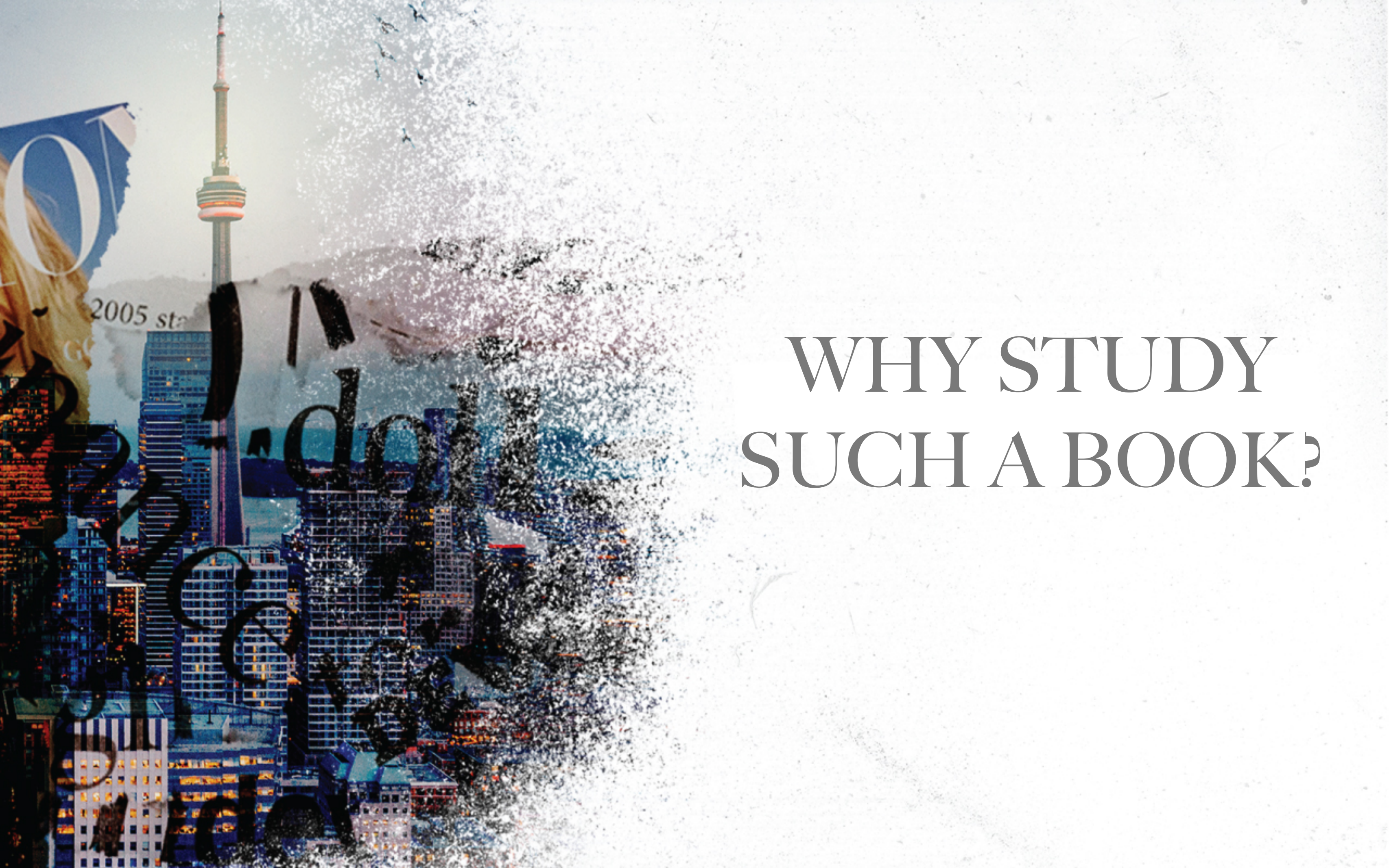




ECCLESIASTES

MAKING SENSE OF A COMPLEX WORLD



WHY STUDY
SUCH A BOOK?



It's honest.



It's honest.

It's course-shaping.



It's honest.

It's course-shaping.

It's apologetic.



It's honest.

It's course-shaping.

It's apologetic.

It's doxological.



It's honest.

It's course-shaping.

It's apologetic.

It's doxological.

It's practical.



MONEY CAN'T BUY EVERYTHING

Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:9



Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

— Ecclesiastes 1:2



What does man gain by all the toil
at which he toils under the sun?

— Ecclesiastes 1:3



UNDER THE SUN

life as we know it in a fallen world

a view of the world absent of God

a belief in God but one that falls short
of the triune covenant LORD of Scripture

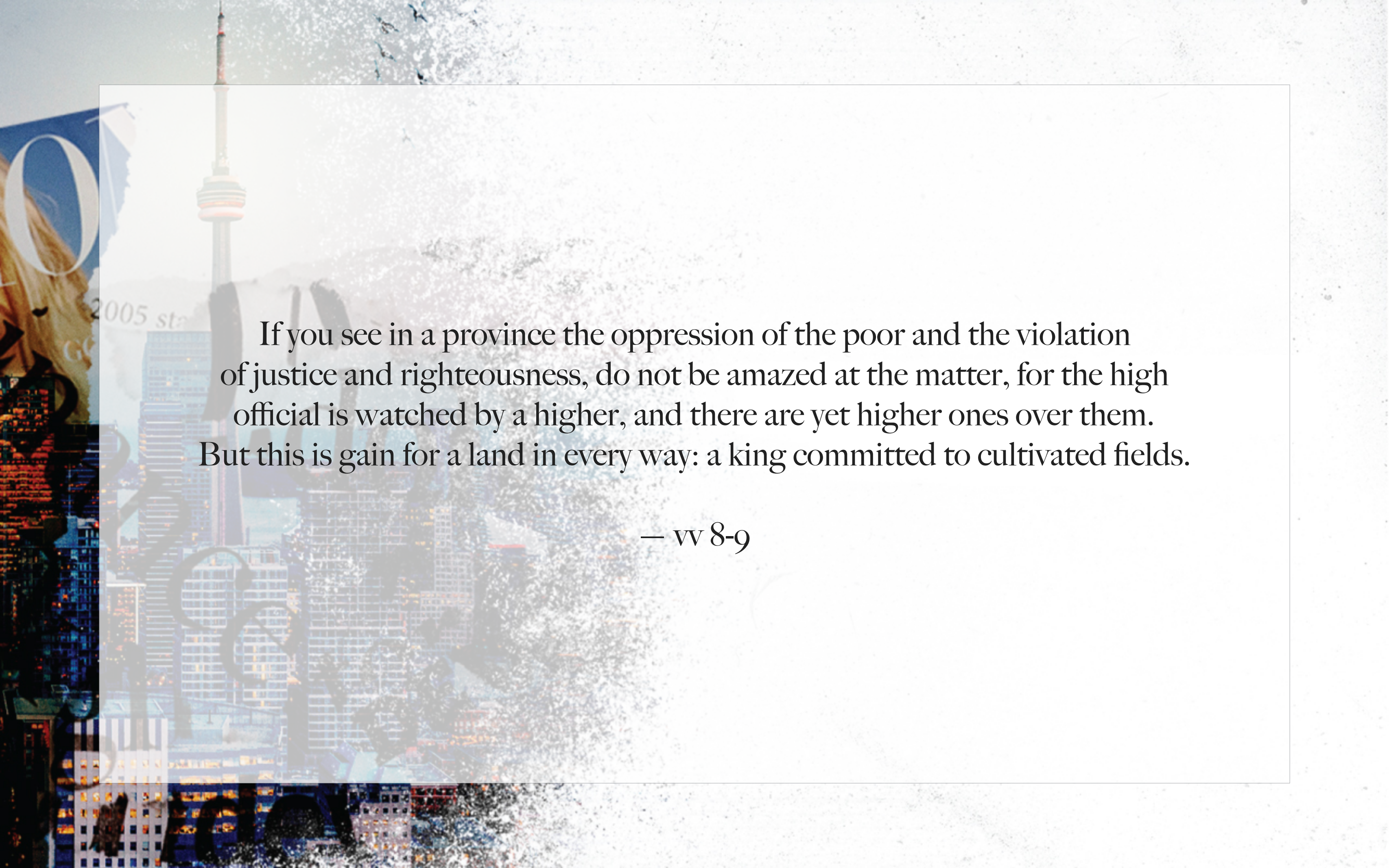
a right confessional belief in God
and yet a functional living for self and now

a limited perspective on life compared to
God's comprehensive, all-knowing view of the world



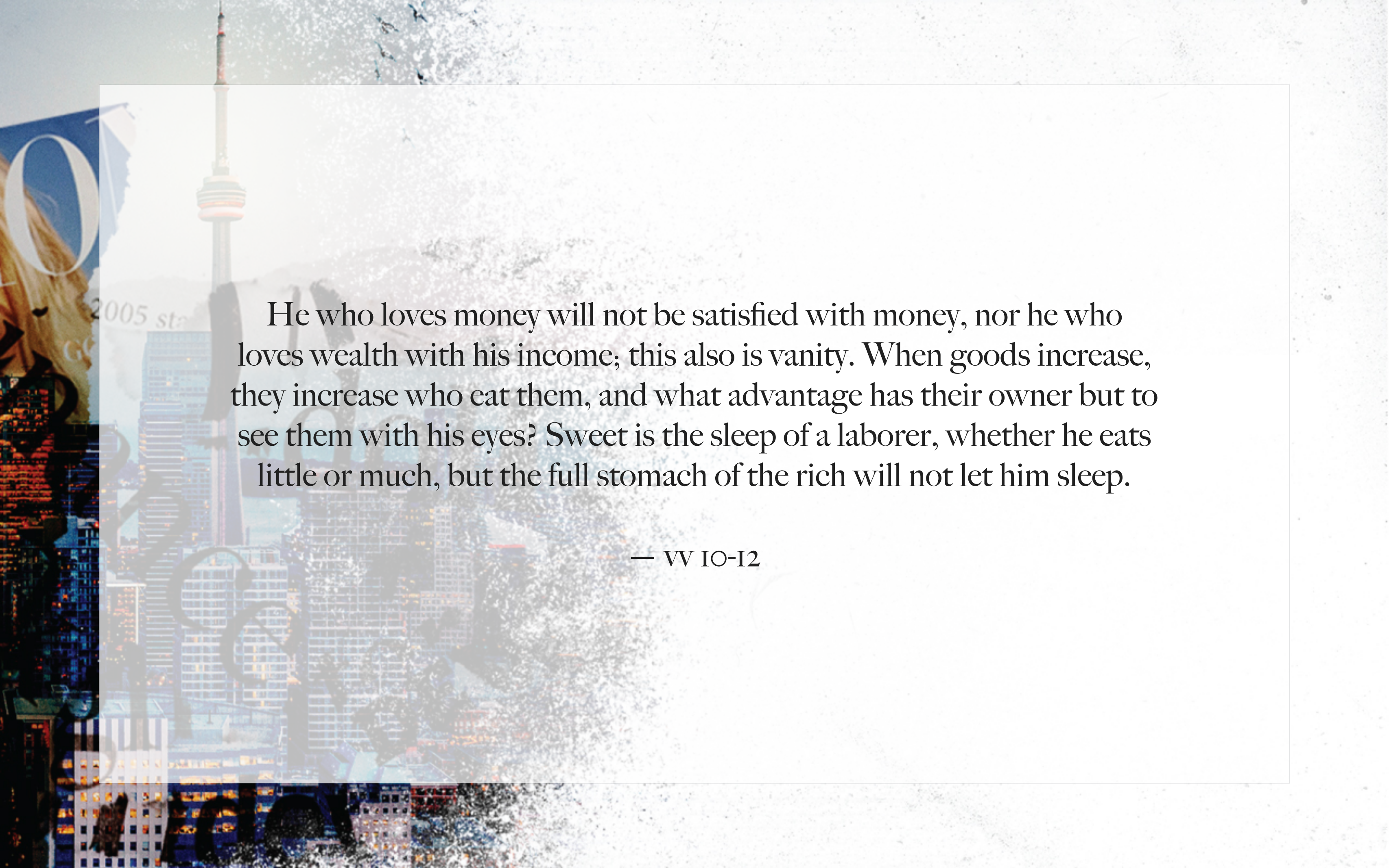
What does man gain by all the toil
at which he toils under the sun?

— Ecclesiastes 1:3



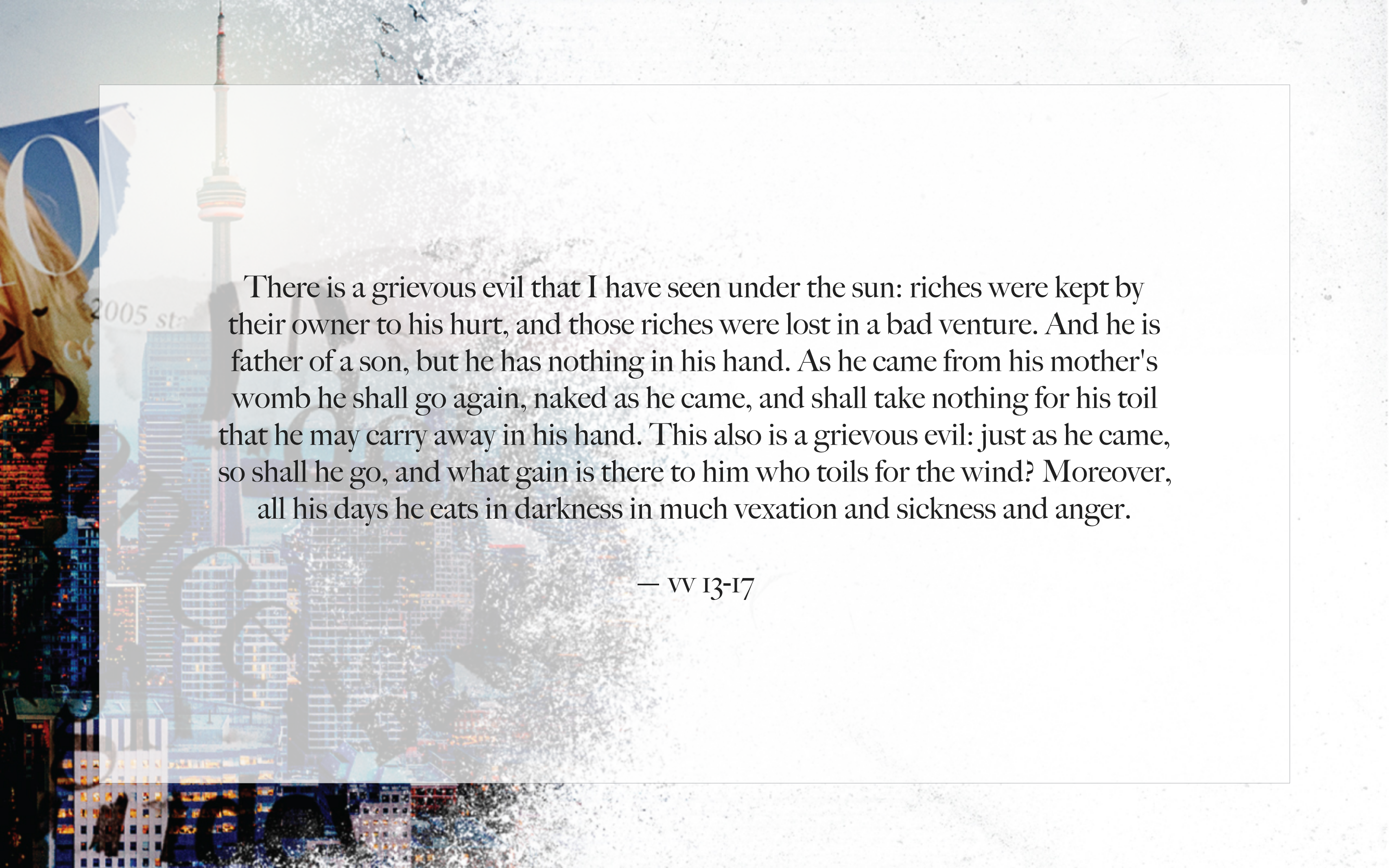
If you see in a province the oppression of the poor and the violation of justice and righteousness, do not be amazed at the matter, for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them. But this is gain for a land in every way: a king committed to cultivated fields.

— vv 8-9



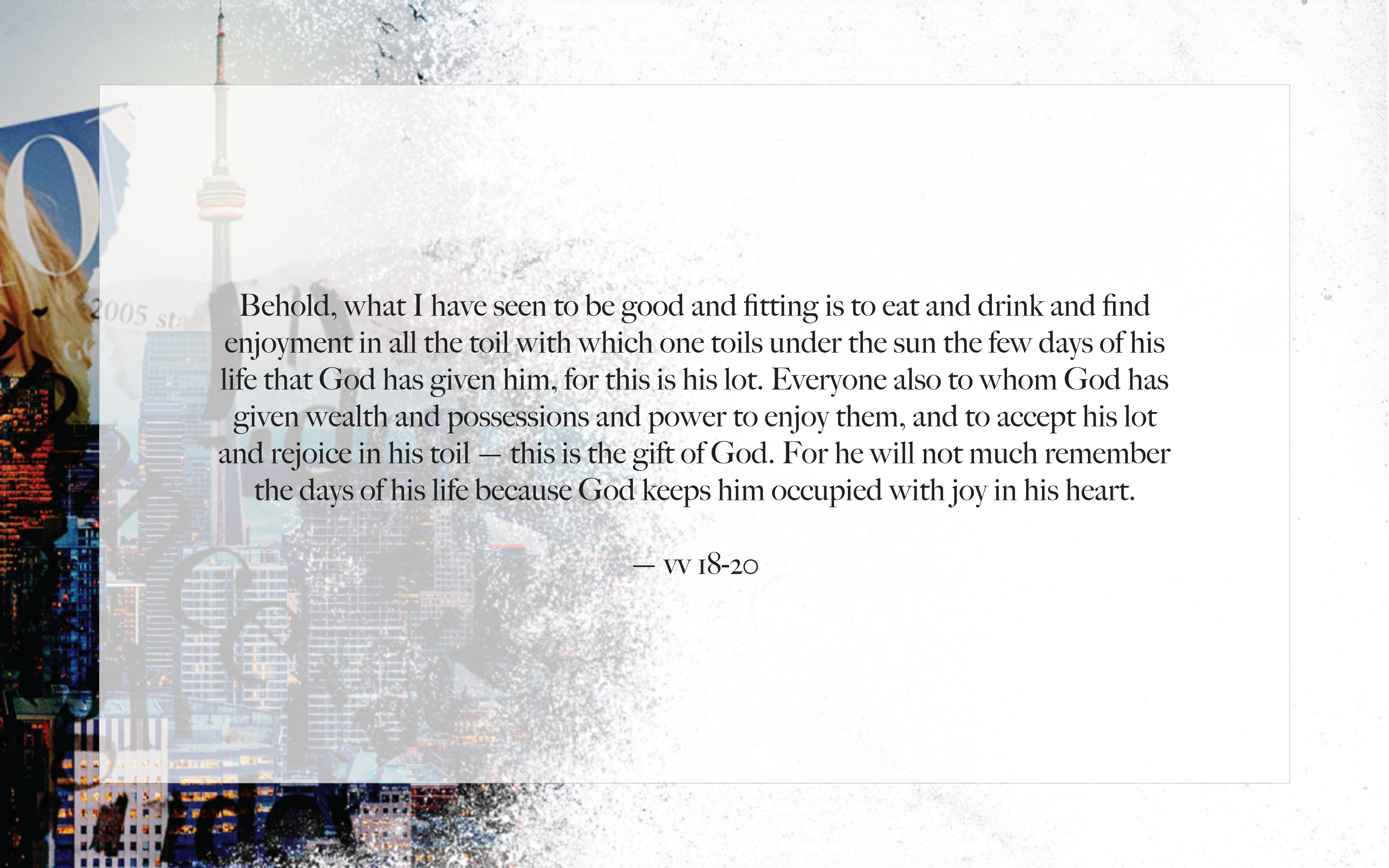
He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

— VV IO-I2



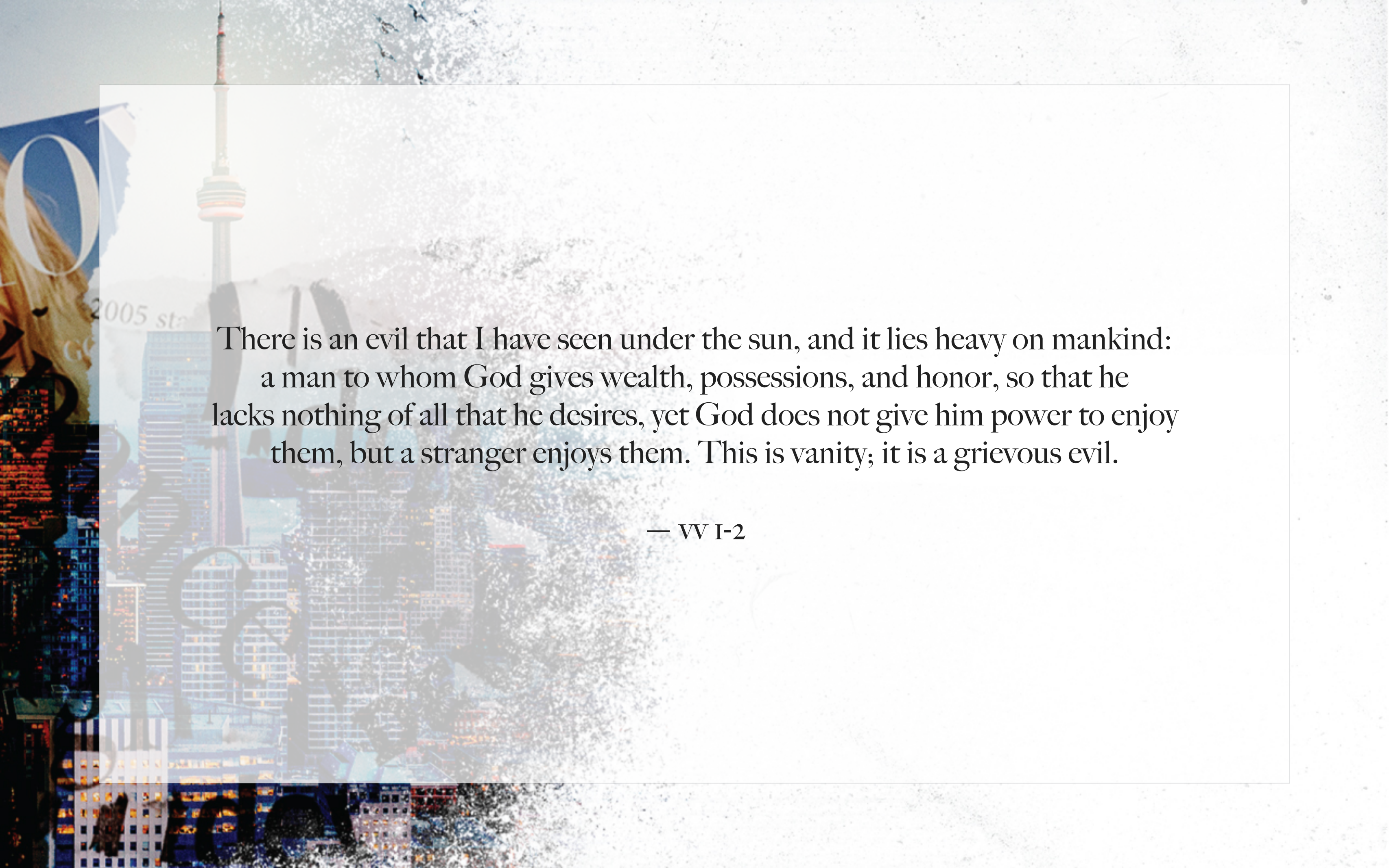
There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger.

— vv 13-17



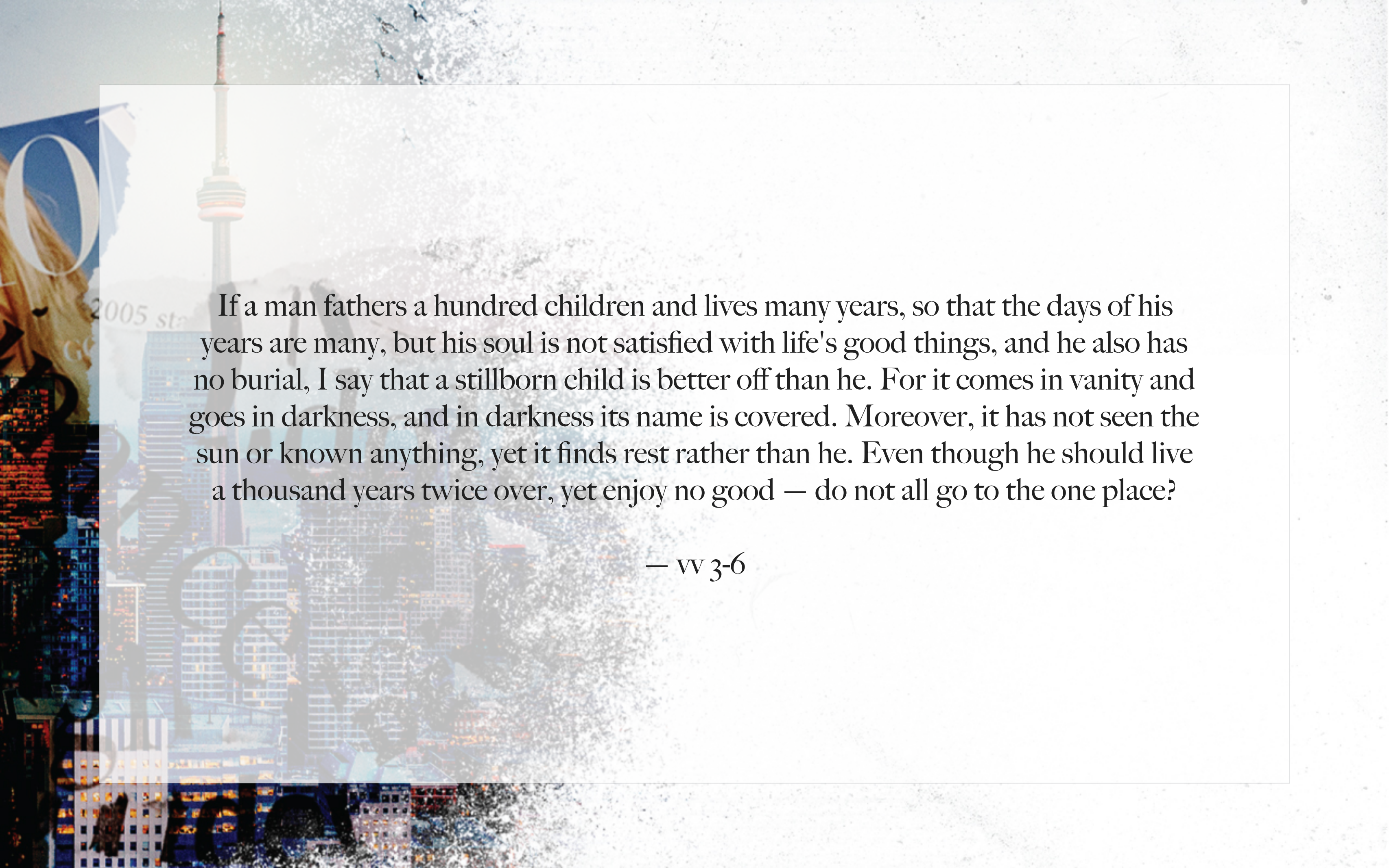
Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil — this is the gift of God. For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

— vv 18-20



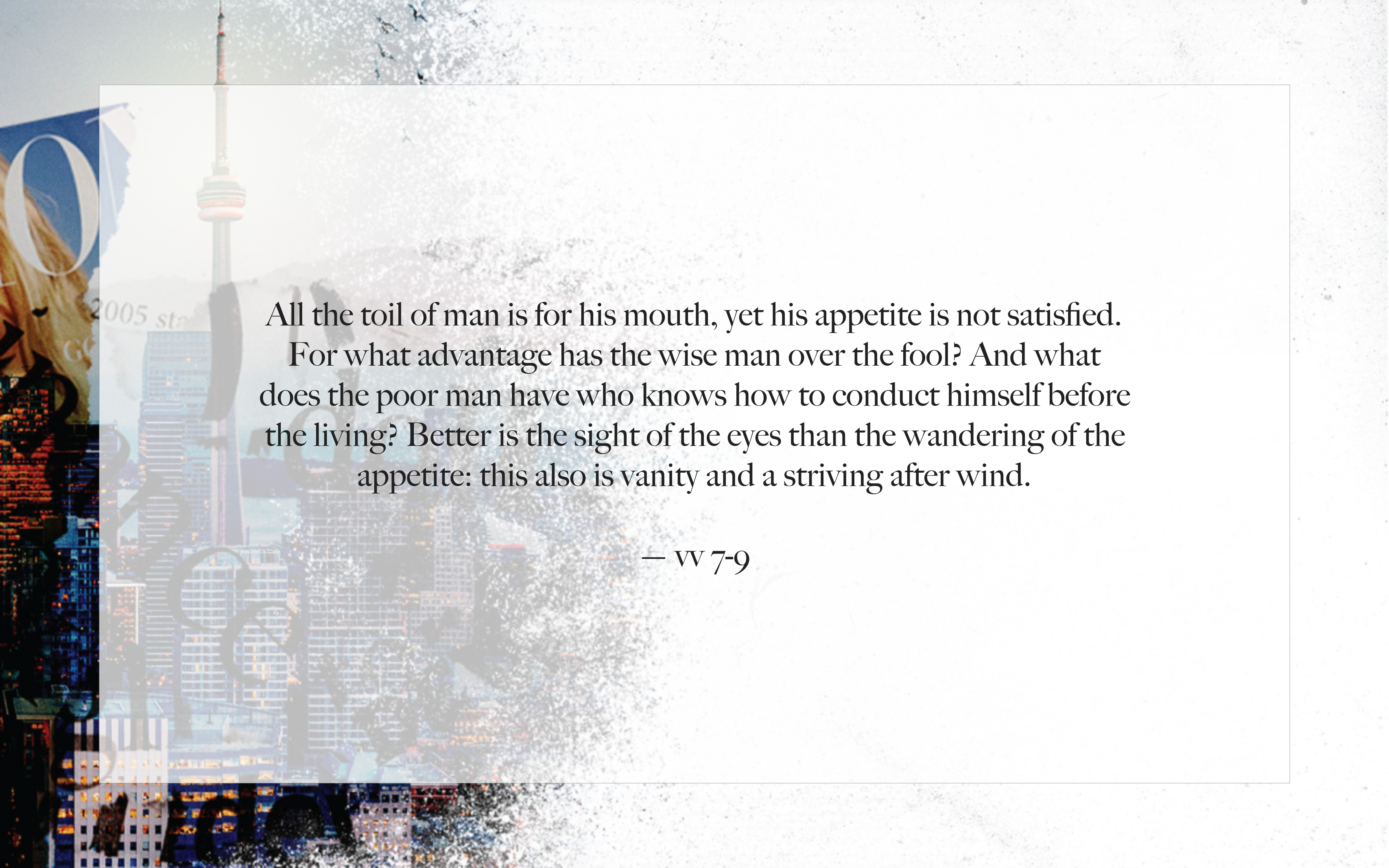
There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind:
a man to whom God gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he
lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him power to enjoy
them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is vanity; it is a grievous evil.

— VV I-2



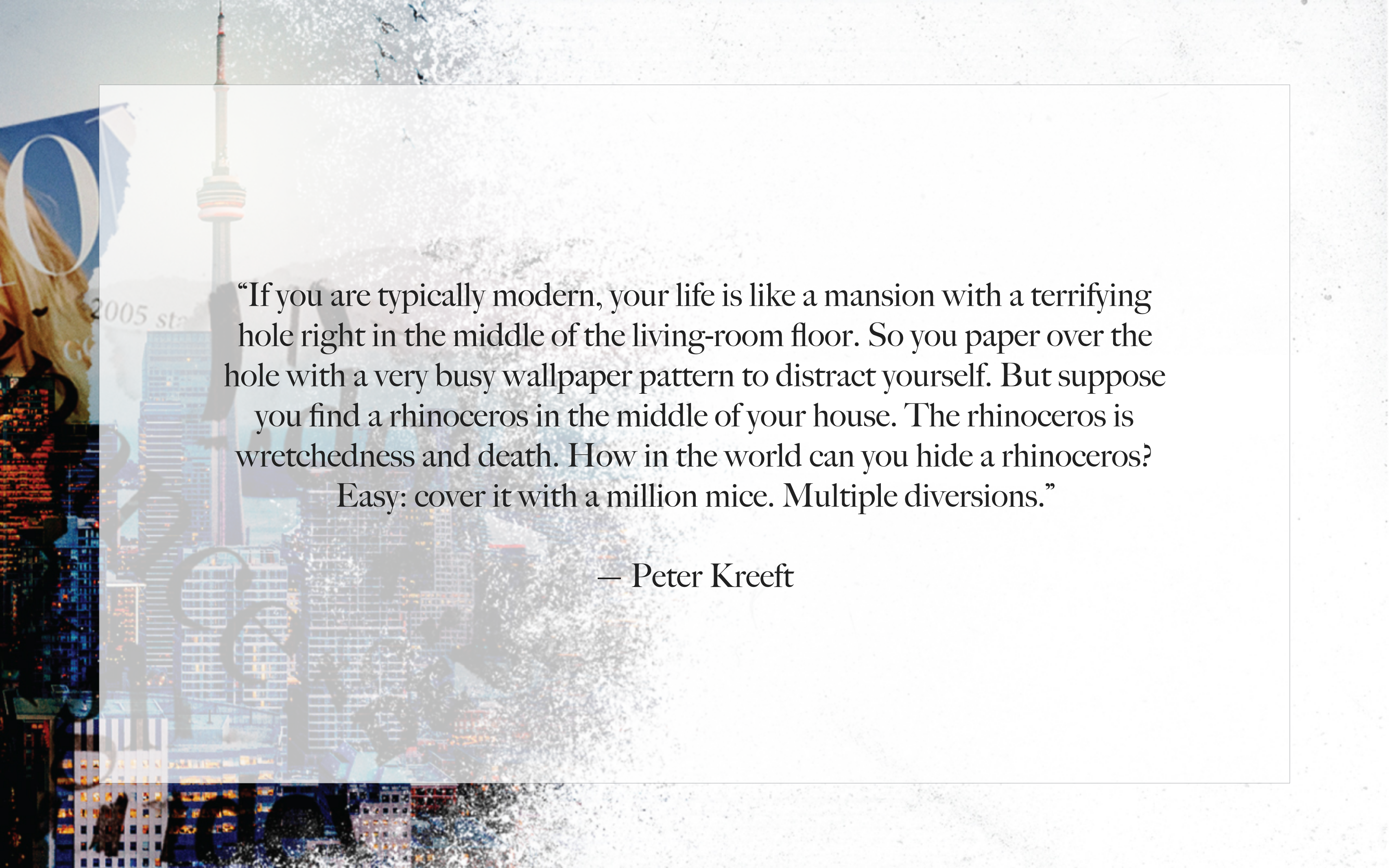
If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things, and he also has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he. For it comes in vanity and goes in darkness, and in darkness its name is covered. Moreover, it has not seen the sun or known anything, yet it finds rest rather than he. Even though he should live a thousand years twice over, yet enjoy no good — do not all go to the one place?

— vv 3-6



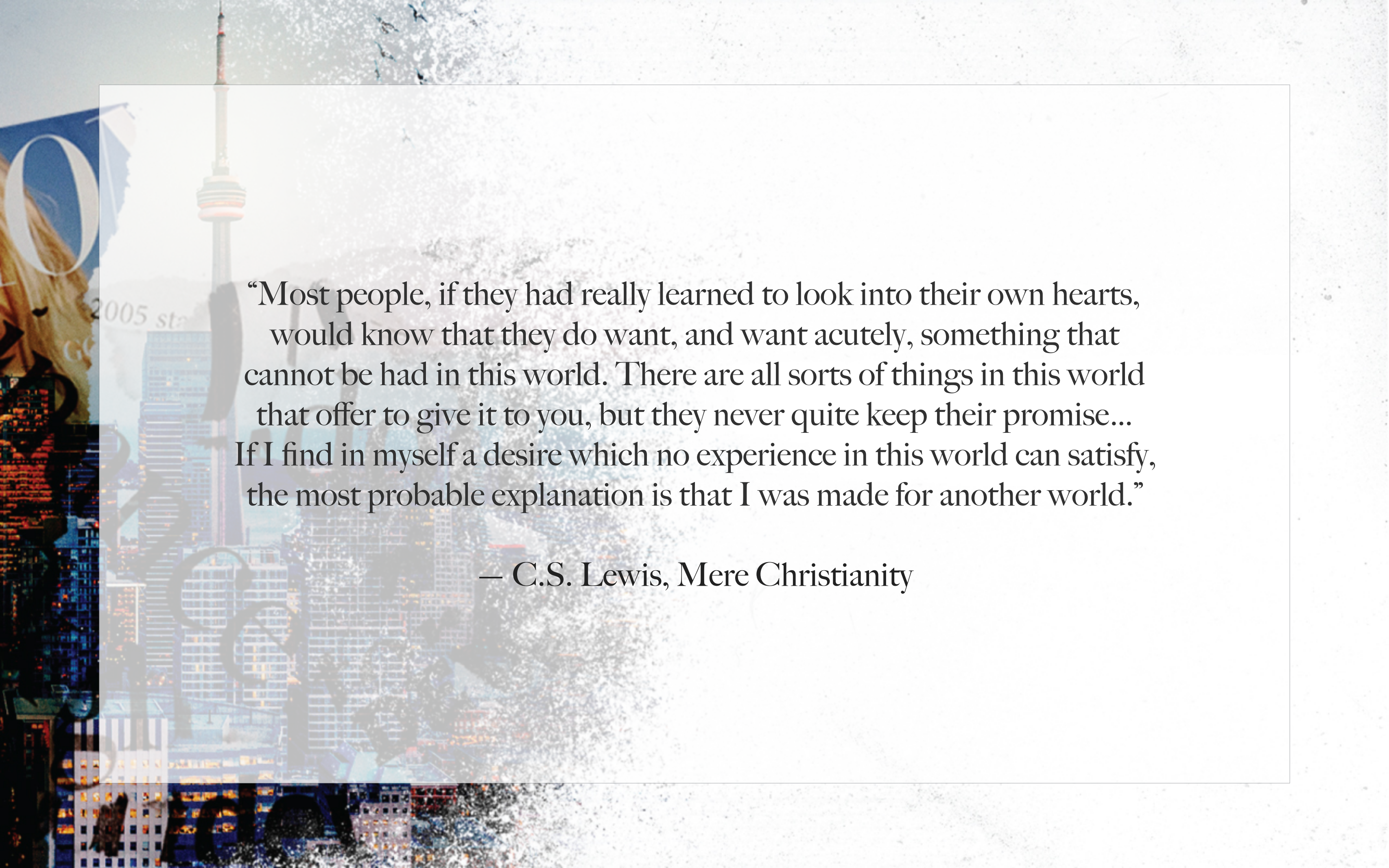
All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet his appetite is not satisfied.
For what advantage has the wise man over the fool? And what
does the poor man have who knows how to conduct himself before
the living? Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the
appetite: this also is vanity and a striving after wind.

— vv 7-9

The background is a complex collage. On the left, there's a vertical strip showing a night cityscape with the CN Tower and other skyscrapers. Overlaid on this is a large, semi-transparent '2005 star' logo. In the center, there's a faint, large image of a rhinoceros. The right side of the image is a light, textured grey area where the text is placed.

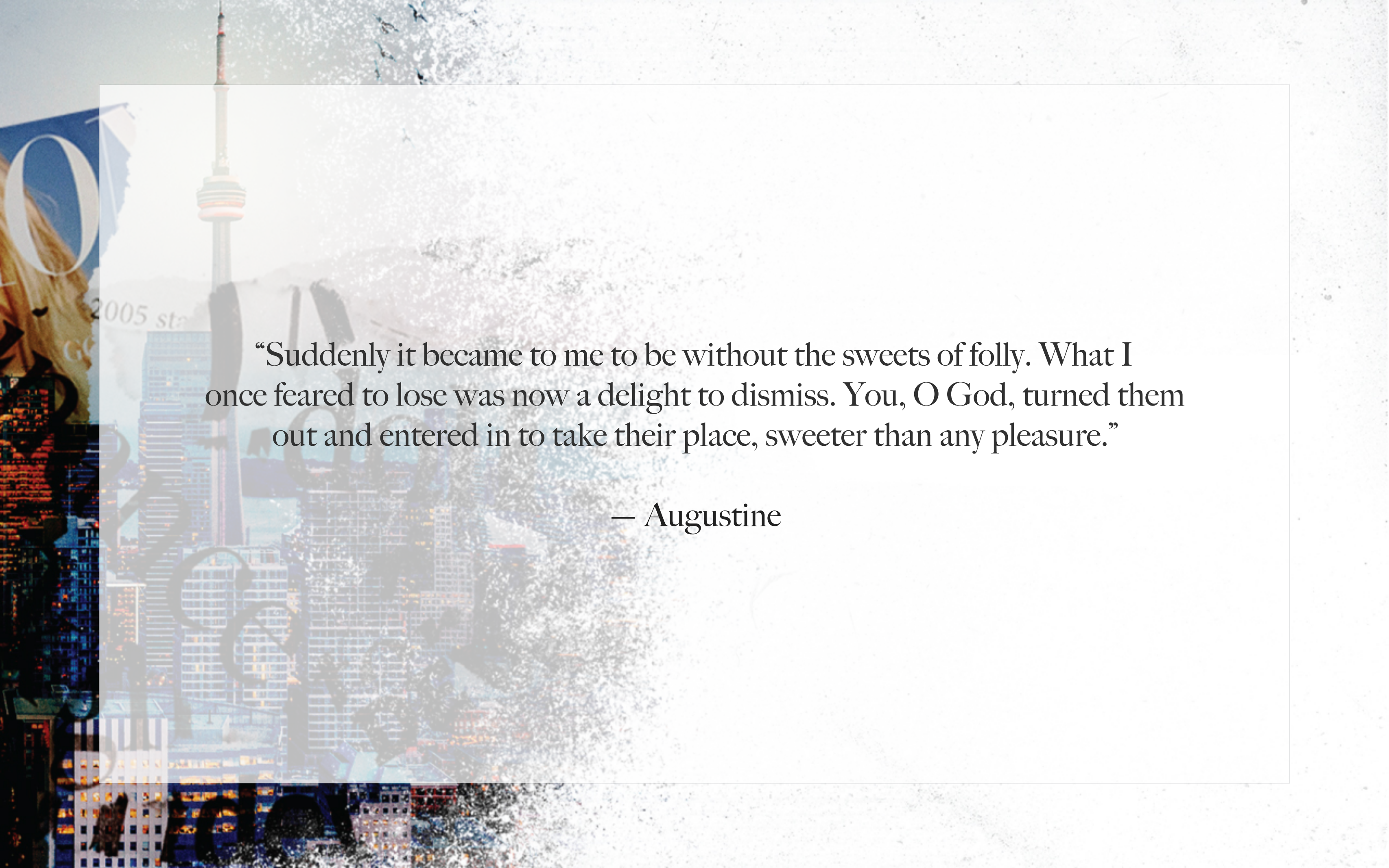
“If you are typically modern, your life is like a mansion with a terrifying hole right in the middle of the living-room floor. So you paper over the hole with a very busy wallpaper pattern to distract yourself. But suppose you find a rhinoceros in the middle of your house. The rhinoceros is wretchedness and death. How in the world can you hide a rhinoceros? Easy: cover it with a million mice. Multiple diversions.”

— Peter Kreeft



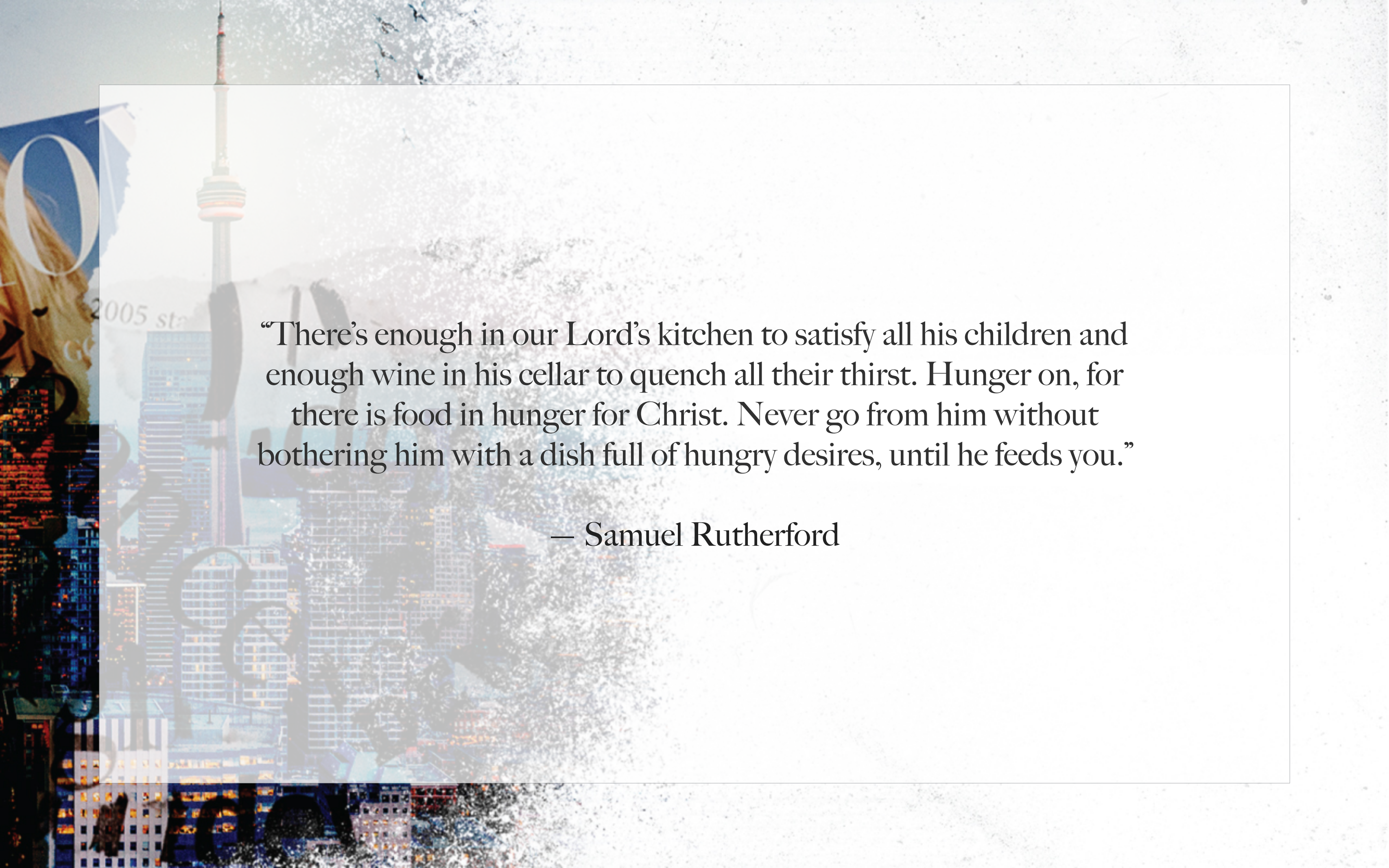
“Most people, if they had really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world. There are all sorts of things in this world that offer to give it to you, but they never quite keep their promise... If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.”

— C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



“Suddenly it became to me to be without the sweets of folly. What I once feared to lose was now a delight to dismiss. You, O God, turned them out and entered in to take their place, sweeter than any pleasure.”

— Augustine



“There’s enough in our Lord’s kitchen to satisfy all his children and enough wine in his cellar to quench all their thirst. Hunger on, for there is food in hunger for Christ. Never go from him without bothering him with a dish full of hungry desires, until he feeds you.”

— Samuel Rutherford



For he satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

— Psalm 107:9



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