

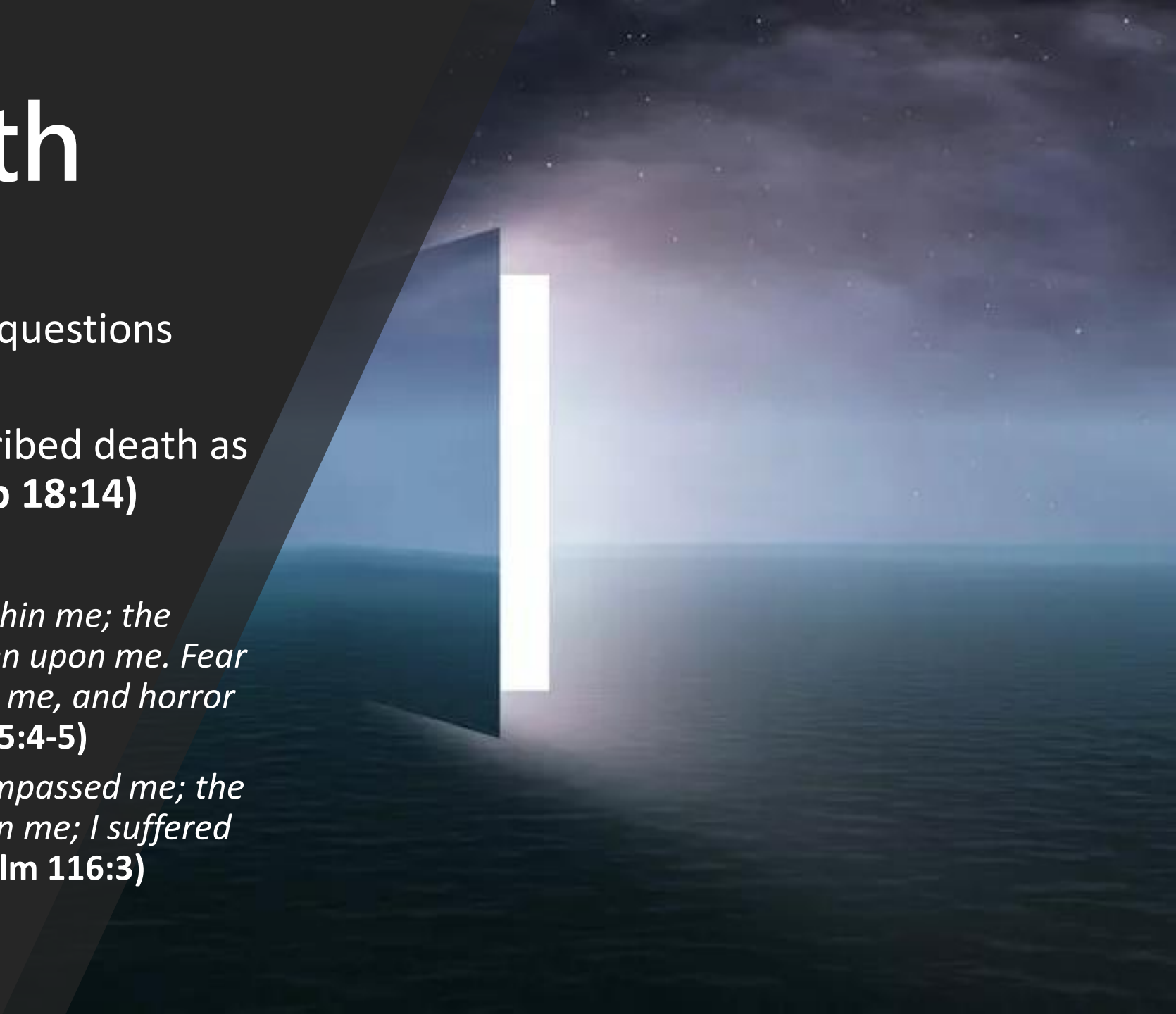
The background is a dark, atmospheric scene with a blue and purple color palette. It features a glowing doorway or opening on the right side, with light streaming through it. The overall mood is mysterious and contemplative.

O Death

Ecclesiastes 9:9-12

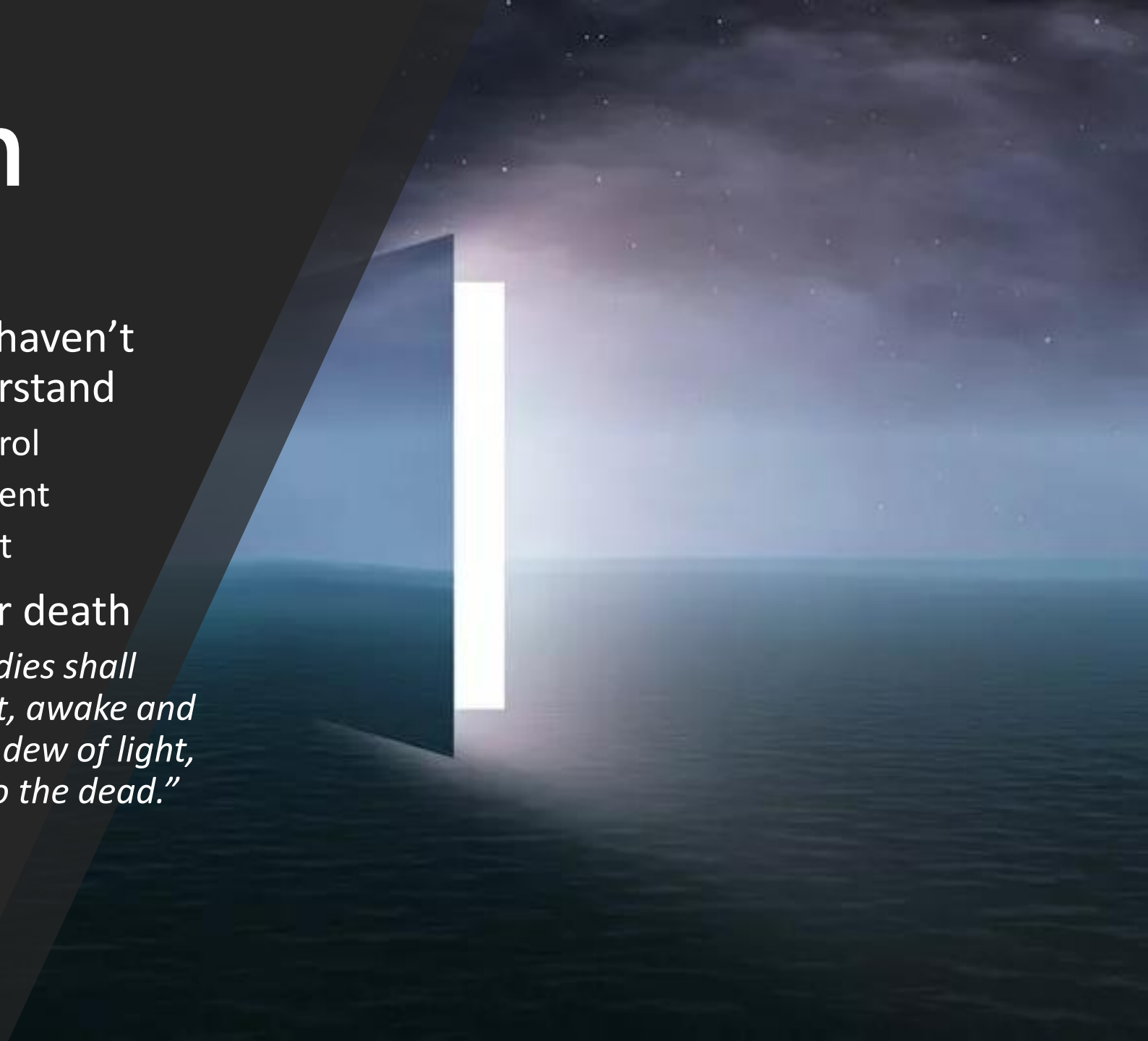
O Death

- Mankind has always had questions about death...
- Bildad, Job's friend, described death as "*the king of terrors.*" **(Job 18:14)**
- David
 - *My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen upon me. Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me. (Psalm 55:4-5)*
 - *The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. (Psalm 116:3)*



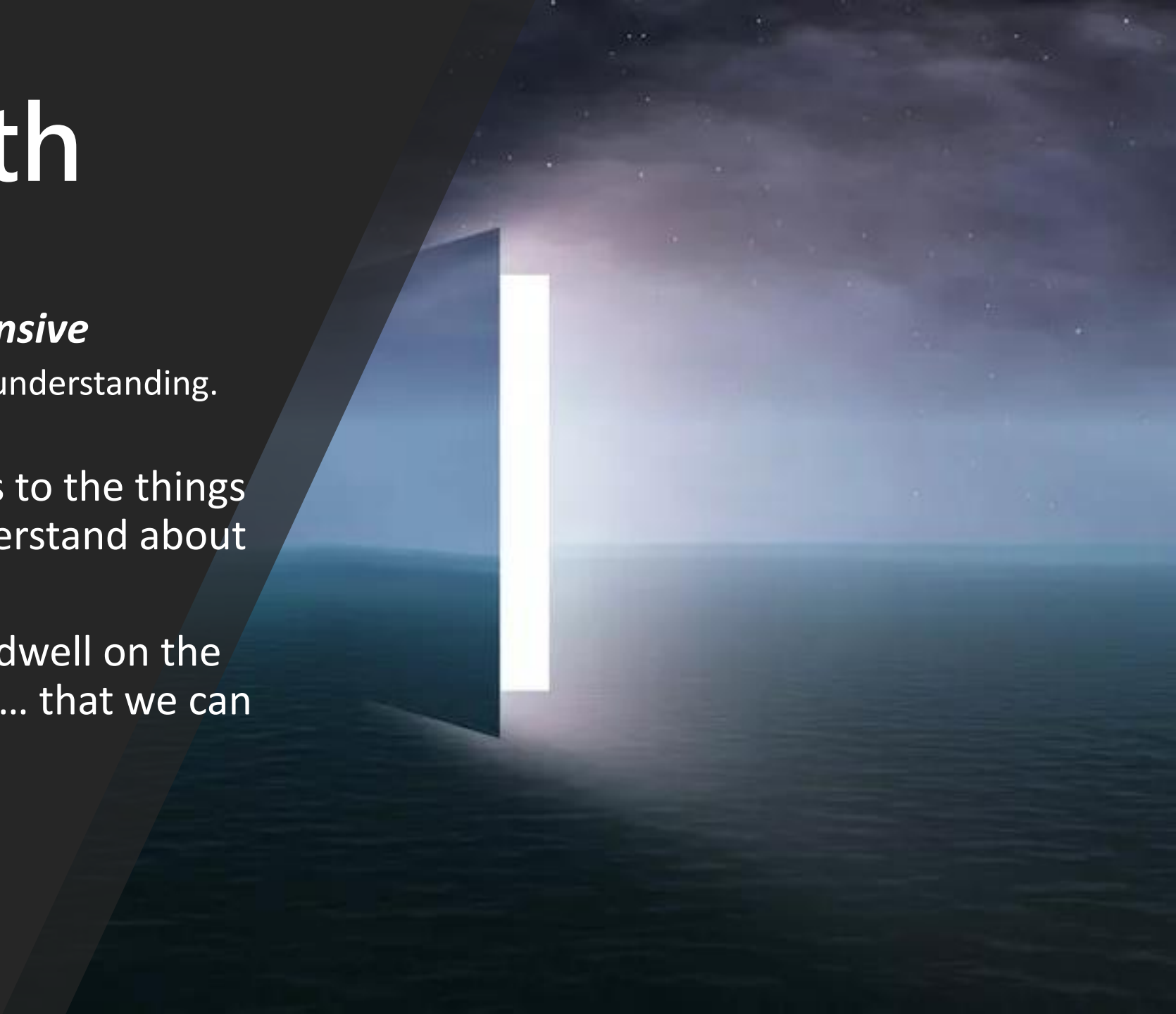
O Death

- It is natural to fear what we haven't experienced and don't understand
 - We fear what we cannot control
 - We fear what we cannot prevent
 - We fear what we cannot resist
- God does not want us to fear death
 - *"Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead."*
(Isa. 26:19)



O Death

- Death makes us *apprehensive*
 - relating to perception or understanding.
[Oxford Dictionary online]
- Our apprehension relates to the things we can't perceive or understand about death
- Perhaps it would help to dwell on the things we have been told... that we can perceive and understand



O Death

Death is:

- A return to the dust of the ground:
 - *“By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (Gen. 3:19)*
- A removal of breath:
 - *“Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.” (Gen. 25:8)*
- A departure:
 - *“I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is **far better.**” (Phil. 1:23)*

O Death

- Death is a **transition** from the physical to the spiritual (**2 Pet. 1:13-15**)
- Death frees from physical pain (**Rev. 21:1-4**)
- Death frees the faithful from a world of sin (**Rev. 22:14-15**)
- Death is not final (**John 11:25**)
- The faithful don't have to face death alone (**Psalm 23**)



O Death

"Where is your sting?"

I may apprehensive

But I am not terrified

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord"

(Rev. 14:13)

