



CAROLS of CHRISTMAS



Glory to God in the Highest!

Luke 2:1-20

CAROLS of **CHRISTMAS**

Angels we have heard on High



Angels we have heard on high!

Reports say that in 129 A.D. Pope Telesphorus ordained that the “*Gloria*” be sung at the Christmas Eve midnight mass. The phrase became known as the “*Angels Hymn*” and considered one of the earliest known Christmas hymns.

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*Christmas is more than
a Wonderful Life – it is Eternal Life!
And don't look for Clarence
when God offers clarity in His Word!*

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Luke 2:1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.
2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

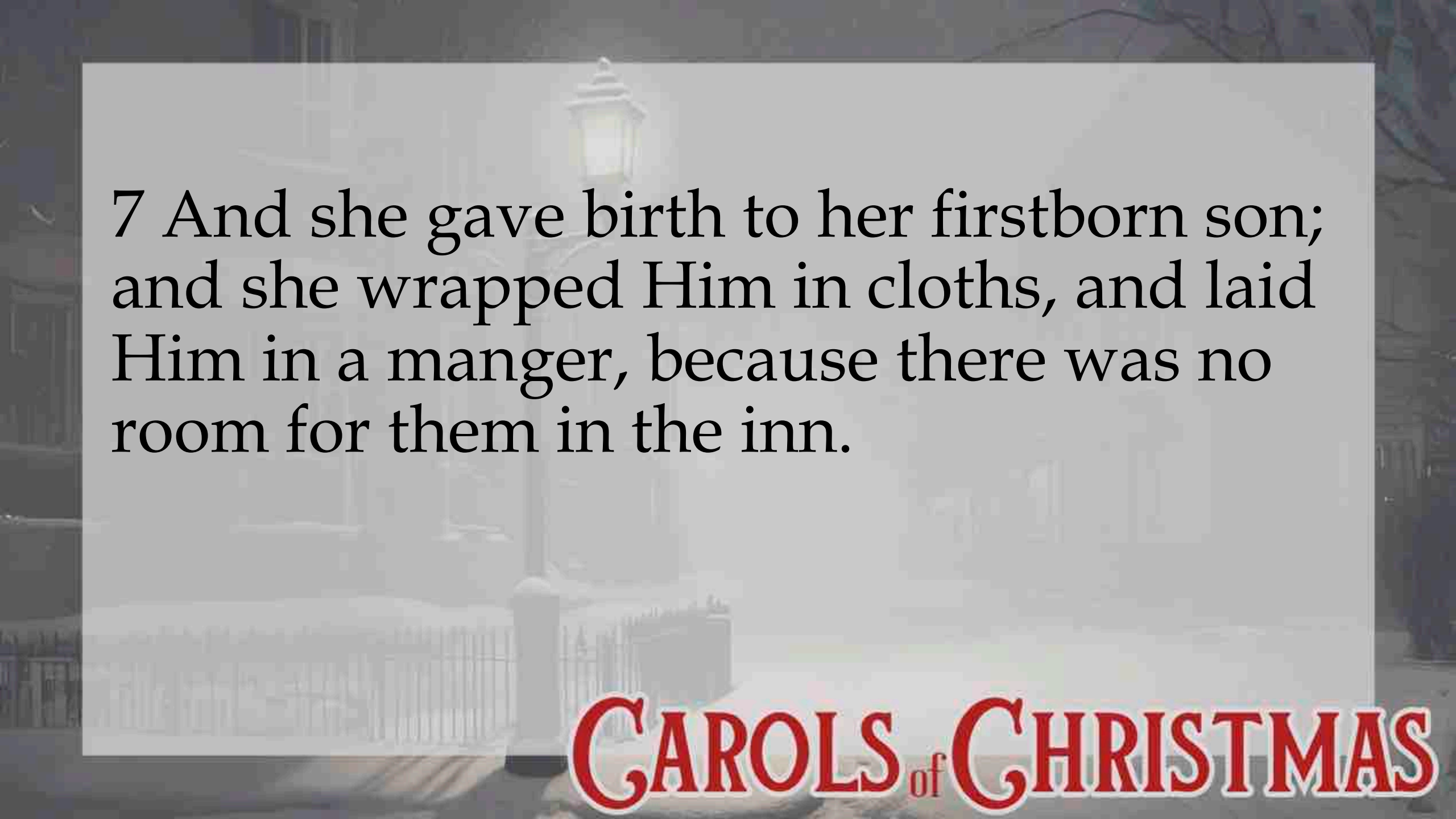
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3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,

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5 in order to register along with Mary,
who was engaged to him, and was with
child. 6 While they were there, the days
were completed for her to give birth.

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7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son;
and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid
Him in a manger, because there was no
room for them in the inn.

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8 In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

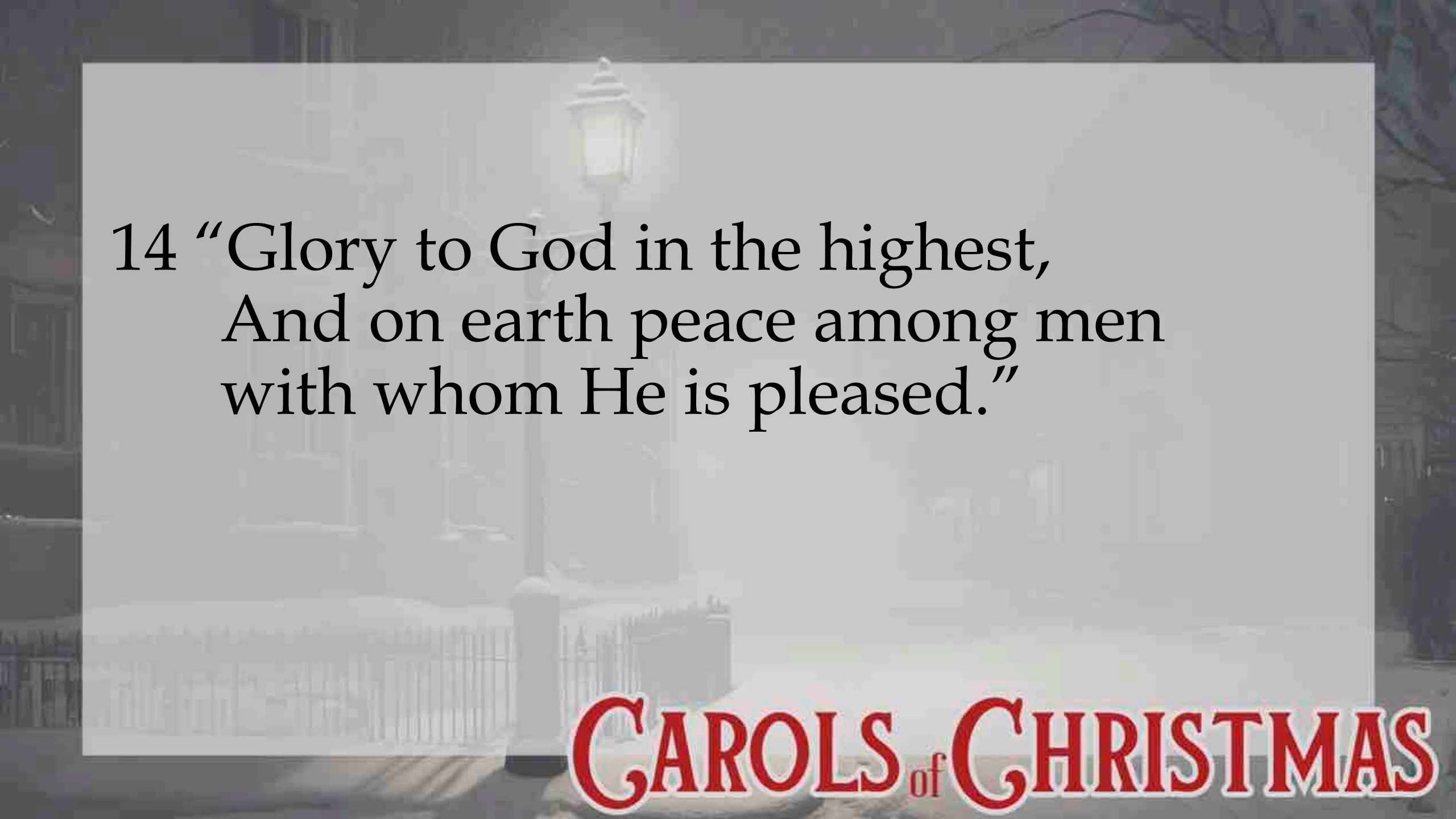
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10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

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12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

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A soft-focus, winter-themed background image showing a snow-covered street. A classic street lamp with a glowing light is positioned in the center. To the left, a white metal fence runs along the sidewalk. The overall atmosphere is calm and festive.

14 “Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among men
with whom He is pleased.”

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15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

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16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. 17 When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.

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18 And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.

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20 The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

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Angels we have heard on high!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Glory to God in the highest!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Glory to God in the highest!

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“For you will go out with joy - And be
led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break
forth into shouts of joy before you,
And all the trees of the field will clap
their hands.” Isaiah 55:12

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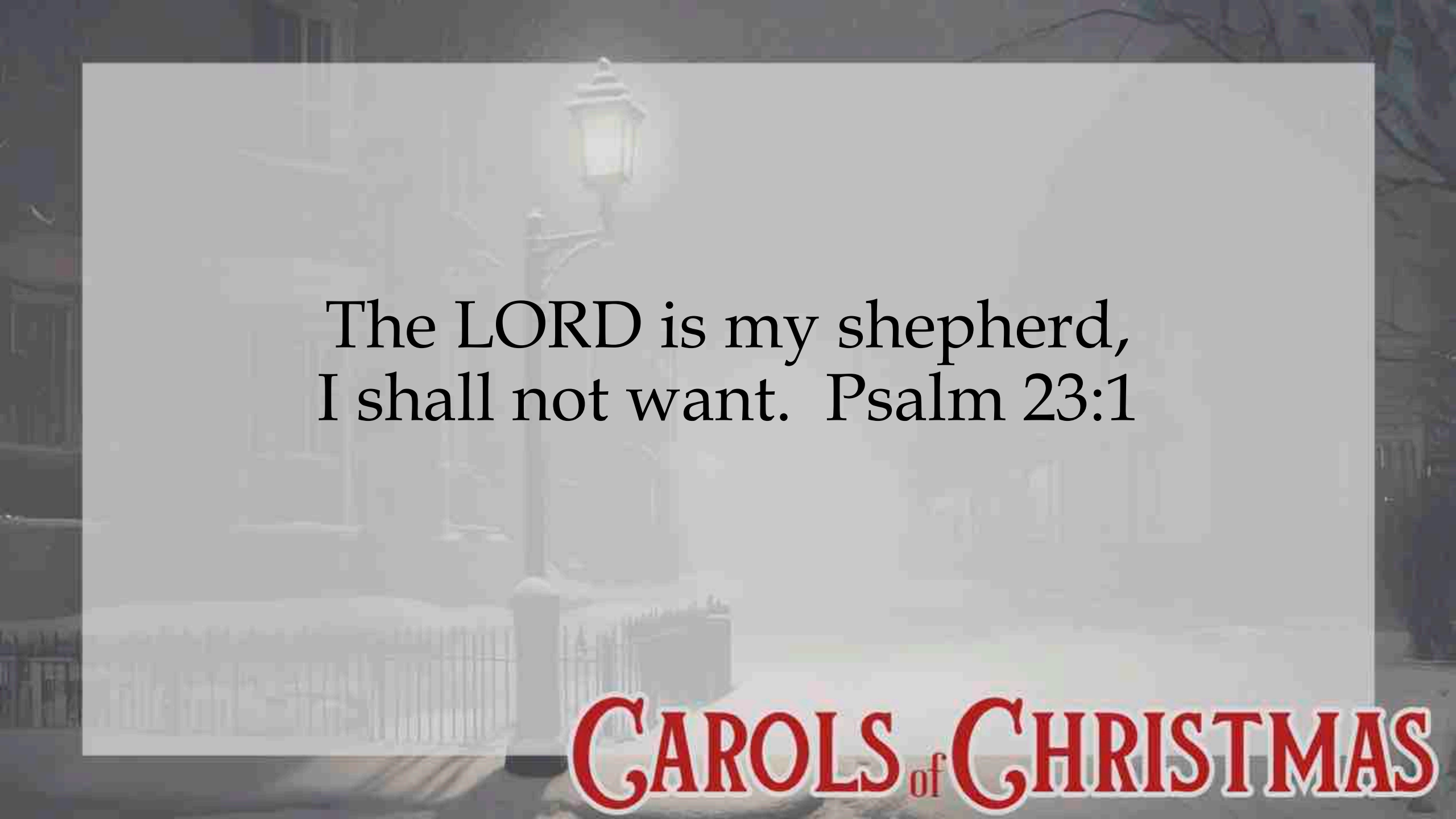
Unlikely Messengers - Angels

- A bit about Angels
 - God created Angels separate from man
 - Angels were never men NOR do men become angels
 - Angels task is to serve the True and Living God
 - Gabriel came to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph?
 - **Intersection of Realms - Heaven to Earth!**
 - **Look for God's messengers - Listen to God's Words!**

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*“We act like we invented
gift giving – not so!
Ask the mountains –
listen to the angels!”*

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A soft-focus, winter-themed background image showing a snow-covered street. A classic street lamp with a glowing light is positioned in the center-left. A white picket fence runs across the lower portion of the scene. The overall atmosphere is calm and serene.

The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not want. Psalm 23:1

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Unlikely Audience - Shepherds

- A bit about shepherds
 - Social outcasts? Out of place maybe –
 - Shepherds were contemplative – lots of wandering
 - Shepherds faced hardships – dangers
 - Shepherds were not high on the social scale
 - **God uses the ordinary to share the extraordinary!**

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*“God shared with Kings and the
religious – but also told the
shepherds and the poor –
He was born in stable – it seems
God also favors the underdog!”*

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“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Too little to be among the clans of Judah,
From you One will go forth for Me to be
ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from
long ago, From the days of eternity.”

Micah 5:2

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בֵּית לֶחֶם - "house of bread"

Bethlehem is also known as the City of David. The city was David's family home (1 Samuel 16:1; 17:12)

Naomi, Elimelech and their two sons lived in Bethlehem before traveling to Moab during a famine (Ruth 1:1). It was to Bethlehem that Naomi returned after the deaths of her husband and sons, along with her daughter-in-law Ruth (Ruth 1:16–19, 22). To the east of Bethlehem lies the valley where Ruth gleaned in the fields of Boaz (Ruth 2:4). Boaz and Ruth were married in Bethlehem, where they also had their son, Obed, who was the grandfather of King David (Ruth 4:13, 17).



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Tradition states that a cave under the church is the actual spot where Jesus Christ was born.

The manger site is marked by a star with the Latin inscription, *Hic De Virgine Maria Jesus Christus Natus Est*, meaning “Here Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary.”



Church of the Nativity, built by Constantine the Great around AD 330, still stands in Bethlehem.

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Unlikely Place - Bethlehem

- A bit about Bethlehem
 - Small town – 9km south of Jerusalem
 - Insignificant in early days – Census!
 - Bethlehem Ephrathah – (*eff - ra - tha*) = ‘fruitful’
 - **God is not looking for great people to do great things – He seeks faithful people to do obedient things!**

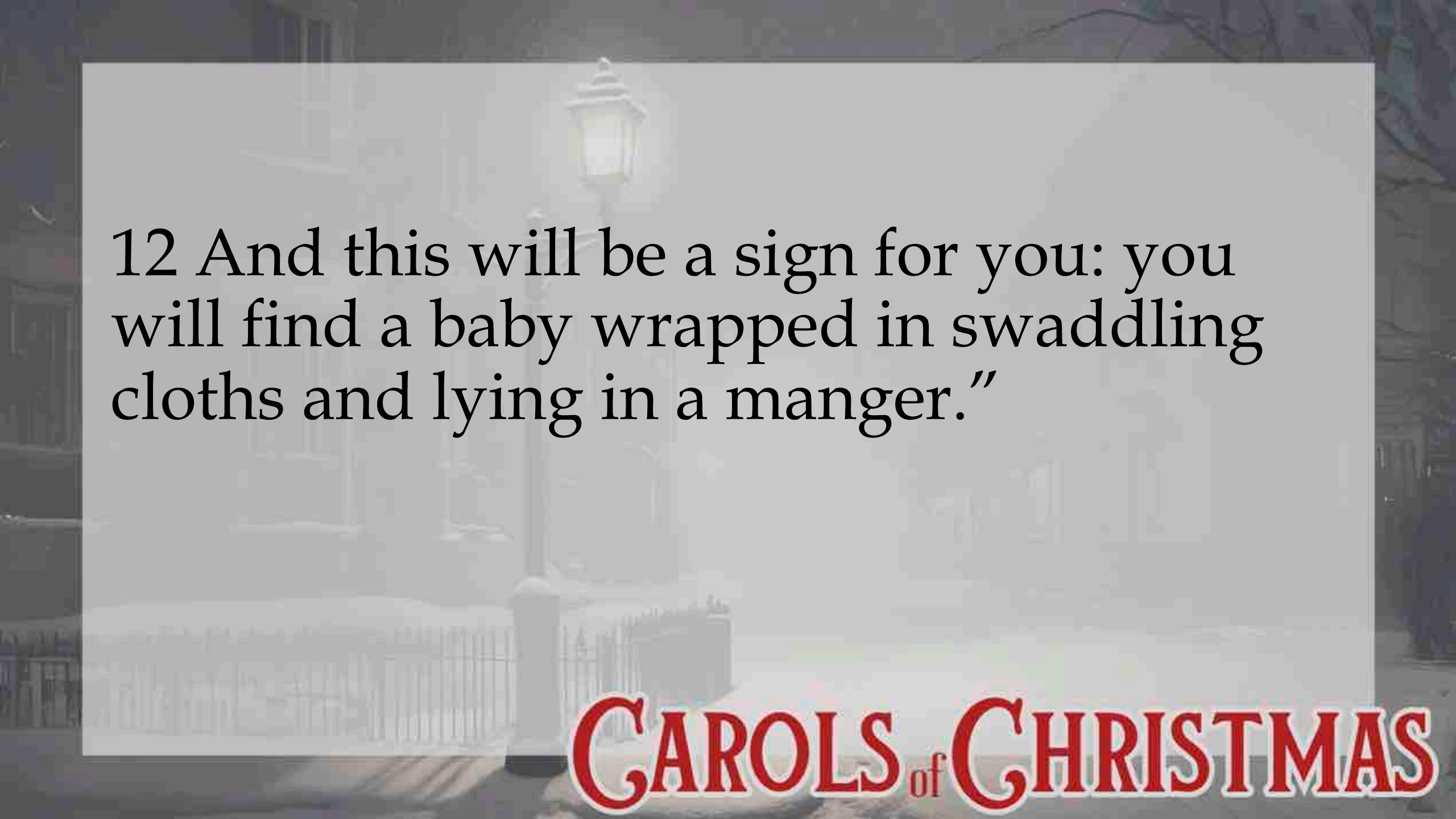
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“Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home.” G.K. Chesterton

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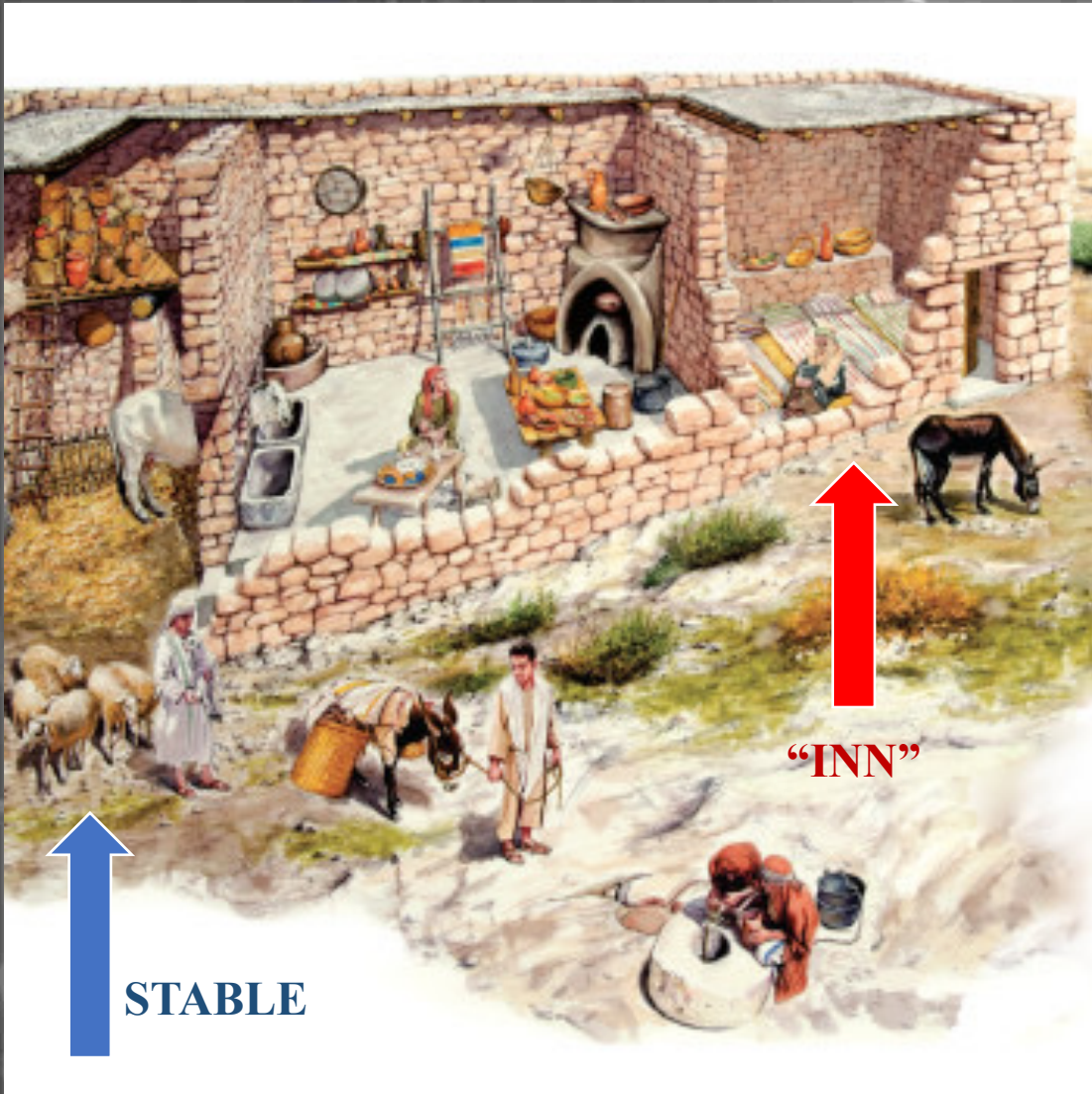
2:10, 11 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

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A soft-focus, winter-themed background image showing a snow-covered street. A classic street lamp with a glowing light is the central focus, casting a warm glow. To the left, a white wrought-iron fence runs along the sidewalk. The overall atmosphere is quiet and serene, typical of a snowy night in a town square or park.

12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

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STABLE



“INN”

“*kataluma*” - living space
Census filled everything
Only space available!



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Unlikely Crib – Manger in a Stable

- A bit about mangers and stables
 - Don't be too hard on the innkeeper
 - Childbirth is not a quiet event – privacy!
- **This humble birth conveys an amazing message to creation: the transcendent God condescended to come to us.**

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THE UNWELCOME
CAME UNINVITED
TO GIVE THE
UNIMAGINABLE!





**GLORIA
IN
EXCEL
SIS DEO**

**Shepherds
Caves**
above fields
of Boaz east
of Bethlehem

**GLORY TO
GOD IN
THE
HIGHEST**

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*“Christmas cannot be kept –
(glory to men)
it must be shared!”
(glory to God!)*

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"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world."

C.S. Lewis



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