

SERMON: WHAT CHILD IS THIS? – The Child Who is Zechariah’s Hope (Luke 1:5-25)

Pastor Augie Iadicicco
December 2, 2018

When Israel was going into exile in Babylon, the Lord promised comfort, both in a return a few decades later and also in a Messiah to pay for their sins. Centuries later, most people had forgotten the promise, but the priest Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, were among those trusting in God. Yet when the angel brought Zechariah news of his son, who would be John the Baptist, preparing the way of the Lord, it was too good to be believed. It is our problem also as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus, the Messiah. God overwhelms us with His love, remembering the promises we sometimes forget and forgiving us purely by grace. The Child, the Son of Mary, is the fulfiller of all God’s promises. He is Zechariah’s hope and ours!

But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.”
– Luke 1:13

Zechariah’s name means: “ _____ ”
Luke 1:5-20, Luke 1:67-75

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. ... and to remember his holy covenant” – Luke 1:68, 72

When God remembers, _____ are we _____ ?
Luke 1:5-20, cf. Genesis 18:10-15, Luke 1:34

Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” – Luke 1:18

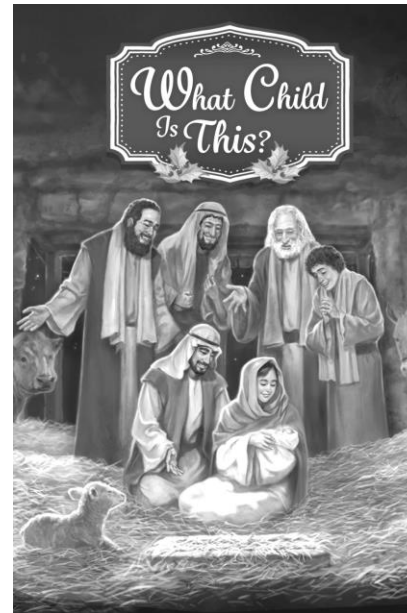
When God remembers, _____ .
Luke 1:39-45, Luke 1:57, Isaiah 40:1-5, Hebrews 10:10, 14, 17-18

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son.
– Luke 1:57

When God remembers, we respond in _____ !
Luke 1:46-55, Luke 1:67-79

“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

Questions for individual or group reflection:



Do you know the meaning of your name? Why might Zechariah’s name have meant “God Remembers?” (see Luke 1:13 and Luke 1:67-75)

Why did Zechariah doubt God’s promise to him and Elizabeth?

Who else in the Bible has doubted God?

Have you doubted God’s promises?

Has God ever failed to be faithful?

How have you seen God act in response to His promises?

What promises did God make to Israel in Isaiah 40:1-5?

What promises did God fulfill, and Jesus testify to in Hebrews 10:1-18?

How did the Virgin Mary respond to God’s promise of her Holy Child? (Luke 1:46-55)

How did Zechariah respond to God’s

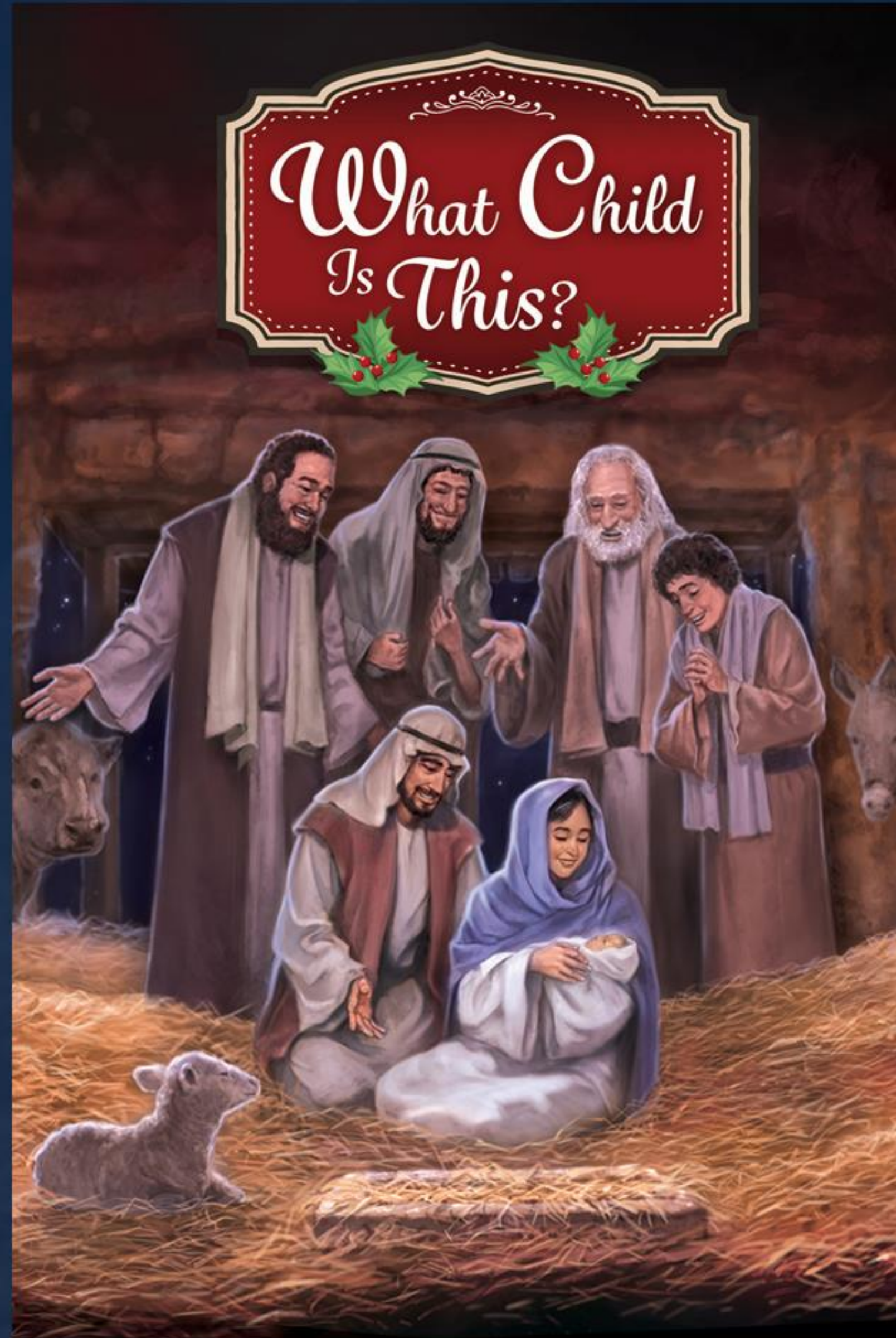
fulfilled promises? (Luke 1:67-79)

What is the proper way to respond to God’s promises? (Romans 15:13)

What promises of God do you need to trust in at this moment?

Taking it home / Memory Verse:

“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



What Child Is This? An Advent Worship Series

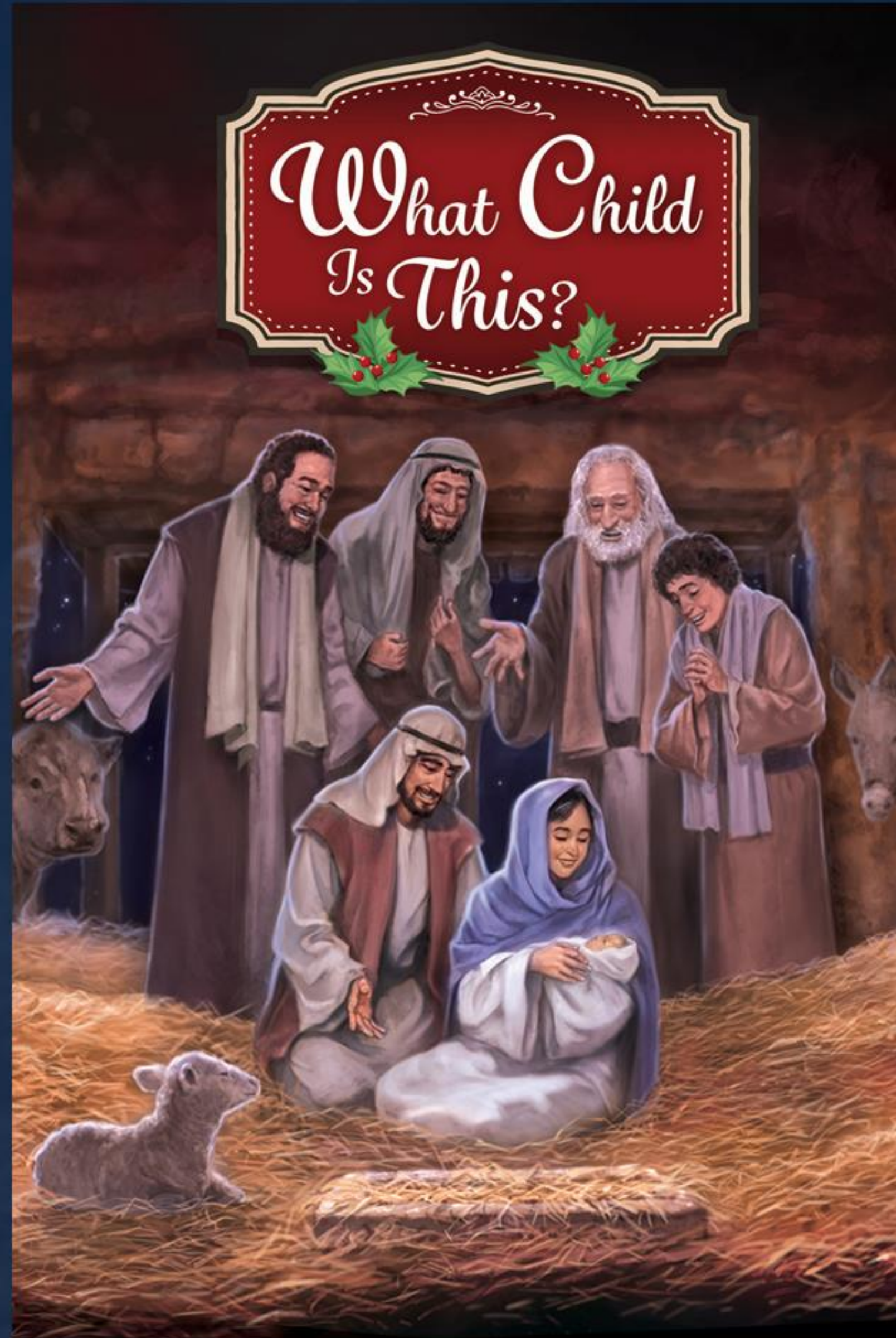
The Child Who is
Zechariah's Hope

SERVE

*Be sure to fear
the Lord and
serve him
faithfully with
all your heart;
consider what
great things he
has done for you.*

1 Samuel 12:24



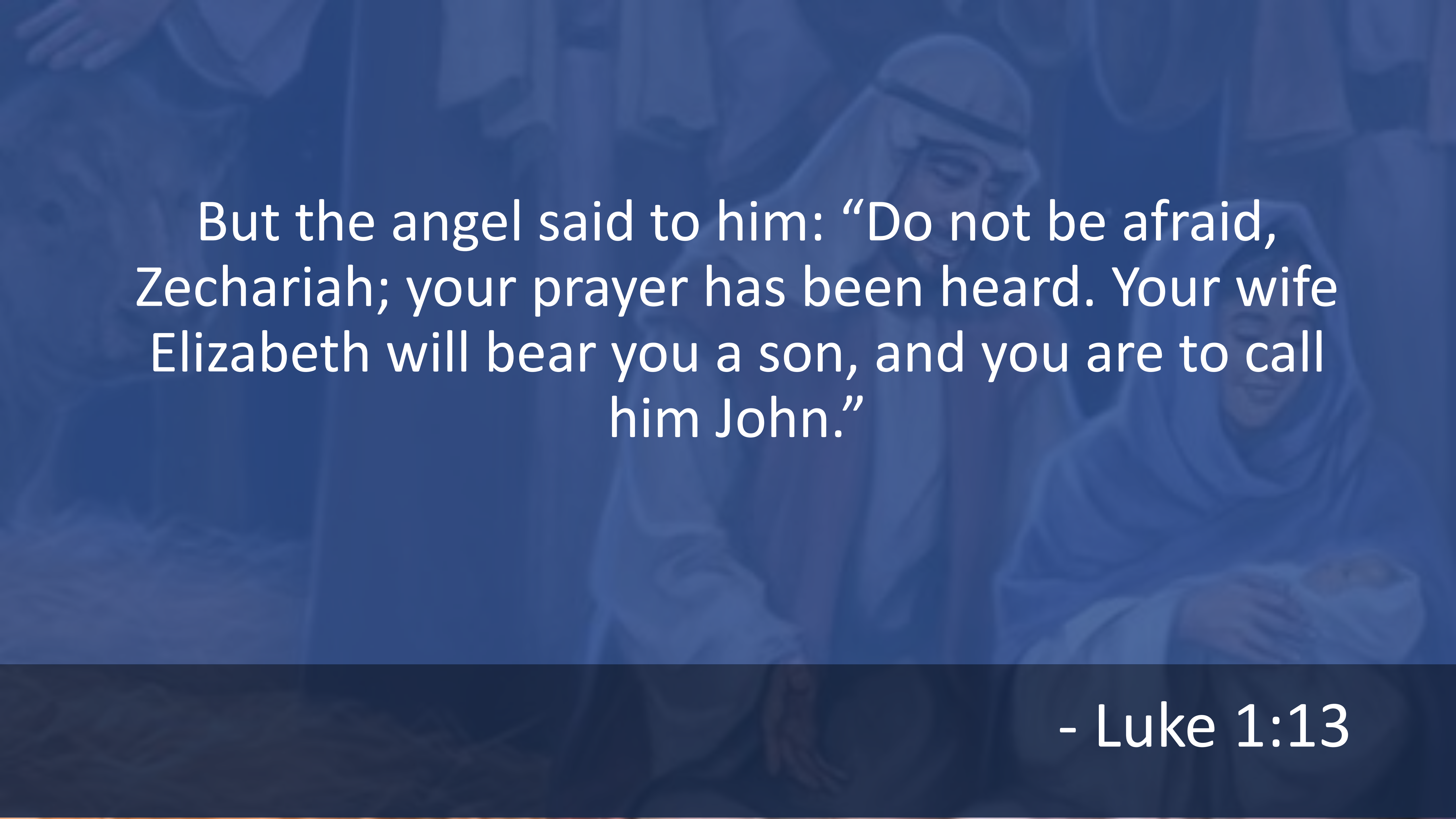


What Child Is This? An Advent Worship Series

The Child Who is
Zechariah's Hope



What Child
Is This?



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- Luke 1:13

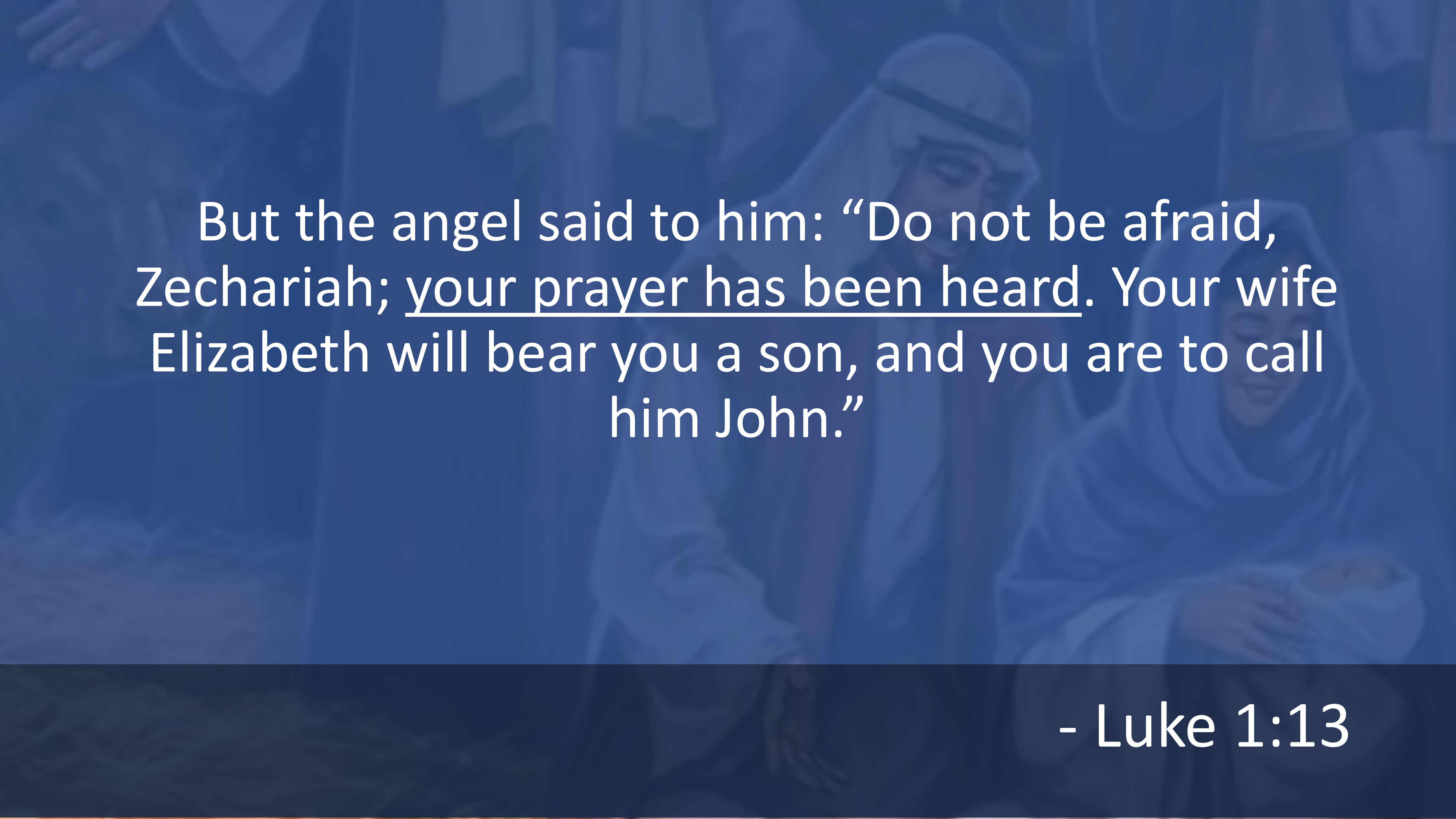


Zechariah's name means:
“GOD REMEMBERS”

Video Clip from the trailer for “Overboard”

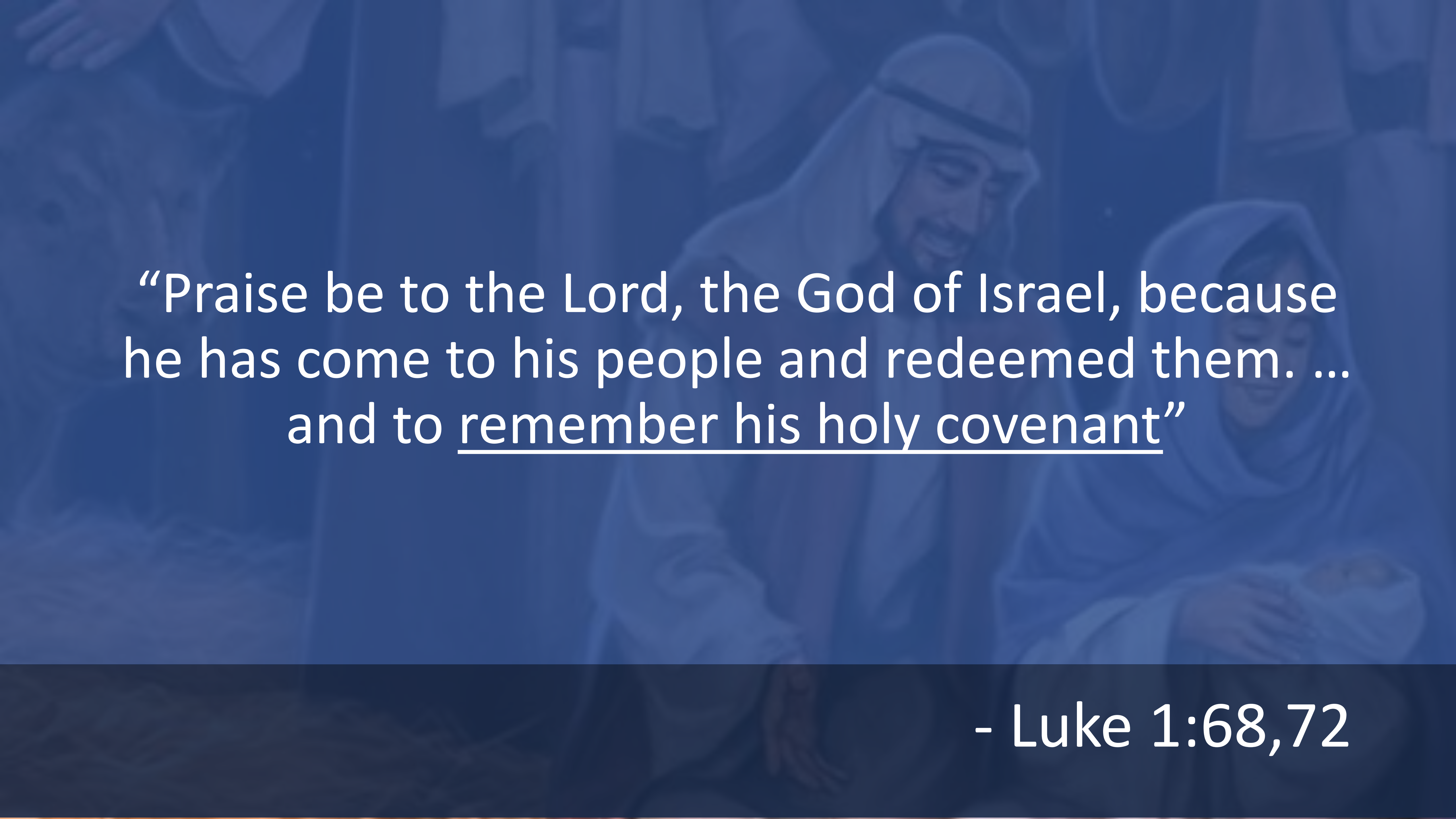


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“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. ... and to remember his holy covenant”

- Luke 1:68,72





Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?”

- Luke 1:66

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us –

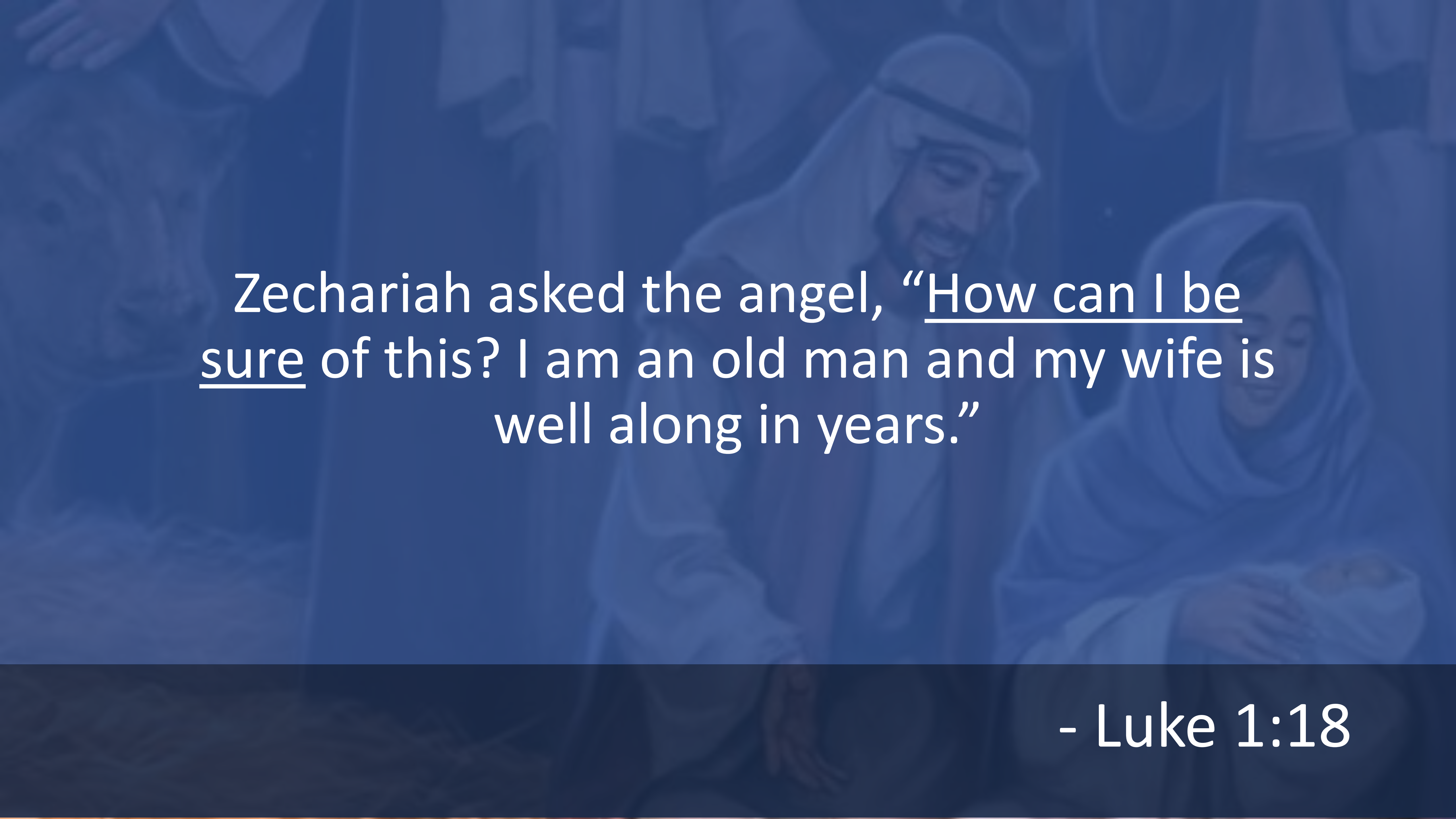
- Luke 1:67-75

— to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.”

- Luke 1:67-75

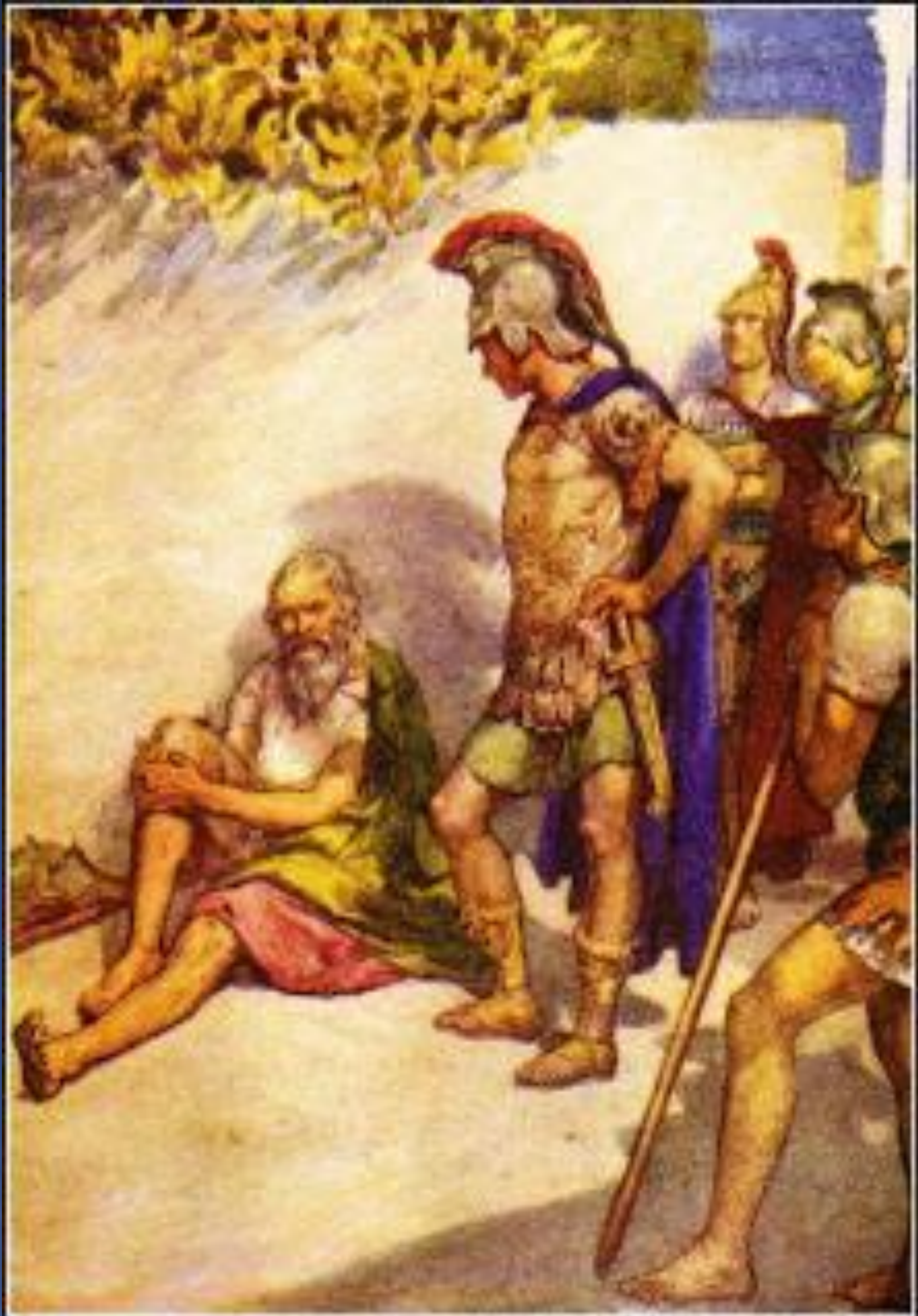


When God remembers,
WHY are we SURPRISED?

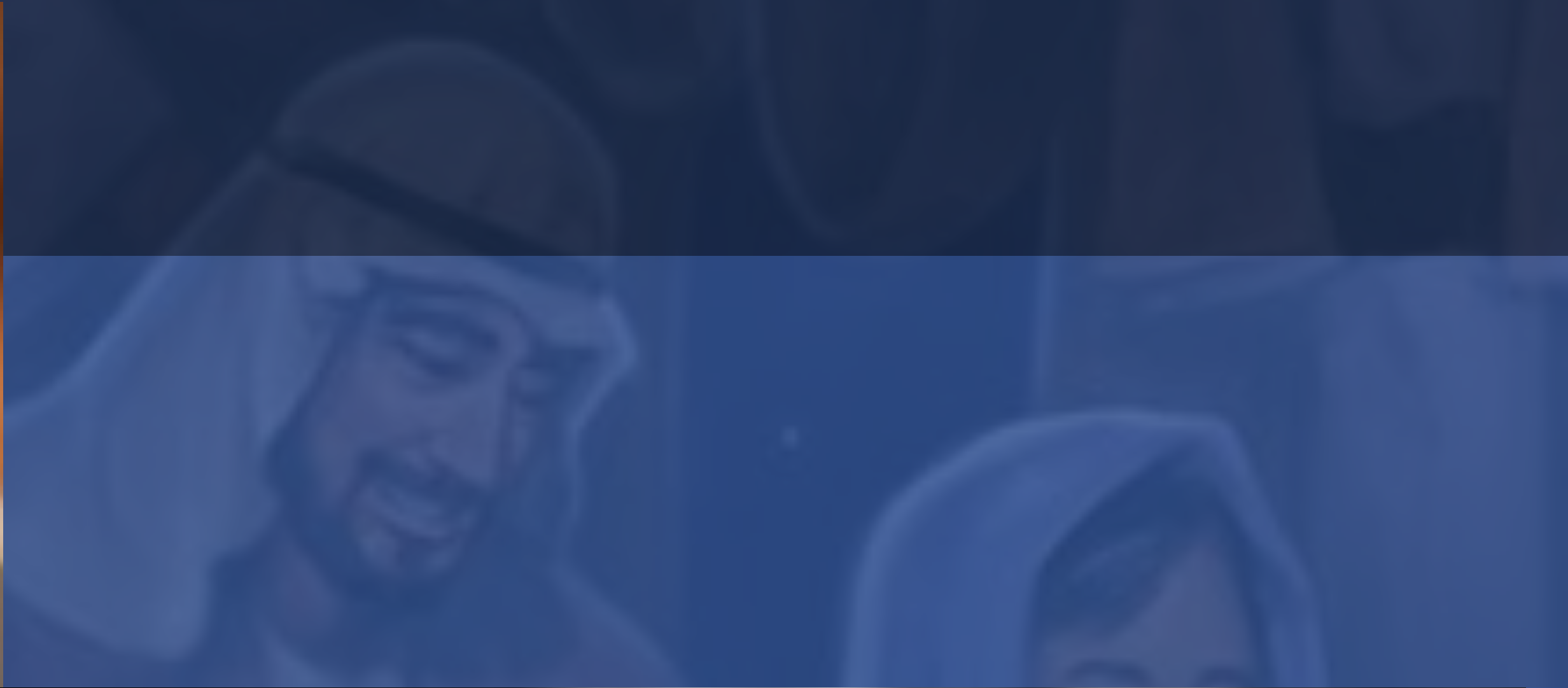


Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

- Luke 1:18









When God remembers,
HE ACTS.



When it was time for Elizabeth to have her
baby, she gave birth to a son.

- Luke 1:57



A voice of
one calling:
'In the
wilderness
prepare the
way for the
Lord;'

- Isaiah 40:3



Comfort,
comfort my
people,
says your
God. ...

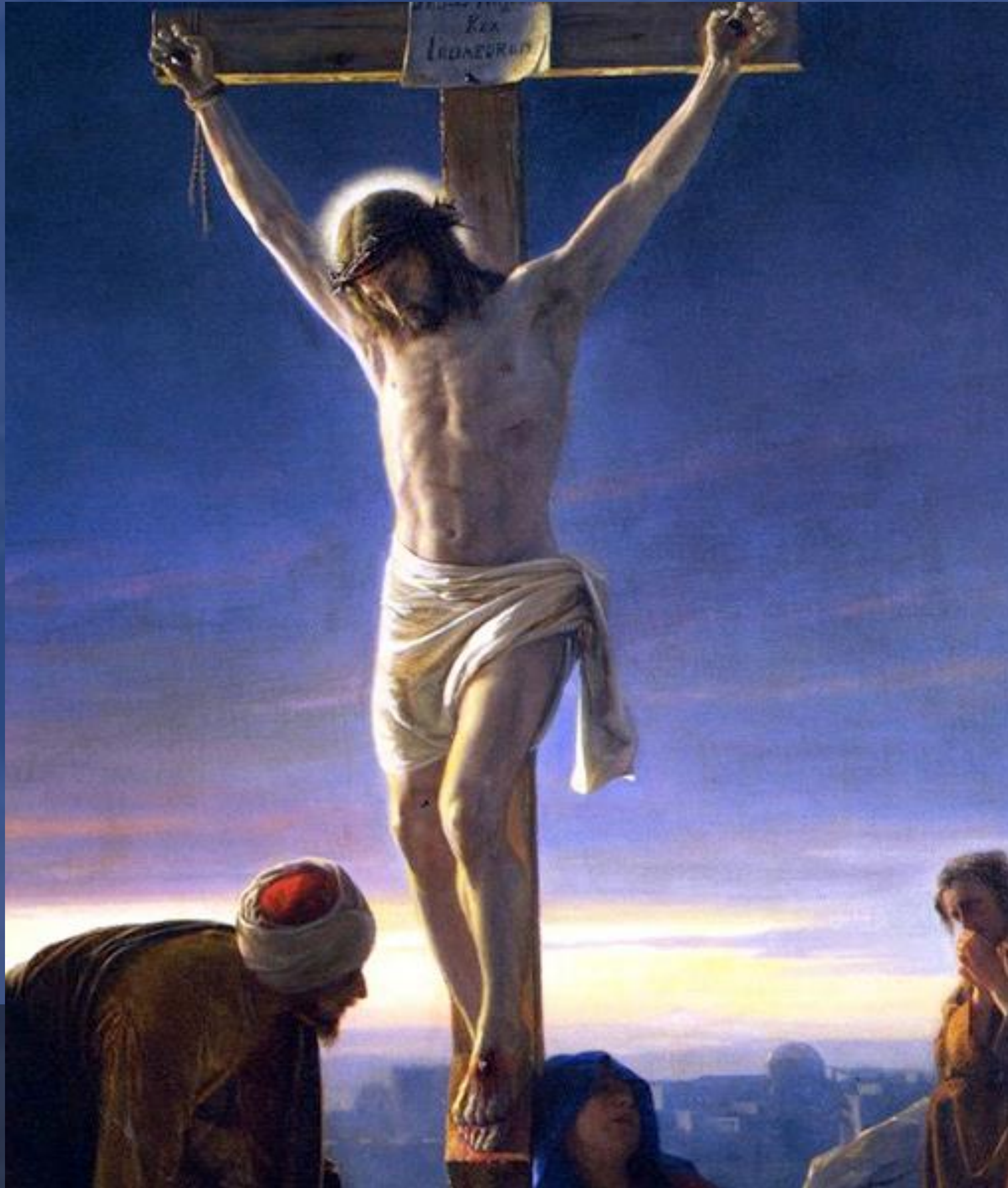
her sin has
been paid
for

- Isaiah 40:1-2



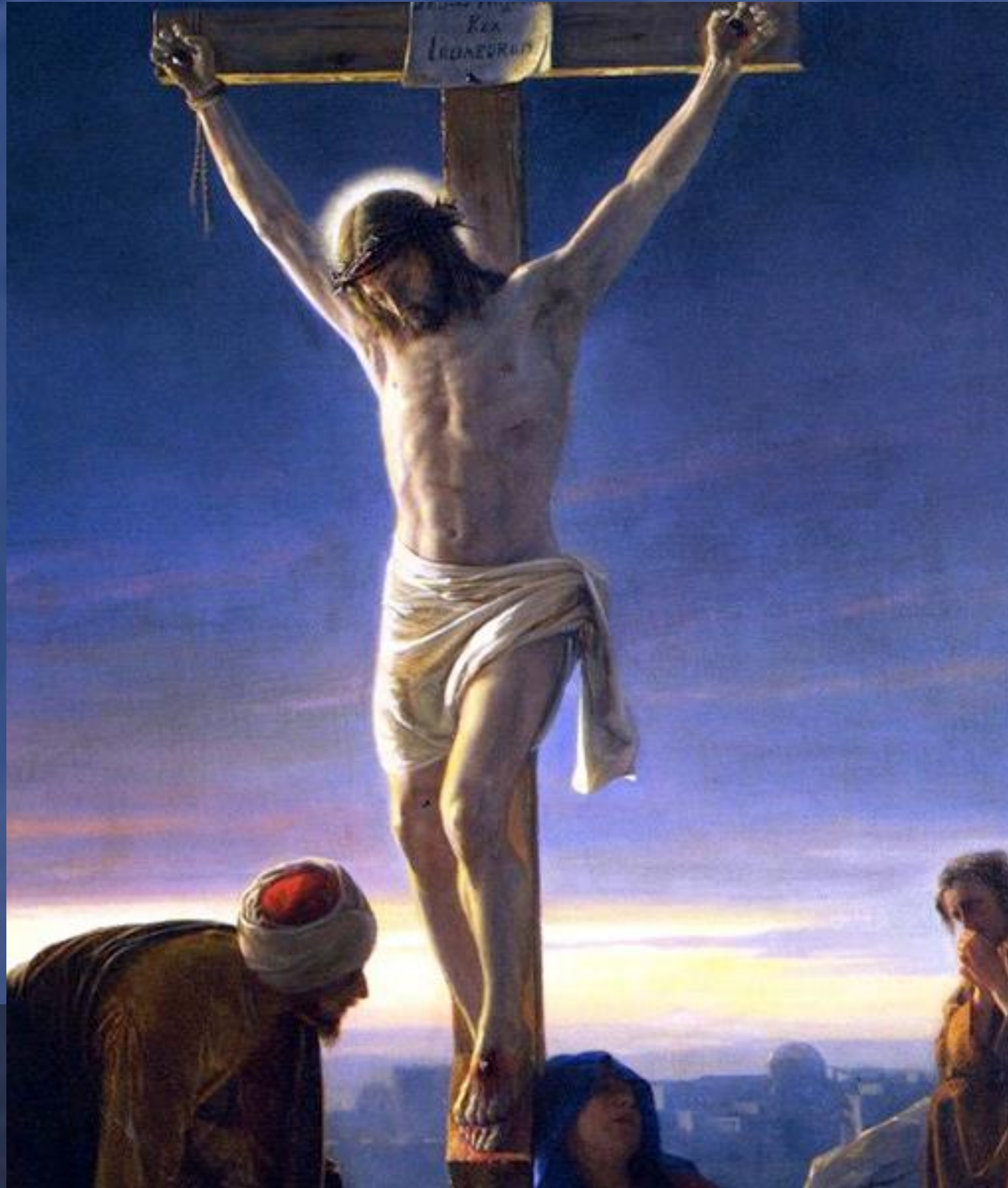
And by that will,
we have been
made holy
through the
sacrifice of the
body of Jesus
Christ once for all.

- Hebrews 10:10



“Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”

- Hebrews 10:17



Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

- Isaiah 40:2




When God remembers,
we respond in
CONFIDENT HOPE!

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us –

- Luke 1:67-75

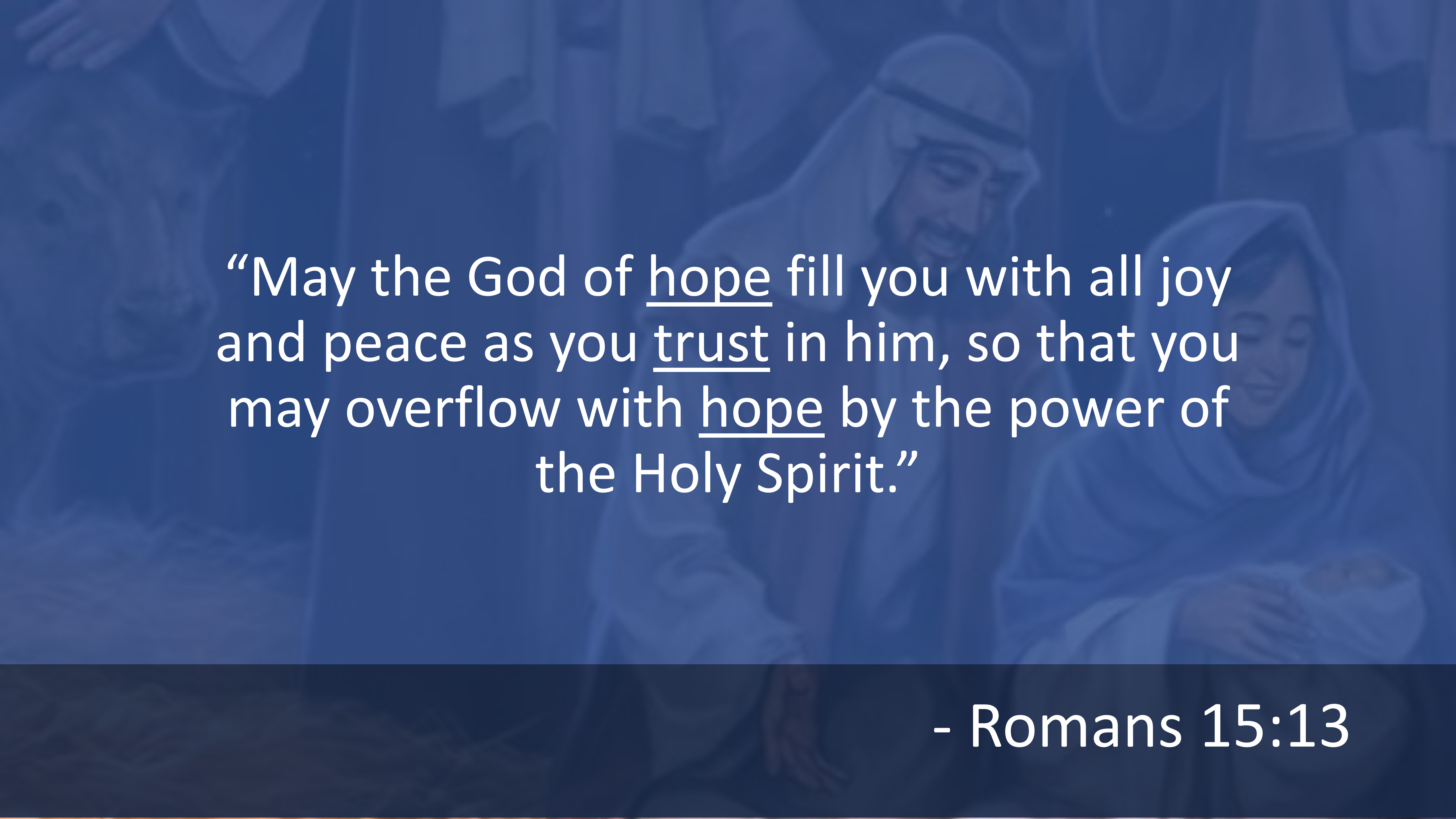
— to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.”

- Luke 1:67-75



“He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful to Abraham
and his descendants forever, just as he
promised our ancestors.”

- Luke 1:54-55



“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