

SURFING THROUGH THE PSALMS

ENCOURAGEMENT. COMFORT. WISDOM.



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ENCOURAGEMENT. COMFORT. WISDOM.

Before I go, what's the first question I ask?

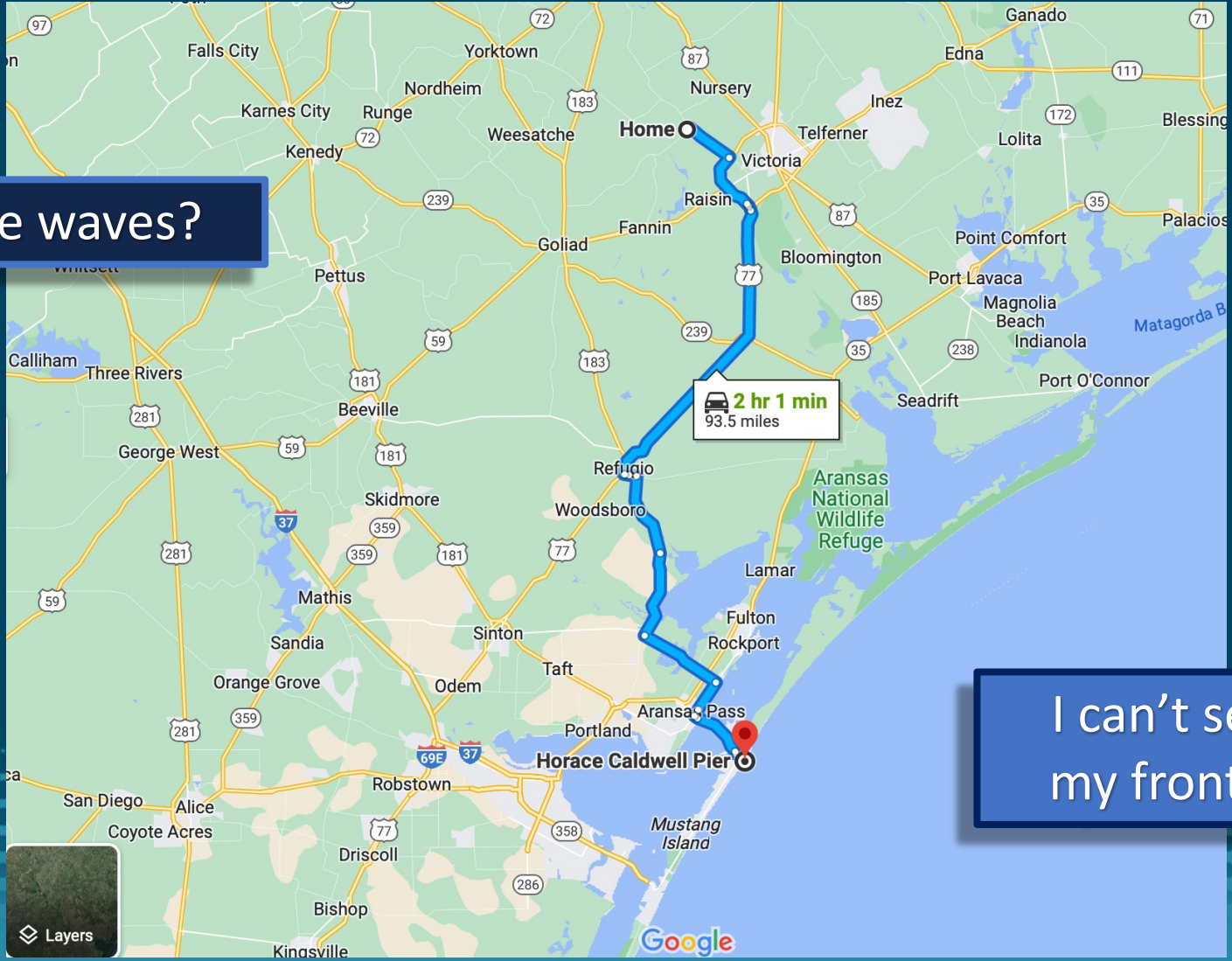




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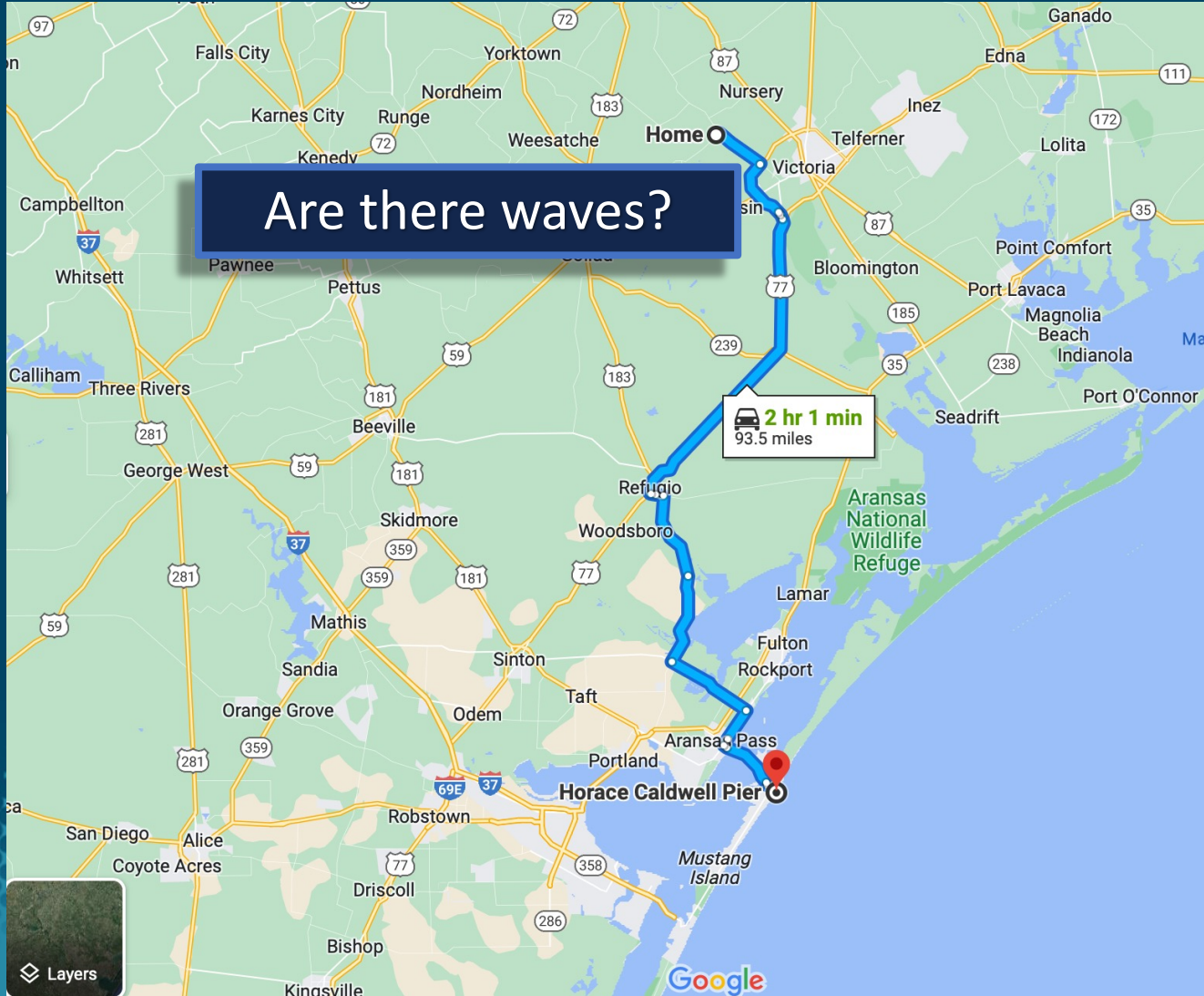
Are there waves?



I can't see from my front porch!

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Surf Forecast



Today	Tomorrow	Thu, 11/9	Fri, 11/10	Sat, 11/11
2-3ft	2-3ft	2-3ft	1-2ft	2-3ft
↔↔↔	↔↔↔	↔↔↔	↔↔↔	↔↔↔

Waves are on the horizon.

Get 16-days of forecasts, reports, and ad-free cams today.

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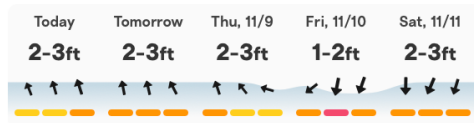
Now, I just check the forecast

	Primary Swell	Secondary Swell	Wind	Weather	Pressure	Probability
6am	2-3 POOR TO FAIR	2.4ft 4s	1.5ft 7s	0.8ft 8s	5 ⁹ kts	73°f 1014mb 95%
Noon	2-3 POOR TO FAIR	2.7ft 5s	1.5ft 6s	0.7ft 8s	7 ¹⁵ kts	75°f 1015mb 100%
6pm	2-3+ POOR	3.8ft 5s	0.7ft 8s		13 ¹⁹ kts	74°f 1013mb 100%
Tomorrow, 11/8						
6am	2-3+ POOR	3.5ft 5s	1.1ft 6s		9 ¹³ kts	73°f 1014mb 100%
Noon	2-3 POOR	3.3ft 5s	0.8ft 7s		9 ¹⁴ kts	73°f 1014mb 100%
6pm	2-3+ POOR	3.4ft 5s			9 ¹³ kts	74°f 1013mb 100%
Thursday, 11/9						
6am	2-3 POOR	2.8ft 5s	0.6ft 7s		8 ¹³ kts	72°f 1013mb 100%
Noon	2-3 POOR TO FAIR	2.7ft 5s	0.6ft 7s		4 ⁷ kts	73°f 1013mb 100%

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Today, 11/7

	Surf (ft)	Rating	Primary Swell	Secondary Swell	Wind	Weather	Pressure	Probability	
6am	2-3	POOR TO FAIR	2.4ft 4s	1.5ft 7s	0.8ft 8s	5 ⁹ kts	73°f	1014mb	95%
Noon	2-3	POOR TO FAIR	2.7ft 5s	1.5ft 6s	0.7ft 8s	7 ¹⁵ kts	75°f	1015mb	100%
6pm	2-3+	POOR	3.8ft 5s	0.7ft 8s	13 ¹⁹ kts	74°f	1013mb	100%	

Which leads to the second question...

Tomorrow, 11/8

6am	2-3+	POOR	3.5ft 5s	1.1ft 6s				
Noon	2-3	POOR	3.3ft 5s	0.8ft 7s	9 ¹⁴ kts	73°f	1014mb	100%
6pm	2-3+	POOR	3.4ft 5s		9 ¹³ kts	74°f	1013mb	100%

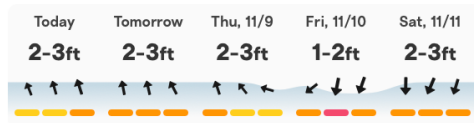
Thursday, 11/9

6am	2-3	POOR	2.8ft 5s	0.6ft 7s	8 ¹³ kts	72°f	1013mb	100%
Noon	2-3	POOR TO FAIR	2.7ft 5s	0.6ft 7s	4 ⁷ kts	73°f	1013mb	100%

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Today, 11/7

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Is it worth it?

Tomorrow, 11/8

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Noon	2-3	POOR	3.3ft 5s	0.8ft 7s	9 ¹⁴ kts	73°f	1014mb	100%
6pm	2-3+	POOR	3.4ft 5s		9 ¹³ kts	74°f	1013mb	100%

Thursday, 11/9

6am	2-3	POOR	2.8ft 5s	0.6ft 7s	8 ¹³ kts	72°f	1013mb	100%
Noon	2-3	POOR TO FAIR	2.7ft 5s	0.6ft 7s	4 ⁷ kts	73°f	1013mb	100%

Is it worth it?

My answer determines how much
“effort” I put towards it!



Is it worth it?

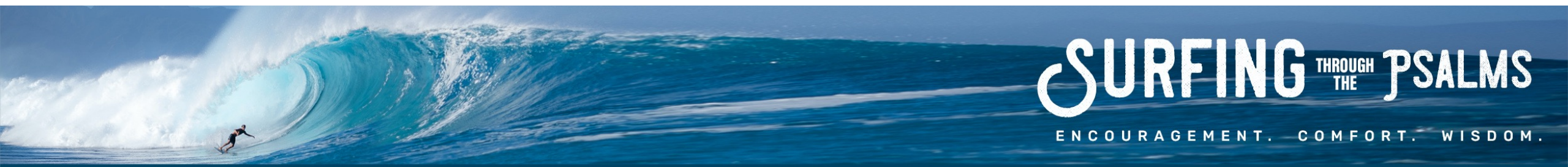
Life-long question



A psalm of Asaph.

¹ Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.

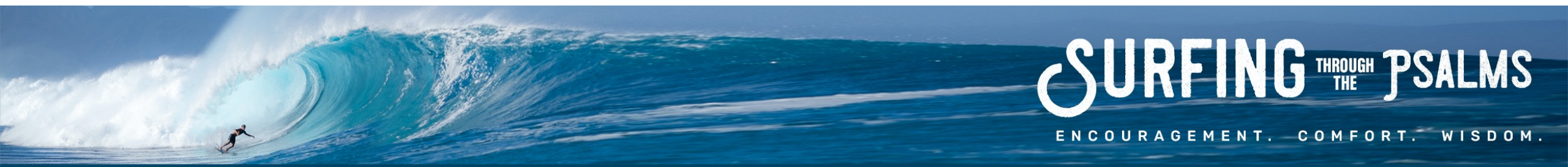
I think that's what is going on here in Psalm 73



A psalm of Asaph.

¹ Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.

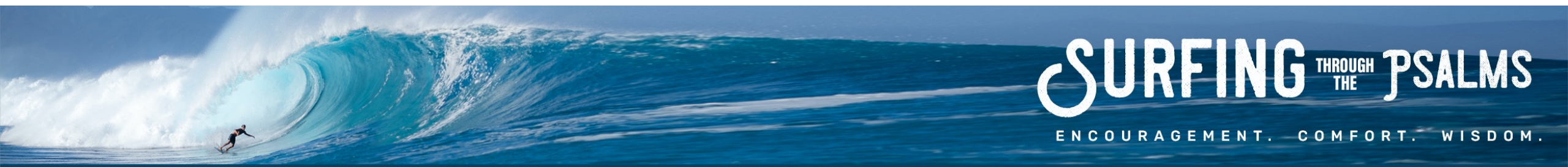
This one of the 12 psalms
associated with Asaph (50, 73-83)



A psalm of Asaph.

¹ Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.

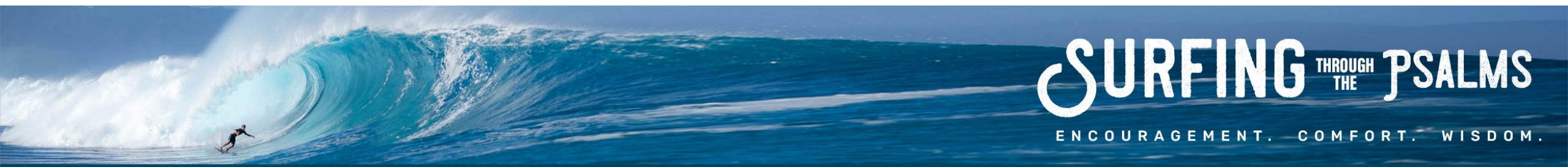
Who is Asaph?



⁴ He appointed some of the **Levites** to **minister** before the ark of the Lord, to extol, thank, and praise the Lord, the God of Israel:

⁵ **Asaph was the chief,**

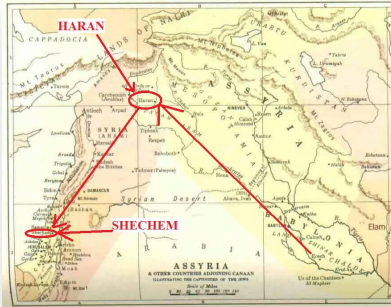
Asaph was a Levite and the chief of the “worship ministers”



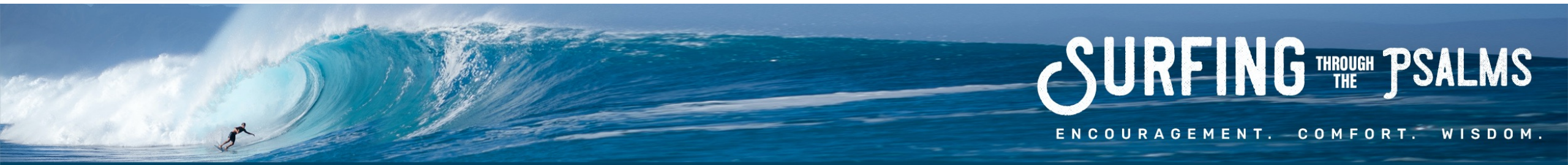
Let's start with, "what is a Levite?"

¹ The Lord had said to **Abram**,

"Go from your country, your people and your father's household
to the land I will show you."



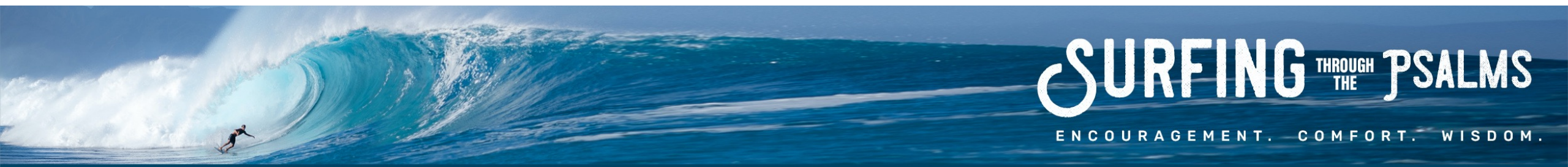
He is move to a strip of land we will later call the **Promise Land**



² “***I will*** make you into a great nation, and ***I will*** bless you;
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³ ***I will*** bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you ***I will*** curse;
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

God makes a *covenant* with Abraham

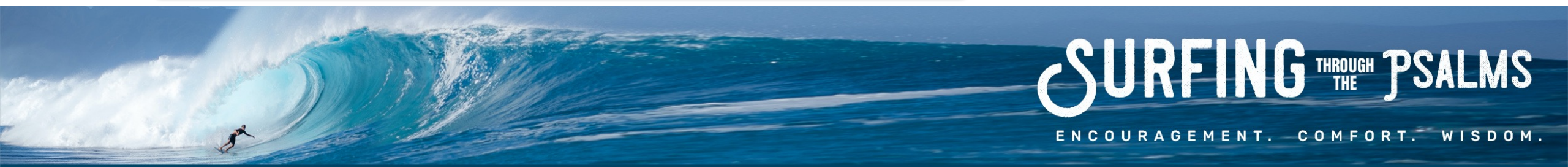


²⁰ And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers.

He will be the father of twelve rulers,
and I will make him into a great nation.

²¹ **But my covenant *I will establish with Isaac*,**
whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year.”

That covenant gets extended to his son Isaac



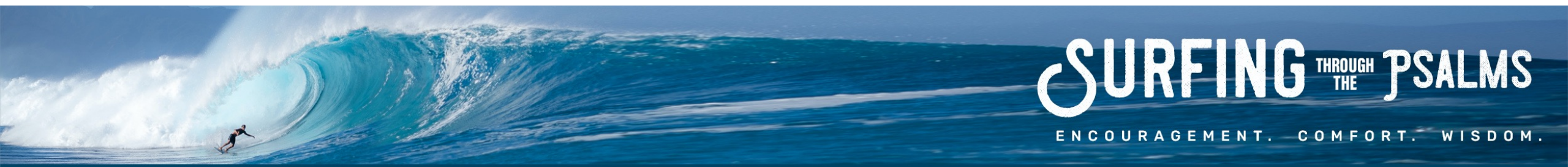
² **The Lord appeared to Isaac** and said,

“Do not go down to Egypt; **live in the land** where I tell you to live.

³ Stay in this land for a while, and ***I will*** be with you and ***will*** bless you.

For to you and your descendants ***I will*** give all these lands
and ***will*** confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham.

God reaffirms His **covenant** to Isaac

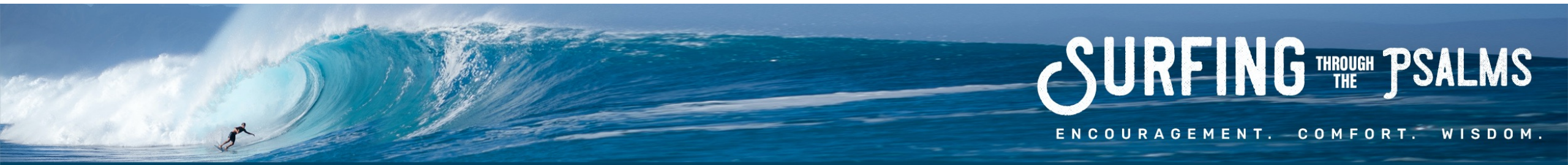


¹³ There above it stood the Lord, and he said:

“I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac.
I will give **you** and **your descendants the land** on which you are lying.

Then, the **covenant** gets extended to Isaac’s son Jacob

“God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob”



Jacob has 12 sons...

Jacob had twelve sons:

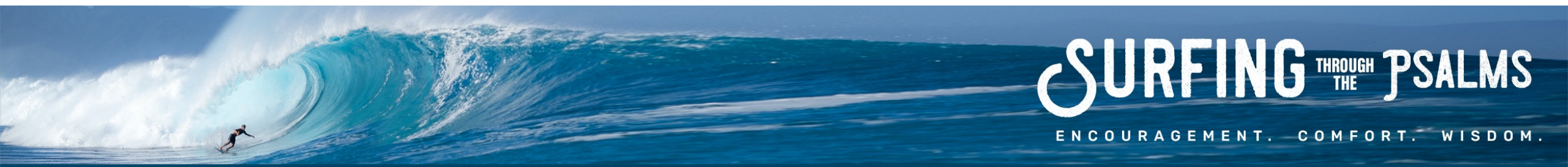
²³ The sons of Leah: Reuben the firstborn of Jacob, Simeon, **Levi**, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun.

²⁴ The sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.

²⁵ The sons of Rachel's servant Bilhah: Dan and Naphtali.

²⁶ The sons of Leah's servant Zilpah: Gad and Asher.

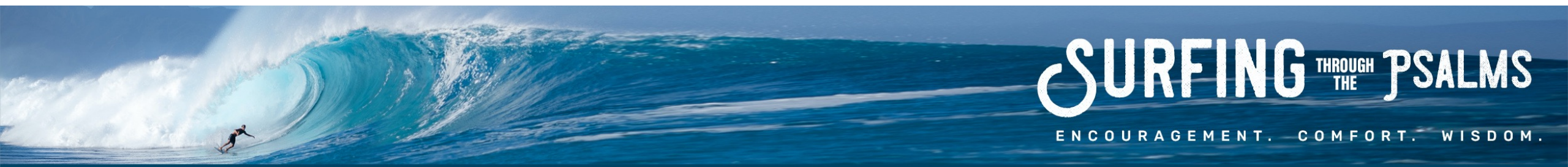
...which eventually became the 12 tribes of Israel



two of Jacob's sons, **Simeon** and **Levi**, Dinah's brothers, took their swords and attacked the unsuspecting city, killing every male.

This was after their sister's rape

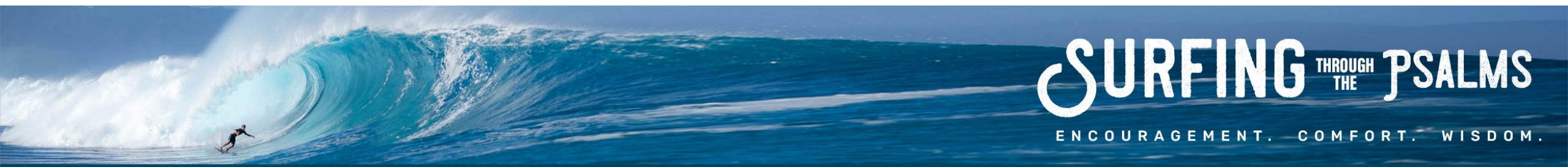
²⁹ They **carried off all their wealth** and all **their women and children**, taking as **plunder everything** in the houses.



⁵ “**Simeon and Levi** are brothers—their swords are weapons of **violence**...
for they have **killed** men in their **anger** and hamstringed oxen as they pleased.

⁷ Cursed be **their anger, so fierce, and their fury, so cruel!**

The Bible says that Levi was angry, fierce and cruel

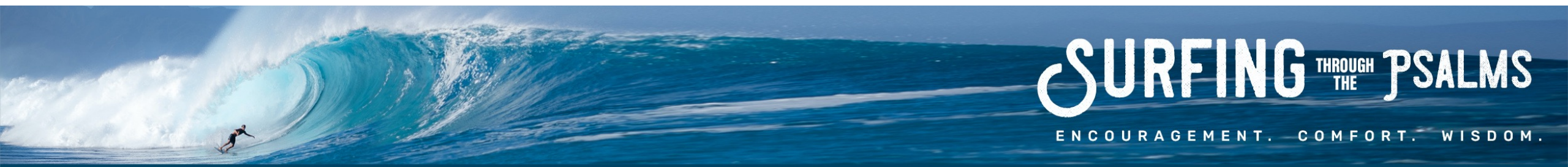


⁵ “**Simeon and Levi** are brothers—their swords are weapons of **violence**...
for they have **killed** men in their anger and hamstringed oxen as they pleased.

⁷ Cursed be **their anger, so fierce, and their fury, so cruel!**

When Jacob is passing out “blessings” to his sons he says this...

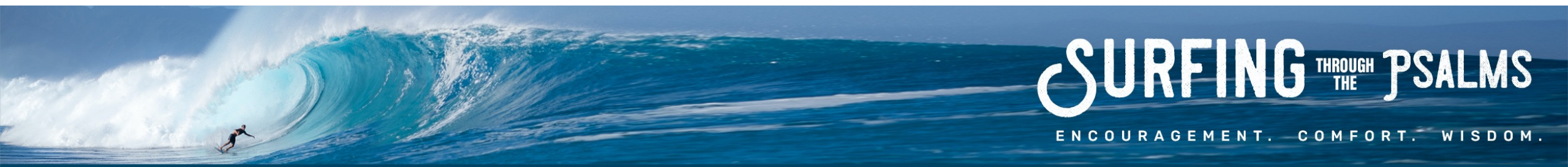
I will **scatter** them in Jacob and **disperse** them in Israel.



¹ Now a **man of the tribe of Levi** married a **Levite woman**,

² and she became pregnant and **gave birth to a son**.

When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months.



At the “golden calf” incident...

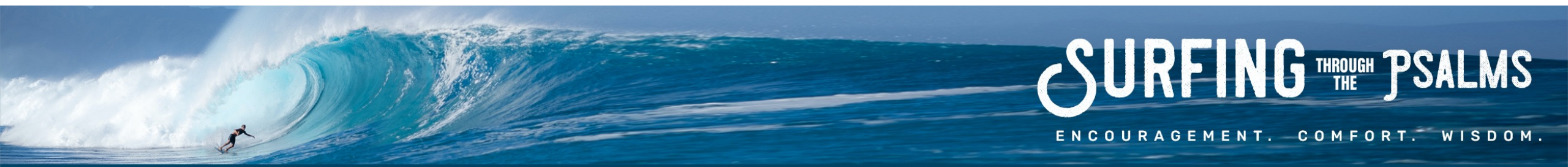
Exodus 32

²⁵ Moses saw that the people were **running wild** and chasing after other gods

and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies. ²⁶ So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, “***Whoever is for the Lord, come to me.***”

And all the Levites rallied to him.

...it was the Levites who followed the Lord.

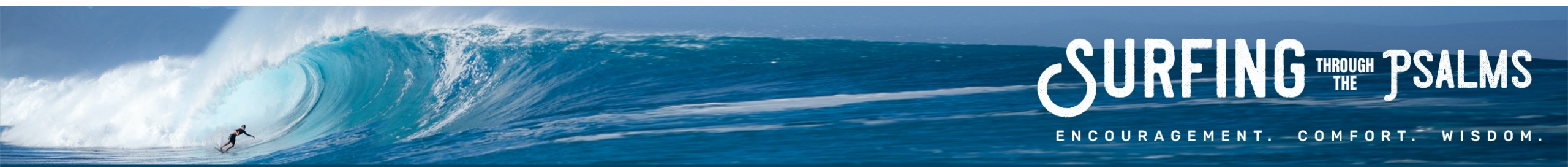


This is how they came to be...

¹³ There above it stood the Lord, and he said:

“I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac.
I will give **you** and **your descendants** **the land** on which you are lying.

...and God had promised to give them land

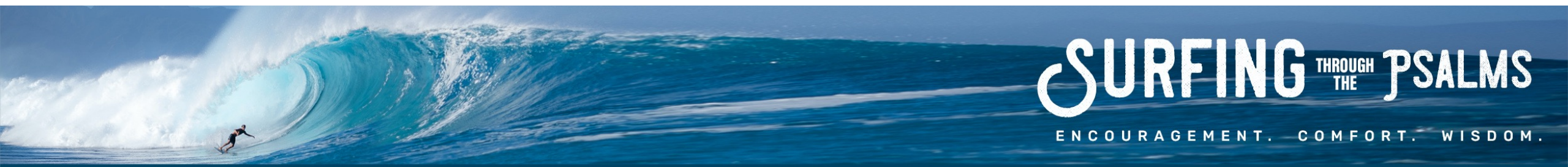


So, when they finally make it to the Promised Land

Joshua 13

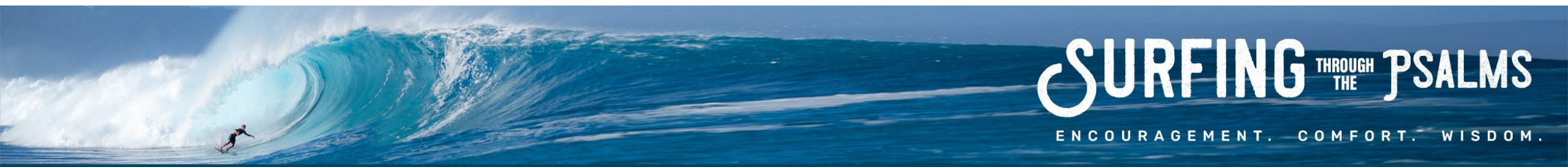
Be sure to *allocate* this land to Israel for an inheritance, as I have instructed you, ⁷ and ***divide* it as an inheritance** among the nine tribes and half of the tribe of Manasseh.”

The “inheritance” is a reference to the “portion” of land given to Israel when they entered the Promised Land



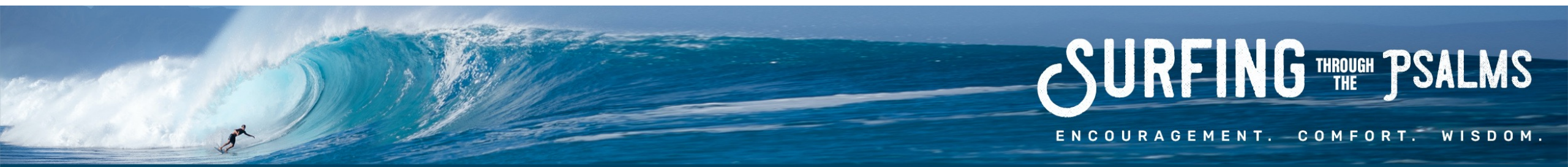
Be sure to allocate this **land** to Israel for an **inheritance**, as I have instructed you, ⁷ and divide it as an **inheritance** among the nine tribes and half of the tribe of Manasseh.”

“Where’s our portion going to be?”



14 But to the tribe of Levi he gave no inheritance,
since the food offerings presented to the Lord, the God of Israel,
are their inheritance, as he promised them.

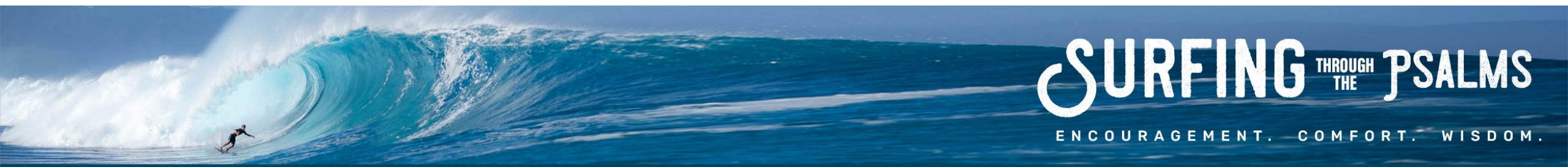
Levi's descendants did not receive any land for their "portion"



¹ The **Levitical priests**—indeed, **the whole tribe of Levi**—are to have **no allotment or inheritance with Israel...**

...the Lord is their inheritance, as he promised them.

Instead, Gos was their “portion”





Which would you rather have?

God

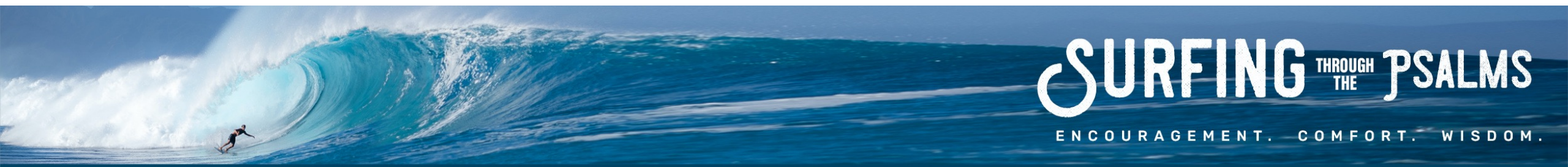


God's promises



⁴ He appointed some of the **Levites** to **minister** before the ark of the Lord,

The Levites, whose ancestors were deceptive, angry, fierce, cruel men, God redeems and calls them His “priest”

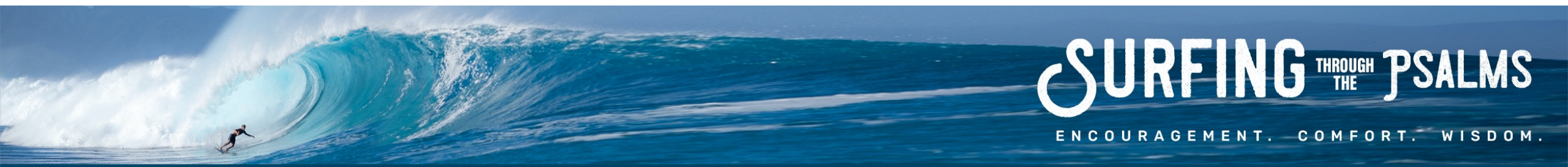


⁴ He appointed some of the **Levites** to **minister** before the ark of the Lord,

to extol, thank, and praise the Lord, the God of Israel:

⁵ Asaph was the chief,

And their role was



God was the unique inheritance or “portion” to the Levites.

He was to be the focus of their service, the source of their provision, and where they would find significance.

Their inheritance included cities, daily food, and a constant vocation, but it did not include the land like the other tribes of Israel.



Maybe I should remind us who the Bible says we are

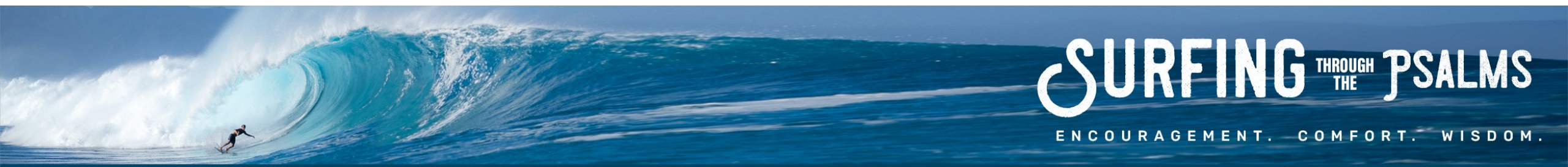
⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,

God's special possession, that you may *declare the praises* of him

who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God;

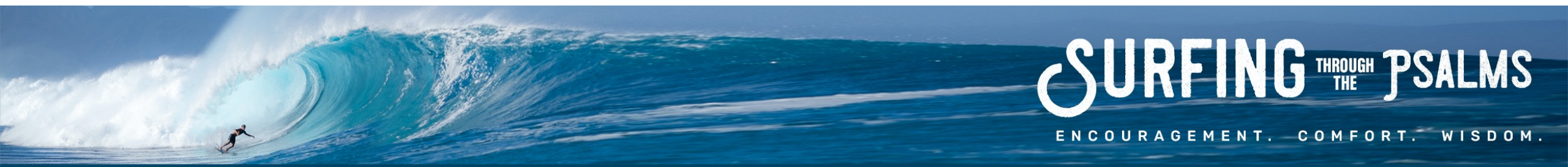
once you had not received mercy, but now **you have received mercy.**



⁴ He appointed some of the **Levites** to
minister before the ark of the Lord,

to extol, thank, and praise the Lord, the God of Israel:

That is our role as well



SURFING

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ENCOURAGEMENT.

COMFORT.

WISDOM.

Now let's find some...

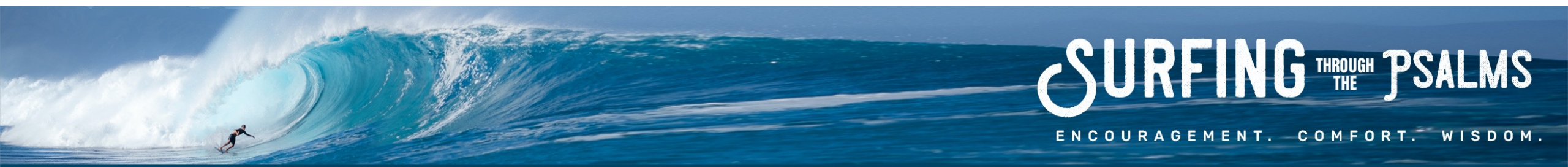


A psalm of Asaph.

¹ **Surely God is good to Israel,**
to those **who are pure in heart.**



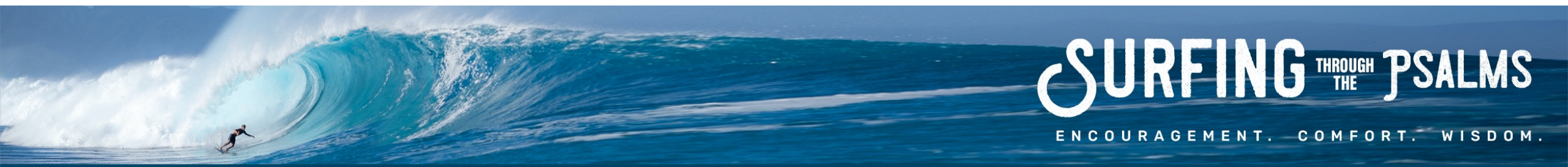
Do you think this is a declaration or a question?



² ***But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;***
I had nearly lost my foothold.

He's talking openly about not being "pure in heart"

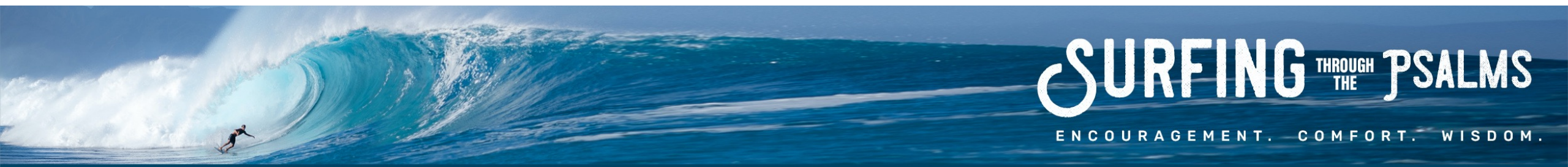
Remember these would have been songs they sang



² ***But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;***
I had **nearly lost my foothold.**

He's talking openly about not being "pure in heart"

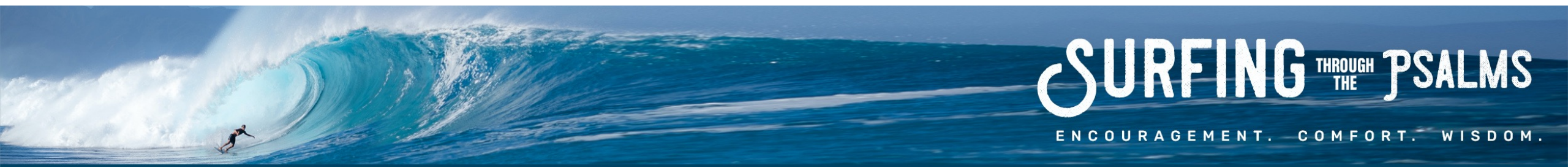
They sang about their hurts, their struggles, their pain



² ***But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;***
I had **nearly lost my foothold.**

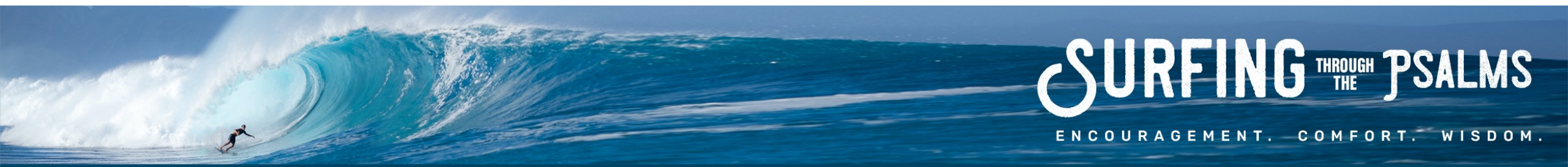
He's talking openly about not being "pure in heart"

This should be a place where we don't pretend or wear mask



² But as for me, **my feet had almost slipped**;
I had **nearly lost my foothold**.

What did he struggle with?



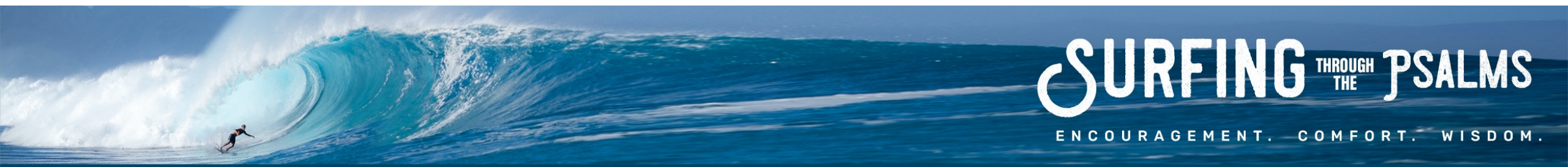
² But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;

I had nearly lost my foothold.

³ For I **envied** the arrogant

when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Envy is a reaction to lacking something that another person has.



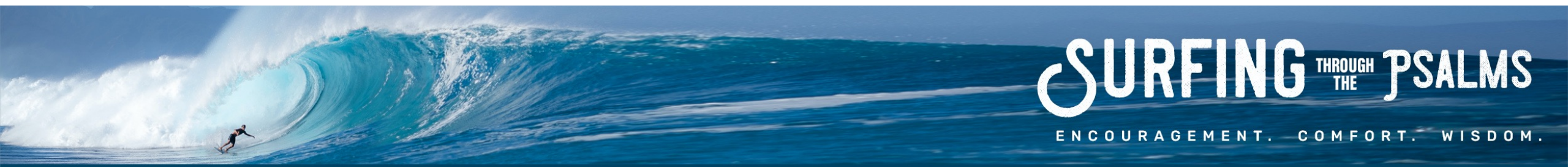
² But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;

I had nearly lost my foothold.

³ For I ***envied*** the arrogant

when ***I saw*** the prosperity of the wicked.

Envy starts with the eyes – “lust of the eyes”



What you **stare at**...is what you **think about**

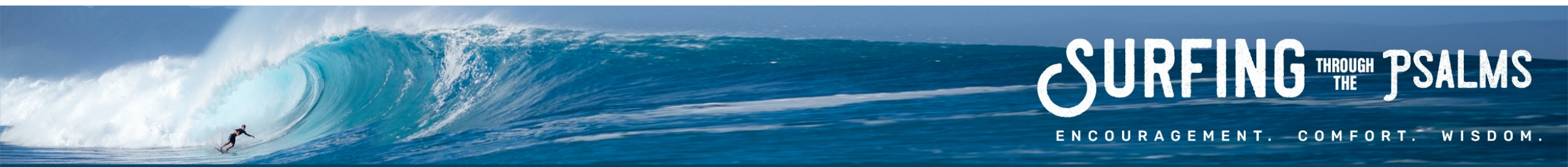
What you **think about**...is what you **care about**

What you **care about**...is what you **chase after**



³⁰ A heart at peace gives life to the body,
but **envy rots the bones.**

Is envy bad for you?

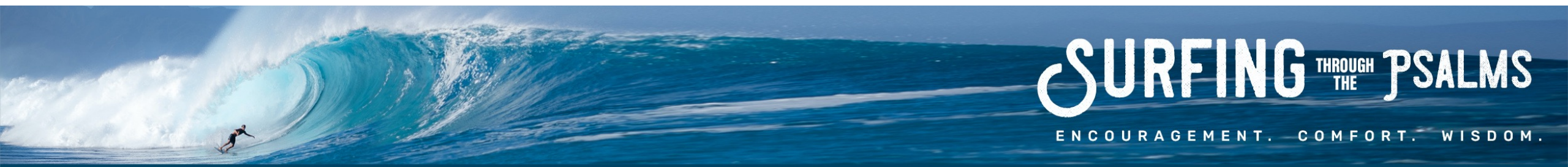


³⁰ A heart at peace gives life to the body,
but **envy rots the bones.**

Is envy bad for you?

“Comparison is the thief of joy”

Theodore Roosevelt



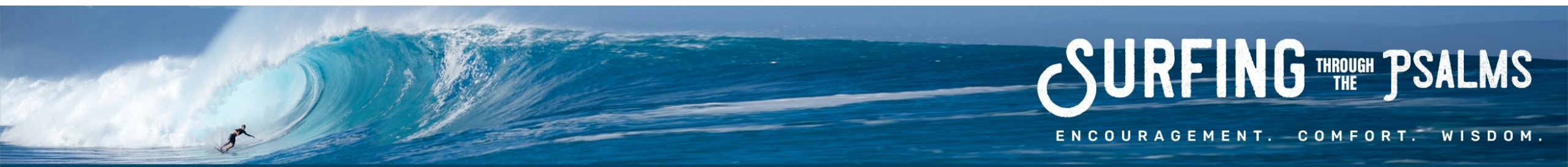
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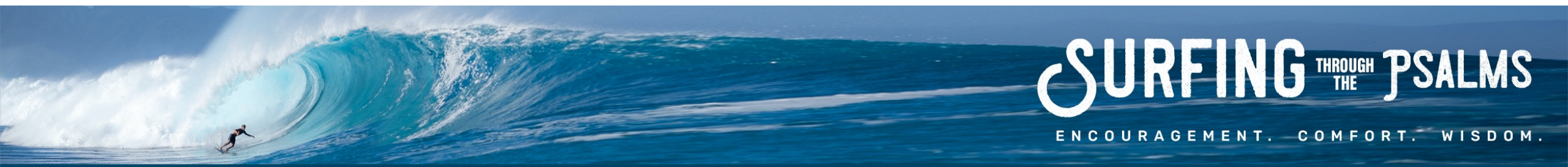
Be careful it doesn't become "a resentful, dissatisfied longing for another's possessions, position, fortune, achievements, or success."



³ For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

⁴ They have no struggles;

Disappointment – Discouragement – Disillusionment – Despair - Defeat



⁴ They have **no struggles**;

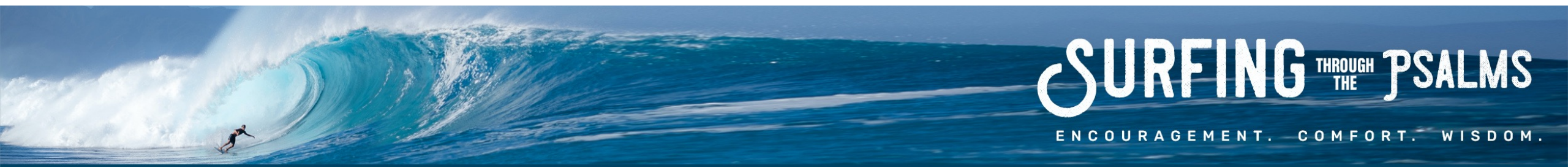
their bodies are **healthy** and **strong**.

⁵ They are free from common human burdens;

they are not plagued by human ills.

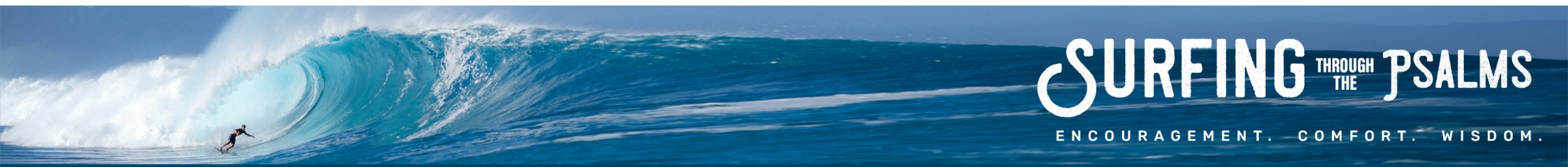
“They are free, they have no concerns”

Which of course isn't true



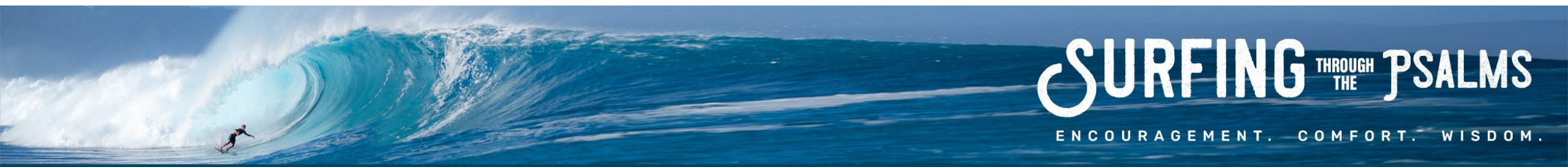
⁶ Therefore **pride is their necklace;**
they clothe themselves with violence.

Now, they might have no problem trampling on everybody else;
or not care about the consequences of their actions.



⁷ From their callous hearts comes iniquity;
their evil imaginations have **no limits.**

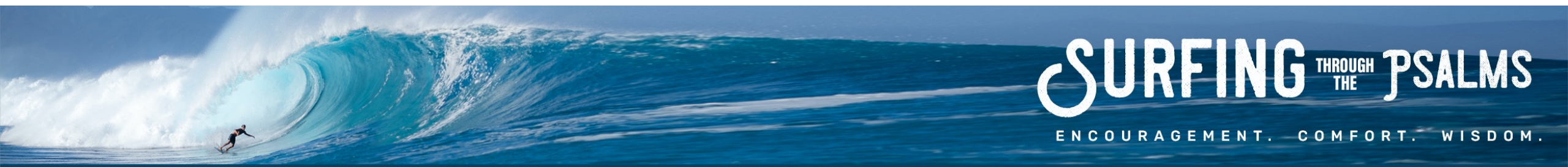
Know anybody who has “stupid money”?



⁷ From their callous hearts comes iniquity;
their evil *imagination*s have **no limits**.

Know anybody who has “stupid money”?

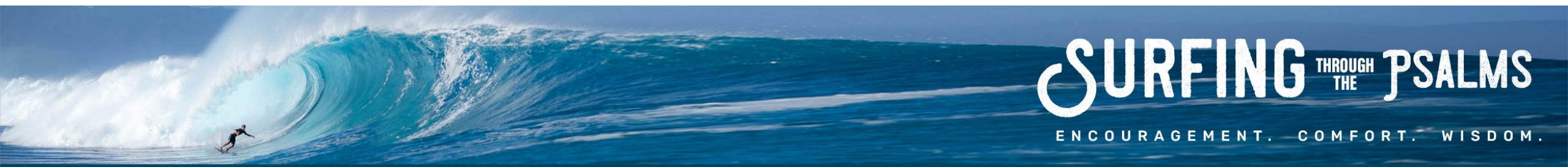
They have so much they spend it on “stupid” things!



⁸ They scoff, and **speak with malice**;
with **arrogance** they threaten oppression.

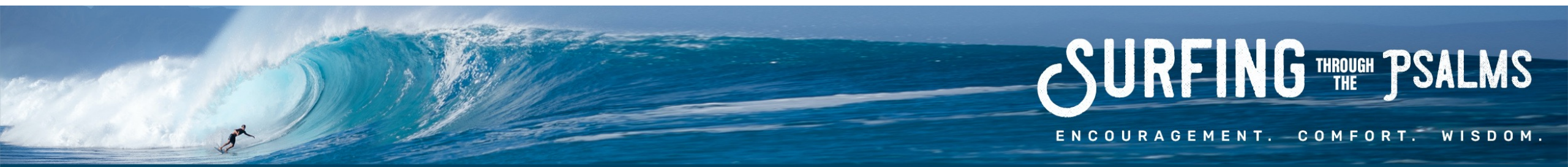
⁹ Their **mouths lay claim to heaven**,
and **their tongues** take possession of the earth.

“Do you know who I am?”



¹⁰ Therefore their **people turn to them**

What would life look like if I lived that way?





SURFING THROUGH THE PSALMS

ENCOURAGEMENT. COMFORT. WISDOM.

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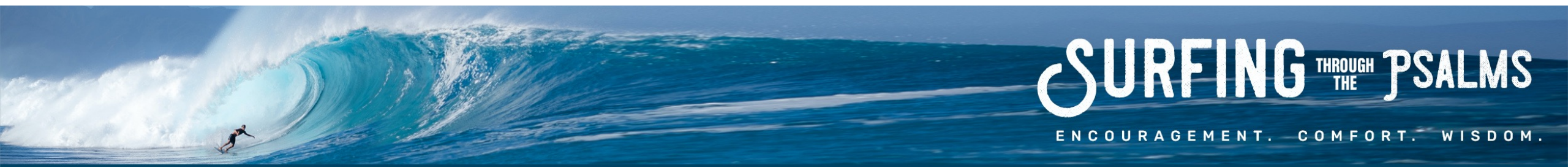
The world wants to know



¹⁰ Therefore their **people turn to them**

What would life look like if I lived that way?

Everyone wants to be like them;
but what if they don't want to be them?

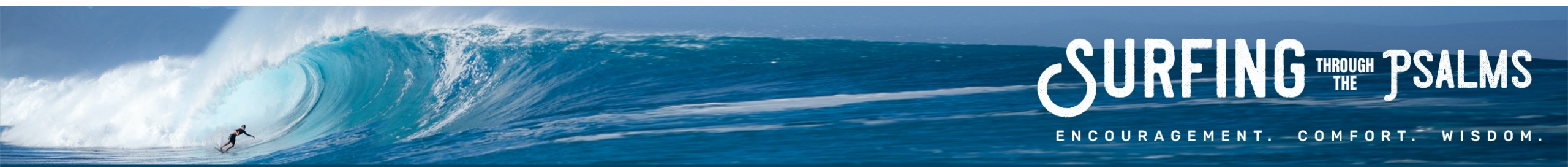


¹⁰ Therefore their **people turn to them**
and **drink up waters in abundance.**



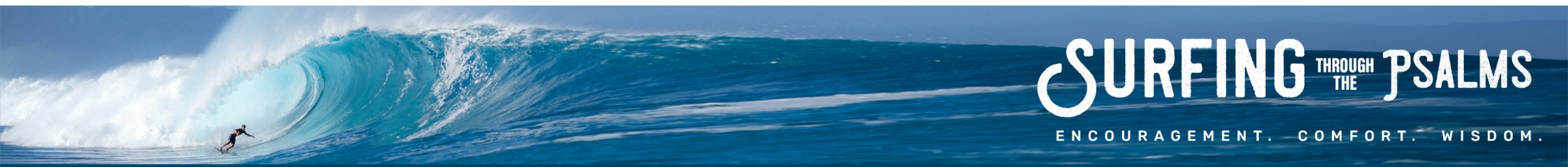
If you “chase” after other things...

...your passion for the Lord will be drained up

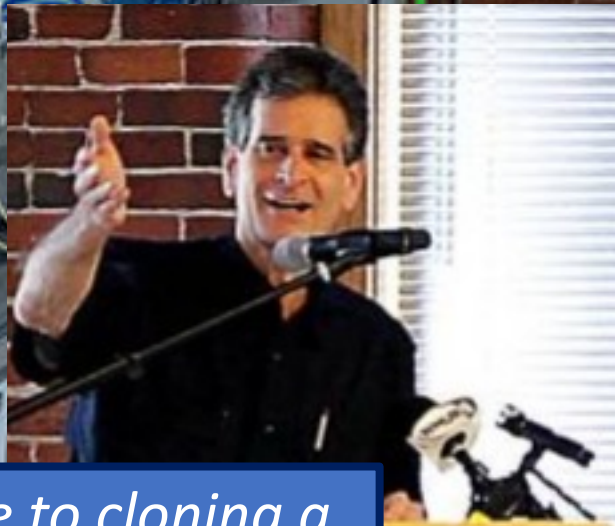


**¹¹ They say, “How would God know?
Does the Most High know anything?”**

I don't answer to God!



ADVANCE REGENERATIVE MANUFACTURING INST.



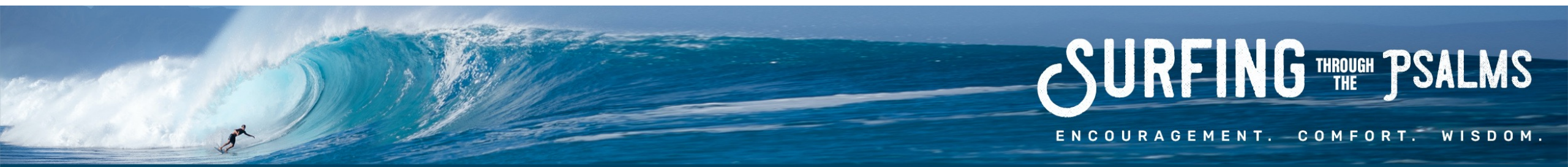
We are close to cloning a new set of organs for you!



STEM CELLS TO 3D PRINTED ORGANS IN MONTHS

¹² This is **what the wicked are like—**
always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.

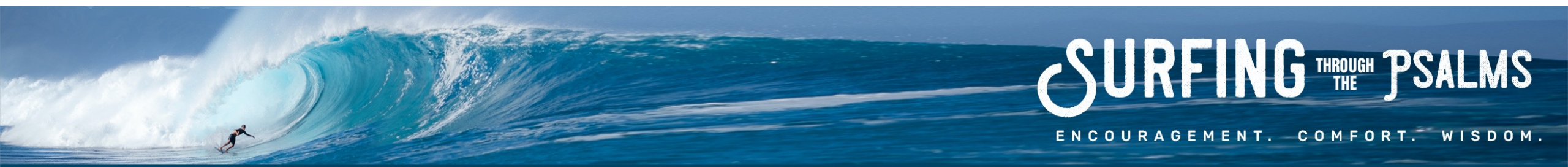
Seems worth chasing after?



**¹³ Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
and have washed my hands in innocence.**

**¹⁴ All day long I have been afflicted,
and every morning brings new punishments.**

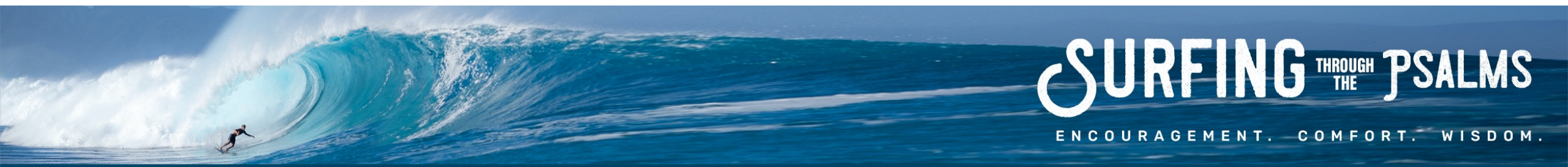
Disappointment – Discouragement – Disillusionment – Despair - Defeat



**¹³ Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
and have washed my hands in innocence.**

**¹⁴ All day long I have been afflicted,
and every morning brings new punishments.**

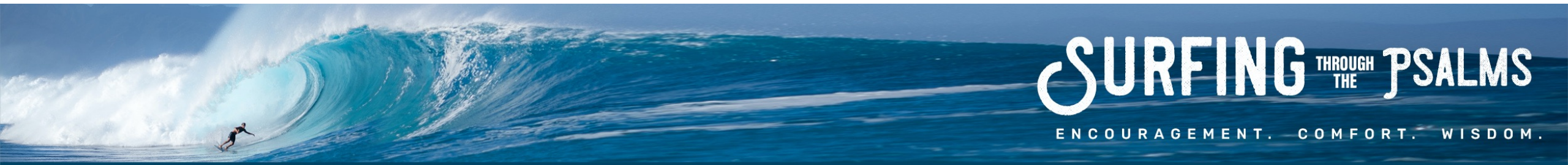
Is He worth it?



A psalm of Asaph.

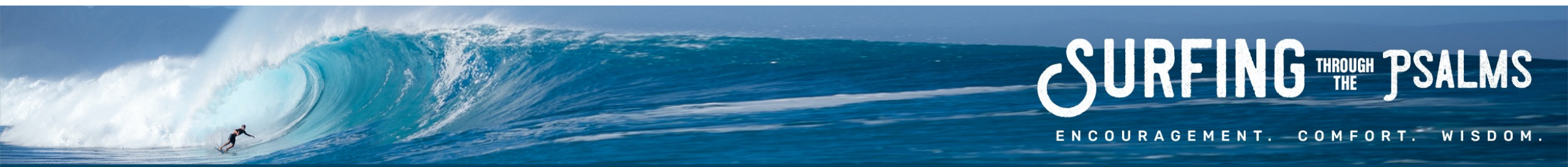
¹ Surely God is good to Israel,
to those **who are pure in heart.**

If God is good, then why am I struggling?



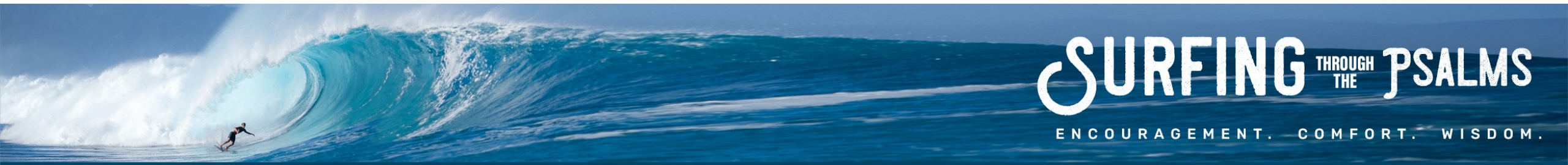
¹⁵ ***If*** I had **spoken out** like that,
I would have betrayed your children.

I thought it, but I didn't say it out loud



¹⁵ **If I had spoken out** like that,
I would have **betrayed your children.**

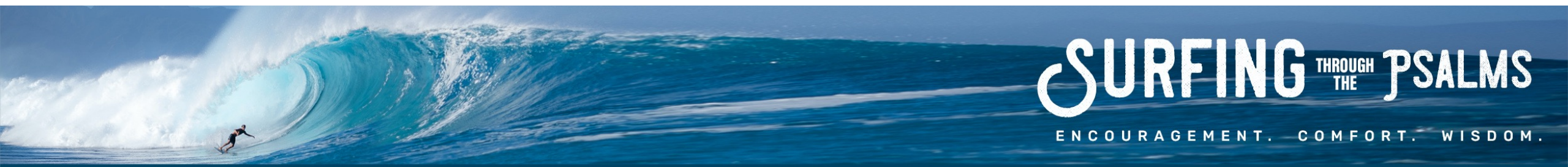
Deceived, covered up your goodness



¹⁵ If I had spoken out like that,
I would have **betrayed your children.**

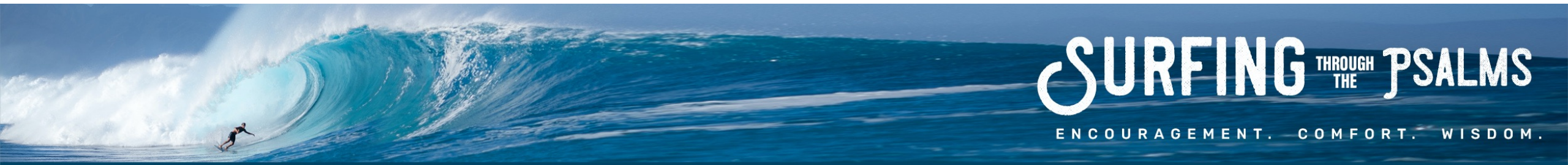
Deceived, covered up your goodness

There are people in this faith family who have walked through the valleys you are walking through and they know the goodness of God!



¹⁶ When I **tried** to understand all this,
it ***troubled*** me deeply

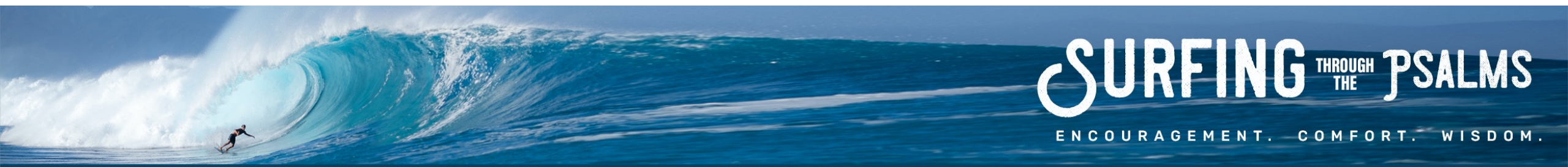
So, where do I go when I am struggling like this?



¹⁶ When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply

¹⁷ **till I entered the sanctuary of God;**

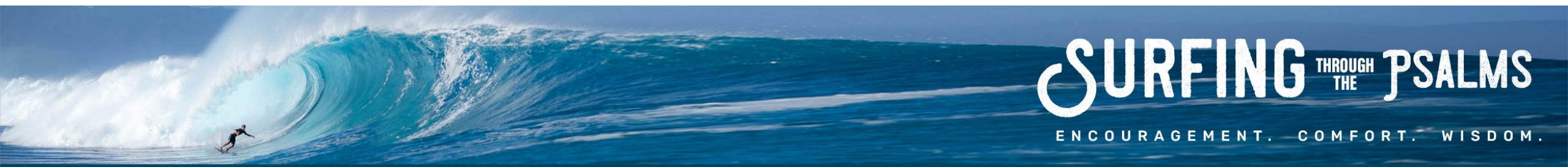
Sanctuaries were gathering places to worship the Lord.



¹⁶ When I **tried to understand** all this,
it troubled me deeply

¹⁷ till I entered the *sanctuary of God*;

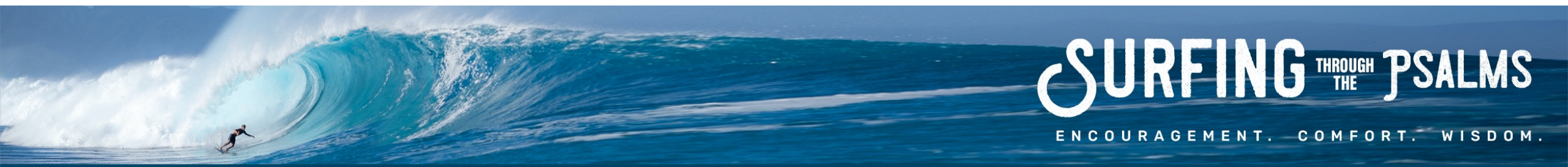
He struggled until he went to the place where the “church” gathered



¹⁶ When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply

¹⁷ **till I entered the *sanctuary of God*;**
then I understood their final destiny.

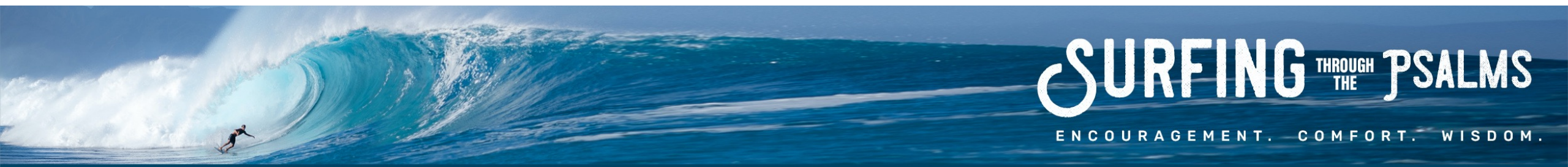
It was there he gained a perspective that he didn't have before



¹⁶ When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply

¹⁷ **till I entered the *sanctuary of God*;**
then I understood their final destiny.

It is in that place we hear the songs of the people!



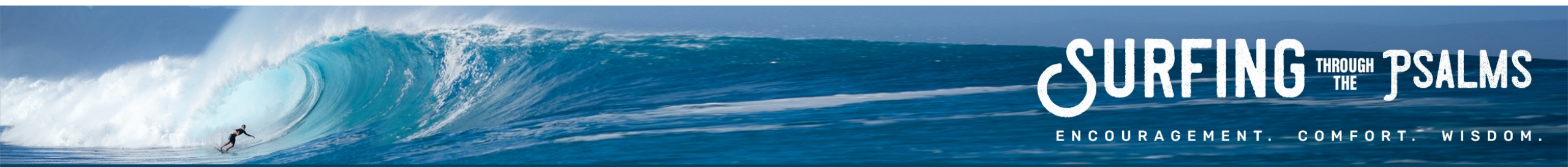
True praise does not come without a struggle.



¹⁶ When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply

¹⁷ **till I entered the *sanctuary of God*;**
then I understood their final destiny.

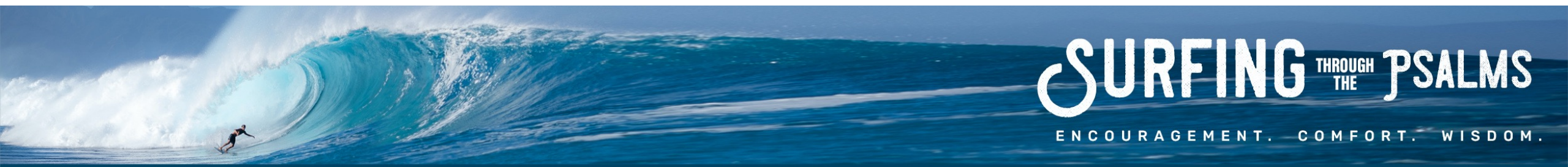
It is in church that we hear the testimonies of the people!



¹⁶ When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply

¹⁷ **till I entered the *sanctuary of God*;**
then I understood their final destiny.

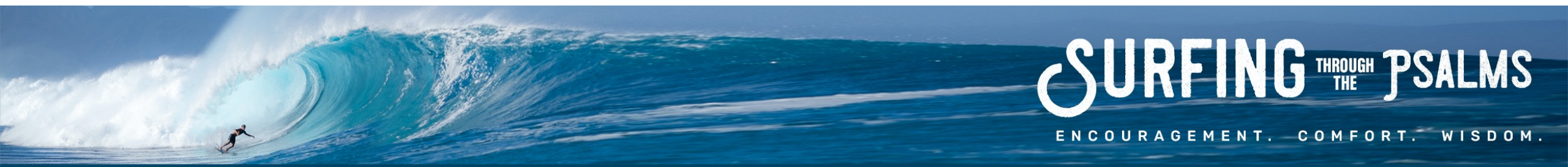
It is in church that we hear the teaching of God's Word!



¹⁶ When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply

¹⁷ **till I entered the *sanctuary of God*;
then I understood their final destiny.**

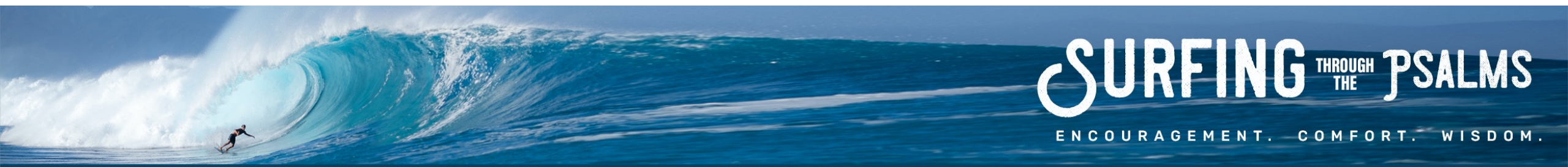
It is in church that we hear about our future!



As we hear all of that we can declare...

A psalm of Asaph.

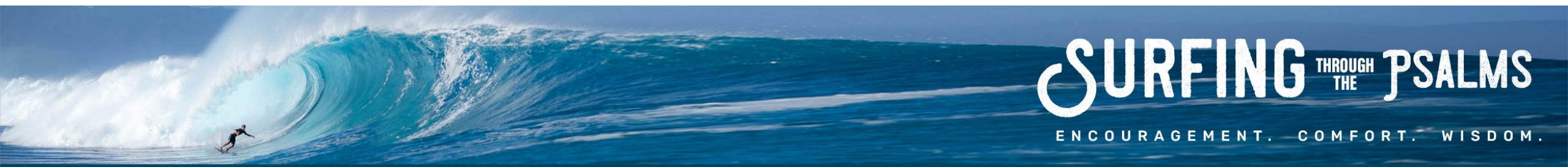
¹ Surely God is good to Israel,
to those **who are pure in heart.**



¹⁸ Surely you place them on **slippery ground**;
you cast them down to ruin.

¹⁹ How suddenly are they destroyed,
completely swept away by terrors!

It is in church that we also hear about what happens when we choose a different path!



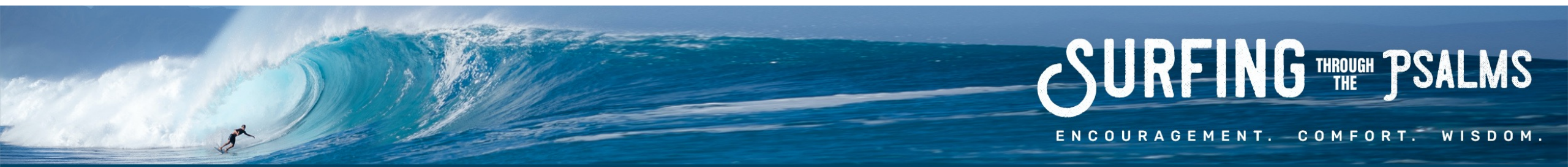
15 See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.

16 For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws;

then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God

will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

Choices have consequences



⁸ If your hand or your **foot causes you to stumble,**
cut it off and throw it away.

It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than
to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into **eternal fire.**

Pretty stern warning from Jesus!

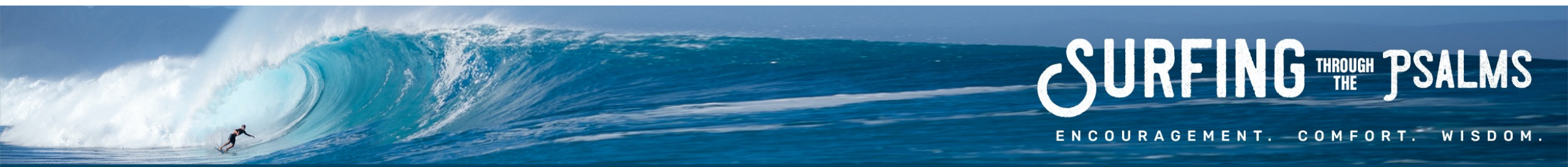


LAST THINGS

G O D H A S A P L A N . W E H A V E A H O P E .

²⁰ They are like a dream **when one awakes;**
when you arise, Lord,
you will despise them as fantasies.

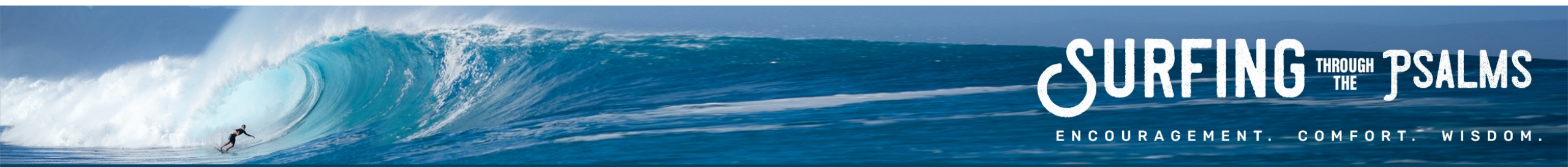
There is coming a day when the wicked will wake up
and realize they are under the wrath of God



²⁰ They are like a dream **when one awakes;**
when you arise, Lord,
you will despise them as fantasies.

There is coming a day when the wicked will wake up
and realize they are under the wrath of God

We shouldn't envy the wicked but pity them, tremble for them



11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it.

The earth and the heavens fled from his presence,

and there was no place for them.

There is coming a day when all of this is gone!



LAST THINGS

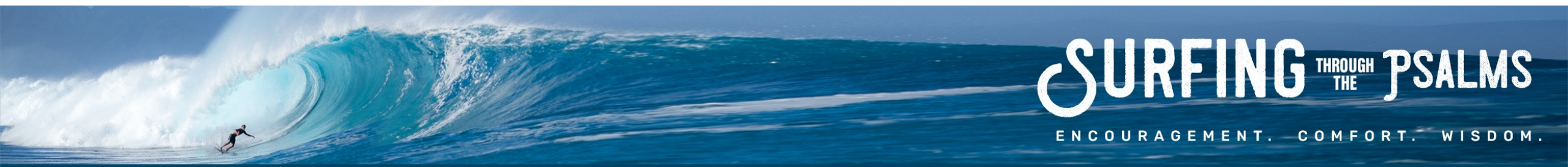
GOD HAS A PLAN. WE HAVE A HOPE.

²¹ When my heart was grieved
and my spirit embittered,

²² I was senseless and ignorant;

I was a brute beast before you.

When we look at the wicked, we just get
a glimpse of the story and not the whole story



⁸ He will punish those **who do not know God**
and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction
and ***shut out* from the presence of the Lord**
and from the glory of his might

There is a day coming when the wicked
will be shut out from God's presence



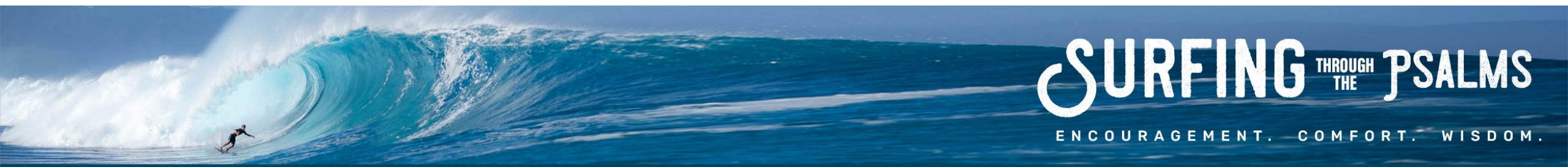
LAST THINGS

G O D H A S A P L A N . W E H A V E A H O P E .

23 Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.

24 You guide me with your counsel,
and **afterward you will take me into glory.**

They will be cut off, but I will be with you!

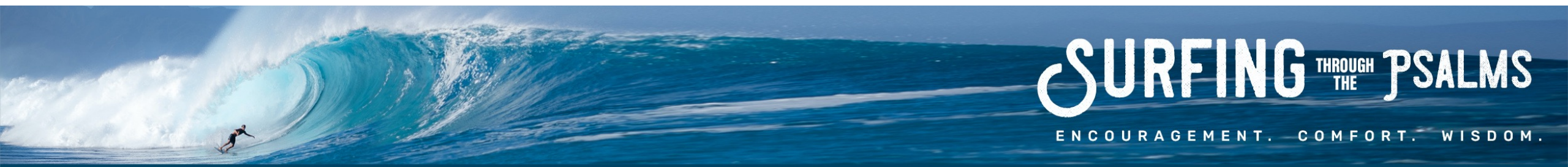


²³ Yet I am always with you;

you hold me by my right hand.

²⁴ You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into glory.

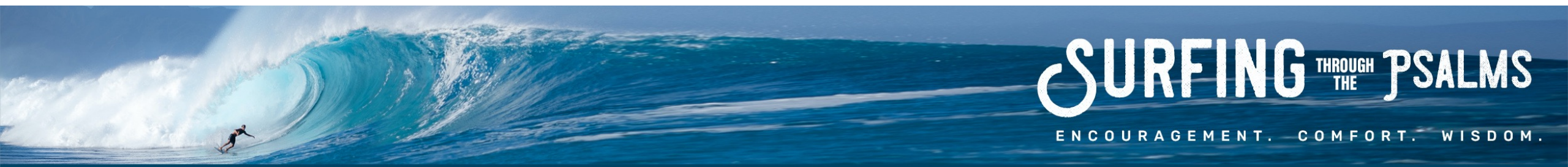
As bad as my situation is, the Lord is with me!



²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?

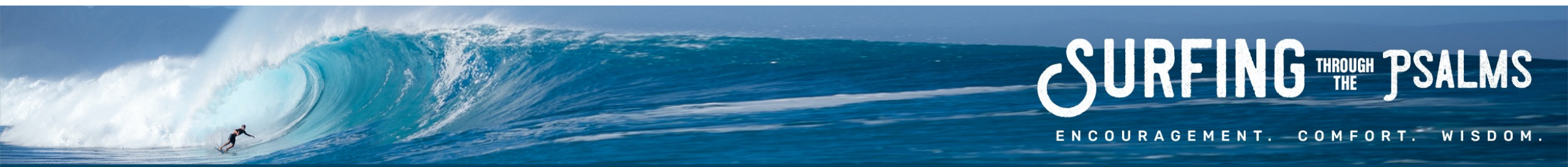
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

Everything – God = Nothing
Nothing + God = Everything



²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and **my portion forever.**

About 17 years ago I started a journey to find out
if Jesus was all I had, was that enough?





Which would you rather have?

God



God's promises

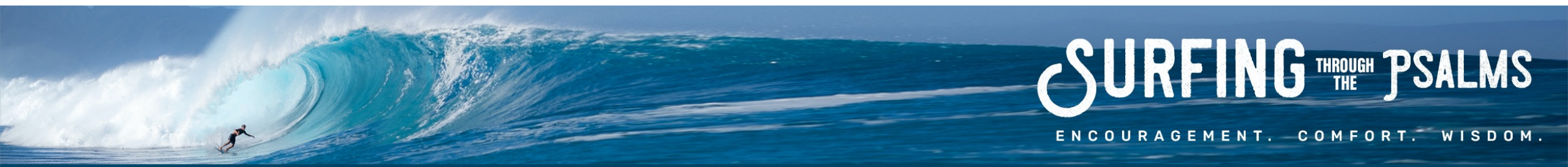


²⁷ Those who are far from you will perish;
you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.

²⁸ **But as for me, it is good to be near God.**

I have made the Sovereign **Lord my refuge;**

I will tell of all your deeds.



⁴ He **appointed** some...

...to **extol**, **thank**, and **praise** the Lord, the **God of Israel**

May we live out our calling this Holiday season and everyday after!

