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Dec 14, 2019
Luke 2.8-21
Ps Alan Tay



SMALL PEOPLE
BIG GOD



WHAT IS **HOPE**?

If **FAITH** is...

“the **TOTAL DEPENDENCE** of
a **HELPLESS MAN**
in the hand of the **MIGHTY GOD.**”

Then **HOPE** is...

“**ENTRUSTING THE FUTURE**
into the hand of a **FAITHFUL GOD.**”

“DESPERATE FOR AIR”



FRAMING THE MIND

1. AGRICULTURE SETTING

2. POLITICAL SETTING

3. RELIGIOUS SETTING

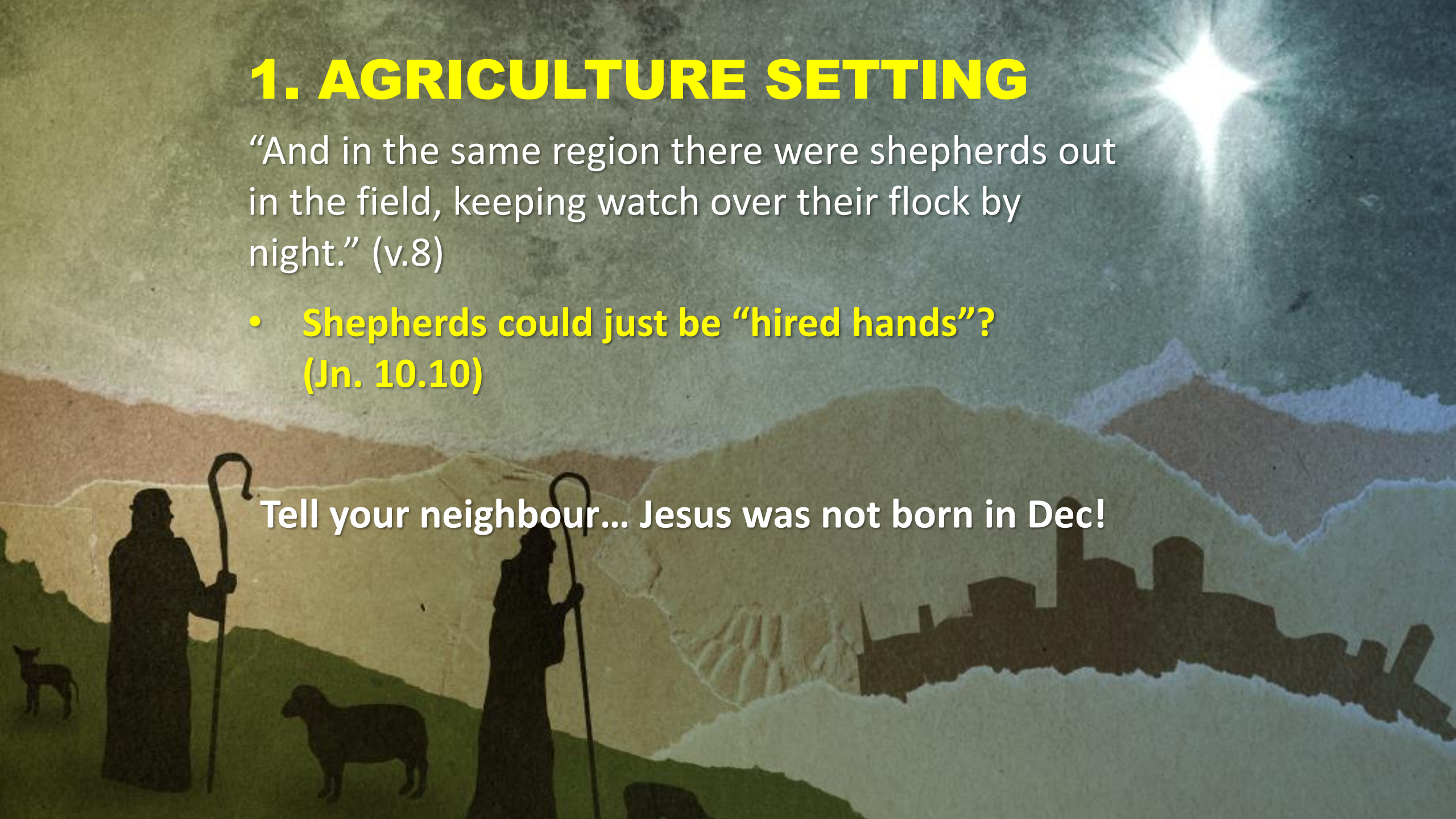


1. AGRICULTURE SETTING

“And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.” (v.8)

- **Shepherds could just be “hired hands”?**
(Jn. 10.10)

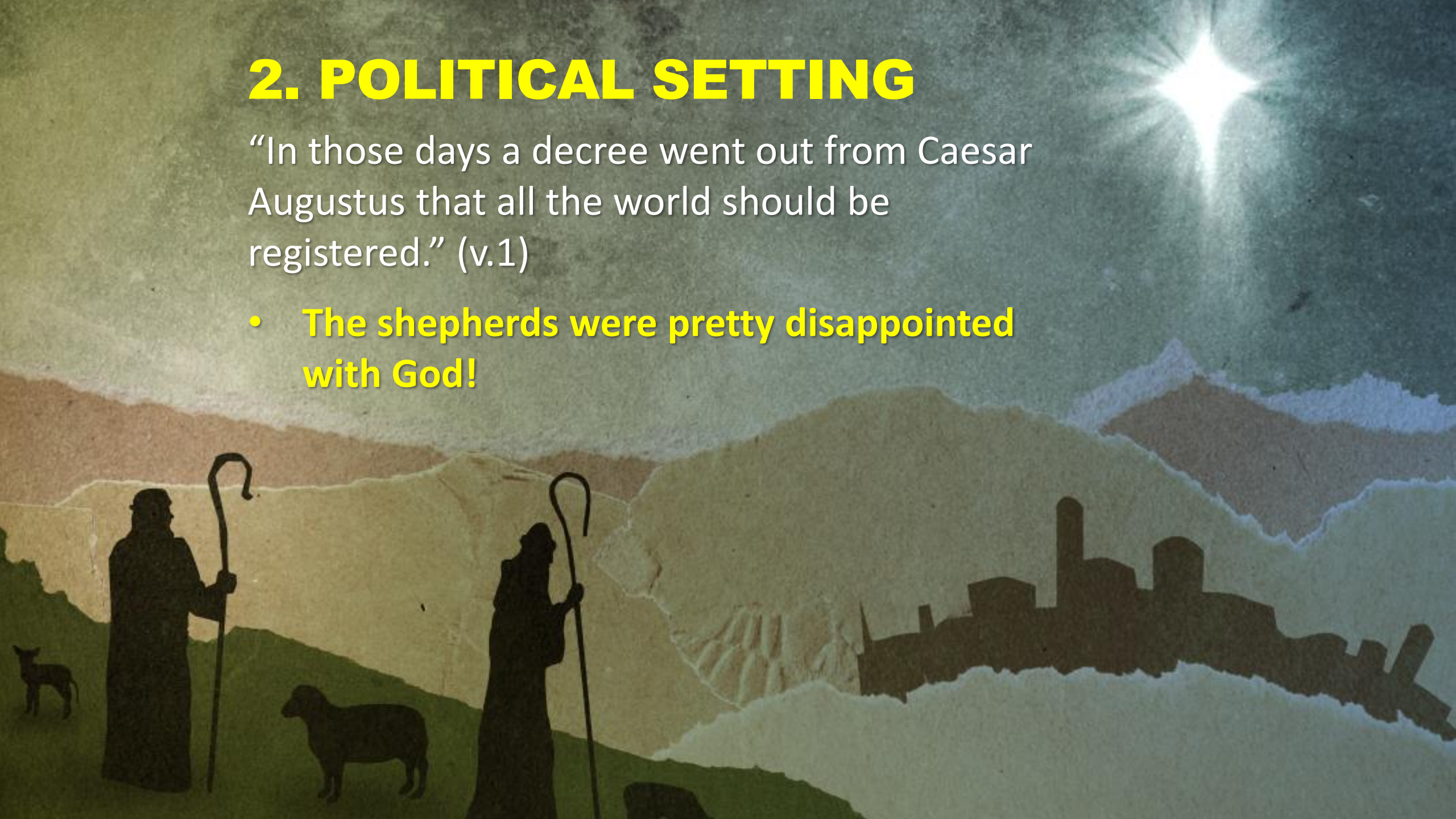
Tell your neighbour... Jesus was not born in Dec!



2. POLITICAL SETTING

“In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.” (v.1)

- **The shepherds were pretty disappointed with God!**

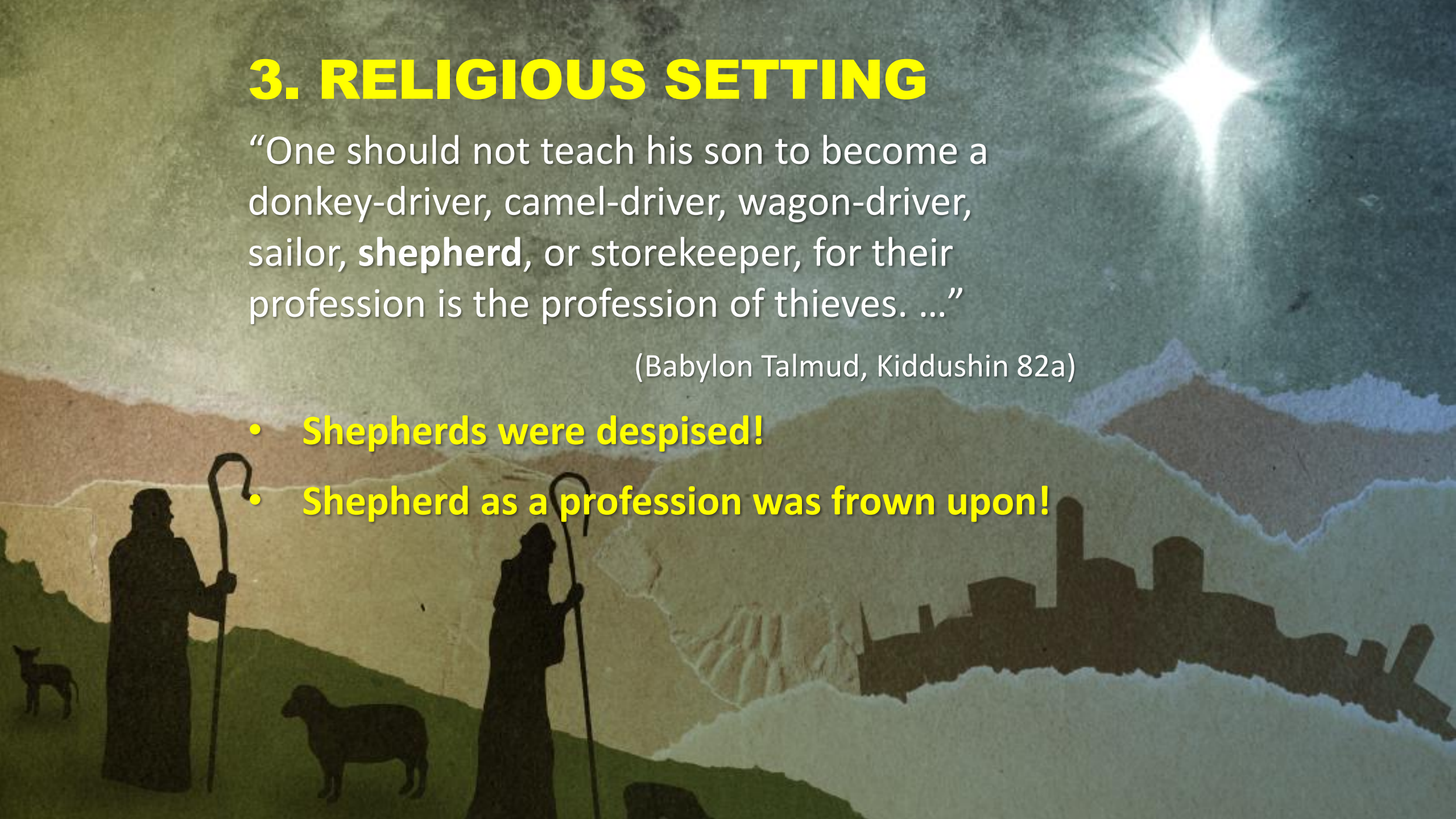


3. RELIGIOUS SETTING

“One should not teach his son to become a donkey-driver, camel-driver, wagon-driver, sailor, **shepherd**, or storekeeper, for their profession is the profession of thieves. ...”

(Babylon Talmud, Kiddushin 82a)

- **Shepherds were despised!**
- **Shepherd as a profession was frowned upon!**



“ Have you ever
wondered what
they talk about in
the field? ”



IF GOD WERE REVEALED...

in the **WISDOM** of man,

only the **Wise** could know Him.

in the **STRENGTH** of man,

only the **Strong** could know Him.

in the **ACCOMPLISHMENTS** of man,

only the **Proud** could know Him.

in the **WEALTH** of man,

only the **Rich** could know Him.



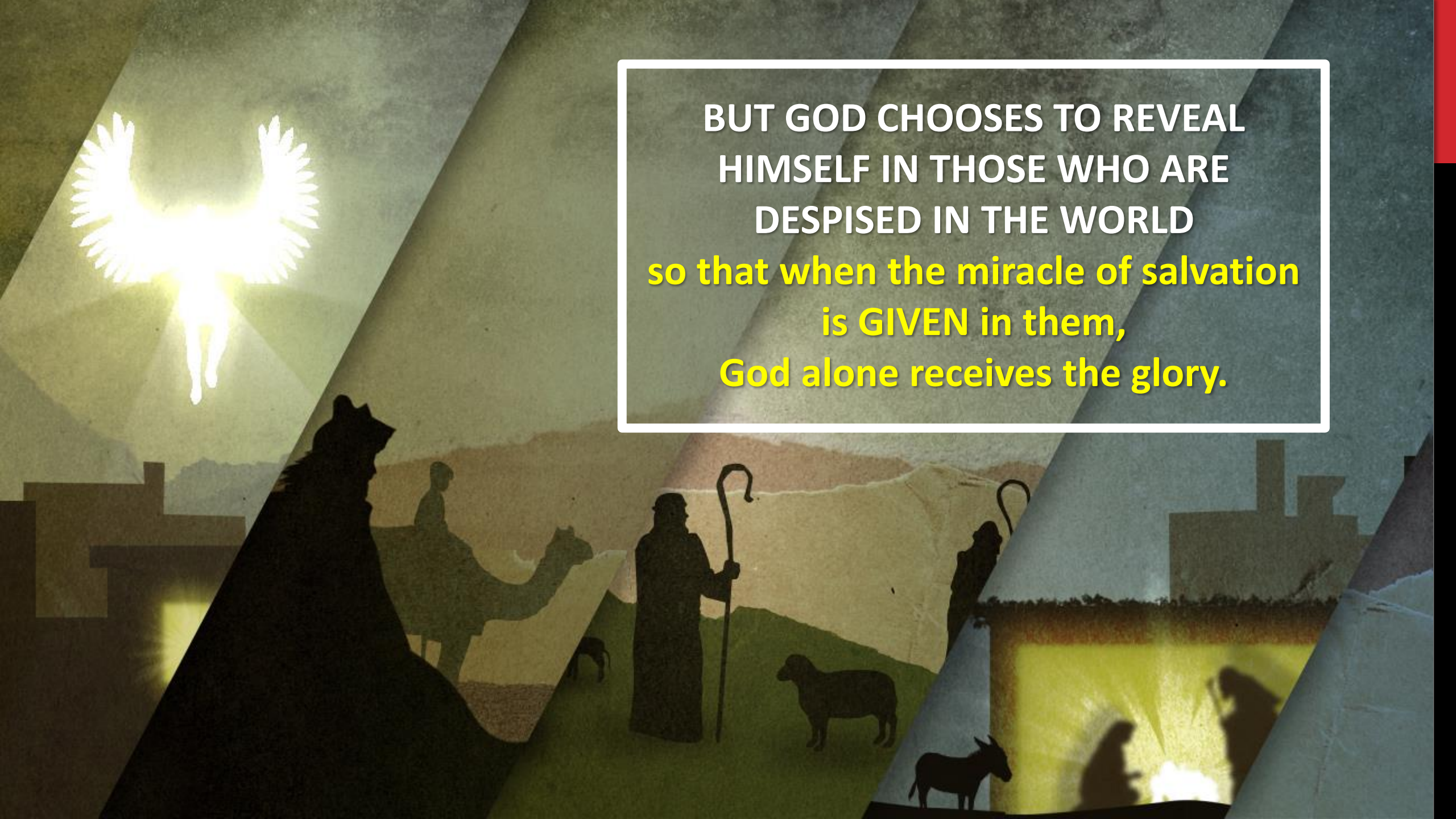
Exodus 3:1-4

IF GOD WERE REVEALED...

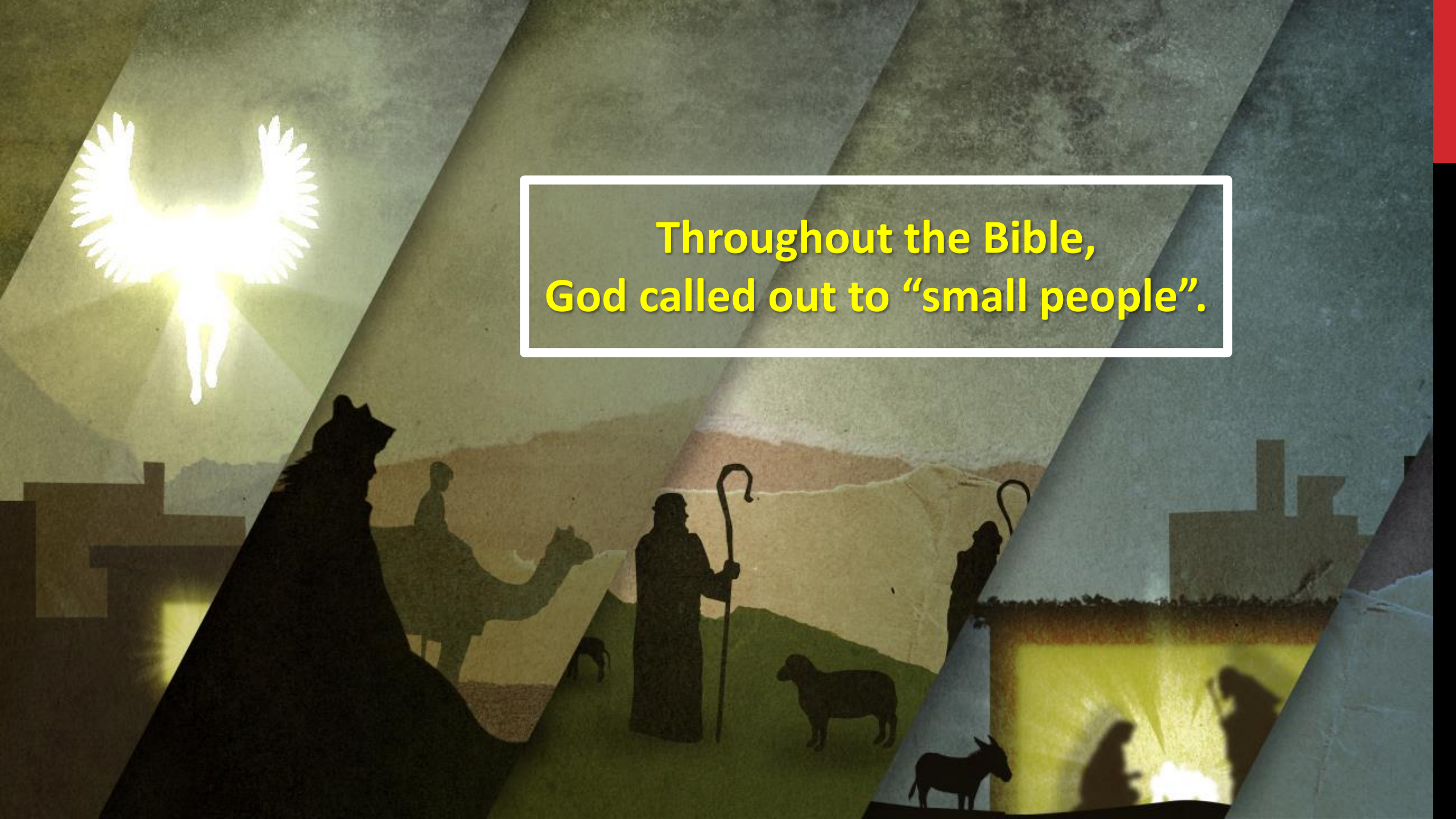
But God chooses
to reveal himself
to those who are
Despised In The World,
so that when the
miracle of salvation
is given to them,
God alone receives the glory.



Exodus 3:1-4



**BUT GOD CHOOSES TO REVEAL
HIMSELF IN THOSE WHO ARE
DESPISED IN THE WORLD
so that when the miracle of salvation
is GIVEN in them,
God alone receives the glory.**

The background is a collage of various colored paper scraps. In the upper left, a bright, glowing angel with large, feathered wings is depicted. Below this, there are several dark silhouettes of figures and animals. On the left, a large silhouette of a man in a long robe and a hat. In the center, a shepherd with a staff stands next to a dog. To the right, another shepherd with a staff stands next to a dog and a donkey. In the bottom right, there is a silhouette of a person sitting on the ground, possibly a child, with a bright light source nearby. The overall scene is set against a backdrop of torn paper in shades of green, brown, and blue.

**Throughout the Bible,
God called out to “small people”.**



Movement from Despair to Hope

**God calls SMALL PEOPLE
so that, they may be FULL OF HOPE,
instead of just being HOPEFUL!**



“God Came So That
HOPE-LESS
PEOPLE
May Find **HOPE**
In A **HOPELESS**
WORLD!”



2. CALLED TO WORSHIP! v.20

Movement from Wandering to Worshipping!

WANDERING

“shepherds keeping watch” (v.8)

WONDERING

“shepherds said to one another” (v.15)

WORSHIPPING

“shepherds glorifying and praising God” (v.20)



**"When we give God
the RIGHTFUL PLACE in our heart,
we will inevitably WORSHIP HIM
ARIGHT in our heart."**