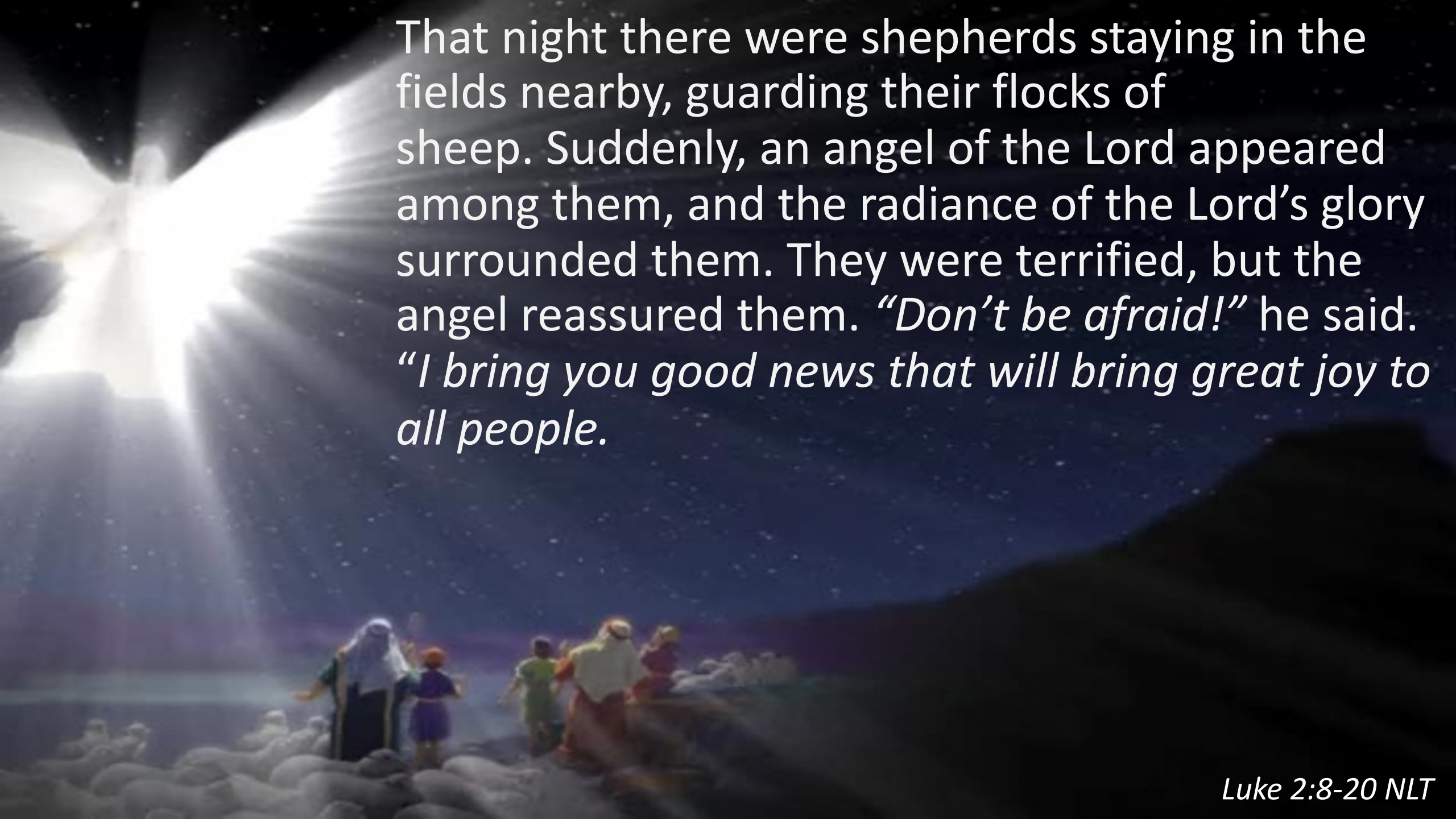
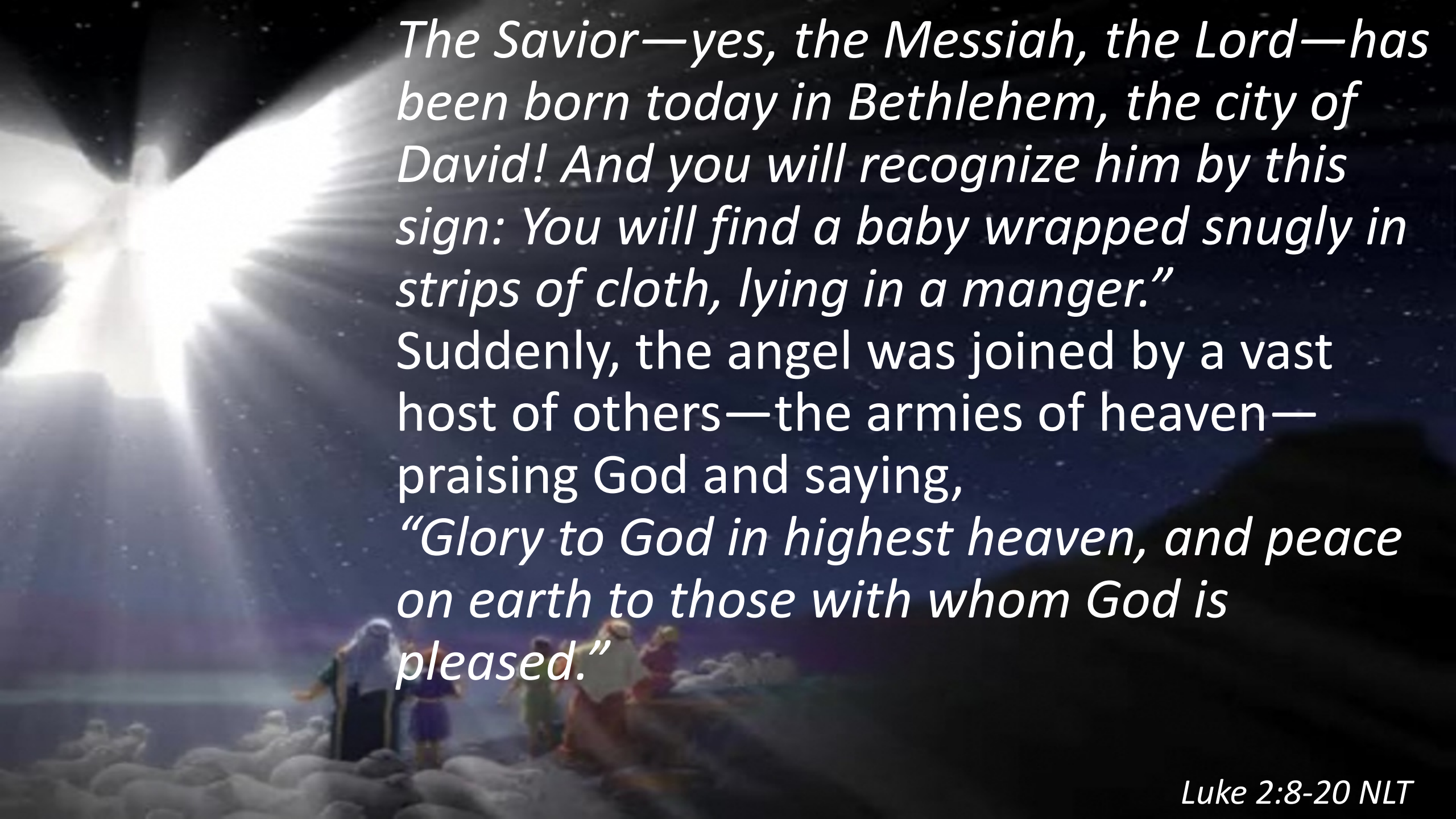




Through the Shepherds Eyes

An angel with large, white, feathered wings is shown in profile, shining brightly against a dark, starry night sky. The angel's wings are spread wide, and a bright light emanates from the center. In the foreground, a group of people, including a woman in a white headscarf and a man in a white robe, are standing on a rocky, uneven ground. They appear to be looking up at the angel. In the background, there are dark, rolling hills or mountains under a starry sky. The overall scene is dramatic and divine.

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. *"Don't be afraid!"* he said. *"I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people."*

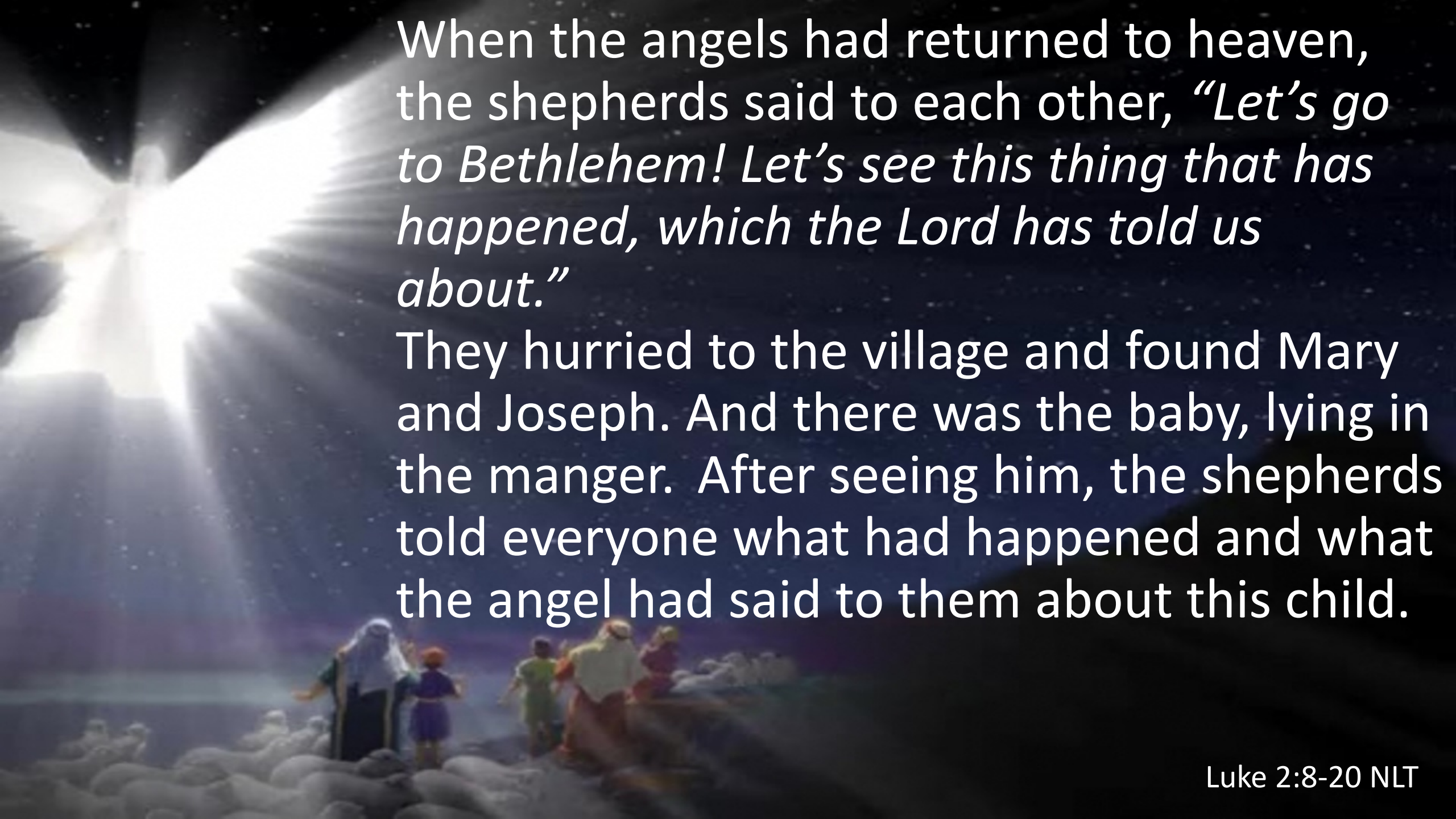
A bright angel with large white wings is shown shining in a dark, starry sky. The angel's wings are spread wide, and a brilliant light emanates from its chest, creating a large, glowing cross-like shape. The background is a deep blue and black, filled with small white stars. In the lower portion of the image, several figures in traditional attire are visible, appearing to be in a heavenly or celestial setting, looking up towards the angel.

*The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”*

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

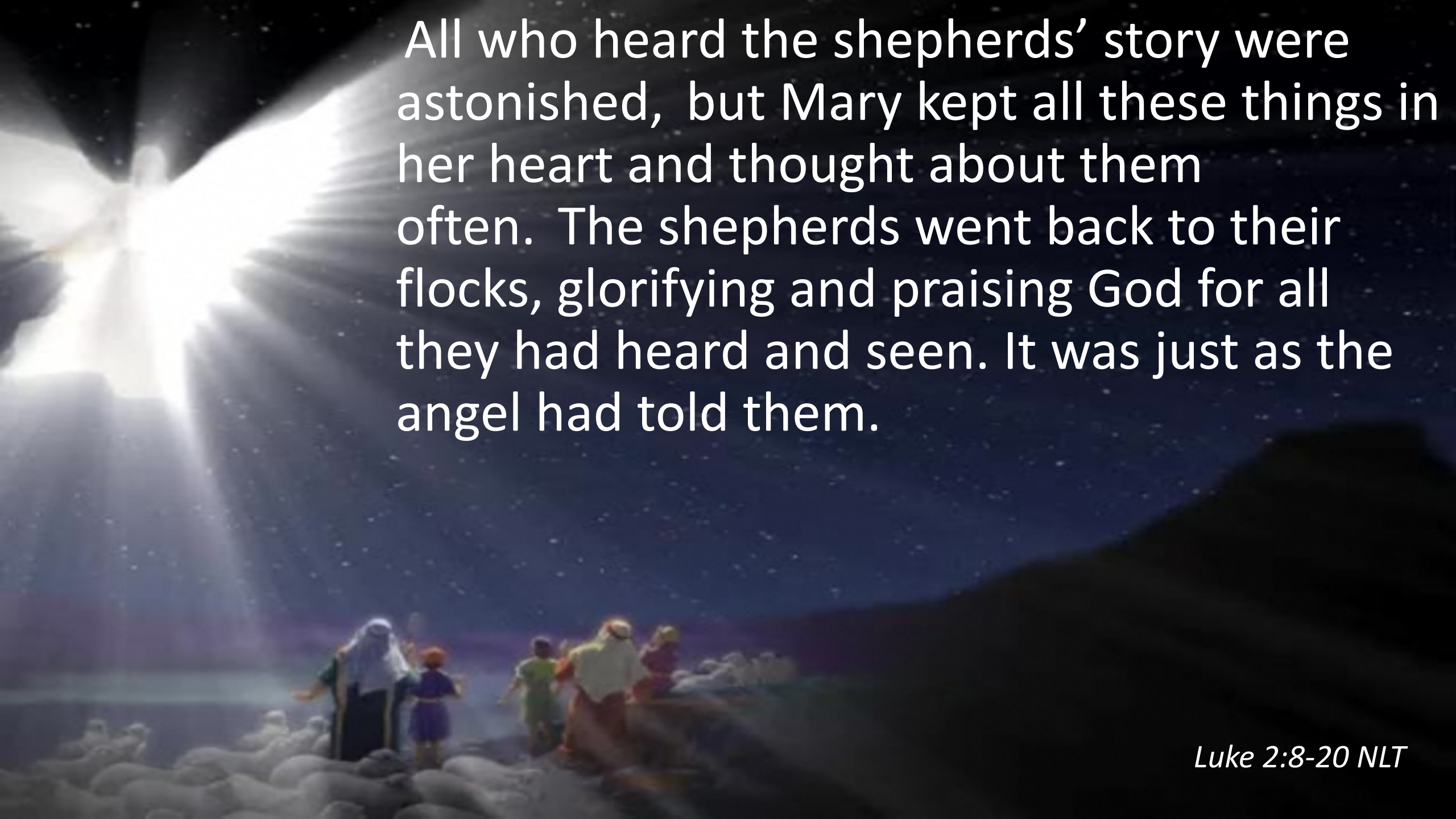
*“Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”*





When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, *“Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”*

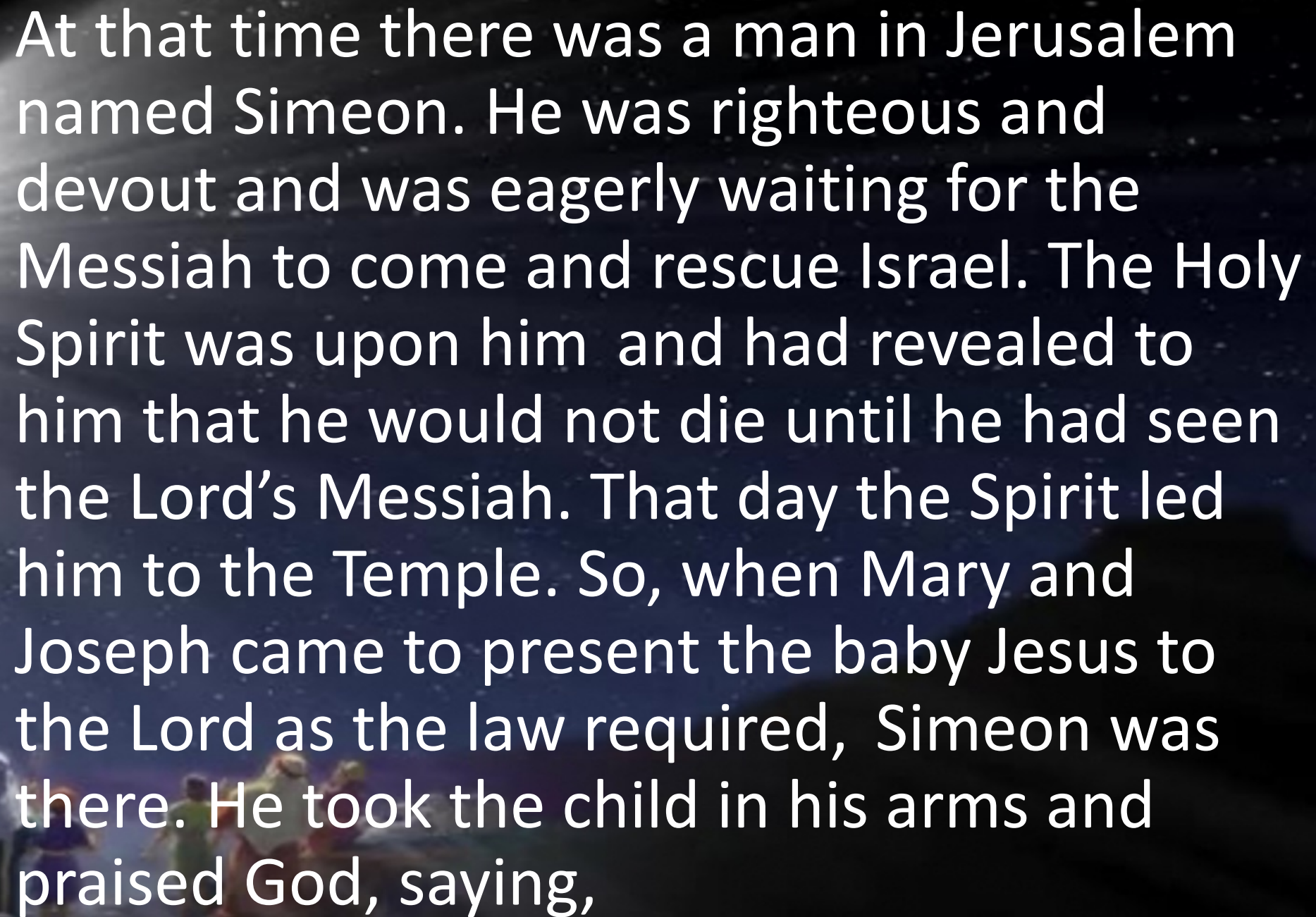
They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child.

An angel with large, white, feathered wings is shown in profile, shining brightly against a dark, starry night sky. The angel's wings are spread wide, and a bright light emanates from the center. In the foreground, a group of people, including a woman in a white headscarf and a man in a white robe, are standing on a rocky, uneven ground. They appear to be looking up at the angel. In the background, there are dark, silhouetted hills or mountains under a starry sky. The overall scene is dramatic and awe-inspiring.

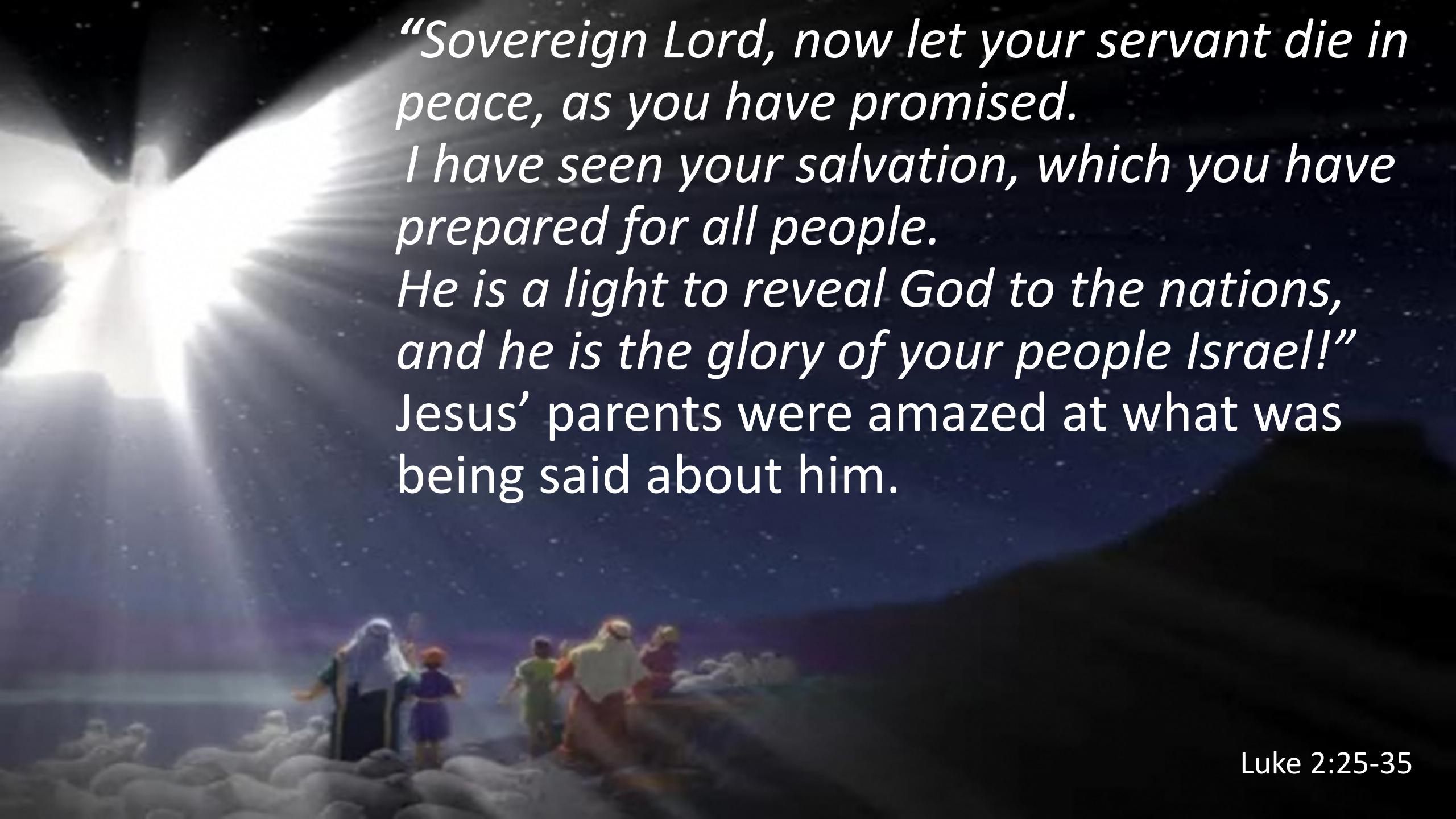
All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

*Luke 2:8-20 NLT*





At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So, when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,



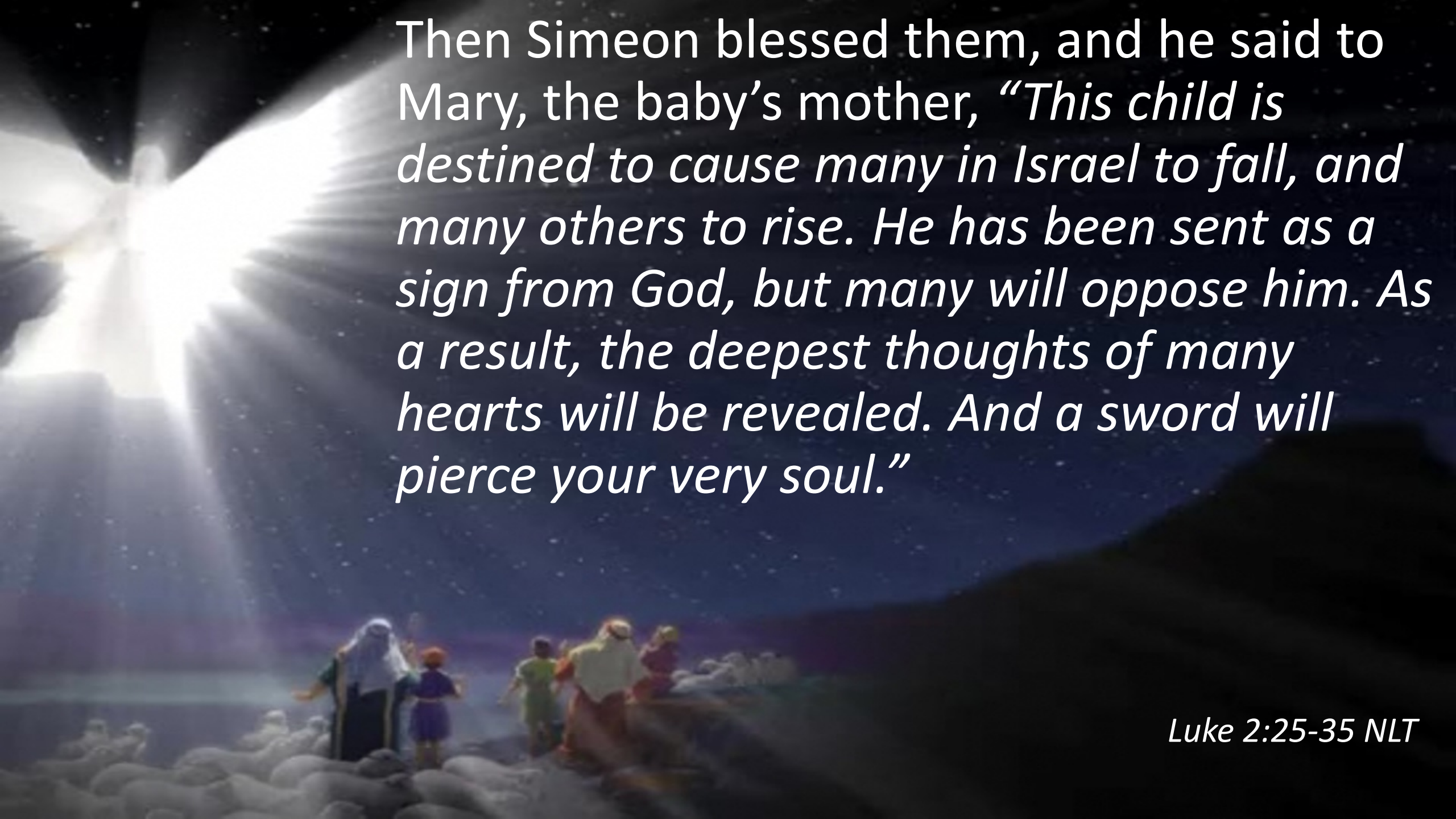
*“Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised.*

*I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people.*

*He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!”*

Jesus’ parents were amazed at what was being said about him.





Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, *"This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul."*

*Luke 2:25-35 NLT*





Through the Shepherds Eyes