

EMMANUEL

A stylized illustration of a nativity scene. The background is a dark teal color with a starburst pattern of white and light blue stars and bokeh. In the center, a white silhouette of a manger is shown with Mary kneeling, Joseph standing, and the infant Jesus in a manger. To the left, a white silhouette of a cow and a donkey are visible. To the right, three white silhouettes of camels are shown, and a shepherd with a staff and a lantern is leading sheep. In the background, a white silhouette of a city with domes and towers is visible. The overall style is clean and modern.

God with us

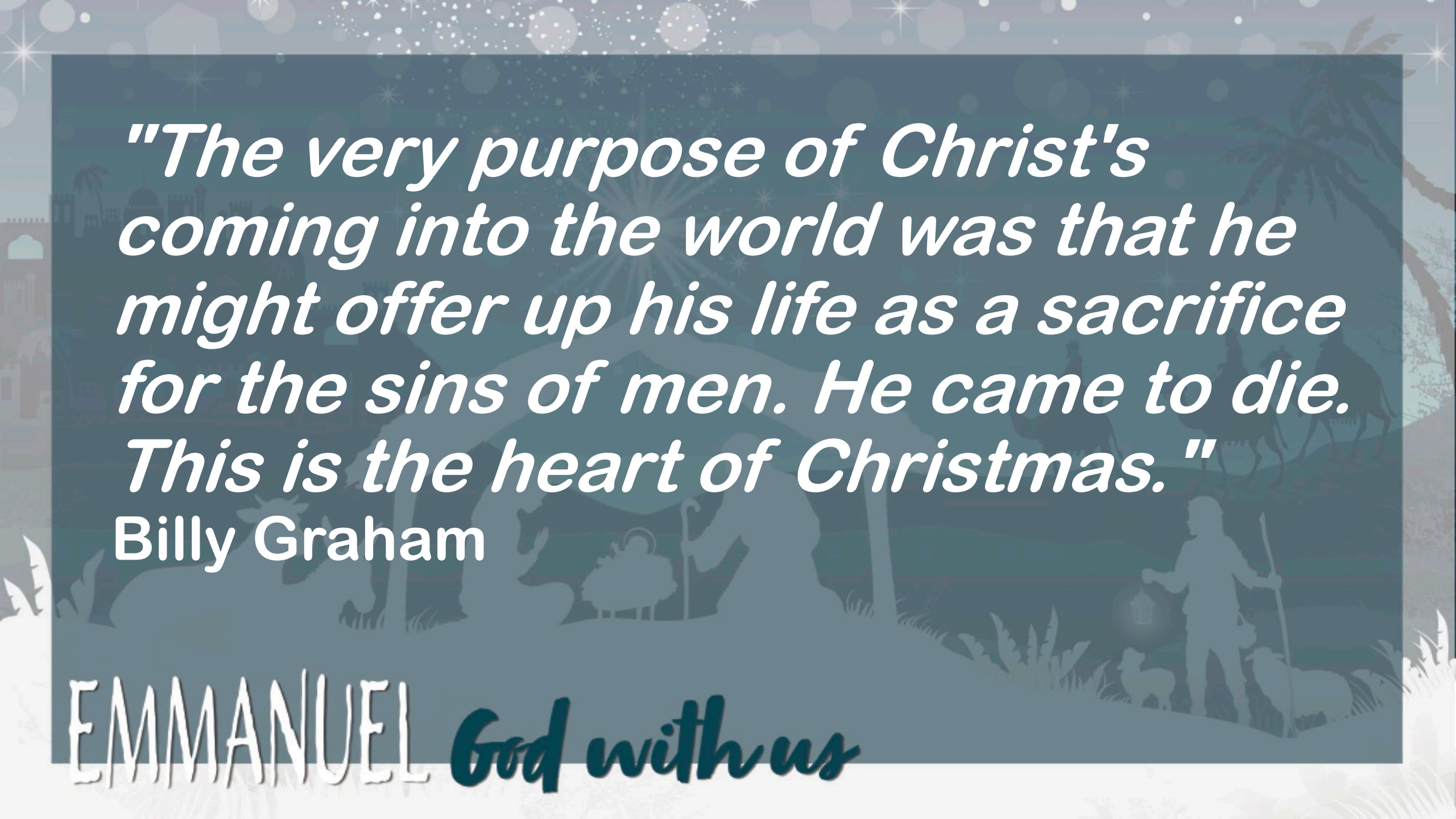
A dark blue silhouette illustration of a nativity scene. In the center, a manger is visible with a baby lying in it. To the left, a cow and a donkey are present. To the right, three camels are shown, and a shepherd with a staff and a dog is visible. The background features a starburst pattern and a cityscape silhouette.

God with us – an unlikely announcement Luke 2

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“The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the Incarnation.” J.I. Packer

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"The very purpose of Christ's coming into the world was that he might offer up his life as a sacrifice for the sins of men. He came to die. This is the heart of Christmas."

Billy Graham

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1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

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A silhouette illustration of the Nativity scene. In the foreground, a manger is shown with a baby lying in it, surrounded by a cow and a donkey. A shepherd stands to the right, holding a staff and a lantern. In the background, three camels are being led by riders, and a stable structure is visible on the left. The scene is set against a dark, starry night sky with a bright star in the distance.

2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

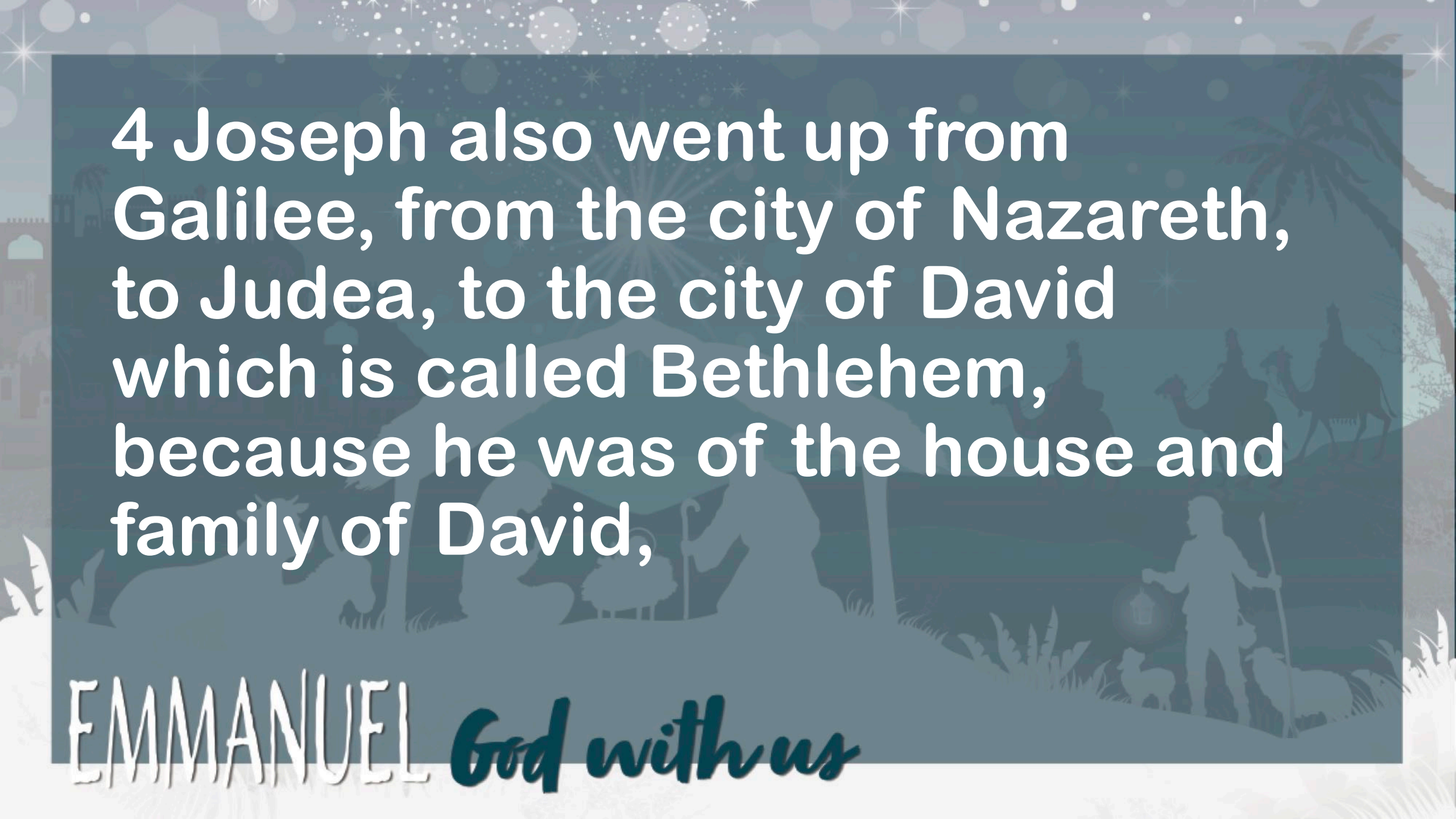


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3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

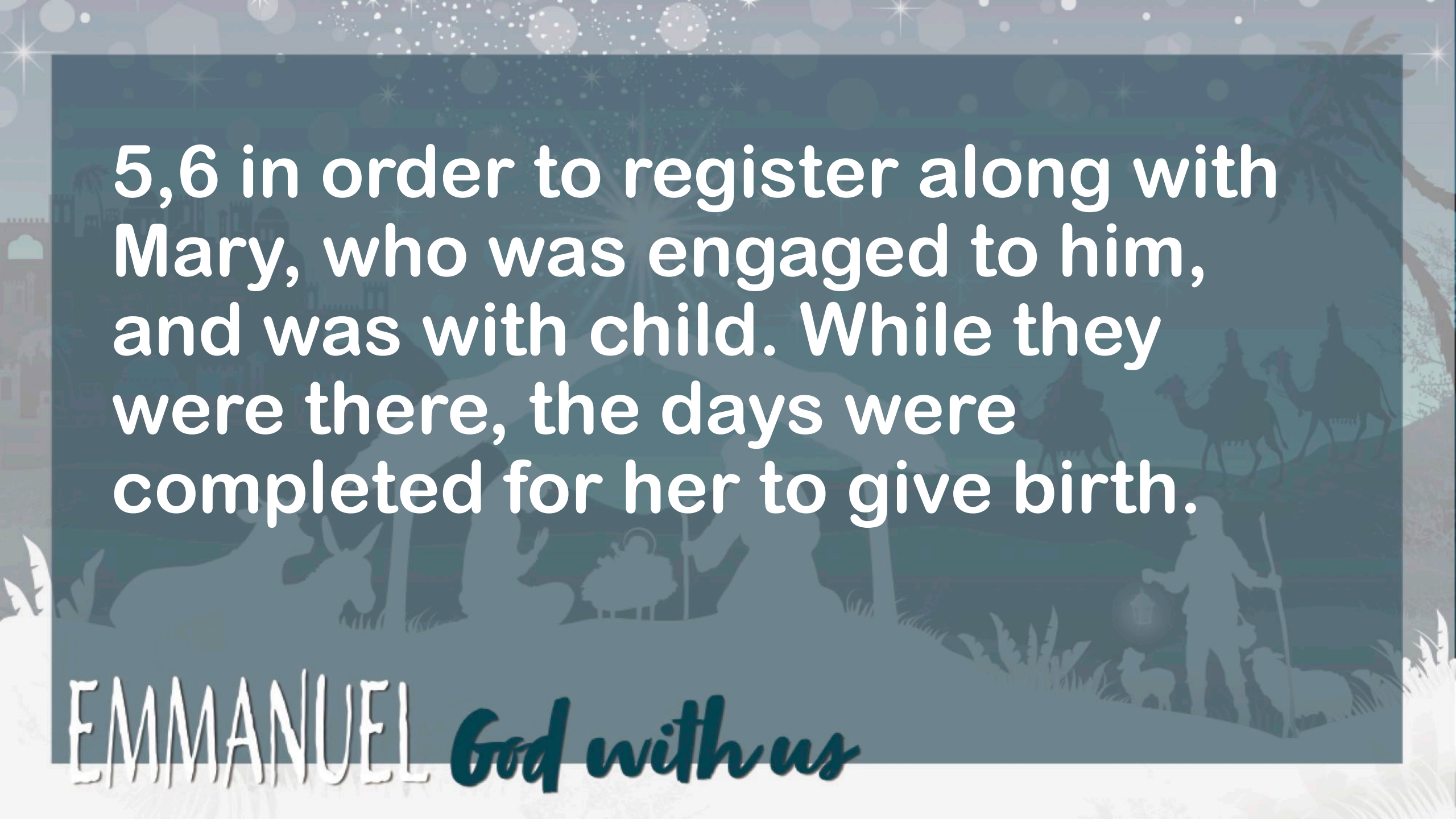
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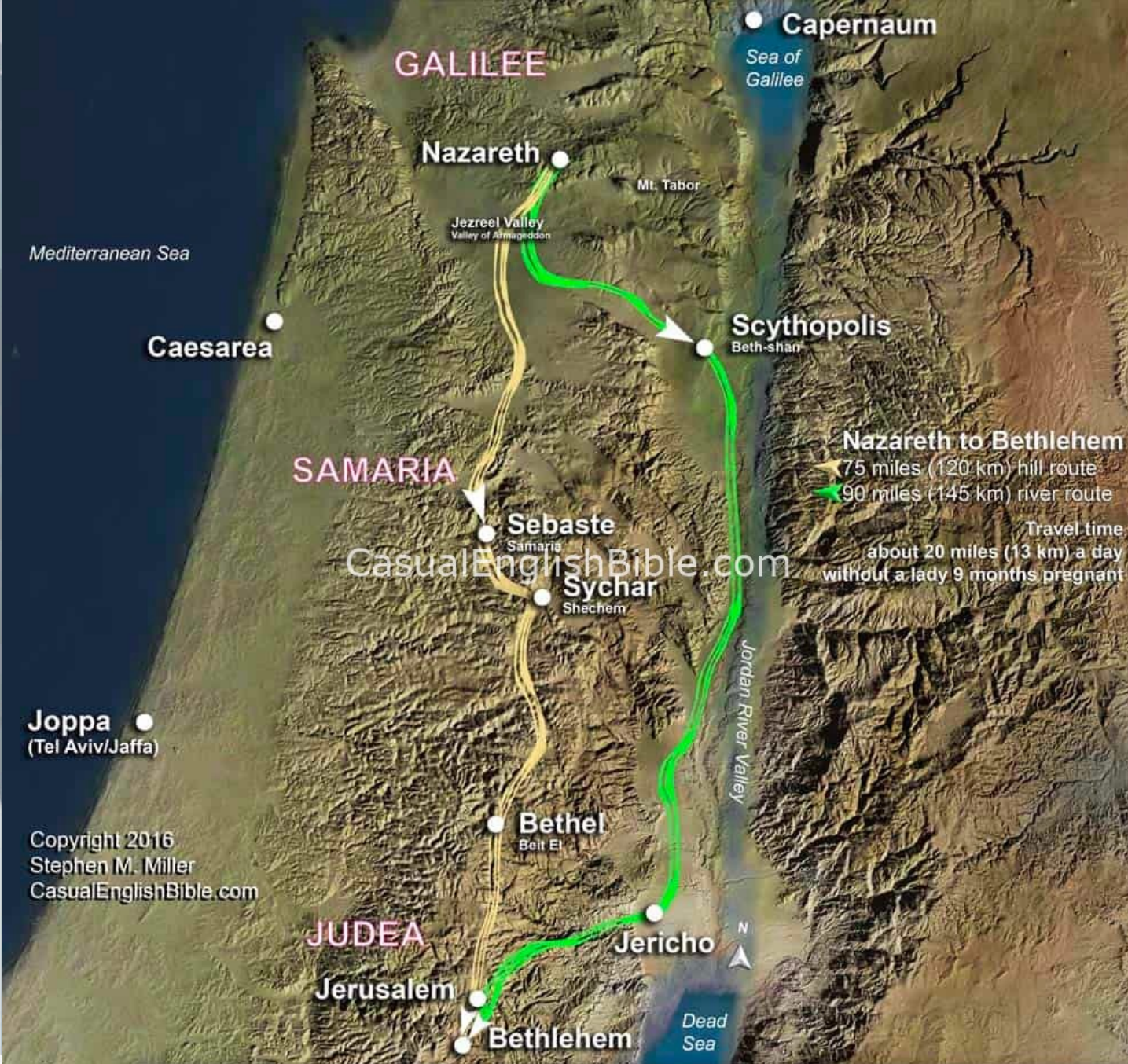
4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,

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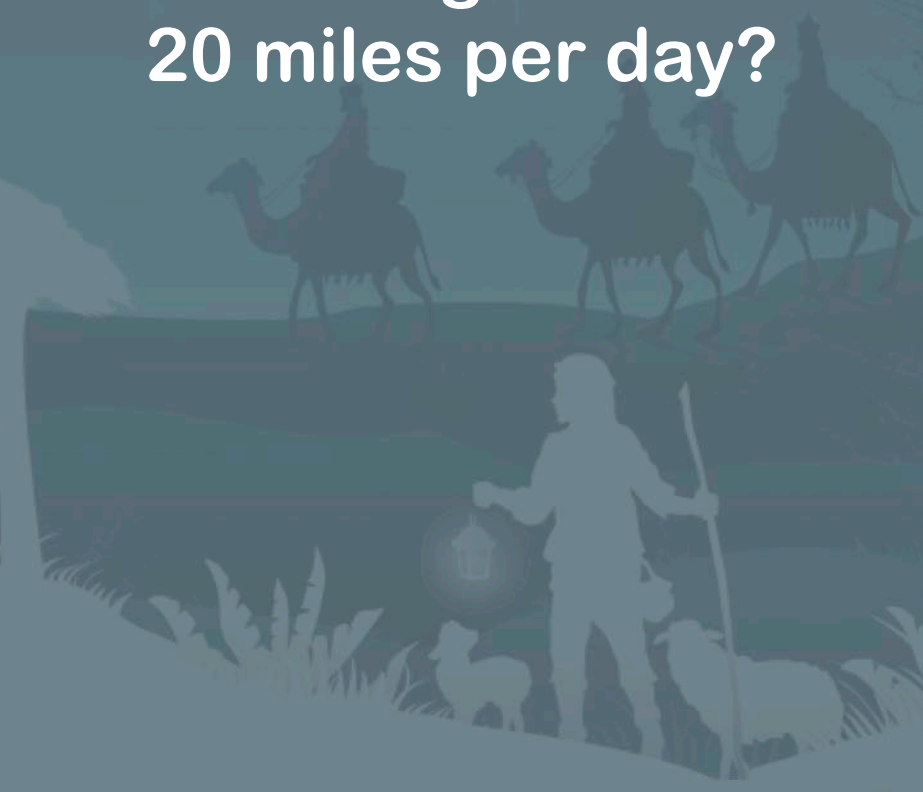


5,6 in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.

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Nazareth to Bethlehem
 75 miles – yellow route
 90 miles – green route
 20 miles per day?



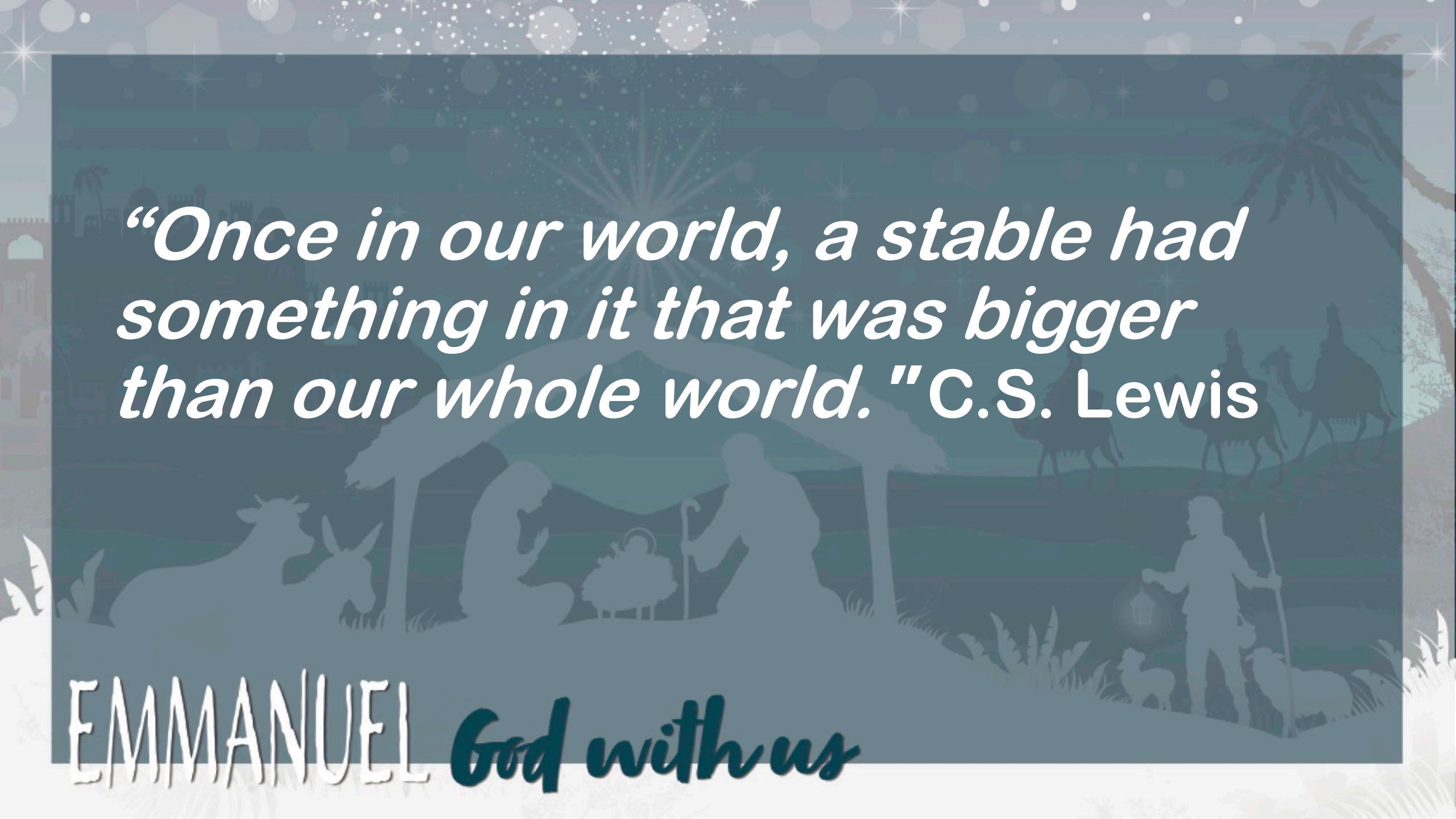
LUKE 2 "Joseph...took his fiancée, Mary...to Bethlehem."

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His Journey 1-6

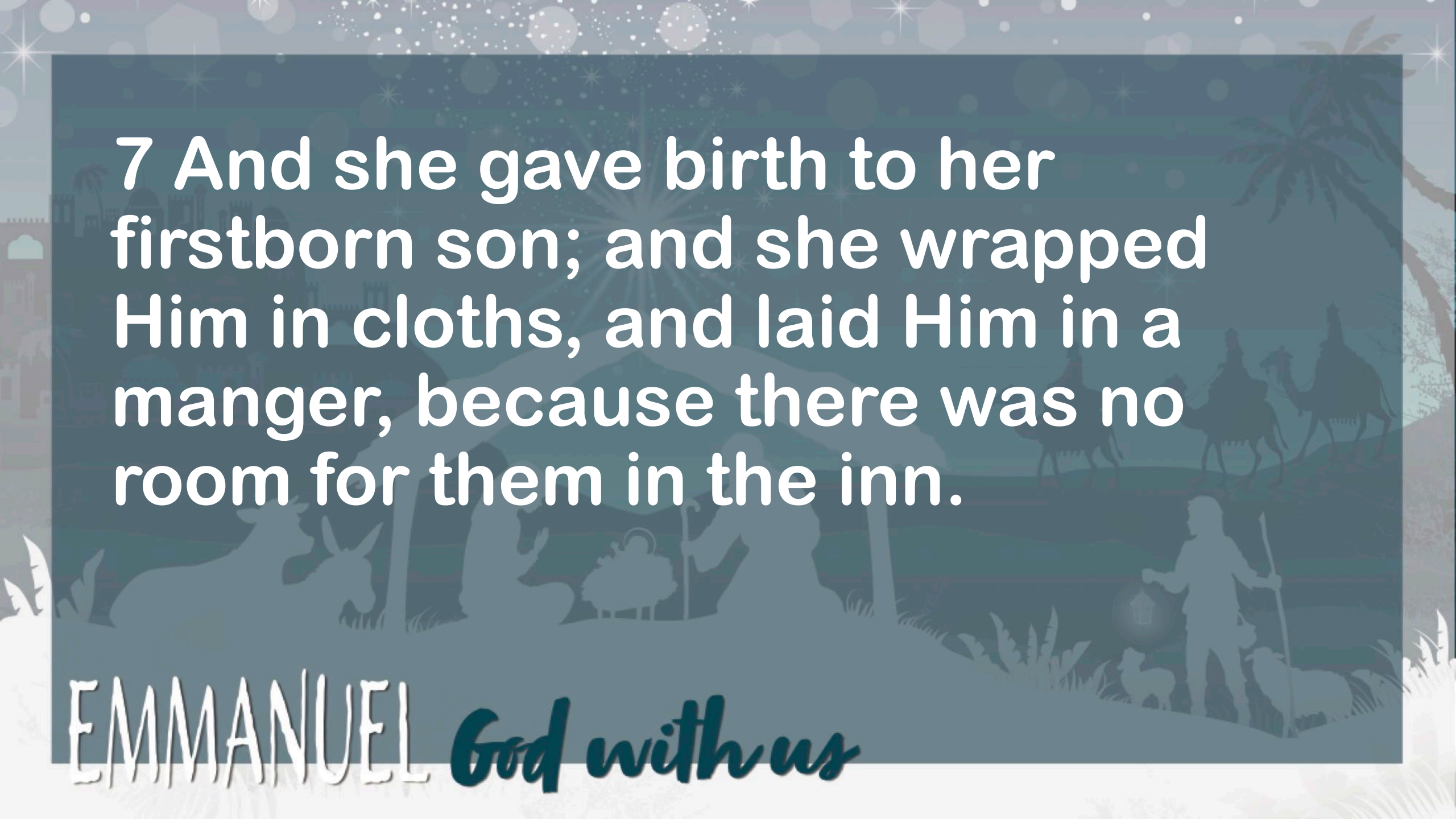
- Real points of history = REAL ACCOUNT!
- Caesar Augustus – republic to empire
- Political Savior vs Savior of the soul

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A dark blue silhouette illustration of a nativity scene. In the center, the Virgin Mary is kneeling and holding the infant Jesus. To the left, a cow and a donkey are visible. To the right, a shepherd stands with a staff, and another figure is kneeling. In the background, three camels are walking. The scene is set under a starry night sky with a bright star in the center. The overall style is a flat, silhouette-based illustration.

“Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.” C.S. Lewis

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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.

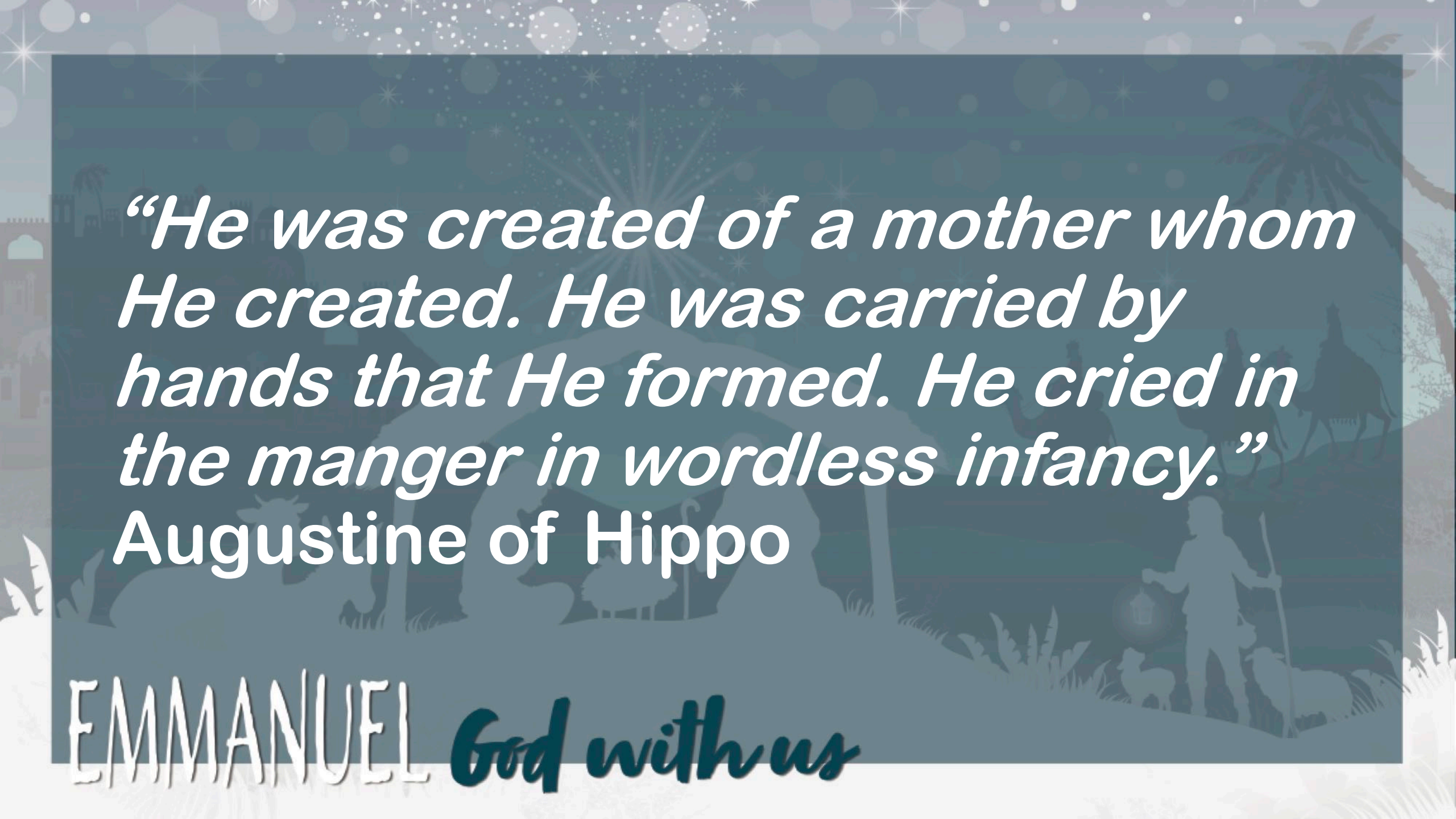
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His Humanity - 'firstborn son'

- Mary had none before
- Mary had more after - 'firstborn'
- Mary had a 'son' – human

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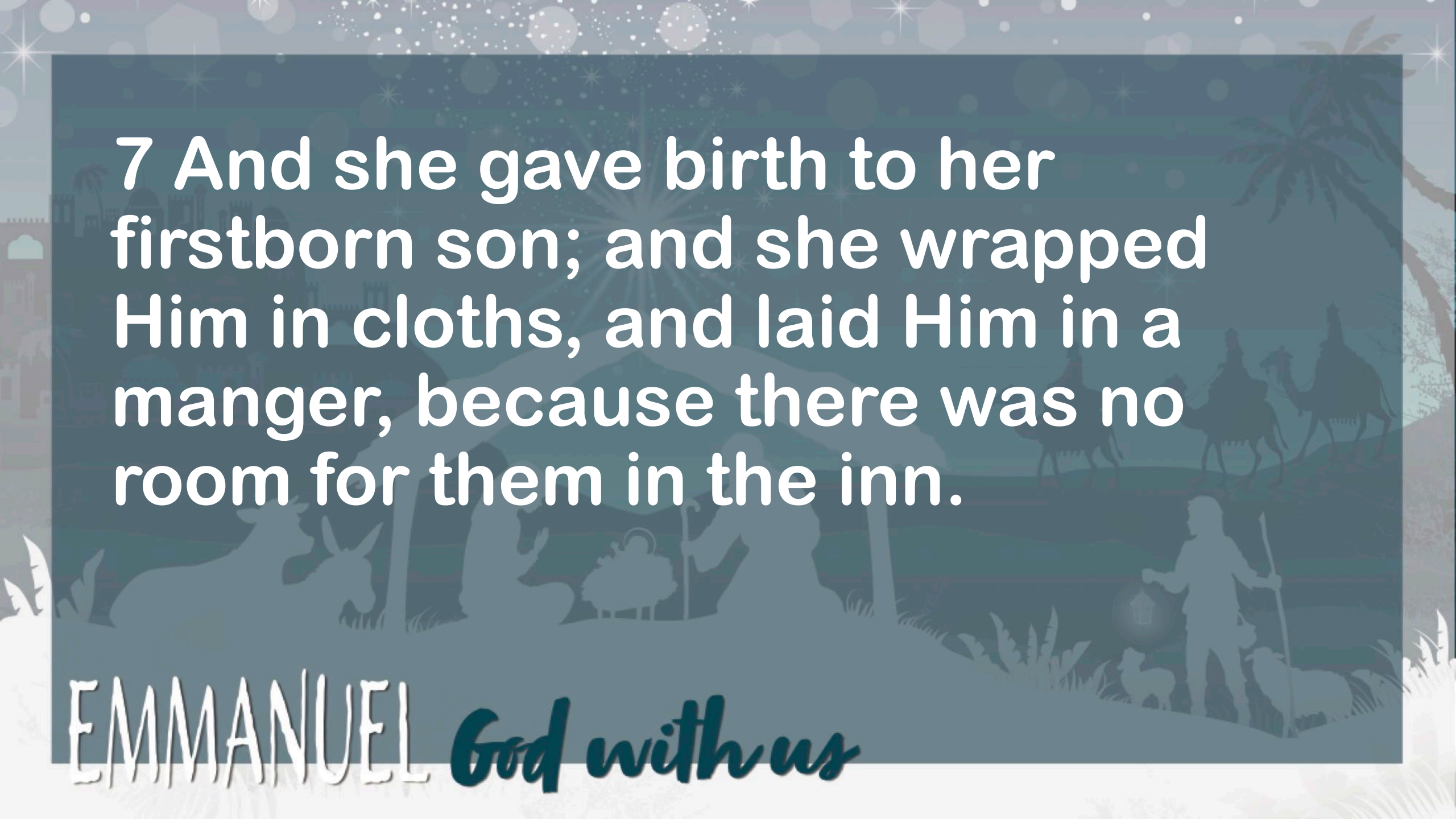
A silhouette illustration of the Nativity scene. In the foreground, a manger is visible with a baby lying in it. To the left, a cow and a donkey are present. In the center, a shepherd stands with a staff, and a sheep is nearby. To the right, three camels are being ridden by figures, likely the wise men. The background shows a landscape with trees and a bright star in the sky.



*“He was created of a mother whom
He created. He was carried by
hands that He formed. He cried in
the manger in wordless infancy.”*

Augustine of Hippo

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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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His Helplessness - wrapped Him in cloths

- Mary was alone – ‘she wrapped him’
- Jesus was wrapped – passive & helpless
- His strength was NOT gone –
- Self-limitation designed to show Love!

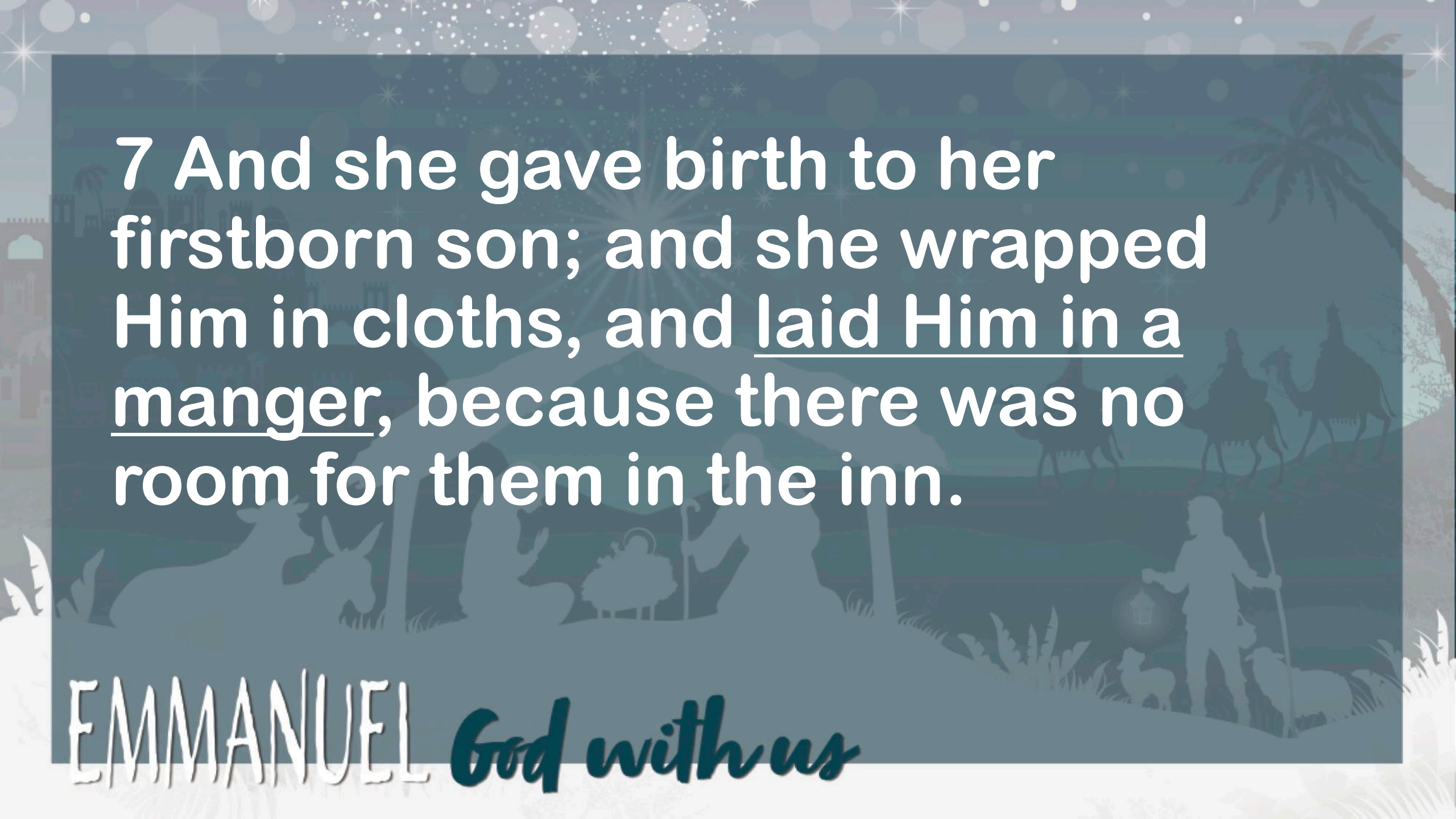
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“Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home.”

G.K. Chesterton

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A dark blue background with a silhouette of a nativity scene. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of a donkey, a sheep, and a man with a staff. In the background, there are silhouettes of a camel, a man on a camel, and a palm tree. The background is decorated with white stars and bokeh lights.

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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Stone Manger
Jerusalem – Mt Zion



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His Humility - laid Him in a manger

- Manger – common feed trough
- Bread of life
- ‘take, eat - this is my body’
- Born in ‘house of Bread’ – Bethlehem

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“May we not 'spend' Christmas or 'observe' Christmas, but rather 'keep' it.” Peter Marshall

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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.

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A dark blue silhouette illustration of a nativity scene. In the foreground, a shepherd stands with a staff, looking towards a manger where the infant Jesus lies. To the left, a cow and a donkey are visible. In the background, three camels are walking across a field. The scene is set against a dark blue background with a starburst pattern in the upper left corner.

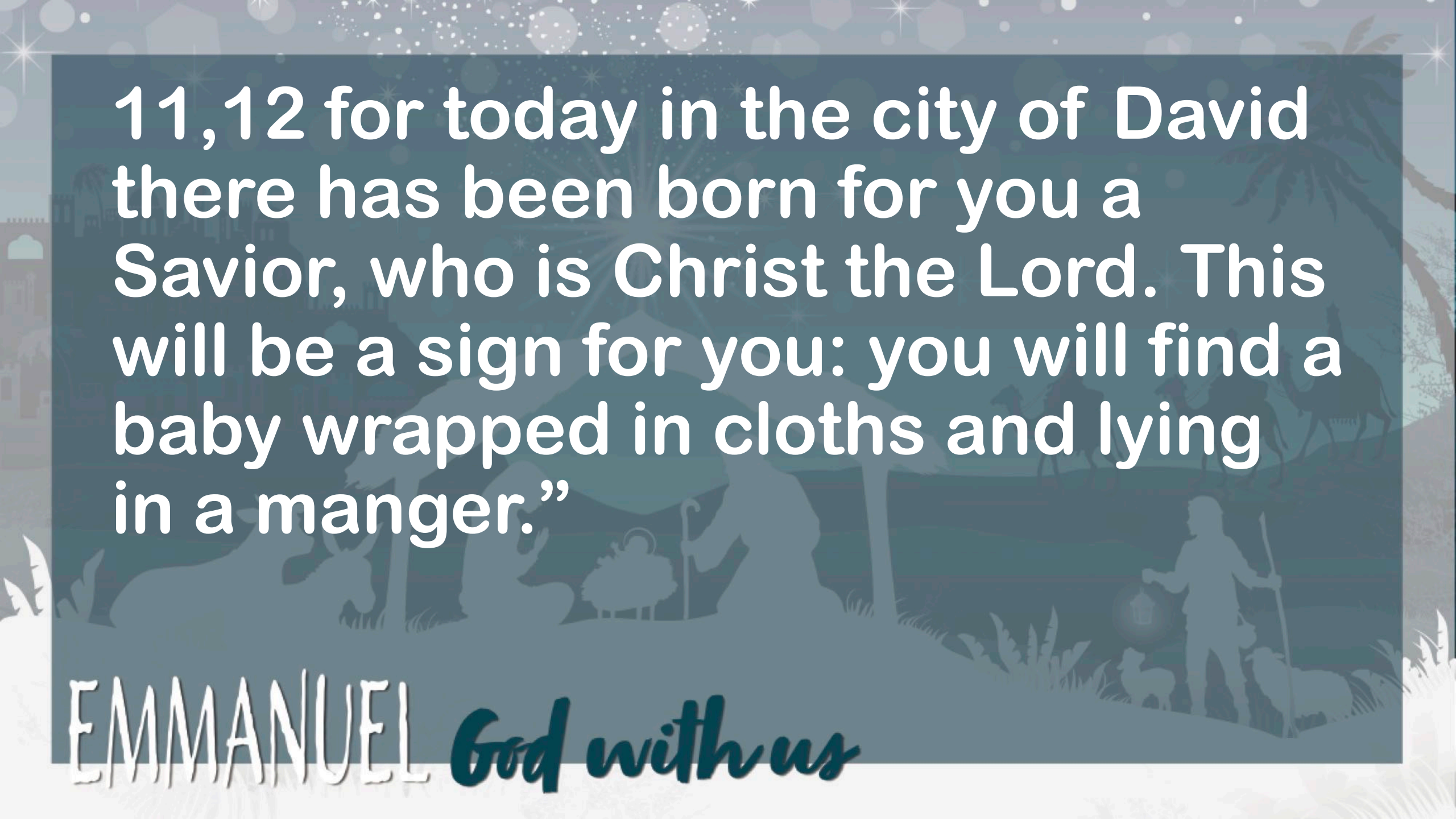
9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

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A dark blue silhouette illustration of a nativity scene. In the foreground, a manger contains a baby Jesus, a cow, and a donkey. A shepherd stands to the right with a staff and a dog. In the background, three camels are on the right, and a stable with a horse and a woman is on the left. The scene is set against a night sky with stars and a bright sun or starburst behind a mountain range.

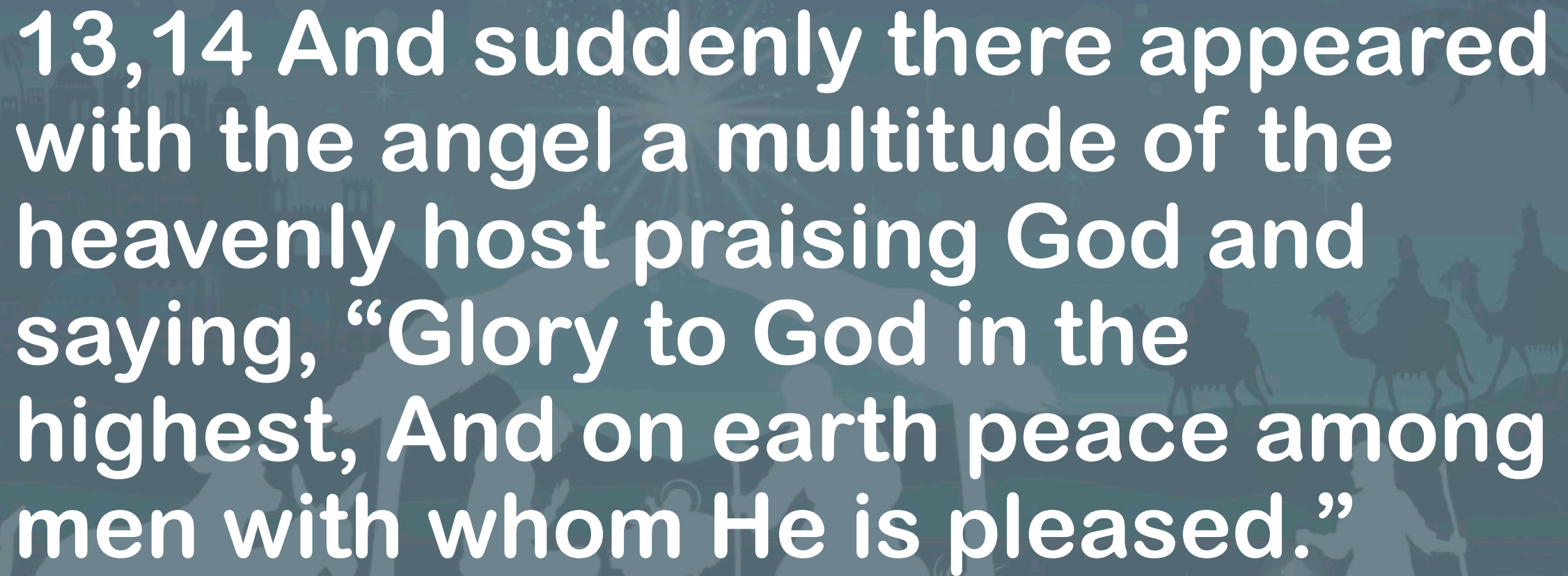
10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;

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11,12 for today in the city of David
there has been born for you a
Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This
will be a sign for you: you will find a
baby wrapped in cloths and lying
in a manger.”

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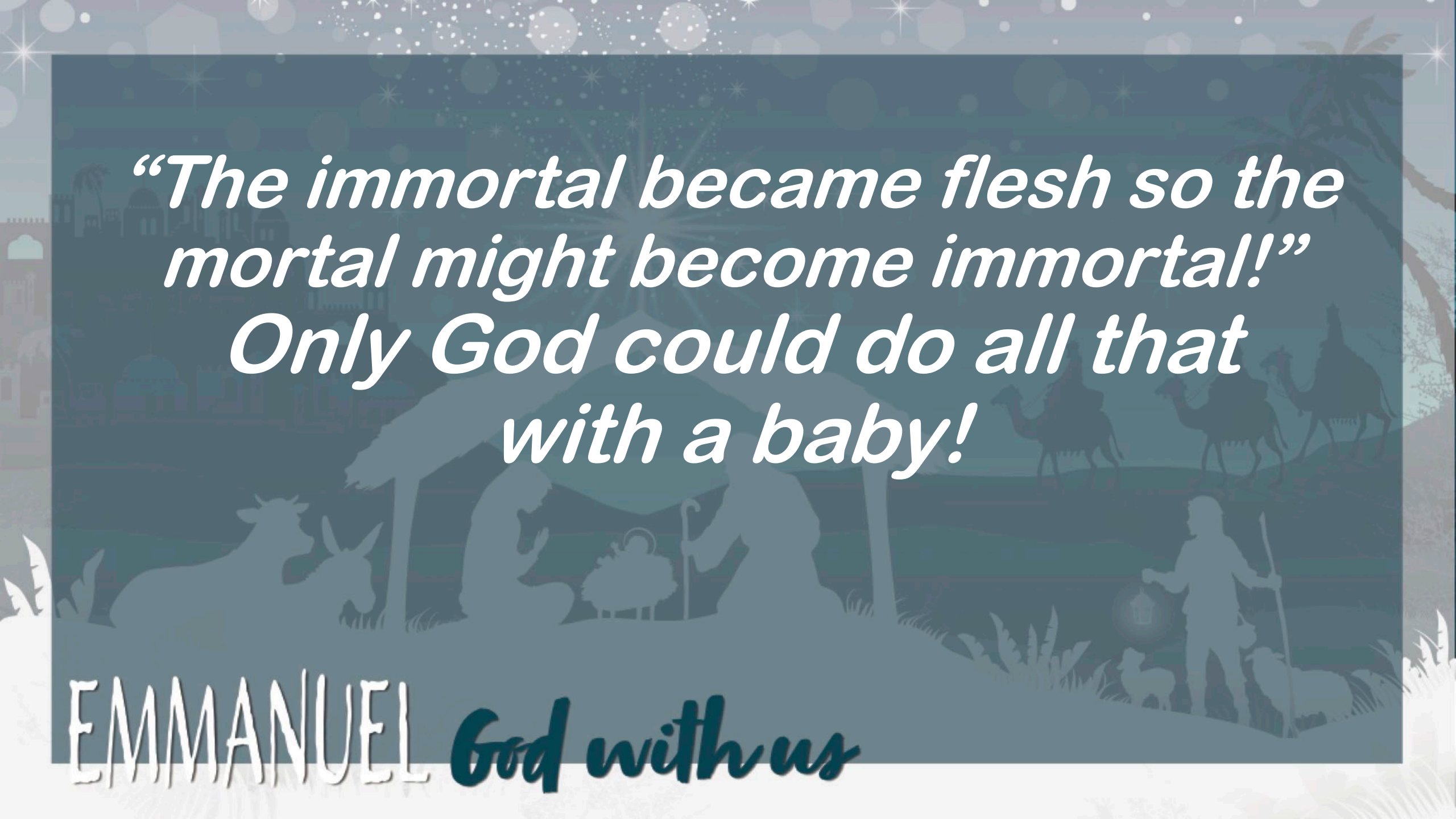
13,14 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

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His First Guests - Shepherds & Angels

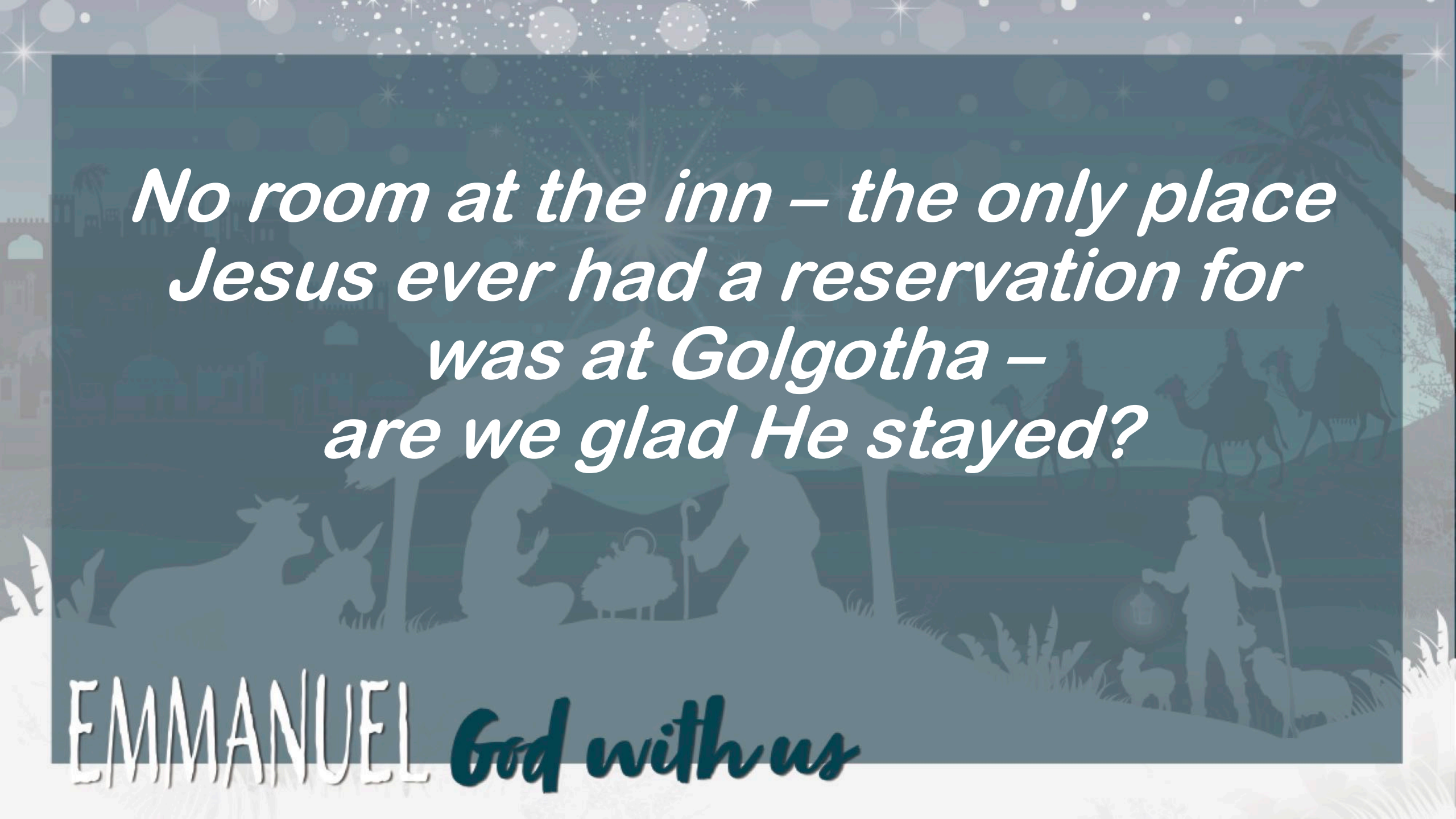
- Where He is – unlikely place
- Who He is – unlikely introduction
- Why He is – unlikely solution

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A dark blue silhouette illustration of a nativity scene. In the center, the Virgin Mary is kneeling in prayer, holding the infant Jesus. To the left, a cow and a donkey are present. To the right, three camels are being led by a man. The background features a starburst pattern and a cityscape on the left. The entire scene is set against a dark blue background with white stars and bokeh effects.

*“The immortal became flesh so the mortal might become immortal!”
Only God could do all that
with a baby!*

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*No room at the inn – the only place
Jesus ever had a reservation for
was at Golgotha –
are we glad He stayed?*

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The star led the Wise Men –
now we are the stars!

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