



*Fear Not*

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A SPIRITUAL VITALITY SERIES



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**HEROD: THE FEAR OF INSECURITY**



<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

**Matthew 2:1-18**

<sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup> "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

**Matthew 2:1-18**

for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.””<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.<sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

**Matthew 2:1-18**

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

**Matthew 2:1-18**

★ Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. <sup>13</sup> When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt.

**Matthew 2:1-18**



Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” <sup>14</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

**Matthew 2:1-18**



<sup>16</sup> When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

**Matthew 2:1-18**



<sup>17</sup> Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: <sup>18</sup> “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

**Matthew 2:1-18**



**The Grinch**

- Dr. Seuss -



**Ebenezer Scrooge**

- Charles Dickens -

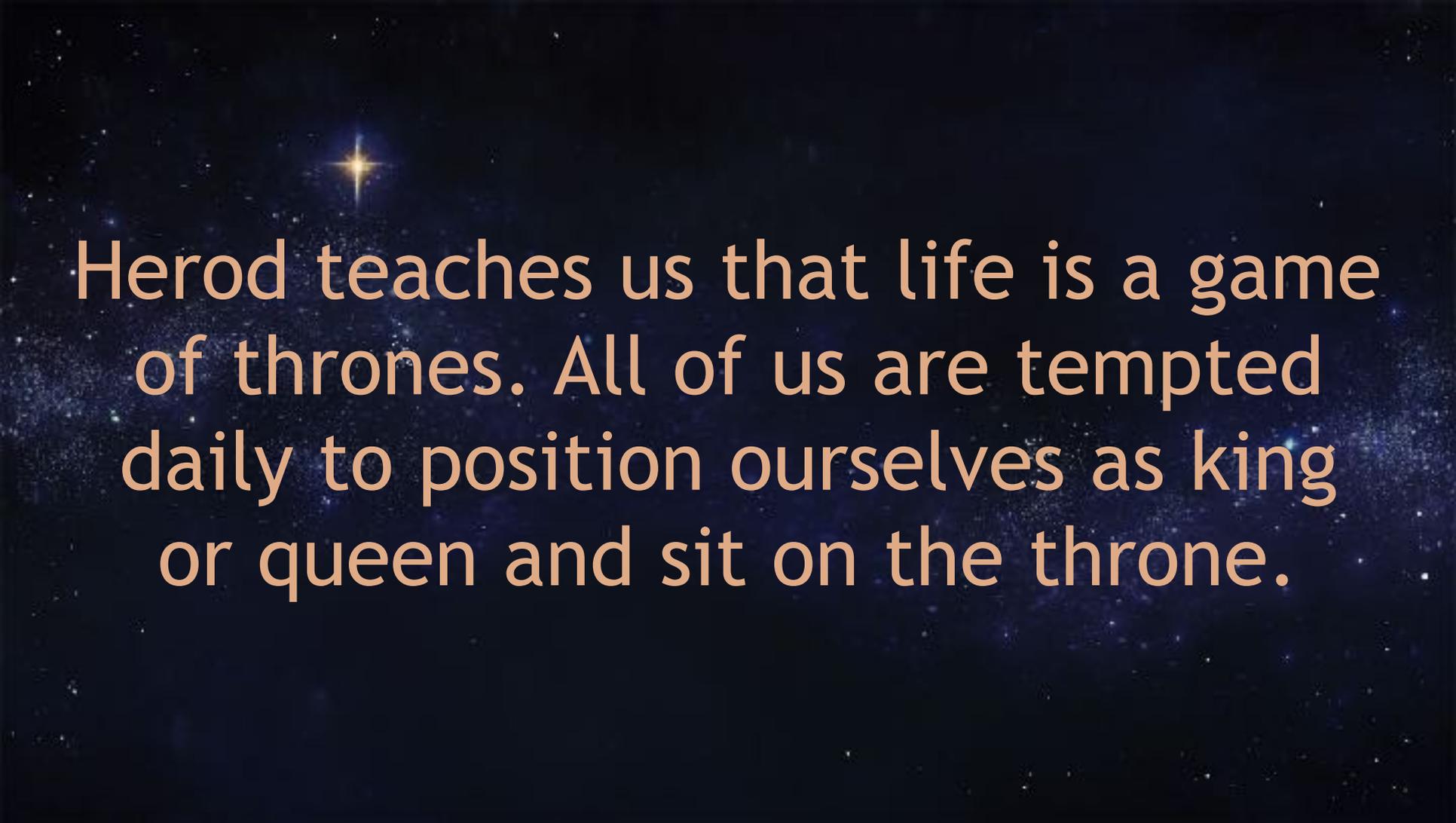
There were four King Herod's  
in the Bible:

Herod the Great (Matthew 2)

Herod Antipas (Matthew 14 & Luke 23)

Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12)

Herod Agrippa II (Acts 25 & 26)

A dark blue, starry night sky with a prominent bright star in the upper left quadrant. The text is centered and reads: Herod teaches us that life is a game of thrones. All of us are tempted daily to position ourselves as king or queen and sit on the throne.

Herod teaches us that life is a game of thrones. All of us are tempted daily to position ourselves as king or queen and sit on the throne.



**1) A DISTURBING  
SPIRIT**



<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

**Matthew 2:1-6**



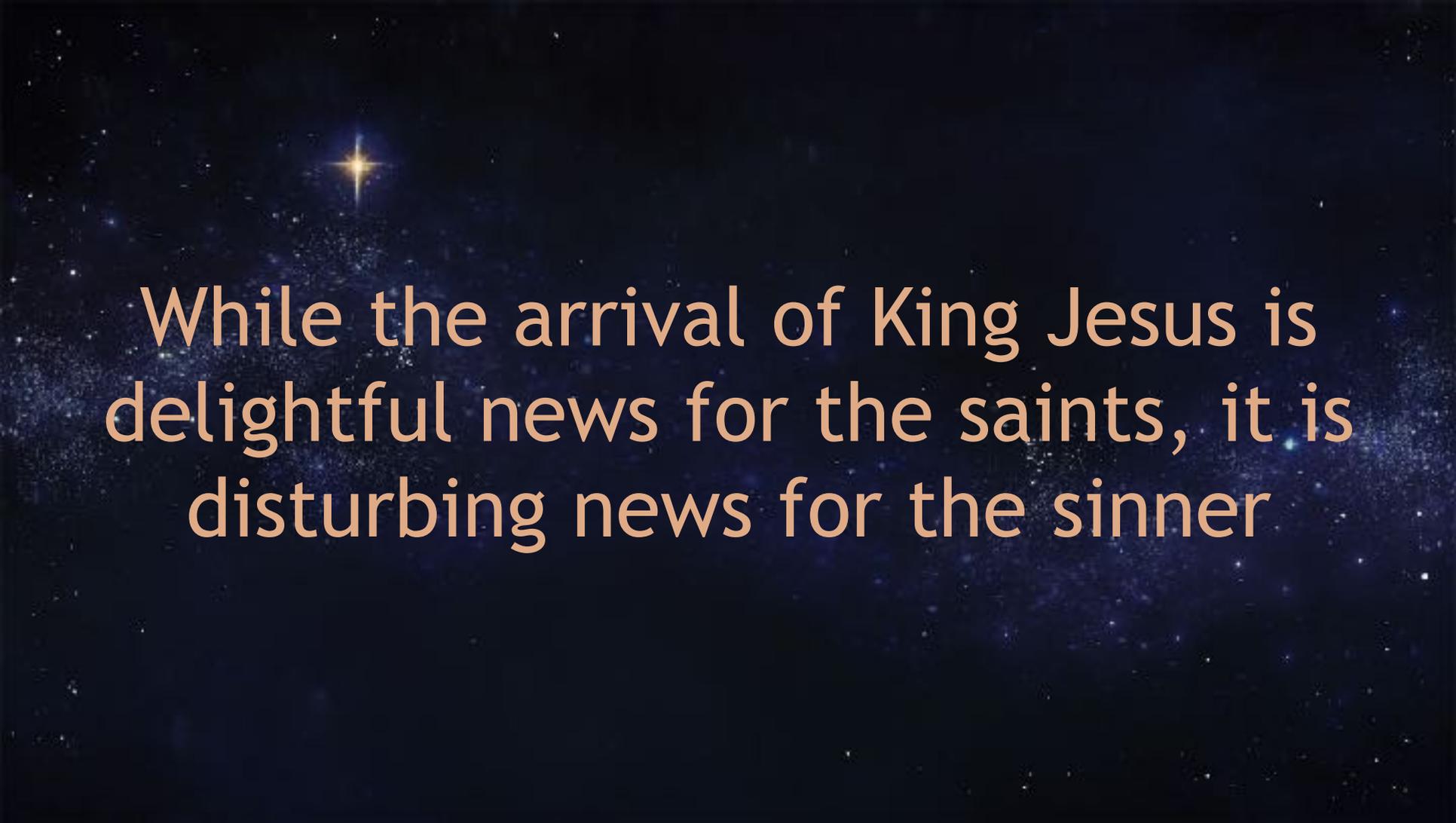
<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied,

**Matthew 2:1-6**

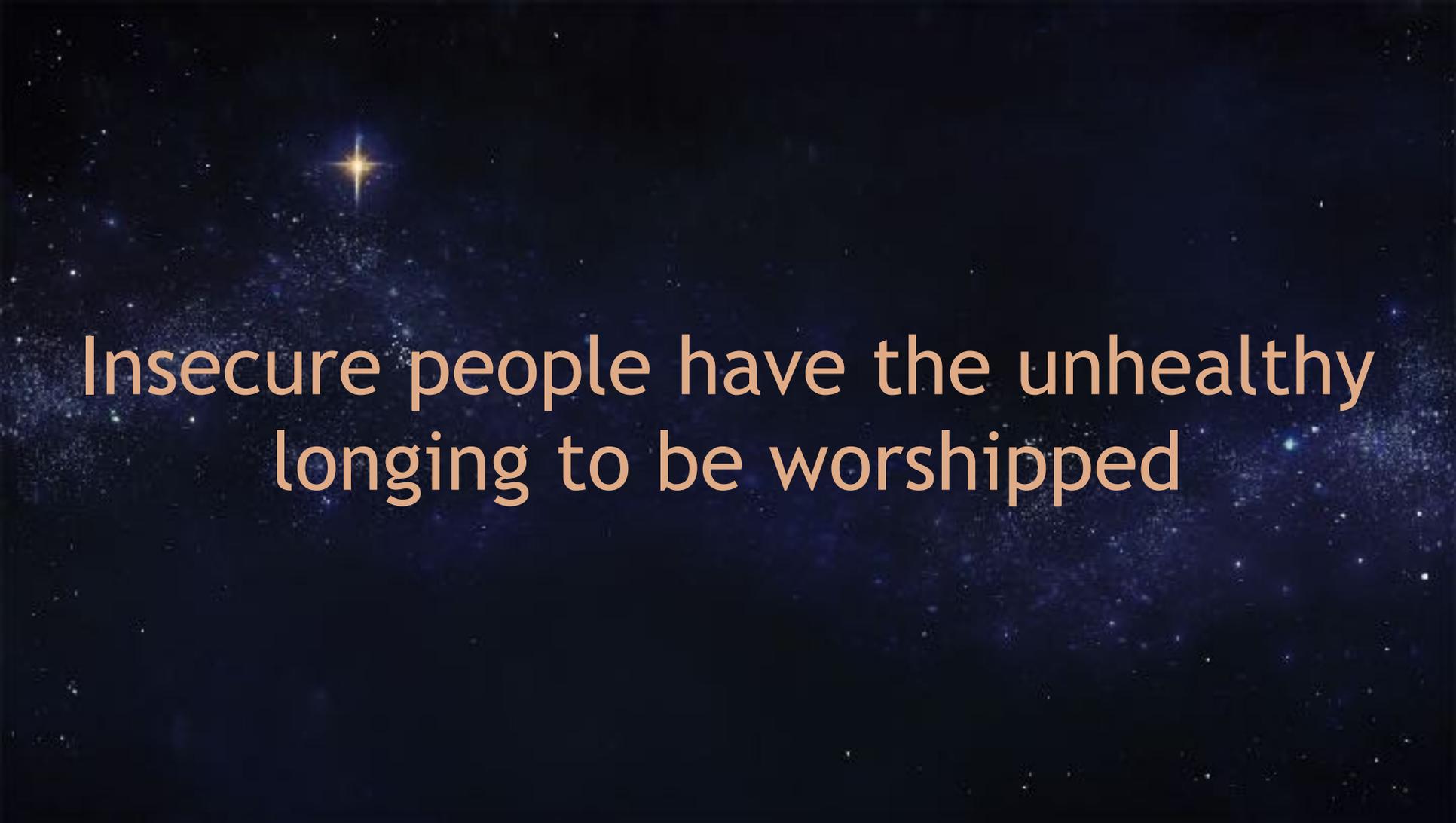


“for this is what the prophet has written:  
6 ““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of  
Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who  
will shepherd my people Israel.””

**Matthew 2:1-6**

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.

While the arrival of King Jesus is  
delightful news for the saints, it is  
disturbing news for the sinner



Insecure people have the unhealthy  
longing to be worshipped



It threatens us to see people who love  
Jesus as much or more than we do

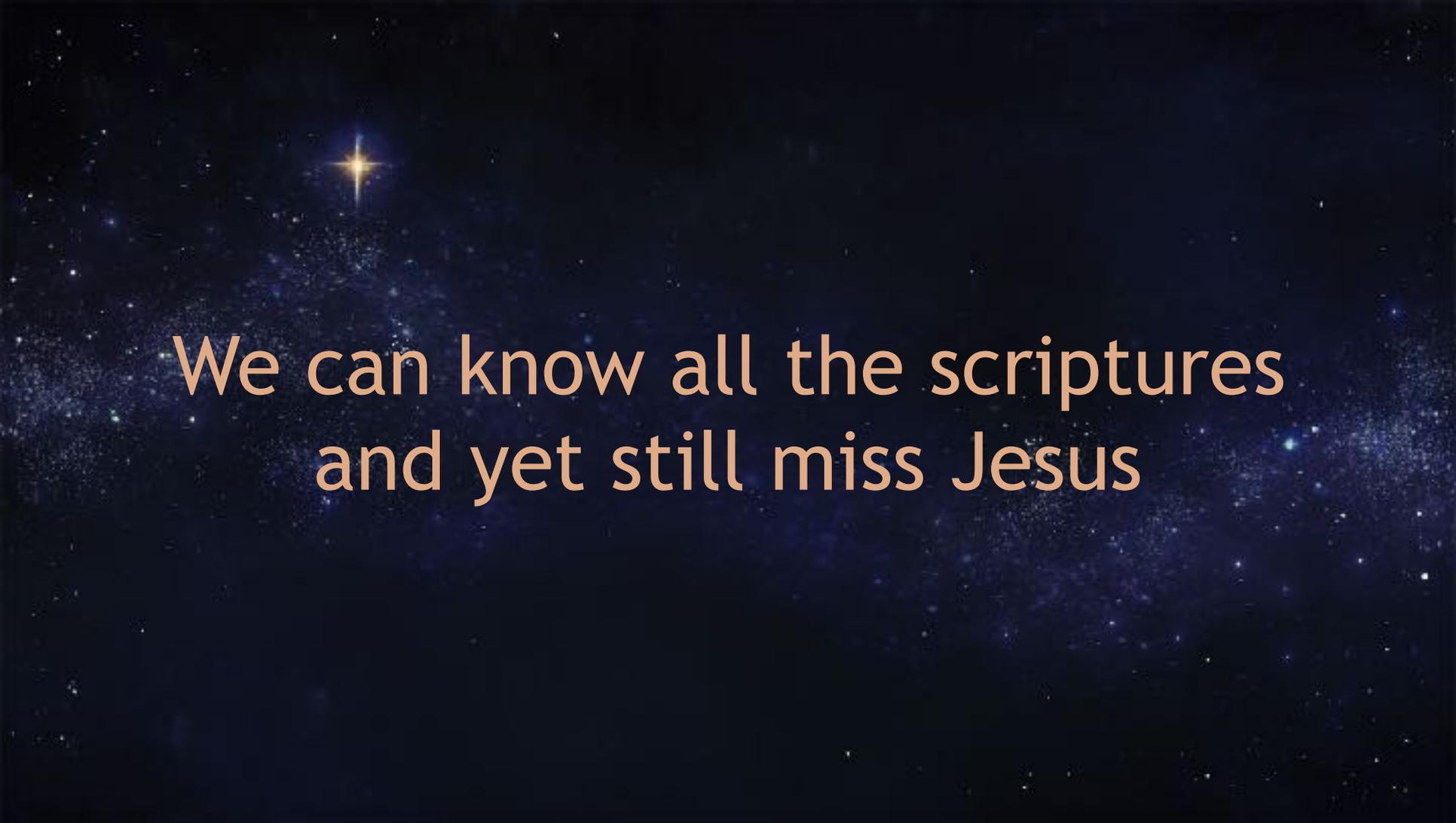


It is clear that Herod had not been reading the scriptures for himself. To know who Jesus is, you must read the Word of God for yourself.



<sup>2</sup> “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old from ancient times.”

**Micah 5:2**



We can know all the scriptures  
and yet still miss Jesus



**2) A DECEIVING  
SPIRIT**



<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

**Matthew 2:7-12**



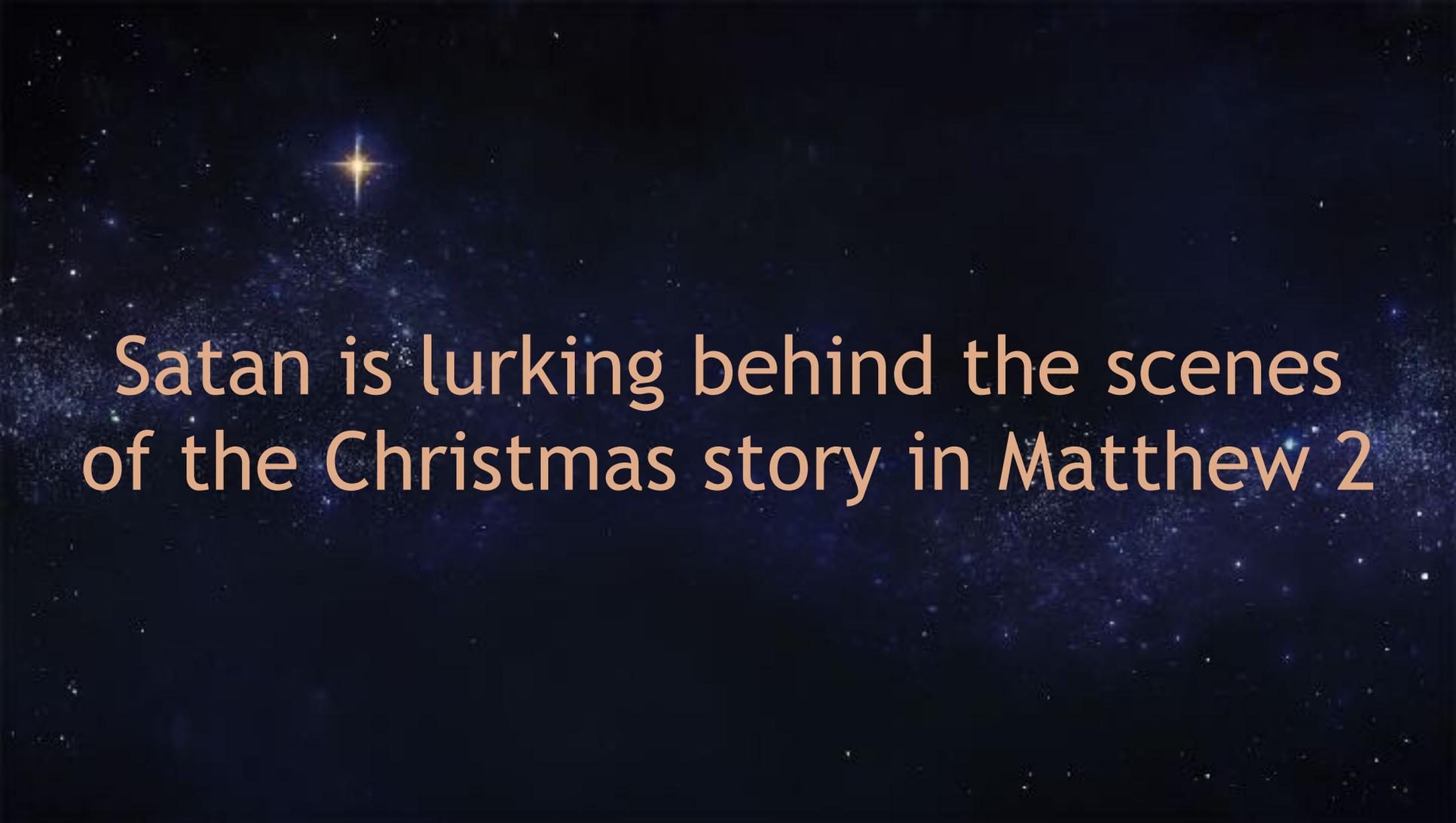
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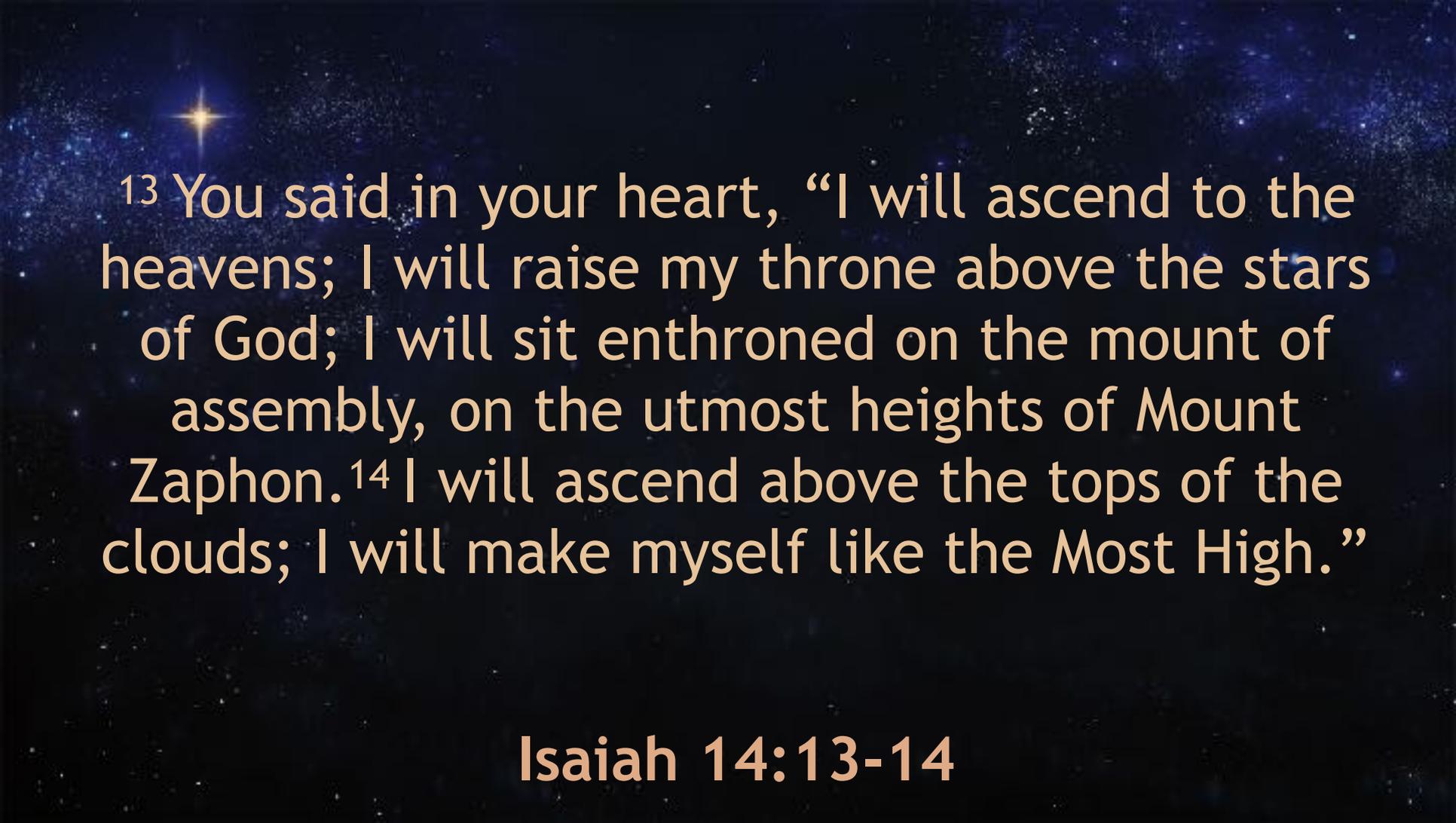
**Matthew 2:7-12**

★<sup>1</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

**Matthew 2:7-12**

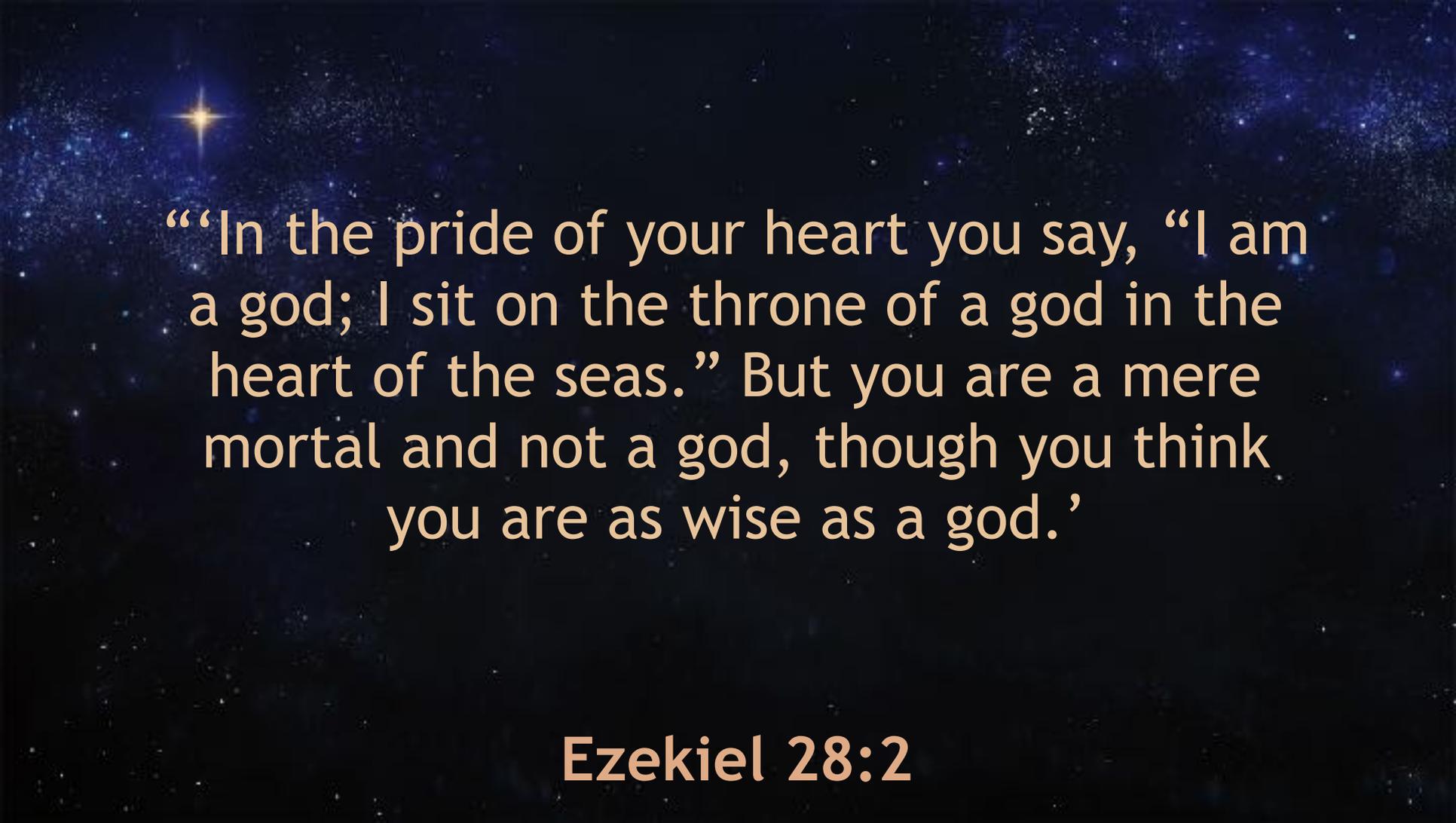


Satan is lurking behind the scenes  
of the Christmas story in Matthew 2



<sup>13</sup> You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.<sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”

**Isaiah 14:13-14**

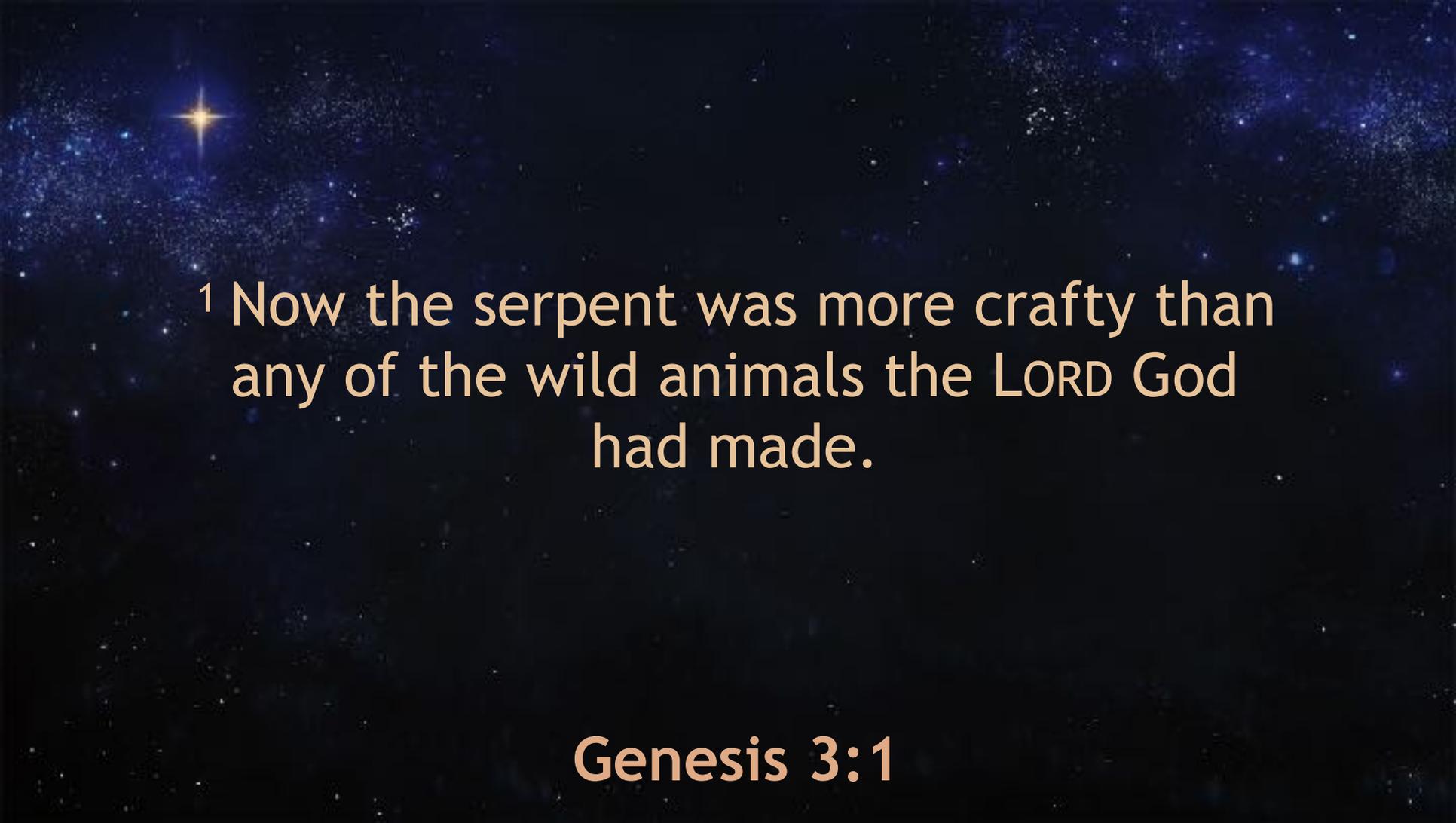


““In the pride of your heart you say, “I am a god; I sit on the throne of a god in the heart of the seas.” But you are a mere mortal and not a god, though you think you are as wise as a god.’

**Ezekiel 28:2**

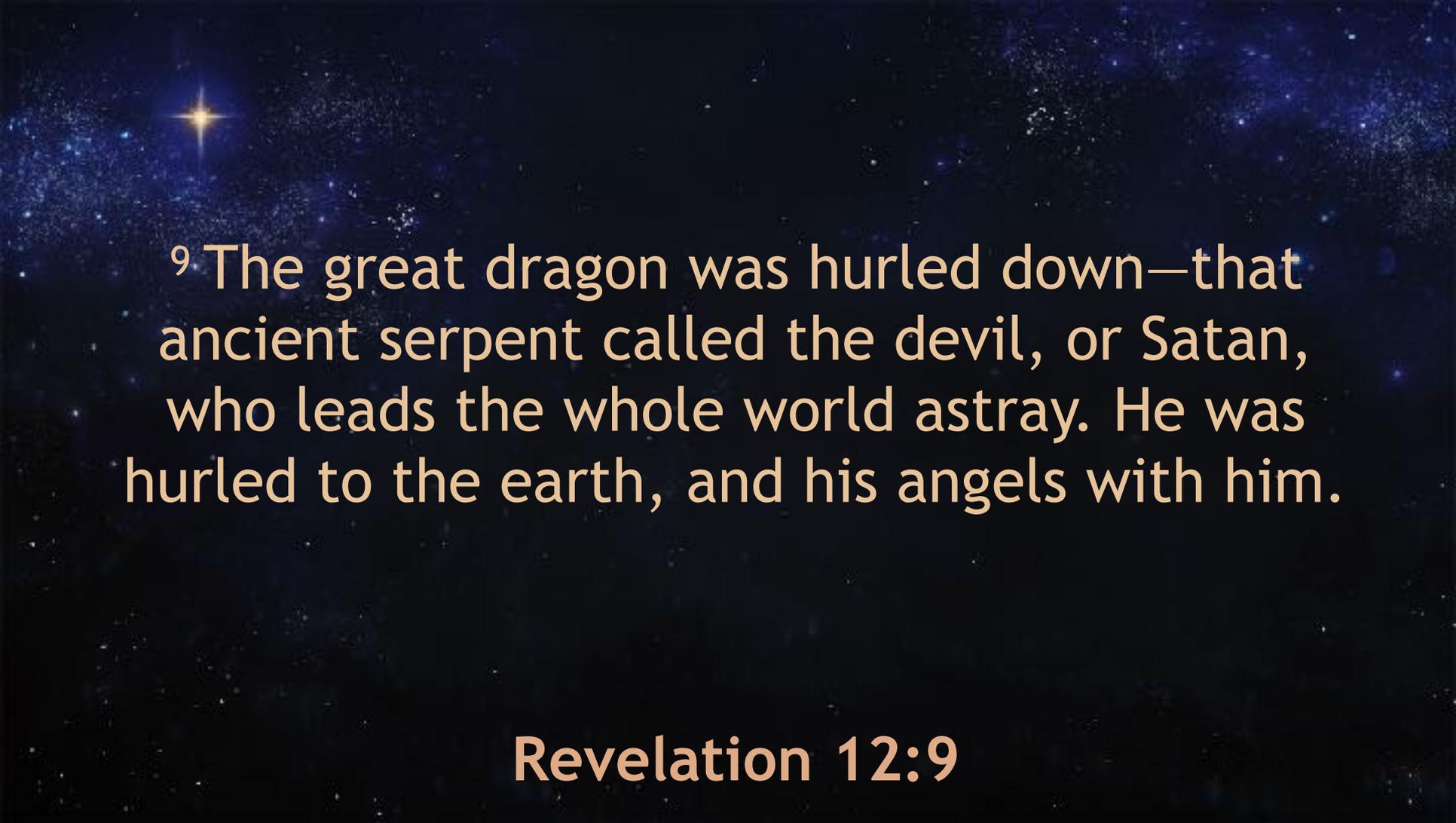
A dark blue starry night sky with a bright yellow star in the upper left. The text is centered in a light orange color.

Herod represents Satan with his  
mastery of deception



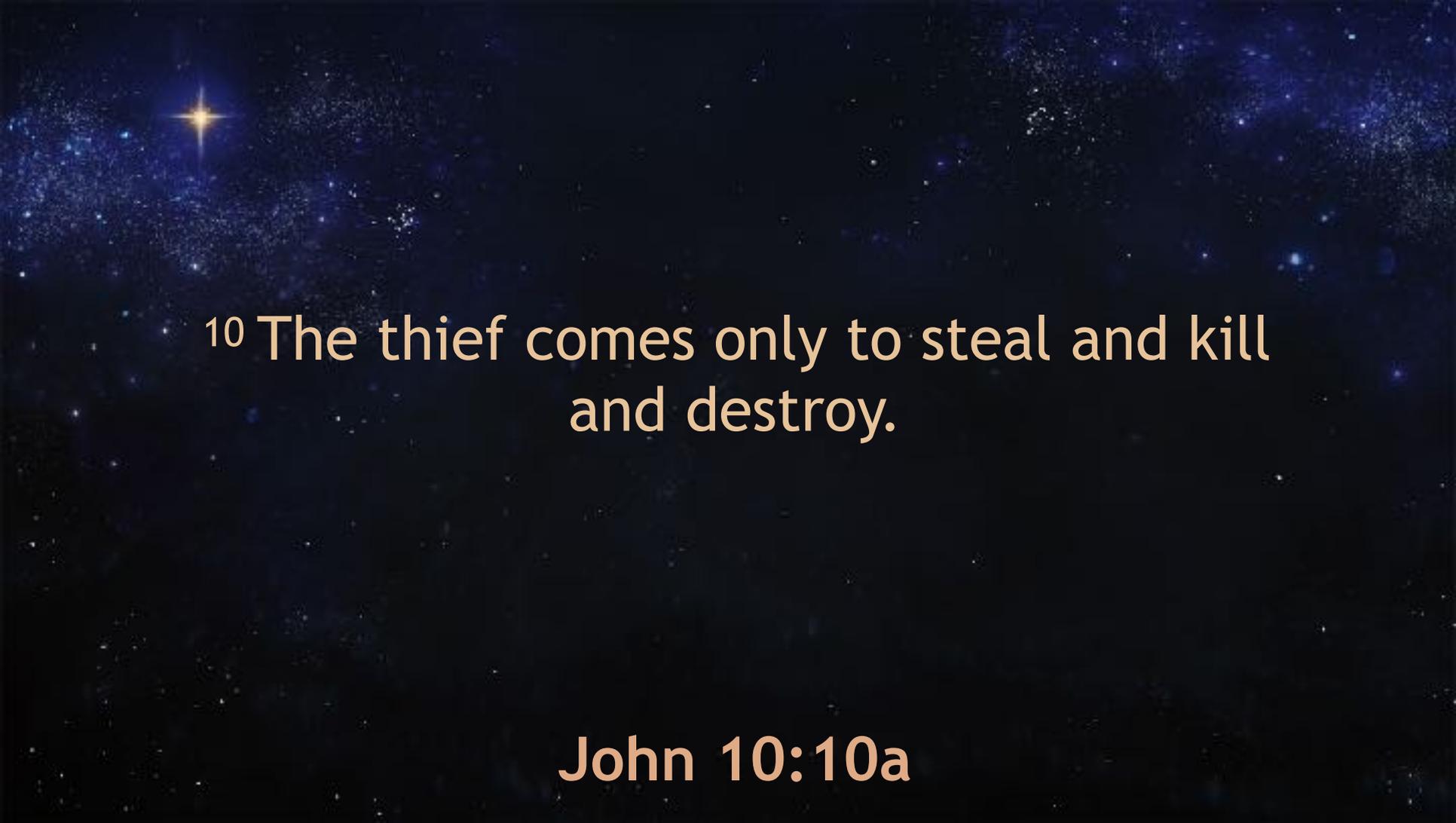
<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made.

**Genesis 3:1**



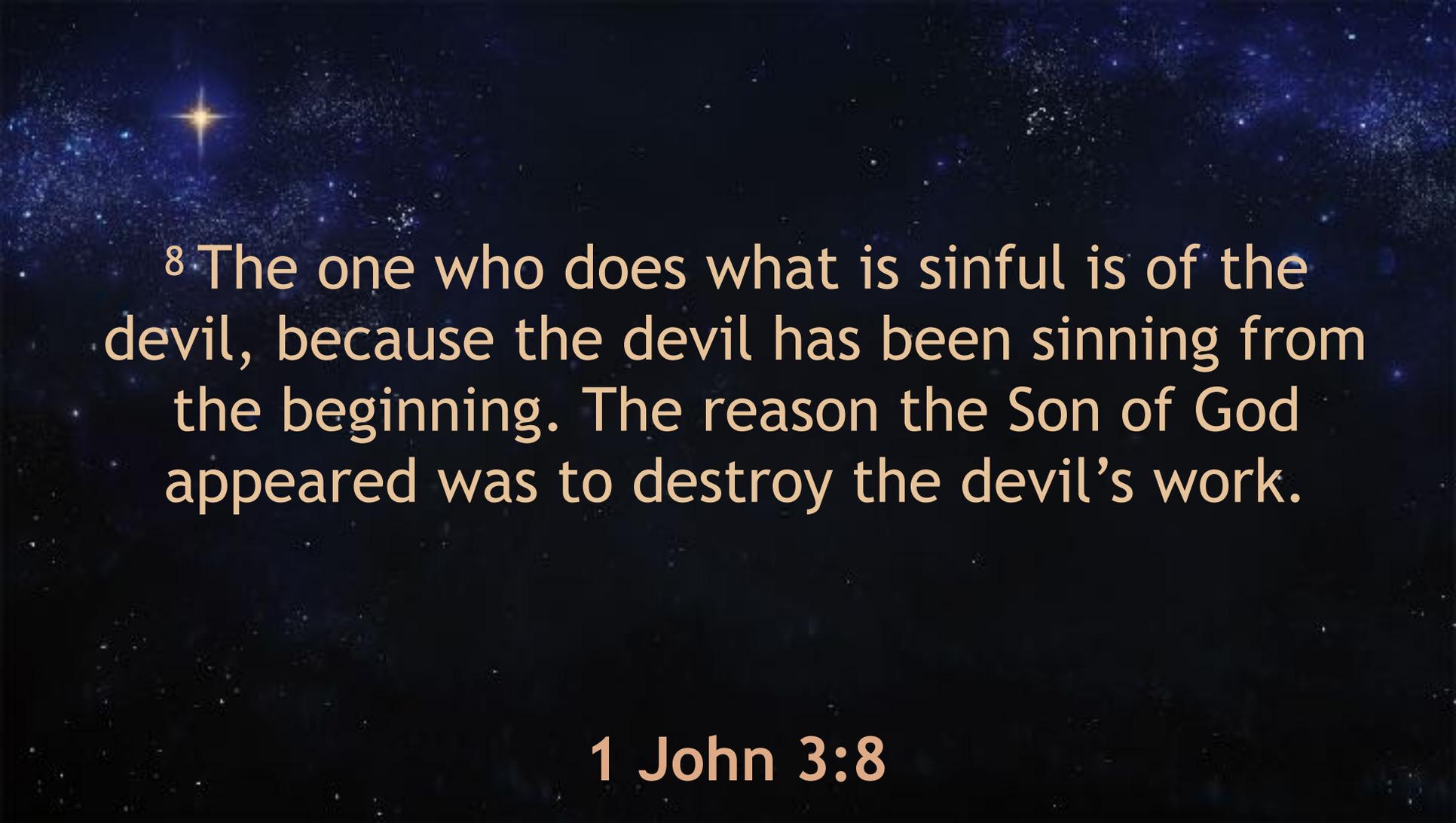
<sup>9</sup> The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

**Revelation 12:9**



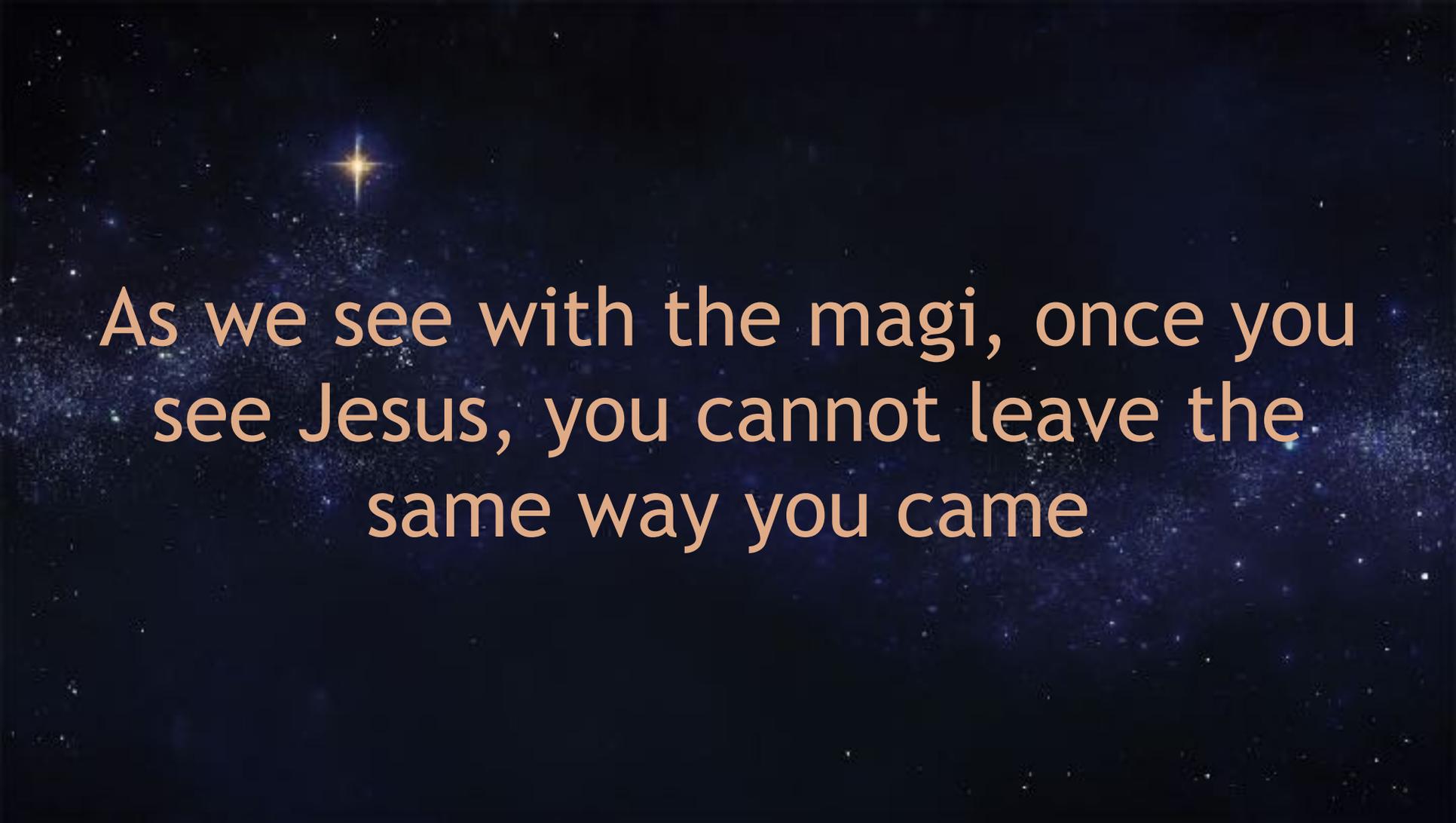
<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

**John 10:10a**



<sup>8</sup> The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

**1 John 3:8**

A bright, multi-pointed star is positioned in the upper left quadrant of a dark, starry night sky. The sky is filled with numerous smaller, distant stars of varying brightness. The text is centered in the lower half of the image.

As we see with the magi, once you  
see Jesus, you cannot leave the  
same way you came

A dark blue space background with a star trail and a bright star. The star trail is a diagonal line of small, bright blue and white stars extending from the top left towards the center. A single, larger, bright yellow star with a four-pointed diffraction pattern is located at the top left of the star trail.

# 3) A DEADLY SPIRIT



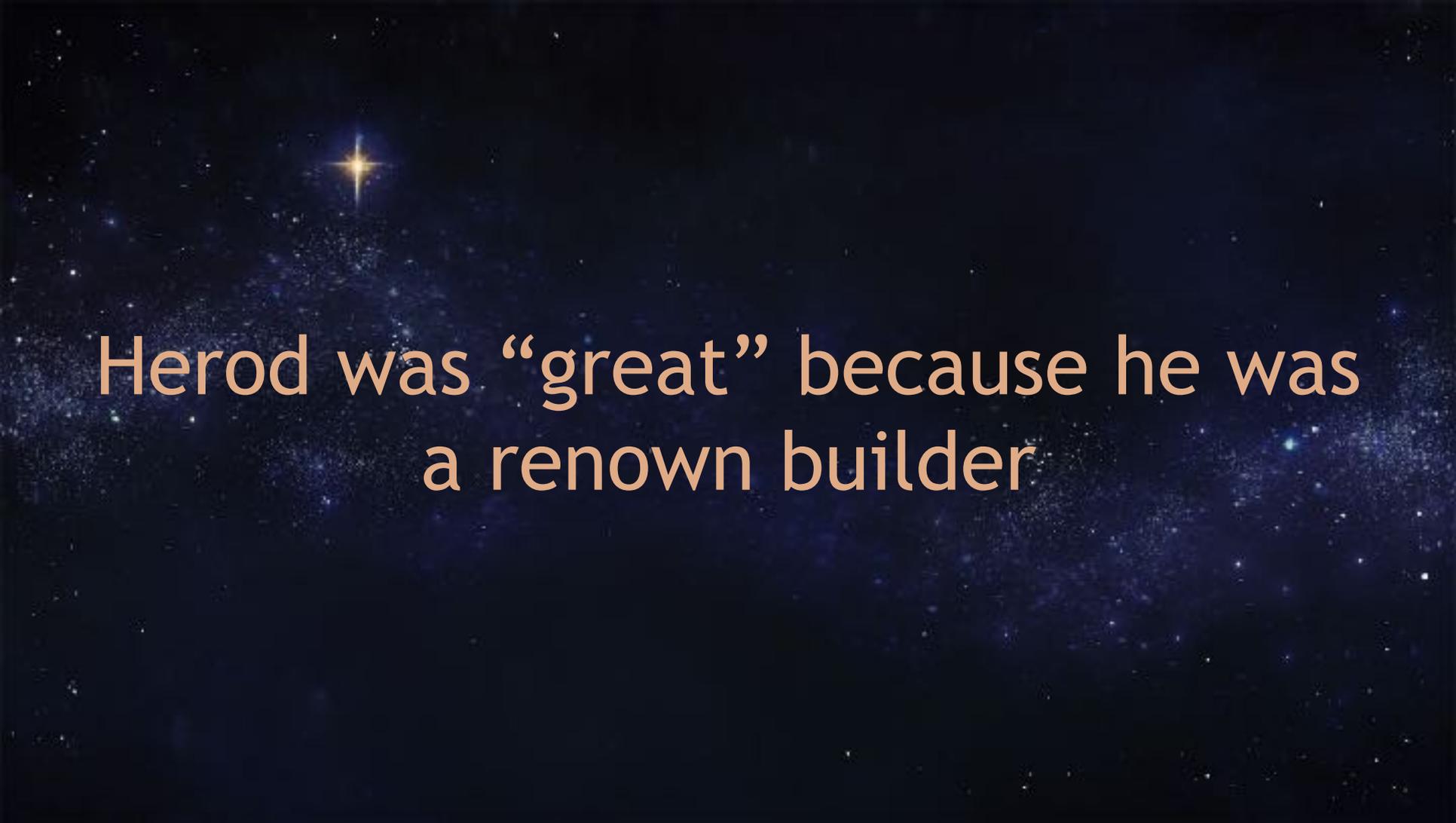
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**Matthew 2:16-18**

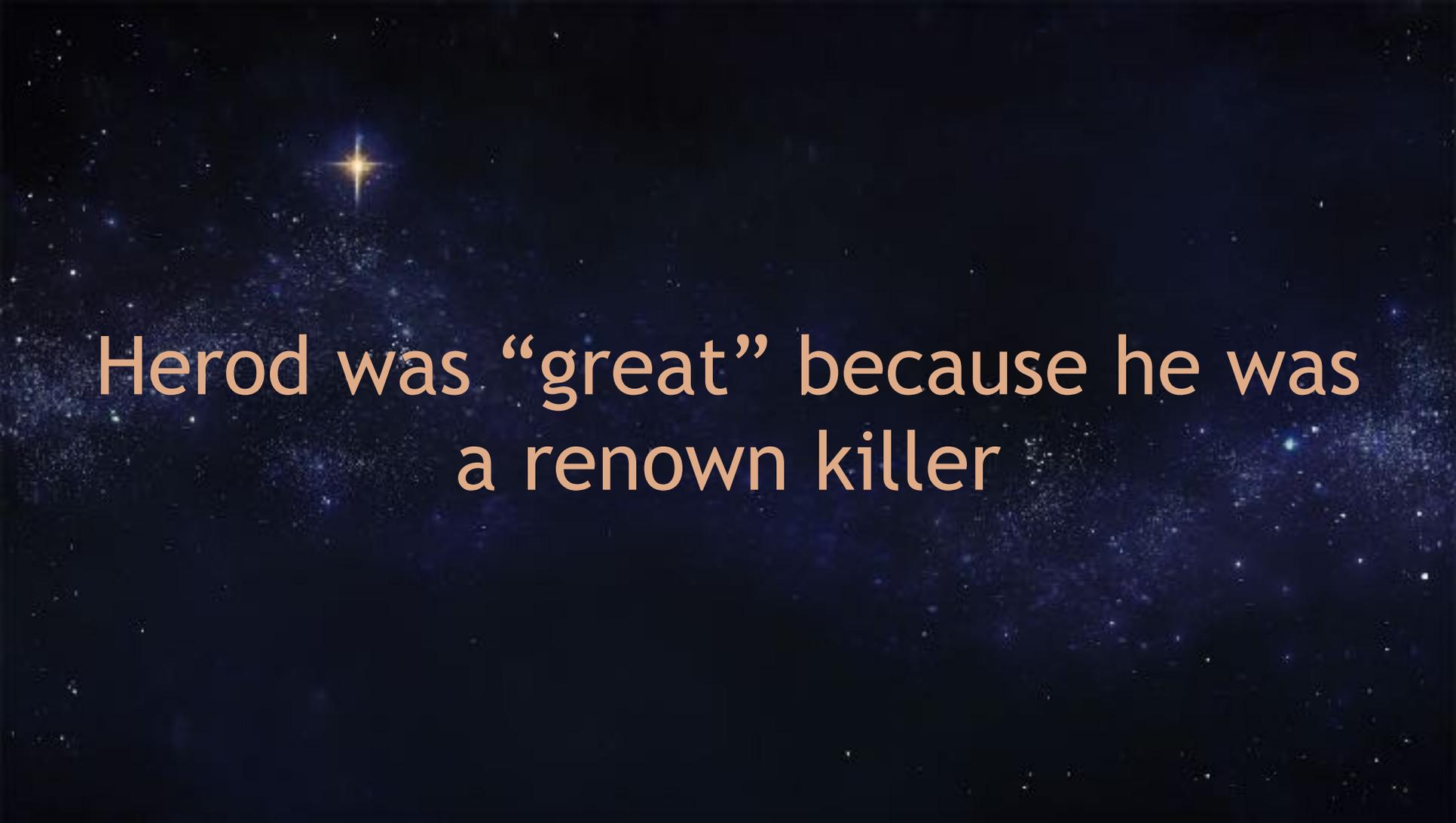


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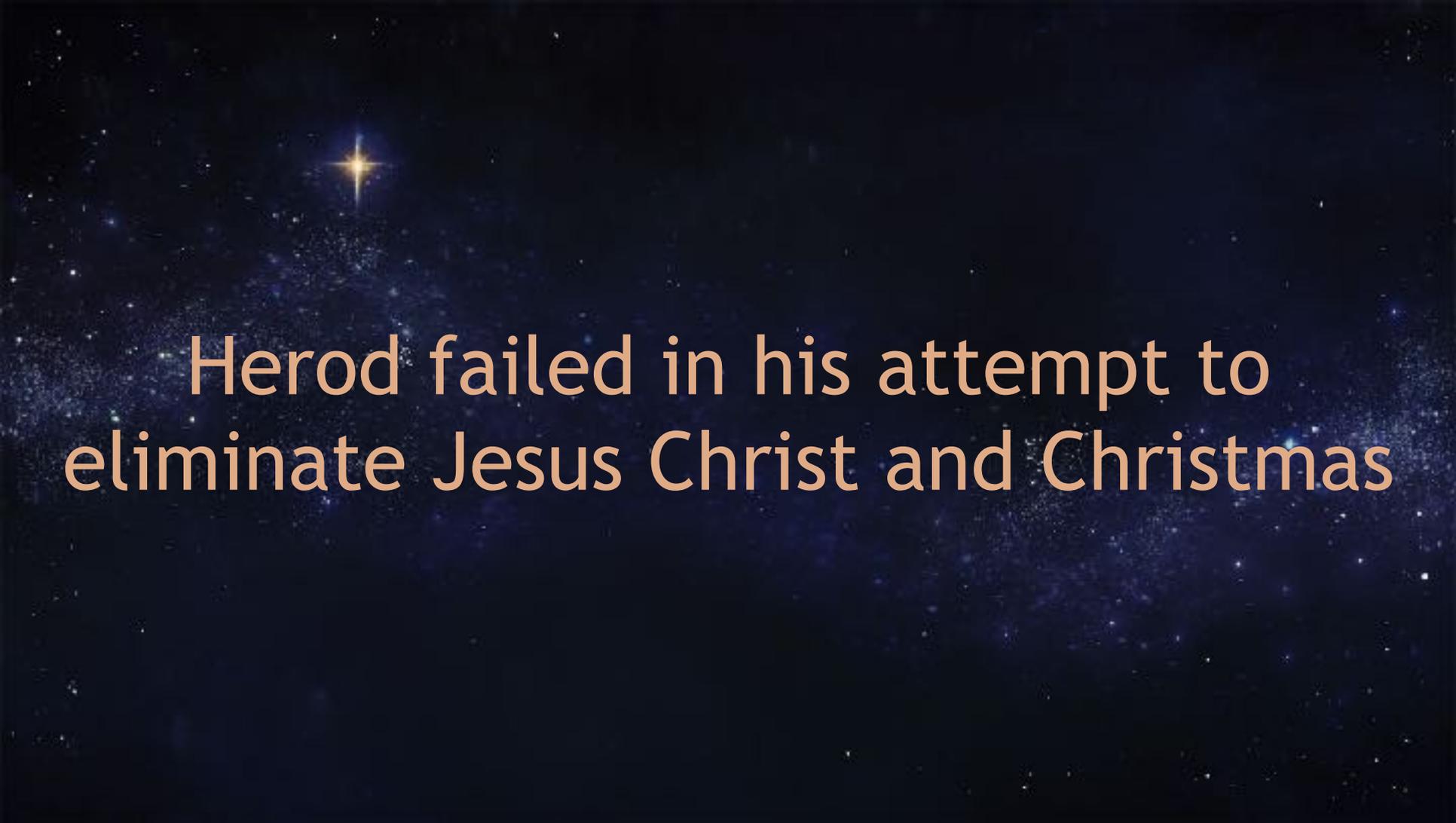
**Matthew 2:16-18**

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

Herod was “great” because he was  
a renown builder



Herod was “great” because he was  
a renown killer

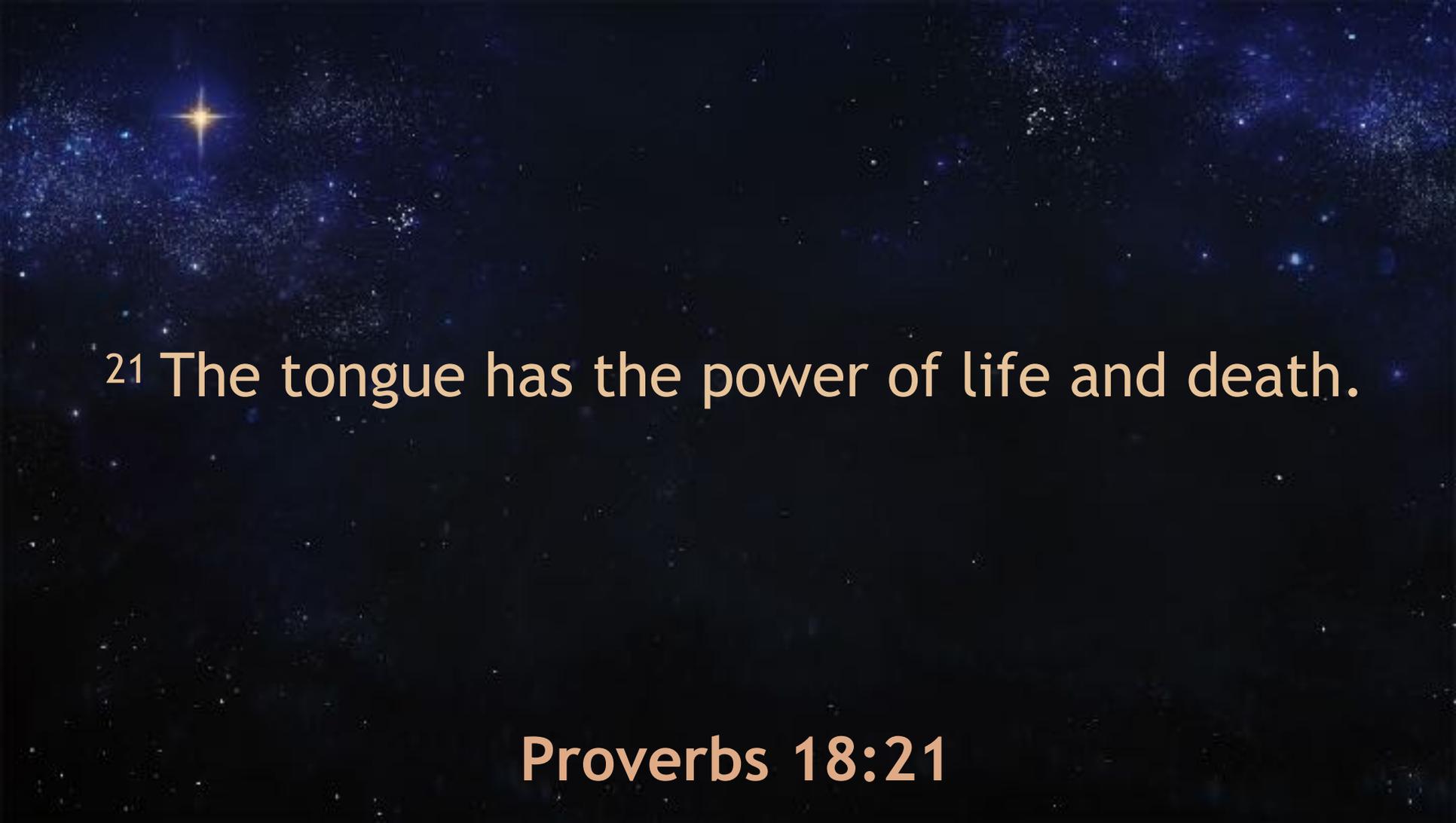


Herod failed in his attempt to  
eliminate Jesus Christ and Christmas

# The 7-38-55% Rule

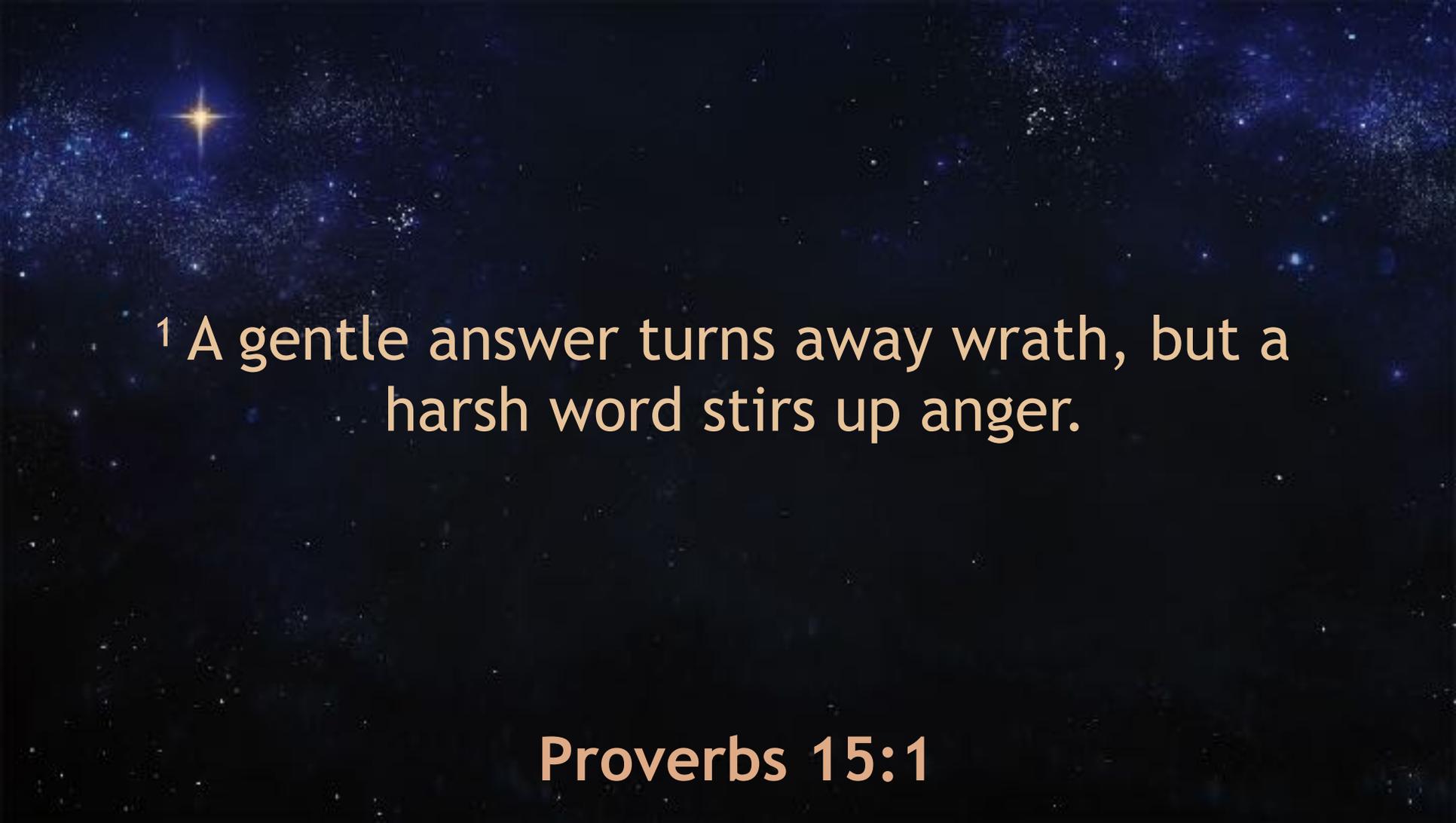
Albert Mehrabian

Three elements of communication:  
7% of our communication is verbal  
38% of our communication is tone  
55% of our communication is visual



21 The tongue has the power of life and death.

**Proverbs 18:21**



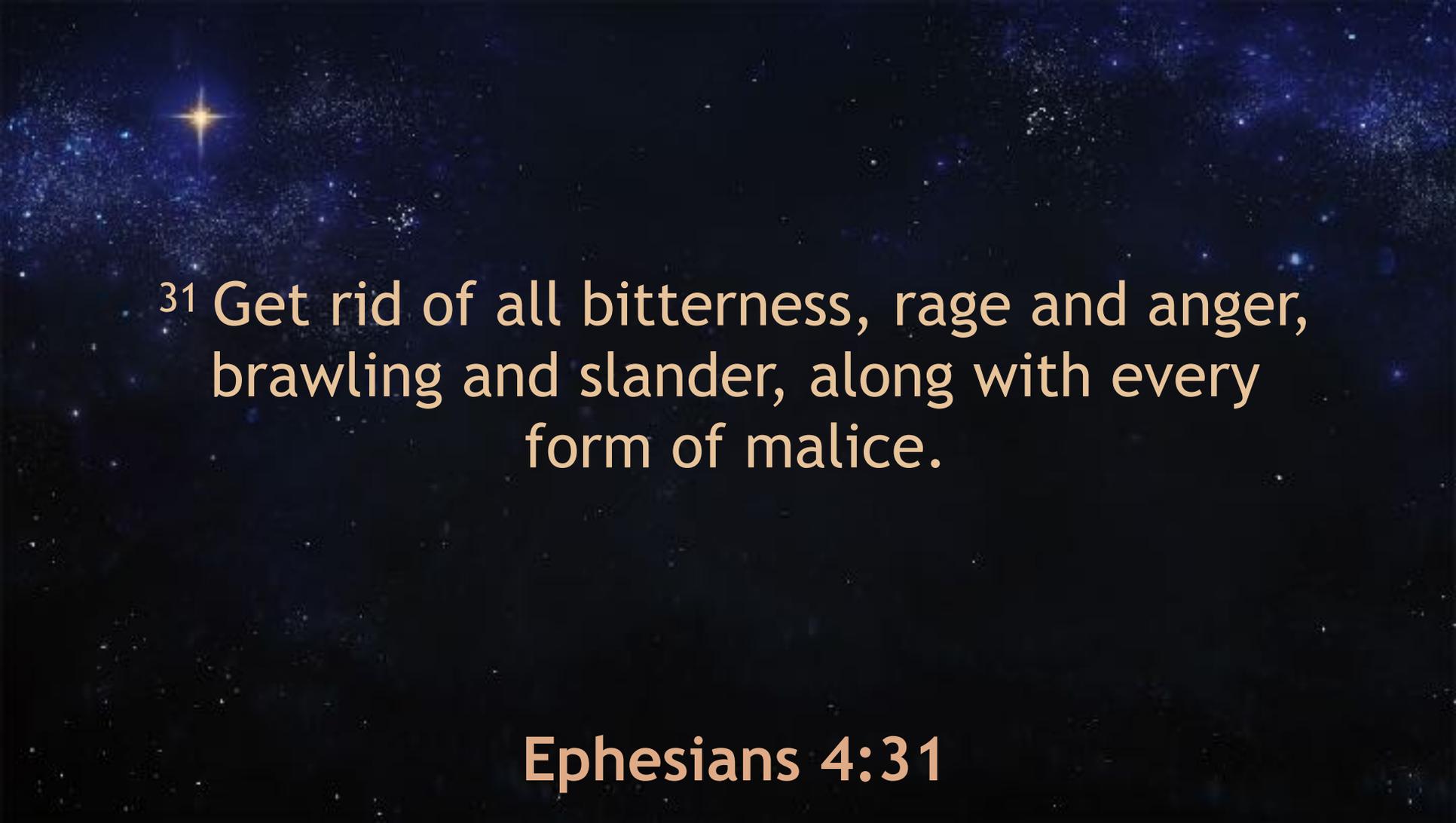
<sup>1</sup> A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

**Proverbs 15:1**



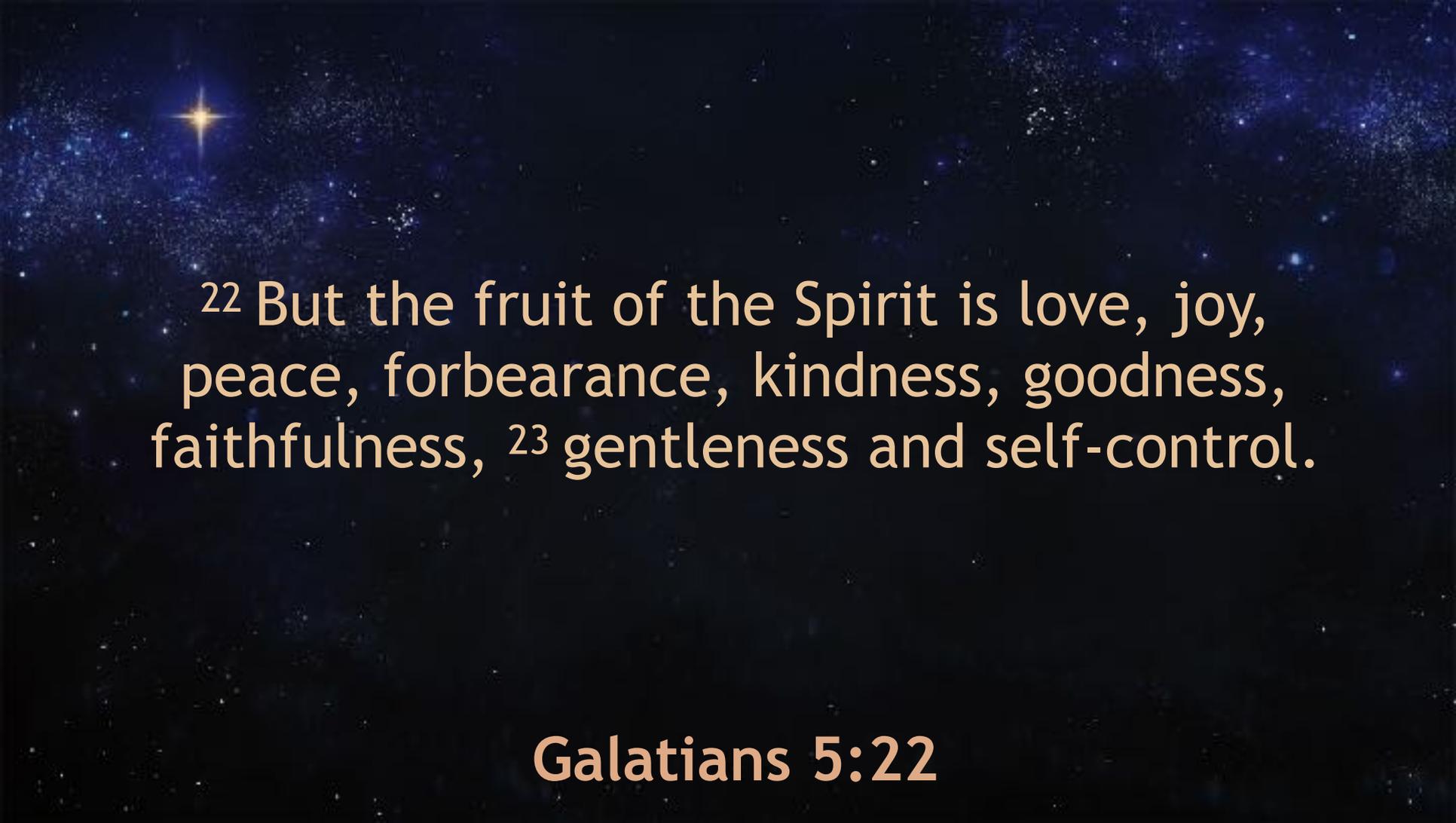
<sup>30</sup> Whoever winks with their eye is plotting  
perversity; whoever purses their lips is  
bent on evil.

**Proverbs 16:30**



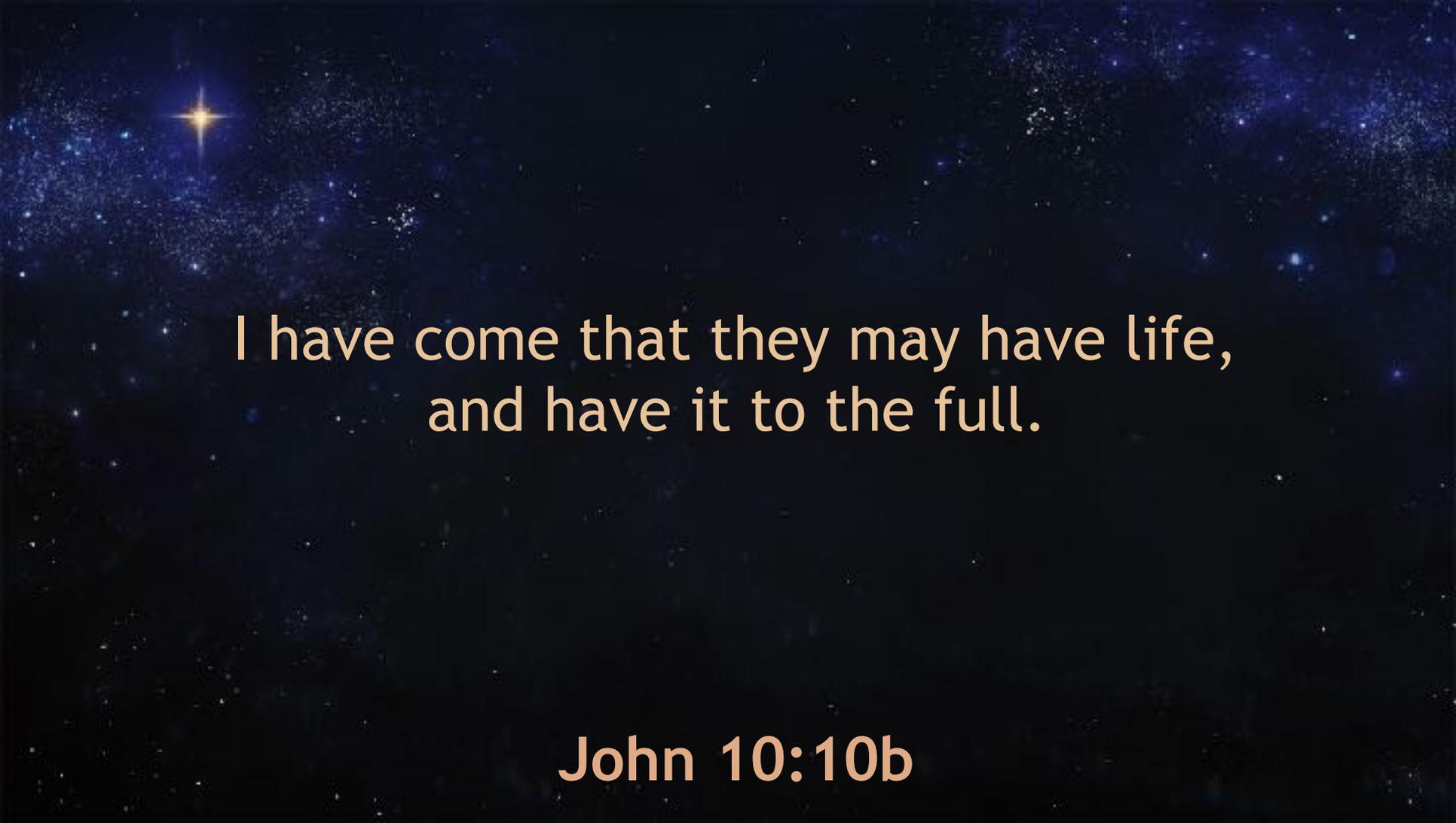
<sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger,  
brawling and slander, along with every  
form of malice.

**Ephesians 4:31**



<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control.

**Galatians 5:22**



I have come that they may have life,  
and have it to the full.

**John 10:10b**



# The Grinch

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**Ebenezer Scrooge**

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