

December 21

Matthew

1-4 Affirming Jesus' Royalty vs Satan's Temptations

4 Invitation—Come, *Follow Me*

Dec 21 – *A History of Christmas*

5 True Righteousness in **Love**

6 Treasure & Lord's Prayer

7 Authority Acknowledged

8 Every Life Valued – Jesus Heals

9 Mercy Extended – Jesus Heals, Raises Dead

10 Loyalty Tested – Sends 12 Out

11 Confronting Doubts – John the Baptist
Father Revealed in the Son

12 Rejecting Legalism – Sabbath & Satan

13 Judgment Coming – Parable of Sower

Christ in the Storm on the
Lake of Galilee, 1633
Rembrandt (1606-1669)

Merry Christmas

Matthew, c. 1625
by Frans Hal

Luke 2:19 But Mary
TREASURED up all these
things and **PONDERED**
them in her heart



Merry Christmas -

You mean ... I mean ...

- ✓ Be **Merry** for the Birth of Christ in Bethlehem
- ✓ Be **Merry** for the Season of Giving after God's Greatest Gift of Christ
- ✓ Be **Merry** for the Birth of our **Loving Eternal Savior**

c. 1250 first use of “**Christmas**” by *Oxford English Dictionary*

Is in **Owl & Nightingale** (MS Caligula) (1935), scholarly
work on the **Middle English** “**Owl & Nightingale**” manuscript
in the British Museum – *citing*

To cristes masse þane riche & poure more & lasse,
Singeþ cundut niȝt & dai, Ich hom helpe what ich mai.



Merry *Christmas* -

From Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

Then the Grinch thought of something
else he hadn't BEFORE!

What if Christmas, he thought,
doesn't come from a STORE?

What if Christmas . . . perhaps . . .
means a little bit MORE?

I hope Christmas means MORE to you
this year . . . and MORE every year . . .



Merry *Christmas* -

1569 for first use of WORD “**Christmas**” by *Oxford English Dictionary*

“**He went to Windsore, where he kept his Christmas.**”

Cited in R. Grafton’s *Chronicle of History of England*, vol. II. 54

1038 *Catholic Encyclopedia* word for “**Christmas**” origins

in late Old English is **Cristes Maesse** = Mass of Christ,
first found in 1038 and as **Cristes-messe** in 1131

Christmas was not a festival in Early Church, not among
festivities of by two significant Church Fathers

Irenaeus (c. A.D. 120-203) & Tertullian (c. A.D. 155-220)



Outlined of the SHORT report on Jesus' Life in the Gospel of Matthew

- 1-2 Birth and Infancy of Jesus
- 3-4 Beginning of Jesus's Ministry in Galilee

A History of Christmas

- 5-7 **Discourse 1**—Sermon on the Mount
- 8-9 Jesus's First Miracles
- 10 **Discourse 2**—Ministry of Jesus's Disciples
- 11-12 Responses to Jesus's Ministry
- 13 **Discourse 3**—Parables about the Kingdom
- 14-17 Close of Jesus' Ministry in Galilee
- 18 **Discourse 4**—Character of Jesus' Disciples
- 19-20 Jesus' Ministry on Way to Jerusalem
- 21-23 Jesus' Ministry in Jerusalem
- 24-25 **Discourse 5**—Last Days: No One Knows the HOUR
- 26-27 Betrayal, Crucifixion, Burial
- 28 Resurrection & Commission



100+ good books on the HISTORY of “Christmas”

for 11 > www.PreciousHeart.net/SS/History-Christmas-HANDOUT.pdf

Christmas Customs and Traditions, Their History &

Significance (1976; 399 pp.) by Clement A. Miles – Reprint of 1912 study of the origins of Christmas rituals, practices of many nations, including caroling, Christmas drama, the manger, Christmas tree, Yule log, 12 days, and more.

SEE online: [*Christmas in Ritual and Tradition*](#) >

Christmas in America: A History (1996; 219 pp.)

by Penne L. Restad. The manger or Macy's? Virginians hunted, danced, and feasted. City dwellers flooded the streets in raucous demonstrations. Puritan New Englanders denounced the whole affair.



A
History

PENNE L. RESTAD

Christmas
CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS
THEIR HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE



CLEMENT A. MILES

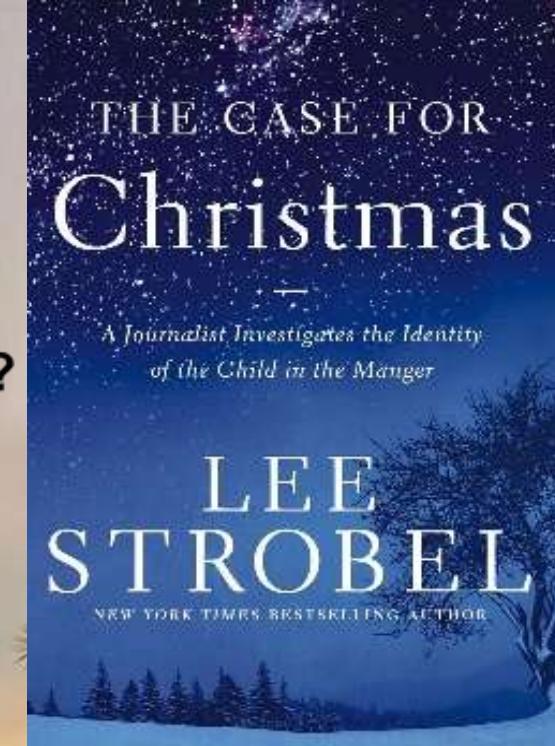


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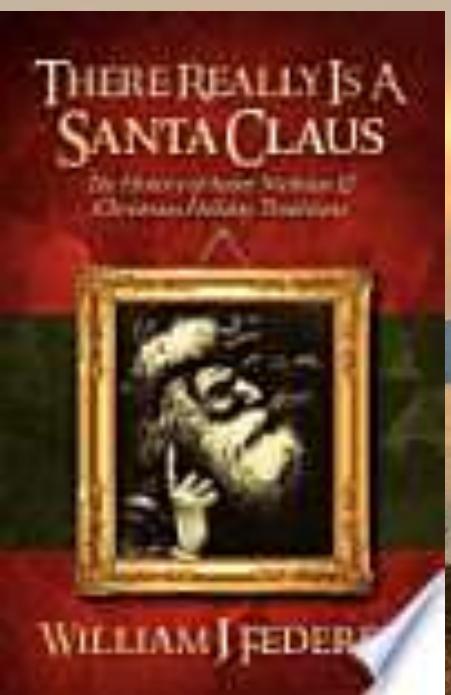
The Case for Christmas: A Journalist Investigates the

Identity of the Child in the Manger (2005 & 2025; 99 pp.) by Lee Strobel. Who was in the manger that first Christmas morning? Strobel invites you to push past the distractions of the season and come into the presence of the baby who was born to change your life and rewrite your eternal destination: greatest gift of all.



There Really is a Santa Claus - History of Saint Nicholas & Christmas Holiday Traditions, Includes U.S. Presidents' Christmas Addresses

(2002; 300 pp.) by William J. Federer, Read the story of Nicholas, 3rd Century Bishop of Myra, Asia Minor (today Turkey) and how over time stories of his holy, generous life were embellished into legend. Discover additions of writer Washington Irving, minister Clement Moore, Civil War illustrator Thomas Nast, Coca-Cola artist Haddon Sundblom. Explore fascinating origins of the 12 Days of Christmas, Tree, Carols, Kris Kringle, Creche' scene, Poinsettia, Hanukkah.



Luke 1:26-29

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy,
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.

28 The angel went to her and said,
"Greetings, you who are highly favored!
The Lord is with you."

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words & wondered
what kind of greeting this might be.



Merry *Christmas* -

From Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christmas*

Part of a 30-part series on needy families in Chicago

Strobel interviewed 60-year-old Perfecta Delgado,
crippled arthritis, & her two grandchildren

“Some of the of the most destitute people”

Burned out of their tenement, living in a two-bedroom
apartment virtually devoid of possessions.

No furniture – No rugs – No appliances –

“Not a stitch of clothing in the closet”

Not even a picture on the wall!!

THE CASE FOR
Christmas

*A Journalist Investigates the Identity
of the Child in the Manger*

LEE
STROBEL

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

Merry Christmas -

From Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christmas*

“Despite their poverty, Perfecta still talked confidently about her faith in Jesus.

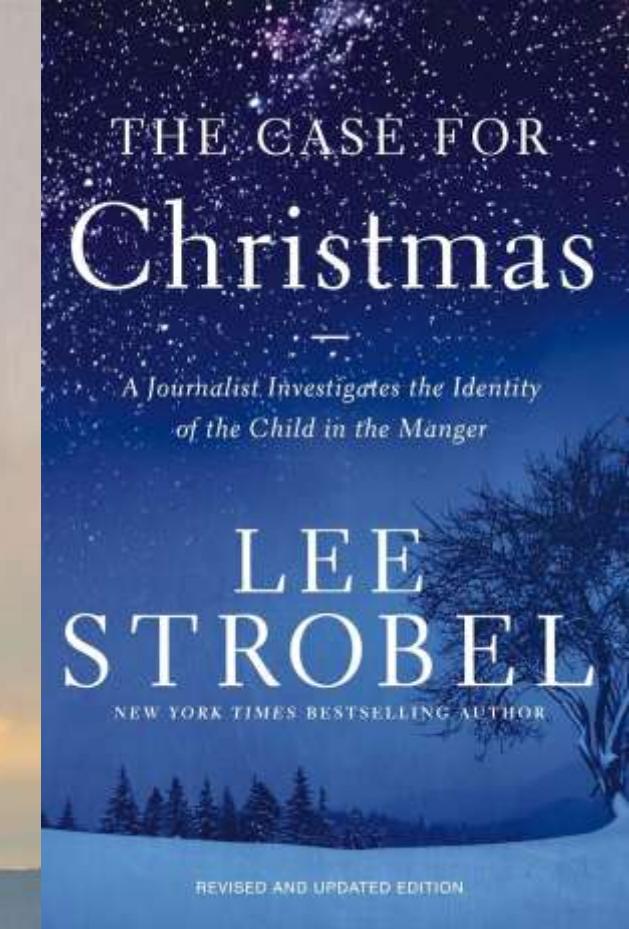
“She was convinced he had not abandoned her.

“I never sensed despair or self-pity ... instead, there was a gentle feeling of hope and peace.”

Strobel’s article was published on Thanksgiving Day

“I intentionally included their address” hoping Tribune readers would respond.

“It was the least I could do,” Strobel said.



Merry Christmas -

From Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christmas*

“I went back to visit them on Christmas Eve.”

The Delgados – showered with a “treasure trove of gifts”

“Rooms full of furniture, appliances, and rugs;

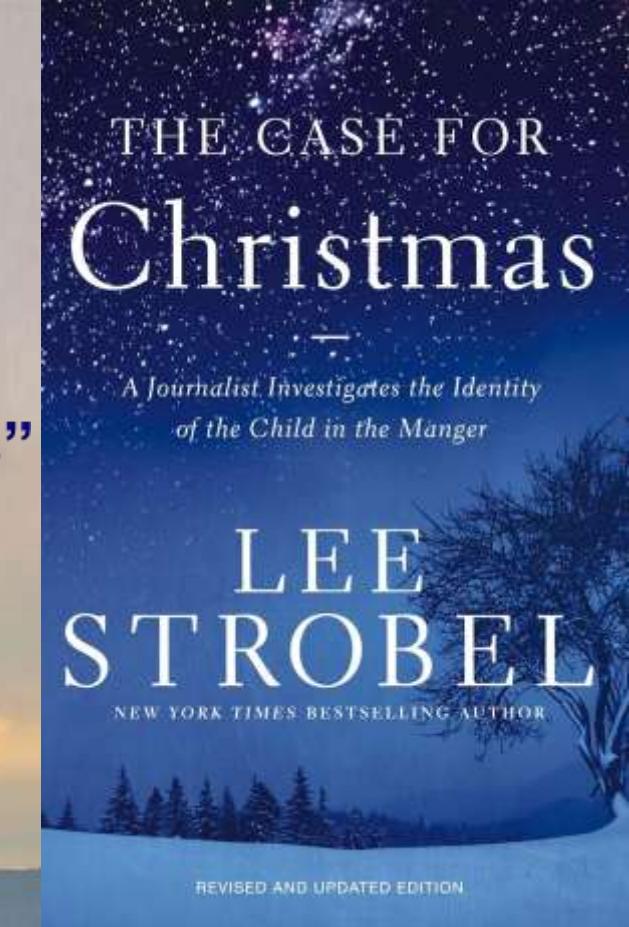
“a lavish Christmas tree with unopened gifts piled

“carton upon carton of food ... dazzling collection of
clothing ... warm winter coats, scarves, gloves.”

“On top of that ... thousands of dollars!”

“I was even more astonished by what

I was interrupting.



Merry *Christmas* -

From Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christmas*

“Perfecta and her granddaughters were getting ready to give away much of their newfound wealth.

“When I asked Perfecta why, she said in halting English:

“Our Neighbors are still in need.

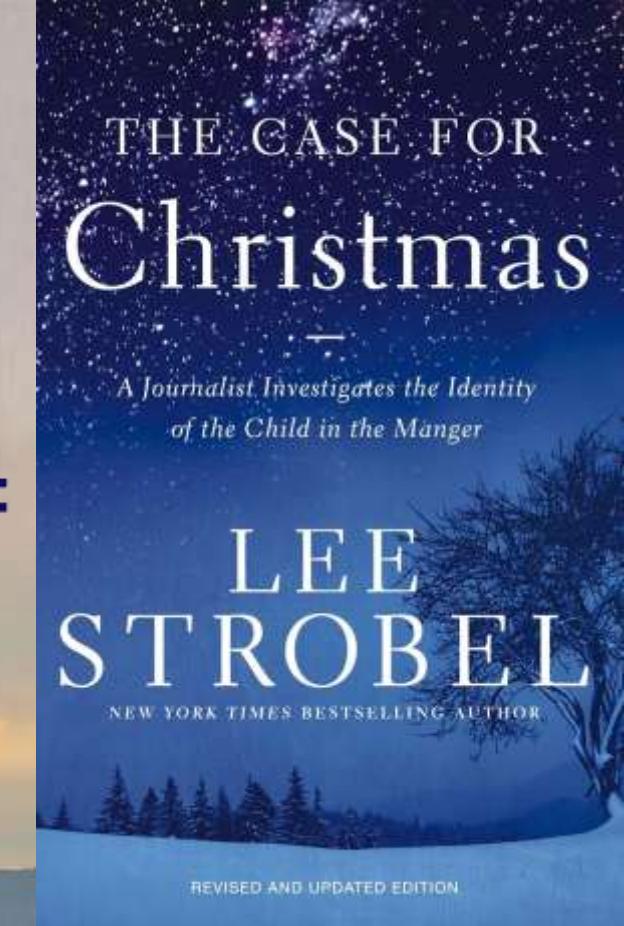
“We cannot have plenty while they have nothing....

“We did not deserve this—it’s a gift from God.

“But it is not his greatest gift.

No, we celebrate that tomorrow.

“That is Jesus!”



Luke 1:30-33

30-31 But the angel said to her, “Do NOT be AFRAID, Mary
you have found favor with God.

You will conceive and give birth to a son,
and you are to call him Jesus.

32 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,

33 and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever

His Kingdom will NEVER END

We must pause ... think & feel what these verses mean

His Kingdom will NEVER END



Luke 1:34-38

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

35 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on 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

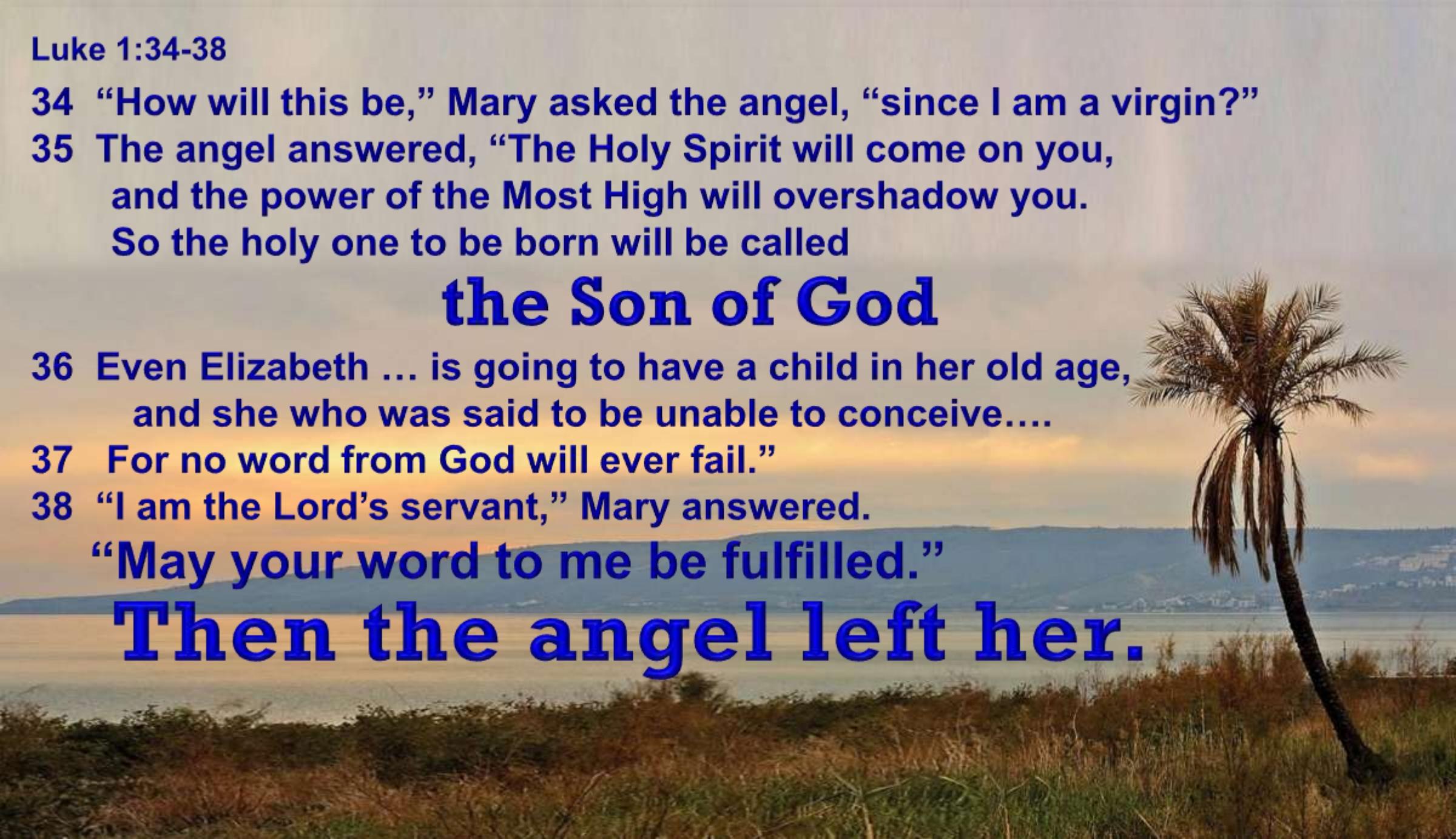
36 Even Elizabeth ... is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive....

37 For no word from God will ever fail.”

38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered.

“May your word to me be fulfilled.”

Then the angel left her.



Luke 2:1-7

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census....
4 So Joseph also went up from ... Nazareth in Galilee to Judea,
to Bethlehem the town of David, because
he belonged to the house and line of David.
5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged
to be married to him and was expecting a child.
6-7 While they were there, the time came for the
baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a SON.
She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger,
because there was

NO Guest Room available for them.

word used here is “guest room” not “inn” or “motel”

They had another word for a Motel 6 or a Hyatt



Luke 2:8-10

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby,
keeping watch over their flocks at night.

9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the
glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were **TERRIFIED**.

10 But the angel said to them,

“Do not be afraid.

I bring you good news that will cause

Great Joy for ALL the people!

To be a SHEPHERD – outside the city – pure country

God reached *down* to ALL People



Gustave Doré
1832-1883

Luke 2:11-14

11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;

He is the Messiah, the Lord.

12 This will be a sign to you:

You will find a baby wrapped in
cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great company of the

HEAVENLY HOST

appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace to those on whom

His favor rests



Gustave Doré
1832-1883

Luke 2:14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom His Favor Rests

Charles Spurgeon spoke on this verse,
Sunday morning, Dec. 20, 1857 – calling this verse:

“The First Christmas Carol”

www.PreciousHeart.net/SS/Spurgeon-1858-Luke-2-14.pdf

“Glory to God in the highest.”

What is the instructive lesson ... from this first syllable?

Salvation is God's HIGHEST GLORY. He is glorified in
every dew drop that twinkles to the morning sun.

He is magnified in every wood flower that blossoms ...
although it live to blush unseen, and
waste its sweetness in the forest air.



Charles H. Spurgeon
by Alexander Melville
(1834-1892)



Charles Spurgeon spoke on this verse, Sunday morning, Dec. 20, 1857

“First Christmas Carol” ~ www.PreciousHeart.net/SS/Spurgeon-1858-Luke-2-14.pdf

**God is glorified in every bird that warbles on the spray;
in every lamb that skips the mead.**

Do not the fishes in the sea praise him?

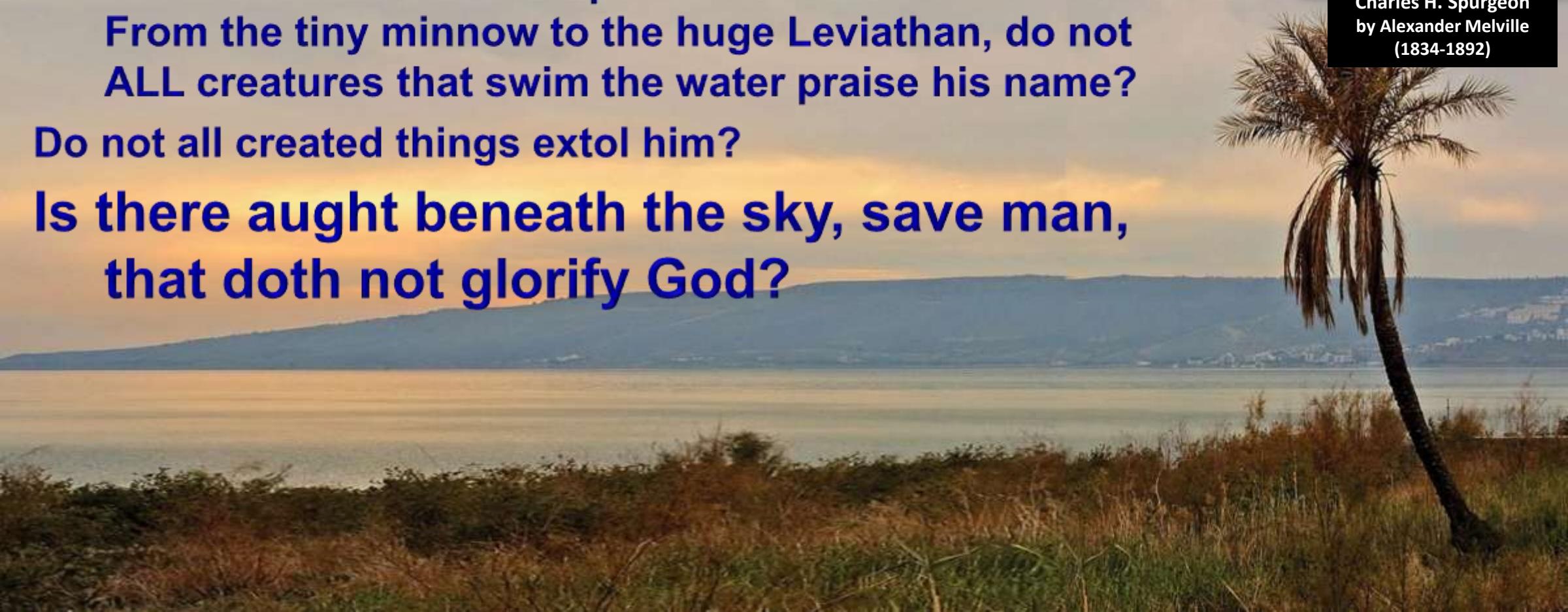
**From the tiny minnow to the huge Leviathan, do not
ALL creatures that swim the water praise his name?**

Do not all created things extol him?

**Is there aught beneath the sky, save man,
that doth not glorify God?**



Charles H. Spurgeon
by Alexander Melville
(1834-1892)



Charles Spurgeon spoke on this verse, Sunday morning, Dec. 20, 1857

“First Christmas Carol” ~ www.PreciousHeart.net/SS/Spurgeon-1858-Luke-2-14.pdf

**Do not the stars exalt him, when they write his name
upon the azure of heaven in their golden letters?**

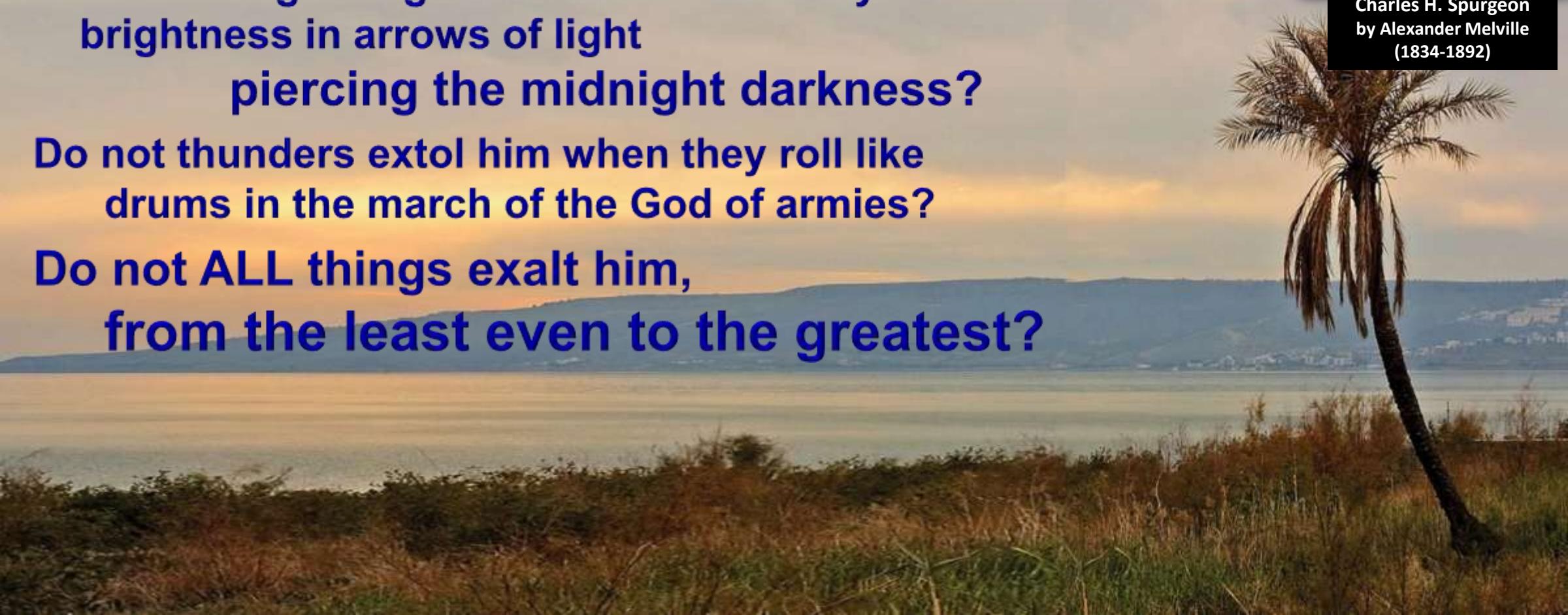
**Do not the lightnings adore him when they flash his
brightness in arrows of light
piercing the midnight darkness?**

**Do not thunders extol him when they roll like
drums in the march of the God of armies?**

**Do not ALL things exalt him,
from the least even to the greatest?**



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“First Christmas Carol” ~ www.PreciousHeart.net/SS/Spurgeon-1858-Luke-2-14.pdf

But sing, sing, oh universe, till thou hast exhausted thyself,
thou canst not afford a song so sweet as

the song of Incarnation

Though creation may be a majestic organ of praise,
it cannot reach the compass of the golden canticle—

Incarnation!

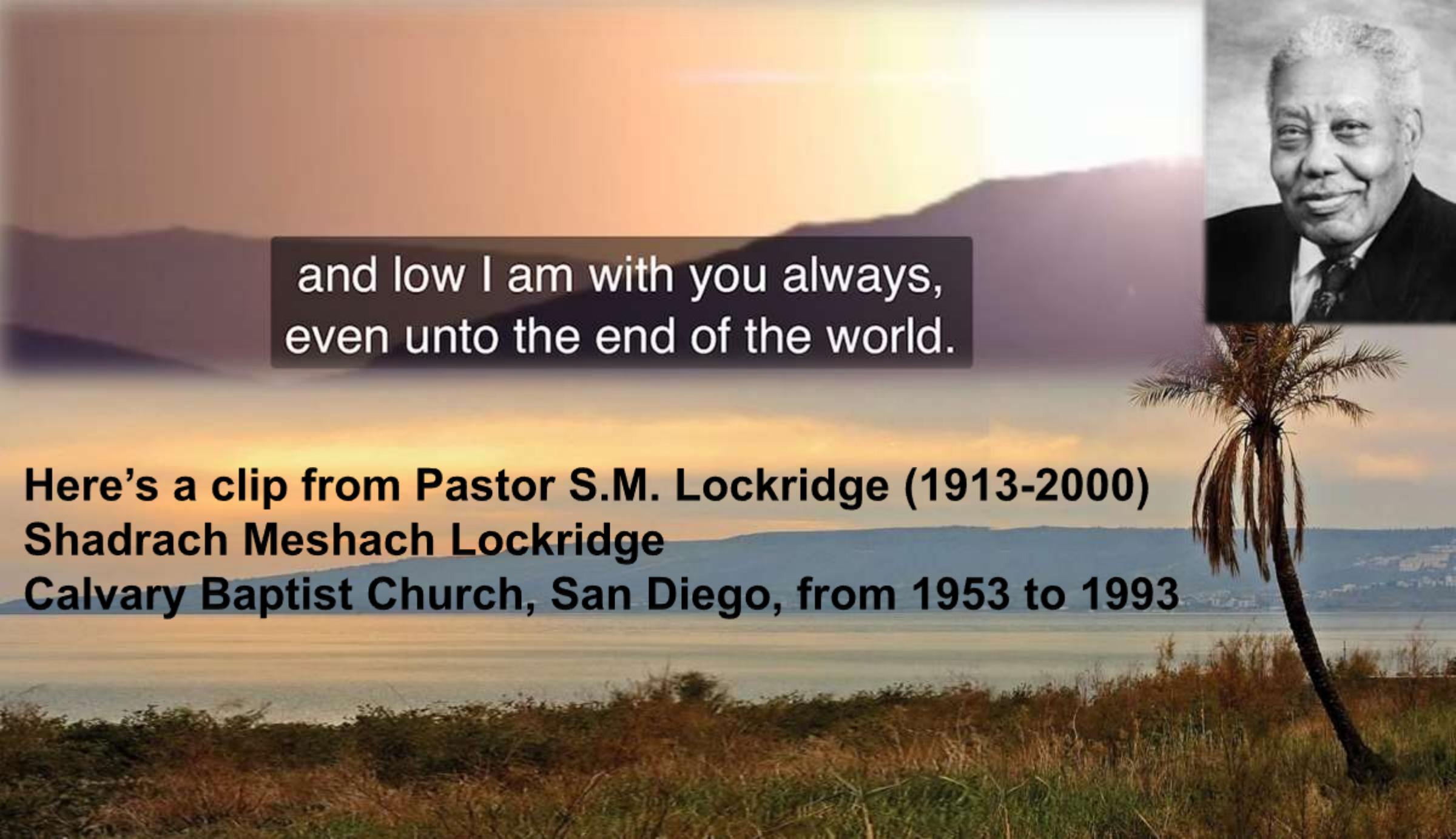
There is more in THAT than in creation,
more melody in Jesus in the manger than there is
in worlds on worlds rolling their grandeur

round the throne of the Most High.



Charles H. Spurgeon
by Alexander Melville
(1834-1892)





and low I am with you always,
even unto the end of the world.



**Here's a clip from Pastor S.M. Lockridge (1913-2000)
Shadrach Meshach Lockridge
Calvary Baptist Church, San Diego, from 1953 to 1993**

Luke 2:15-19

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another,
“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened....

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph,
and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

17 When they had seen him, they spread the word....

18 ALL who heard it were amazed....

19 But Mary treasured up all these things and
***pondered them
in her heart.***

Gustave Doré
1832-1883

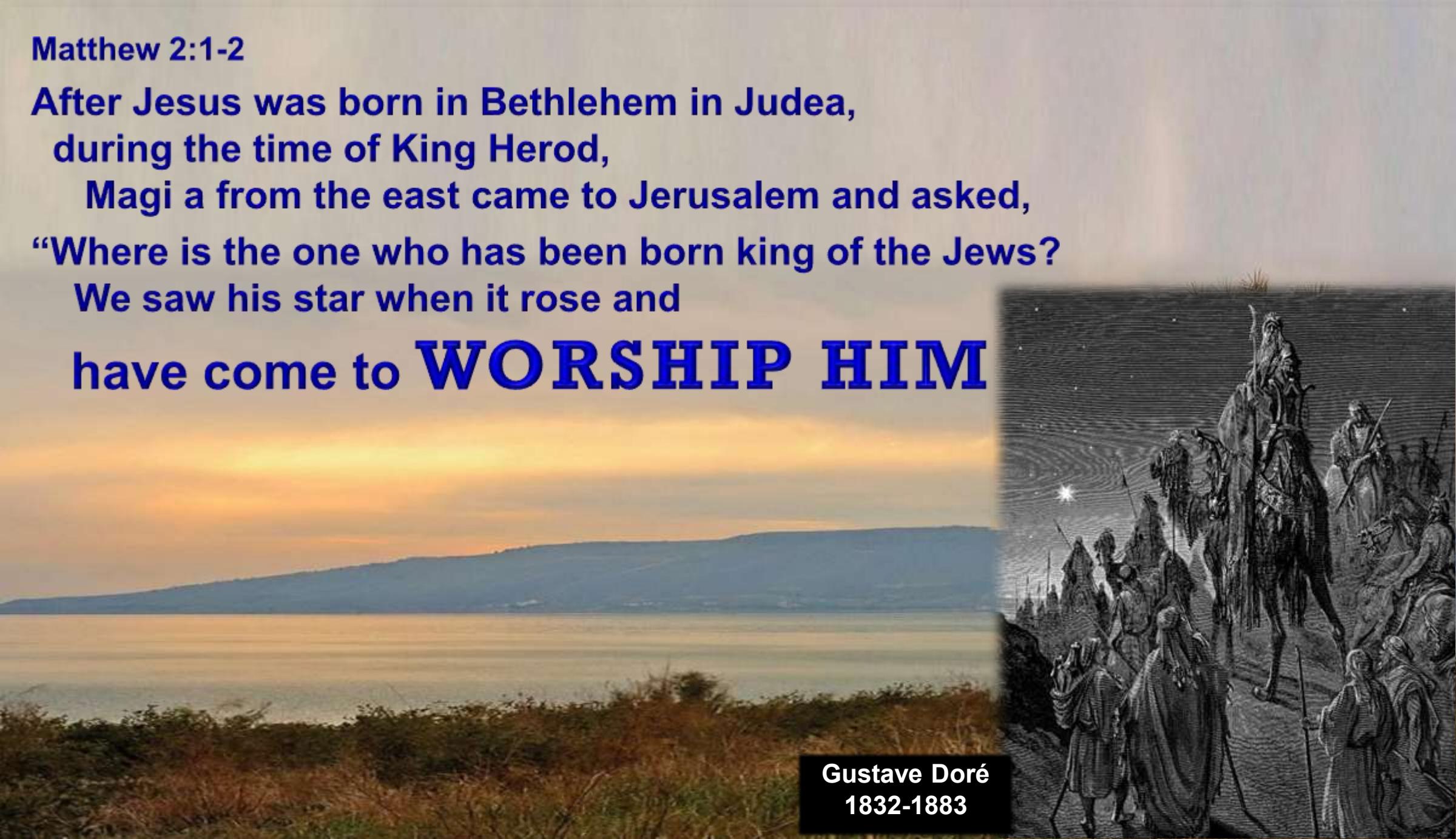


Matthew 2:1-2

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea,
during the time of King Herod,

Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked,
“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?
We saw his star when it rose and

have come to WORSHIP HIM



Gustave Doré
1832-1883

Matthew 2:3-6

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed,
and ALL JERUSALEM WITH HIM.

When Herod called together all the people's chief priests & teachers
of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied [TOP Priests & Lawyers]
"for this is what the prophet has written:

'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler who will

Shepherd My people Israel

CLIPPED from Micah 5:2 & 4



Micah 5:2-4 ² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for Me ONE who will be Ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when
she who is in labor bears a son, and the
rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand &
shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God.

**And they will live securely, for then His greatness will
reach to the ENDS of the earth.**



Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Darkness flies, all is light;
Shepherds hear the angels sing,
"Alleluia! hail the King!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous star, lend the light;
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Merry Christmas