



Fear Not

A SPIRITUAL VITALITY SERIES



Fear Not

JOSEPH: THE FEAR OF IMPERFECTION

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

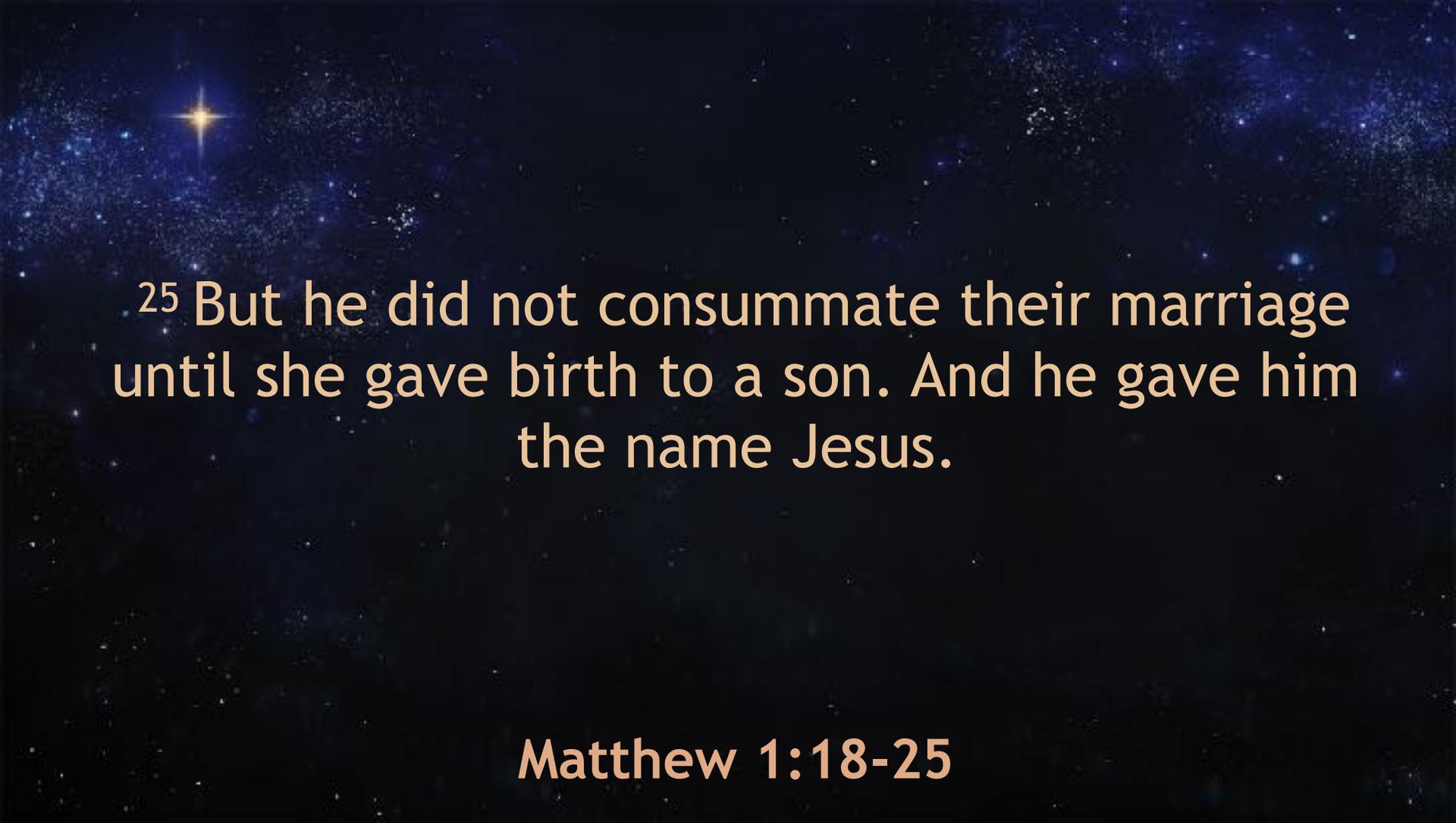
Matthew 1:18-25

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:18-25

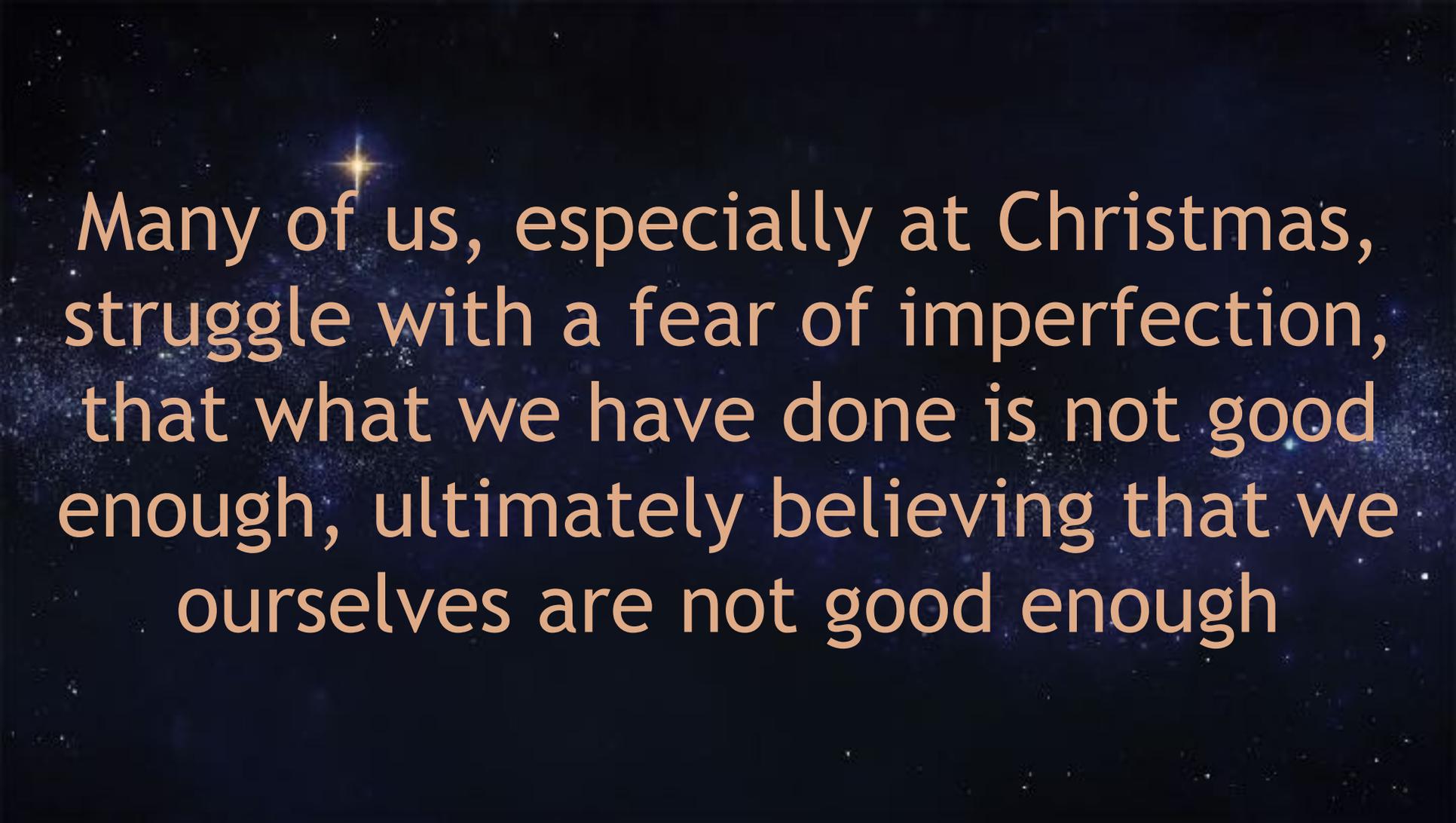
²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

Matthew 1:18-25

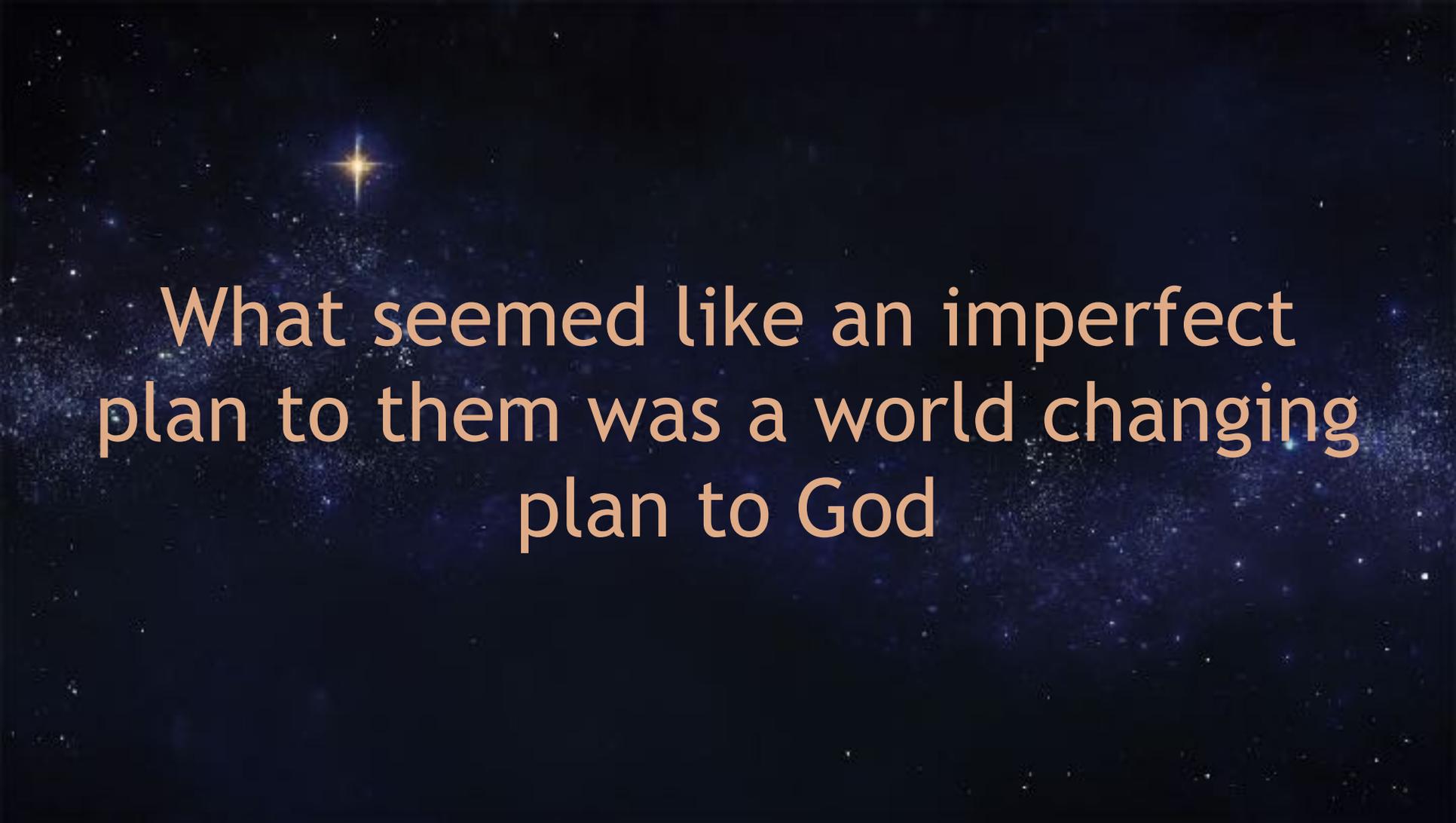


²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25



Many of us, especially at Christmas,
struggle with a fear of imperfection,
that what we have done is not good
enough, ultimately believing that we
ourselves are not good enough



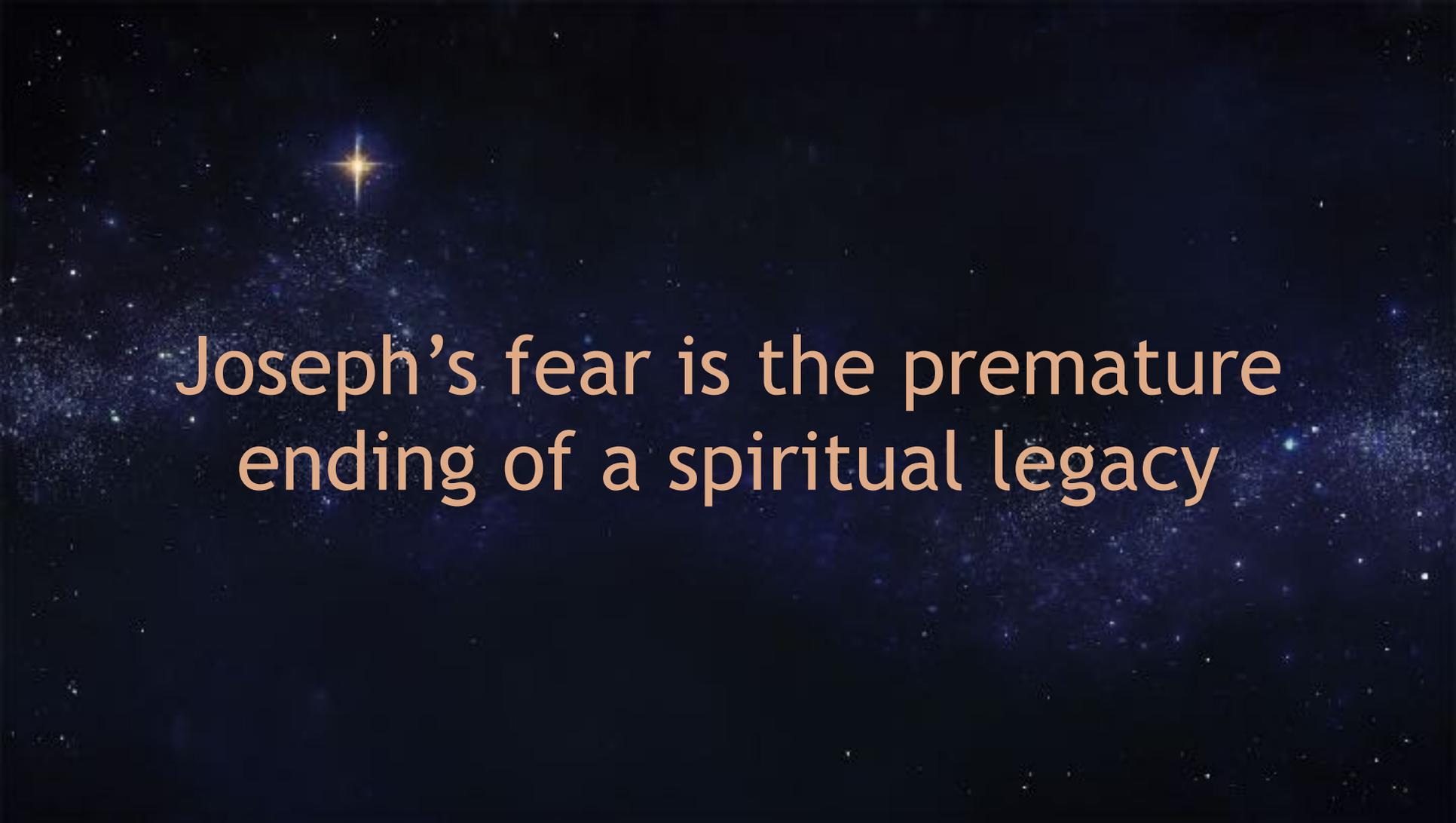
What seemed like an imperfect
plan to them was a world changing
plan to God



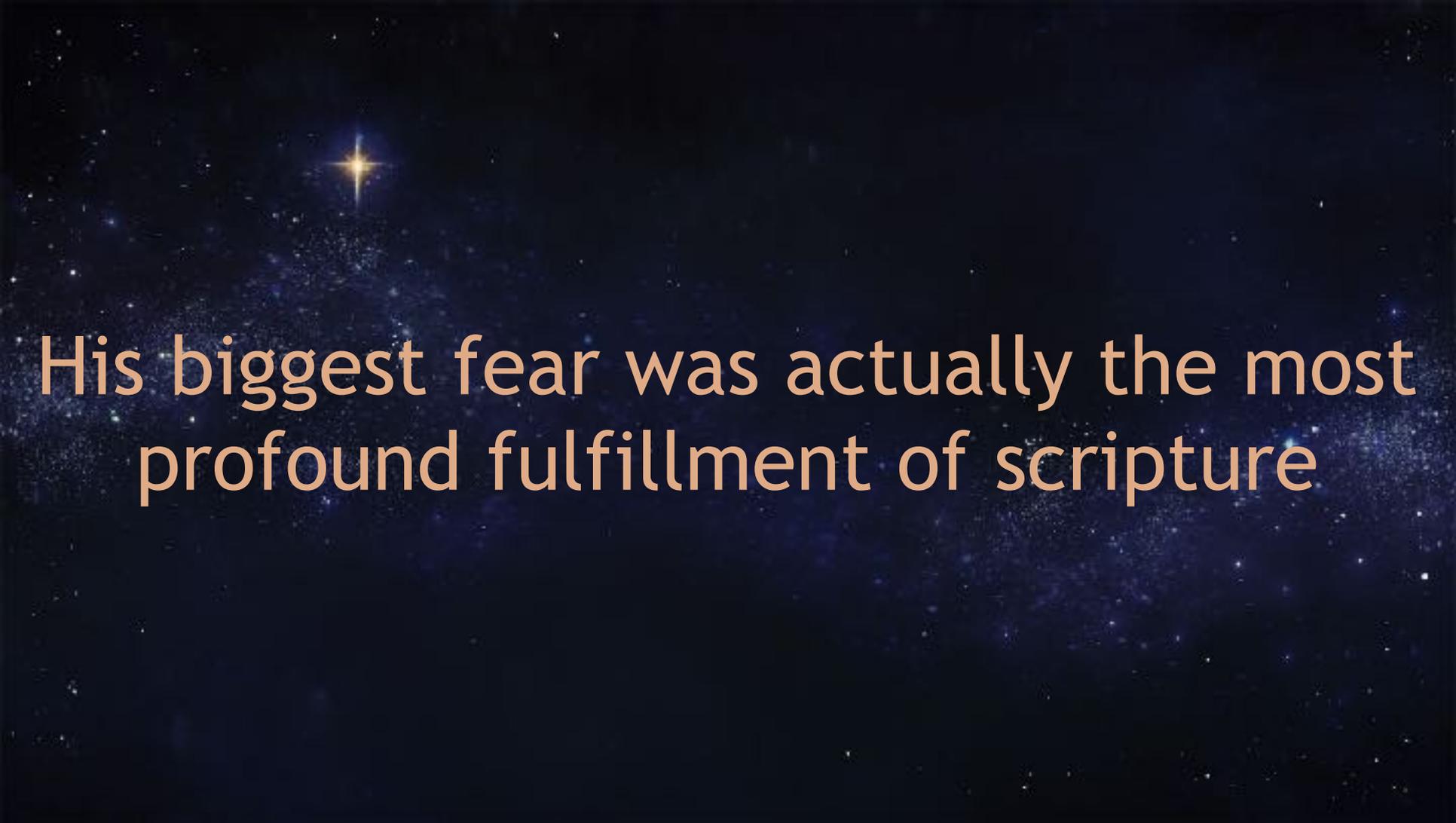
**1) THE FEAR OF AN
IMPERFECT FAITH**

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

Matthew 1:18-19



Joseph's fear is the premature
ending of a spiritual legacy



His biggest fear was actually the most profound fulfillment of scripture



**A) Joseph had in mind the
marriage violations found
in Deuteronomy 22**

²⁰ If, however, the charge is true and no proof of the young woman's virginity can be found,
²¹ she shall be brought to the door of her father's house and there the men of her town shall stone her to death. She has done an outrageous thing in Israel by being promiscuous while still in her father's house. You must purge the evil from among you.

Deuteronomy 22:20-21

**B) Joseph had in mind
what is called “the law
of jealousy” found in
Numbers 5**

16 “The priest shall bring her and have her stand before the LORD. 17 Then he shall take some holy water in a clay jar and put some dust from the tabernacle floor into the water. 18 After the priest has had the woman stand before the LORD, he shall loosen her hair and place in her hands the reminder-offering, the grain offering for jealousy,

Numbers 5:16-22

while he himself holds the bitter water that brings a curse. ¹⁹ Then the priest shall put the woman under oath and say to her, “If no other man has had sexual relations with you and you have not gone astray and become impure while married to your husband, may this bitter water that brings a curse not harm you.

Numbers 5:16-22

²⁰ But if you have gone astray while married to your husband and you have made yourself impure by having sexual relations with a man other than your husband”— ²¹ here the priest is to put the woman under this curse—“may the LORD cause you to become a curse among your people when he makes your womb miscarry and your abdomen swell.

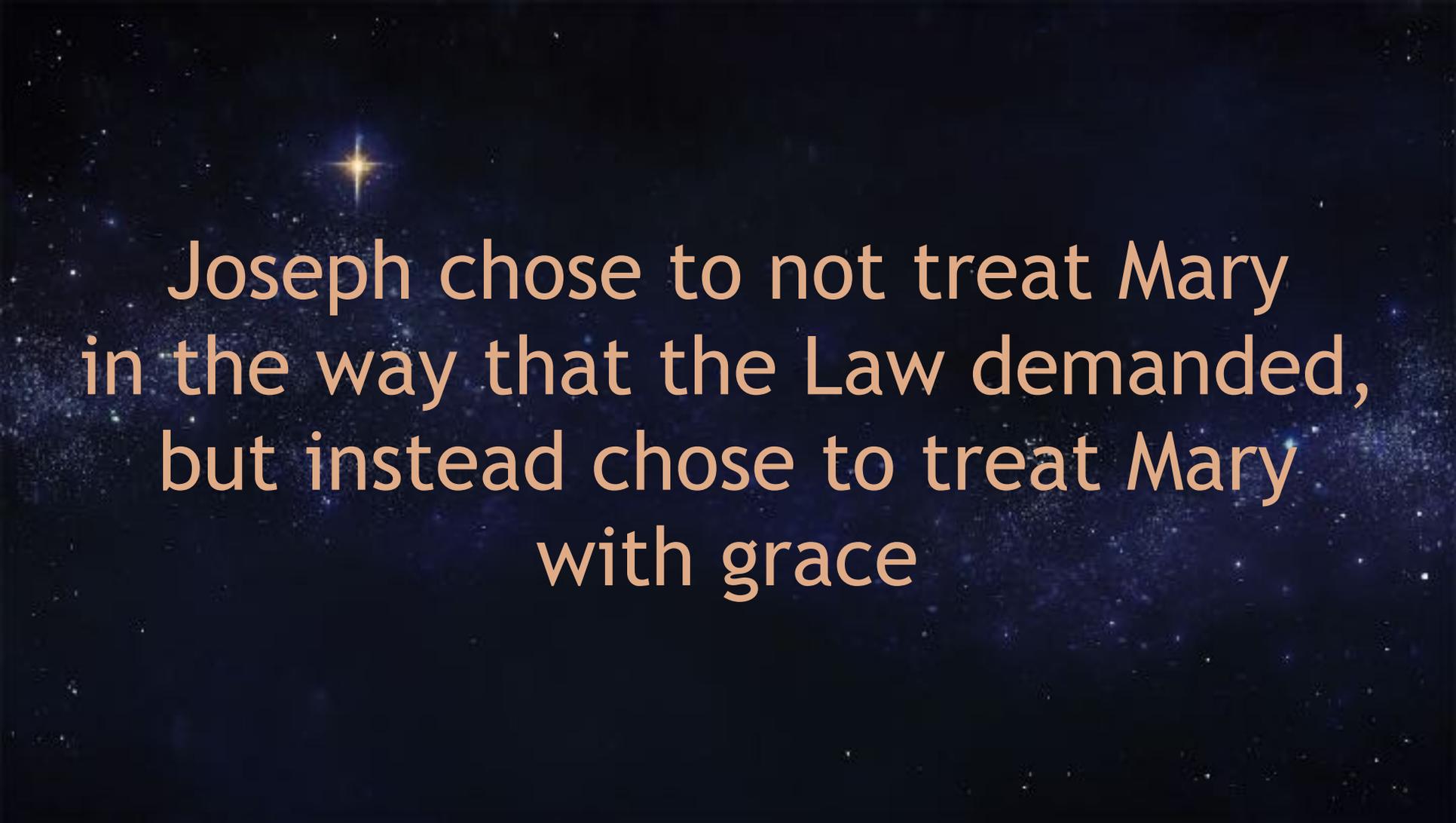
Numbers 5:16-22

22 May this water that brings a curse enter your body so that your abdomen swells or your womb miscarries.” “Then the woman is to say, “Amen. So be it.””

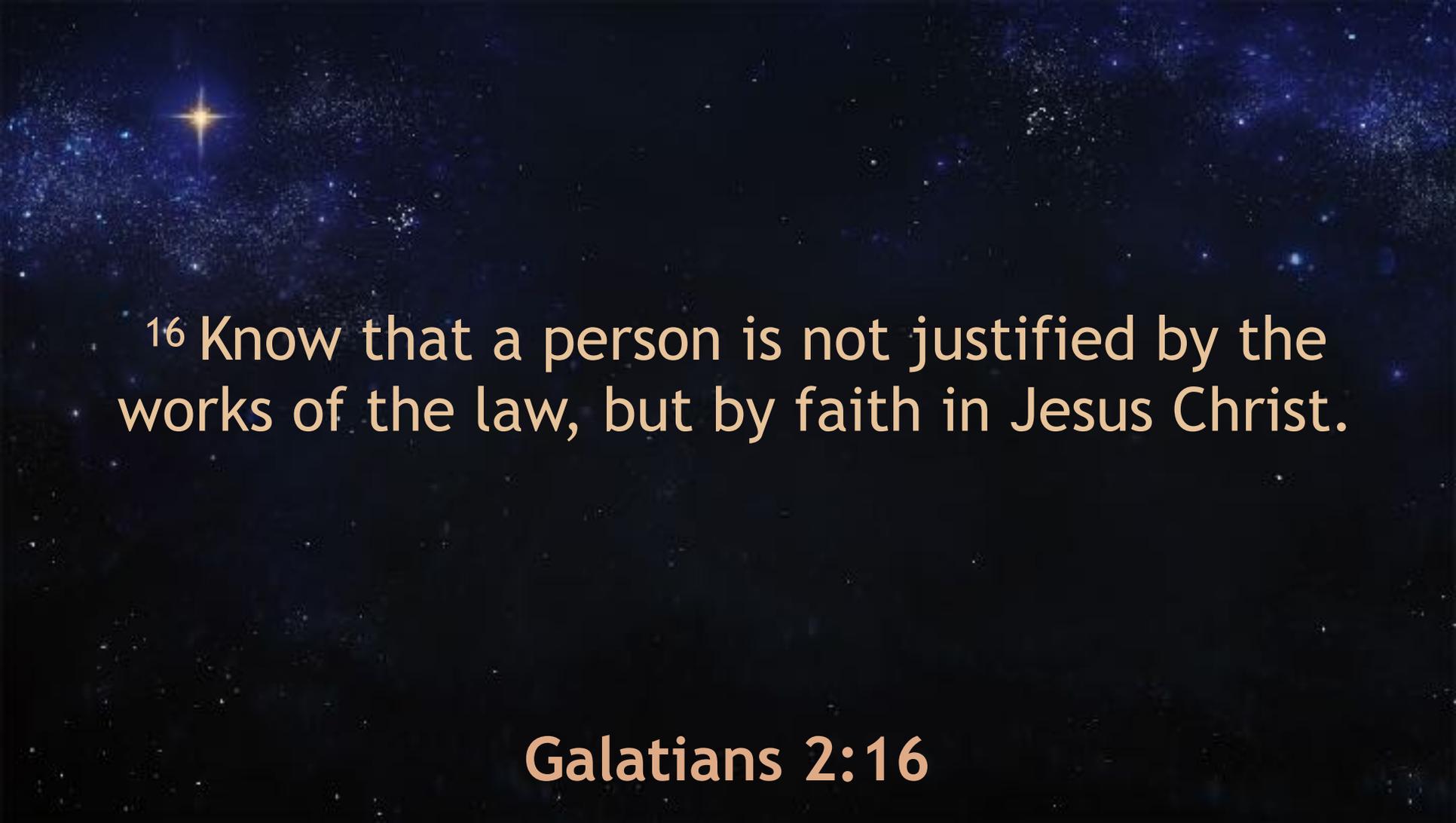
Numbers 5:16-22

A bright, multi-pointed star is positioned at the top center of the image, set against a dark blue and black background filled with numerous smaller, distant stars. The text is centered below the star.

Joseph's decision could have led to killing the Saviour of the world by condoning the stoning of pregnant Mary or calling for miscarriage of Jesus!

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.

Joseph chose to not treat Mary
in the way that the Law demanded,
but instead chose to treat Mary
with grace



¹⁶ Know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2:16



**2) THE FEAR OF
AN IMPERFECT
MARRIAGE**

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:20-25a

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son.

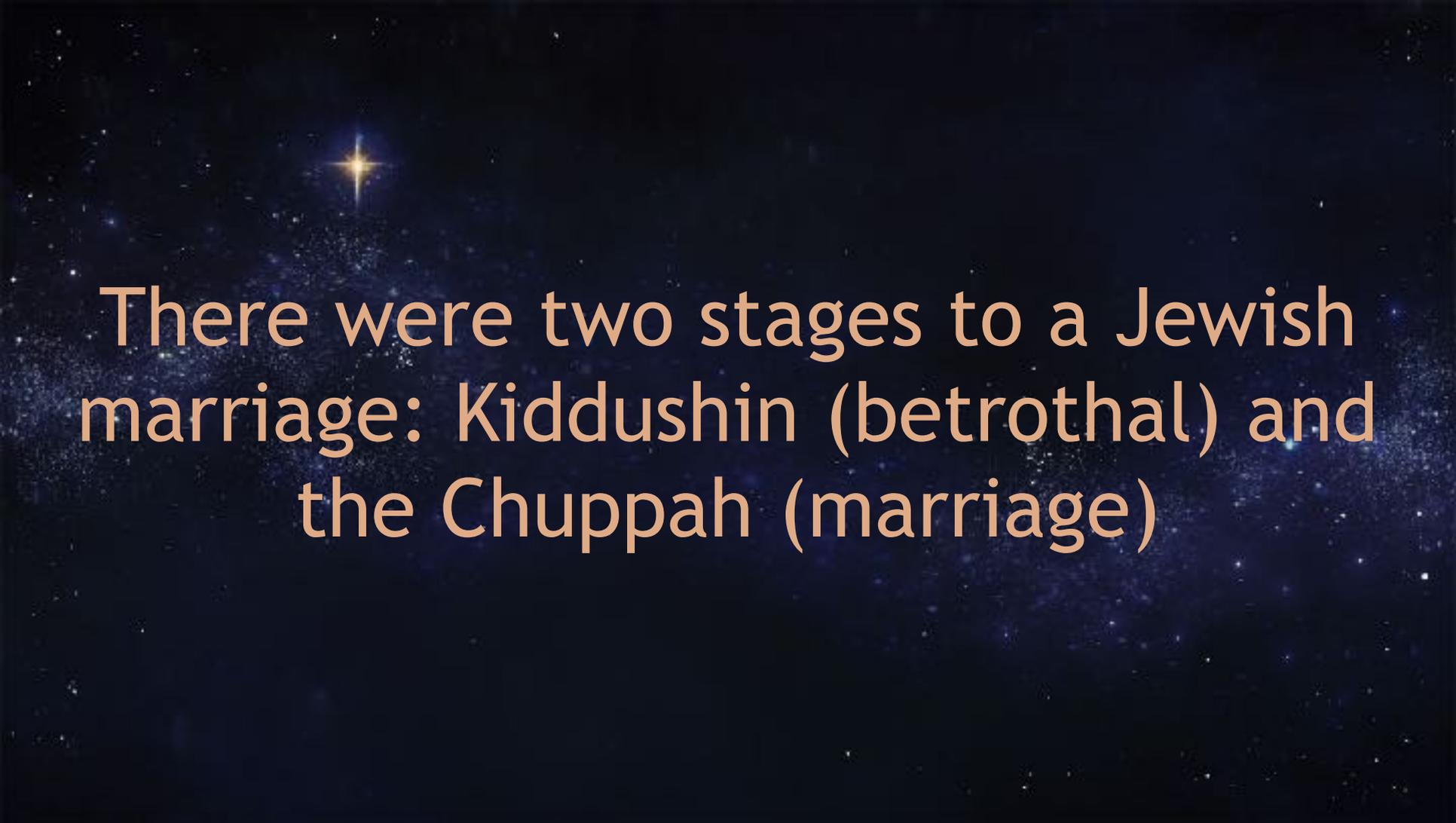
Matthew 1:20-25a

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

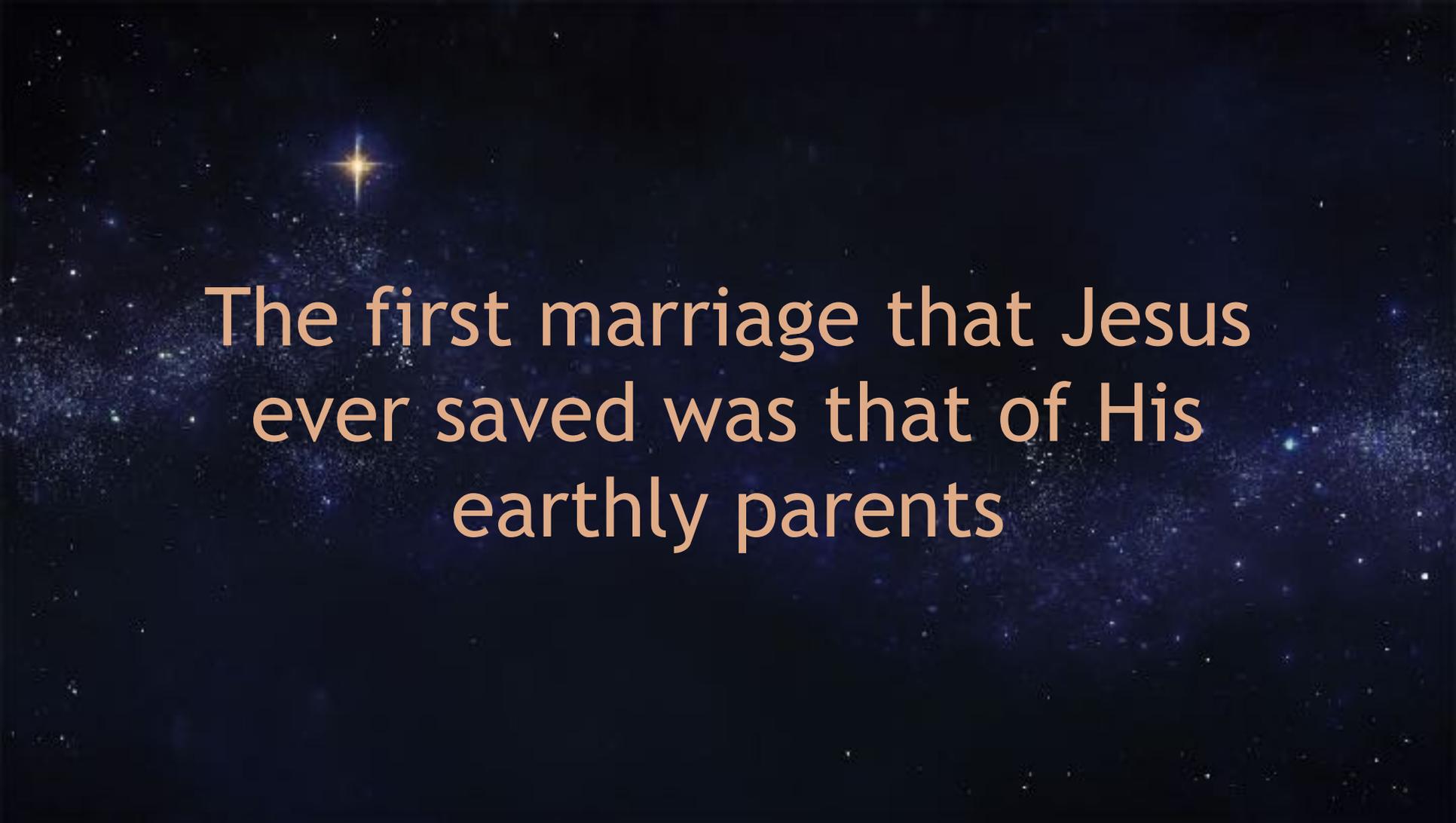
Search for where the Holy Spirit is
active in our lives



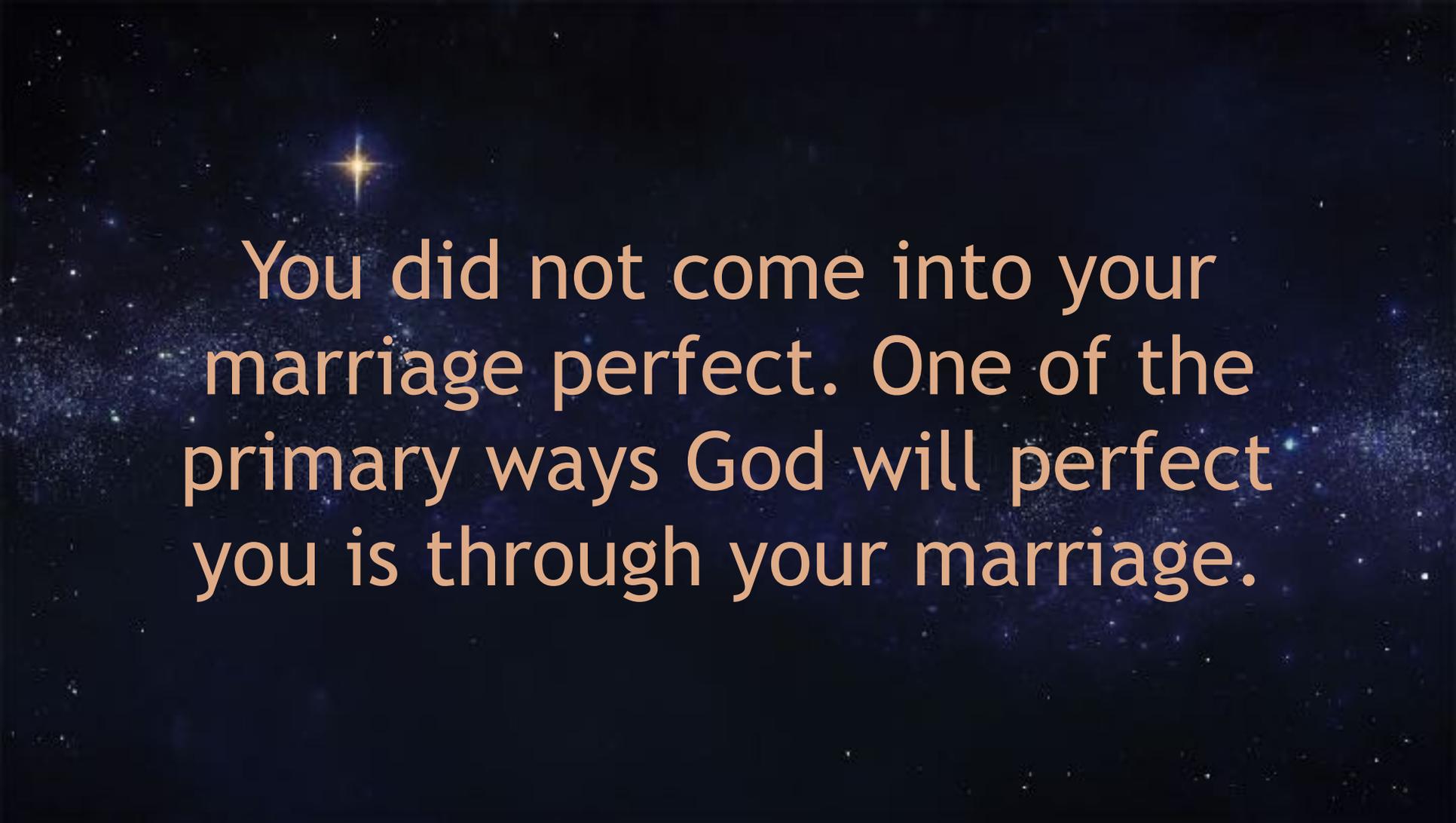
The boy entrusted to Joseph and Mary, given the title “Immanuel” is to convey a wider message to the world- “God with us”



There were two stages to a Jewish marriage: Kiddushin (betrothal) and the Chuppah (marriage)



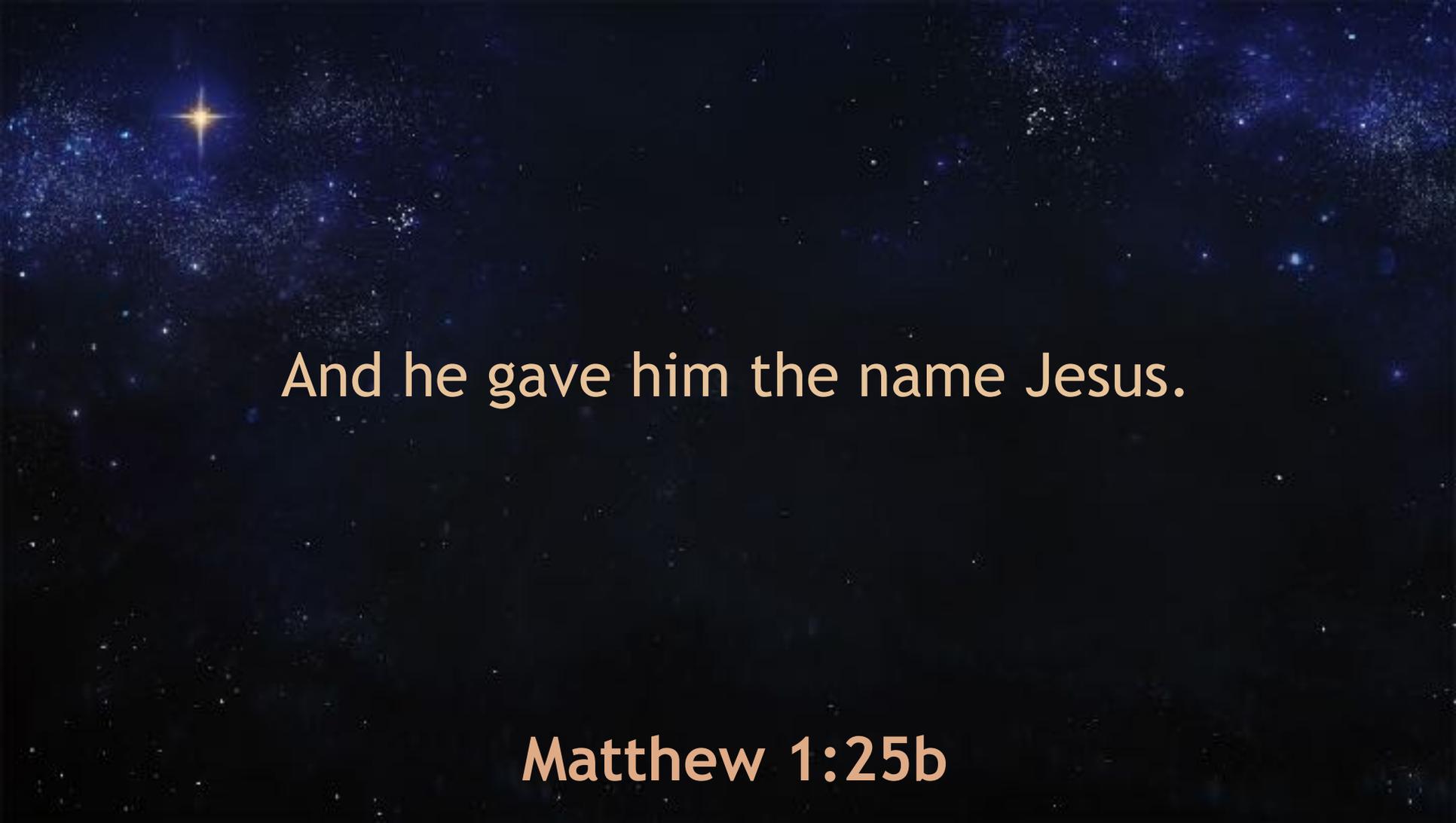
The first marriage that Jesus
ever saved was that of His
earthly parents

A dark blue night sky filled with numerous small, distant stars. A single, bright star with a four-pointed diffraction pattern is positioned in the upper left quadrant. The text is centered in the lower half of the image.

You did not come into your marriage perfect. One of the primary ways God will perfect you is through your marriage.



**3) THE FEAR
OF BEING AN
IMPERFECT PARENT**



And he gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1:25b

A bright, multi-pointed star is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image, set against a dark blue, star-filled background that resembles a night sky or a galaxy. The text is centered and written in a light beige or cream color.

Growing up, Jesus' identity would
be derived from a split parentage
of being the heavenly Son of God
and being known as the earthly
son of Joseph

45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

Luke 2:45-50

⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”
⁴⁹ “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”
⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Luke 2:45-50



⁵³ When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. ⁵⁴ Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked.

Matthew 13:53-57

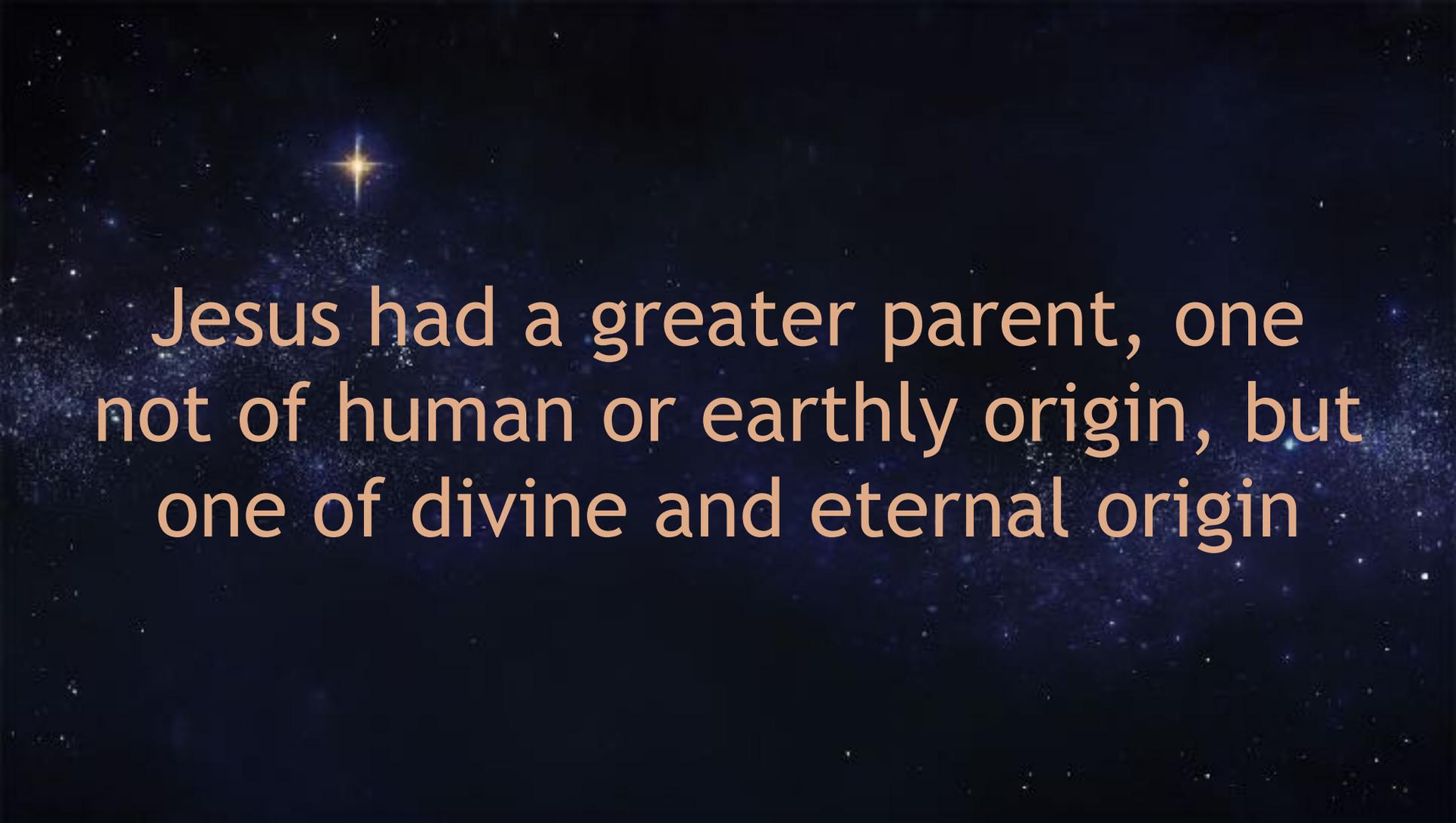


⁵⁵ “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” ⁵⁷ And they took offense at him.

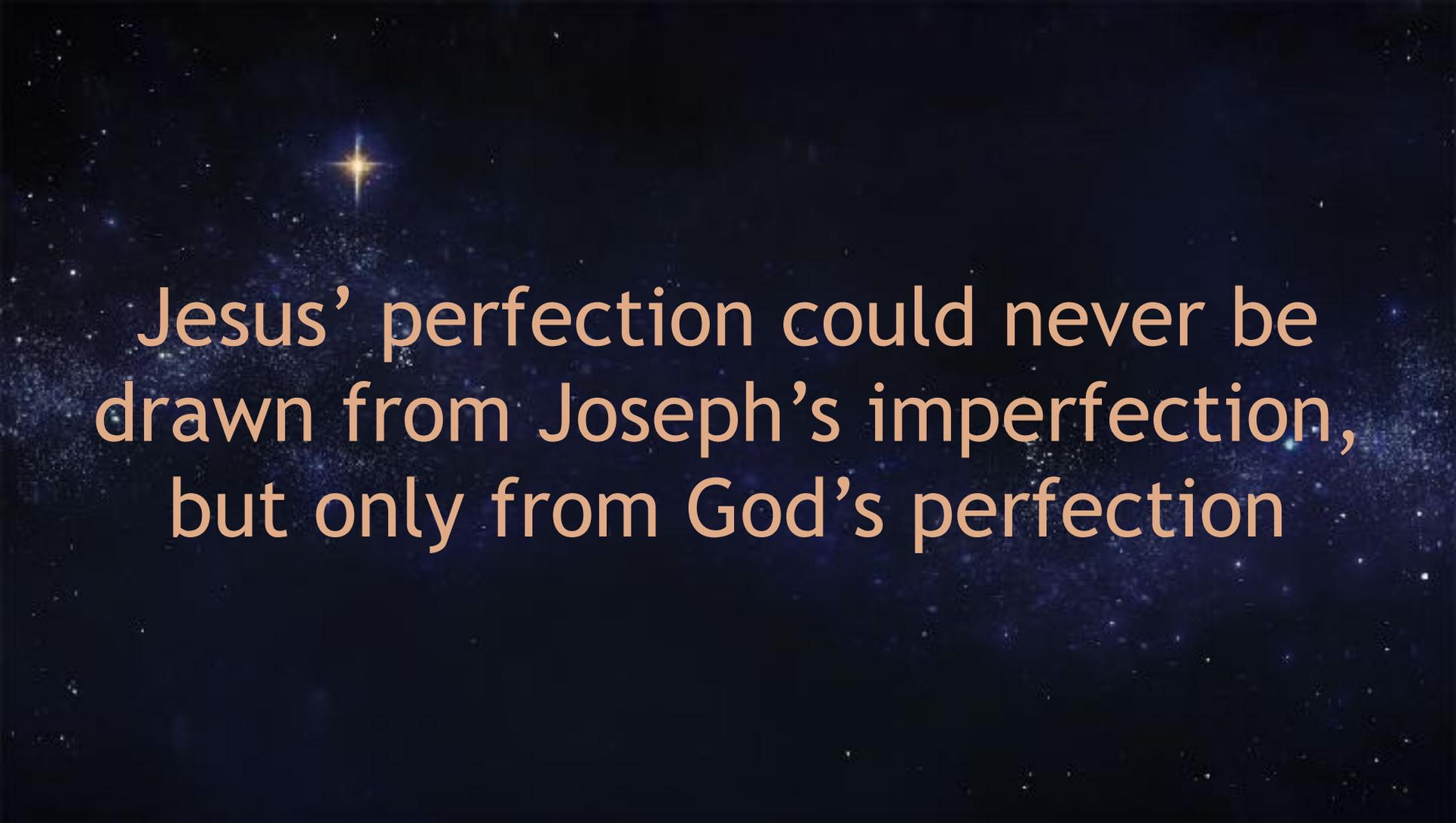
Matthew 13:53-57



Joseph never saw the fulfillment
of his own obedience because he
never lived to see Jesus' ministry

A dark blue night sky filled with numerous small, distant stars. A single, bright star with a four-pointed diffraction pattern is positioned in the upper left quadrant. The text is centered in the lower half of the image.

Jesus had a greater parent, one
not of human or earthly origin, but
one of divine and eternal origin



Jesus' perfection could never be drawn from Joseph's imperfection, but only from God's perfection

When you gather with family and friends this Christmas, there is no need to project perfection, that you have a perfect faith, you have a perfect marriage or that you are the perfect parent



Perfect love drives out fear.

1 John 4:18



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