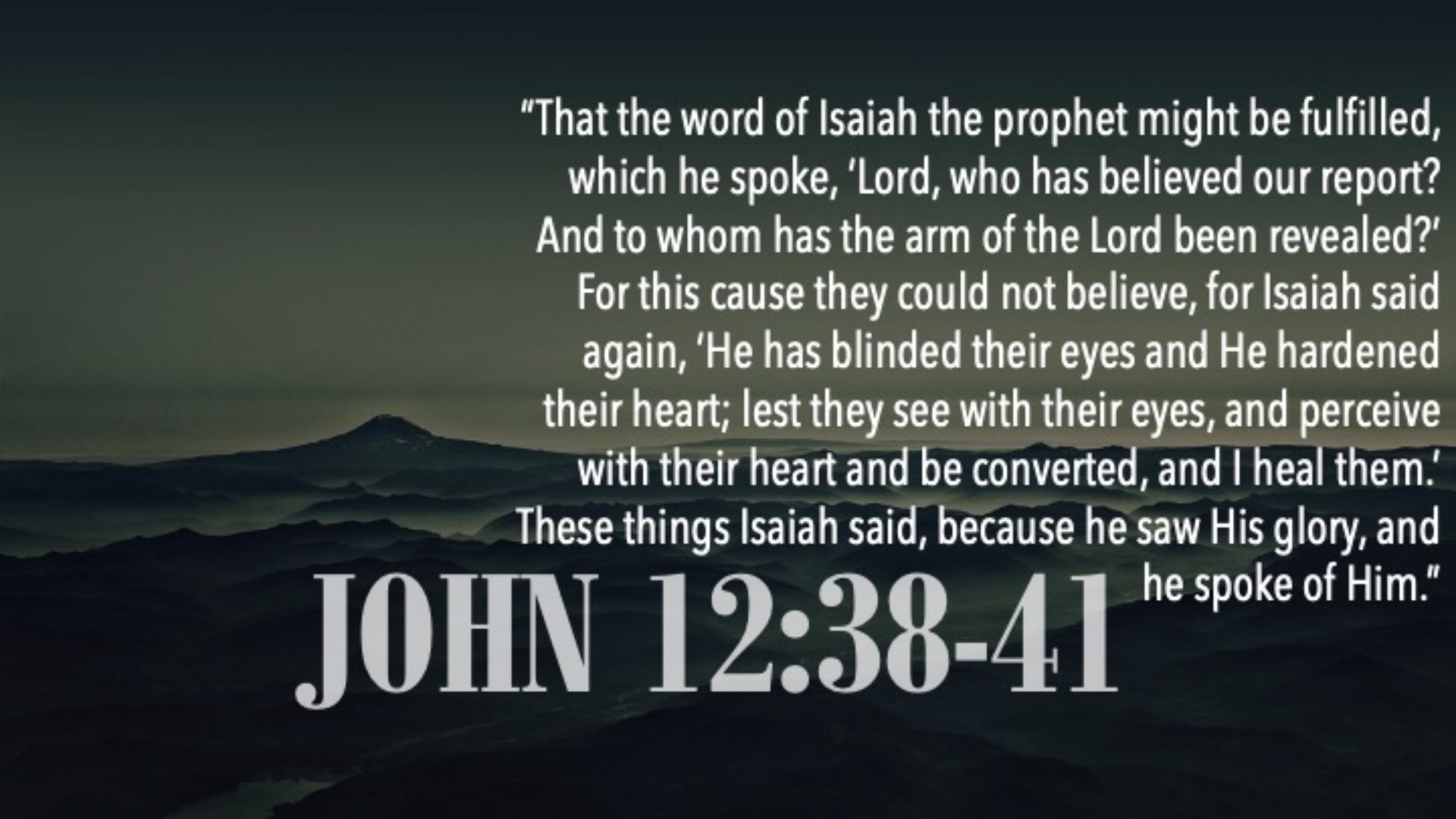


A landscape of rolling hills at dawn or dusk, with the word "APPROVAL" overlaid in large, white, serif capital letters. The hills are layered, creating a sense of depth, and the sky is a soft gradient of green and blue. The text is centered horizontally and partially overlaps the horizon line.

APPROVAL

SO MANY SIGNS

- John 12:37 – “But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him;”
- Does this statement surprise us? It probably shouldn't, since Jesus repeatedly warned His listeners to be wary of a shallow belief based only on signs (Matthew 16:1-4, Luke 16:31).
- This is the decisive moment we all face: either accept the evidence, or no evidence will ever be good enough.

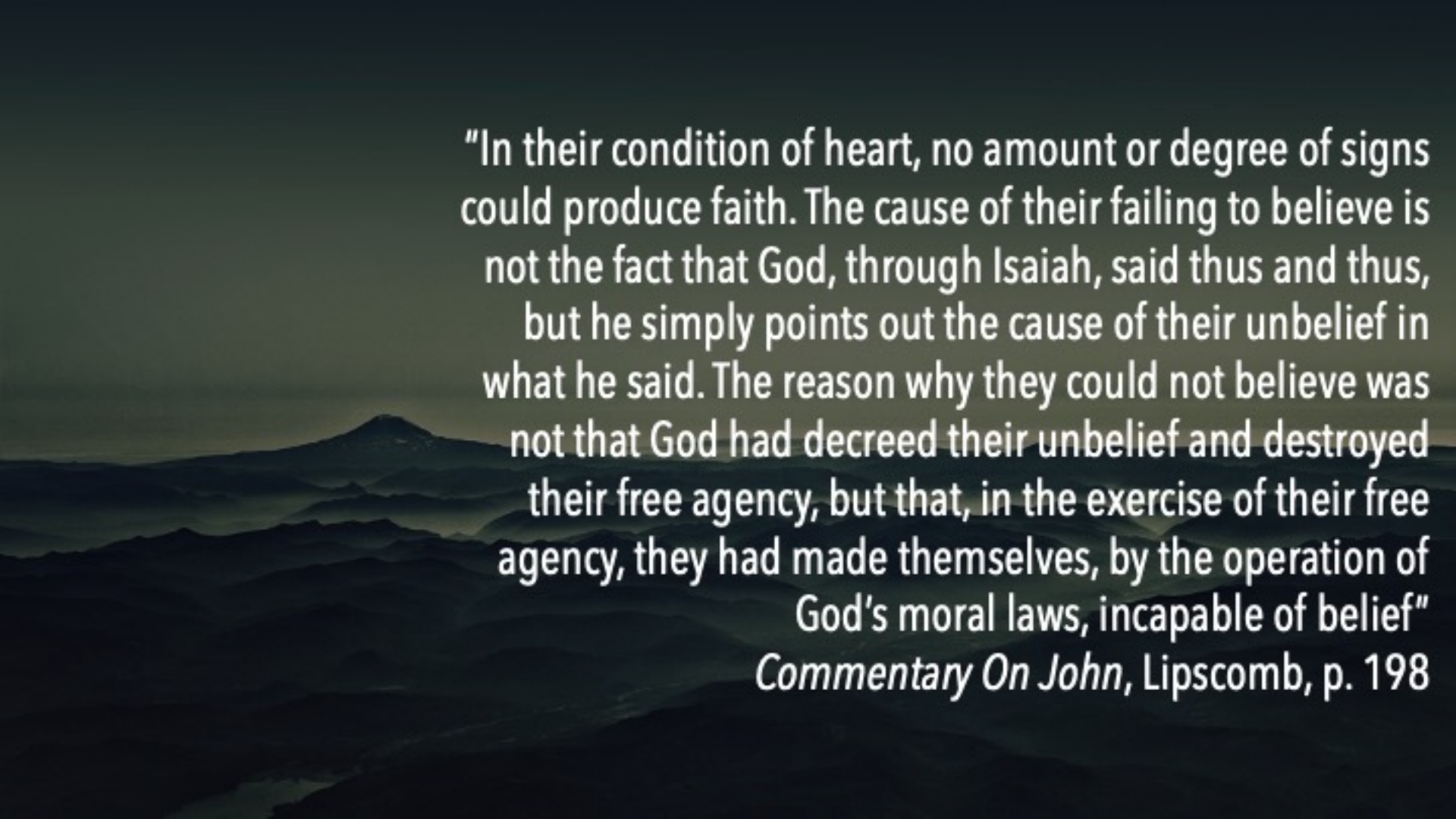


"That the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled,
which he spoke, 'Lord, who has believed our report?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?'
For this cause they could not believe, for Isaiah said
again, 'He has blinded their eyes and He hardened
their heart; lest they see with their eyes, and perceive
with their heart and be converted, and I heal them.'
These things Isaiah said, because he saw His glory, and
he spoke of Him."

JOHN 12:38-41

REVEALED

- "And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"
- Indeed, who was it who was most passionately opposed to Jesus, who kicked at the goads the hardest, who resisted Him in spite of their knowledge of the Lord and the scriptures?
- This provides some background for the statement "They could not believe..."



"In their condition of heart, no amount or degree of signs could produce faith. The cause of their failing to believe is not the fact that God, through Isaiah, said thus and thus, but he simply points out the cause of their unbelief in what he said. The reason why they could not believe was not that God had decreed their unbelief and destroyed their free agency, but that, in the exercise of their free agency, they had made themselves, by the operation of God's moral laws, incapable of belief"

Commentary On John, Lipscomb, p. 198



JOHN 3:17-21

BECAUSE OF THE PHARISEES

- John 12:42 - "Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;"
- Their power over the people is not surprising. They were considered the most knowledgeable and pious of all the Jews, and used their reputation to influence others.
- John 9

FOR THEY **LOVED** THE APPROVAL OF MEN,

RATHER

THAN THE APPROVAL OF

GOD

APPLICATIONS

- Ignoring sin in your own family
- Awkwardly playing along with sin at work
- We value our reputation so much that we forget how our actions impact Jesus' reputation.
- Our lives are supposed to stand out, not blend in (Matt. 5:13-16).
- Our uniqueness makes us effective Christians (1 Peter 2:11-12).