







Opportunities to Believe God Or To Be Taken by Fear

A. Eternal Destiny

B. Challenges in This Life

A. Eternal Destiny

1. Initially, there is a place for fear regarding this matter.

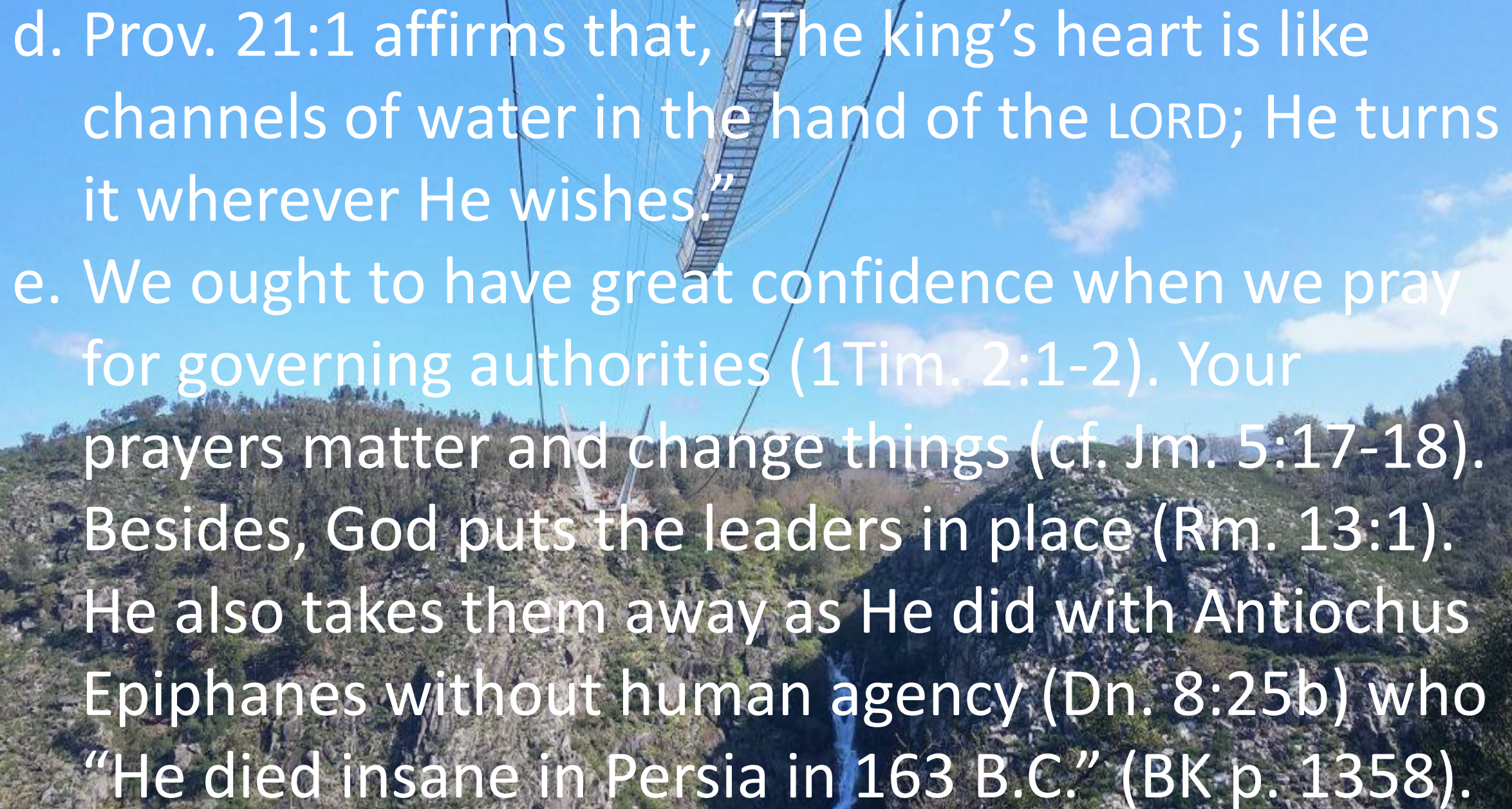
a. Jesus spoke about this in Mt. 10:28. The unsaved live with this awful fear (Heb. 2:14-15).

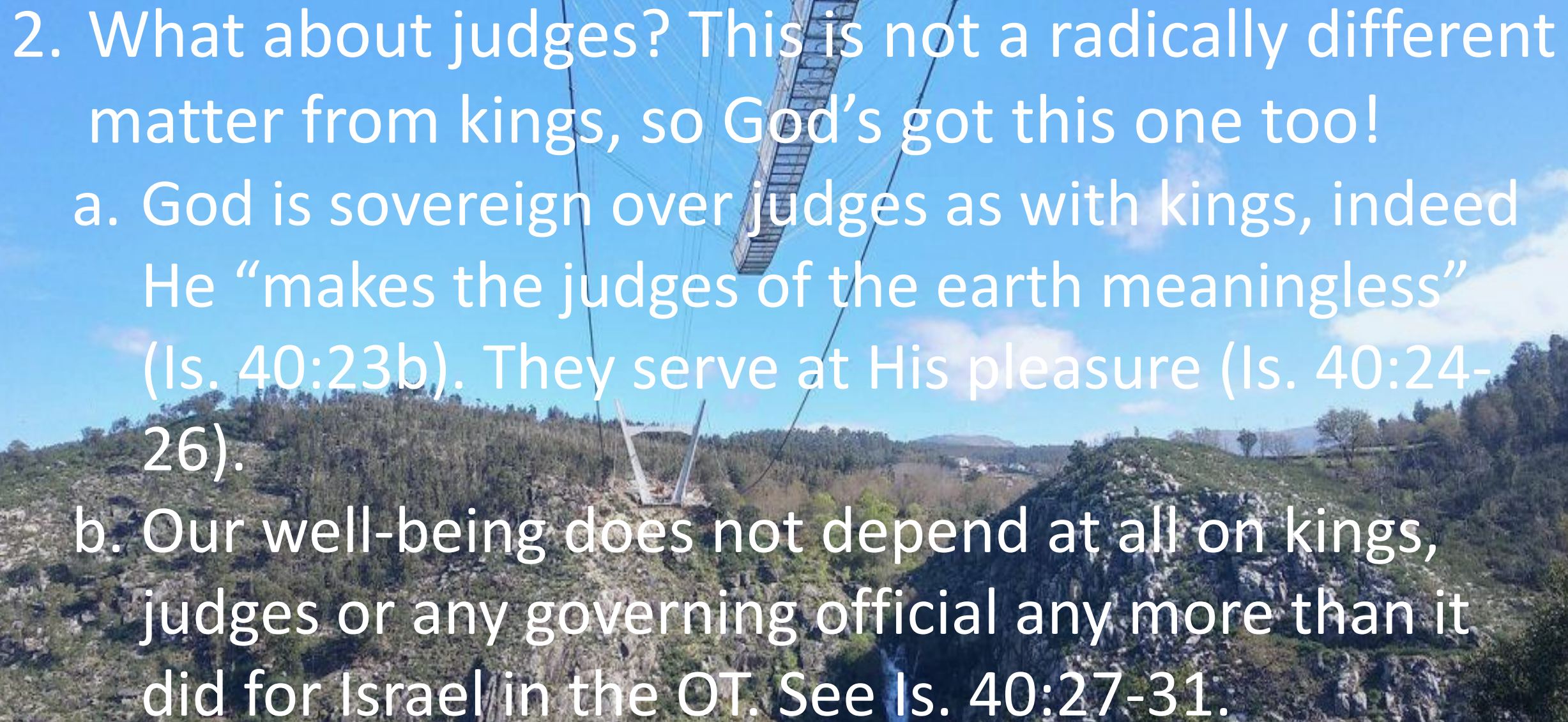
b. But because Jesus paid the price for our sins on the basis of which, eternal life is granted freely to all who simply believe in Him for it, there is no longer anything to fear, but we have cause for rejoicing (Lk. 10:20). (Gen. 15:6; Rm. 4:3, 20–22; Gal. 3:6)

B. Challenges in this life (2Cor. 5:7)

1. What about the king? God's got this!

- a. Citing Ex. 9:16, Paul quoted God as saying to Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH" (Rm. 9:17b). **God** was in control of Pharaoh.
- b. God delivered & the people "**believed** in the LORD and in His servant Moses" (Ex. 14:31b).
- c. Ex. 15:14-18 – Many people were terrified of the God of Israel after the Red Sea experience.

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- d. Prov. 21:1 affirms that, “The king’s heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.”
- e. We ought to have great confidence when we pray for governing authorities (1Tim. 2:1-2). Your prayers matter and change things (cf. Jm. 5:17-18). Besides, God puts the leaders in place (Rm. 13:1). He also takes them away as He did with Antiochus Epiphanes without human agency (Dn. 8:25b) who “He died insane in Persia in 163 B.C.” (BK p. 1358).

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2. What about judges? This is not a radically different matter from kings, so God's got this one too!
- a. God is sovereign over judges as with kings, indeed He "makes the judges of the earth meaningless" (Is. 40:23b). They serve at His pleasure (Is. 40:24-26).
 - b. Our well-being does not depend at all on kings, judges or any governing official any more than it did for Israel in the OT. See Is. 40:27-31.



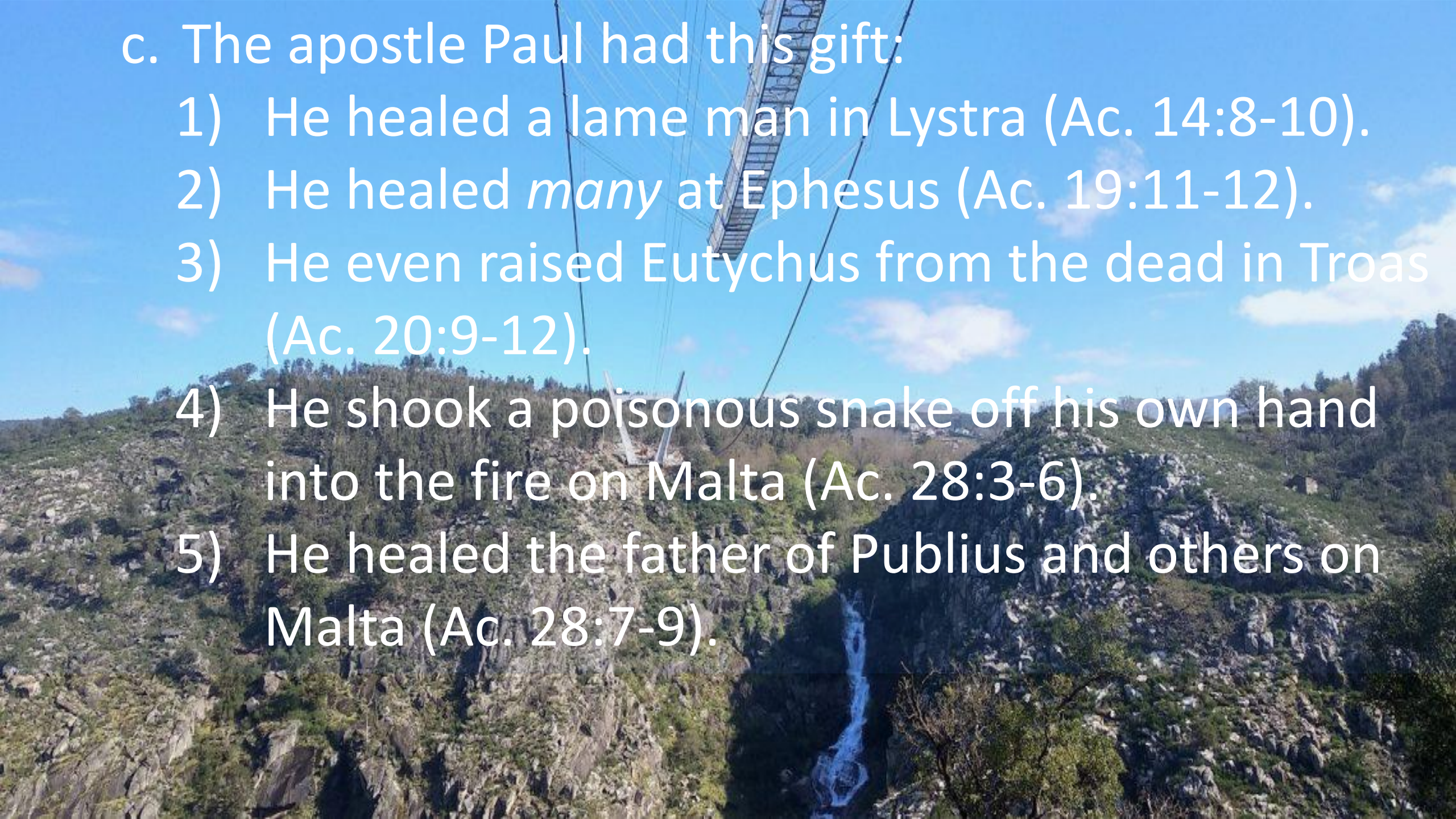
3. What about the Covid-19 or Corona virus or other diseases?

a. We know that disease is a part of life and will be as long as we live in this fallen world. Pandemics still come and go just as the present one continues.

b. Throughout the years, some have supernaturally recovered from diseases. In the NT there were “gifts of healings” (1Cor. 12:9; 12:28, 30). This was numbered among the sign-gifts, now no longer functioning, having ceased with the completion of the NT (1Cor. 13:8-12).

c. The apostle Paul had this gift:

- 1) He healed a lame man in Lystra (Ac. 14:8-10).
- 2) He healed *many* at Ephesus (Ac. 19:11-12).
- 3) He even raised Eutychus from the dead in Troas (Ac. 20:9-12).
- 4) He shook a poisonous snake off his own hand into the fire on Malta (Ac. 28:3-6).
- 5) He healed the father of Publius and others on Malta (Ac. 28:7-9).





d. Later the sign-gifts began to fade:

- 1) So, late in Paul's ministry, there was the case of Epaphroditus who came to minister to Paul in his Roman imprisonment, bringing a gift from the Philippians (4:18), but while there, he fell ill "to the point of death, but God had mercy on him" (Phil. 2:27) and healed him. Apparently, Paul could not lay hands on him and heal him.
- 2) Paul had to say near the end of his life (2Tim. 4:6), "Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus" (2Tim. 4:20).

3) So also in our day, no one is receiving “gifts of healings.” Does that mean that God isn’t hearing and answering prayers for healing, or that there are no miracles of healing happening? By no means! Let’s consider Jm. 5:14-18.

