

THEN ISAIAH SAID, "HEAR, NOW, YOU HOUSE OF DAVID! IS IT NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU THAT I HAVE MADE YOU A SIGN? WILL YOU TRY THE PATIENCE OF MY GOD ALSO? 14 THEREFORE THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL SIGN: THE VIRGIN WILL BE WITH CHILD AND WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND HE WILL BE CALLED IMMANUEL." 15 HE WILL EAT CURDS AND HONEY.

IMMANUEL GOD WITH US



23 THEY WENT INTO THE COURT OF THE TEMPLE AND THEY TAUGHT THEM AS USUAL. BUT WHEN EVENING CAME THEY DID NOT GO OUT THERE AS USUAL. 24 THE PRIESTS AND THE SCRIBES AND THE PHARISEES SAID TO THEM, "WHY DO YOU NOT GO OUT OF THE TEMPLE COURTS? THEY BELONG TO THE JEWS AND NOT TO YOU." 25 HE SAID TO THEM, "THE SCRIPTURES SAY, 'THE HOUSE OF GOD IS CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER.' BUT YOU HAVE MADE IT A DEN OF THIEVES. 26 IS IT NOT WRITTEN, 'I HAVE DESIRED TRUTH AND NOT SACRIFICE, AND I HAVE CHOSEN KNOWLEDGE OVER BURNING OFFERINGS.' BUT YOU HAVE REFUSED TO OBEY, AND YOU HAVE MADE THIS HOUSE A DEN OF THIEVES AND A DEN OF BLIND MEN AND MUTE PEOPLE. 27 THEREFORE I SAID TO YOU, 'THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WITHIN YOU.' BUT YOU REFUSE TO BELIEVE. 28 BUT WHEN YOU SAY, 'WE BELIEVE IN CHRIST,' YOU DO NOT BELIEVE IN HIM WHO SENT CHRIST INTO THE WORLD. 29 THEREFORE YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE IN HIM WHO HAS SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD. 30 THEREFORE YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE IN HIM WHO HAS SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD. 31 THEREFORE YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE IN HIM WHO HAS SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD. 32 THEREFORE YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE IN HIM WHO HAS SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD. 33 THEREFORE YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE IN HIM WHO HAS SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD. 34 THEREFORE YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE IN HIM WHO HAS SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD. 35 THEREFORE YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE IN HIM WHO HAS SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD. 36 THEREFORE YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE IN HIM WHO HAS SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD. 37 THEREFORE YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE IN HIM WHO HAS SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD. 38 THEREFORE YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE IN HIM WHO HAS SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD. 39 THEREFORE YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE IN HIM WHO HAS SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD. 40 THEREFORE 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A desert landscape at night. The foreground shows a sandy, undulating dune. In the background, a large, rugged mountain range is silhouetted against a dark sky. A bright light source, possibly the moon or a star, is visible on the right side, creating a vertical lens flare and illuminating the scene. The sky is filled with numerous small, bright stars.

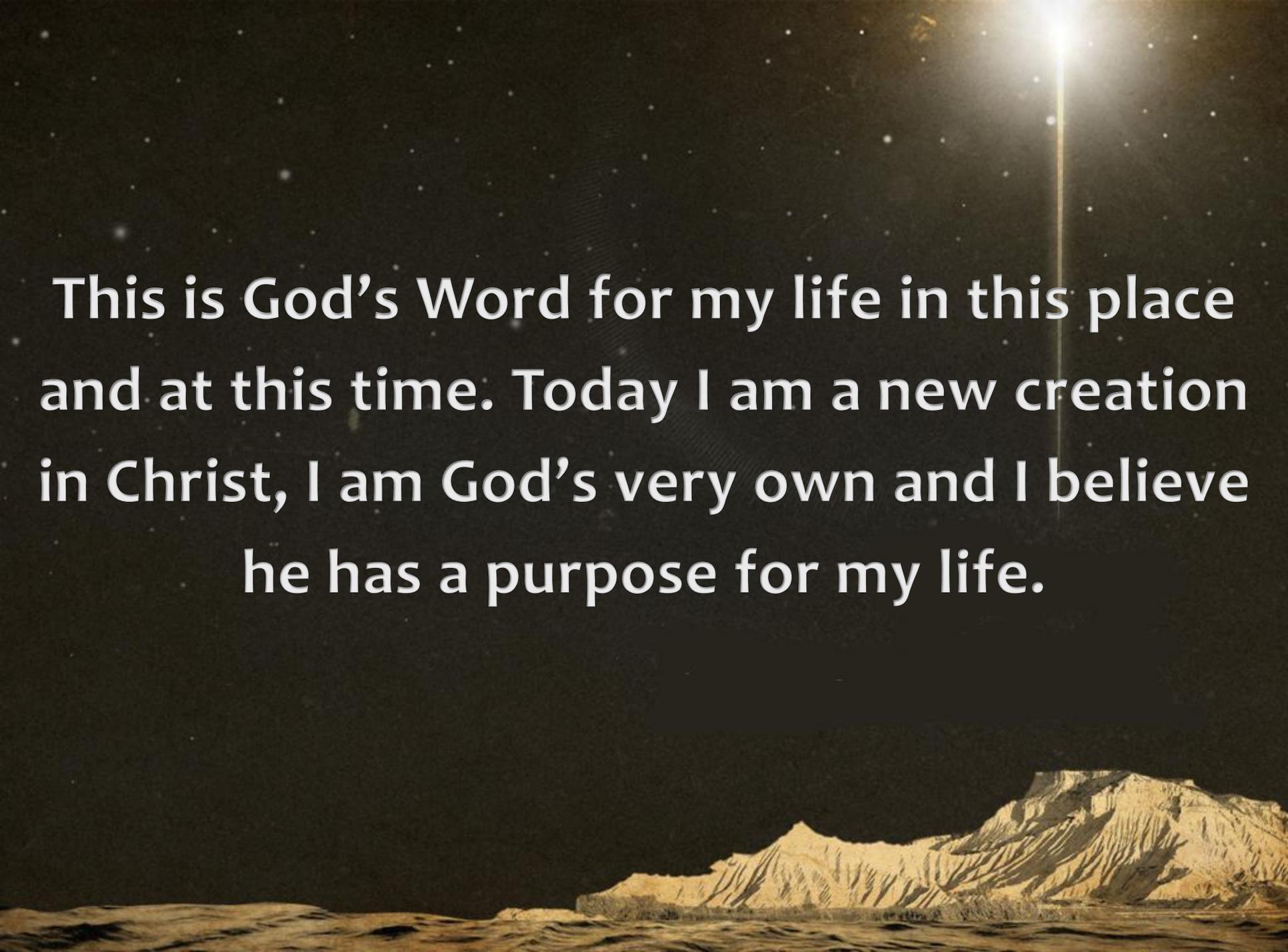
Advent

Pause ~ Ponder ~ Prepare

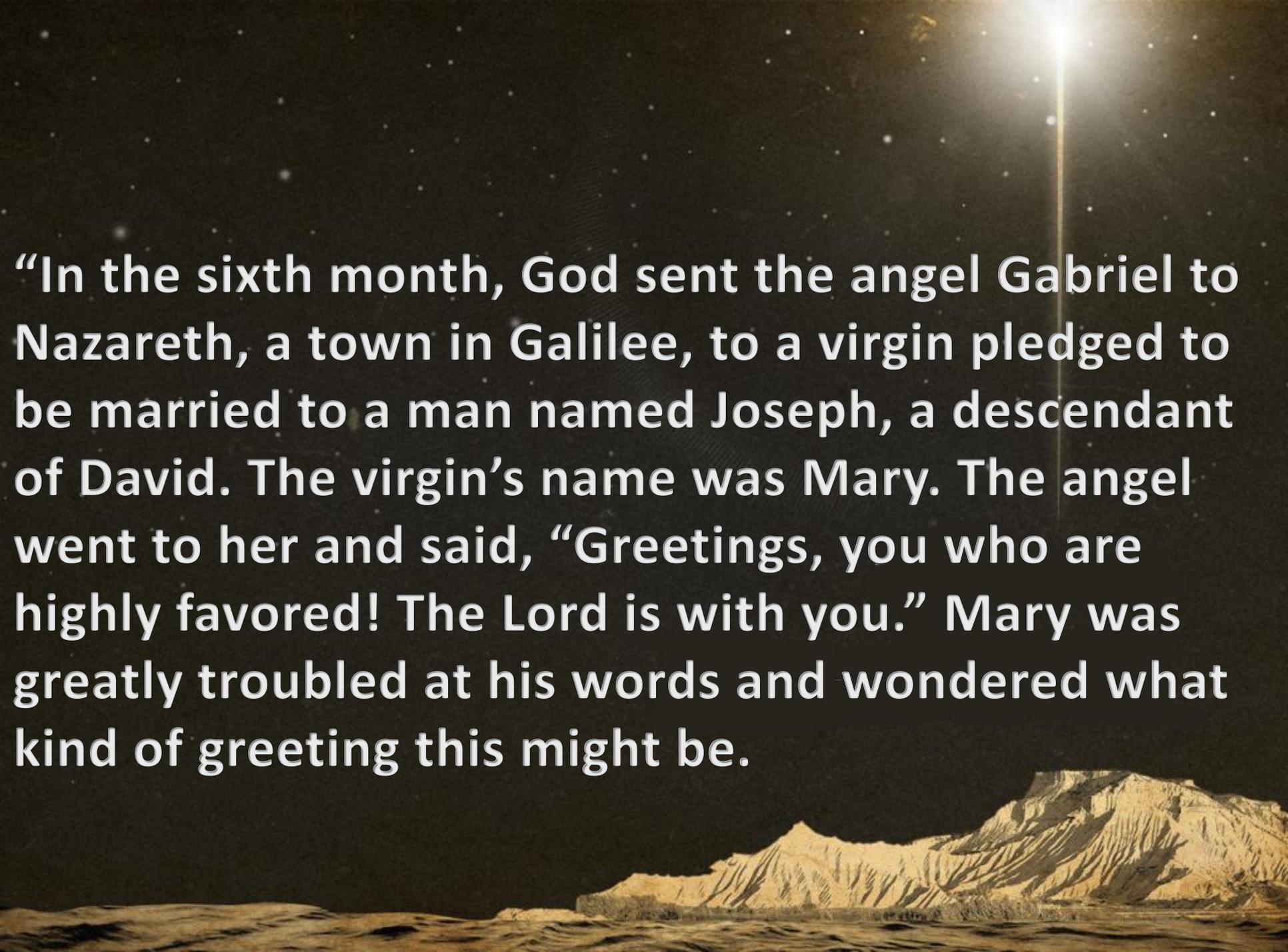
Into a world of Darkness He brought...

Light

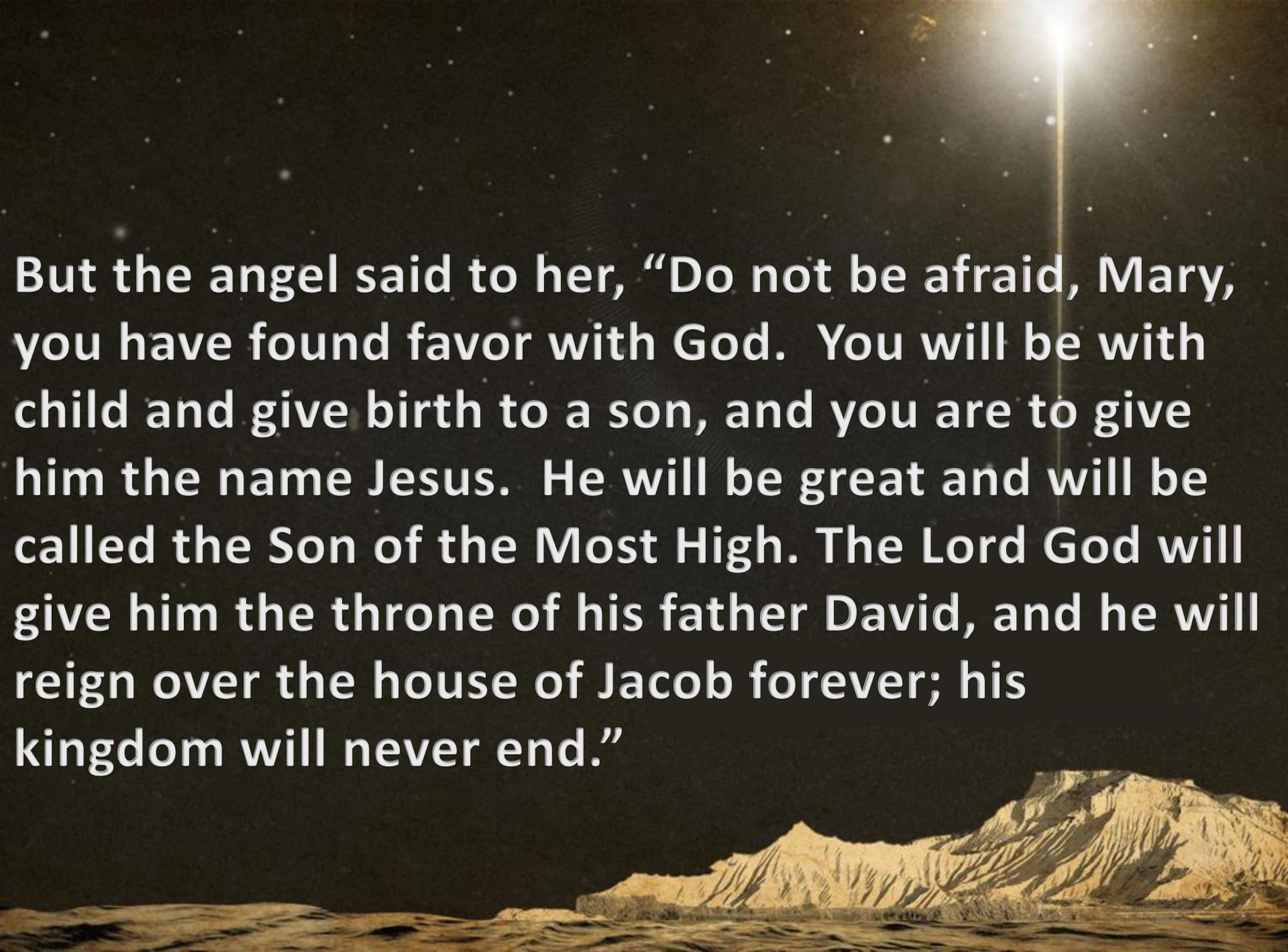


A night sky with a bright star in the upper right corner, casting a vertical light streak. Below the sky, a desert landscape with sand dunes and a rocky mountain range is visible under the dark night sky.

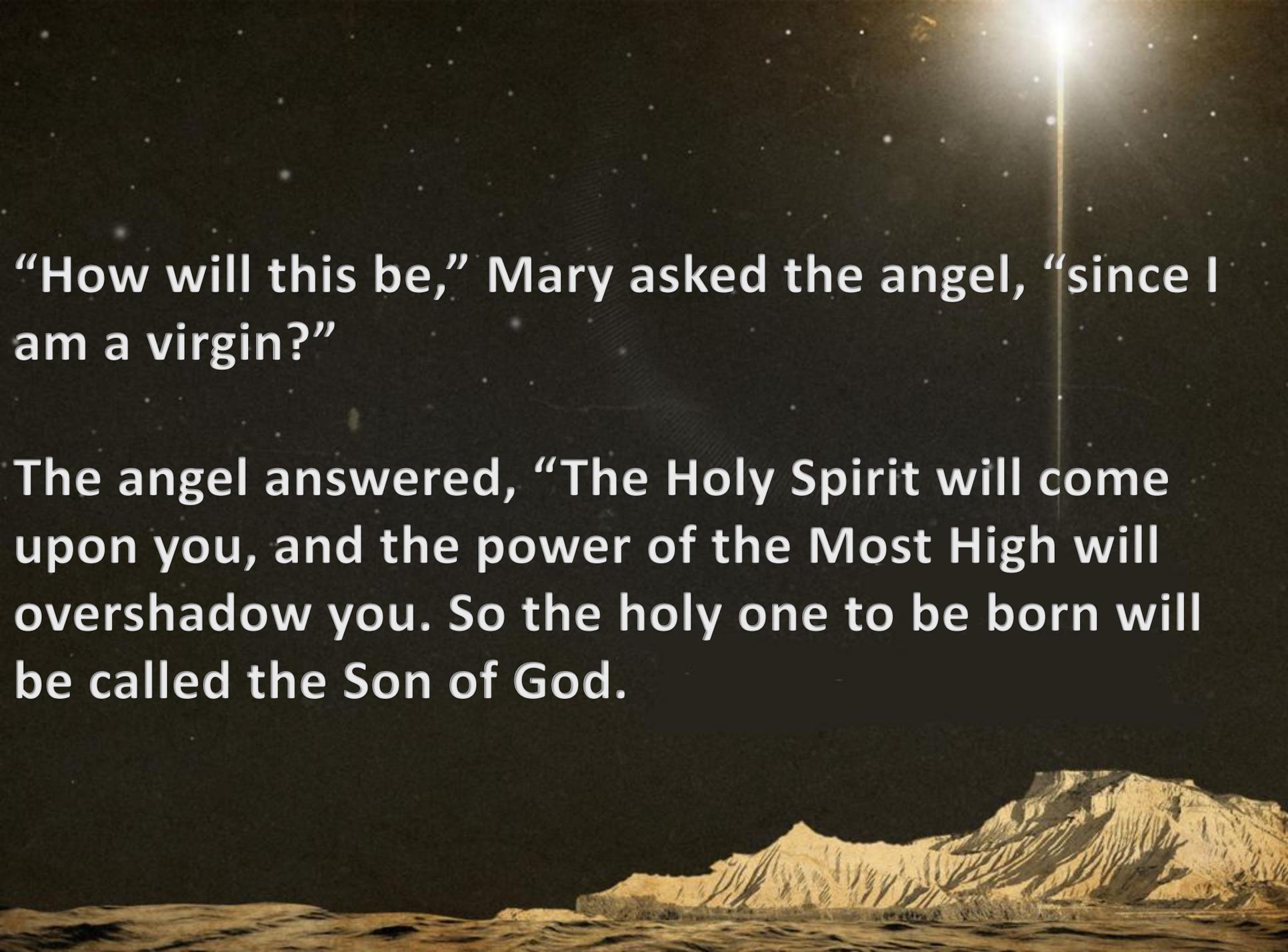
**This is God's Word for my life in this place
and at this time. Today I am a new creation
in Christ, I am God's very own and I believe
he has a purpose for my life.**

A night sky with a bright star in the upper right corner, casting a vertical beam of light. Below the sky, a desert landscape with rolling hills and mountains is visible under a dark sky.

“In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

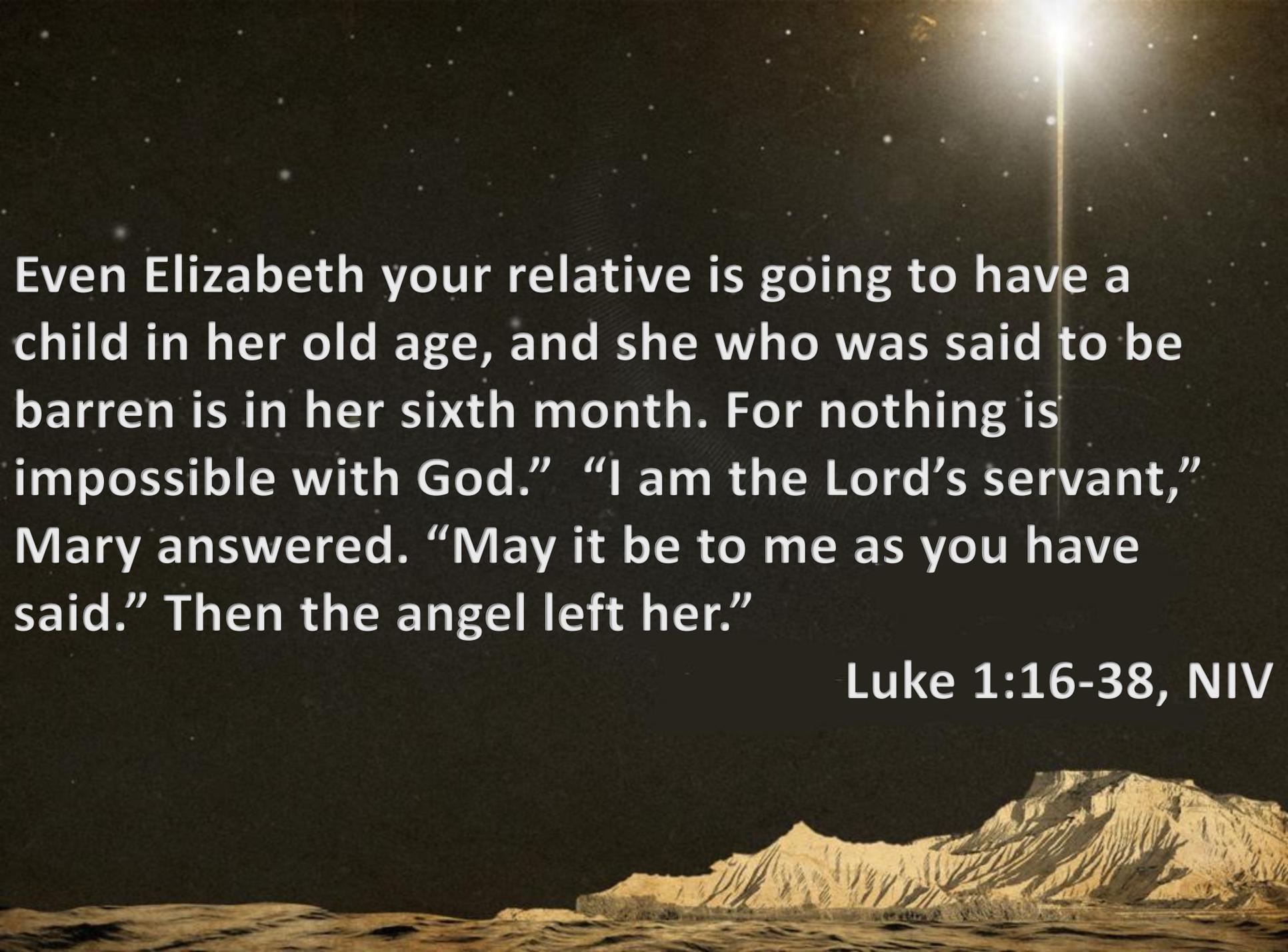
A night sky with a bright star in the upper right corner, casting a vertical beam of light. The background is dark with scattered stars. In the foreground, there is a desert landscape with rolling hills and mountains under a dark sky.

But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

A night sky with a bright star in the upper right corner, casting a vertical beam of light. The background is dark with scattered stars. In the foreground, there is a desert landscape with a large, rocky mountain range under a dark sky.

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

A night sky with a bright star in the upper right corner, casting a vertical beam of light. The background is dark with scattered stars. In the foreground, there is a desert landscape with rolling hills and mountains under a dark sky.

Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.” “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.”

Luke 1:16-38, NIV

Into a world of Darkness He brought...

Hope



✧ FAITH puts HOPE to WORK

A night sky with a bright star in the upper right corner, casting a vertical beam of light. The background is a dark, starry sky. In the foreground, there is a desert landscape with a large, rocky mountain range under a dark sky.

✧ Hope comes from God

“For nothing is impossible with God.” Luke 1:37

Hope is often troubling, exciting, & transforming.

A night sky with a bright star in the upper right corner, casting a vertical beam of light. Below the sky, a desert landscape with sand dunes and a large, rocky mountain range is visible under the starlight.

✧ Hope is Joy with a Plan

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

A night sky filled with stars, with a particularly bright star in the upper right corner. Below the sky, a desert landscape is visible, featuring a range of mountains or hills illuminated by a light source, possibly the moon or a low sun, creating long shadows and highlighting the textures of the rock.

✧ **Hope will cost you a Boring Life**

“Mary answered. ‘May it be to me as you have said.’” Luke 1:38

Mary was pregnant!

A night sky filled with stars, with a bright light source on the right side creating a vertical beam of light. At the bottom, a desert landscape with mountains is visible under the night sky.

Pregnant

full of meaning or significance

Blue Christmas

