



*Fear Not*

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A SPIRITUAL VITALITY SERIES



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**MARY: THE FEAR OF THE LOSS OF INNOCENCE**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

**Luke 1:26-38**

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

**Luke 1:26-38**

The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." <sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

**Luke 1:26-38**

So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.<sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail.” <sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

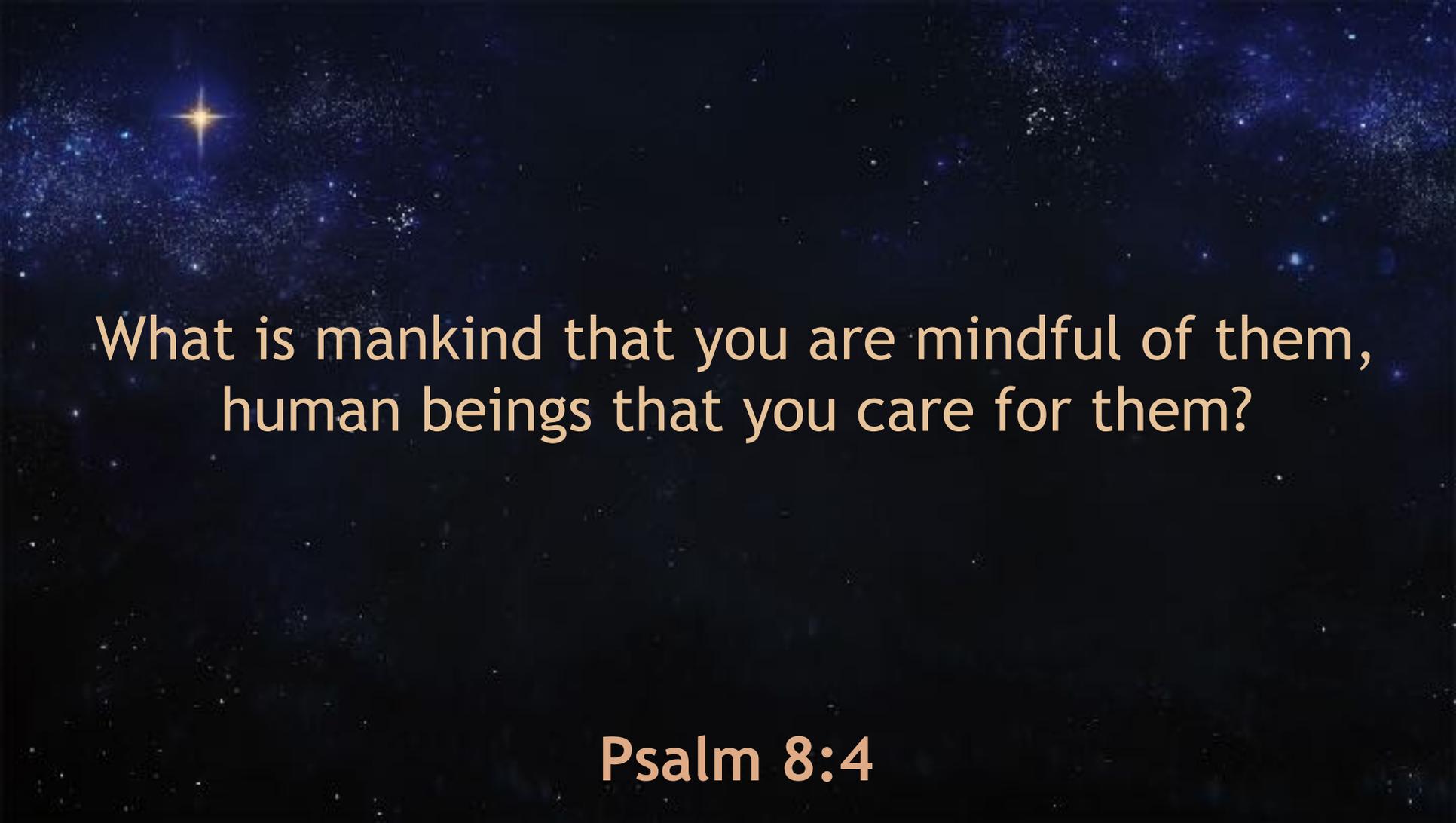
**Luke 1:26-38**



1) THE LORD IS  
WITH YOU

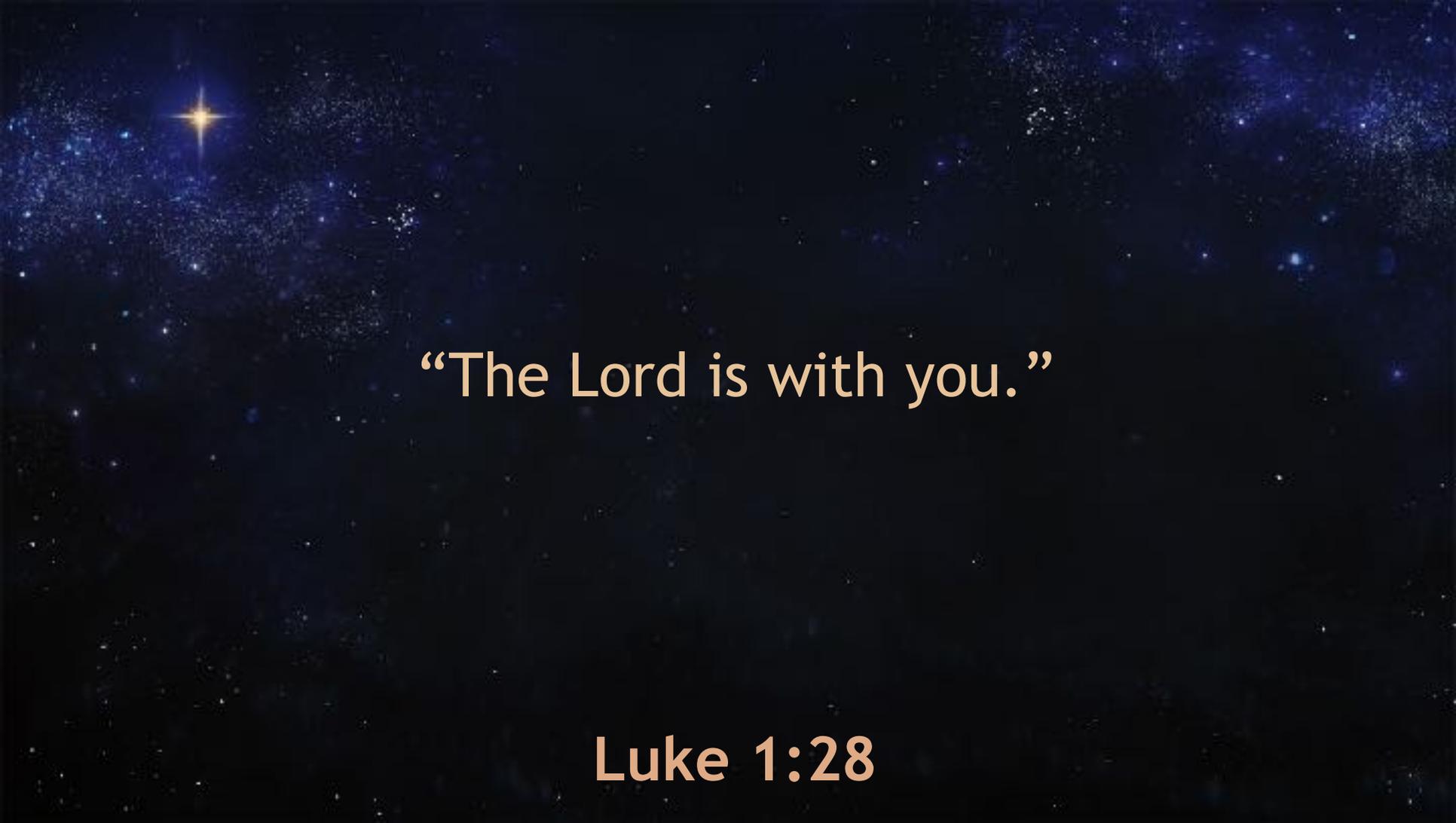
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**Luke 1:26-28**

A deep blue, starry night sky with a prominent bright yellow star in the upper left quadrant. The text is centered in a light yellow, sans-serif font.

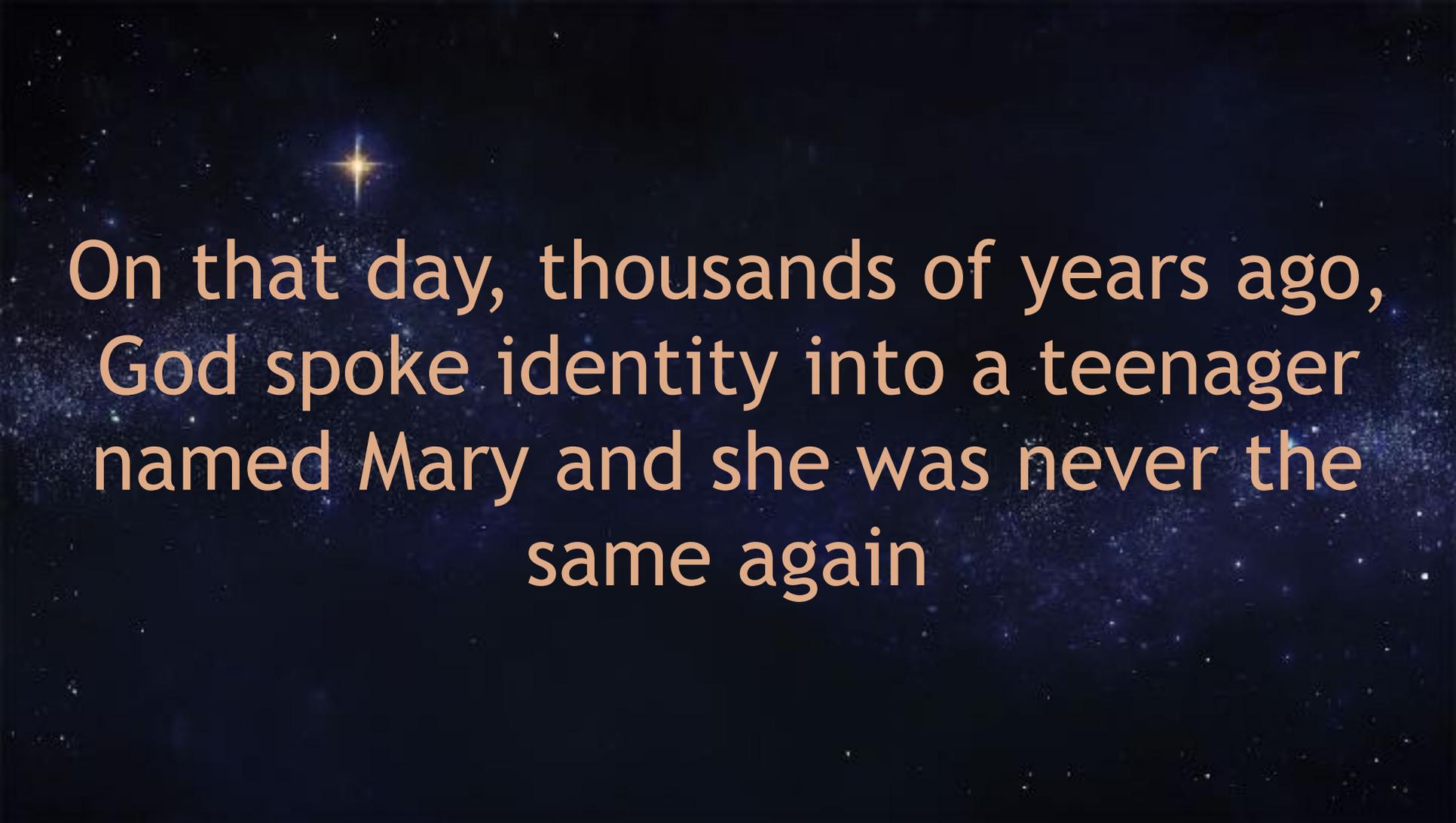
What is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?

Psalm 8:4

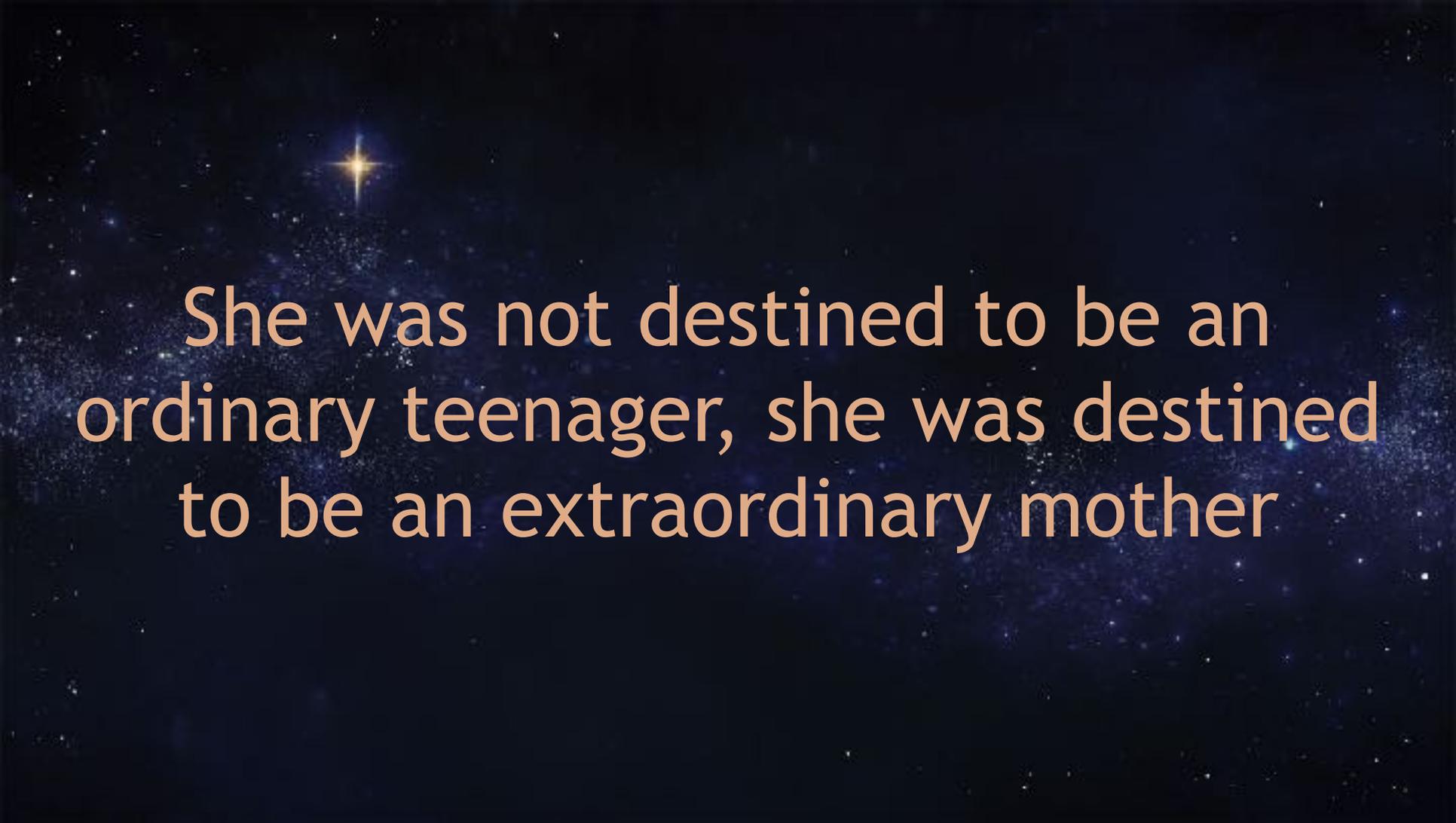


“The Lord is with you.”

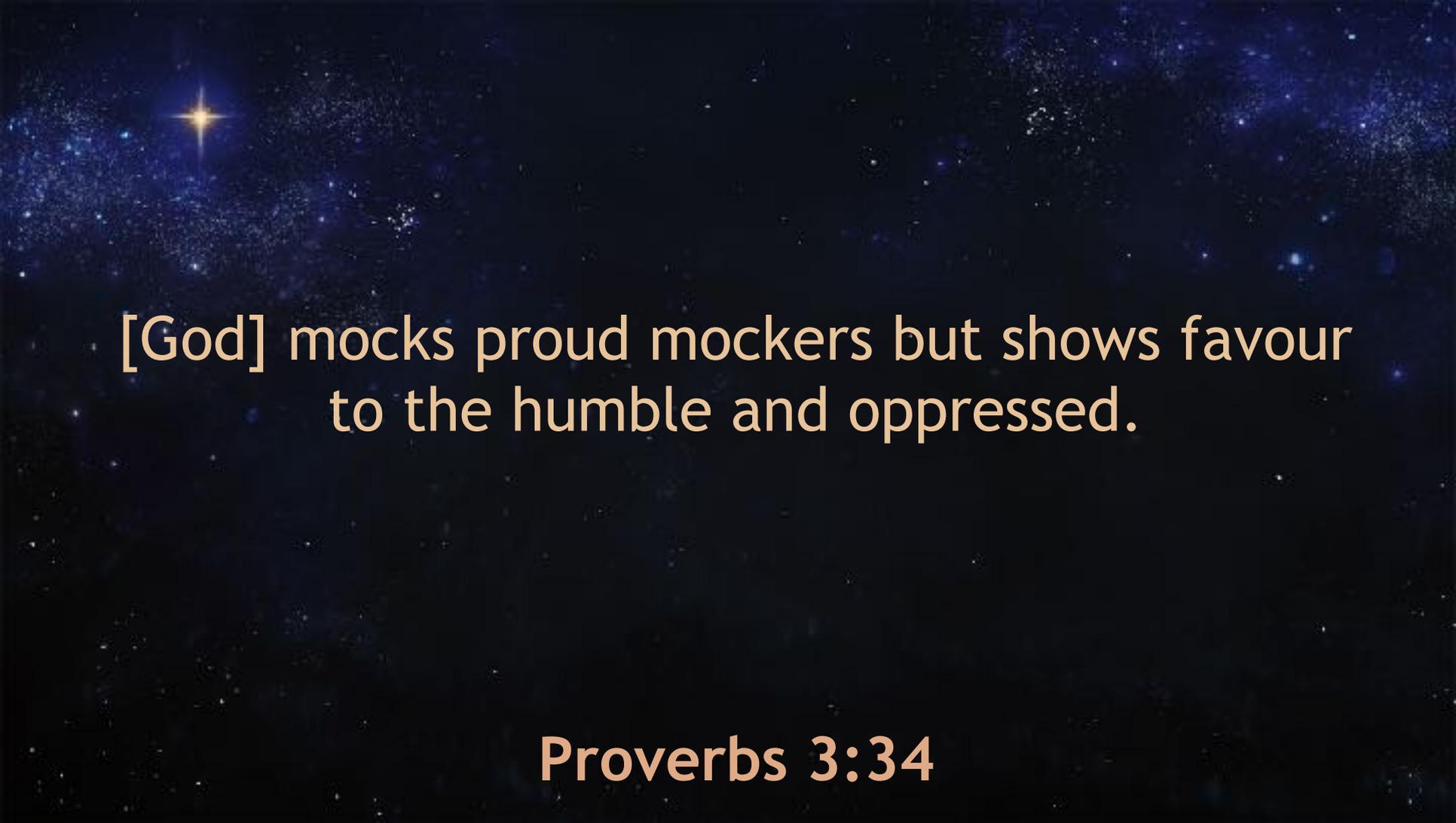
Luke 1:28

A dark blue, starry night sky with a prominent bright star in the upper left quadrant. The text is centered and reads: 

On that day, thousands of years ago,  
God spoke identity into a teenager  
named Mary and she was never the  
same again

A dark blue, starry night sky with a prominent bright star in the upper left quadrant. The text is centered in a light orange color.

She was not destined to be an ordinary teenager, she was destined to be an extraordinary mother



[God] mocks proud mockers but shows favour  
to the humble and oppressed.

**Proverbs 3:34**



2) THE LORD IS  
IN YOU

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

**Luke 1:29-35**

The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." <sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

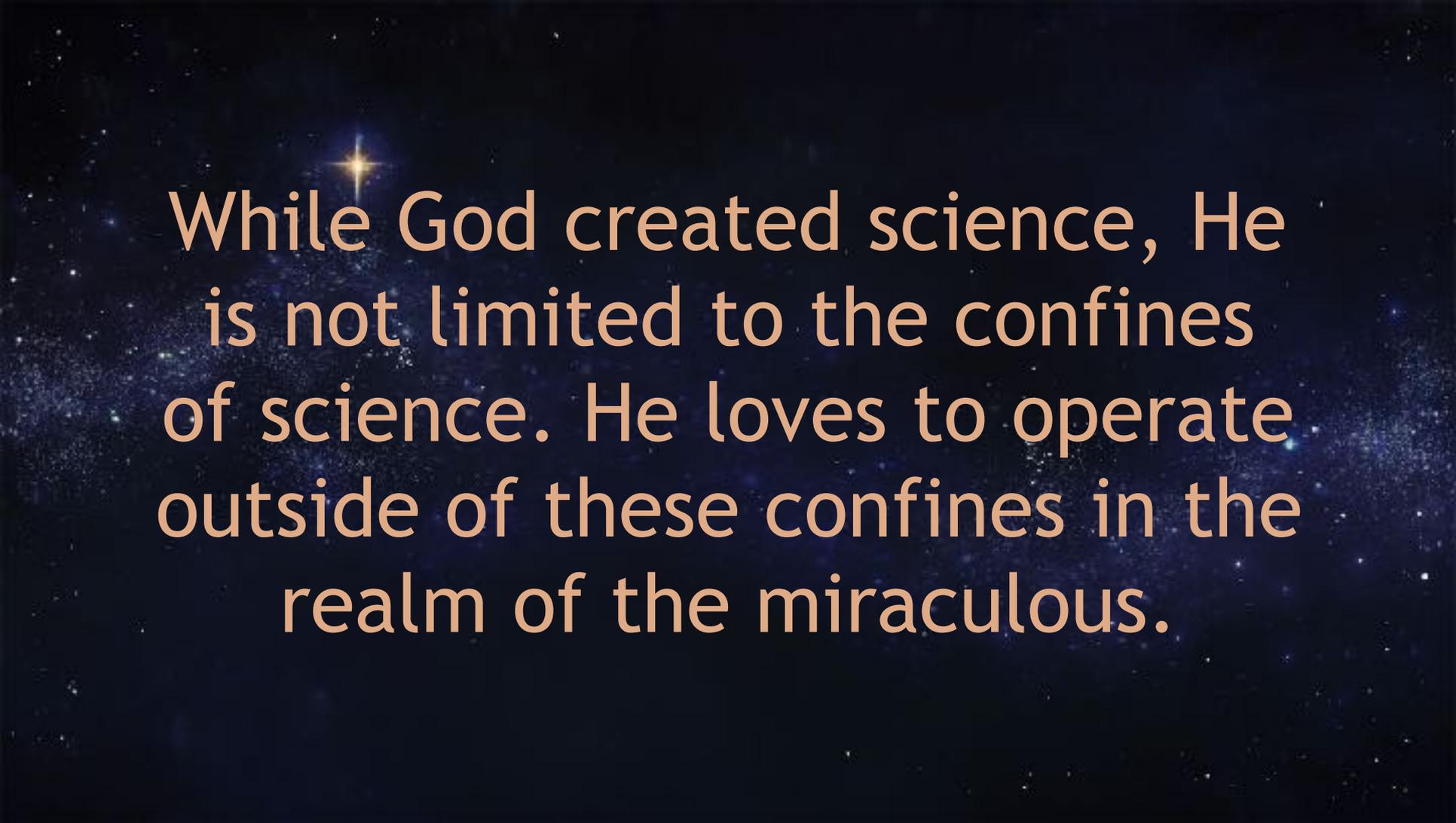
**Luke 1:29-35**



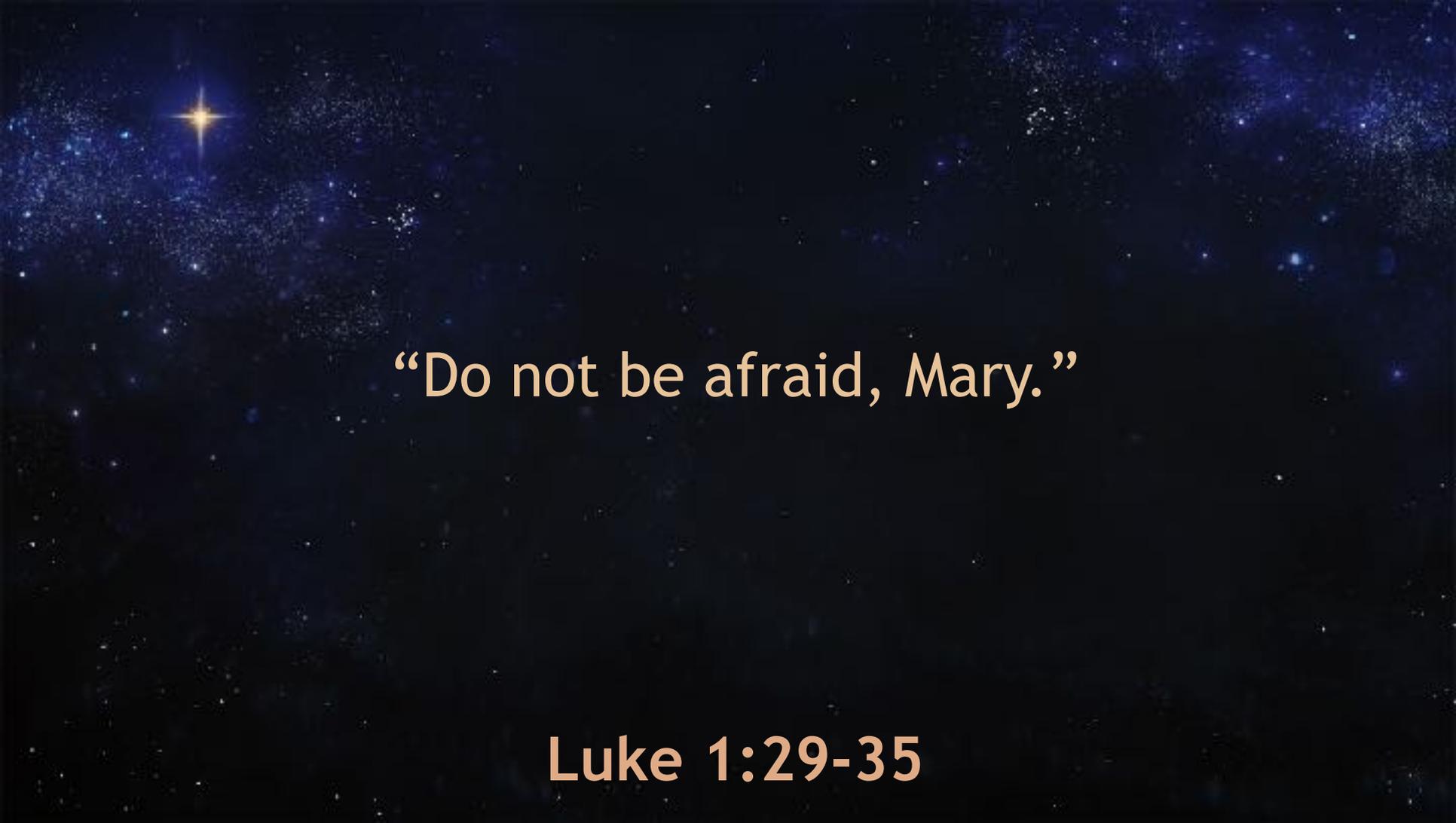
The promise of the incarnation of  
Jesus Christ is more rare than a  
“once in a lifetime moment”; it is  
a “once in history moment”

A dark blue starry night sky with a bright yellow star in the upper left. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

What the angel had said could not  
be scientifically validated



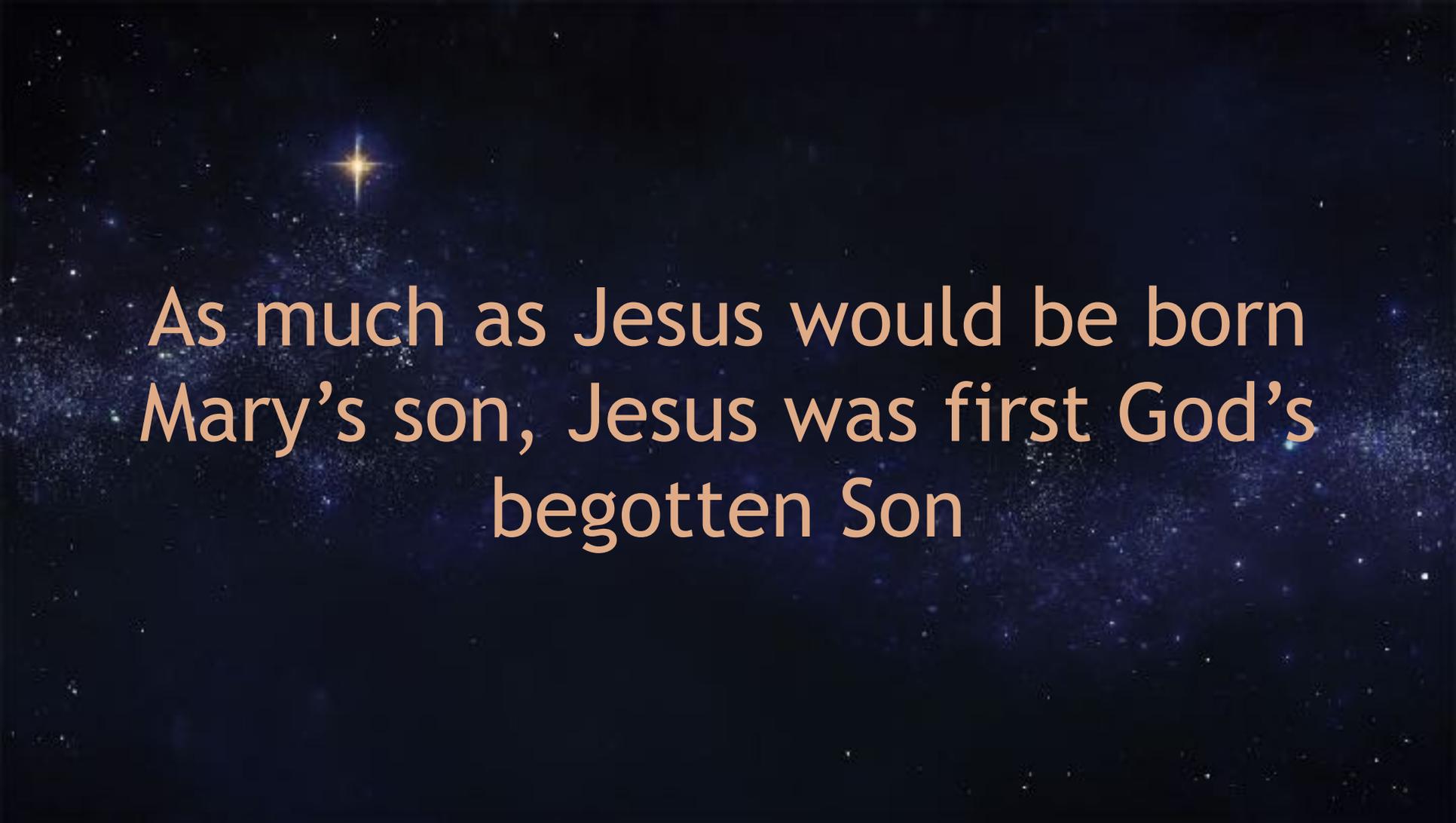
While God created science, He is not limited to the confines of science. He loves to operate outside of these confines in the realm of the miraculous.



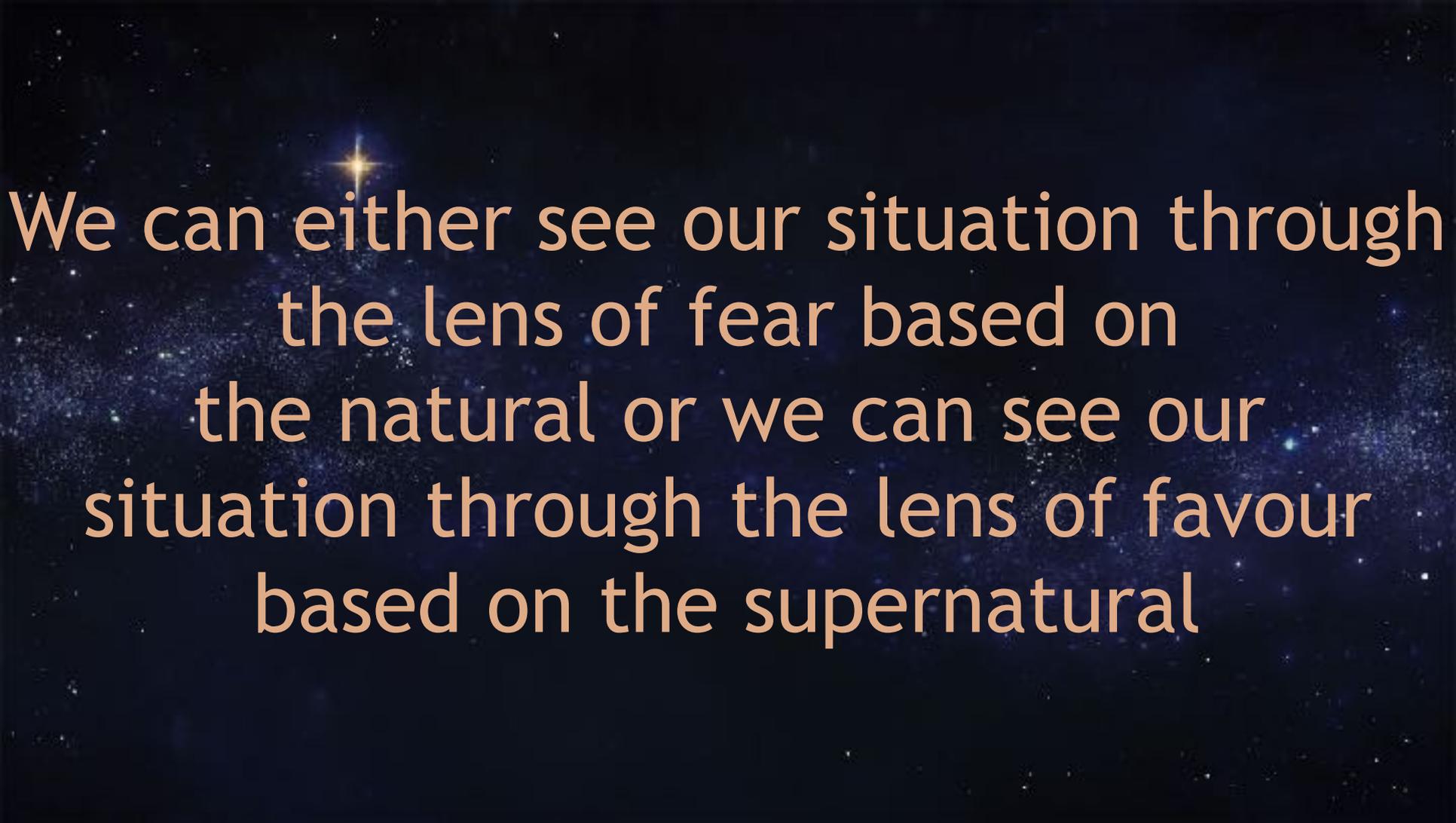
“Do not be afraid, Mary.”

**Luke 1:29-35**

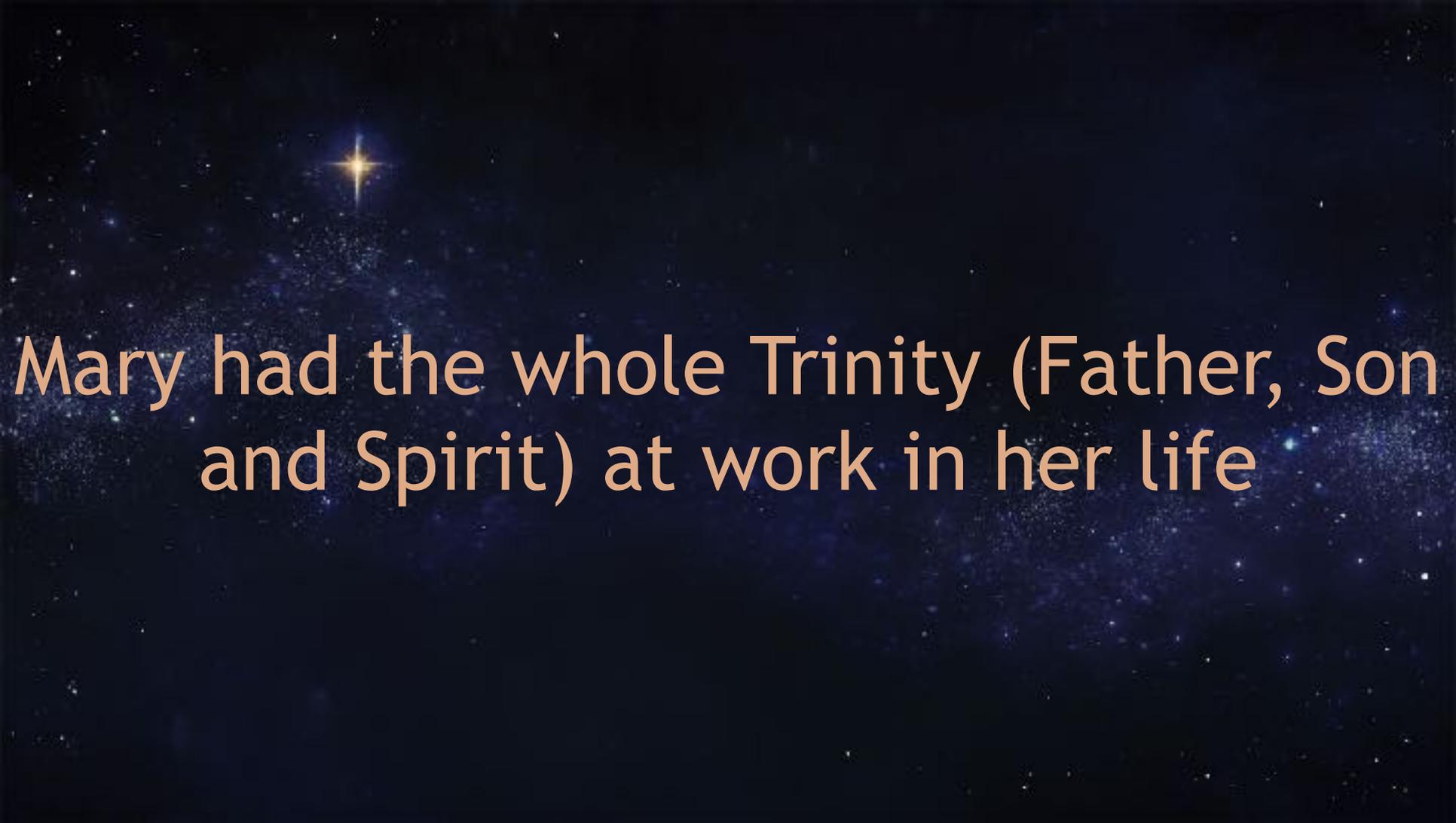
What if we came to the realization that some of the events, processes and life decisions that make us most afraid in our lives are the contexts in which God wants to remind us to not fear?



As much as Jesus would be born  
Mary's son, Jesus was first God's  
begotten Son

The background is a deep blue space scene. In the upper left, there is a bright, multi-pointed star. To the right, a faint, glowing nebula or galaxy structure is visible, with a denser core of light blue and white. The overall texture is grainy, typical of a night sky photograph.

We can either see our situation through  
the lens of fear based on  
the natural or we can see our  
situation through the lens of favour  
based on the supernatural



Mary had the whole Trinity (Father, Son  
and Spirit) at work in her life



3) THE LORD IS  
FOR YOU

<sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail.” <sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

**Luke 1:36-38**

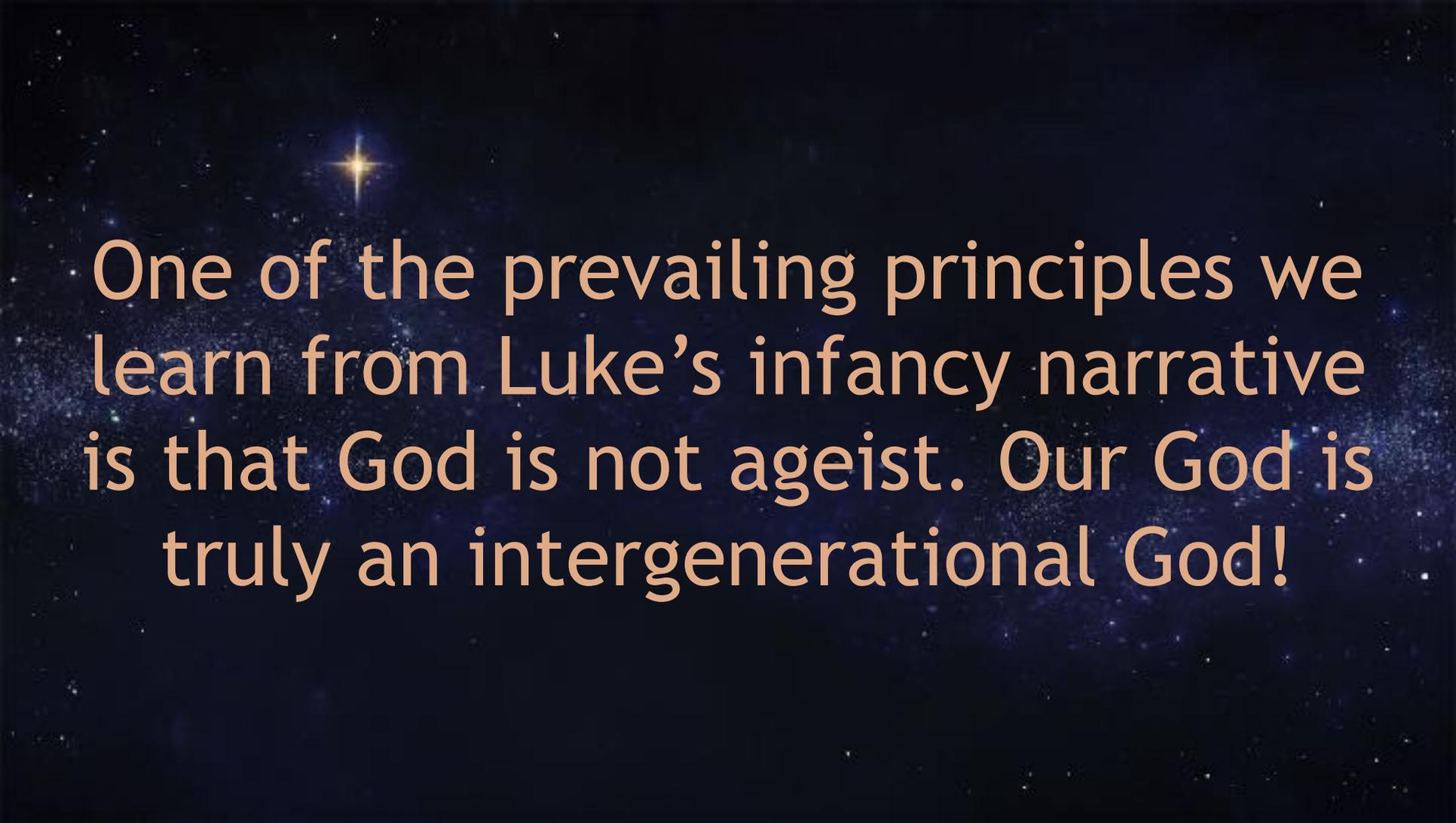
21 While I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. 22 He instructed me and said to me, “Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. 23 As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed.”

**Daniel 9:21-23**

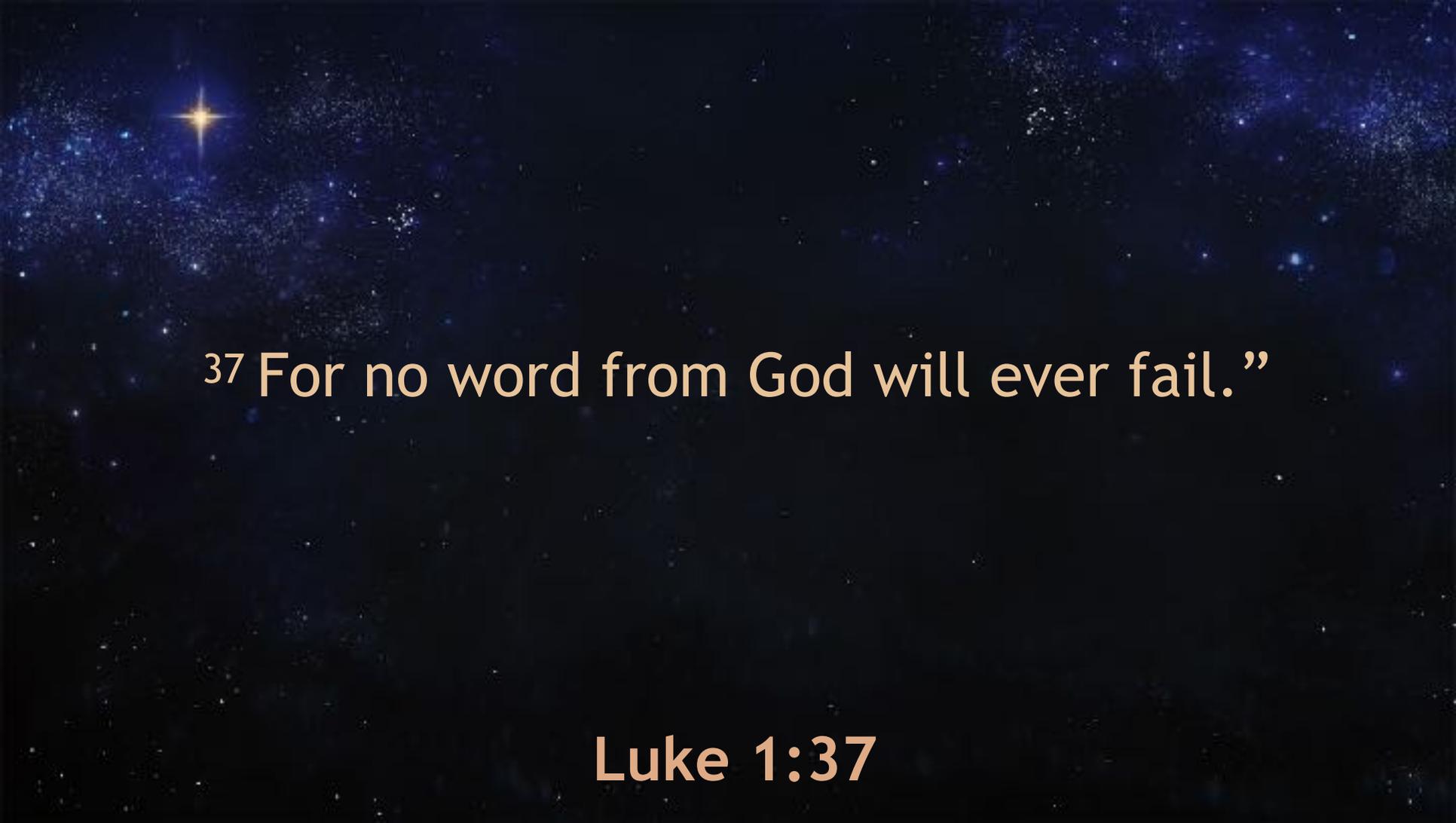


<sup>18</sup> Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” <sup>19</sup> The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.

**Luke 1:18-19**

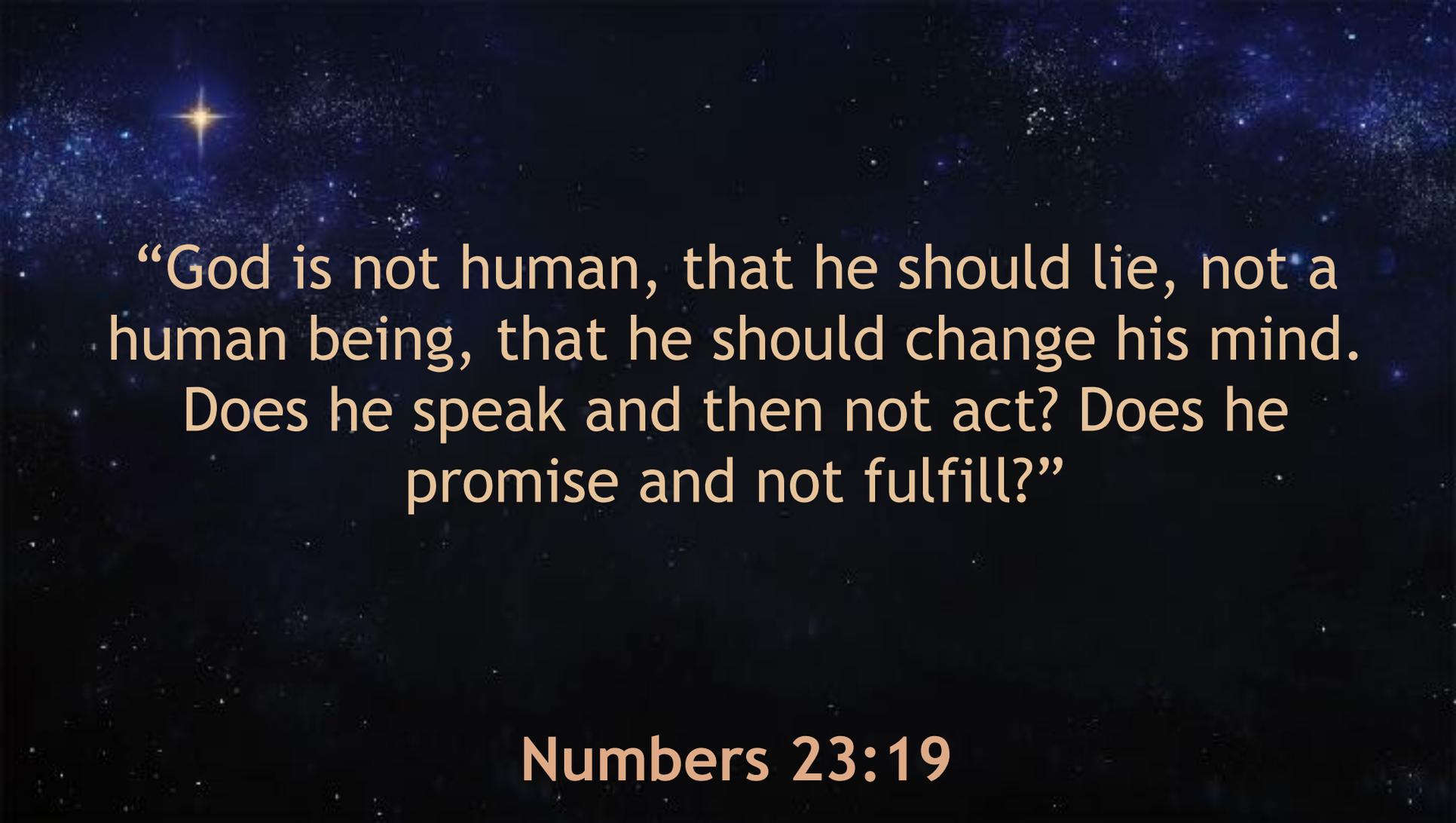
A bright, multi-pointed star is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image. The background is a deep, dark blue space filled with numerous smaller, distant stars of varying brightness and colors, creating a rich, textured field of light.

One of the prevailing principles we learn from Luke's infancy narrative is that God is not ageist. Our God is truly an intergenerational God!



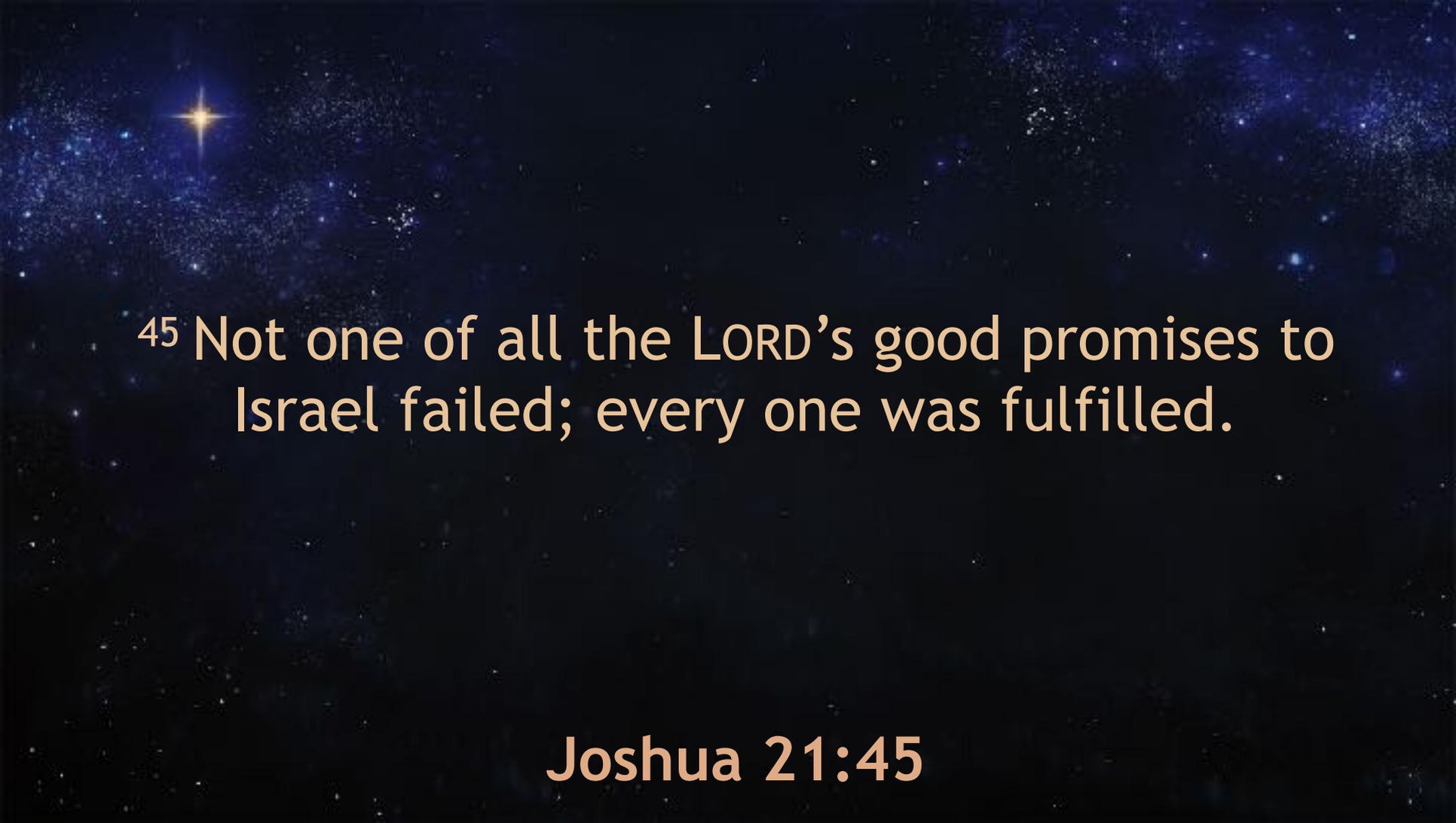
37 For no word from God will ever fail.”

Luke 1:37



“God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?”

**Numbers 23:19**

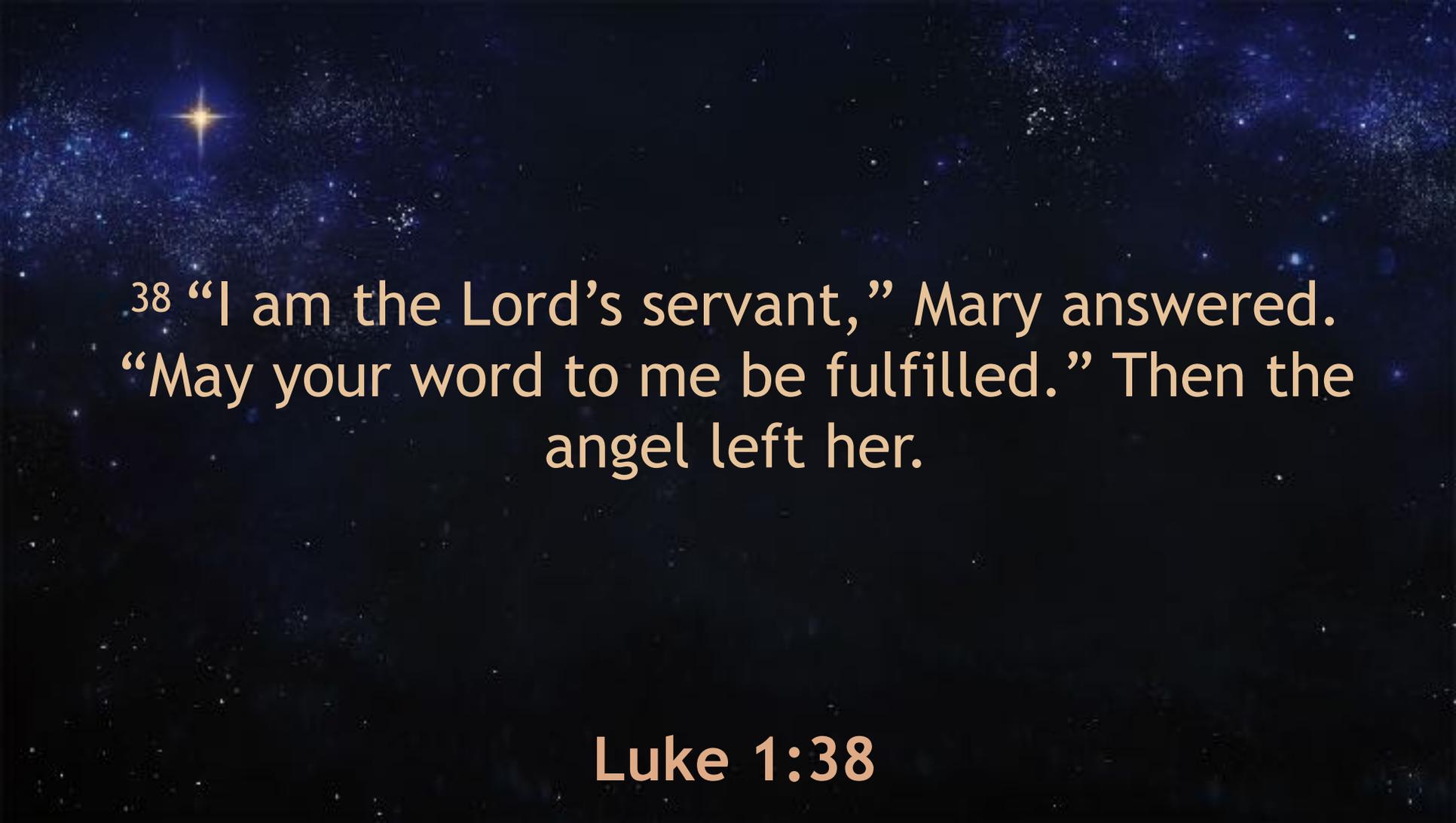


<sup>45</sup> Not one of all the LORD's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.

**Joshua 21:45**

<sup>10</sup> As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

**Isaiah 55:10-11**



38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered.  
“May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the  
angel left her.

**Luke 1:38**



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