A night sky with a bright star and a beam of light shining down on a mountain range with a small town at the base.

Expedition Bethlehem: Joseph's response
Luke 2:1-7

A night sky with a bright star and a beam of light shining down on a town in a valley.

**Christmas is God's expedition toward us
and God's invitation to us.**

The background of the slide is a dark blue night sky filled with small white stars. A prominent bright star with a four-pointed starburst and a vertical beam of light shining down is positioned at the top center. Below the sky, the dark silhouette of a mountain range is visible. At the bottom of the image, a city is depicted with several buildings and glowing yellow windows, suggesting a night scene.

Outline of Luke 2:1-7:

A. Background (2:1-3)

B. Bethlehem (2:4-5)

C. Birth (2:6-7)

The background of the slide is a dark blue night sky filled with numerous small white stars. A prominent, bright star is located in the upper center, emitting a vertical beam of light that extends downwards. Below the sky, a range of dark, silhouetted mountains spans the width of the image. In the foreground, nestled in a valley, is a small town or village with several buildings, some of which have small yellow lights glowing from their windows. The overall scene is serene and evokes a sense of a quiet night in a rural setting.

**Outline of Luke 2:1-7:
A. Background (2:1-3)**

Ancient descriptions of Augustus:

“Divine Augustus Caesar, son of a god, imperator of land and sea, the benefactor and savior of the whole world.”

“the divine savior who has brought peace to the world.”

The background of the slide is a dark blue night sky filled with small white stars. A prominent bright star is located at the top center, with a vertical beam of light shining down from it. In the lower portion of the image, there is a silhouette of a city or town with several buildings, some of which have small yellow lights glowing from their windows. The overall scene is a stylized representation of a night sky over a city.

Outline of Luke 2:1-7:

A. Background (2:1-3)

B. Bethlehem (2:4-5)

A night sky with a bright star in the center, casting a beam of light downwards. The background is dark blue with a faint city silhouette at the bottom.

1 Samuel 17:12a

Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons.

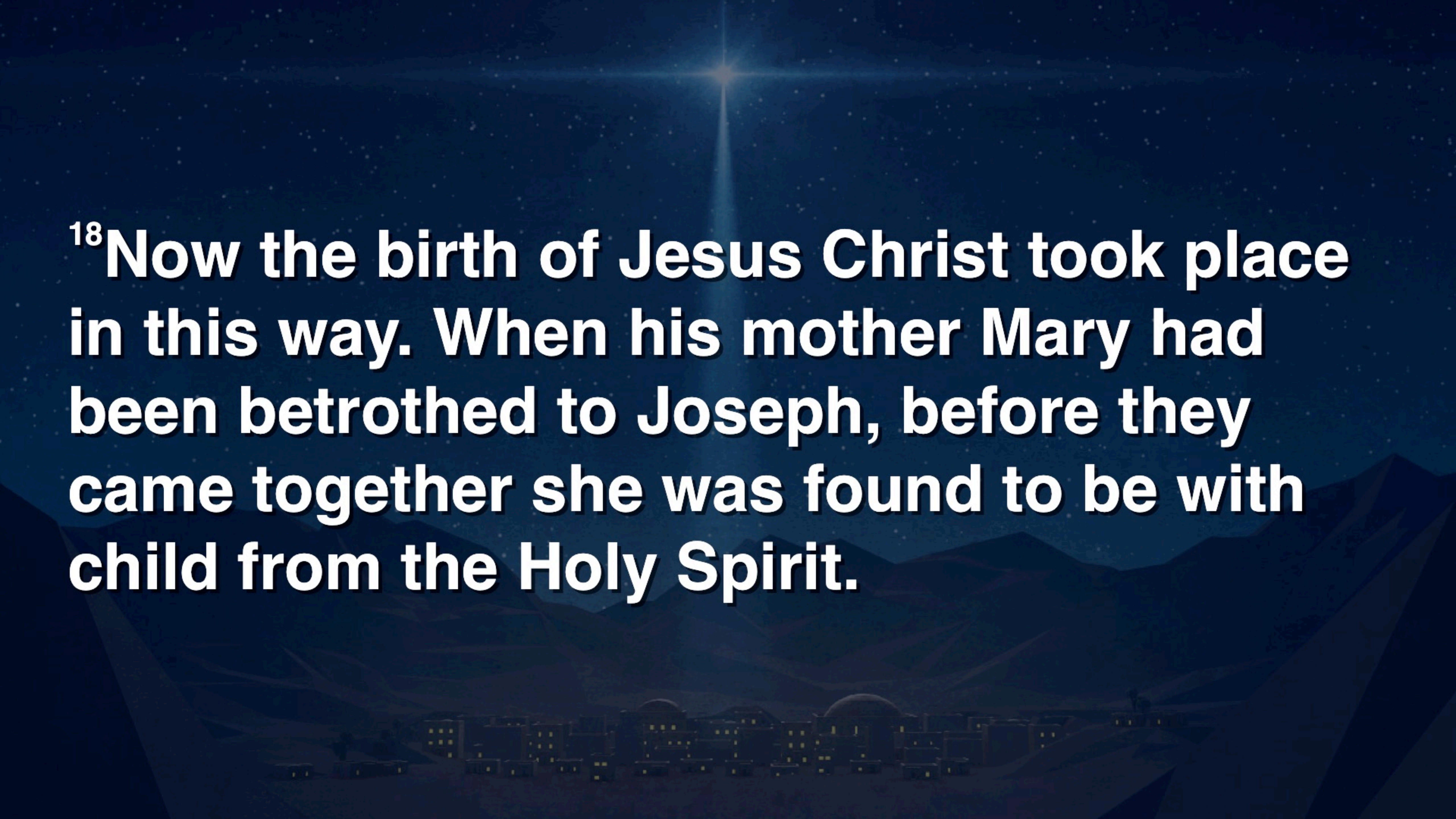
The background of the slide is a dark blue night sky filled with stars. A prominent bright star with a four-pointed starburst is located at the top center. Below the star, a faint beam of light descends towards a silhouette of a city or town at the bottom of the frame. The city is nestled in a valley, with rolling hills and mountains visible in the background. The overall scene is serene and evokes the nativity story.

Outline of Luke 2:1-7:

A. Background (2:1-3)

B. Bethlehem (2:4-5)

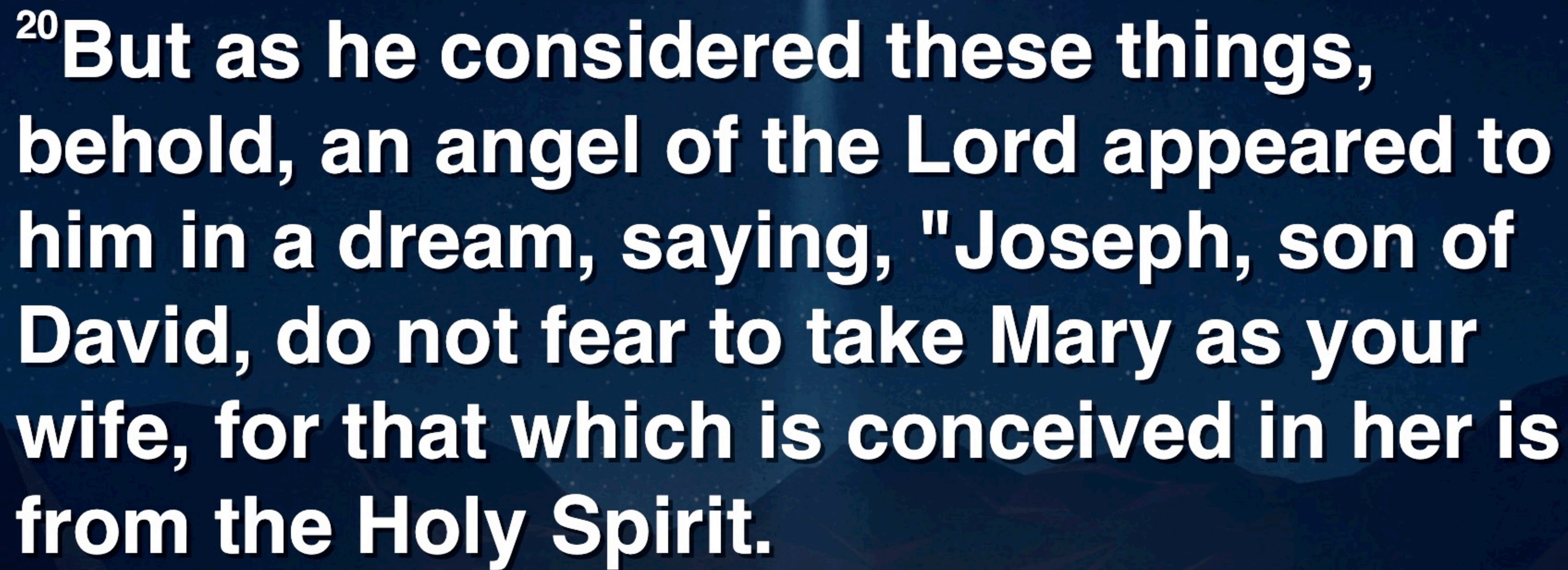
C. Birth (2:6-7)



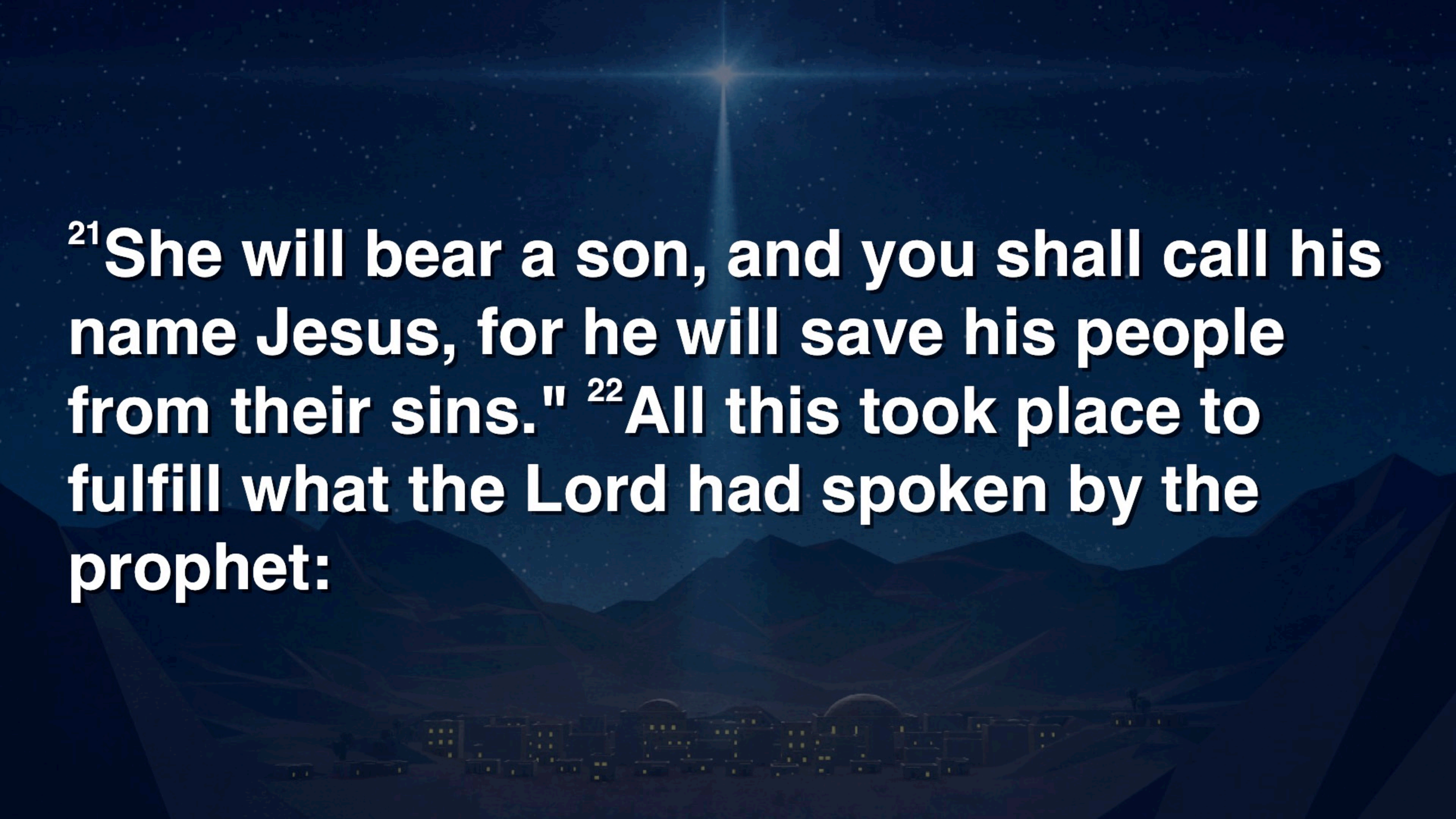
¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

A dark blue night sky with a bright star in the upper center, emitting a vertical beam of light. Below the sky, a silhouette of a cityscape with glowing windows is visible against a dark background.

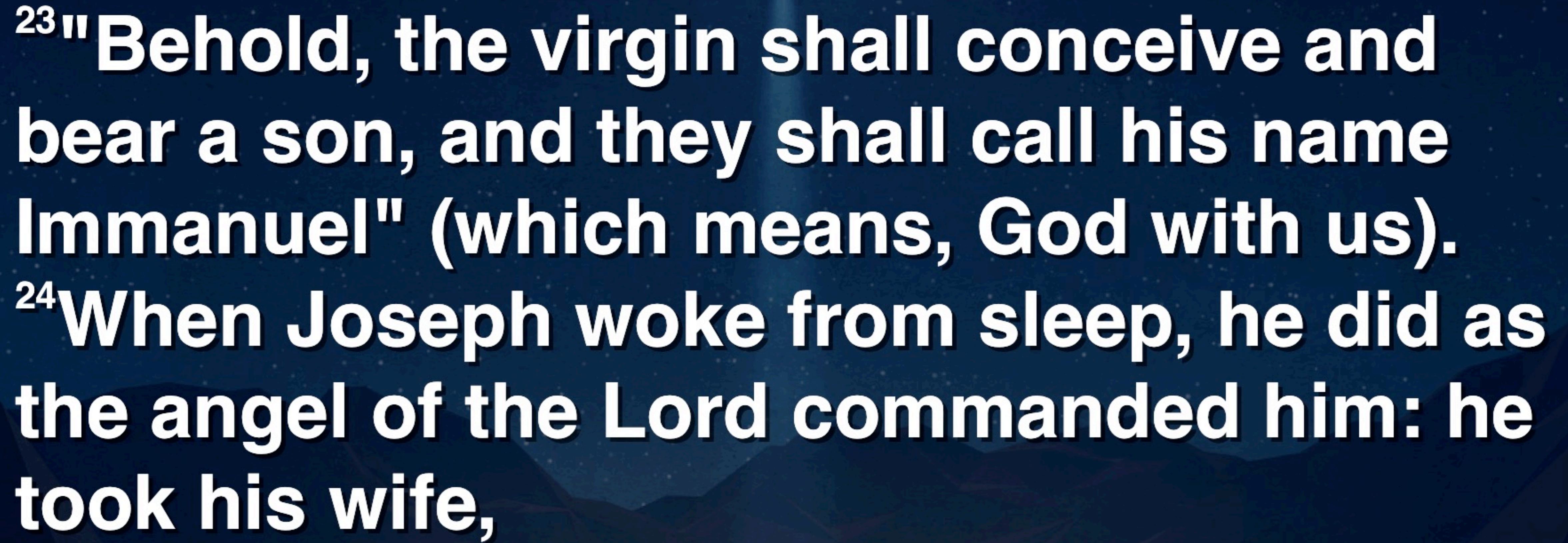
¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

A night sky with a bright star in the upper center, casting a lens flare. Below the star, a silhouette of a cityscape with lit-up buildings is visible against a dark blue background.

²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

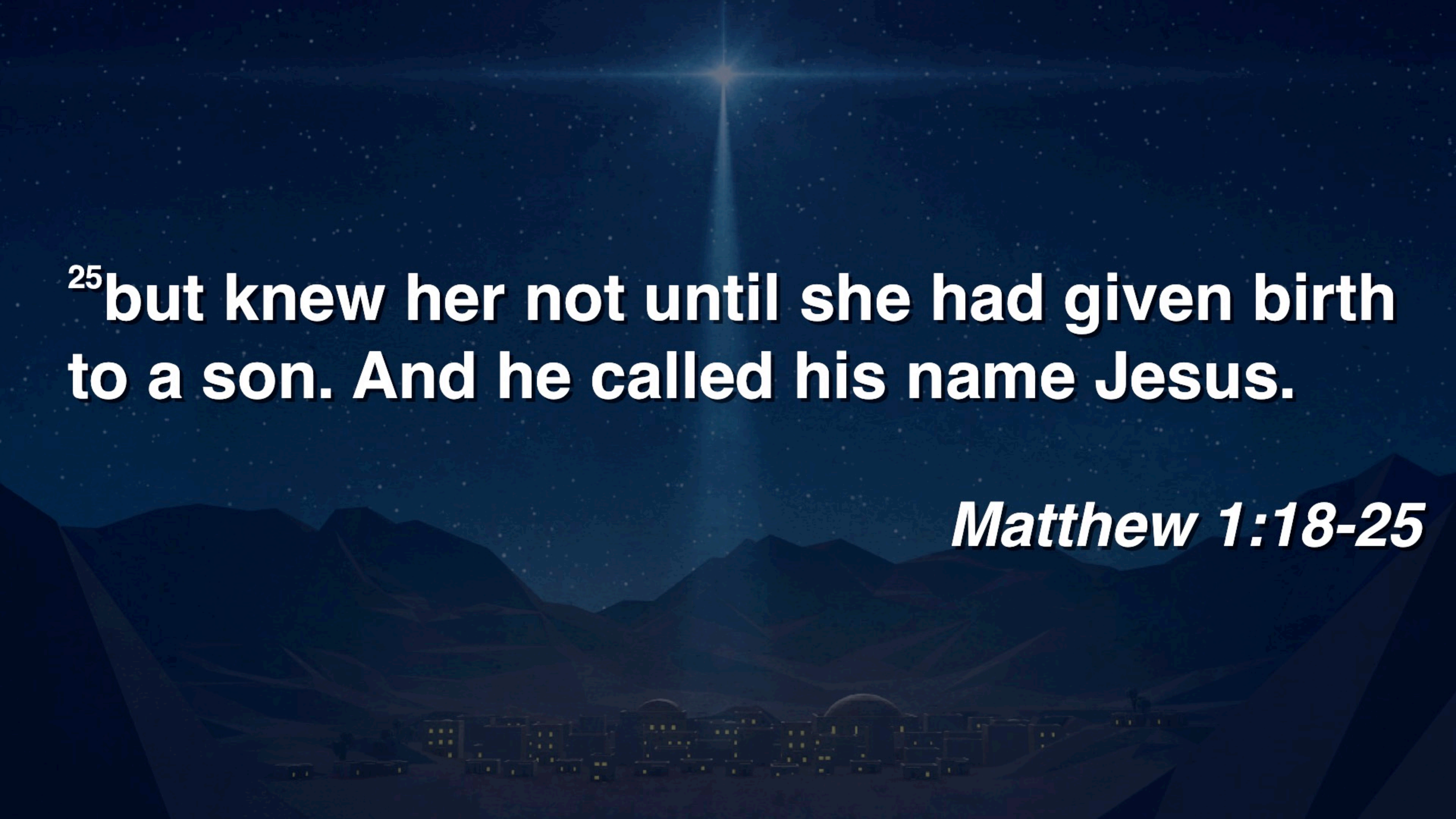
A night sky with a bright star in the center, casting a light beam downwards. Below the star, a silhouette of a cityscape with lit-up buildings is visible against a dark blue background.

²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

The background features a dark blue night sky with a bright, multi-pointed star in the upper center. Below the sky, there is a faint silhouette of a cityscape with lit-up buildings and domes, suggesting a night view of a city like Jerusalem.

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,

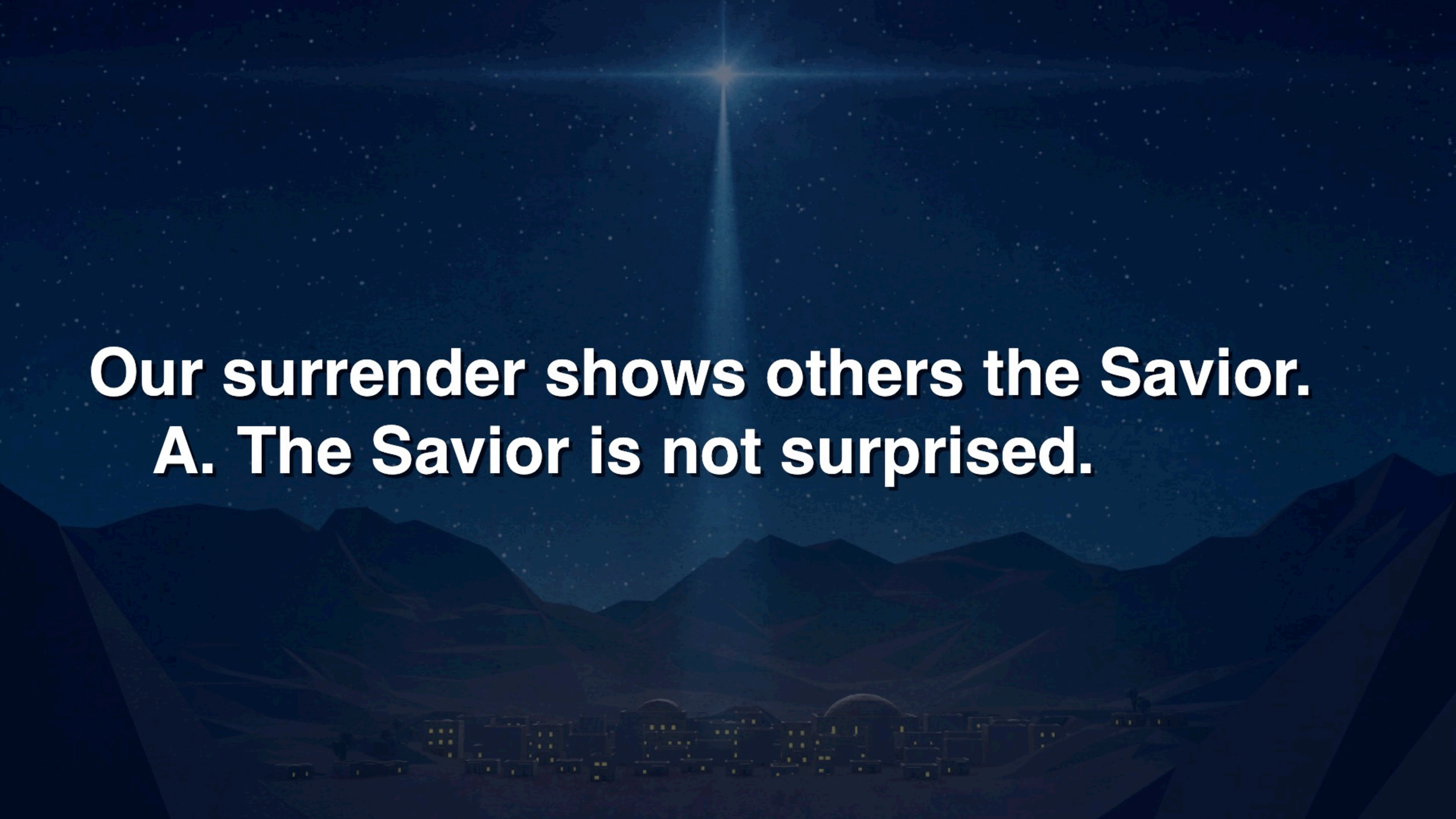
The background features a dark blue night sky filled with small white stars. A prominent, bright star with a four-pointed cross-shaped lens flare is positioned at the top center. A vertical beam of light descends from this star towards the horizon. At the bottom of the image, a dark silhouette of a city or town is visible, with several buildings and domes illuminated from within, casting a warm glow. The overall scene is serene and evocative of a starry night.

²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

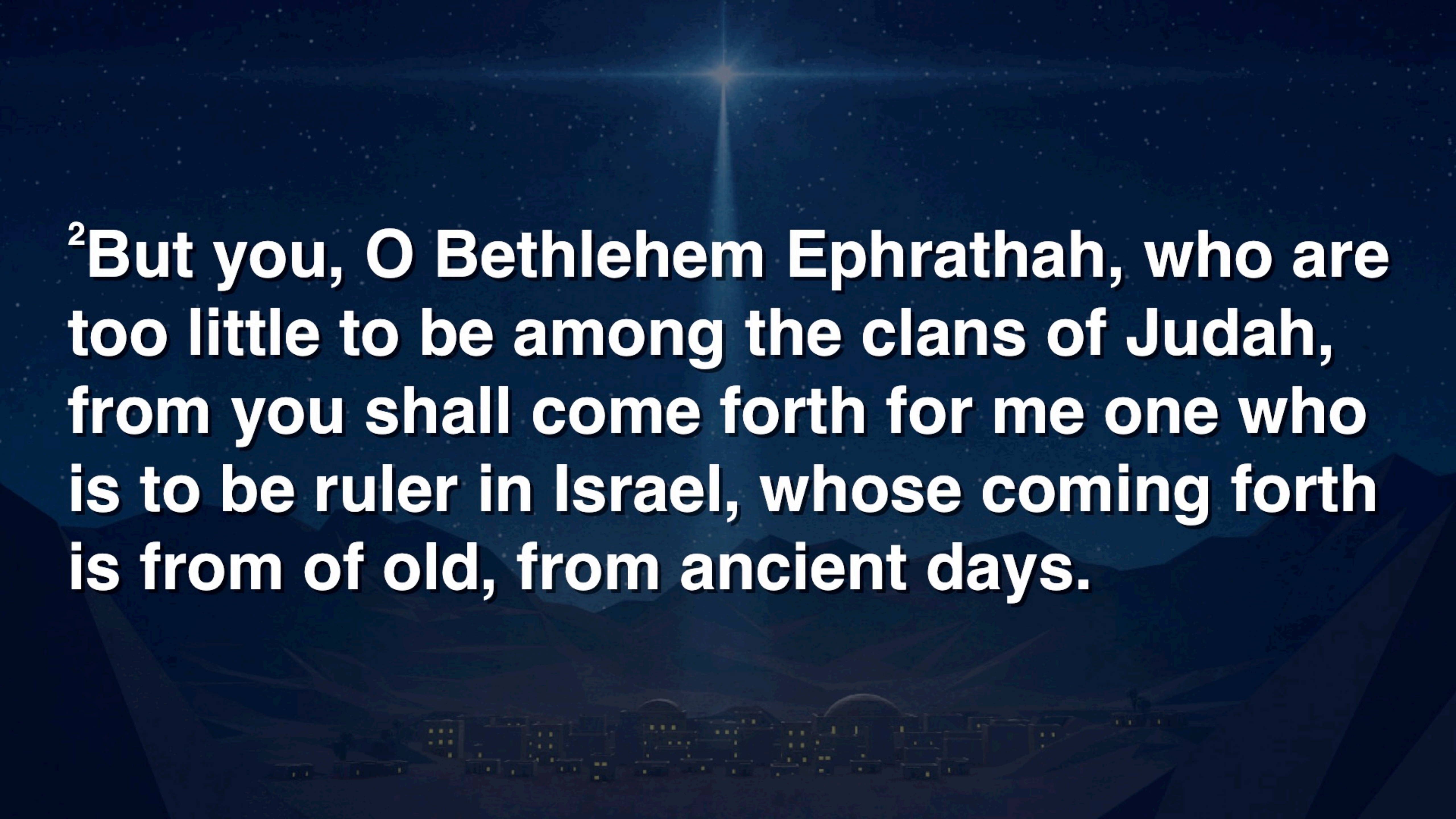
Matthew 1:18-25

A night sky with a bright star and a beam of light shining down on a city in a valley. The scene is dark blue with a starburst effect from a bright star at the top center. A beam of light descends from the star towards a city in a valley below. The city has several buildings with glowing windows. The background shows rolling hills and mountains.

**Joseph's surrender shows us the Savior.
Our surrender shows others the Savior.**

A night sky with a bright star and a beam of light shining down on a city in a valley. The scene is dark blue with a starburst effect at the top center, from which a beam of light descends. Below the text, a silhouette of a city with glowing windows is visible in a valley between mountains.

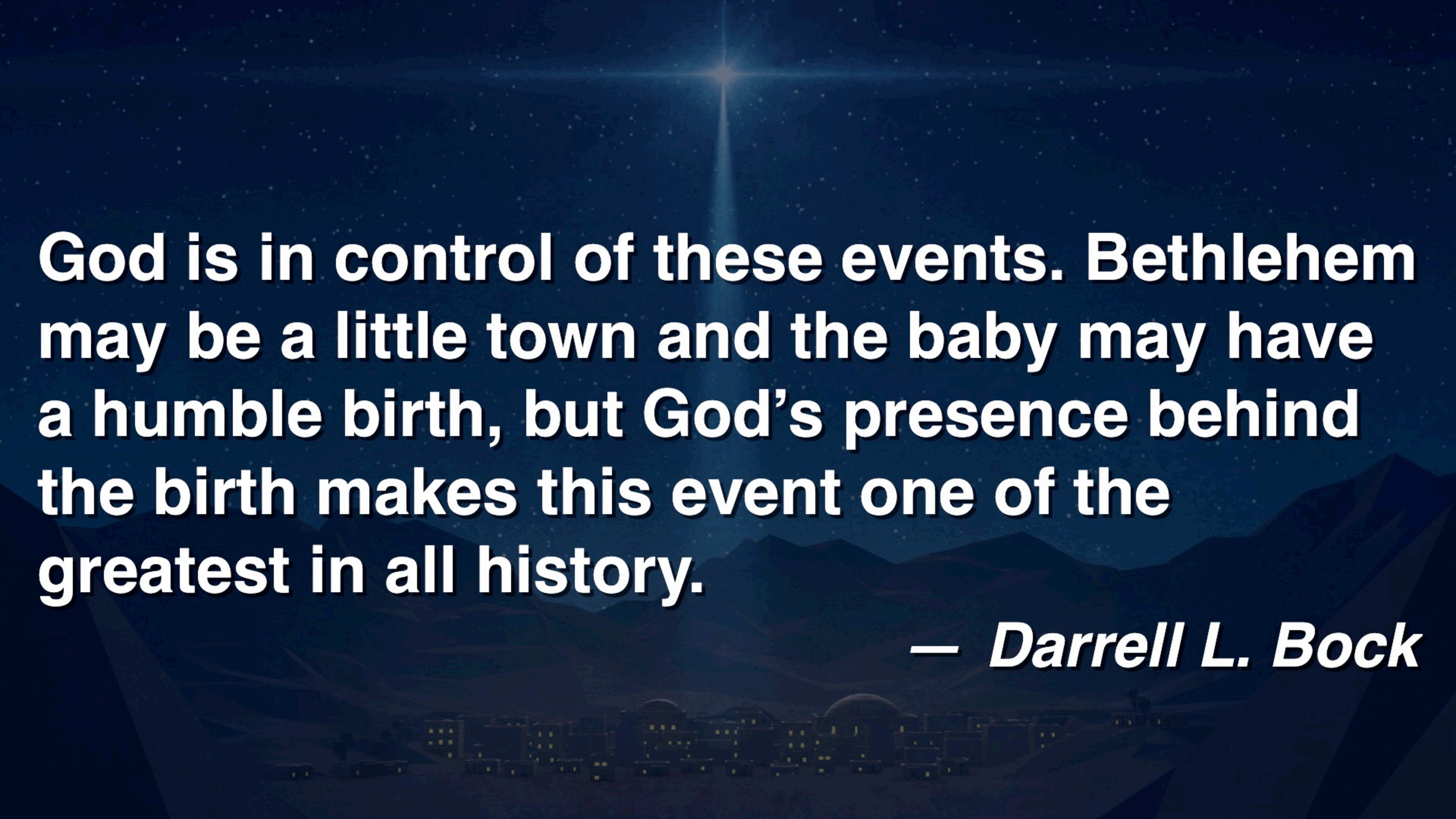
**Our surrender shows others the Savior.
A. The Savior is not surprised.**

The background features a dark blue night sky with a prominent bright star in the upper center, emitting a lens flare. Below the star, the silhouette of a cityscape with glowing windows is visible against a dark horizon.

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Micah 5:2, 4

The background features a dark blue night sky with a bright star in the upper center, emitting a vertical beam of light. Below the sky, there is a silhouette of a cityscape with glowing windows, set against a dark, mountainous horizon.

God is in control of these events. Bethlehem may be a little town and the baby may have a humble birth, but God's presence behind the birth makes this event one of the greatest in all history.

— *Darrell L. Bock*

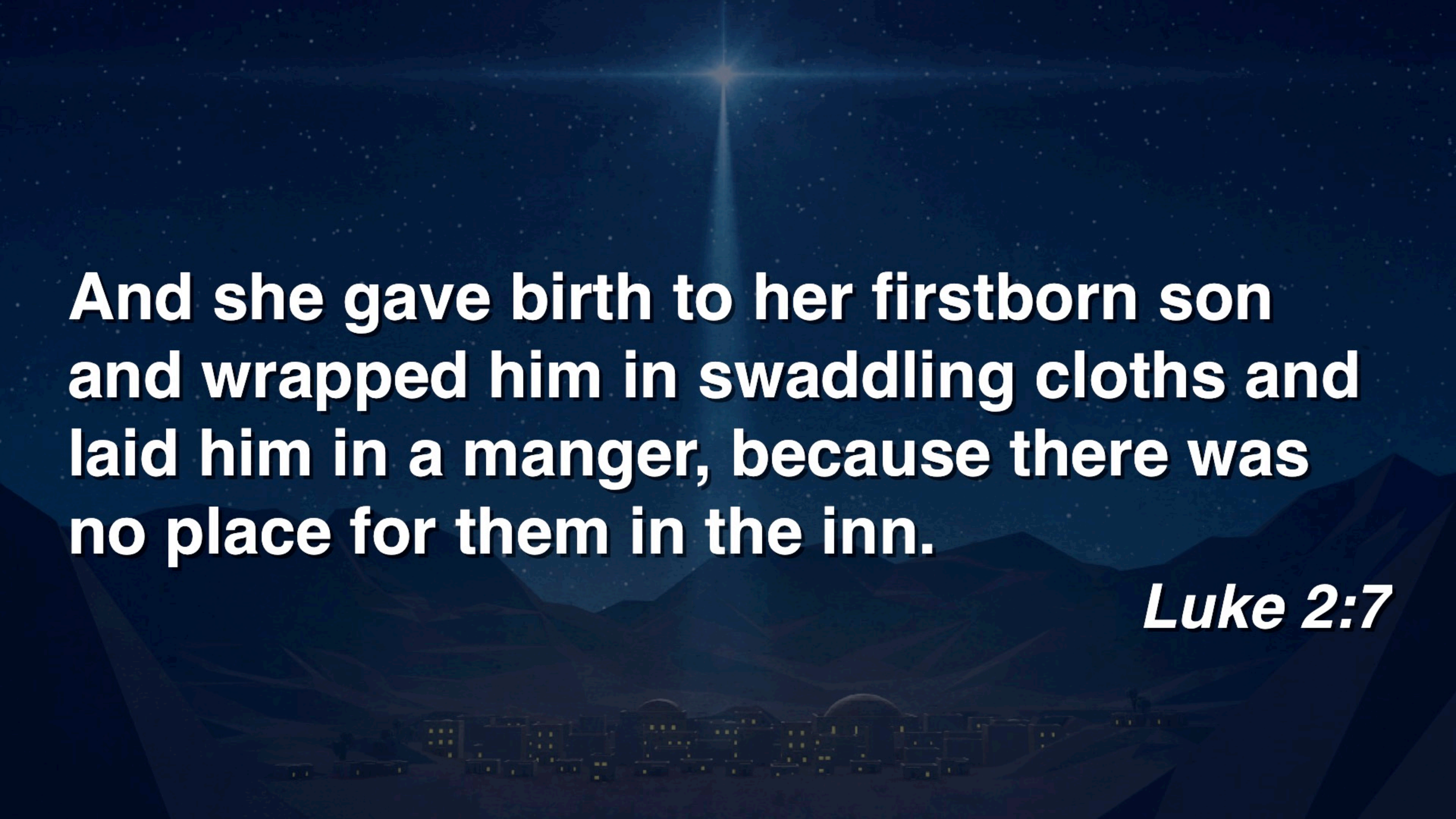
A dark blue night sky with a bright star in the upper center, casting a vertical beam of light. Below the sky, a silhouette of a city with glowing windows is visible against a dark horizon.

Our surrender shows others the Savior.

A. The Savior is not surprised.

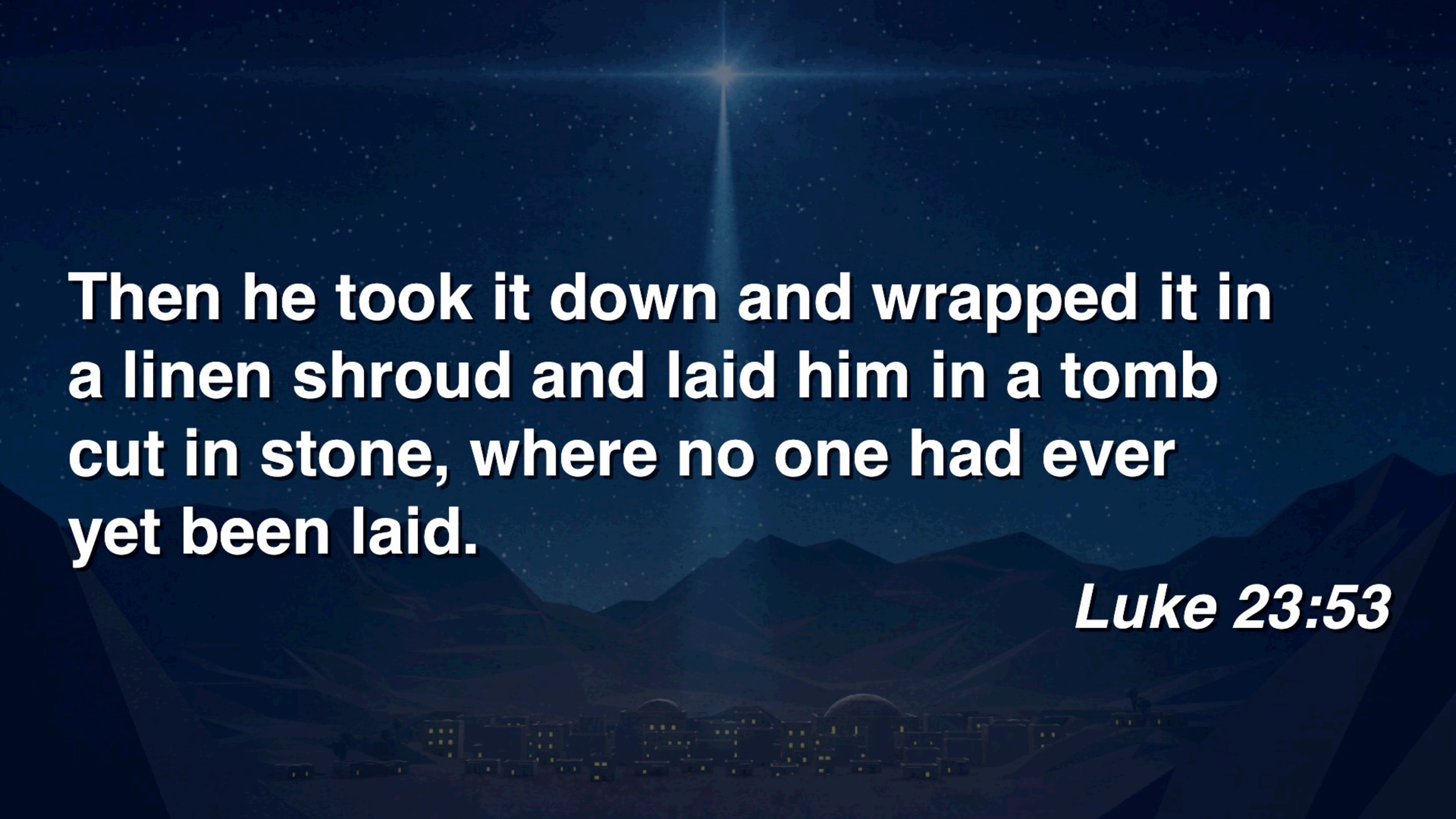
B. The Savior is supreme.

C. The Savior surrendered too.

The background features a dark blue night sky with a prominent bright star in the upper center, casting a vertical beam of light. Below the sky, a silhouette of a city with glowing windows is visible against a dark horizon. The overall scene is serene and evocative of a night sky.

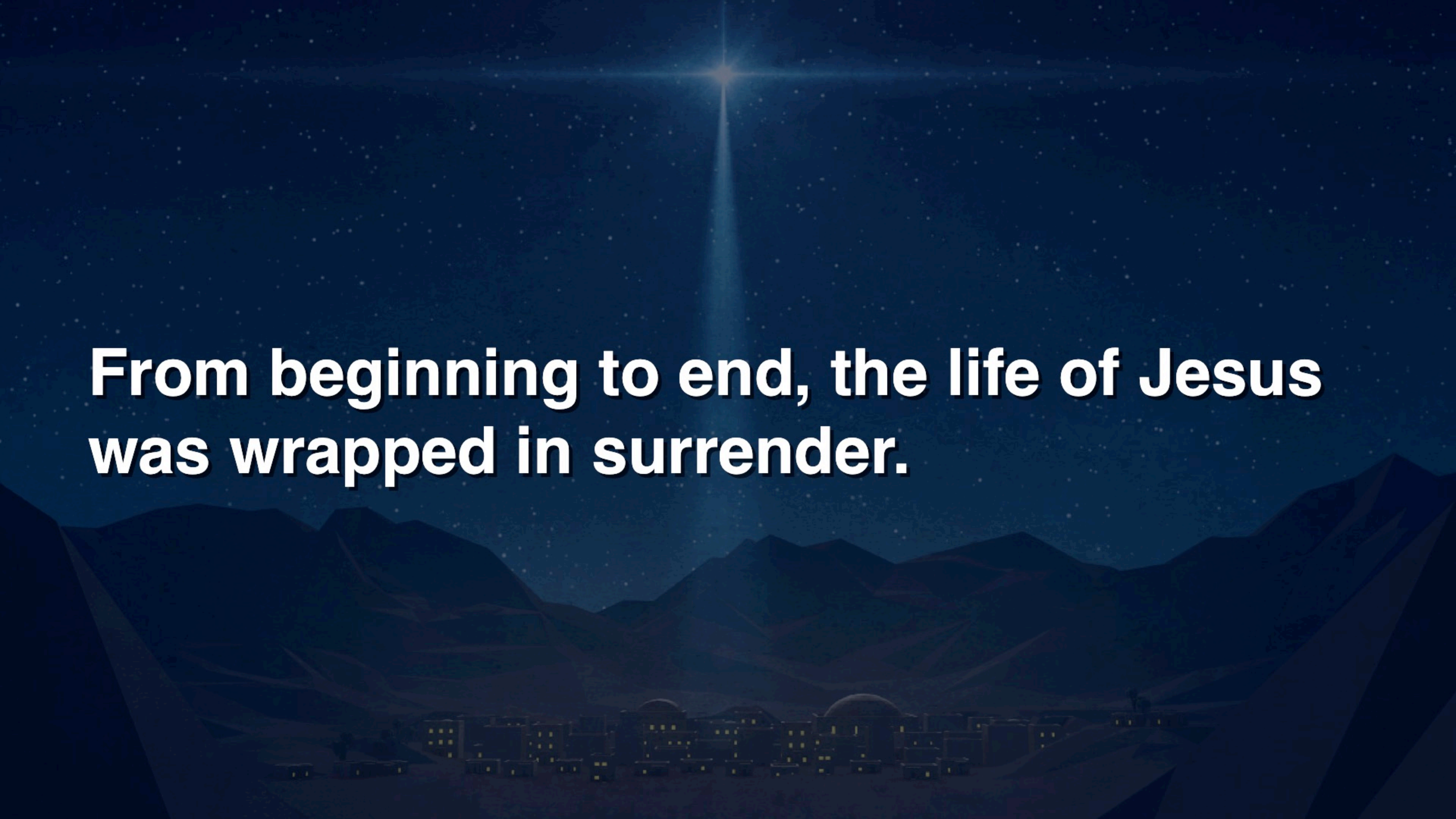
**And she gave birth to her firstborn son
and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and
laid him in a manger, because there was
no place for them in the inn.**

Luke 2:7

The background features a dark blue night sky with a bright star in the upper center, emitting a vertical beam of light. Below the sky, a silhouette of a cityscape with glowing windows is visible against a dark horizon.

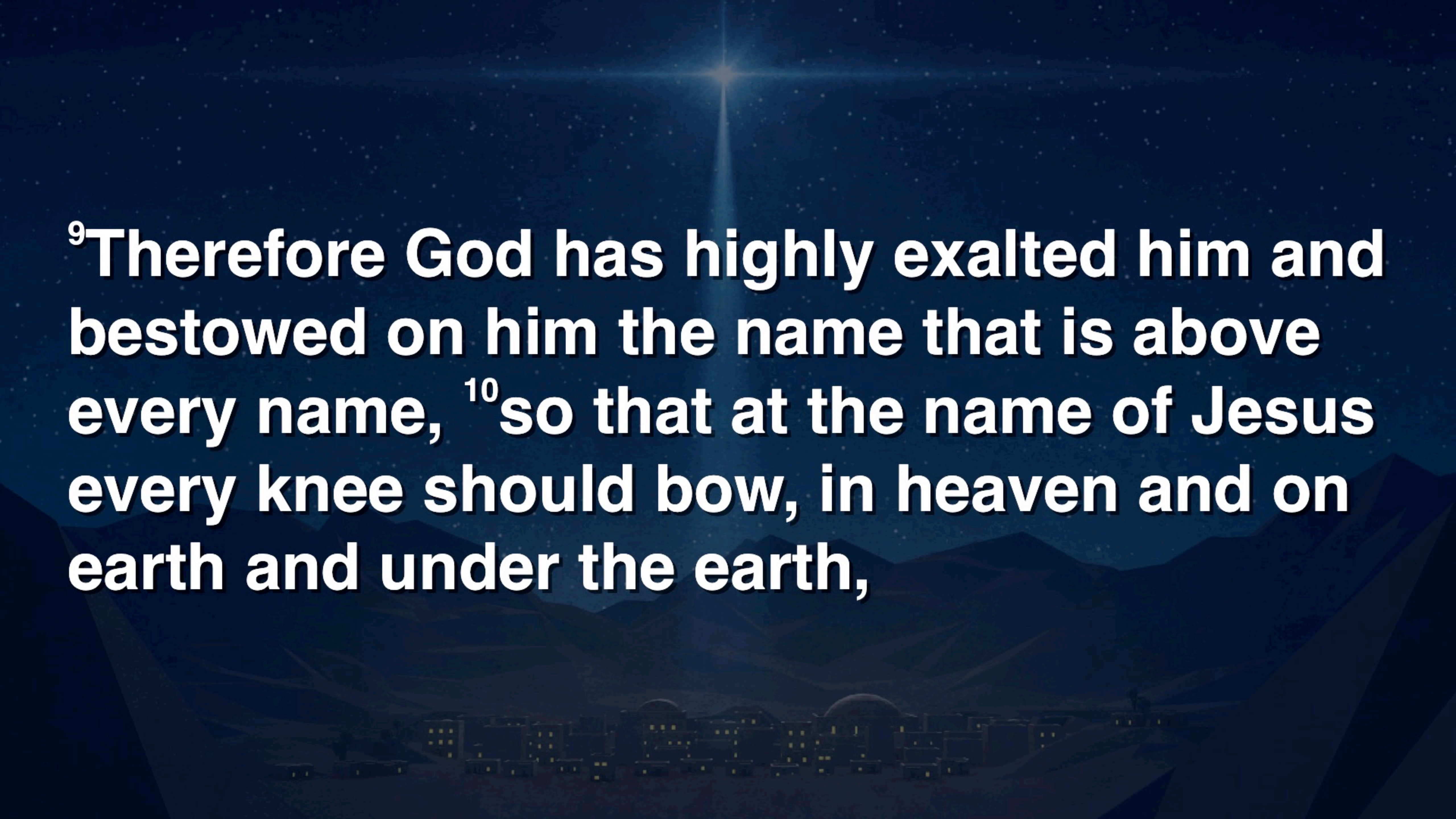
Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid.

Luke 23:53

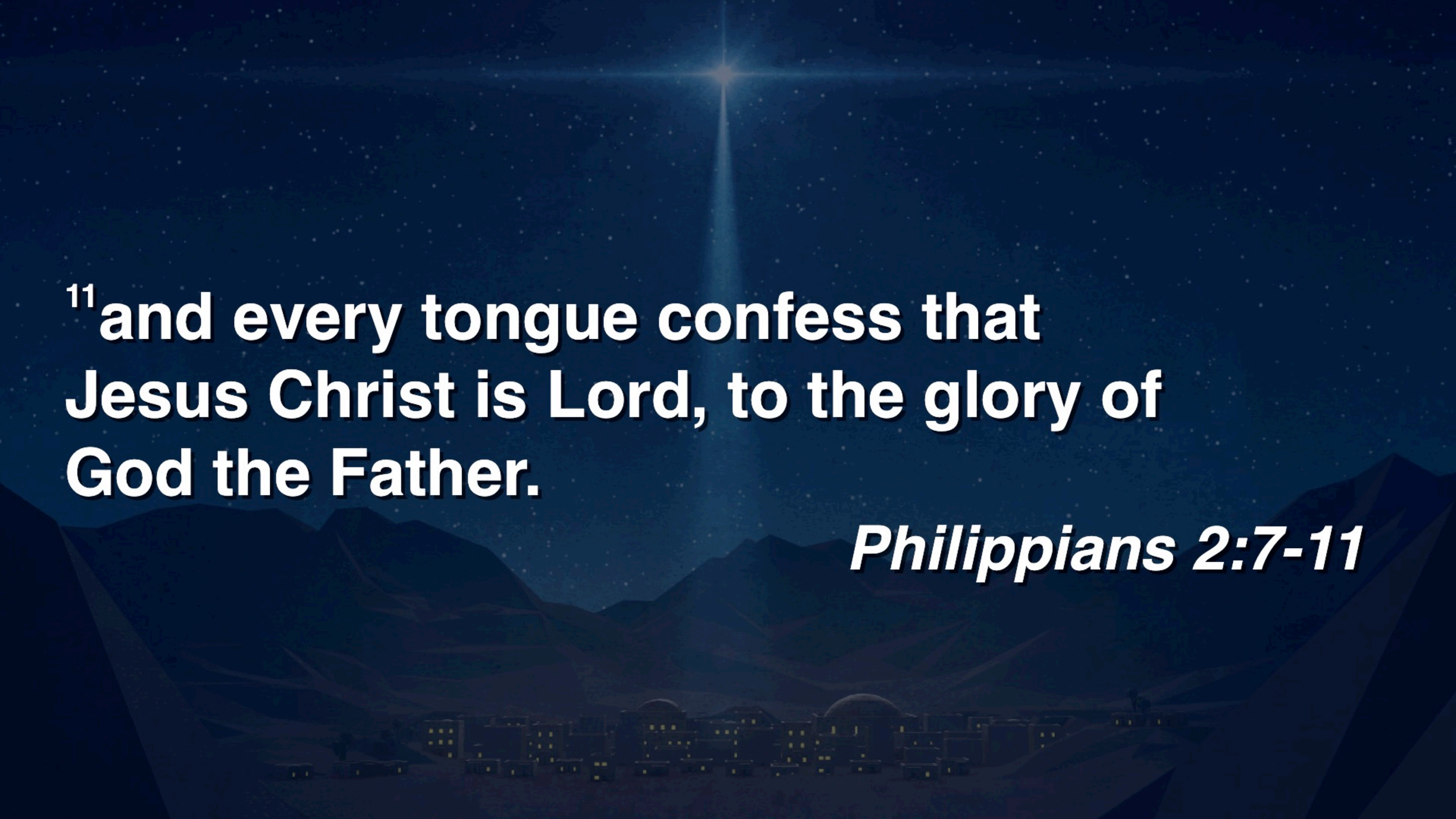
A night sky with a bright star and a beam of light shining down on a mountain range with a town at the base.

**From beginning to end, the life of Jesus
was wrapped in surrender.**

“Christ Jesus...”⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.




⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

The background features a dark blue night sky with a prominent starburst effect at the top center. Below the sky, there is a silhouette of a cityscape with several buildings and a bridge, set against a backdrop of dark, rolling hills or mountains.

**¹¹and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of
God the Father.**

Philippians 2:7-11

The background features a dark blue night sky filled with small white stars. A prominent bright star at the top center emits a vertical beam of light that tapers as it descends. Below the sky, the dark silhouette of a mountain range is visible. At the base of the mountains, a city is depicted with several buildings, some of which have small yellow lights emanating from them, suggesting a town or village at night.

**Christmas is God's expedition toward us
and God's invitation to us.
Our surrender shows others the Savior.**