



S E A R C H I N G F O R

**CHRISTMAS**

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<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows:  
After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>20</sup> But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

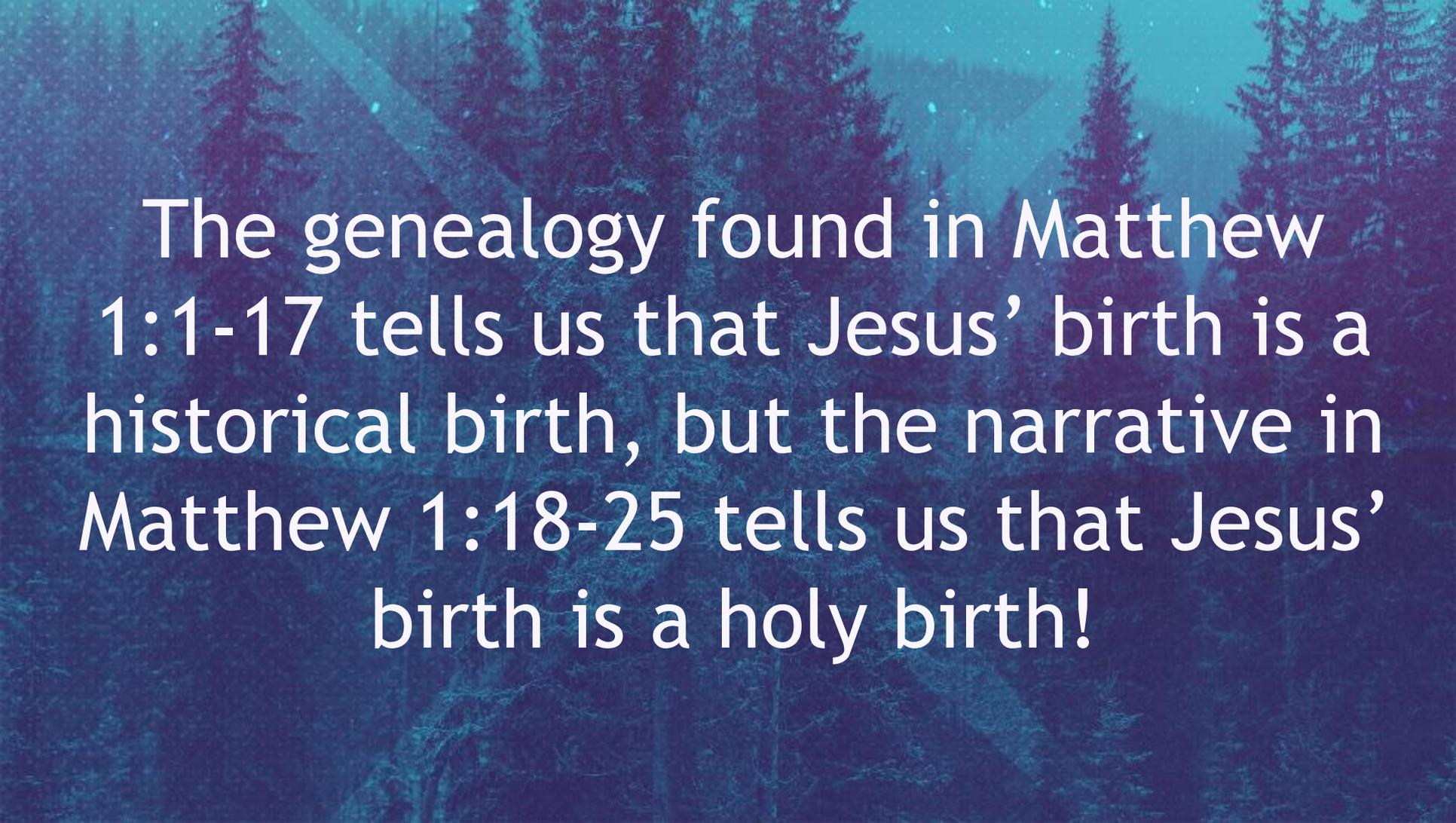
Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>22</sup> So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: <sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

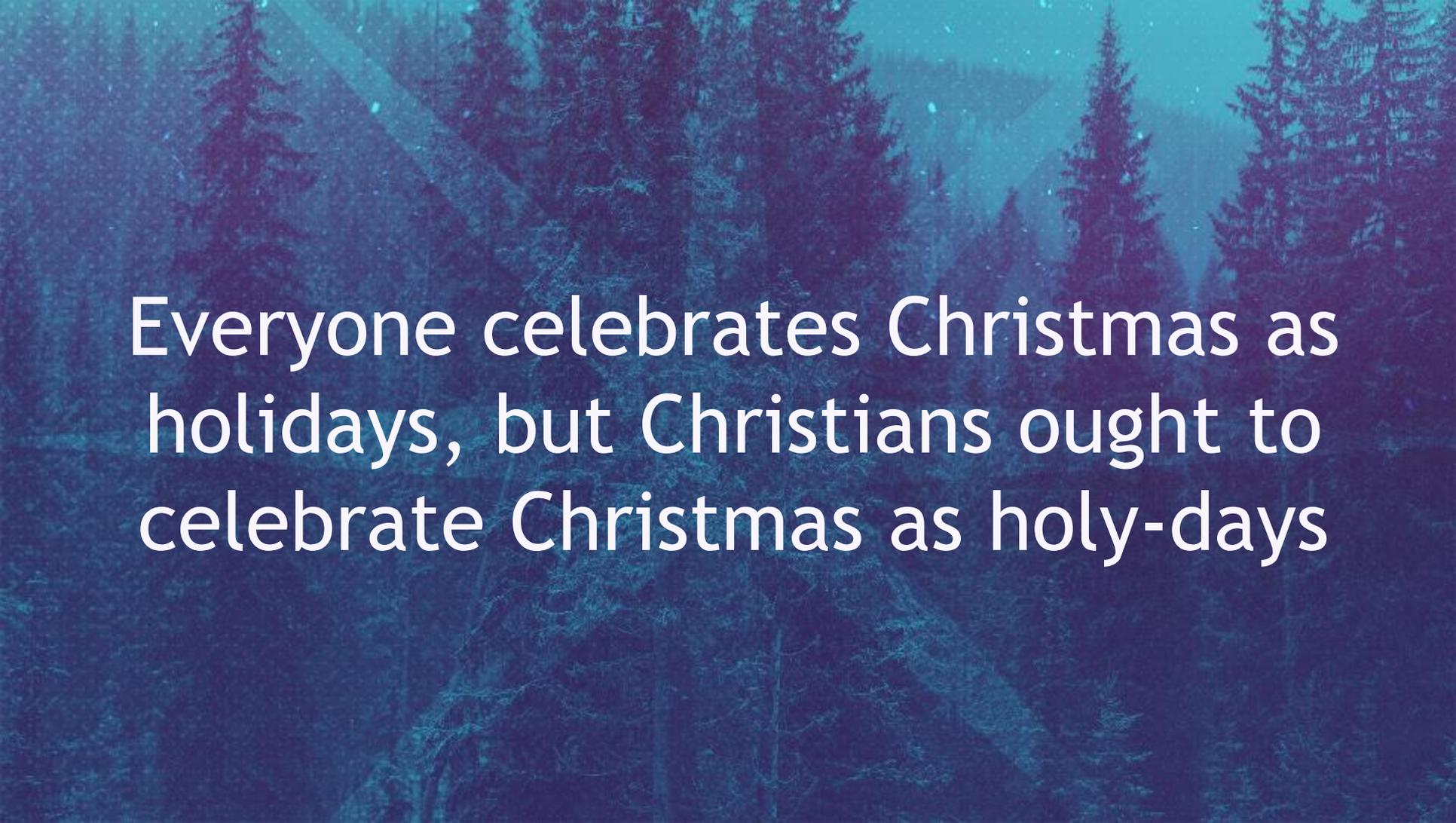
Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>24</sup> Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, <sup>25</sup> and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

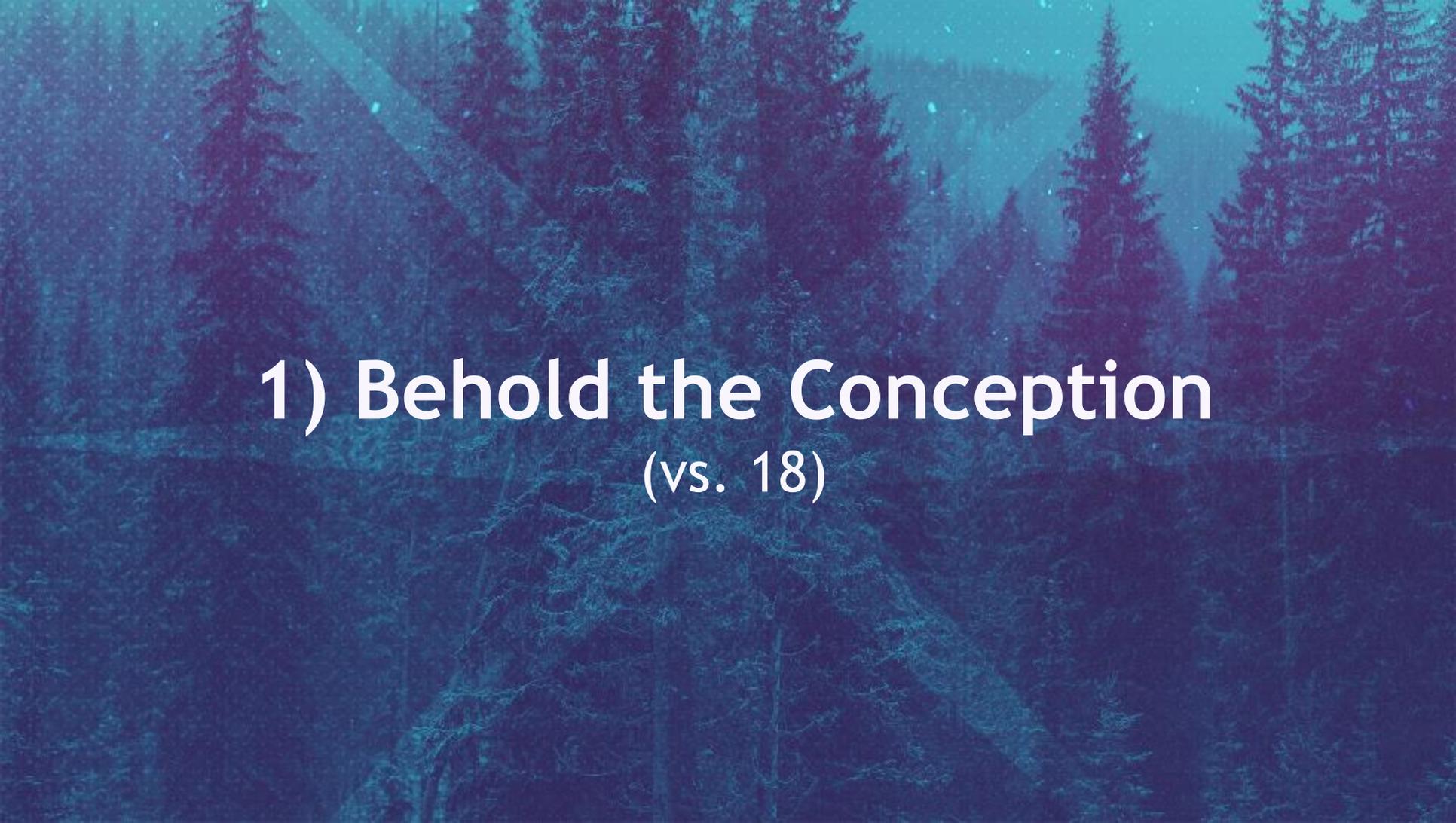
Matthew 1:18-25



The genealogy found in Matthew 1:1-17 tells us that Jesus' birth is a historical birth, but the narrative in Matthew 1:18-25 tells us that Jesus' birth is a holy birth!



Everyone celebrates Christmas as holidays, but Christians ought to celebrate Christmas as holy-days

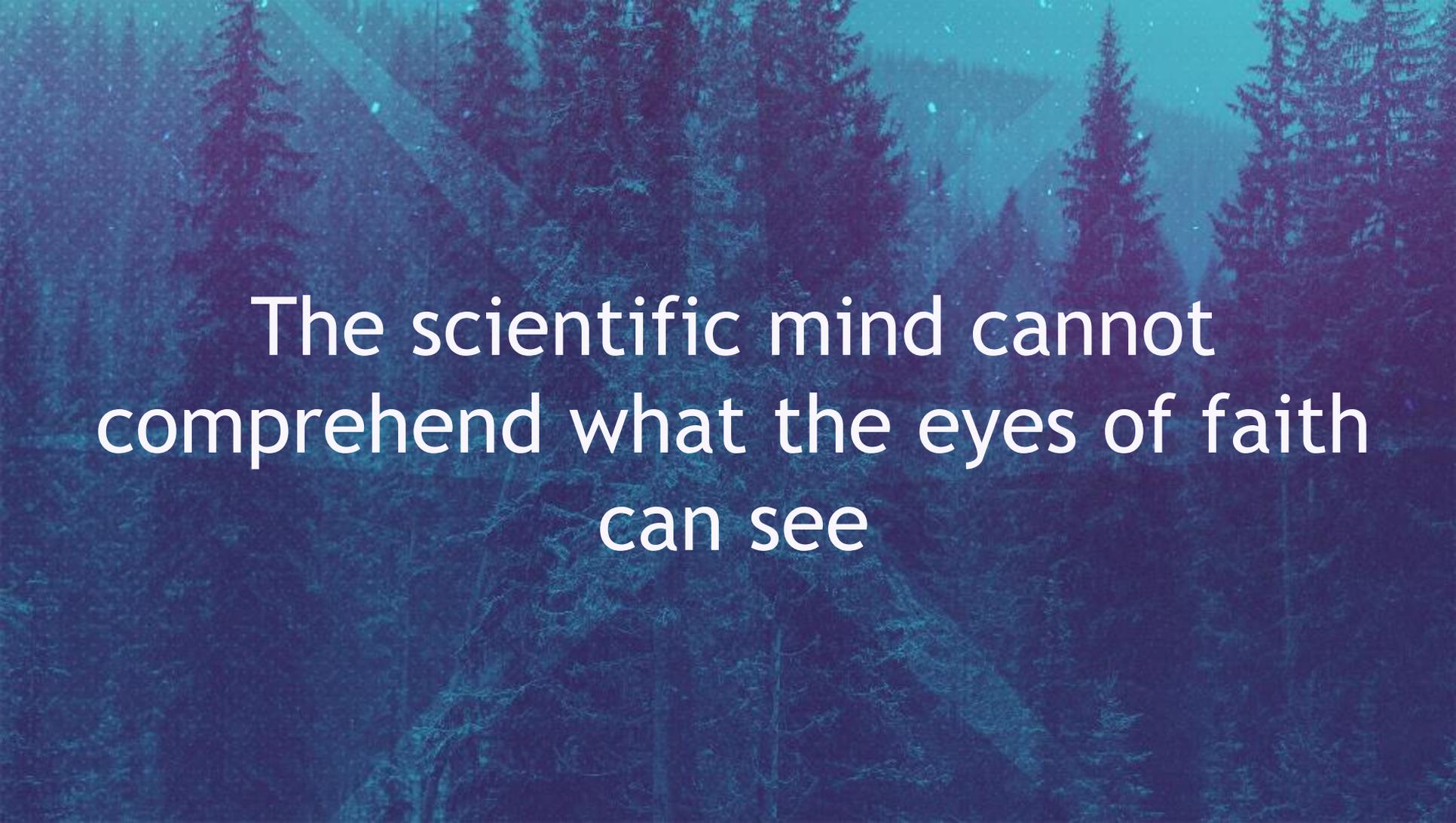


# 1) Behold the Conception

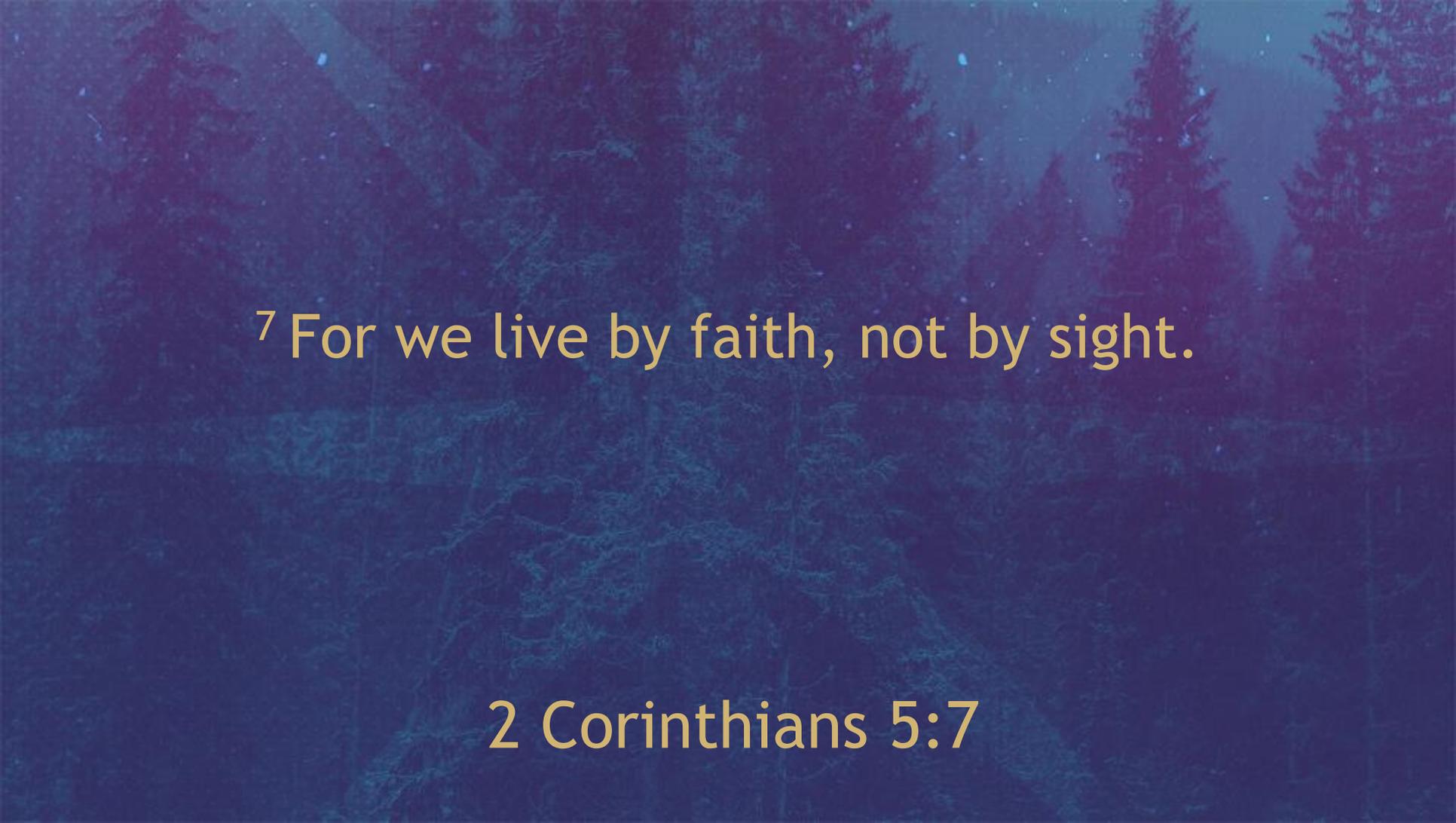
(vs. 18)

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows:  
After His mother Mary was betrothed to  
Joseph, before they came together, she was  
found with child of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:18

A dense forest of evergreen trees, possibly spruce or fir, with a teal and blue color overlay. The trees are tall and thin, filling the frame. The lighting is soft, creating a misty or ethereal atmosphere. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

The scientific mind cannot  
comprehend what the eyes of faith  
can see

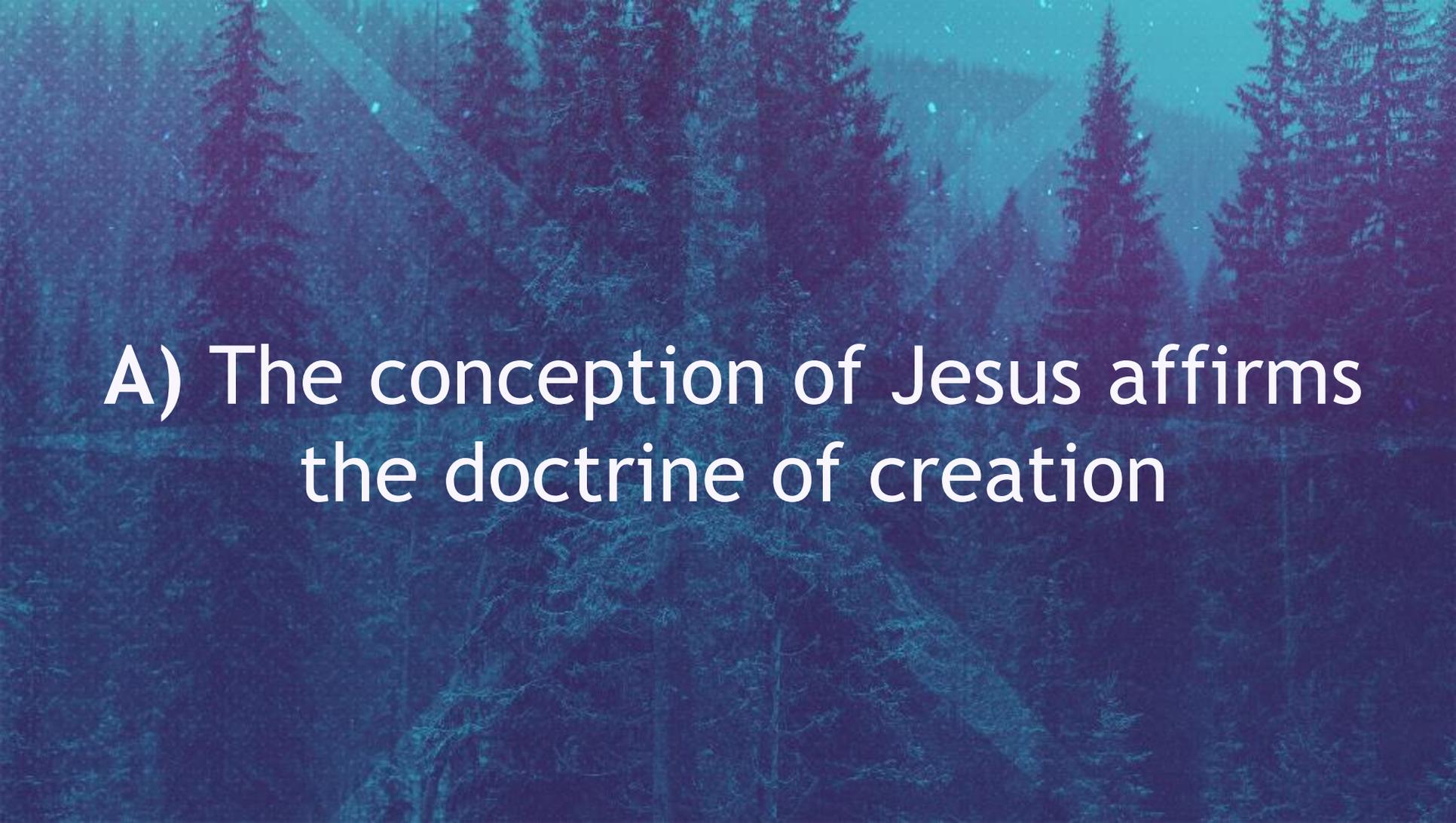


<sup>7</sup> For we live by faith, not by sight.

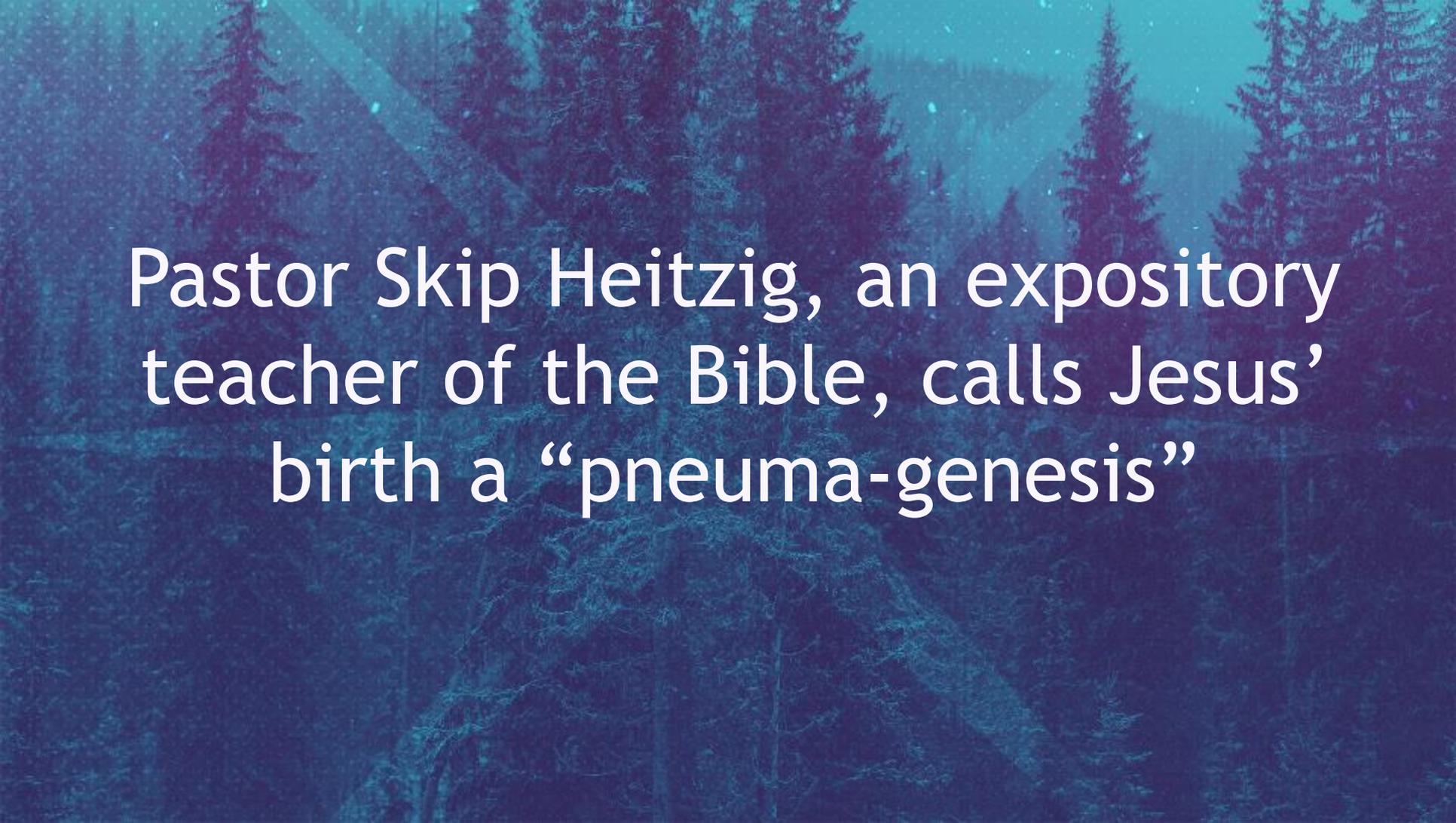
2 Corinthians 5:7

<sup>8</sup> “For my thoughts are not your thoughts  
neither are your ways my ways,” declares the  
LORD. <sup>9</sup> “As the heavens are higher than the  
earth, so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

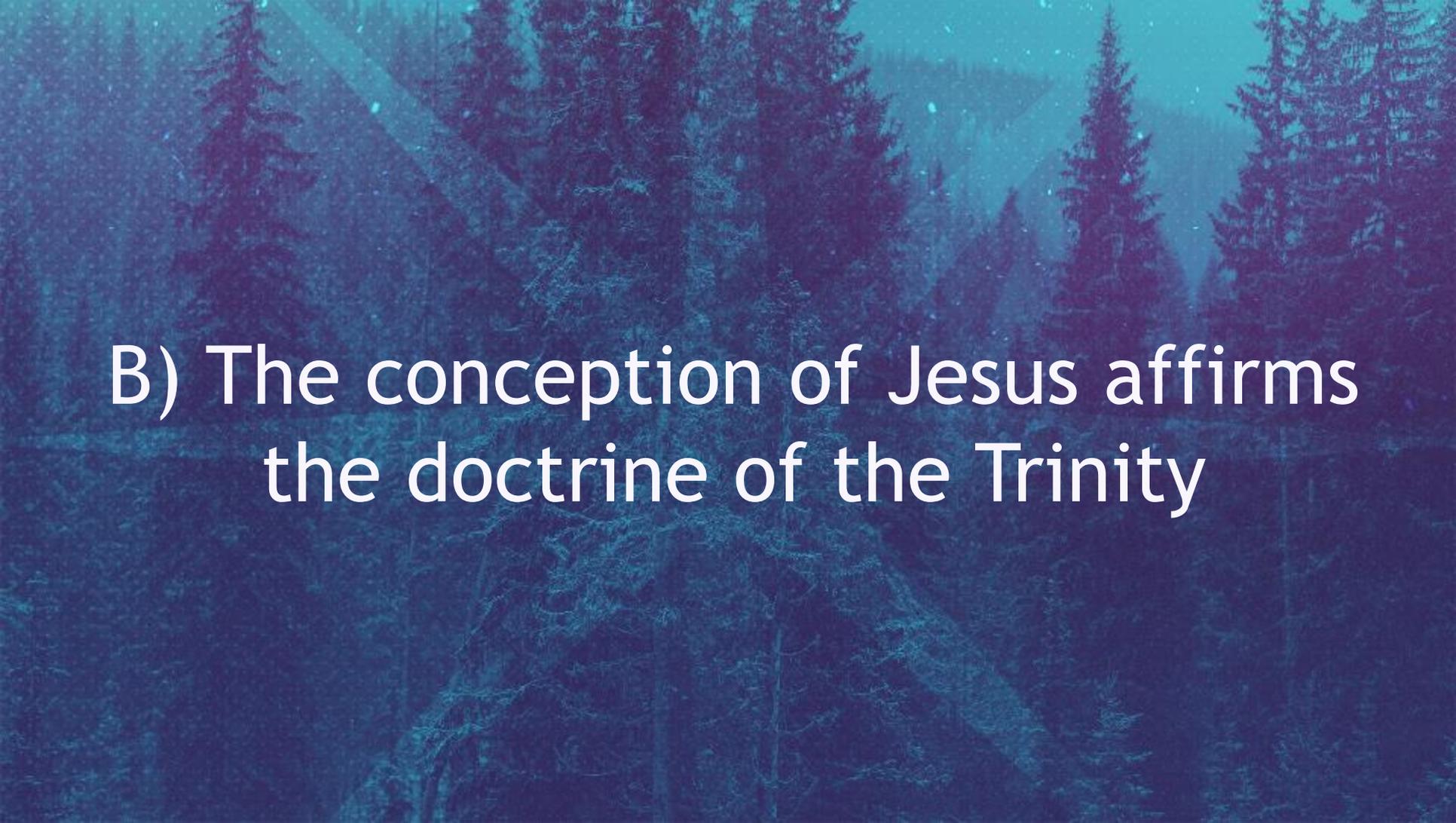
Isaiah 55:8-9

A dense forest of evergreen trees, possibly spruce or fir, is shown under a blue sky. Light rays or sunbeams are visible, and there are small white specks, likely snow or rain, falling from the sky. The overall scene is serene and natural.

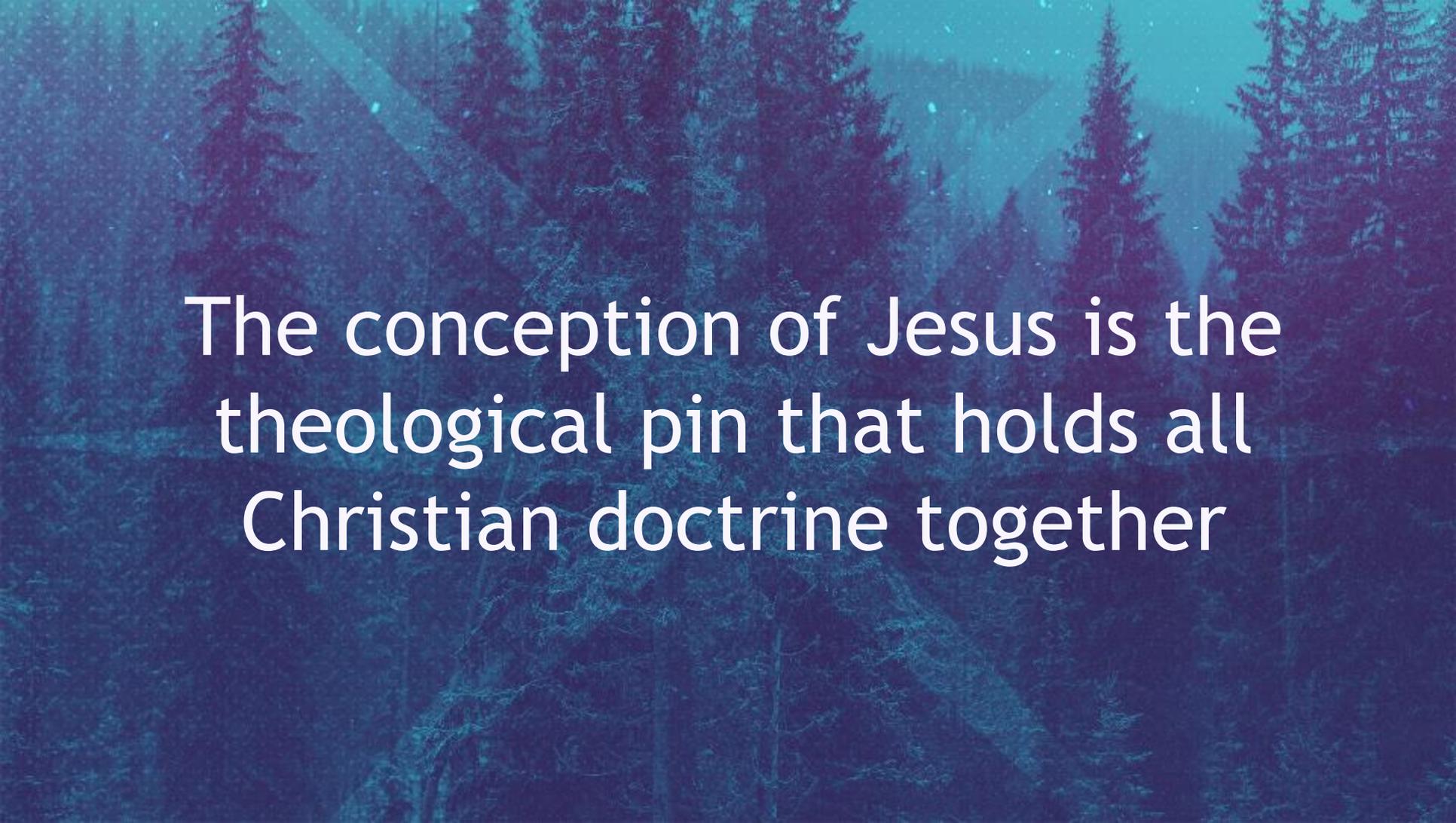
**A) The conception of Jesus affirms  
the doctrine of creation**



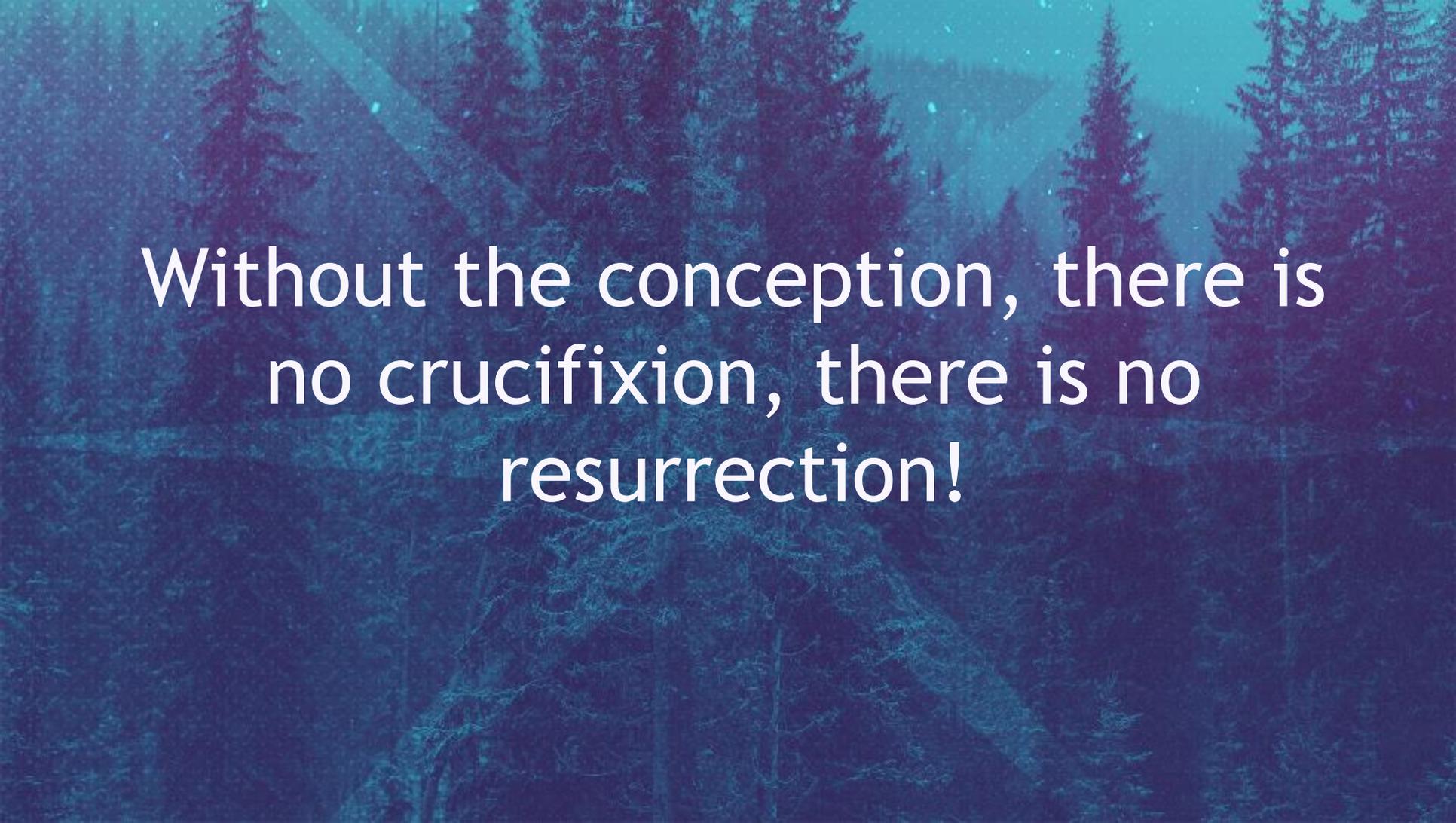
Pastor Skip Heitzig, an expository teacher of the Bible, calls Jesus' birth a "pneuma-genesis"

A dense forest of evergreen trees under a blue sky with light rays and falling snow.

B) The conception of Jesus affirms  
the doctrine of the Trinity



The conception of Jesus is the  
theological pin that holds all  
Christian doctrine together



Without the conception, there is  
no crucifixion, there is no  
resurrection!

A dense forest of evergreen trees under a blue sky with light rays and falling snow.

## 2) Behold the Compassion

(vs. 19-21)

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying,

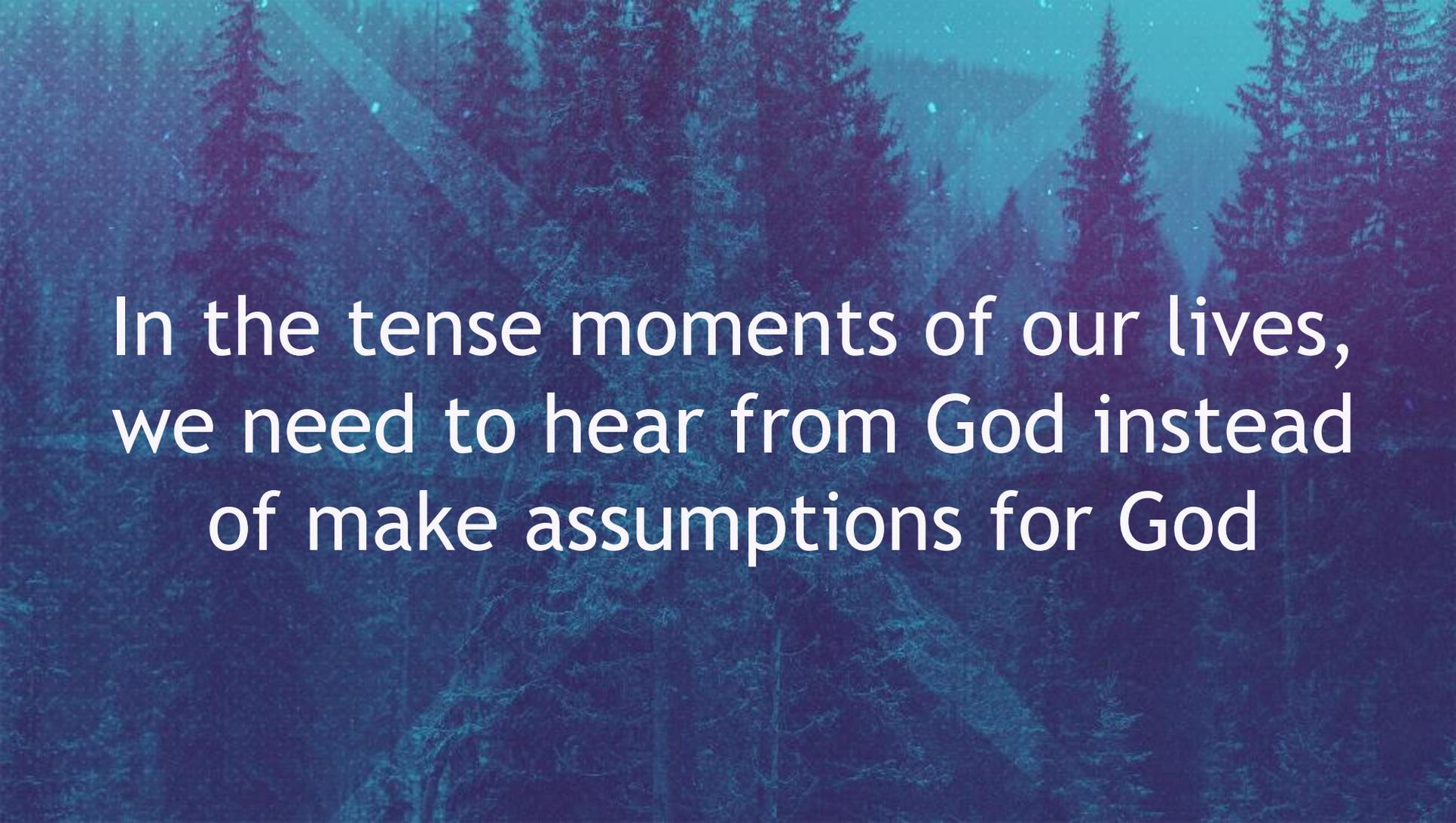
Matthew 1:19-21

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

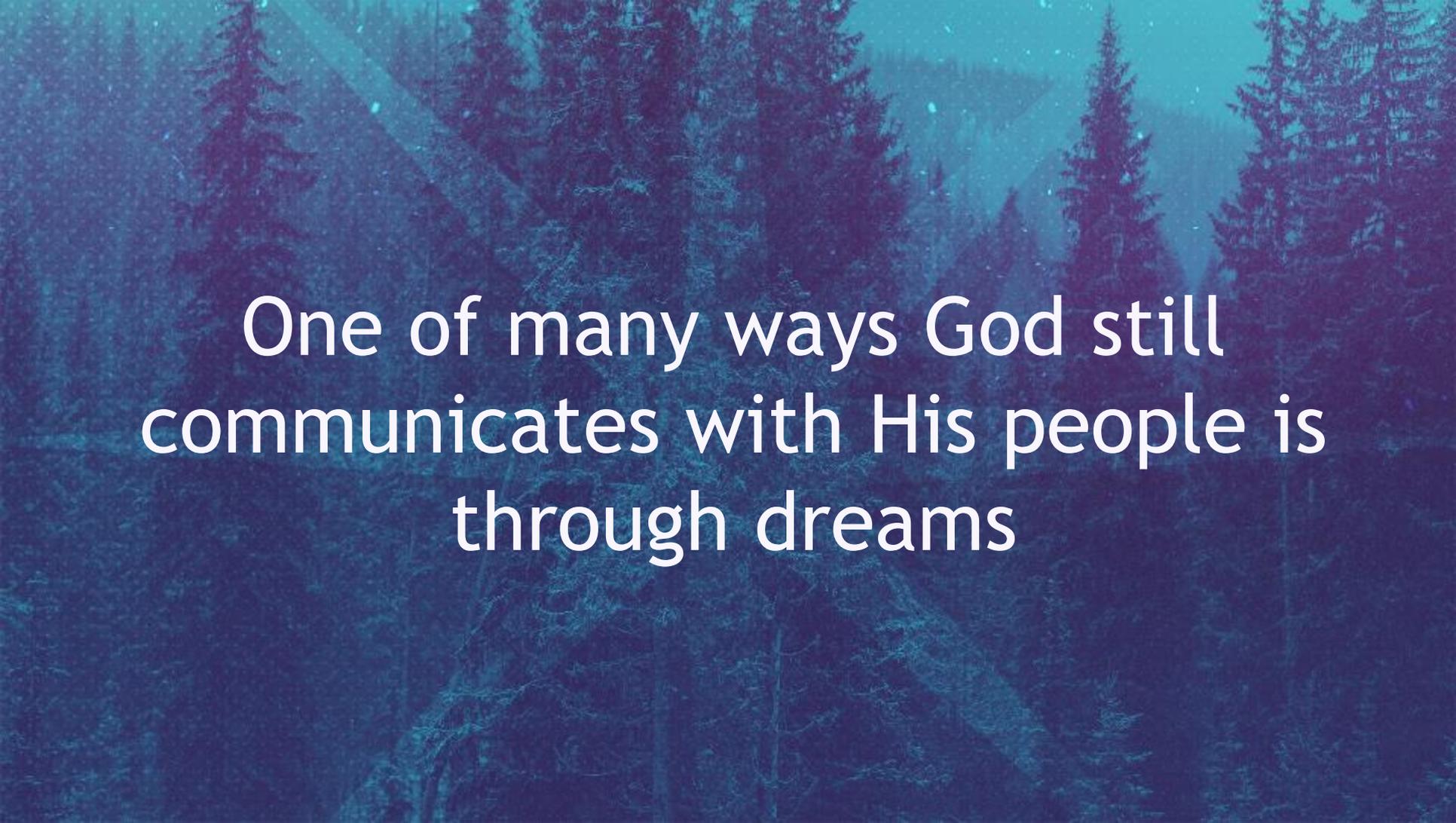
Matthew 1:19-21

A dense forest of evergreen trees, possibly spruce or fir, is shown under a blue sky. Light rays or sunbeams are visible, and there are small white specks, likely snow or rain, falling from the sky. The overall scene is serene and atmospheric.

The Bible describes Joseph as a  
just man



In the tense moments of our lives,  
we need to hear from God instead  
of make assumptions for God



One of many ways God still  
communicates with His people is  
through dreams



Fear can hold us back from  
beholding what new and marvelous  
things God is doing

<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons [and daughters],  
God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,  
the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba, Father.*” <sup>7</sup> So  
you are no longer a slave, but God’s child;  
and since you are his child, God has made you  
also an heir.

Galatians 4:4-7



# 3) Behold the Confirmation

(vs. 22-25)

<sup>22</sup> So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: <sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

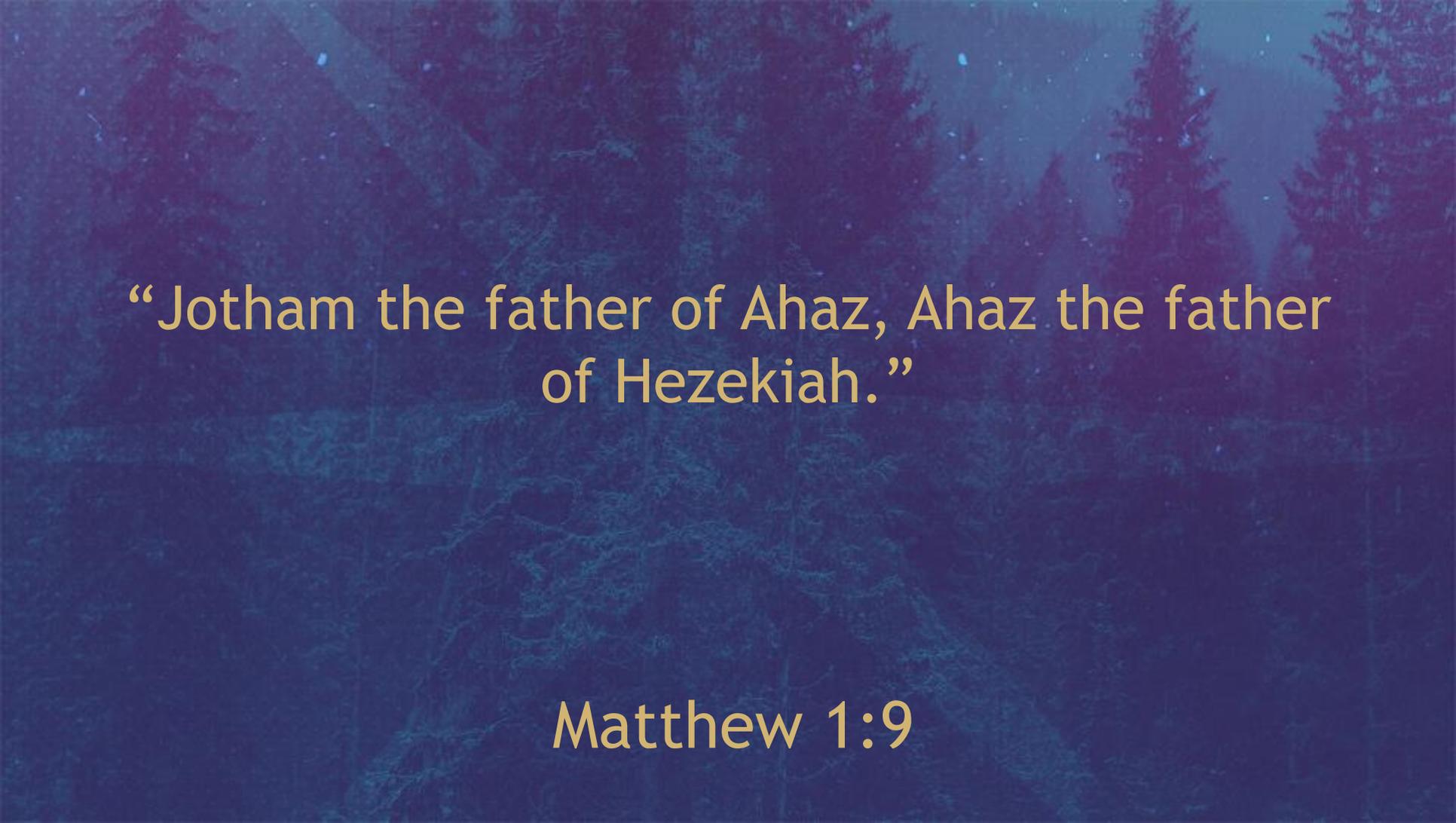
Matthew 1:22-24

<sup>24</sup> Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, <sup>25</sup> and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Matthew 1:22-24

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel

Isaiah 7:14



“Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father  
of Hezekiah.”

Matthew 1:9



“If you do not stand firm in your faith, you  
will not stand at all.”

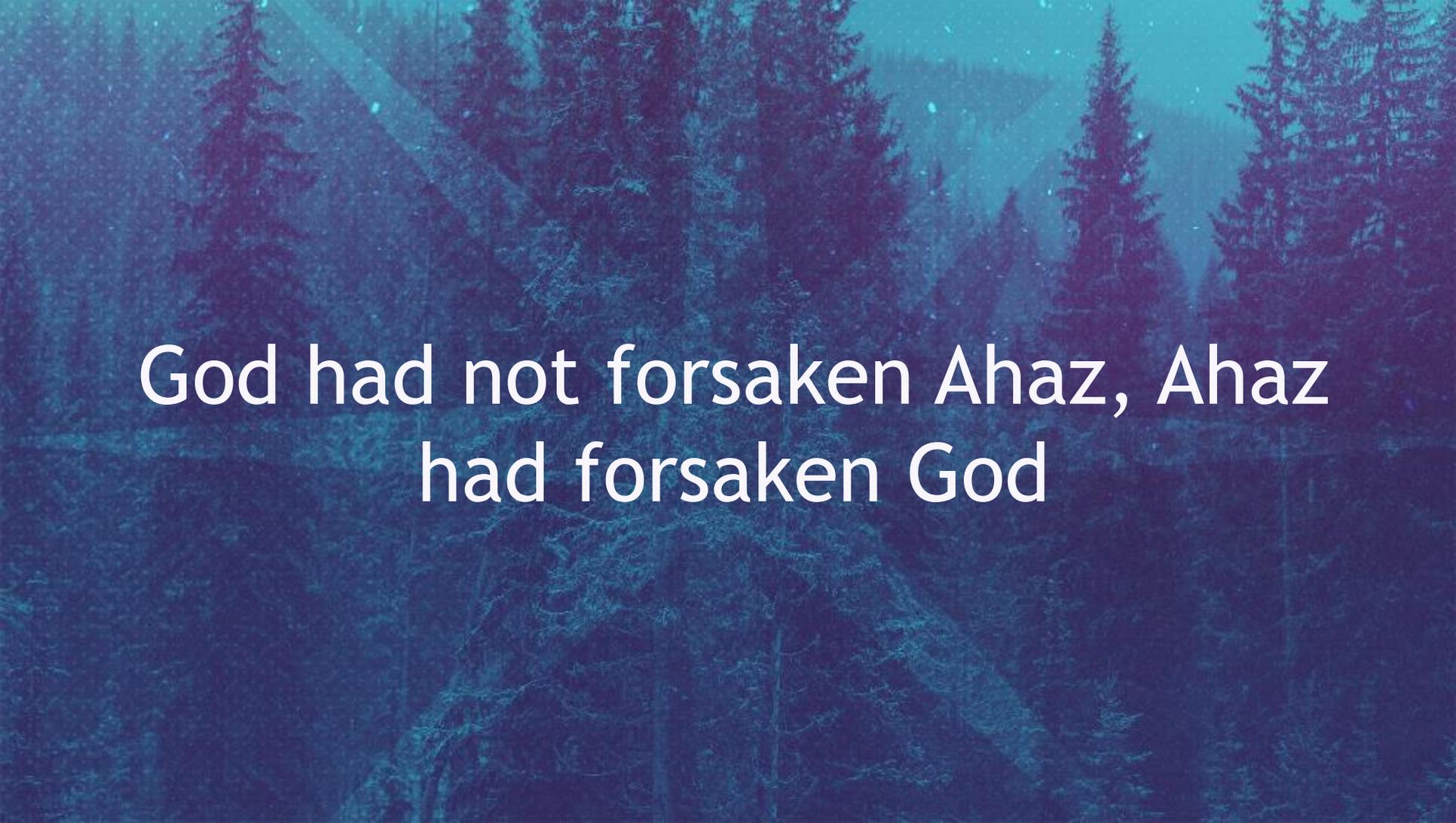
Isaiah 7:9

<sup>11</sup> “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans?

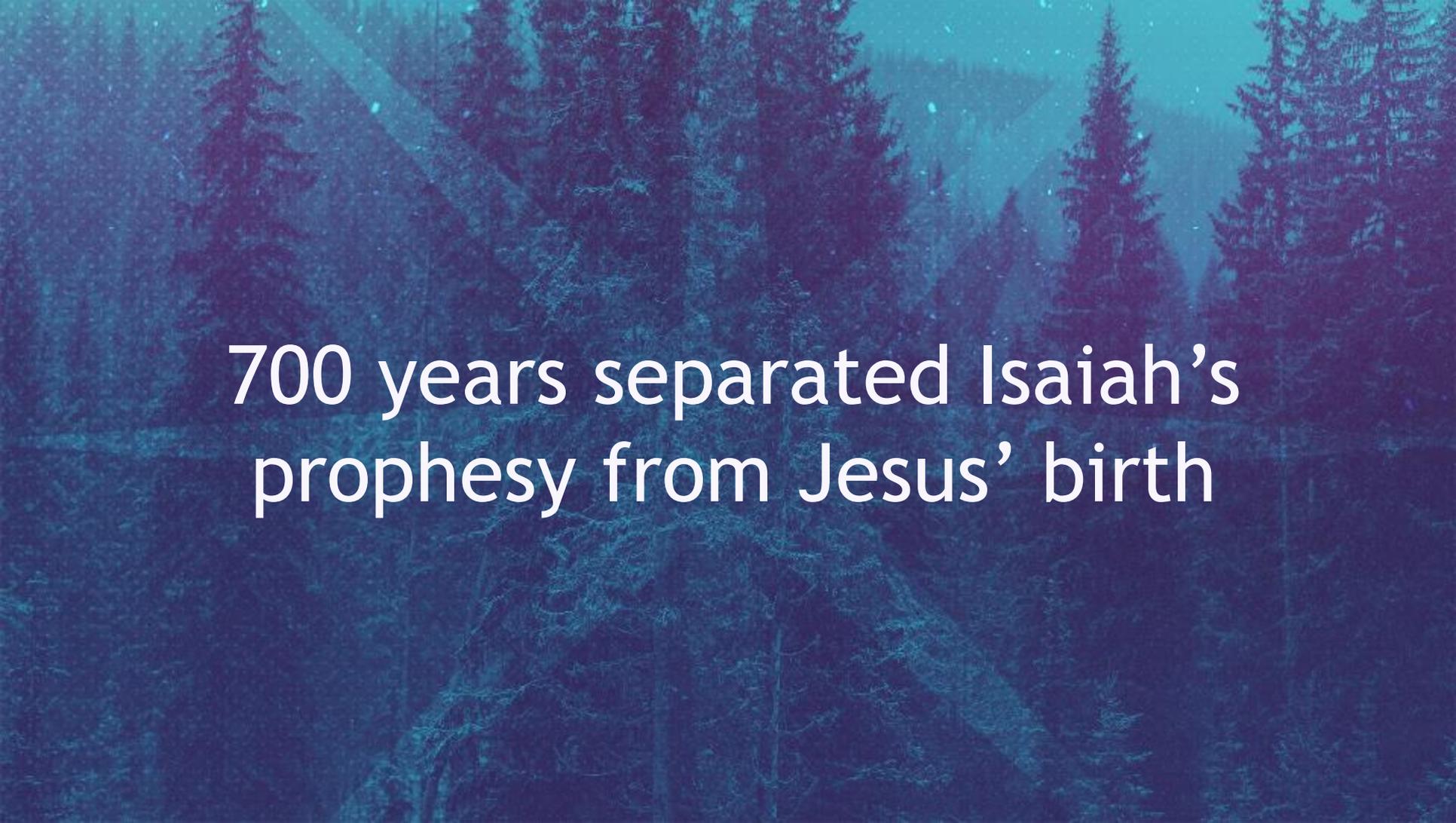
Isaiah 7:11-14

Will you try the patience of my God also?  
14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a  
sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth  
to a son, and will call him Immanuel [God  
with us].

Isaiah 7:11-14

A dense forest of evergreen trees under a blue sky with light rays and falling snow.

God had not forsaken Ahaz, Ahaz  
had forsaken God

A dense forest of evergreen trees, possibly spruce or fir, is shown under a blue sky. Light rays or sunbeams are visible, and there are small white specks that look like falling snow or dust. The overall color palette is cool, dominated by blues and greens.

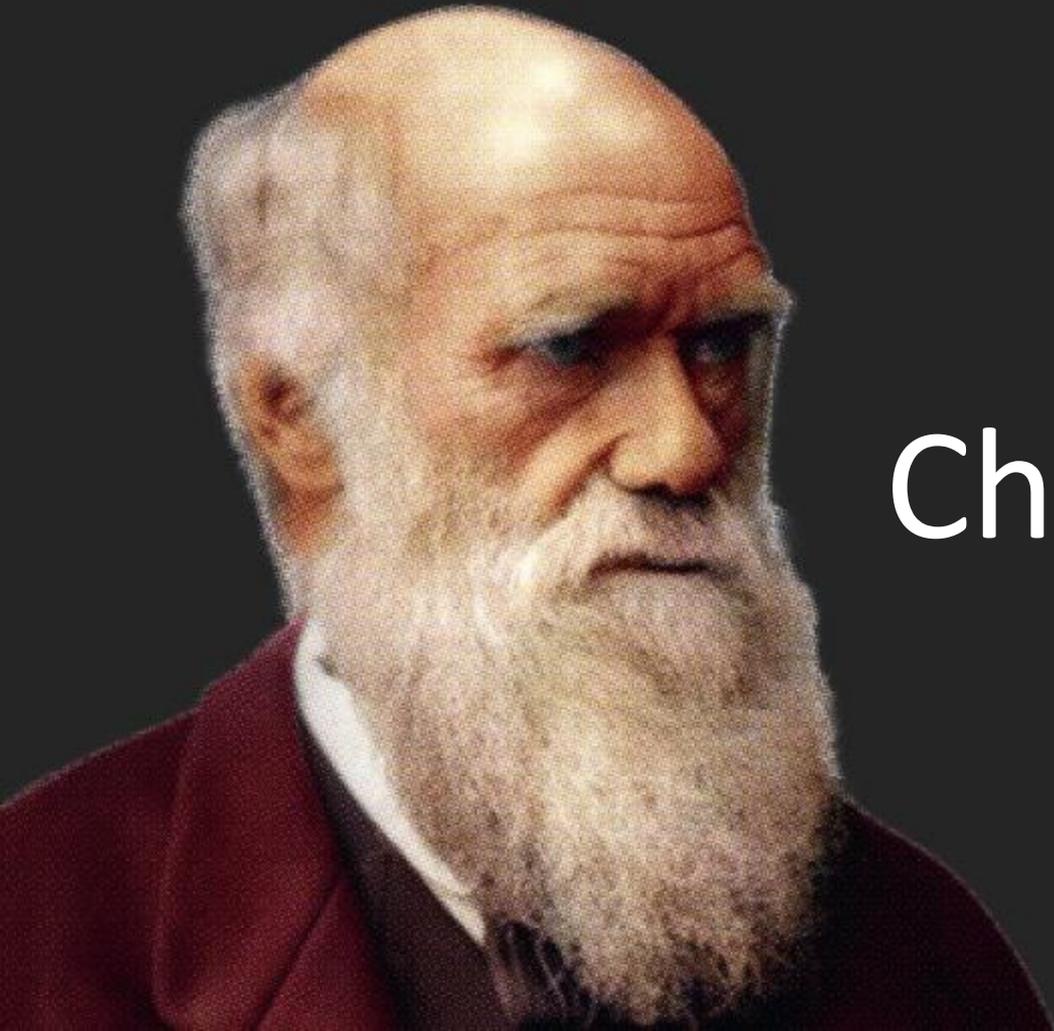
700 years separated Isaiah's  
prophecy from Jesus' birth

A dense forest of evergreen trees under a blue sky with light rays and falling snow or rain.

The promise Ahaz rejected is the  
promise Joseph accepted

<sup>6</sup> Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:6



Charles Darwin

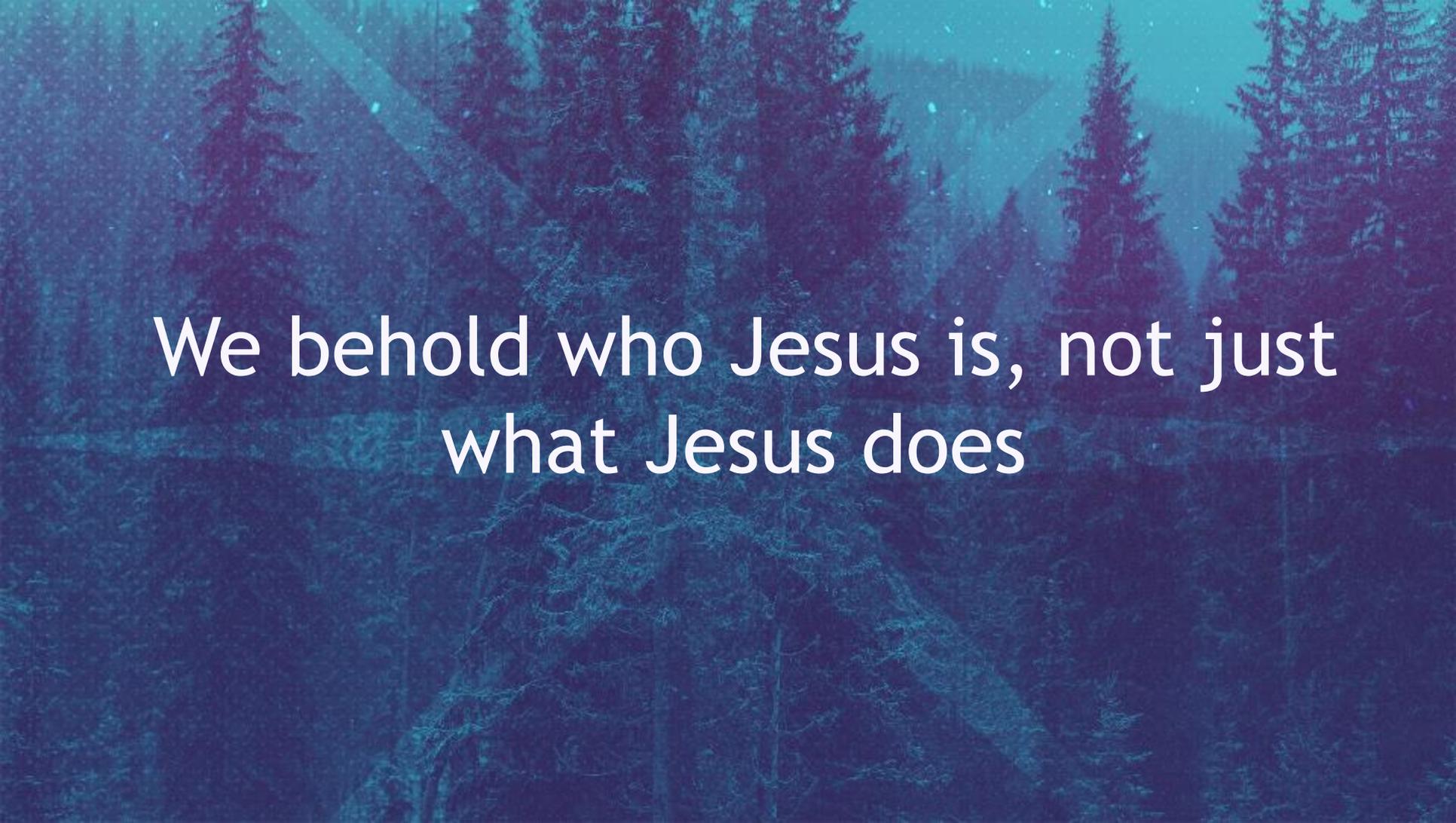
A dense forest of evergreen trees, possibly spruce or fir, is shown under a blue sky. Light rays or sunbeams are visible, and there are small white specks, likely snow or rain, falling from the sky. The overall scene is serene and atmospheric.

“We become what we behold.”

- John Piper -

<sup>18</sup> But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)



We behold who Jesus is, not just  
what Jesus does



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**CHRISTMAS**

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