

I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me.

Isaiah 46:9

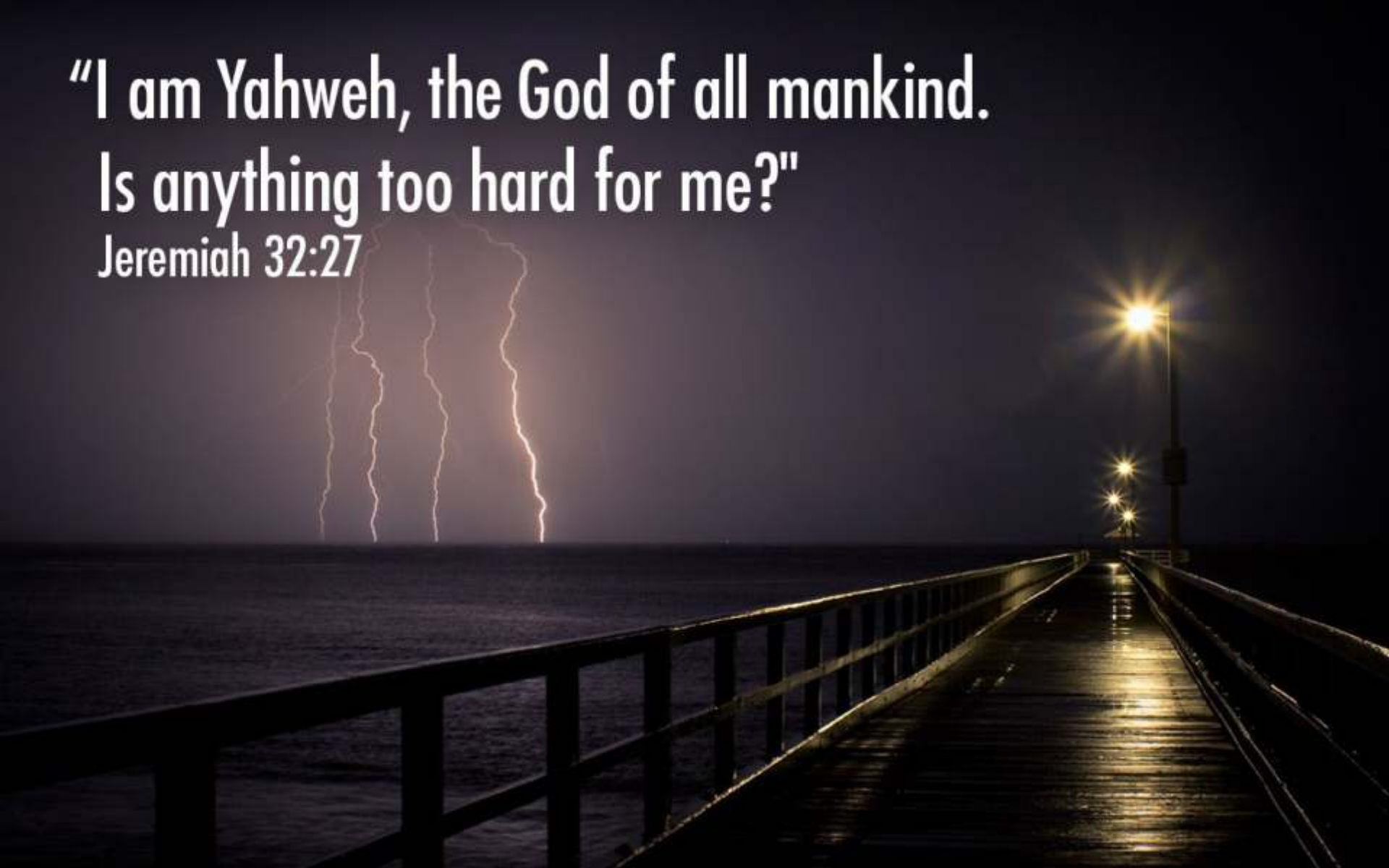
Yahweh's plans stand firm forever;
his intentions can never be shaken.

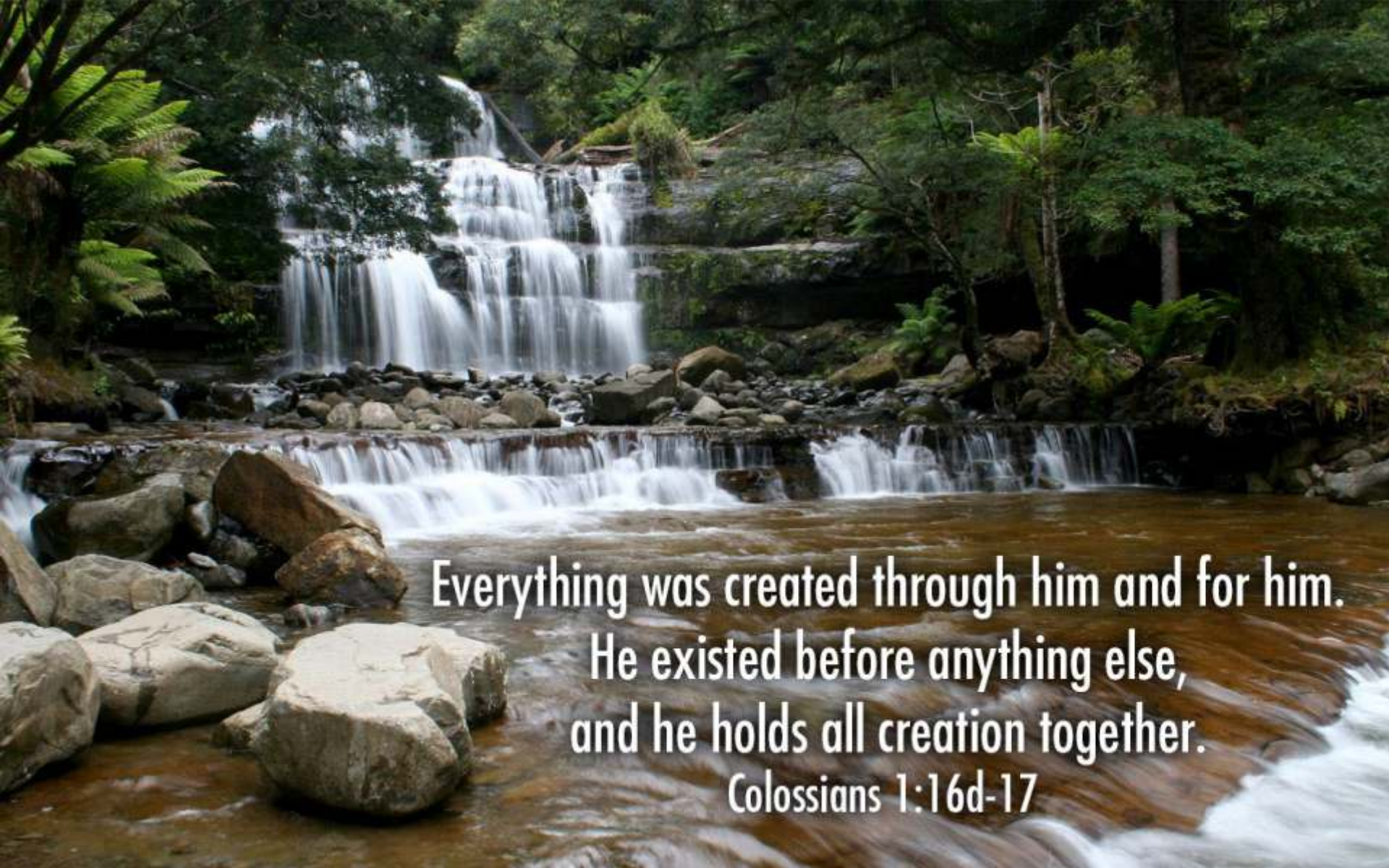
Psalms 33:11



"I am Yahweh, the God of all mankind.
Is anything too hard for me?"

Jeremiah 32:27





Everything was created through him and for him.
He existed before anything else,
and he holds all creation together.
Colossians 1:16d-17

THE CHARACTER OF GOD

SOVEREIGNTY

Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge!
How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions
and his ways!

For who can know the Lord's thoughts?
Who knows enough to give him advice?
And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back?

For everything comes from him and exists by his power
and is intended for his glory.
All glory to him forever! Amen.

Romans 11:33-36

God is THE boss

- > *Created the universe and everything in it*
- > *God preserves his creation; He keeps it going; he cooperates with it.*

Creator and Sustainer

- > *Nothing happens without his knowledge or permission include things we may think are chaotic or random.*

Has divine control

- > *There is meaning behind his creation, his decisions, his actions.*

Has purpose and plan

He is qualified for the role:

All powerful (omnipotence)
All knowing (omniscience)
All present (omnipresence)

- > *No one else is qualified or anything like him.*

He's the ONLY one

Possible reactions:

- > *Unreachable*
(God seems distant and mysterious)
- > *Unrelatable (too different to me)*
- > *Uncontrollable*
(don't know what's going to happen)
- > *Unbelievable (too much to fit in my head)*
- > *Undesirable (doesn't fit my plans for me)*

*...Disciples experienced this too (Mark 4:41)
They were terrified and asked each other,
"Who is this? Even the wind and the waves
obey him!"*

*Things to keep in mind when asking questions
or you're struggling to understand:*

- 1. You are not an accident or a mistake
– the boss actually likes you.*
- 2. He has given you control and responsibility
over some things – give it your best shot.*
- 3. He has a plan and it's good*
- 4. Parts of His plans are above our paygrade
– we're on a need-to-know basis.*

Jonah 4:9

Then God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry because the plant died?”

“Yes,” Jonah retorted, “even angry enough to die!”

Then the Lord said, “You feel sorry about the plant, though you did nothing to put it there. It came quickly and died quickly. 11 But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness, not to mention all the animals. Shouldn't I feel sorry for such a great city?”

God asks Job similar questions (excerpts from Job chapters 38 -41)...
Then the Lord answered Job from the whirlwind:

“Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words?

Brace yourself like a man, because I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much.

Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line?

“Have you ever commanded the morning to appear and caused the dawn to rise in the east?

“Where does light come from, and where does darkness go? Can you take each to its home? Do you know how to get there?

But of course you know all this!

For you were born before it was all created, and you are so very experienced!

Do you know the laws of the universe? Can you use them to regulate the earth?

“Can you shout to the clouds and make it rain?

Can you make lightning appear and cause it to strike as you direct?

Then the Lord said to Job, “Do you still want to argue with the Almighty? You are God's critic, but do you have the answers?”

42 Then Job replied to the Lord:

“I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you.

You asked, 'Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?'

It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me.

You said, 'Listen and I will speak! I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.'

I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.”

Trust THE boss

Do not fear

Isaiah 41:10 > So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Philippians 4:6 > Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Take responsibility for what He's given you

·Romans 12:2 > Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

·Colossians 3:23 > Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

·1 Corinthians 10:31 > So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Release control of what He's not given you

·Proverbs 4:25-27 > Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

·1 Peter 5:6 > So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

Believe

Amen (hebrew word) – means “so be it”, from 'āman – means to believe in – to trust – to stand firm.

Genesis 15:5-6 Then Yahweh took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can.

That's how many descendants you will have!” And Abram believed ('āman) Yahweh, and Yahweh counted him as righteous because of his faith.