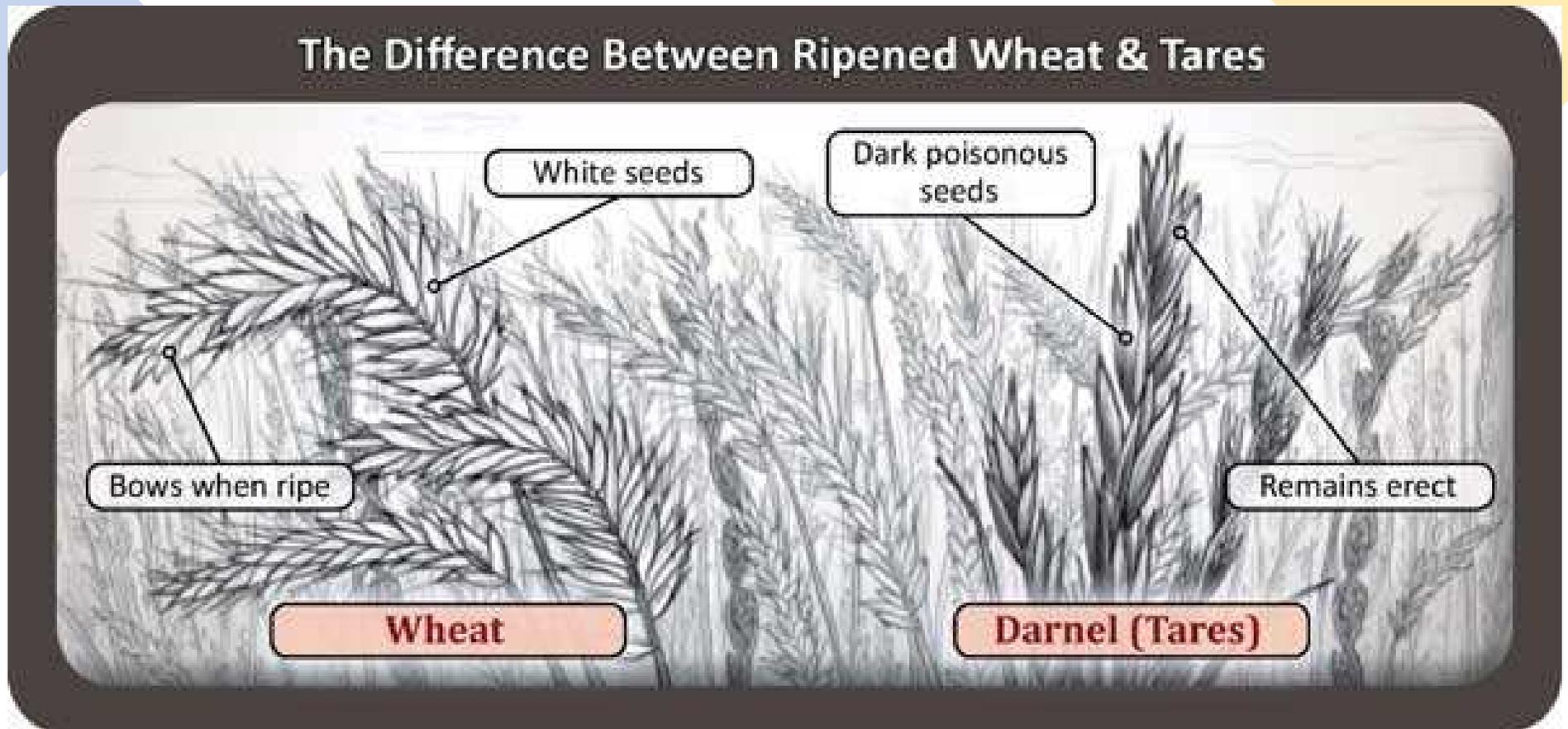


The Difference Between Ripened Wheat & Tares



“Who I Am” - Jude 1b

Watered-Down Relationship

- **Isaiah 1:22 NLT** Once like pure silver, you have become like worthless slag. Once so pure, you are now like watered-down wine.
- Jesus was continually on guard for the religious leader trying to trip Him up by adding their own ideas to His teachings

Watered-Down Relationship

- This is our interpretation of the Law and we have 1,000s of years of rabbinical teaching to back us up
- Your followers are guilty of a great sin by doing work on the Sabbath of harvesting

Watered-Down Relationship

- **Matthew 13:23-30 NIV** 24 Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds (*tares, false wheat*) among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

Watered-Down Relationship

- In this parable, the field is the Kingdom of God on earth
- The good seed is the truth Jesus was proclaiming
- The farmer is Jesus
- The enemy is Satan
- Jesus plants good seed that will produce a great harvest
- Satan plants corrupt seed that only imitates the good

Watered-Down Relationship

- **Vs. 27**, “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ 28a “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.
- They accused the owner of the field of planting weak seed corrupted by weed seed

Watered-Down Relationship

- **Vs. 28b**, “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ 29 “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

Watered-Down Relationship

- This is what the little letter of Jude is addressing
- False teaching or weeds were being planted in the congregation he was writing to
- The false teaching humanly sounded like truth
- It may have been humanly tempting and desirable to be true

Watered-Down Relationship

- Unless it is dealt with it will only weaken the harvest God desires, while limiting their joy, peace, and relationship with Jesus
- Jude understood this and before he addresses the weeds (*false teaching*), he wants every born-again child of God to know who they already are in Christ Jesus and what we already possess

Scripture

- **Jude 1a**, “Jude, a servant (bondservant) of Jesus Christ and a brother of James”
- **Jude 1b**, “To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for (*or in*) Jesus Christ”

MSG 1-2 I, Jude, am a slave to Jesus Christ and brother to James, writing to those loved by God the Father, called and kept safe by Jesus Christ. Relax, everything's going to be all right; rest, everything's coming together; open your hearts, love is on the way!

- Relax you are not missing out on anything
- God has not hidden anything from you needed
- There is nothing for you to earn, just learn to apply
- Relax, God's got this

MSG 1-2 I, Jude, am a slave to Jesus Christ and brother to James, writing to those loved by God the Father, called and kept safe by Jesus Christ. Relax, everything's going to be all right; rest, everything's coming together; open your hearts, love is on the way!

- This is true for every born-again child of God
- Jude tells us why we can relax

Jude starts by telling us we have a calling upon our lives from God we responded to

- The Greek word call implies something that happened in the past, continues to today and will proceed going forward
- This calling is shown in three ways in scripture

Jude starts by telling us we have a calling upon our lives from God we responded to

- God has used or is using the Holy Spirit to call or draw you to Himself
 - **John 6:44 NIV** “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

Jude starts by telling us we have a calling upon our lives from God we responded to

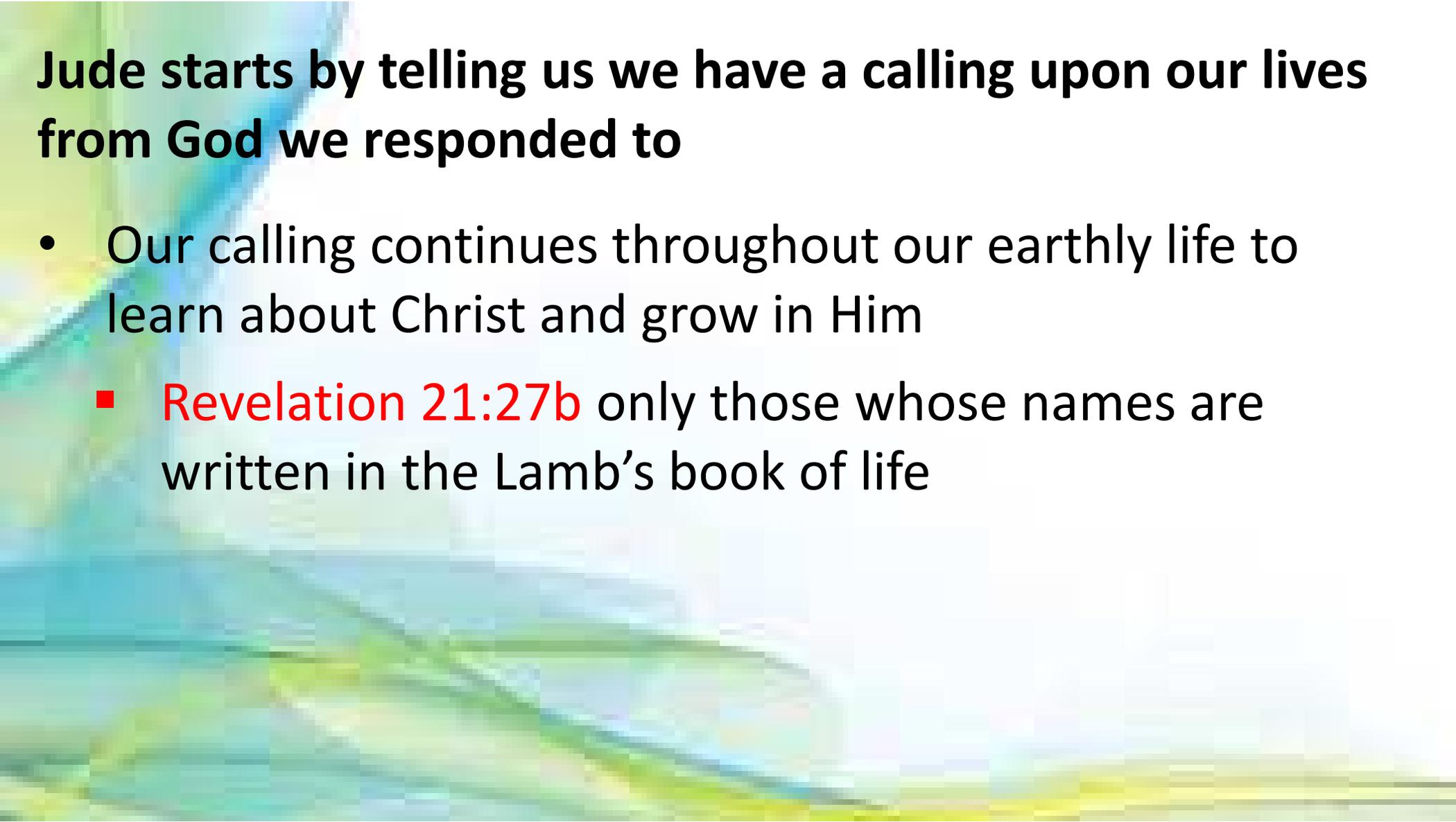
- God has used or is using the Holy Spirit to call or draw you to Himself
 - **John 16:8-9 AMP** And He, when He comes, will convict the world about [the guilt of] sin [and the need for a Savior], and about righteousness, and about judgment: 9 about sin [and the true nature of it], because they do not believe in Me [and My message]

Jude starts by telling us we have a calling upon our lives from God we responded to

- Our calling continues throughout our earthly life to learn about Christ and grow in Him
 - We as born-again children of God are called to walk and grow with Christ
 - **Matthew 11:29 NIV** Take my yoke upon you and learn from (*of*) me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Jude starts by telling us we have a calling upon our lives from God we responded to

- Our calling continues throughout our earthly life to learn about Christ and grow in Him
 - Our calling continues throughout eternity as we are invited to the great feast of the Lamb
 - **Revelation 19:9 NIV** Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”



Jude starts by telling us we have a calling upon our lives from God we responded to

- Our calling continues throughout our earthly life to learn about Christ and grow in Him
 - **Revelation 21:27b** only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life

Jude starts by telling us we have a calling upon our lives from God we responded to

- There is only one condition for all of this
 - Responding to the call to the salvation and lordship offered by Jesus Christ
 - When the Holy Spirit opens your understanding for the need of a Savior
 - When He shows you the price paid by Jesus Christ on the cross

Jude starts by telling us we have a calling upon our lives from God we responded to

- There is only one condition for all of this
 - When we understand there is no way other way
 - We accept the truth of who we are, we accept what Jesus provides, we receive His forgiveness and acceptance by grace through faith
 - Jesus becomes our Lord and Master

Jude starts by telling us we have a calling upon our lives from God we responded to

- Jesus told a parable about a king throwing a huge banquet in Matthew 22
 - He invited all those who thought themselves worth to be invited
 - They all refused to come
 - **Matthew 22:5 NIV** “But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business.

Jude starts by telling us we have a calling upon our lives from God we responded to

- Jesus told a parable about a king throwing a huge banquet in Matthew 22
 - The king then invited all who knew they were unworthy, and they accepted the calling

Jude starts by telling us we have a calling upon our lives from God we responded to

- Jesus told a parable about a king throwing a huge banquet in Matthew 22
 - **Matthew 22:8-10 NIV** 8 “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. 9 So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ 10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.



Jude starts by telling us we have a calling upon our lives from God we responded to

- There was one who tried to sneak in without preparing

Jude starts by telling us we have a calling upon our lives from God we responded to

- **Matthew 22:11-14** NIV 11 “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 12 He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless. 13 “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14 “For many (*everyone*) are invited, but few are chosen (*respond to the call*).”

Jude then tells us because of responding to His call we have been placed in the love God has for His Son

- **John 17:26 NIV** “I have made You known to them and will continue to make You known in order that the love You have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”
 - Hear Jesus say, “Place them in your love for Me.”
 - Fold them into your love for Me
 - Think of cake batter and folding in of ingredients
 - Once folded, impossible to separate the ingredients

Jude then tells us because of responding to His call we have been placed in the love God has for His Son

- We like to say, “God loves me.”
 - Why is this true?
 - There are times we are not loveable by God’s standards
 - If it was just me and God, how could He justify loving me

Jude then tells us because of responding to His call we have been placed in the love God has for His Son

- If it was just me and God, how could He justify loving me
 - Upon salvation, God folds us in the banner of His love He has for His Son
 - God loves us perfectly through the perfect love He has for Jesus

Jude then tells us because of responding to His call we have been placed in the love God has for His Son

- Jesus asked the Father to love us with the same love He has for Him
 - This allows us to say with confidence, “God will eternally love me!”
 - Not because of me, but because of Jesus

Jude then tells us since we are in the love God has for His Son, He is keeping us in that love, eternally safe

- Kept by comes from the Greek word that means “to observe, pay attention to, keep under guard, maintain.”
- **John 6:35-40 NIV** 35 Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. 36 But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. 37 All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

Jude then tells us since we are in the love God has for His Son, He is keeping us in that love, eternally safe

- **John 6:35-40 NIV** 38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. 40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

Jude then tells us since we are in the love God has for His Son, He is keeping us in that love, eternally safe

- **John 10:28-29 NIV** 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.
 - Does it say, "If we keep His commands perfectly and never to stray from them?"

Jude then tells us since we are in the love God has for His Son, He is keeping us in that love, eternally safe

- **John 10:28-29 NIV** 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.
 - Does it say, “Unless life is so harsh, and we get discouraged for a season?”
- Who does the keeping? Both Jesus and God the Father

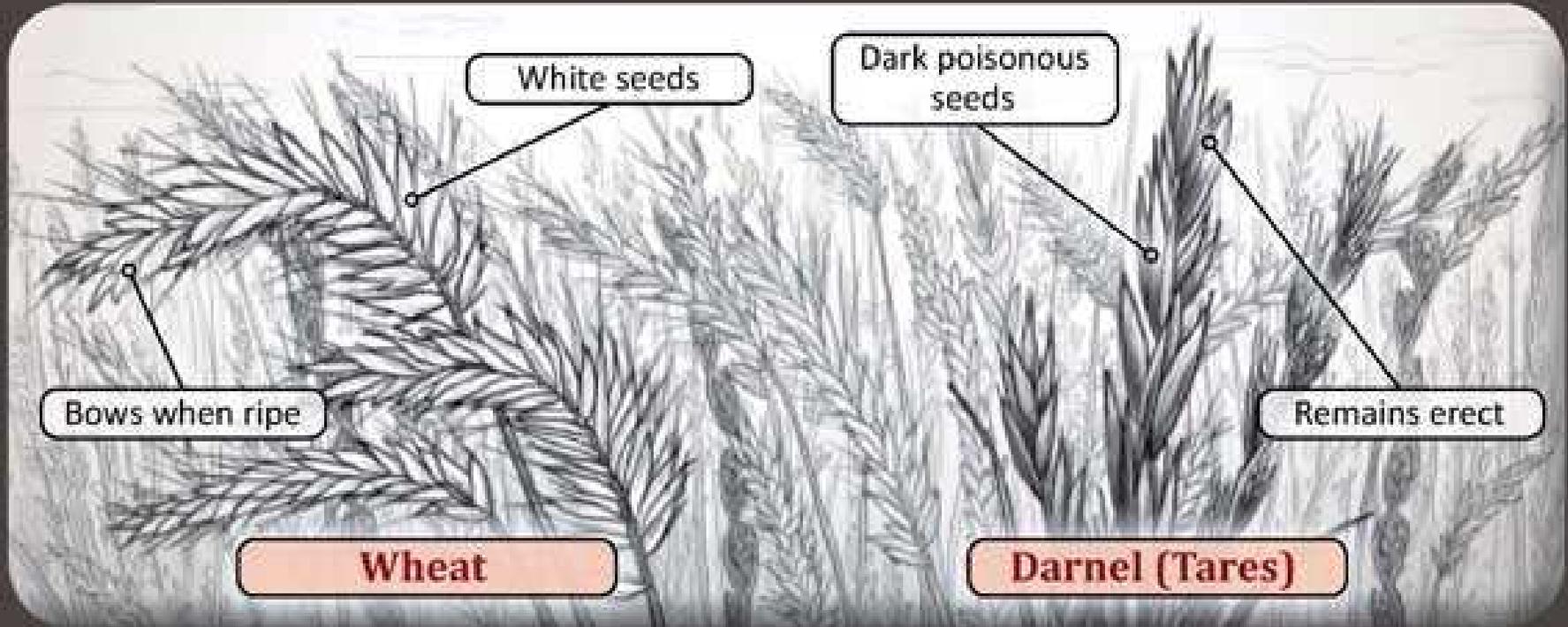
Knowing all of this, what are we really missing that has any worth that compares to God's calling, God's loving, and God's keeping?

- Can we really be like Adam and Eve in the garden believing God is holding something good from us?
- Can we really desire anything other than being a humble servant of this great Savior?
- Who I Am – I am call by God, I am loved by God, and I am kept by God eternally

Knowing all of this, what are we really missing that has any worth that compares to God's calling, God's loving, and God's keeping?

- ESV Study Bible notes, "At the outset of his letter to Christians who are threatened by false teachers, Jude reminds them that they will be kept and preserved by God's power from falling away."
- This promise is still available to us today
- Knowing this, how can you say no to such a great offer of grace?

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