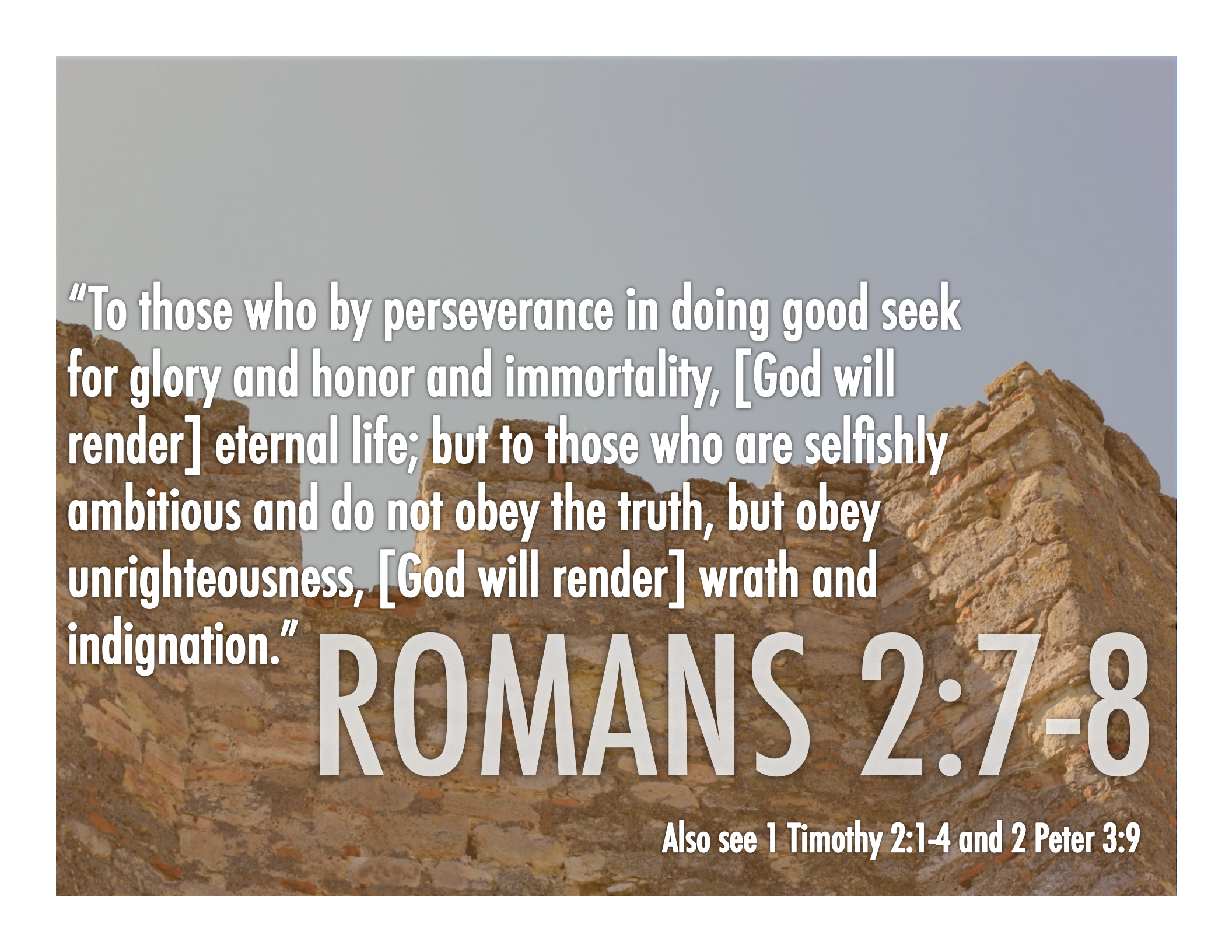


A photograph of a stone wall, possibly a ruin or a fortification, with a clear blue sky in the background. The wall is made of rough, layered stones in shades of brown and tan. The text "WHAT IF I'M WRONG?" is overlaid in a large, white, sans-serif font. The top half of the text is positioned against the sky, while the bottom half is positioned against the stone wall.

WHAT IF I'M
WRONG?

CERTAINTY

- What does it mean to be “certain”? Are you being unfaithful to God if you admit the possibility that you’re wrong? Or are you being intellectually delusional if you admit the possibility of Jesus Christ?
- Satan loves to complicate our decisions by clouding our minds with uncertainty, as if a decision that is not 100% is inadequate. But does anything else in life work like this? Taking a new job? Marriage? Having children?
- *“You must have a pretty weak faith if you’re not completely certain that you’re right about everything!” Really?*



"To those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, [God will render] eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, [God will render] wrath and indignation."

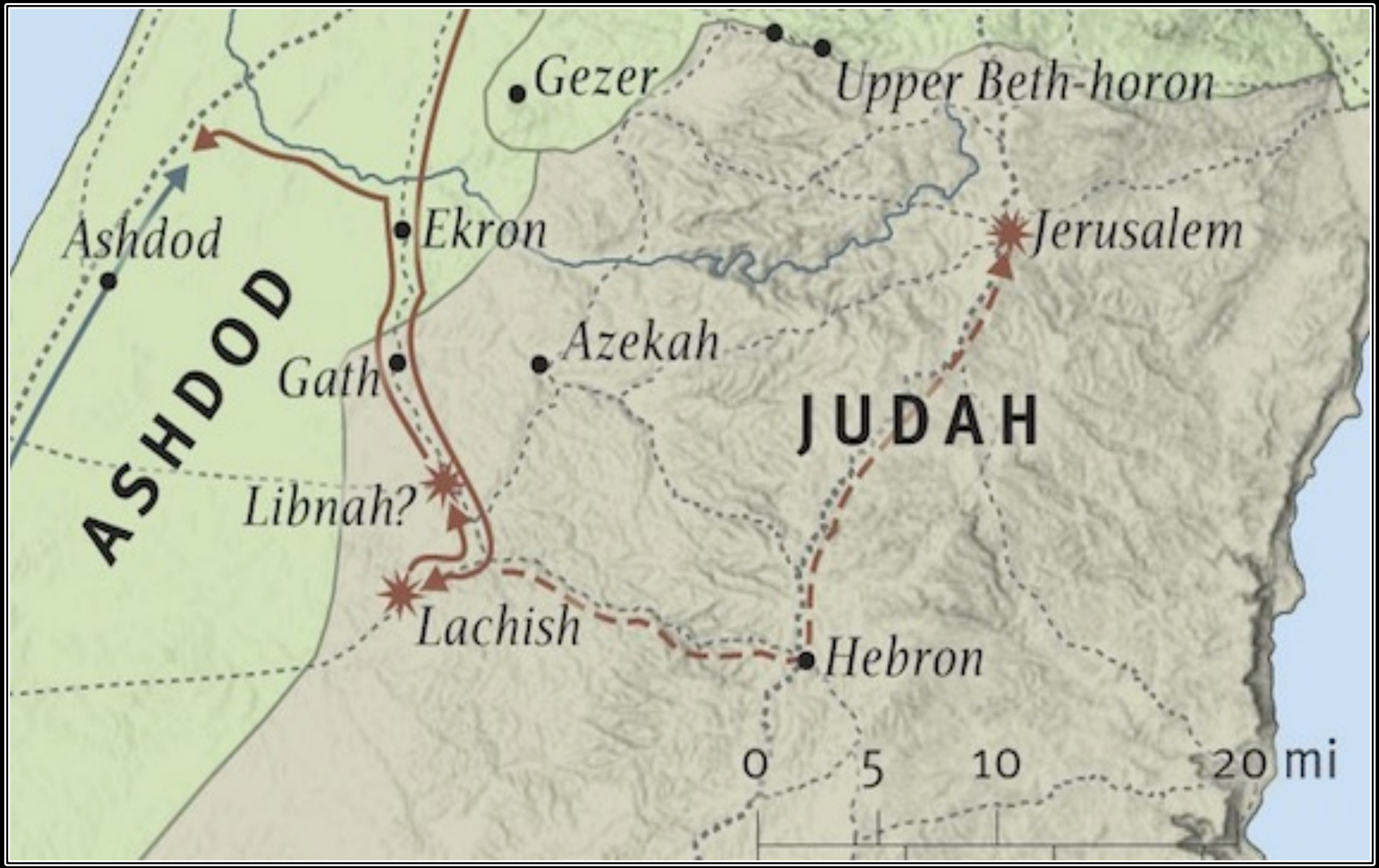
ROMANS 2:7-8

Also see 1 Timothy 2:1-4 and 2 Peter 3:9

WHAT ABOUT TRUST?

- God is not far from those who trust Him. He might be inaccessible to the unfaithful, but notice Psalm 73:25-28.
- One thing we must learn is that certainty is not the same thing as trust. I might not be 100% certain of something, but I trust it enough to move forward (sometimes because the alternative is unpalatable).
- *We cannot be paralyzed by an incessant need for certainty!*
- Let us study an example of a man whose faith was put to the test – a man who had many worldly reasons to lack certainty, but placed them all before the altar of God...

SENNACHERIB'S CAMPAIGN OF 701 BC

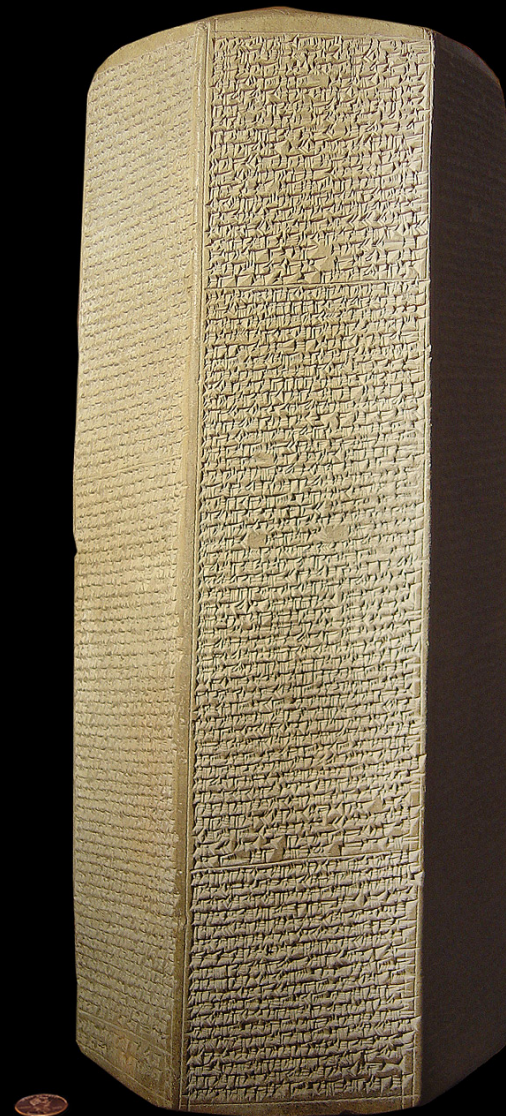


THE LACHISH RELIEF



THE SENNACHERIB PRISM

"As for Hezekiah the Judahite, who did not submit to my yoke: forty-six of his strong, walled cities, as well as the small towns in their area, which were without number, by levelling with battering-rams and by bringing up siege-engines, and by attacking and storming on foot, by mines, tunnels, and breeches, I besieged and took them. 200,150 people, great and small, male and female, horses, mules, asses, camels, cattle and sheep without number, I brought away from them and counted as spoil. (Hezekiah) himself, like a caged bird I shut up in Jerusalem, his royal city."



A photograph of ancient stone ruins, likely a wall or fortress, under a clear sky. The stone is weathered and shows signs of age. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

“What is this confidence you have?”

2 KINGS 18:19

THE RABSHAKEH'S TAUNT

- 2 Kings 18:20 – Mocking Hezekiah's ability and intellect.
- 18:21 – Misconceptions about "allies."
- 18:22 – Misinterpretations about Hezekiah's righteous actions and motives.
- 18:23 – The "bargain."
- 18:24 – Making them feel inadequate, small.
- 18:25 – Spreading confusion about who is actually on the Lord's side. Anybody can say, "God told me so."
- 18:26-32 – Appeal to the common person; "Life could be so much better for you if..."



"Has any one of the gods of the nations
delivered his land from the king of

2 KINGS 18:33 Assyria?"

HEZEKIAH

- Why did Hezekiah trust God? Why did He put the burden of his cares on God's shoulders? There was no earthly reason to believe he would be delivered – even with their fortifications and preparations. All Hezekiah should have expected was swift defeat and torture.
- I would suggest that our concerns are not fundamentally any different than the king's. We, too, have enemies who can point to charlatans and false religions, myths debunked, prayers unanswered, and supposed historical and textual inconsistencies in the Bible. What if we're wrong?

IF HEZEKIAH IS WRONG...



IF WE'RE WRONG... 1 COR. 15:19

CERTAIN ABOUT WHAT?

- Hezekiah was uncertain how God would deliver Him, but he trusted the promise (2 Kings 19:32-34). Similarly, others have trusted God without knowing for certain what the outcome of their personal situation would be (Daniel 3:17-18, Acts 20:22-23, Hebrews 11:8). Faith is not about certainty in myself or specific conditions, but about certainty in a God who has proven Himself trustworthy!
- “For I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until the day” (2 Timothy 1:12).

TWO FACTS

- For all the arguments made by the unbelievers (including Sennacherib himself), one fact cannot be ignored in Hezekiah's story: Jerusalem was still standing! God's word came true, and Sennacherib's did not.
- Today, another fact sticks in the side of the unbeliever (including Jesus' enemies [Matt. 28:11-15]): the empty tomb.
- These facts can be ignored, buried, or whitewashed with propaganda, but they cannot be destroyed. God proved Himself trustworthy.

An open Bible lies flat on a wooden surface. Two hands are resting on the pages, one on the left and one on the right. The left hand is positioned near the bottom of the left page, and the right hand is near the bottom of the right page. The Bible's pages are white with black text. A large, bold, white text quote is superimposed over the center of the image, spanning across both pages of the Bible. The quote reads: "I DON'T HAVE TO BE 'RIGHT' ABOUT EVERYTHING TO BE CERTAIN THAT I CAN TRUST GOD." The background is a warm-toned wooden surface with visible grain patterns.

I DON'T HAVE TO BE "RIGHT"
ABOUT EVERYTHING TO BE CERTAIN
THAT I CAN TRUST GOD.