



Fear Not

A SPIRITUAL VITALITY SERIES



Fear Not

SHEPHERDS: THE FEAR OF INSIGNIFICANCE

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

Luke 2:8-20

¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

Luke 2:8-20

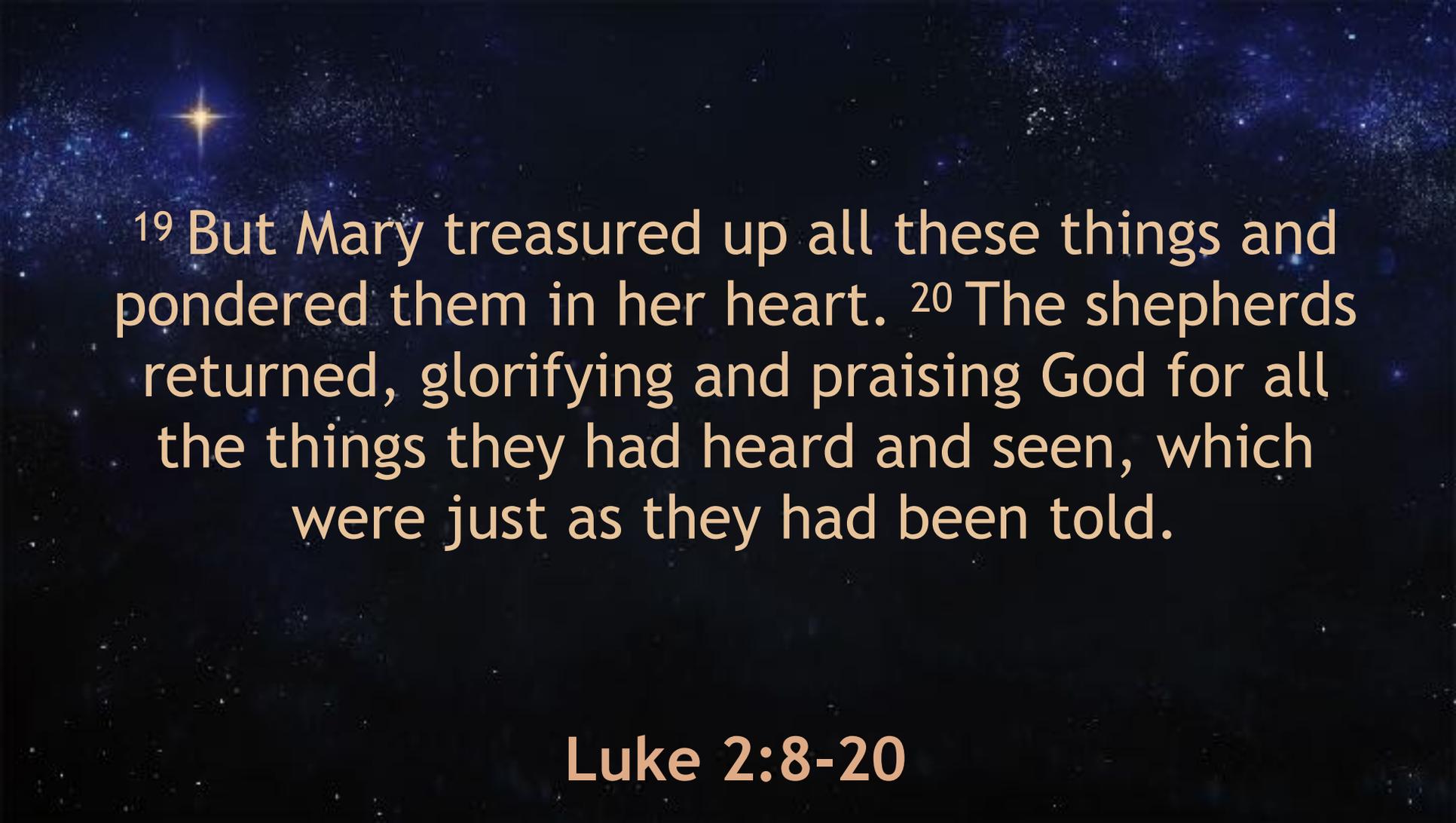
14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.” 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

Luke 2:8-20



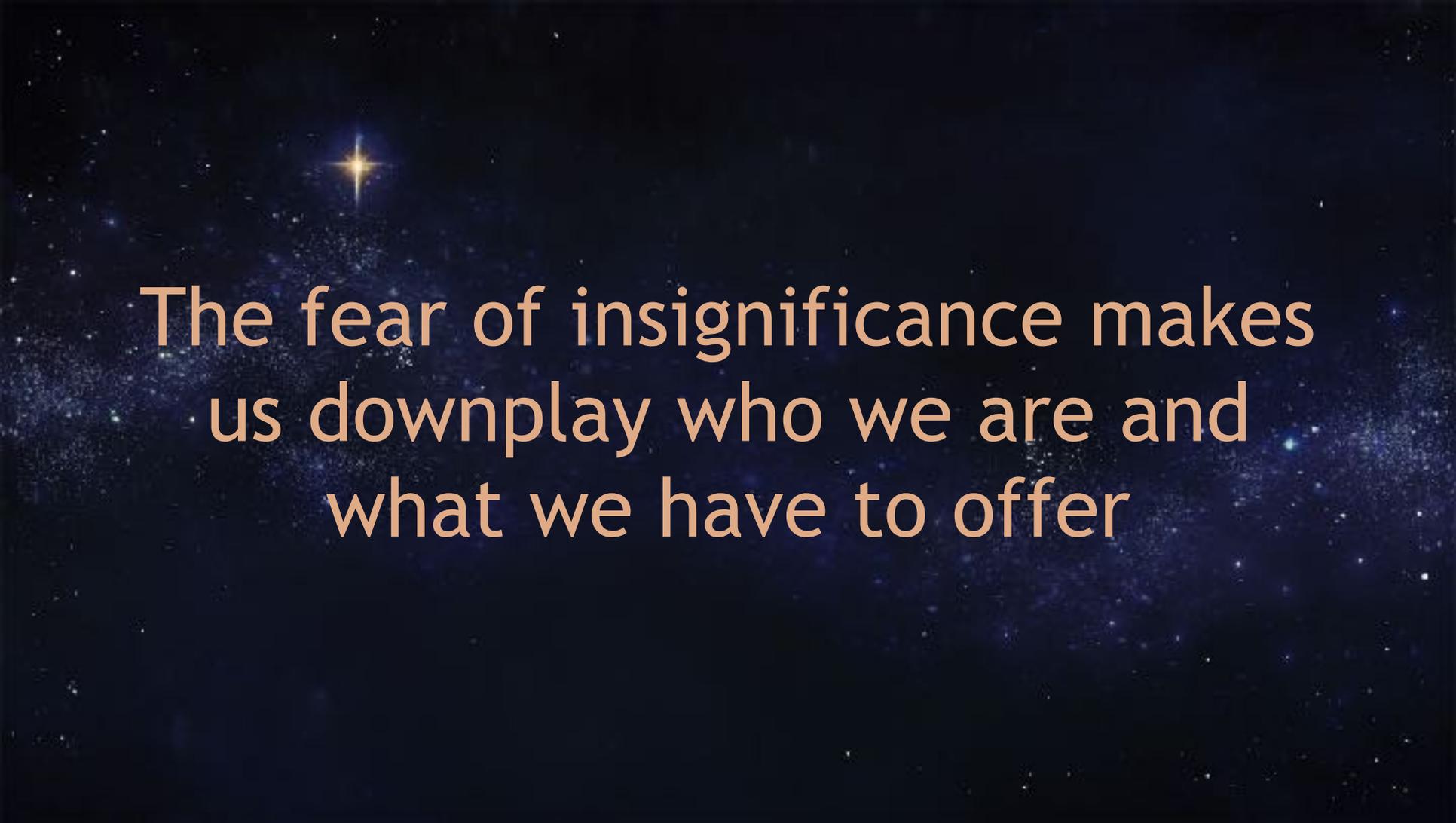
¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Luke 2:8-20

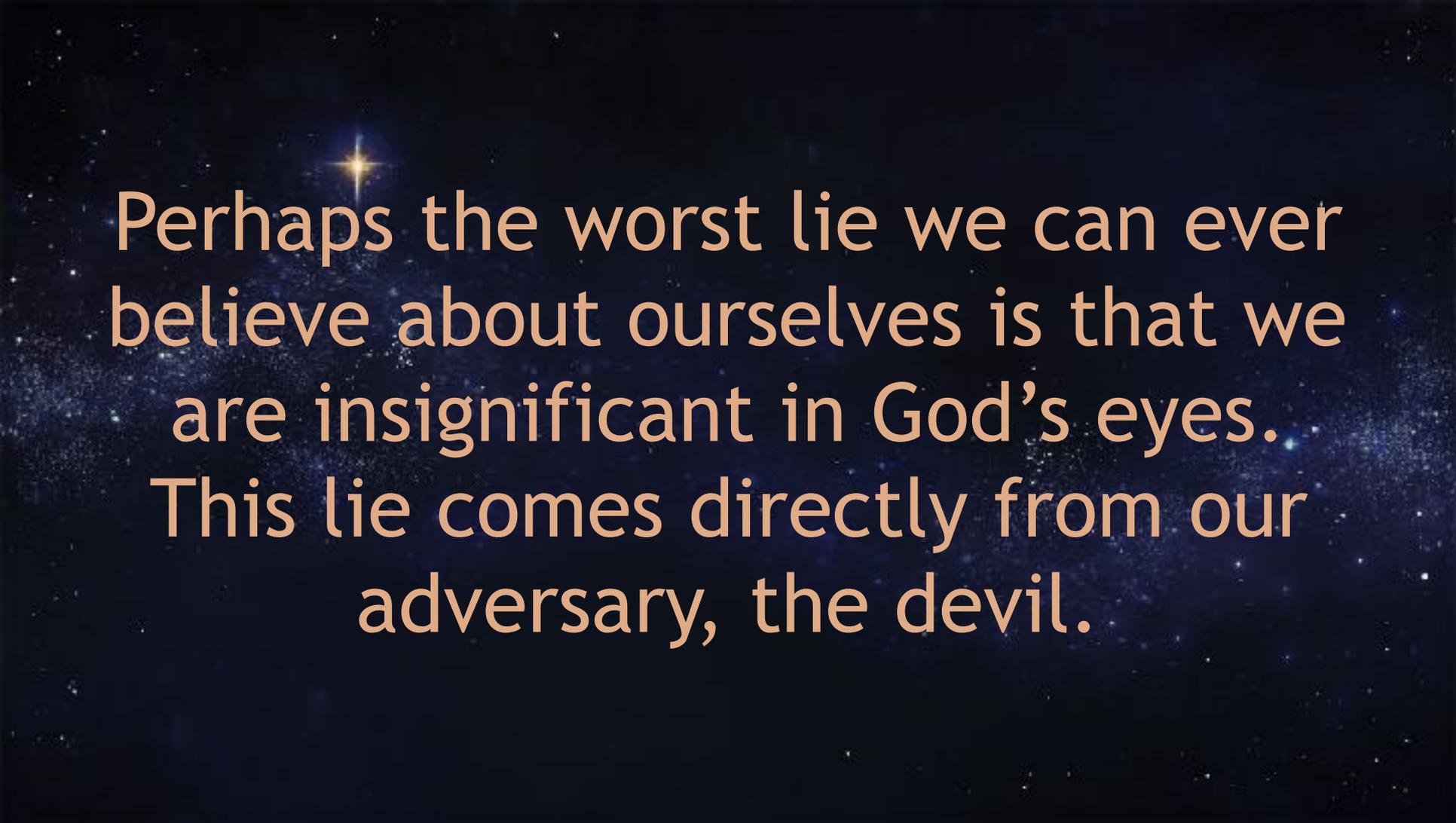


¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

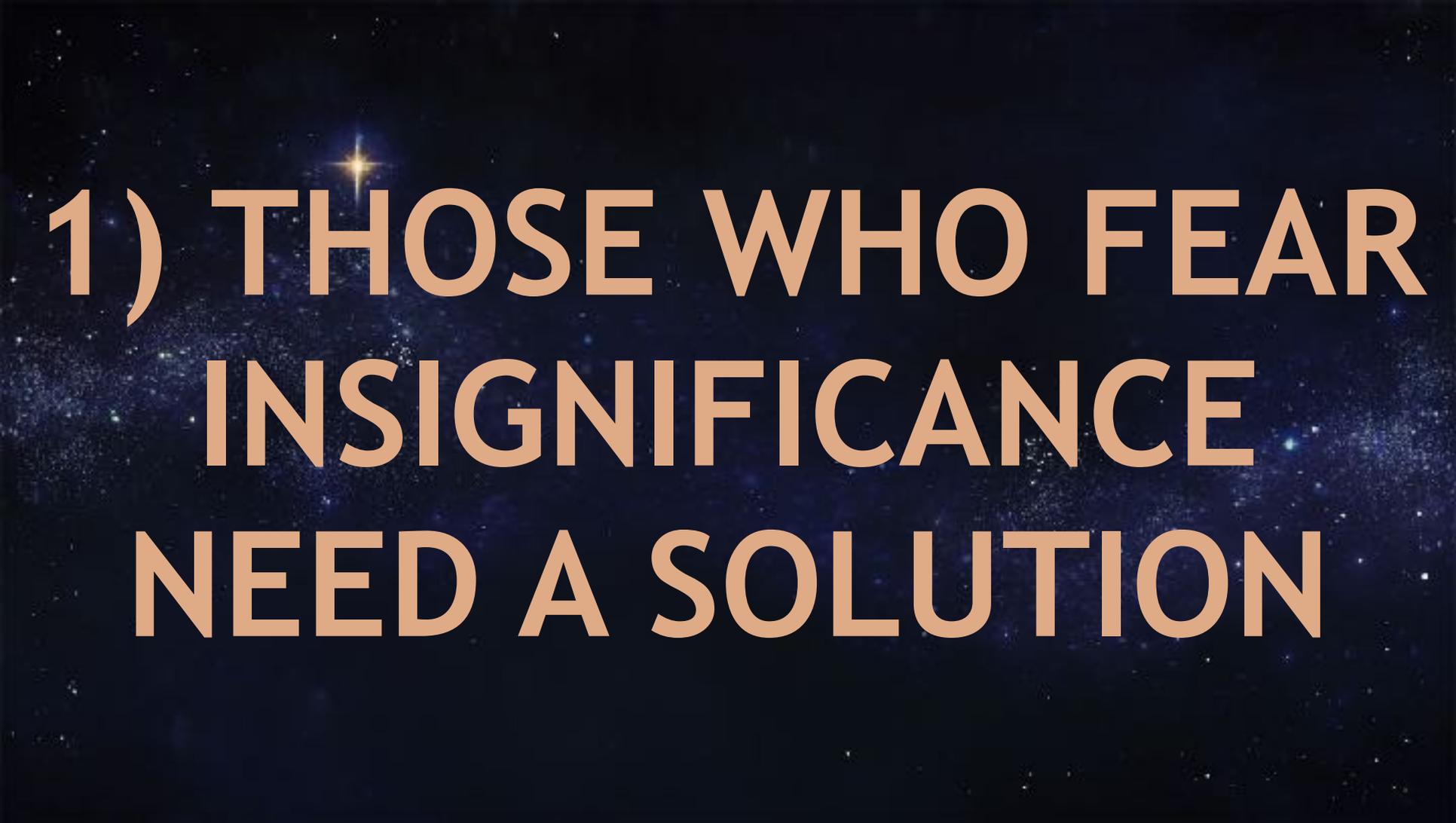
Luke 2:8-20



The fear of insignificance makes
us downplay who we are and
what we have to offer



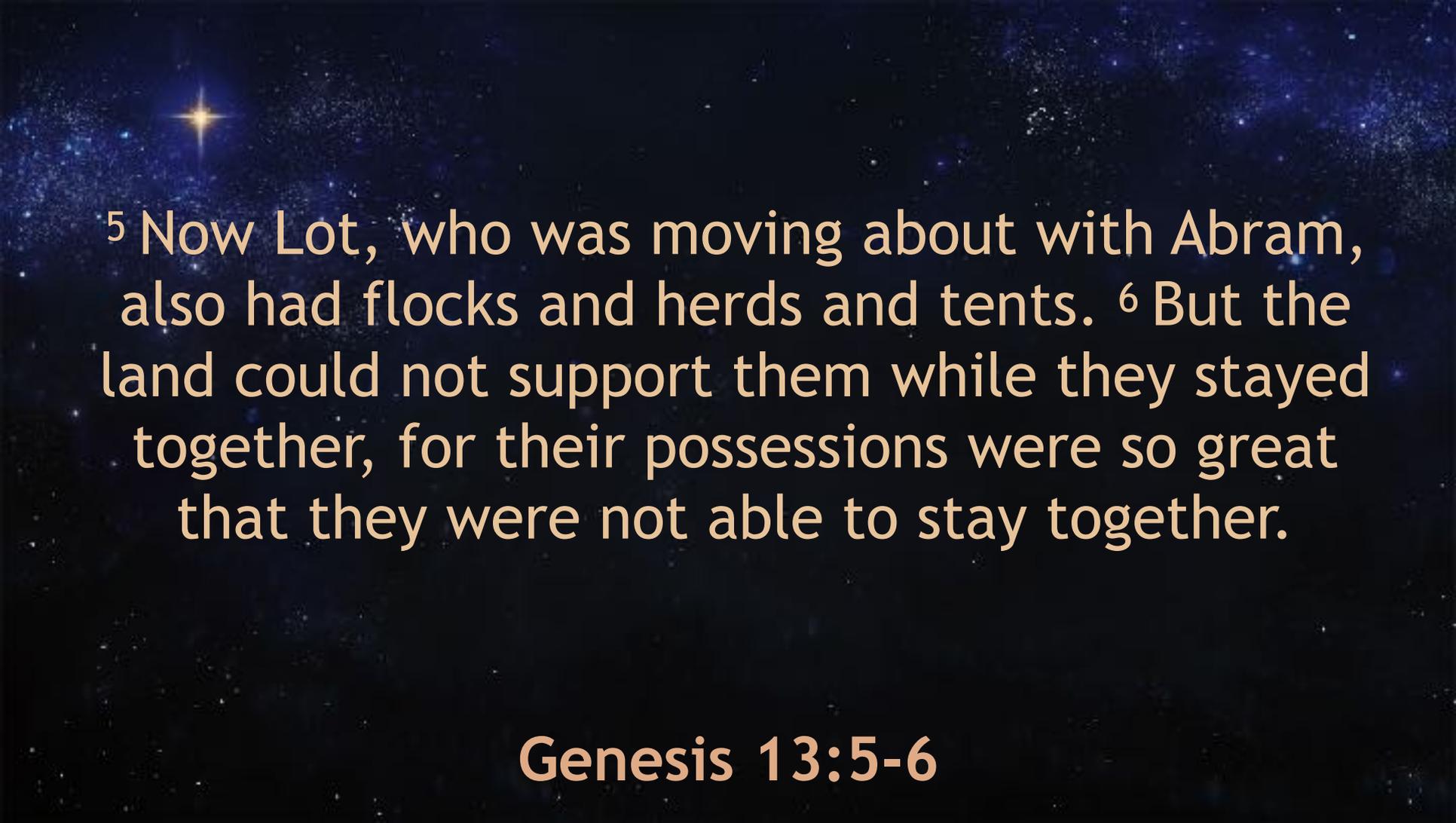
Perhaps the worst lie we can ever believe about ourselves is that we are insignificant in God's eyes. This lie comes directly from our adversary, the devil.



**1) THOSE WHO FEAR
INSIGNIFICANCE
NEED A SOLUTION**

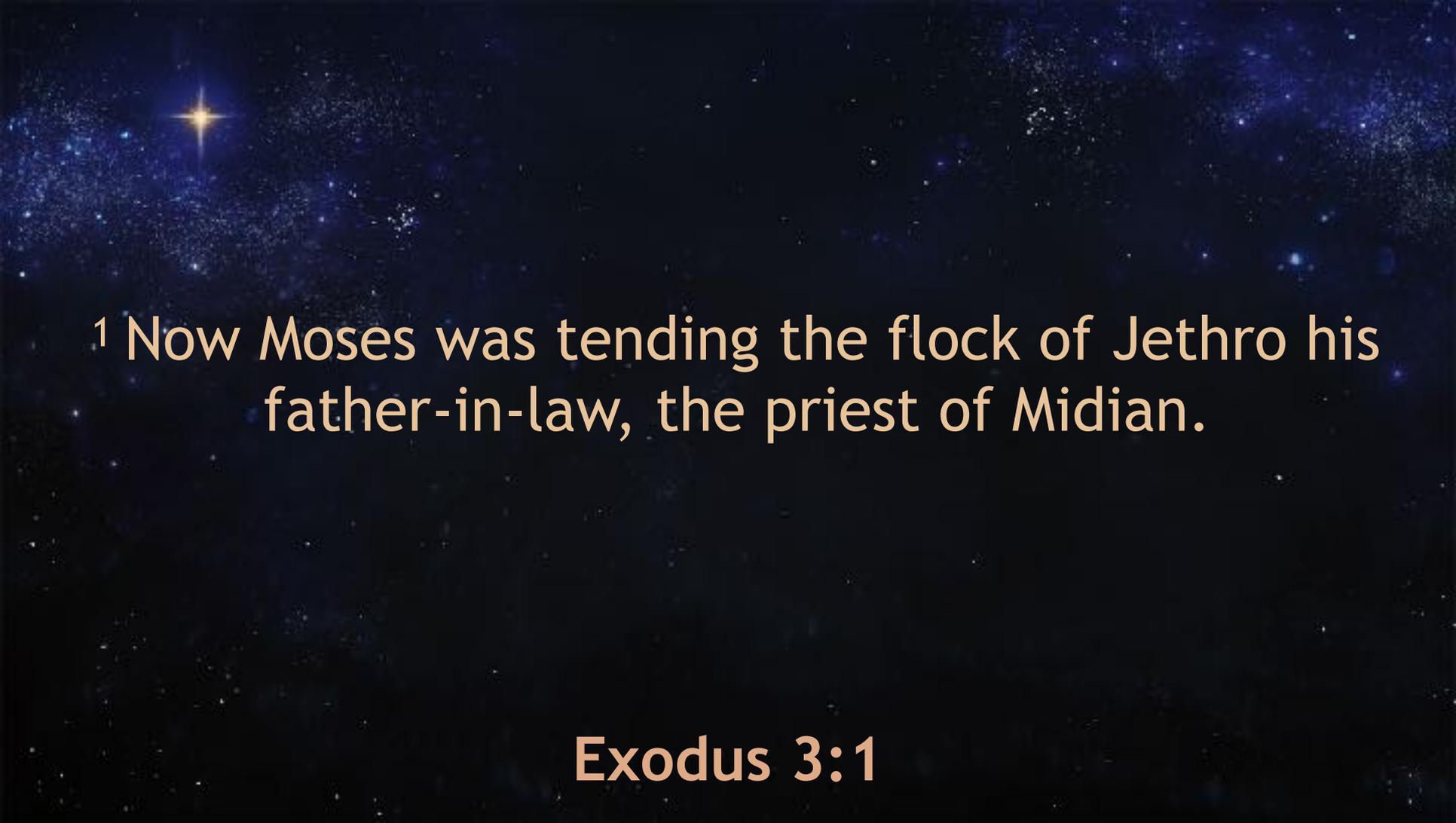
8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

Luke 2:8-10



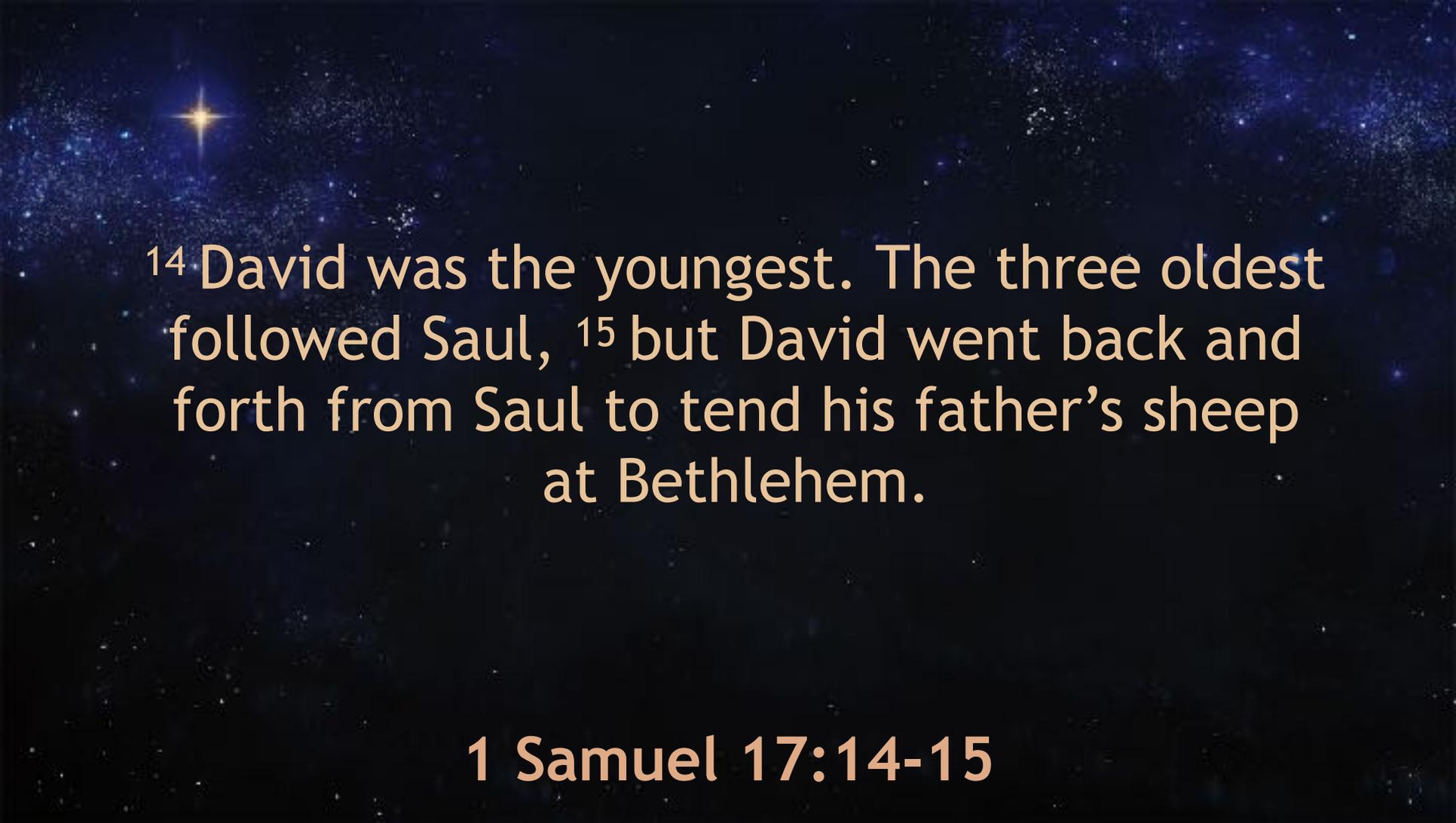
⁵ Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. ⁶ But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together.

Genesis 13:5-6



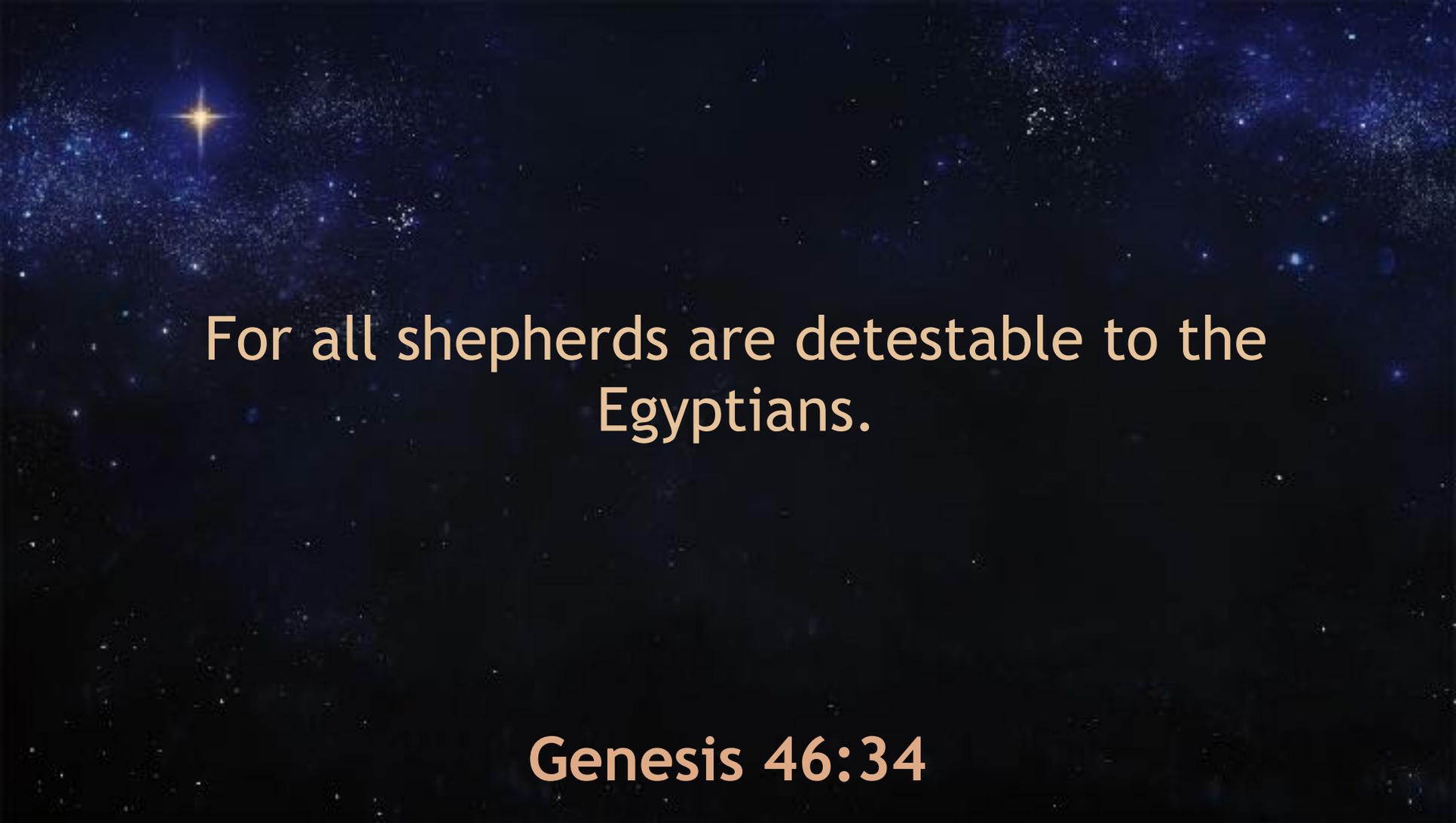
¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian.

Exodus 3:1



¹⁴ David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, ¹⁵ but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

1 Samuel 17:14-15

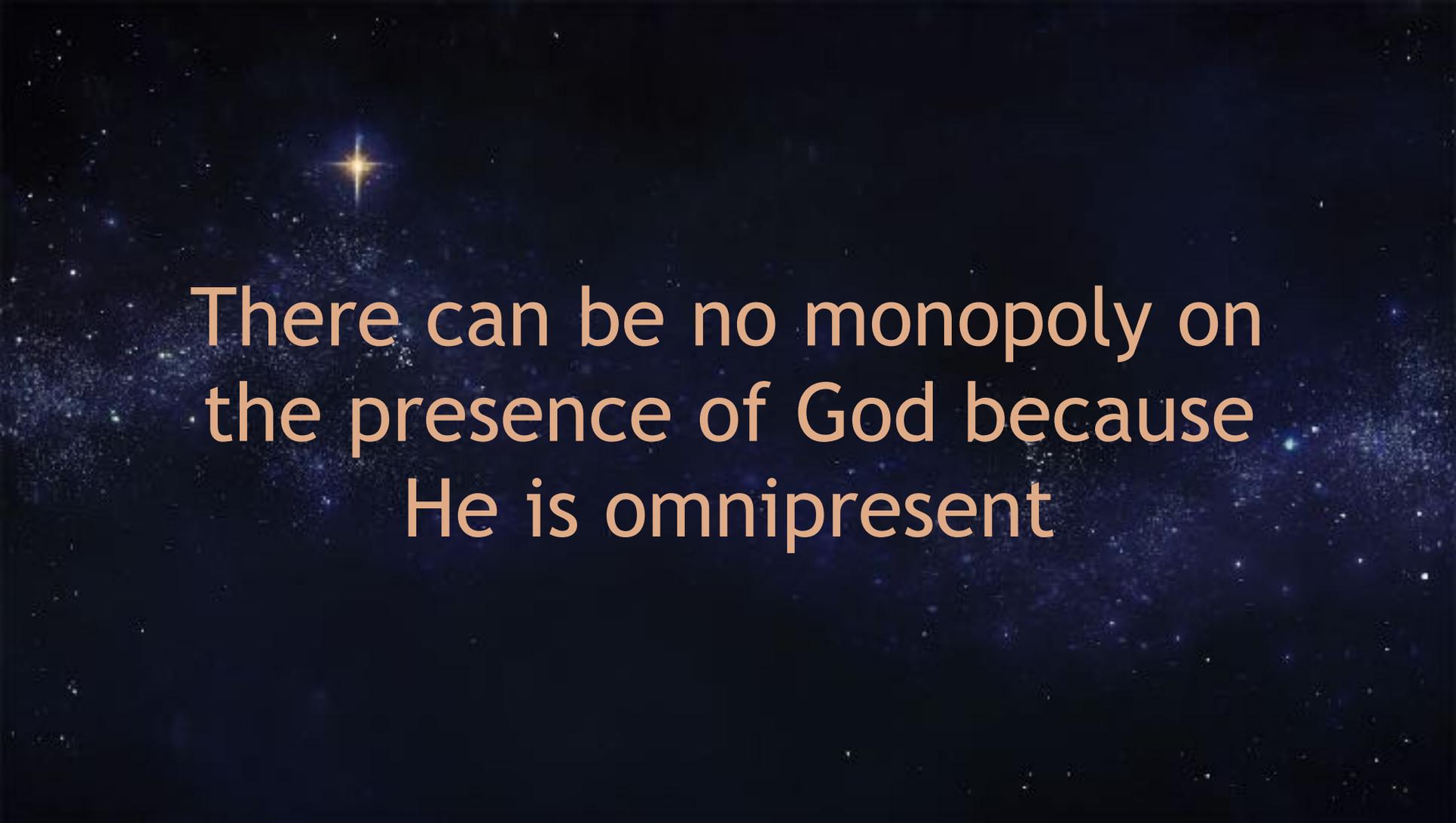


For all shepherds are detestable to the
Egyptians.

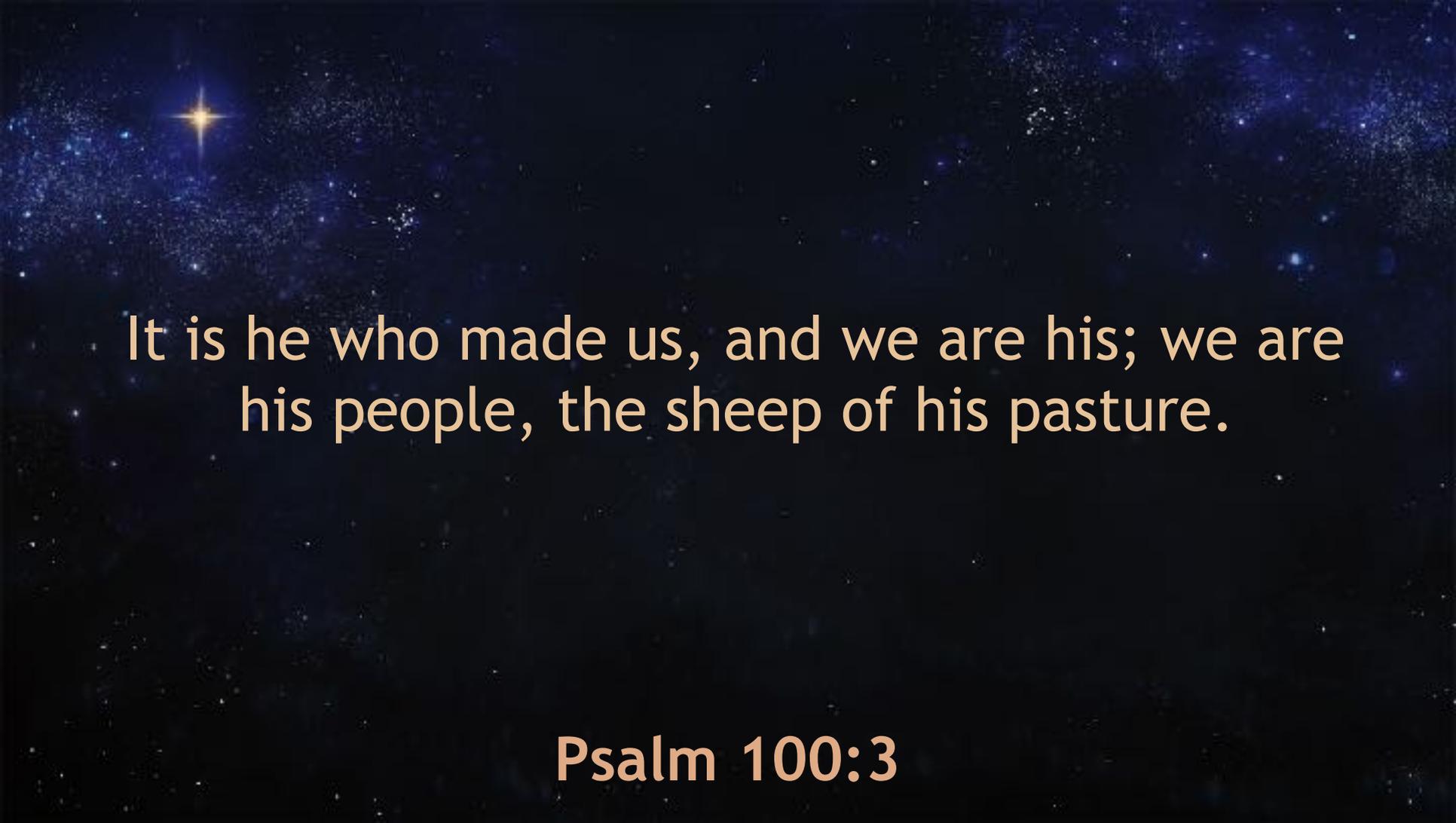
Genesis 46:34

The shepherds spent their lives tending to sheep that were destined to be slaughtered upon the altar in the temple in Jerusalem and this innocent blood would be shed for the remission of Israel's sins

The reason why God sent news to shepherds was because He wanted to tell the very people who propagated the possibility of a sacrificial system that salvation and a once and for all sacrifice had finally come

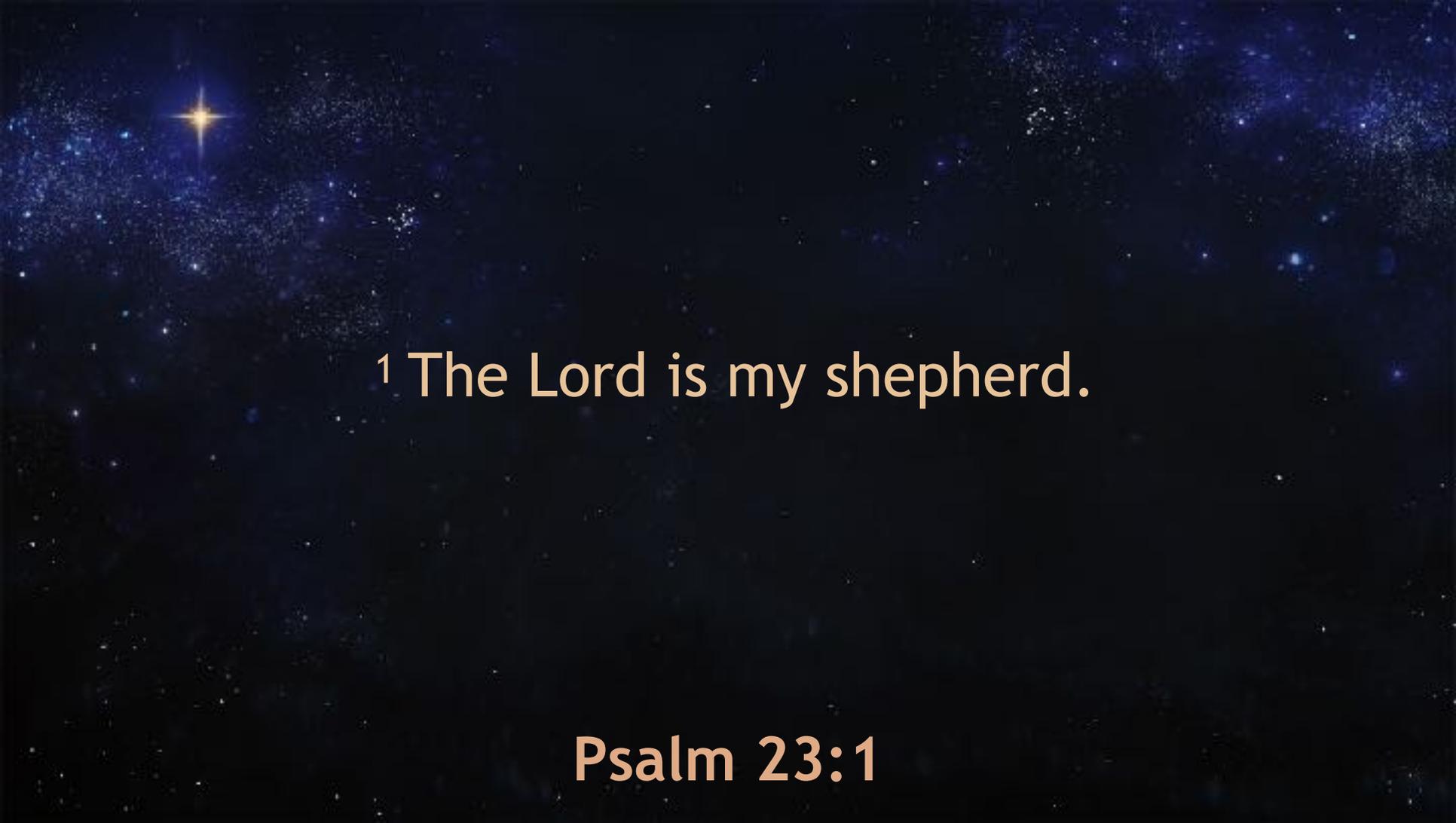


There can be no monopoly on
the presence of God because
He is omnipresent

A dark blue, starry night sky with a prominent bright yellow star in the upper left corner. The text is centered in a light yellow font.

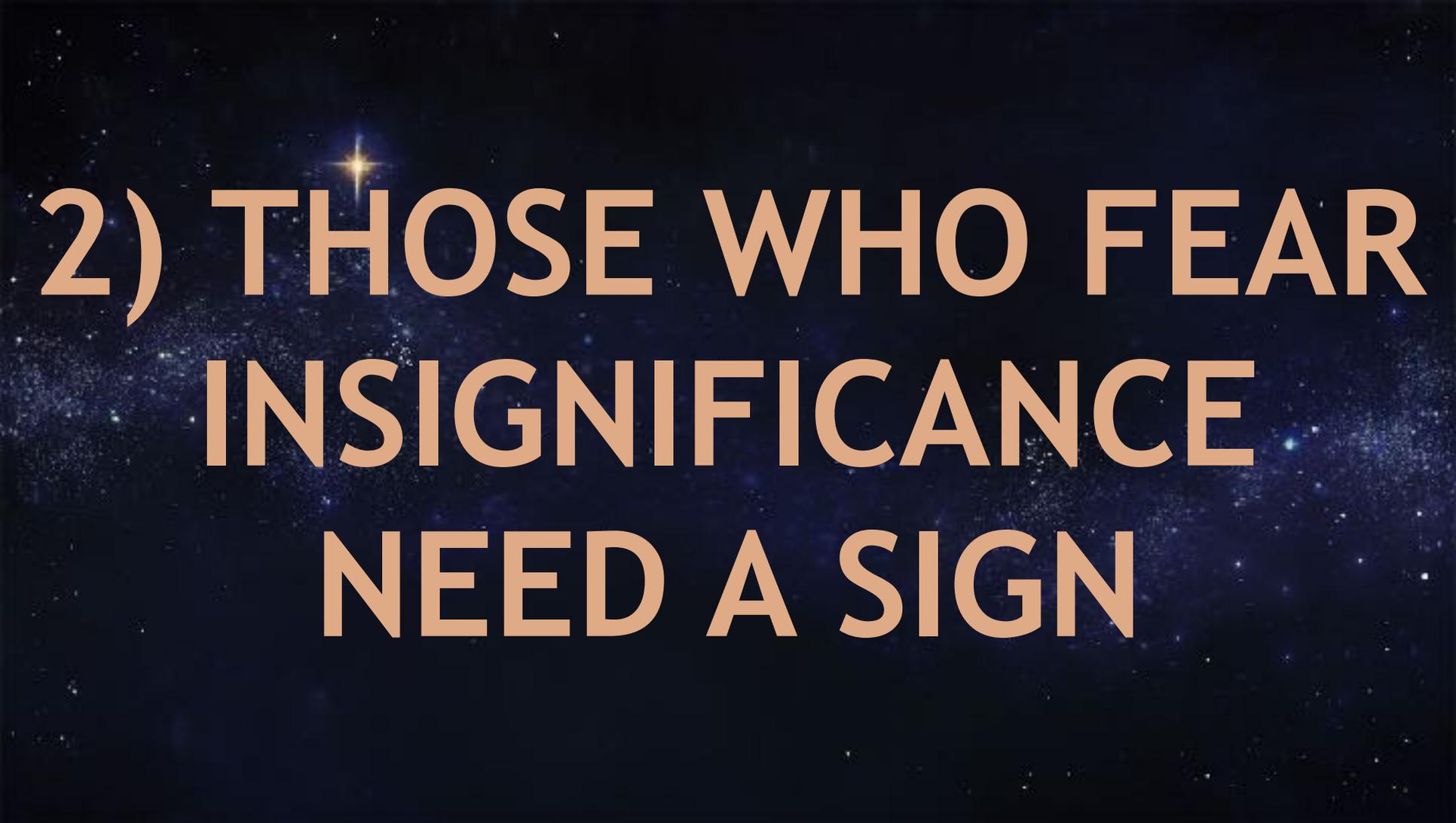
It is he who made us, and we are his; we are
his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Psalm 100:3



¹ The Lord is my shepherd.

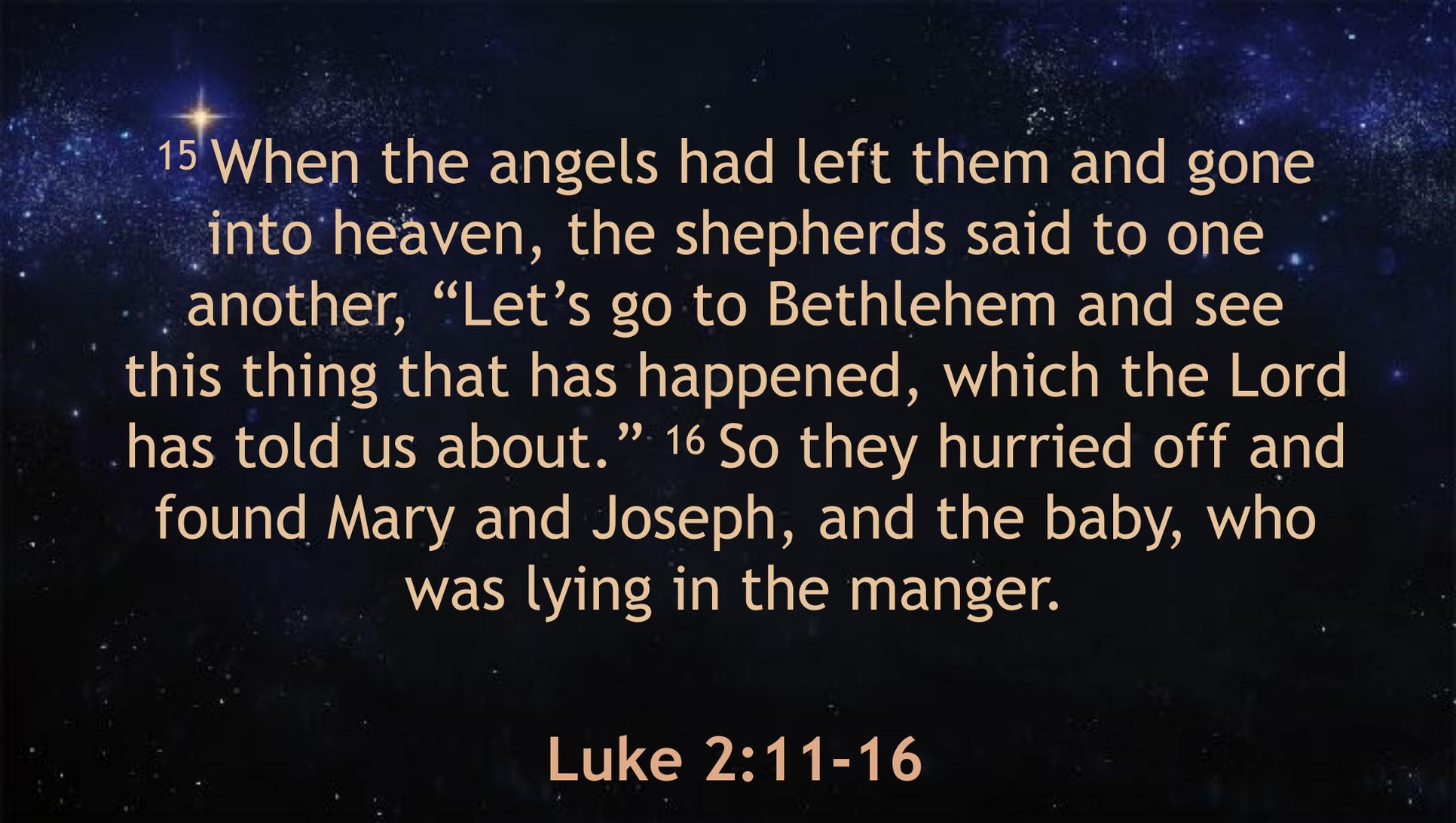
Psalm 23:1



**2) THOSE WHO FEAR
INSIGNIFICANCE
NEED A SIGN**

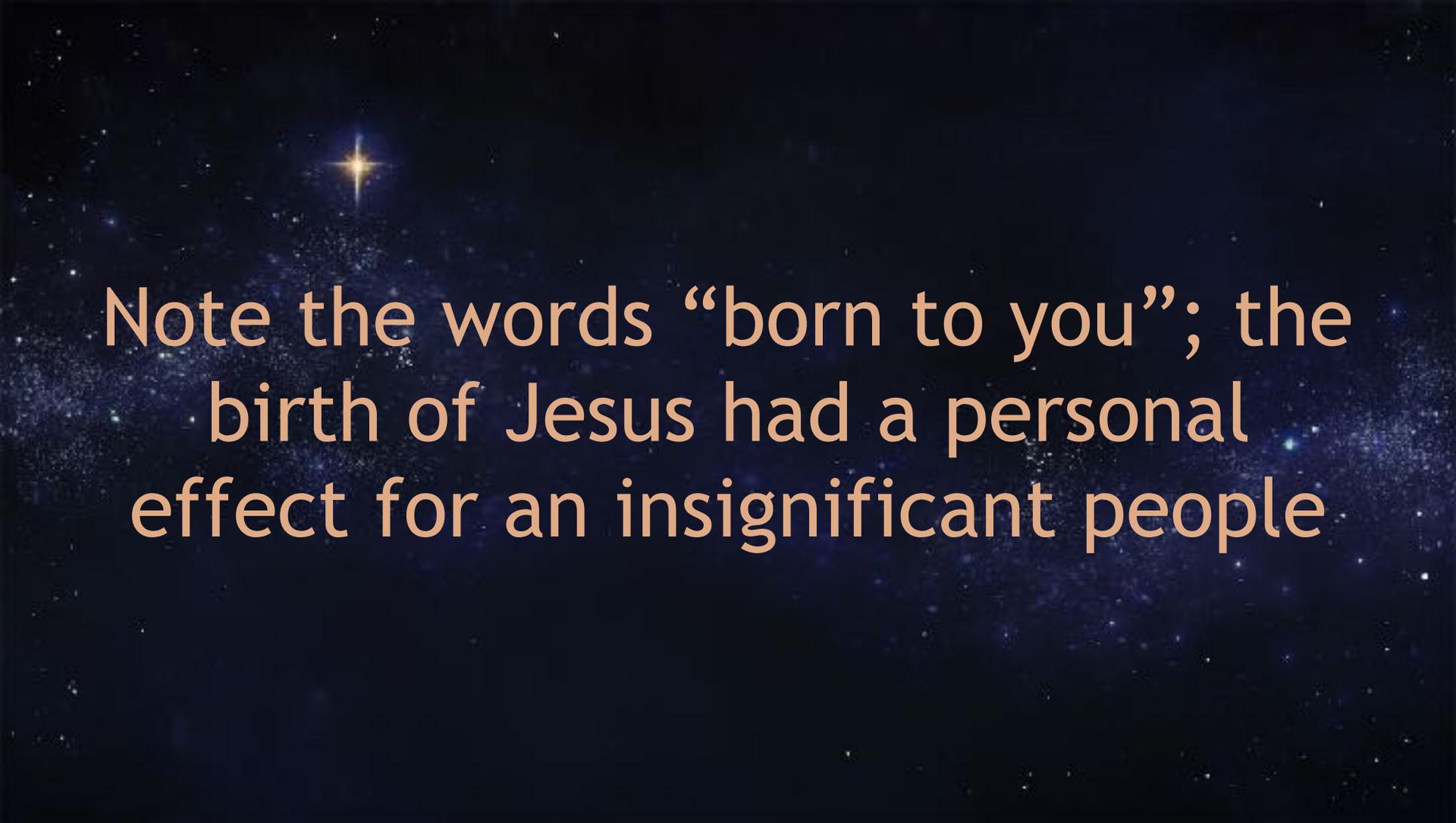
11 Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”

Luke 2:11-16



¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

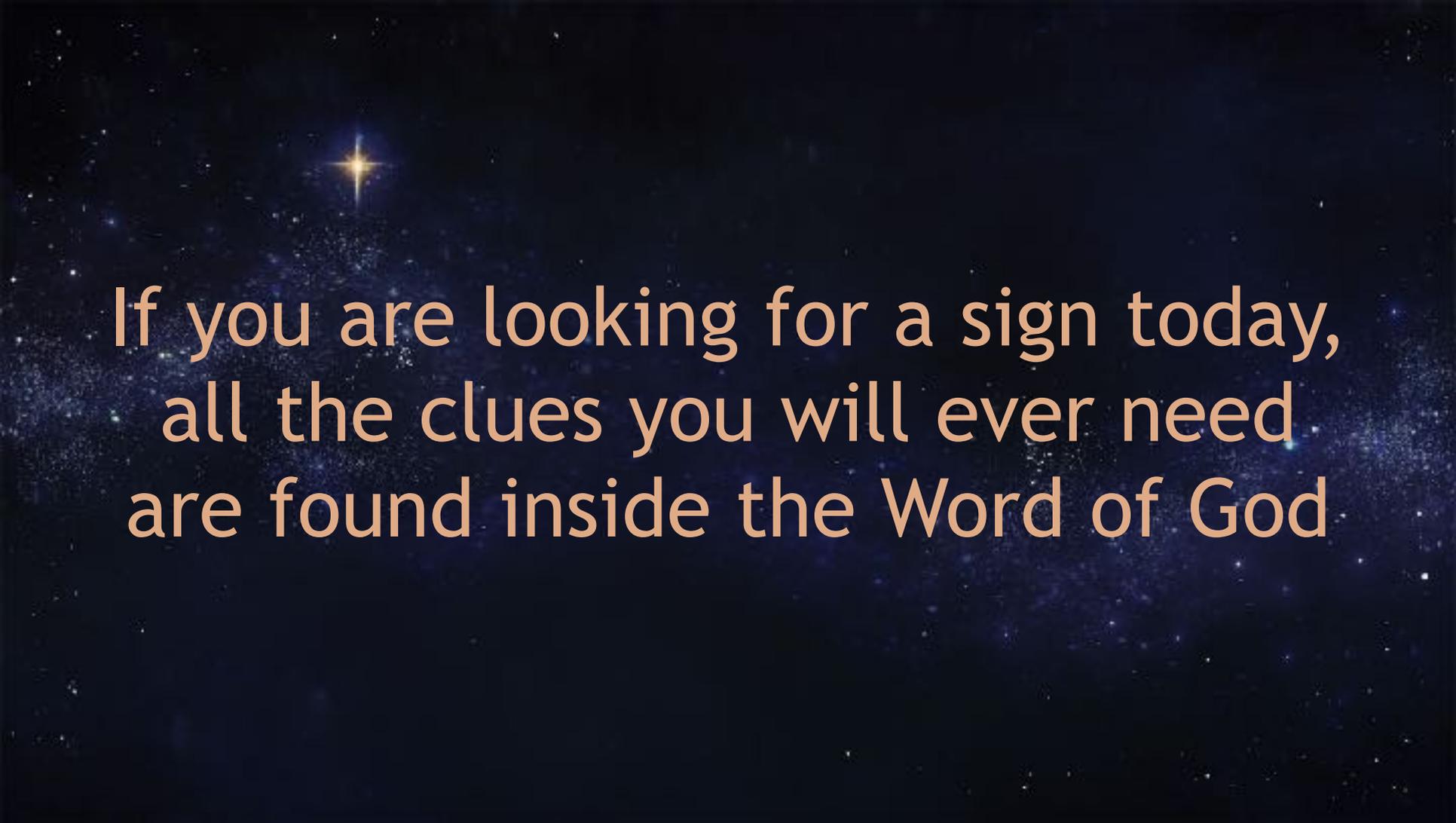
Luke 2:11-16

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

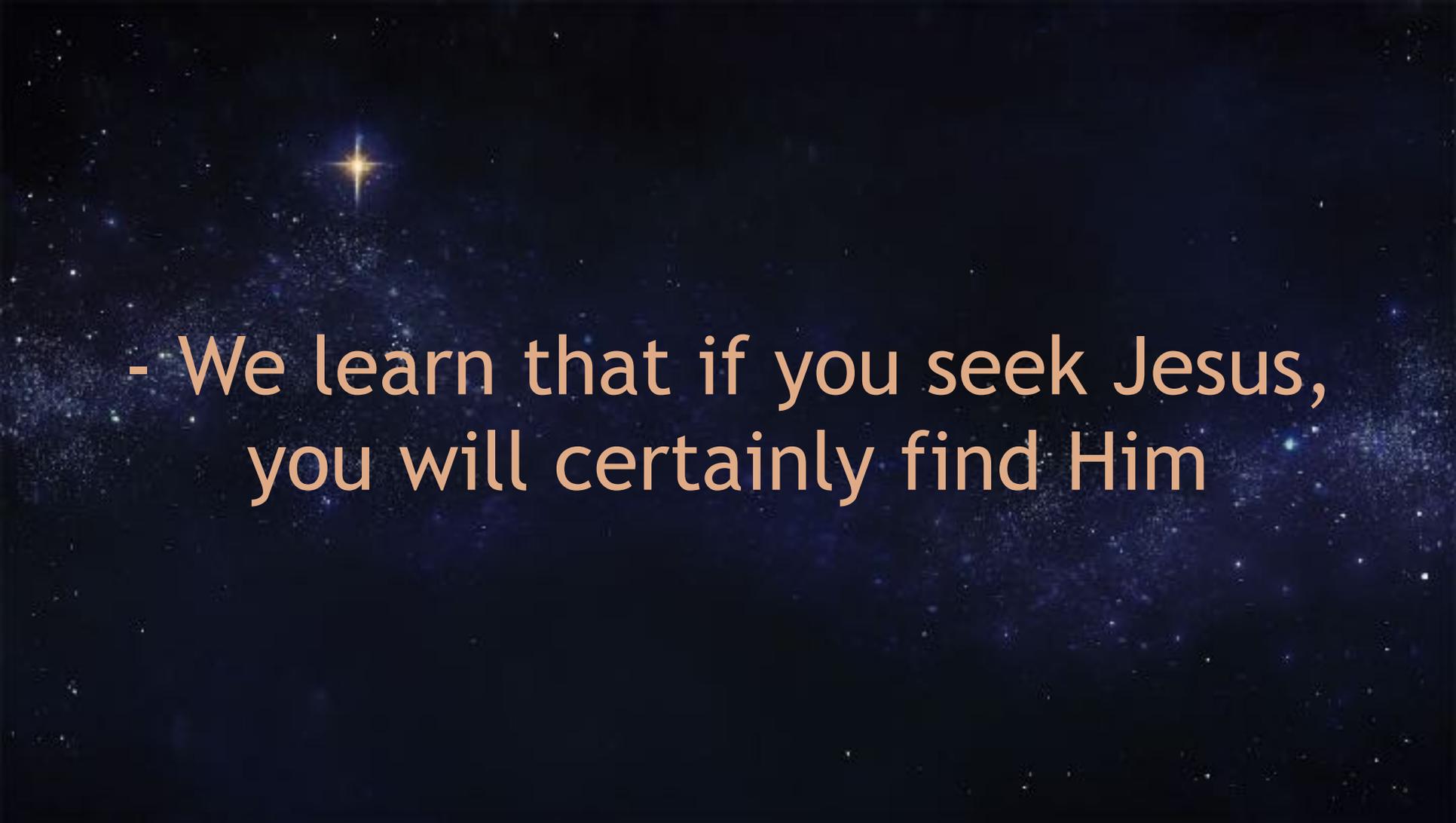
Note the words “born to you”; the birth of Jesus had a personal effect for an insignificant people



Jews had believed in an exclusive
Messiah, but Christians believe in
an inclusive Messiah

A dark blue, starry night sky with a prominent bright star in the upper left quadrant. The text is centered in the lower half of the image.

If you are looking for a sign today,
all the clues you will ever need
are found inside the Word of God



- We learn that if you seek Jesus,
you will certainly find Him

A bright, multi-pointed star with a yellow and orange glow 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 colors and sizes, creating a sense of depth and vastness.

Aside from Mary and Joseph,
the shepherds were the first
favoured people to experience
peace through Christ



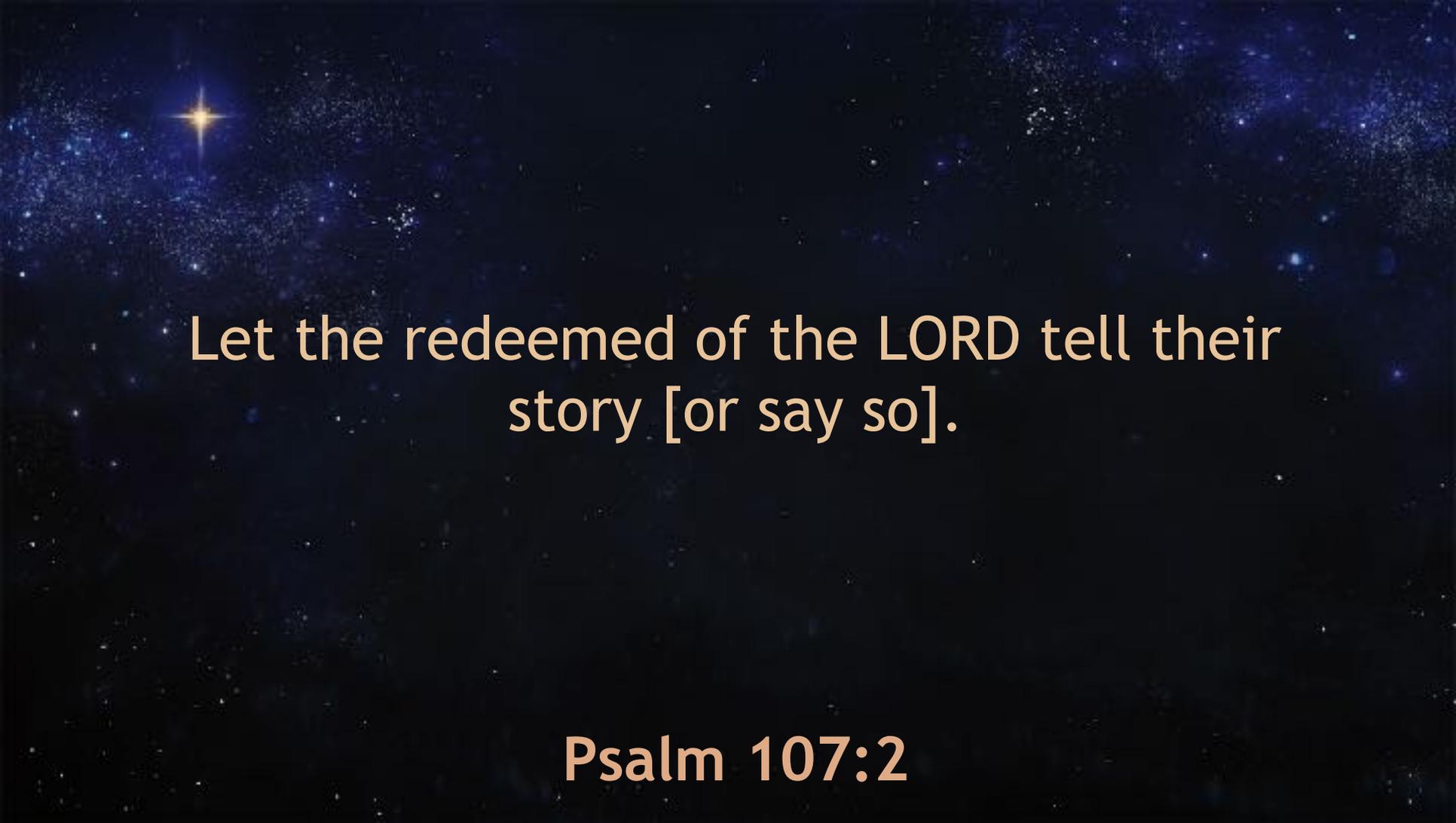
**3) THOSE WHO FEAR
INSIGNIFICANCE
NEED A STORY**

¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:17-20

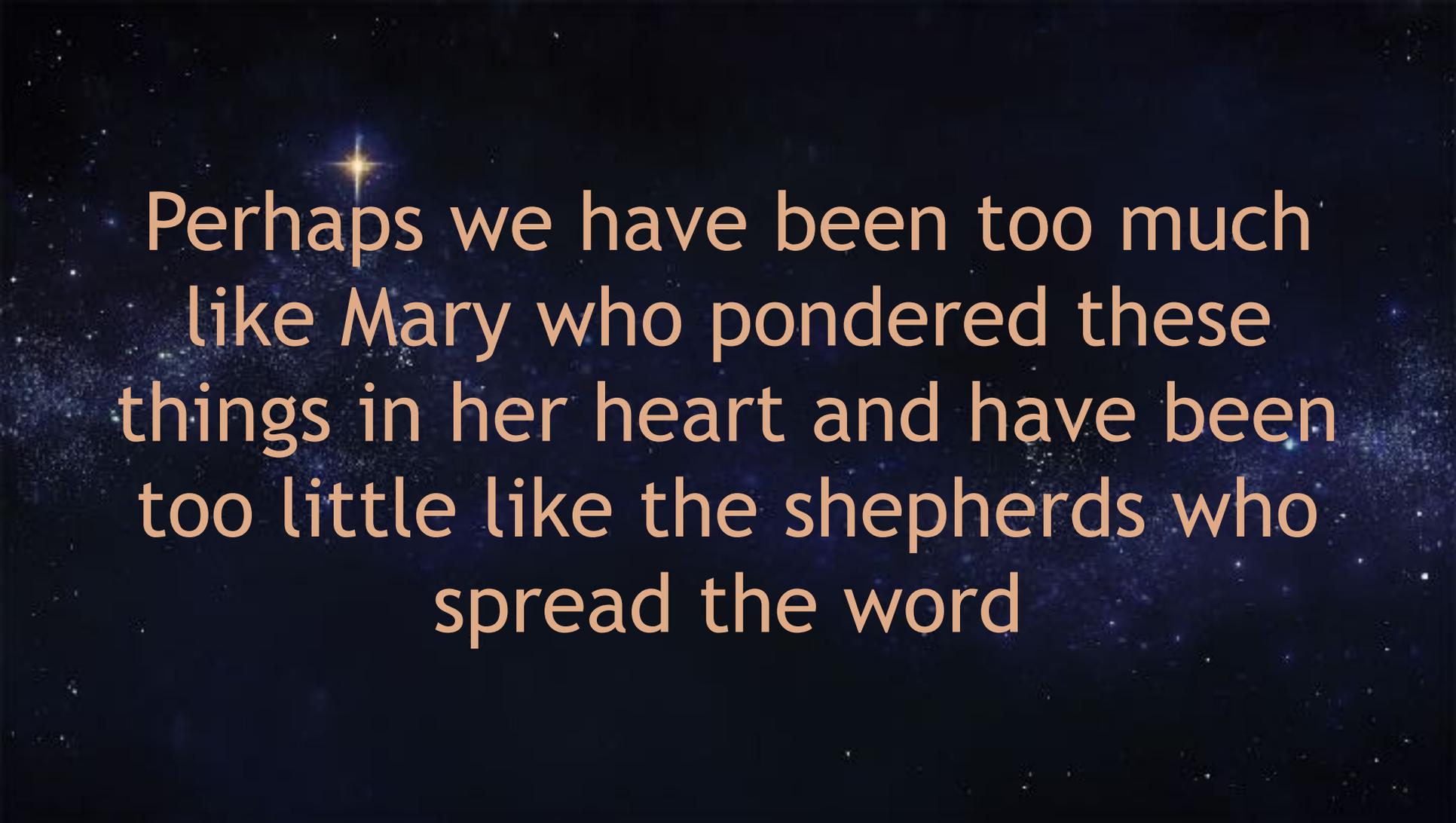
A dark blue starry night sky with a bright yellow star in the upper left. The text is centered in a light orange color.

How could someone see Christ and
yet stay silent?

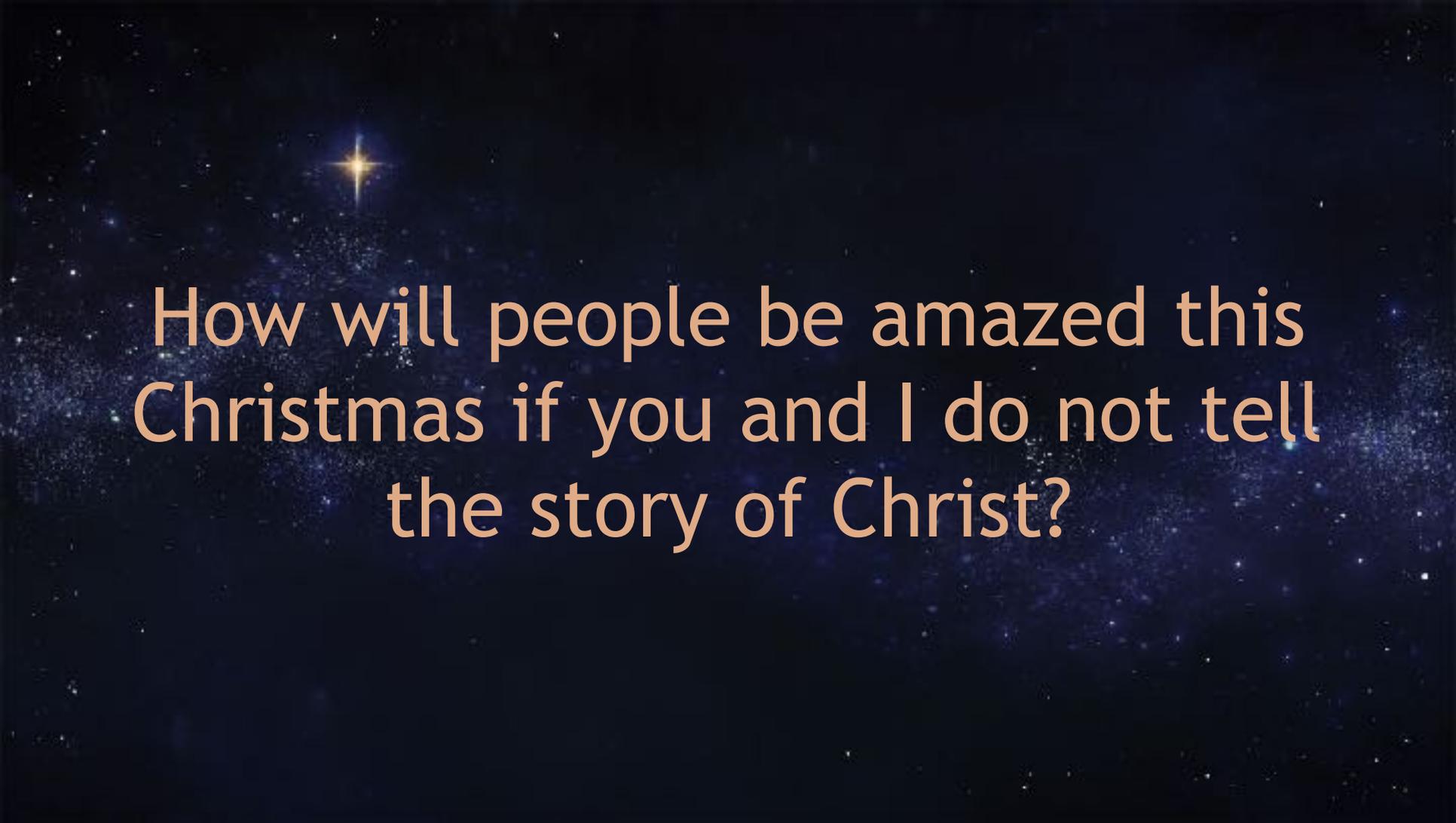


Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their
story [or say so].

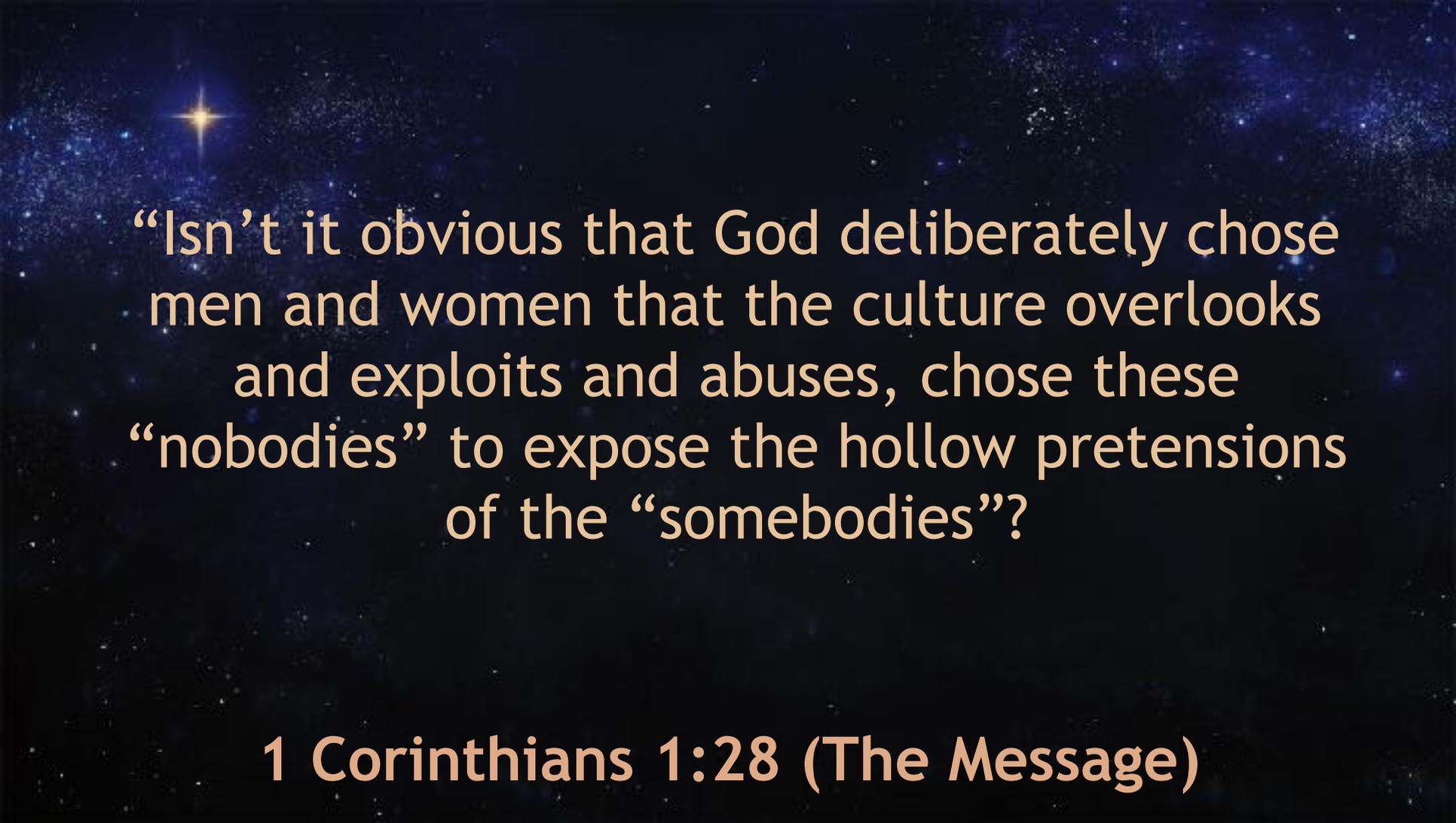
Psalm 107:2

A dark blue night sky filled with numerous small, distant stars. A single, prominent bright star with a four-pointed diffraction pattern is located in the upper left quadrant. The text is centered and rendered in a light beige or cream color.

Perhaps we have been too much
like Mary who pondered these
things in her heart and have been
too little like the shepherds who
spread the word

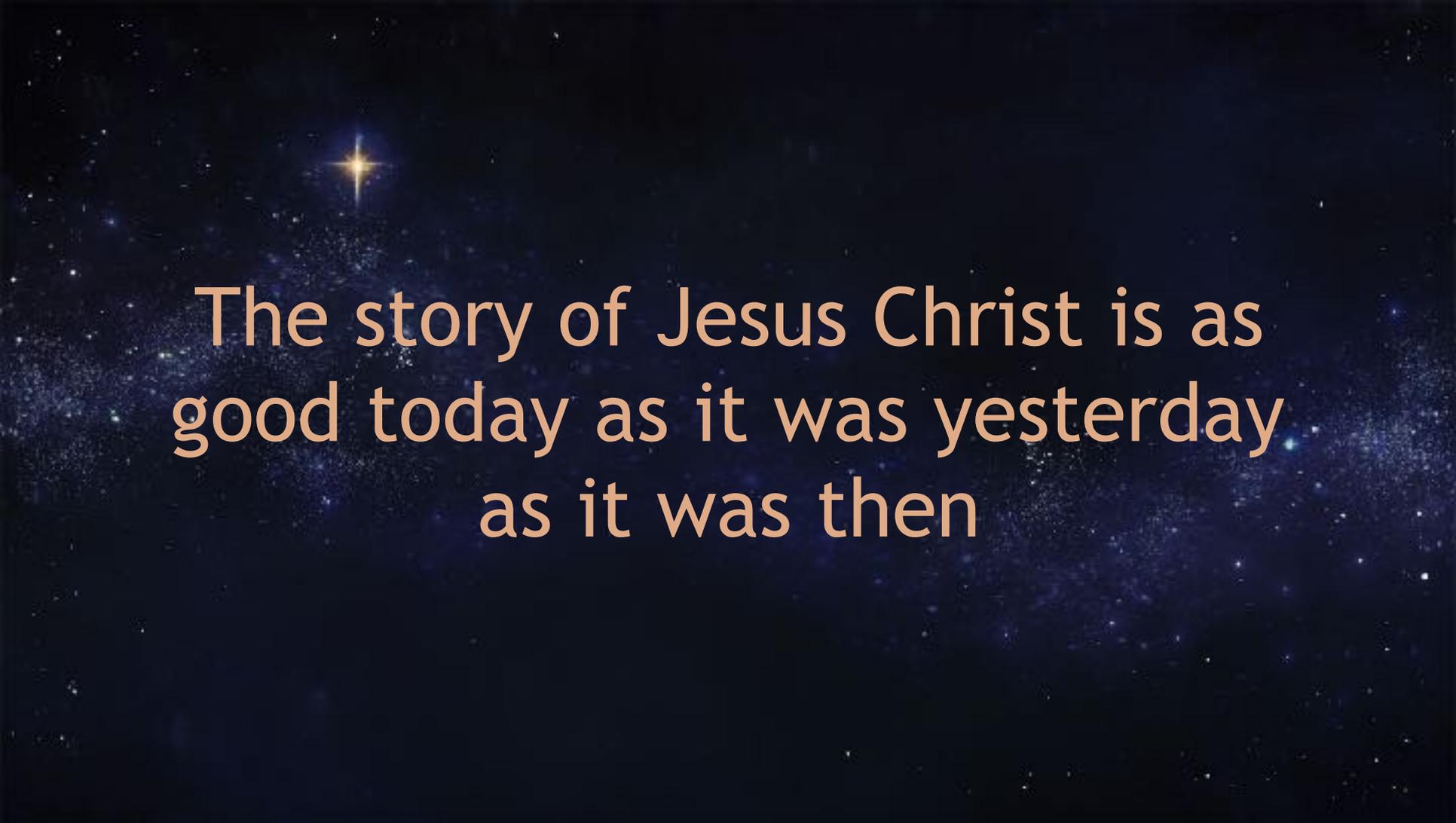


How will people be amazed this
Christmas if you and I do not tell
the story of Christ?

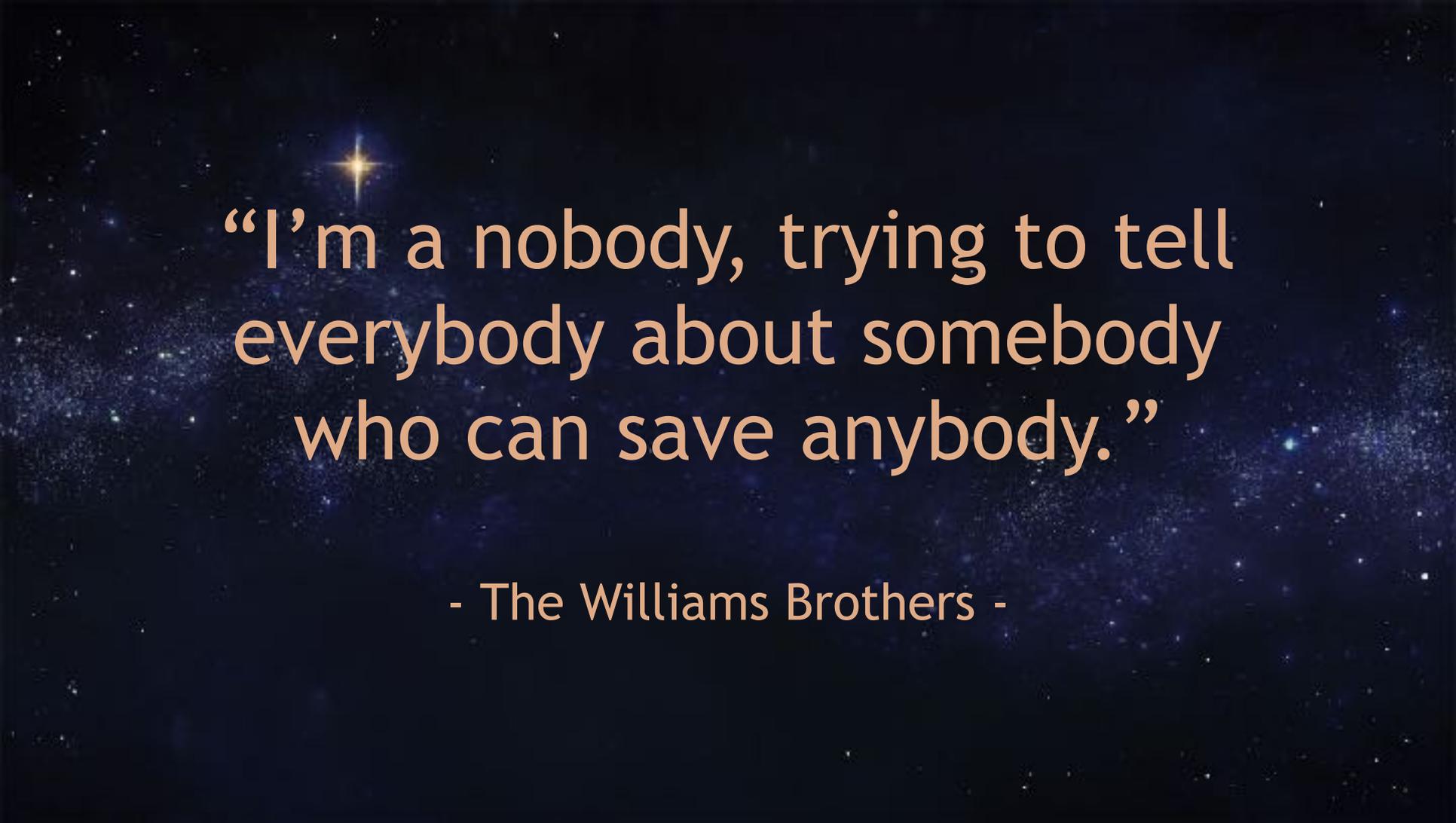


“Isn’t it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, chose these “nobodies” to expose the hollow pretensions of the “somebodies”?”

1 Corinthians 1:28 (The Message)

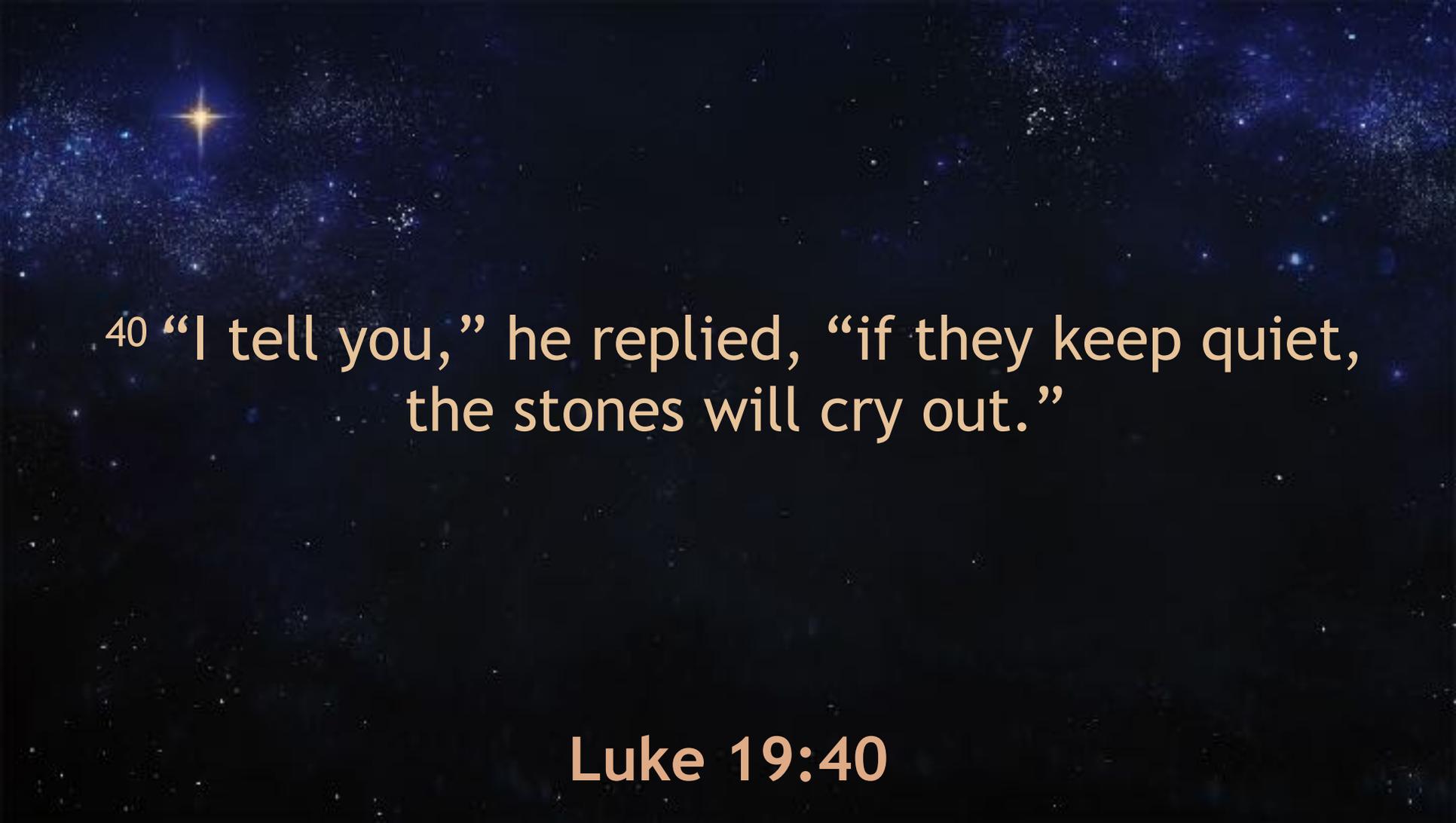
The background of the image is a dark, deep blue night sky filled with numerous small, distant stars. A single, prominent bright star with a four-pointed diffraction pattern is located in the upper left quadrant. The text is centered in the lower half of the image.

The story of Jesus Christ is as
good today as it was yesterday
as it was then



“I’m a nobody, trying to tell
everybody about somebody
who can save anybody.”

- The Williams Brothers -

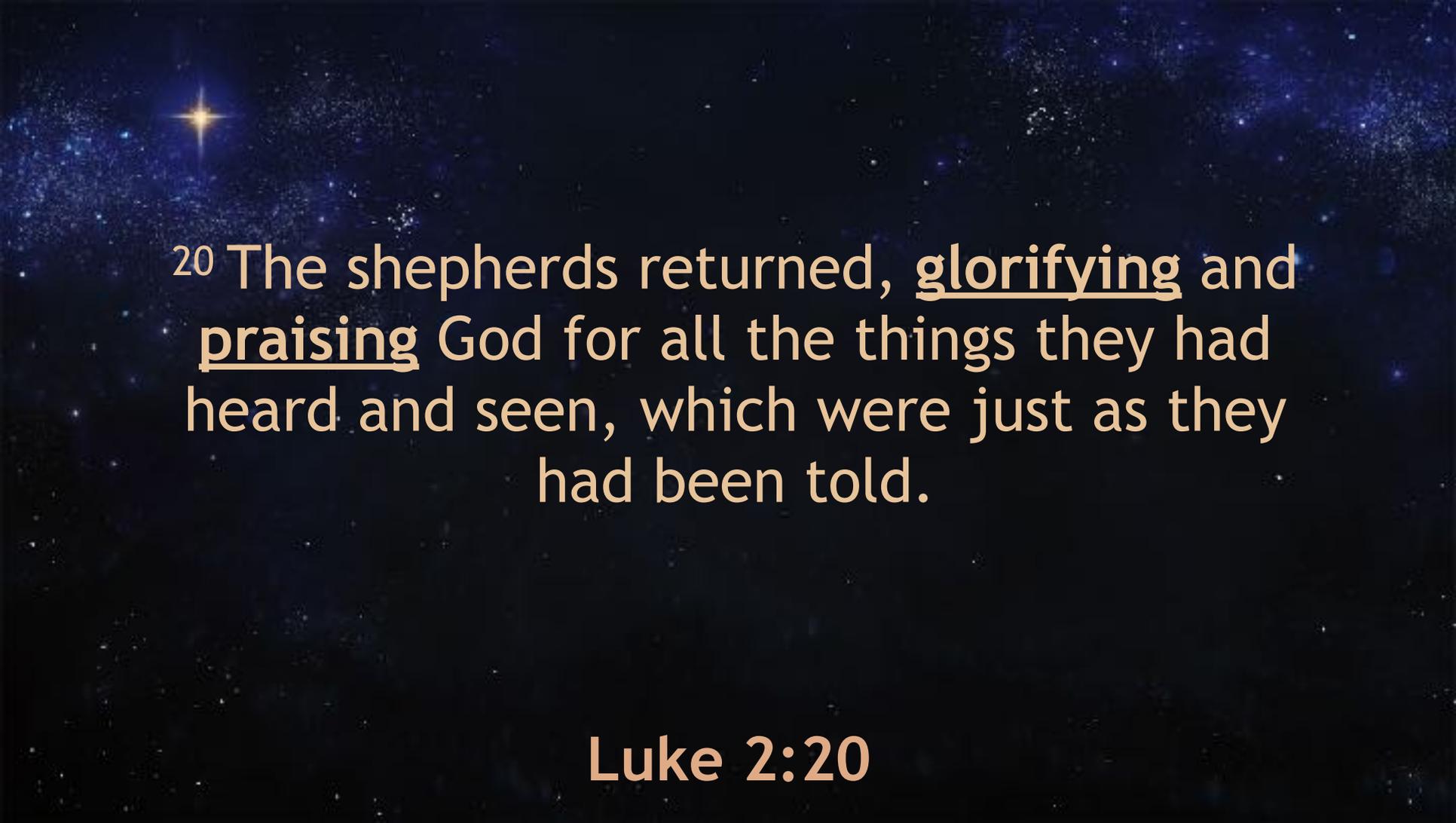


40 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet,
the stones will cry out.”

Luke 19:40

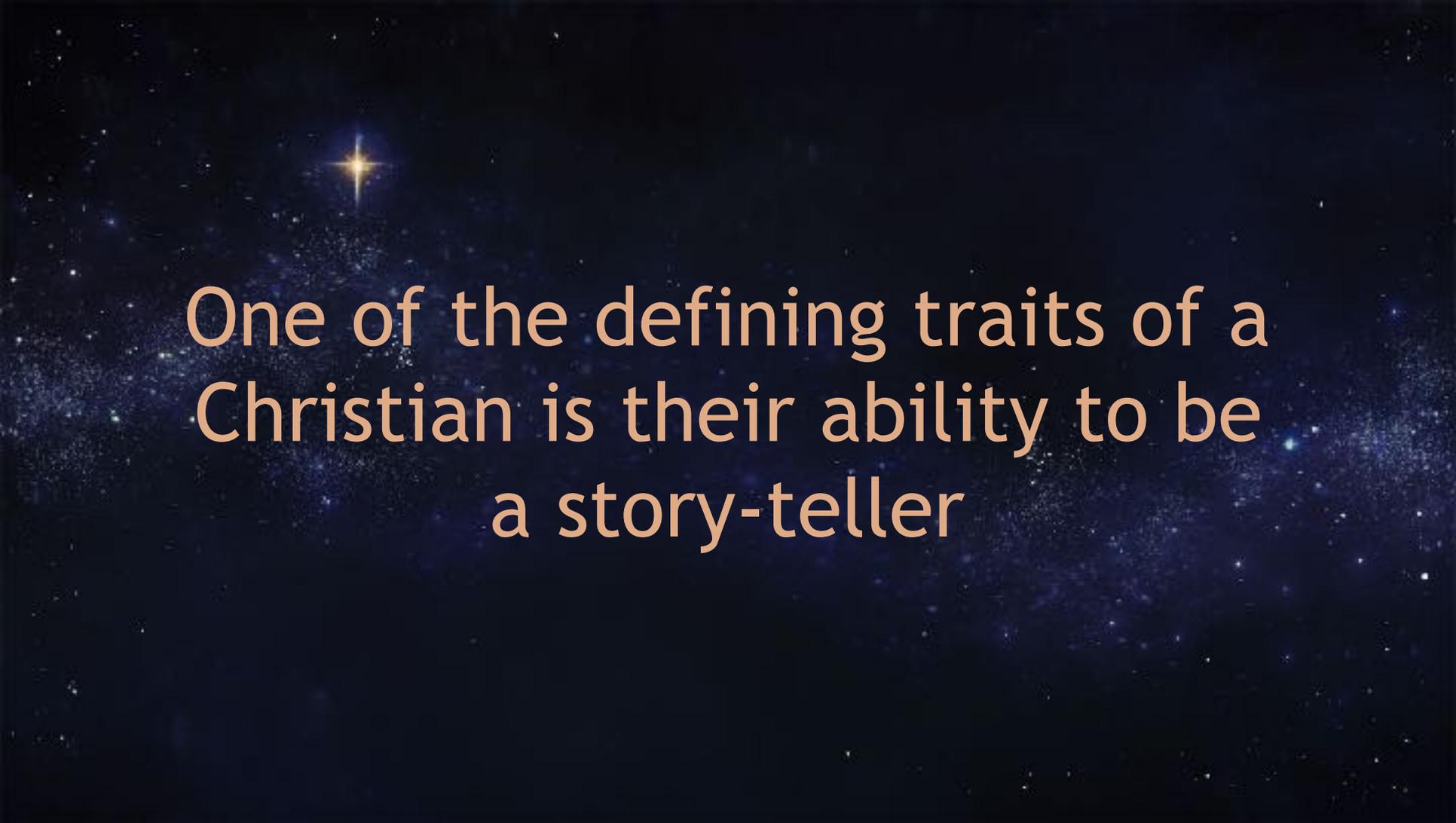
¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”

Luke 2:13-14



²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:20



One of the defining traits of a
Christian is their ability to be
a story-teller



Christmas Cactus



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