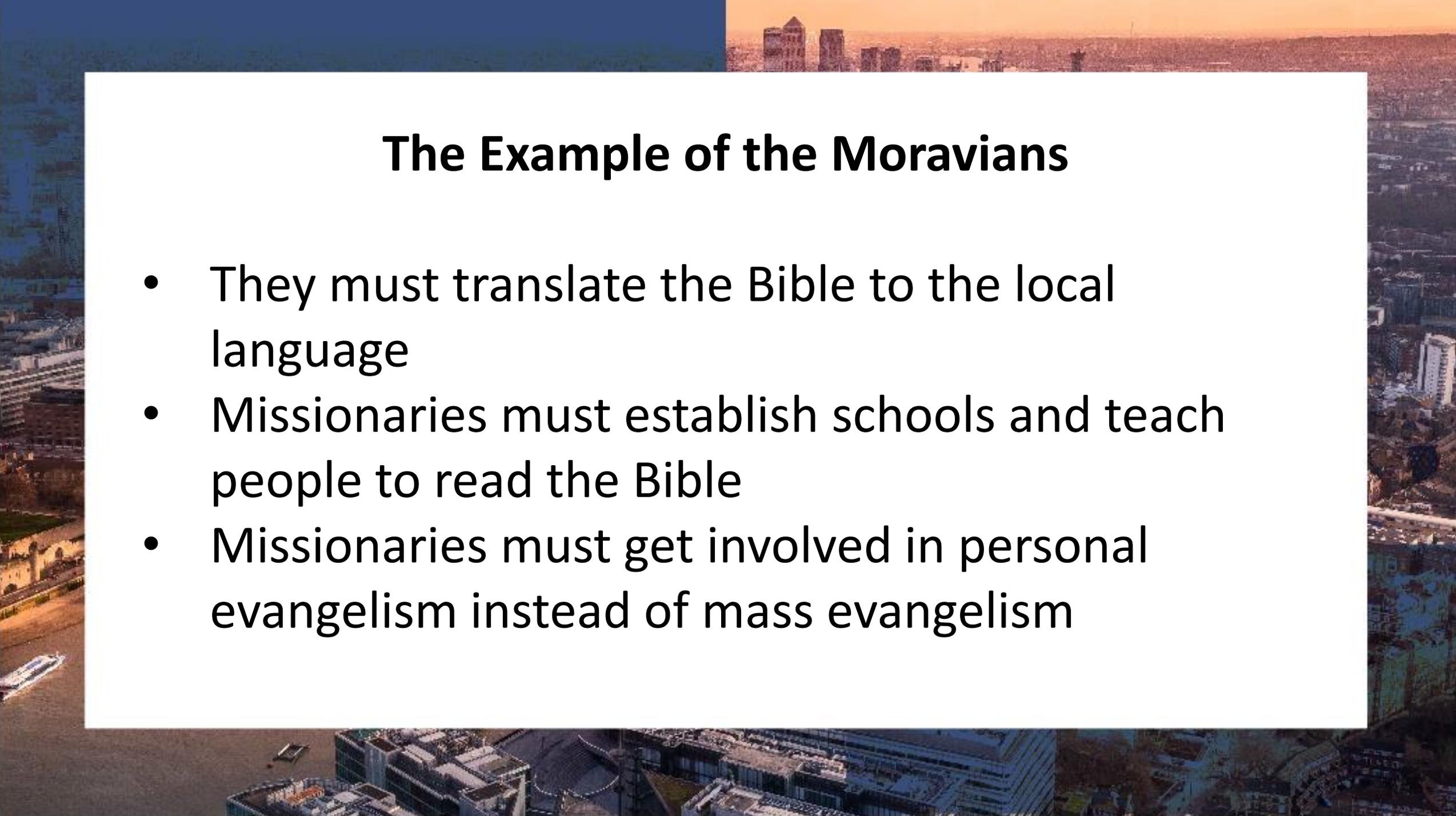
The Example of the Moravians

- The Moravian church sent missionaries to many countries: the Islands of the Caribbean, Greenland, Ghana, South Africa, and the American Colonies (where they evangelized the Native Indians), etc.
- Example of Suriname...

The Example of the Moravians

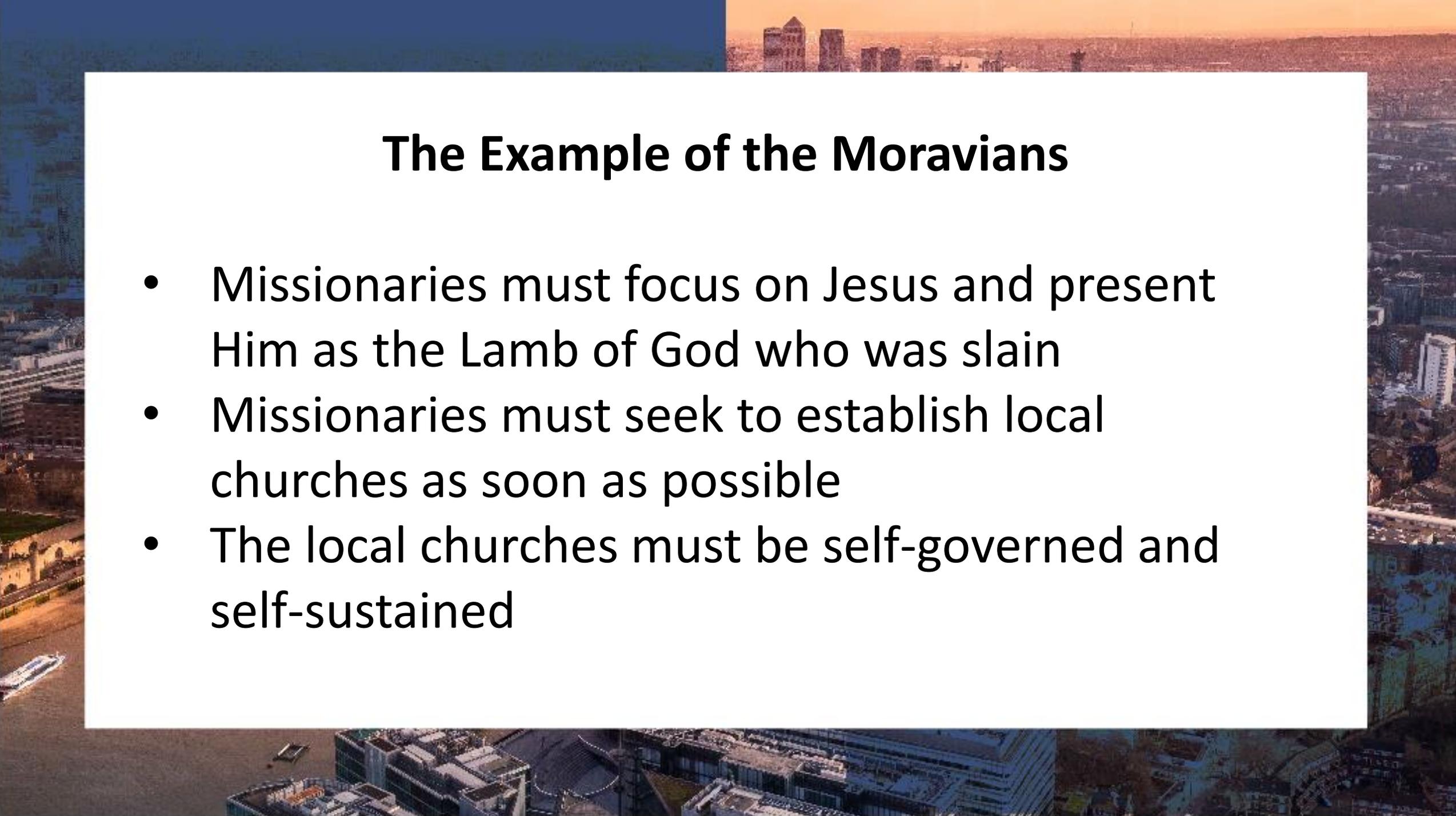
The Moravians worked according to the following principles:

- Missionaries are lay church members
- Missionaries are self-supporting workers, they are tentmakers.
- Missionaries must learn the local language and local culture

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white rectangular text box overlaid in the center. The city buildings are silhouetted against the orange and yellow sky. A river or canal is visible in the lower-left corner, with a small boat. The text box contains the title and a list of three bullet points.

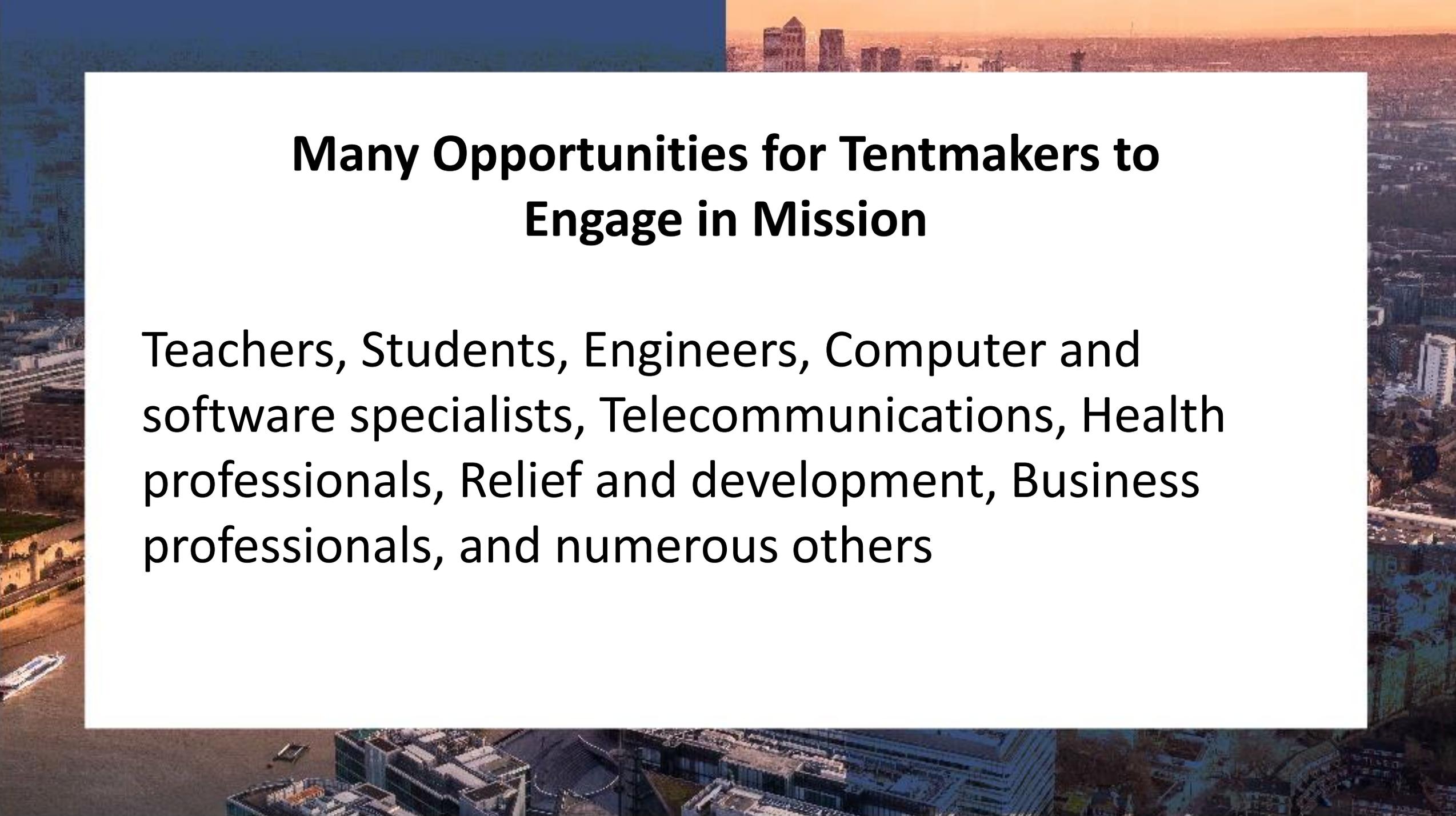
The Example of the Moravians

- They must translate the Bible to the local language
- Missionaries must establish schools and teach people to read the Bible
- Missionaries must get involved in personal evangelism instead of mass evangelism

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white rectangular box overlaid in the center containing text. The city features a mix of modern high-rise buildings and older structures, with a river or waterway visible in the lower-left corner. The sky is a gradient of orange and blue.

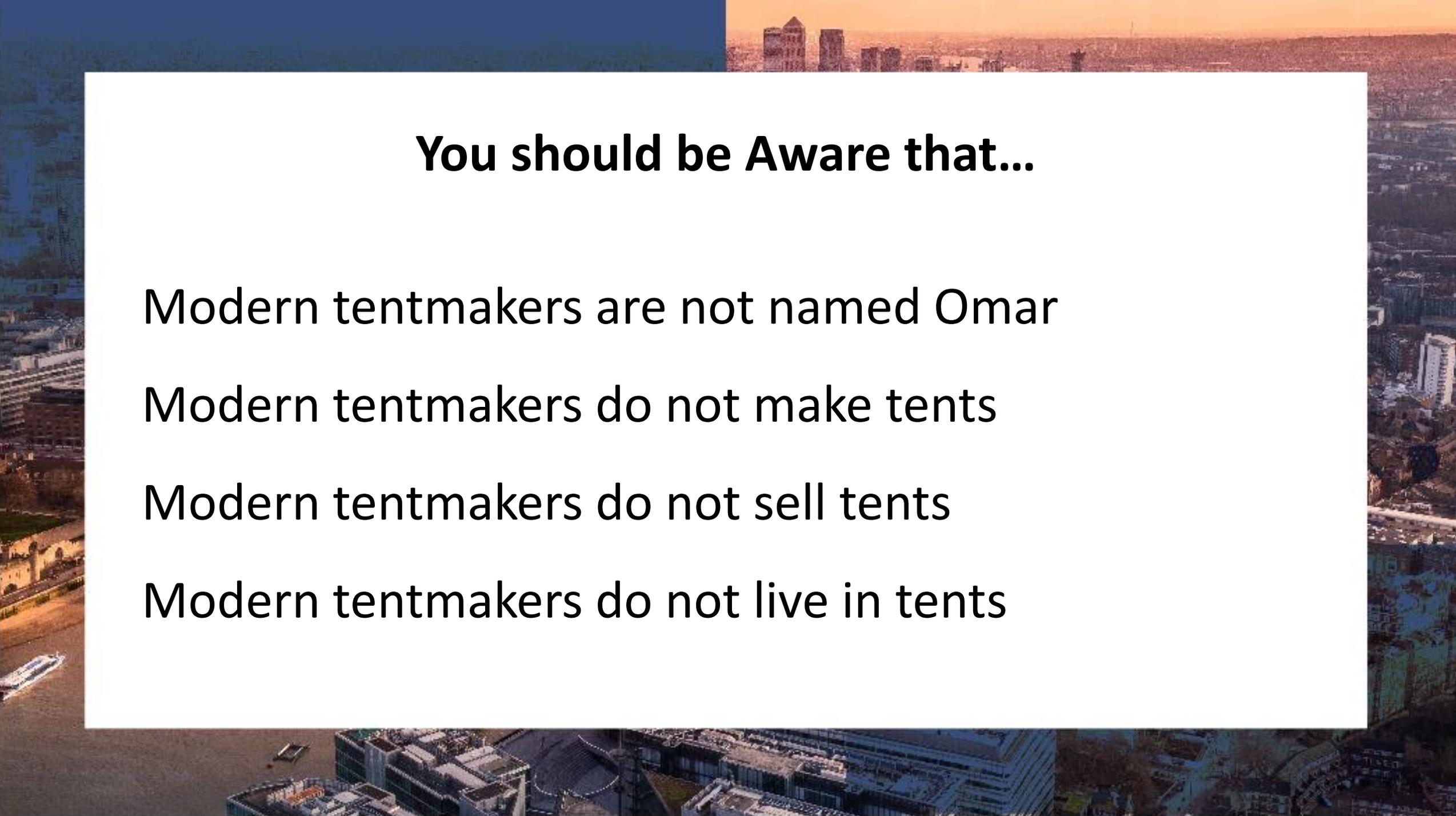
The Example of the Moravians

- Missionaries must focus on Jesus and present Him as the Lamb of God who was slain
- Missionaries must seek to establish local churches as soon as possible
- The local churches must be self-governed and self-sustained

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white rectangular text box in the center. The city buildings are silhouetted against the orange and yellow sky. A river is visible in the bottom left corner with a white boat.

Many Opportunities for Tentmakers to Engage in Mission

Teachers, Students, Engineers, Computer and software specialists, Telecommunications, Health professionals, Relief and development, Business professionals, and numerous others

An aerial photograph of a city skyline at sunset, with a white rectangular text box overlaid in the center. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, and the city buildings are silhouetted against the light. The text box contains the following text:

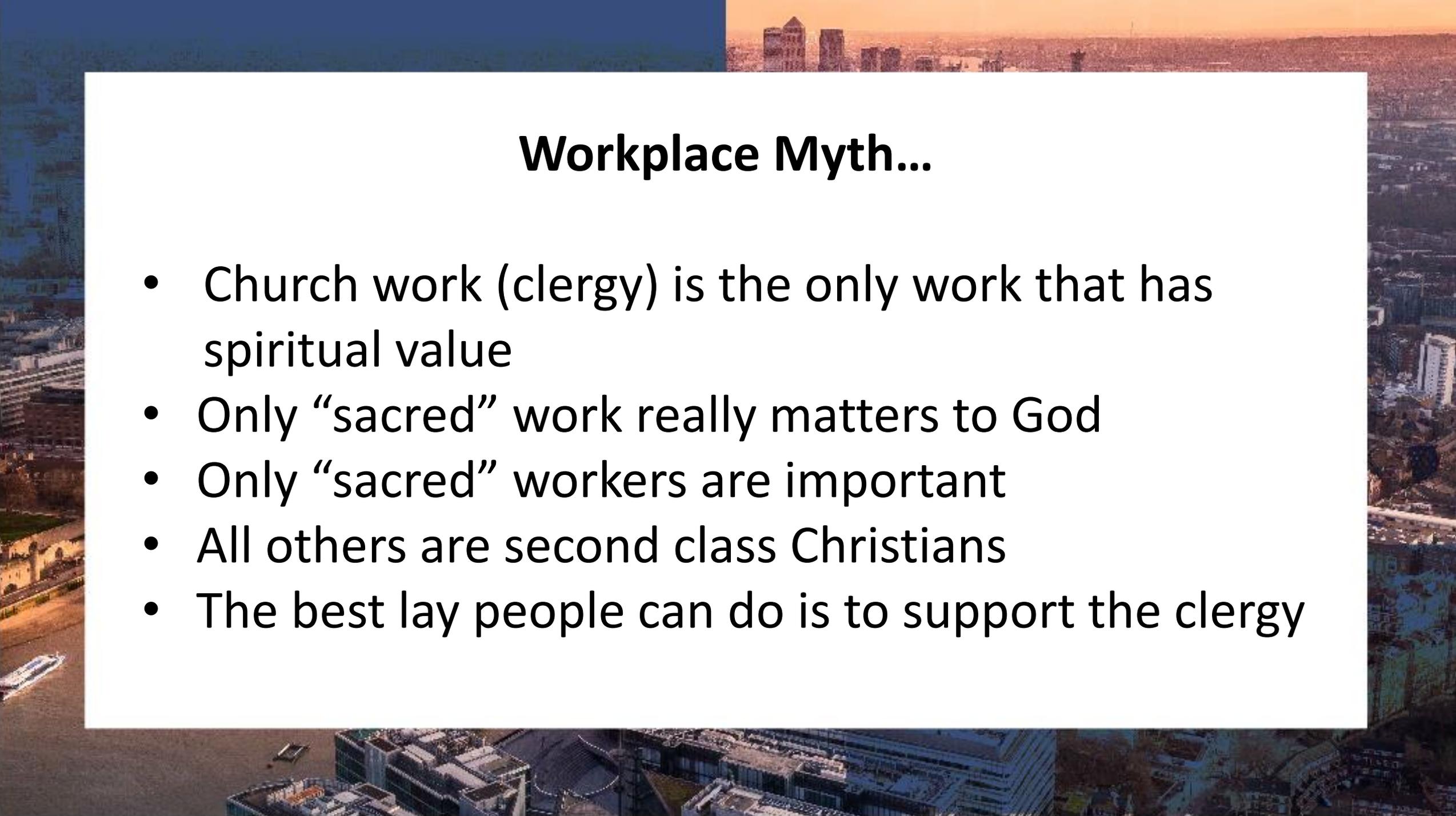
You should be Aware that...

Modern tentmakers are not named Omar

Modern tentmakers do not make tents

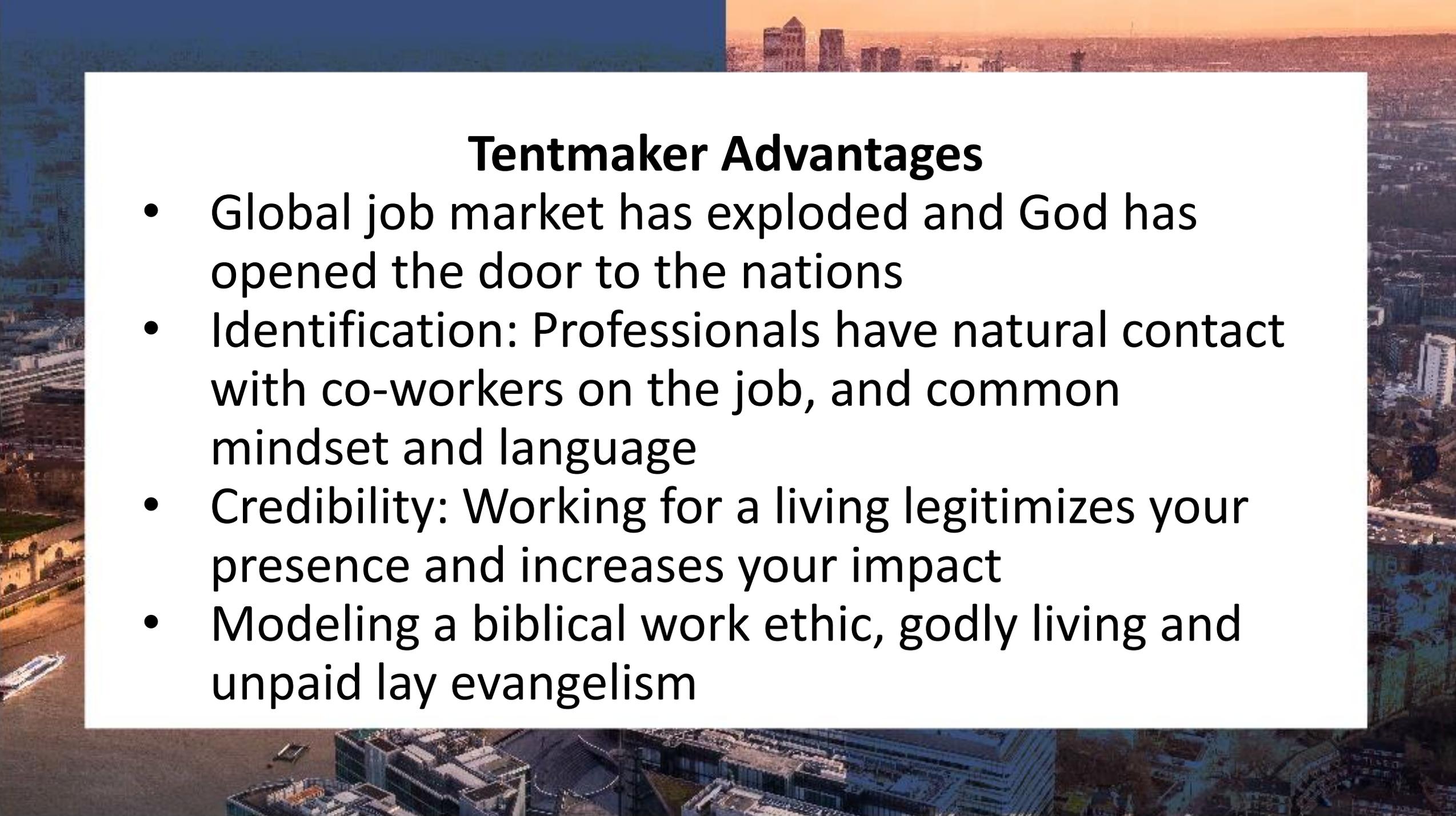
Modern tentmakers do not sell tents

Modern tentmakers do not live in tents

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white rectangular text box overlaid in the center. The city buildings are silhouetted against the orange and yellow sky. A river or canal is visible in the lower-left corner, with a white boat. The text box contains the title 'Workplace Myth...' and a list of five bullet points.

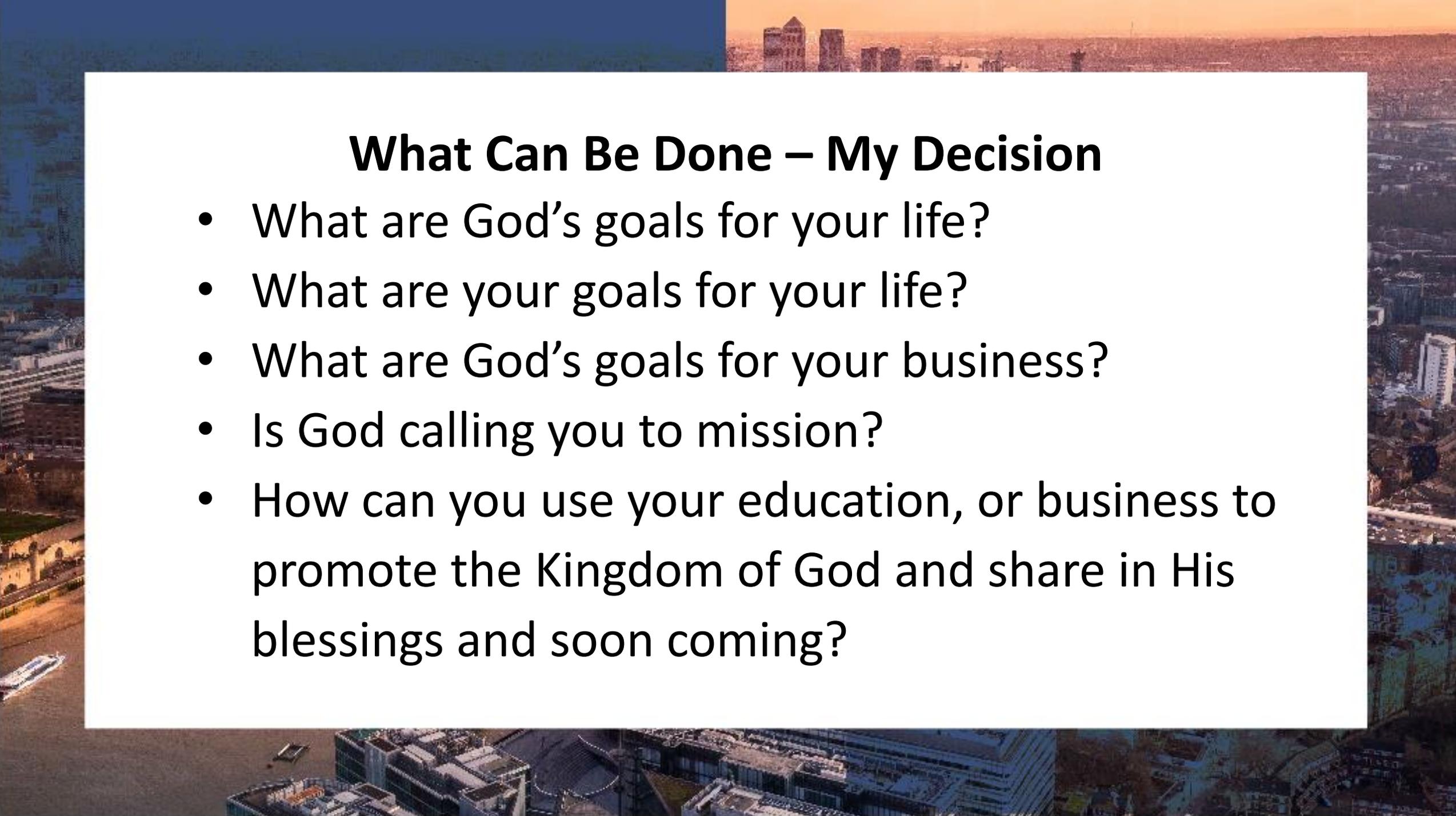
Workplace Myth...

- Church work (clergy) is the only work that has spiritual value
- Only “sacred” work really matters to God
- Only “sacred” workers are important
- All others are second class Christians
- The best lay people can do is to support the clergy

An aerial photograph of a city skyline at sunset, with the sun low on the horizon casting a warm orange glow over the buildings. A large white rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the title and a list of points. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright sky, and some lights are visible in the windows.

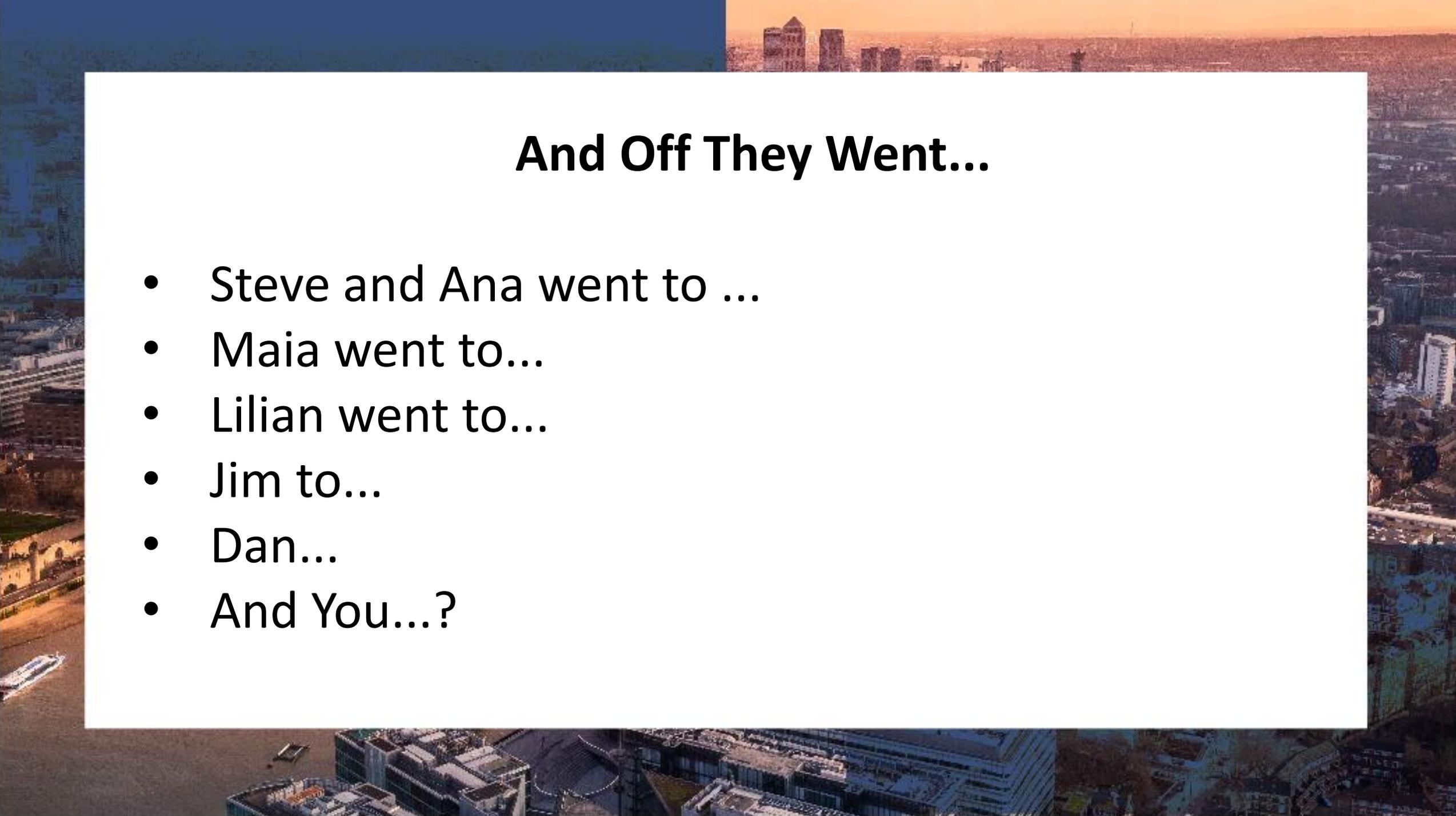
Tentmaker Advantages

- Global job market has exploded and God has opened the door to the nations
- Identification: Professionals have natural contact with co-workers on the job, and common mindset and language
- Credibility: Working for a living legitimizes your presence and increases your impact
- Modeling a biblical work ethic, godly living and unpaid lay evangelism

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with buildings and a river visible. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The city is densely packed with buildings of various heights and colors. A river flows through the city, with a bridge visible in the distance. The overall scene is a vibrant and detailed urban landscape.

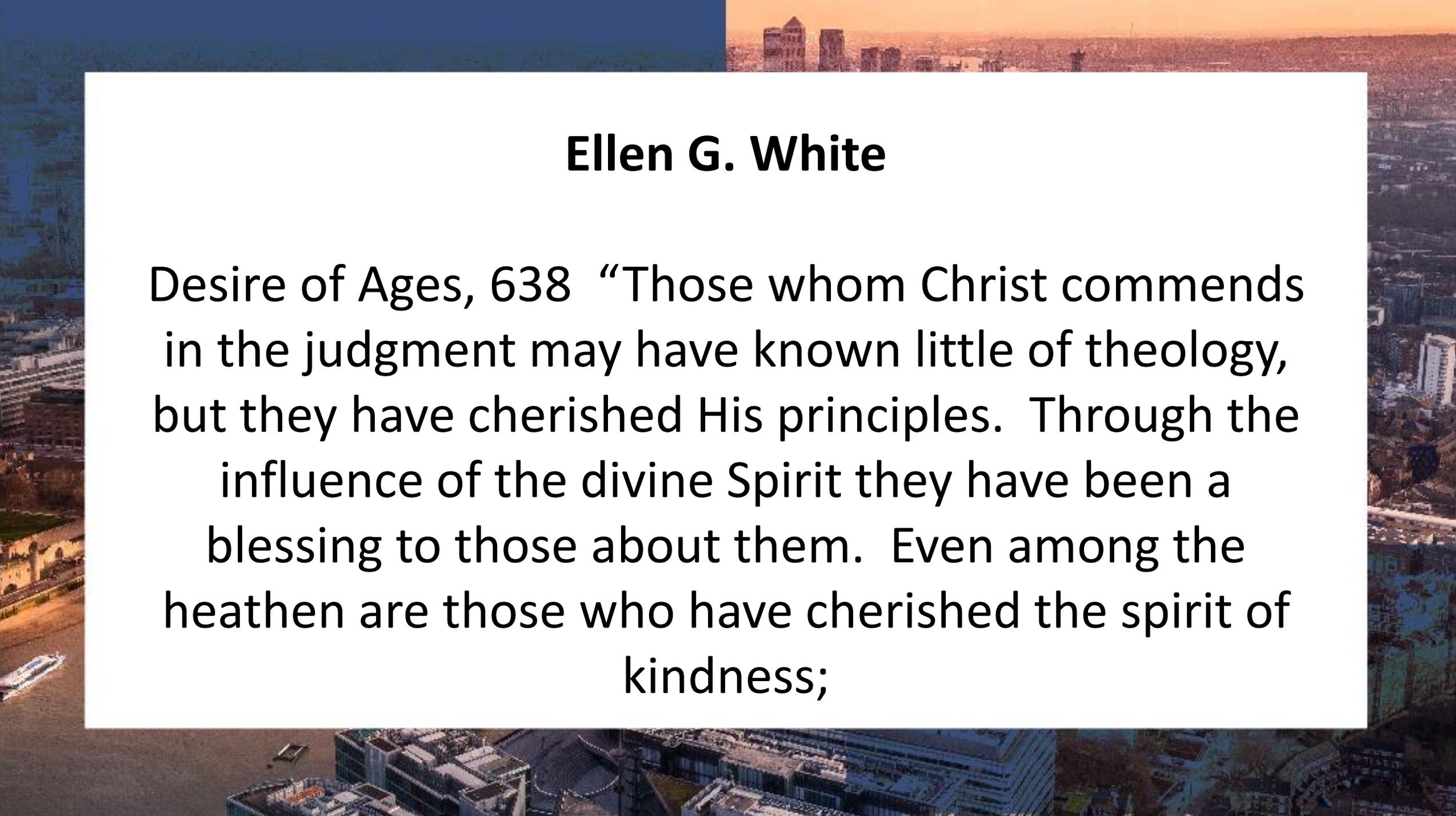
What Can Be Done – My Decision

- What are God's goals for your life?
- What are your goals for your life?
- What are God's goals for your business?
- Is God calling you to mission?
- How can you use your education, or business to promote the Kingdom of God and share in His blessings and soon coming?

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white rectangular box overlaid in the center containing text. The city features a mix of modern and older buildings, a river with a boat, and a prominent dome structure in the foreground.

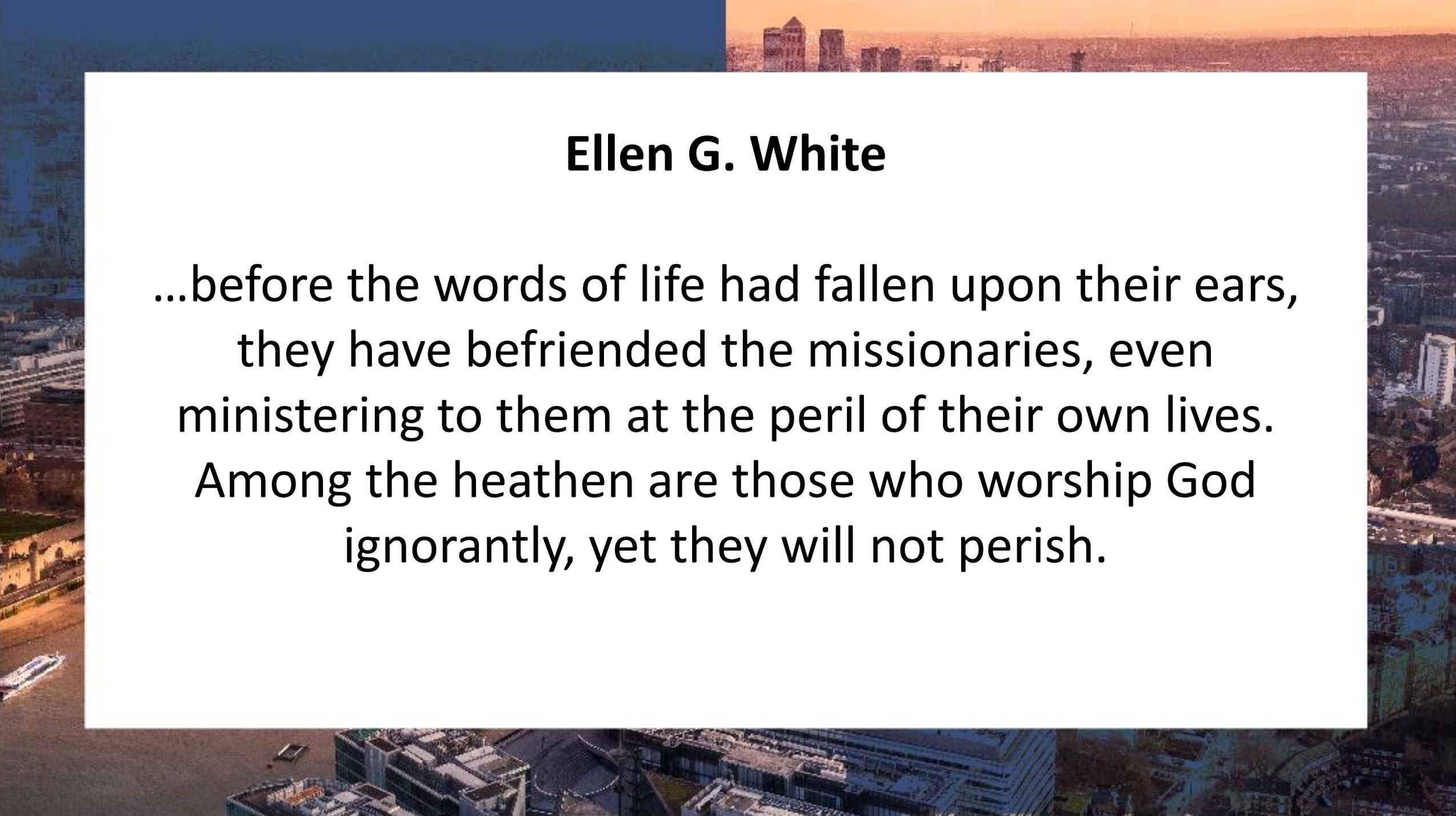
And Off They Went...

- Steve and Ana went to ...
- Maia went to...
- Lilian went to...
- Jim to...
- Dan...
- And You...?

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with the sky transitioning from orange to blue. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright sky. The text is overlaid on a white rectangular background in the center of the image.

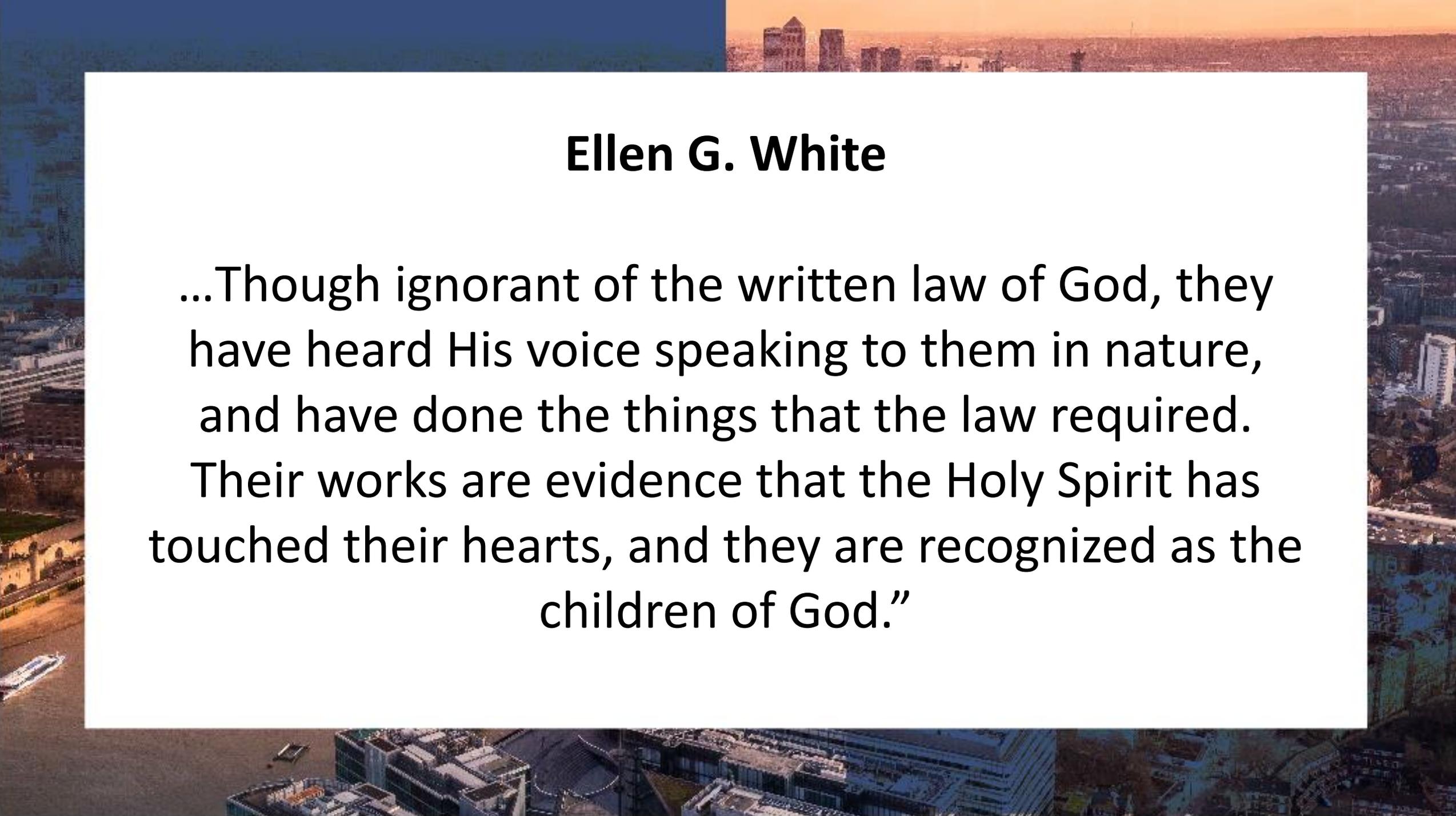
Ellen G. White

Desire of Ages, 638 “Those whom Christ commends in the judgment may have known little of theology, but they have cherished His principles. Through the influence of the divine Spirit they have been a blessing to those about them. Even among the heathen are those who have cherished the spirit of kindness;

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white text box overlaid in the center. The city features a mix of modern and older buildings, and a river is visible in the lower-left corner. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

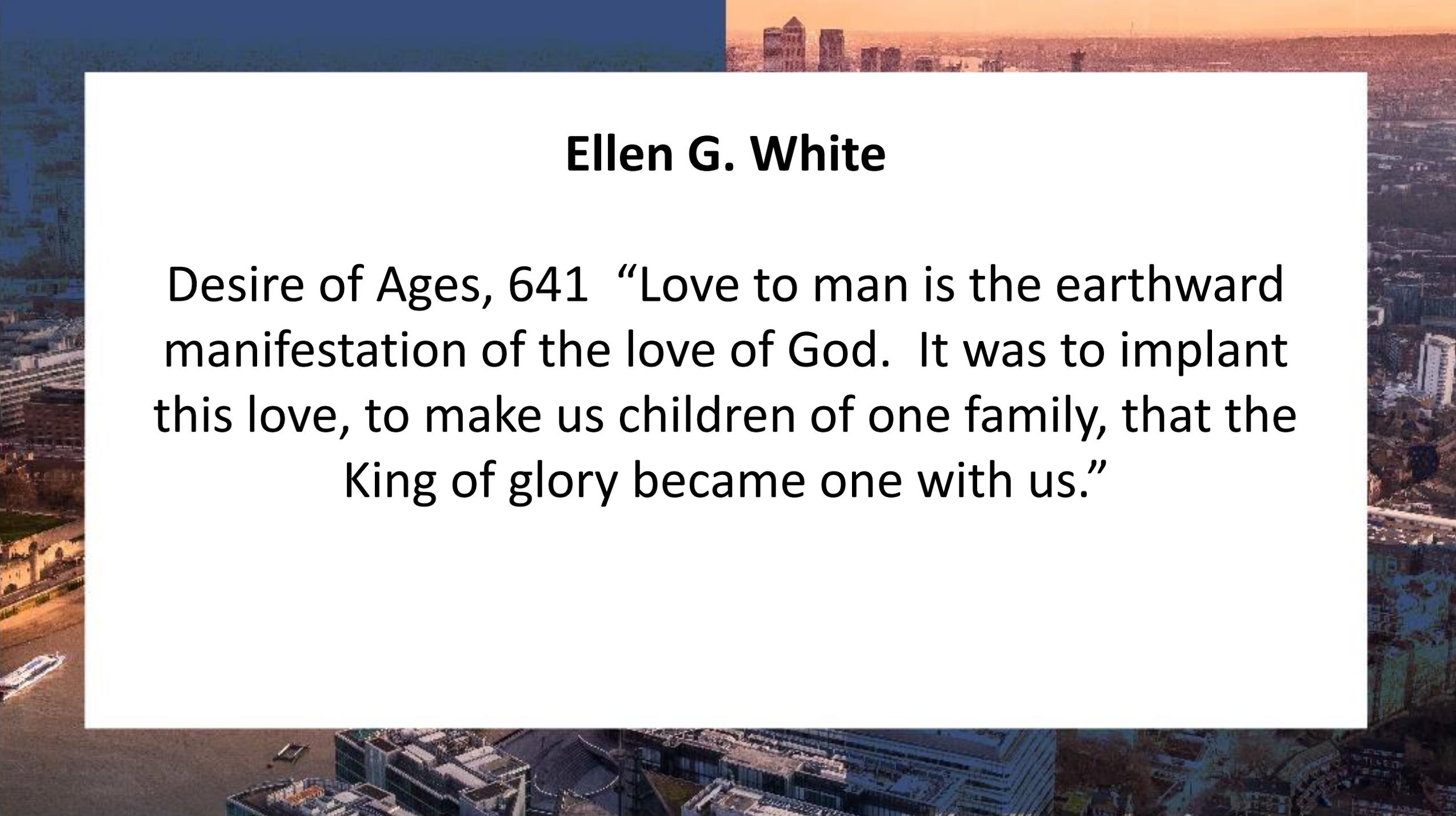
Ellen G. White

...before the words of life had fallen upon their ears, they have befriended the missionaries, even ministering to them at the peril of their own lives. Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, yet they will not perish.

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white text box overlaid in the center. The city features a mix of modern and older buildings, and a river is visible in the lower-left corner. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

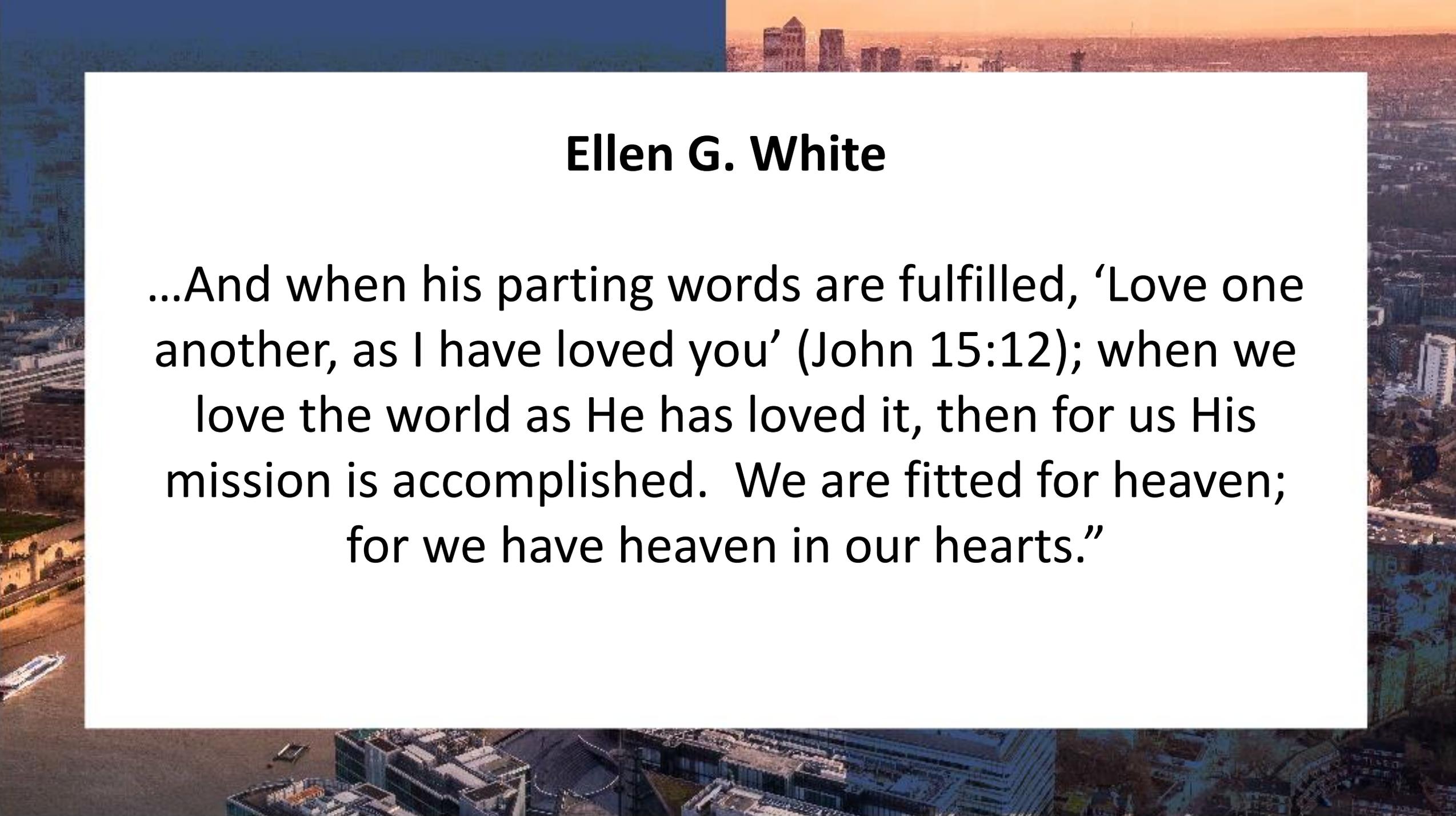
Ellen G. White

...Though ignorant of the written law of God, they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature, and have done the things that the law required. Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts, and they are recognized as the children of God.”

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white text box overlaid in the center. The city features a mix of modern and older buildings, and a river is visible in the lower-left corner. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, transitioning to a dark blue at the top.

Ellen G. White

Desire of Ages, 641 “Love to man is the earthward manifestation of the love of God. It was to implant this love, to make us children of one family, that the King of glory became one with us.”

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white text box overlaid in the center. The city buildings are silhouetted against the orange and red sky. A river is visible in the lower-left corner, with a white boat on it.

Ellen G. White

...And when his parting words are fulfilled, ‘Love one another, as I have loved you’ (John 15:12); when we love the world as He has loved it, then for us His mission is accomplished. We are fitted for heaven; for we have heaven in our hearts.”