

SERMON: THE CHRISTMAS STORY (LUKE 2:1-20)

Pastor Augie Iadicicco

December 24, 2018 – Christmas Eve

Regarding *The Christmas Story*, you may have some questions: What is this story about? Is it just a series of random events: a decree from an emperor, a virgin expecting a child, angels appearing to make an announcement, magi from the east, and no room at the inn? Is there any reason to think that these events really happened? And if so, why do they matter to you?

“Let me tell you _____...”

The difference between “_____” story and “_____” Story

Luke 1:1-4

“With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write **an orderly account** for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know **the certainty** of the things you have been taught.” – Luke 1:3-4

The Christmas Story is the _____ of God acting in history.

Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 1:18-25

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. – Luke 2:6-7

1. Not just the birth of a child, but the birth of our _____

Luke 1:46-56, c.f. Judges 13-16

2. Not random events, but a _____ unfolding with _____.

Genesis 3:15, Genesis 12:1-3, Exodus 12:14, John 1:29, Luke 1:31-33

“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.” – Luke 1:31-33

God’s Story continues _____ as I _____ Him.

Luke 1:37, 38, 45; Ephesians 1:11

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word **to me** be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her. – Luke 1:38



Questions for individual or group reflection:

What is your favorite childhood fairy tale? Hollywood movie?

Do you think of the Christmas Story as a fairy tale or myth?

How do you tell the difference between a fable and a true story?

What sort of evidence do you need to believe something happened?

When you read Luke 1:1-4, how does the story of Christ’s birth compare?

How would you tell the Christmas Story in your own words?

What difference did Christ’s birth make for the world?

How is Jesus like the Judge Samson? (Judges 13-16)

What difference does Christ’s birth make in your life?

What would you have done if you were the Virgin Mary after hearing the angel’s message? (Read Luke 1:38)

How then might you respond in the difficult seasons of life? (See Ephesians 1:11)

What do you need to trust God to unfold in your life?

How might next year be different because of this Christmas?

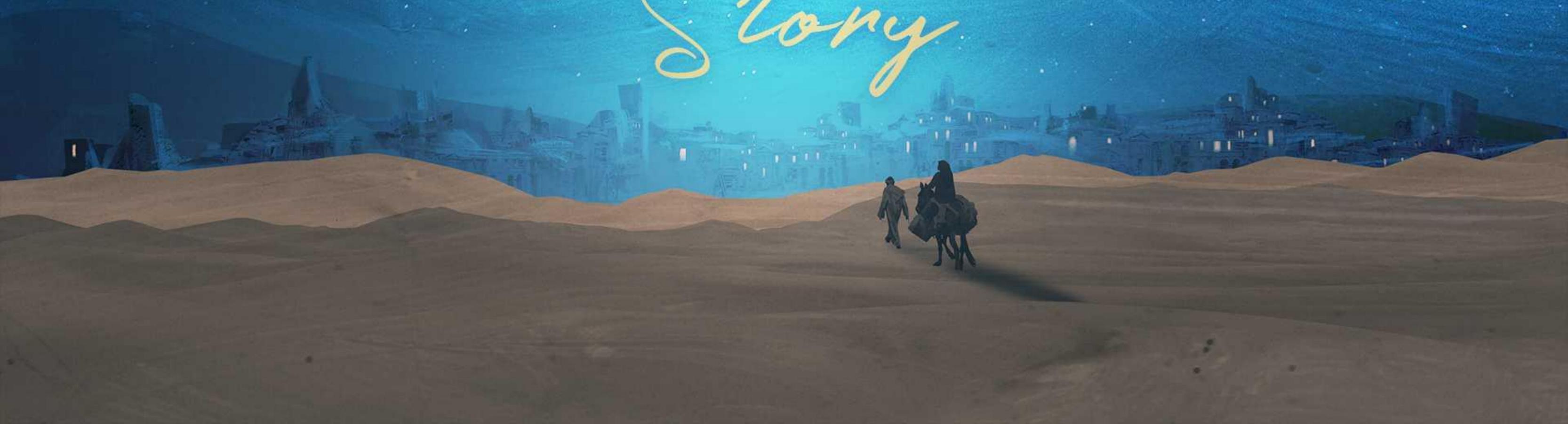
Taking it home / Memory Verse:

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.”

... – Luke 1:38



THE
CHRISTMAS
Story

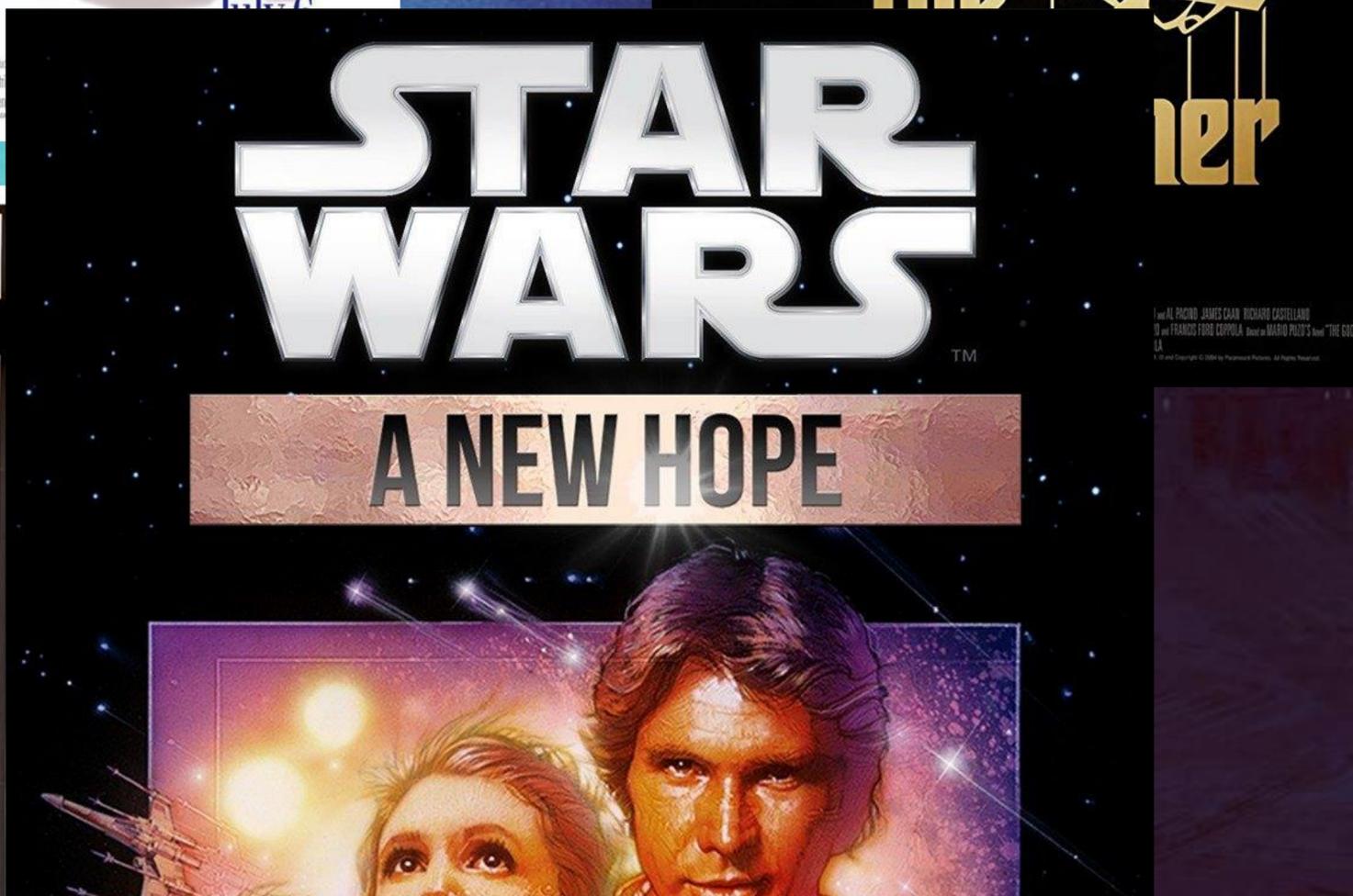
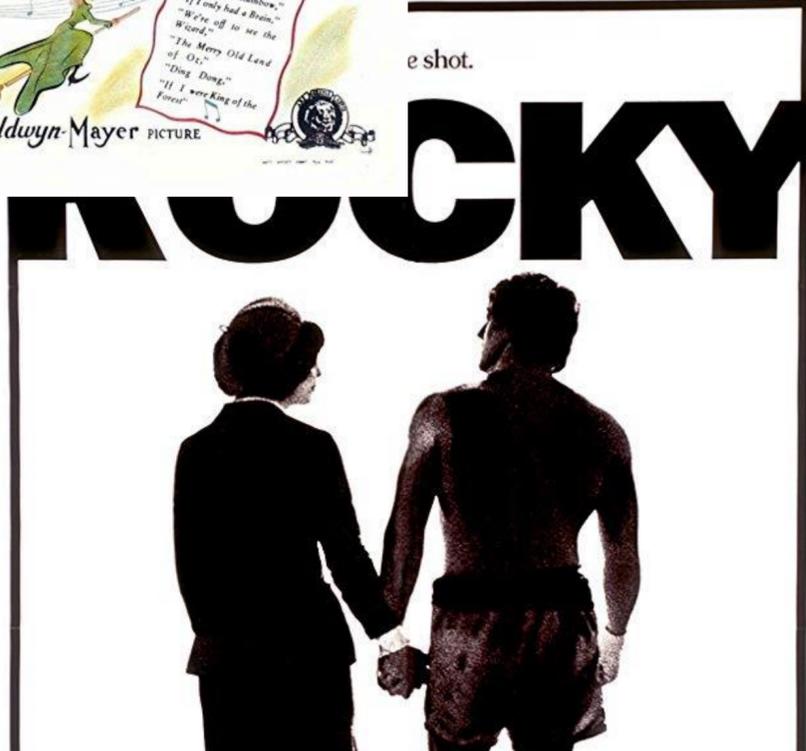
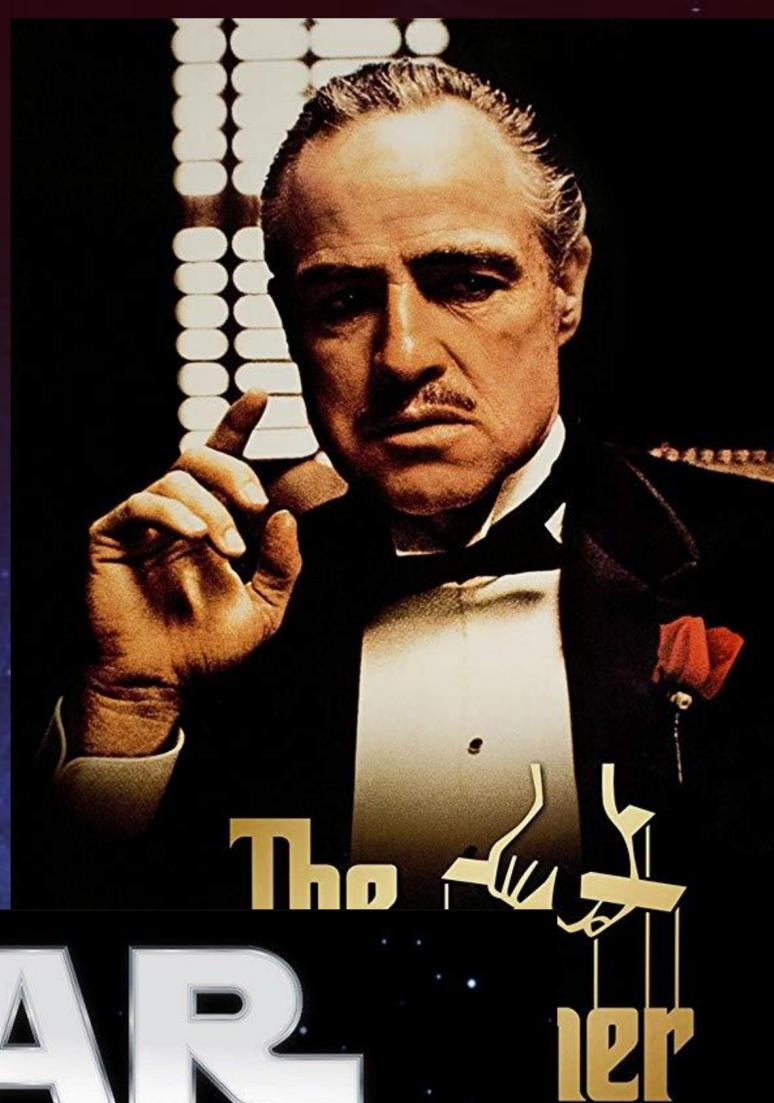
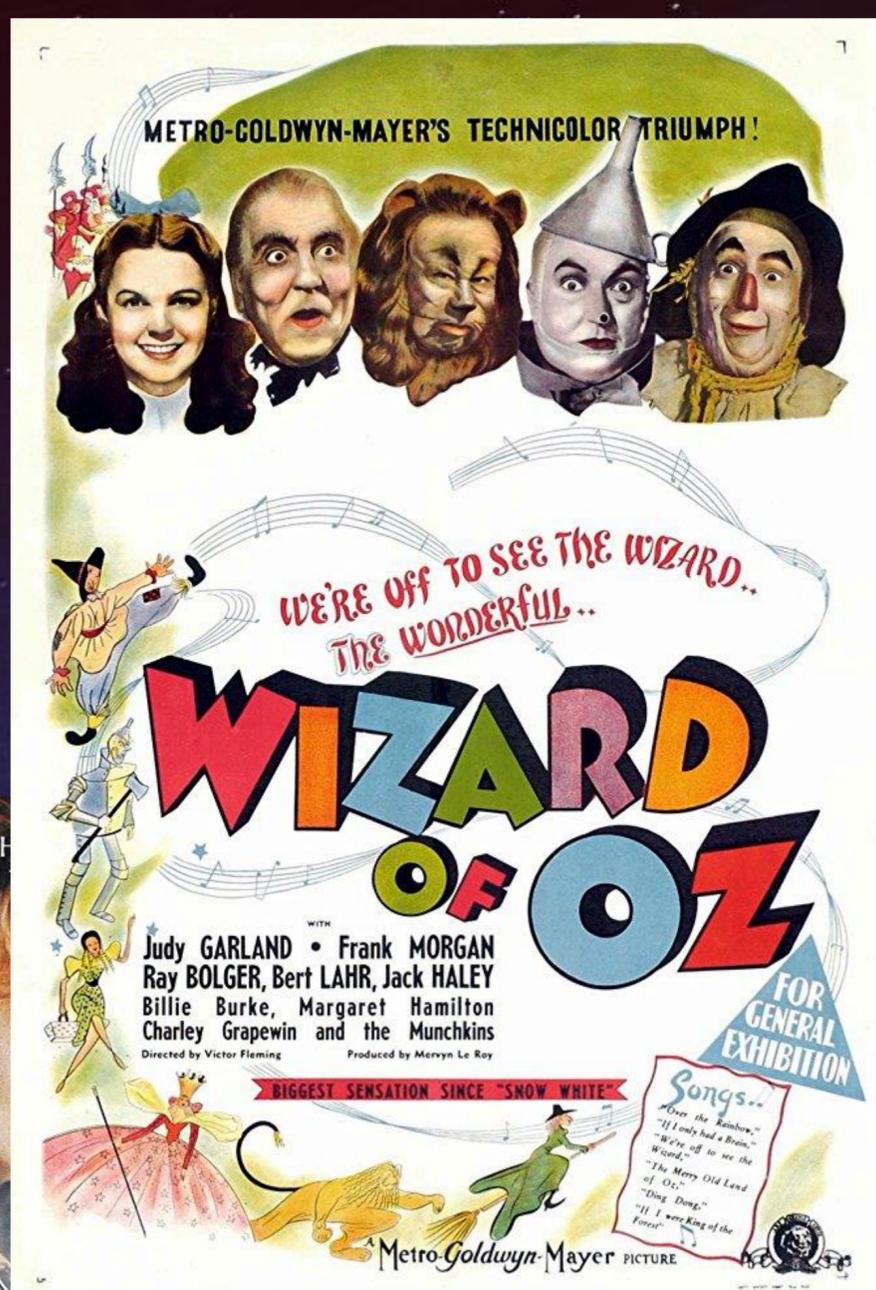


A night scene in a desert. In the foreground, there are rolling sand dunes. In the middle ground, a person is riding a camel, followed by another person walking. In the background, a city with lights is visible under a dark blue sky filled with stars. A single, very bright star is prominent in the upper center of the sky.

“Let me tell you A STORY...”

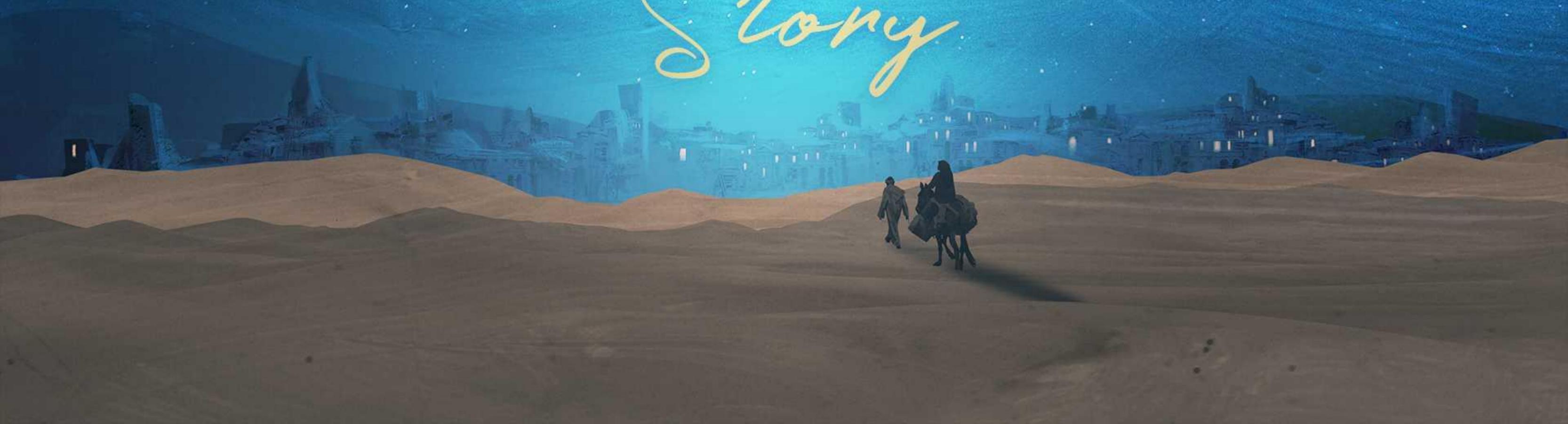


Once
upon a time



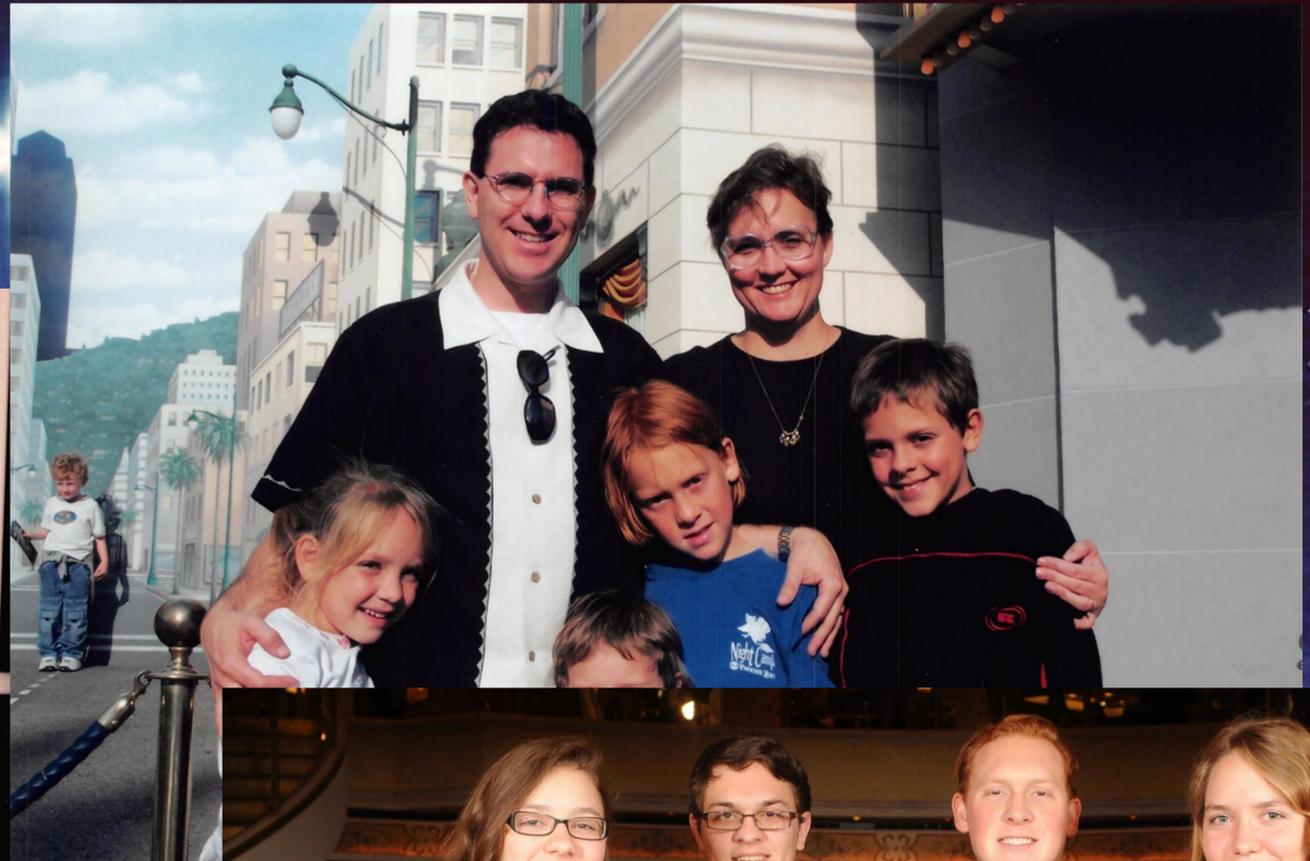
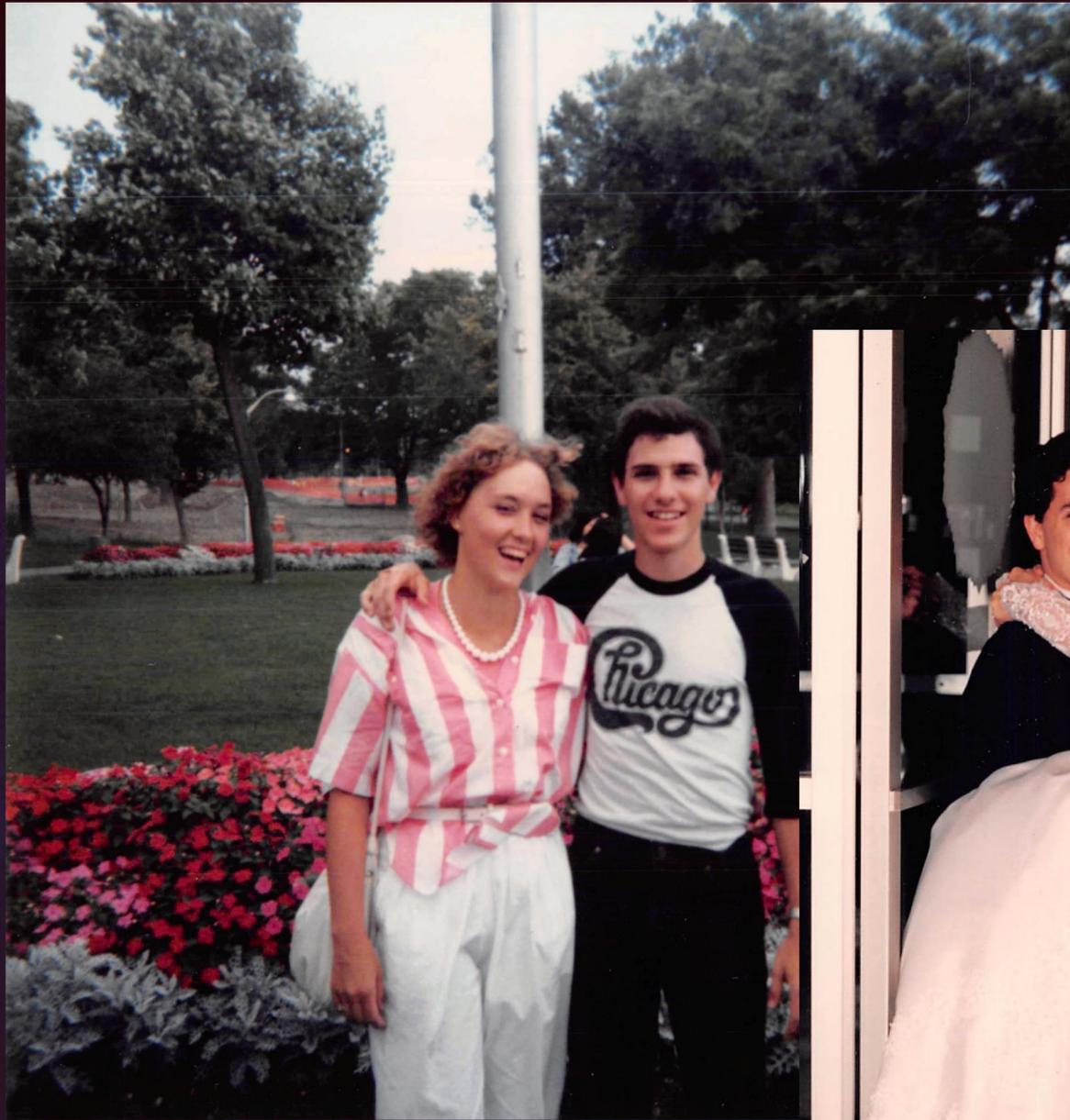


T H E
C H R I S T M A S
Story



A night scene in a desert with a bright star in the sky and a city in the distance. The sky is dark blue with a bright, multi-pointed star in the upper center. Below the star, the text "The difference between 'A' story and 'THE' Story" is written in white, with the 'A' and 'THE' underlined in yellow. In the foreground, there are rolling sand dunes. In the middle ground, a person is riding a horse, and another person is walking. In the background, a city with lights is visible under the starry sky.

The difference between "A" story
and "THE" Story

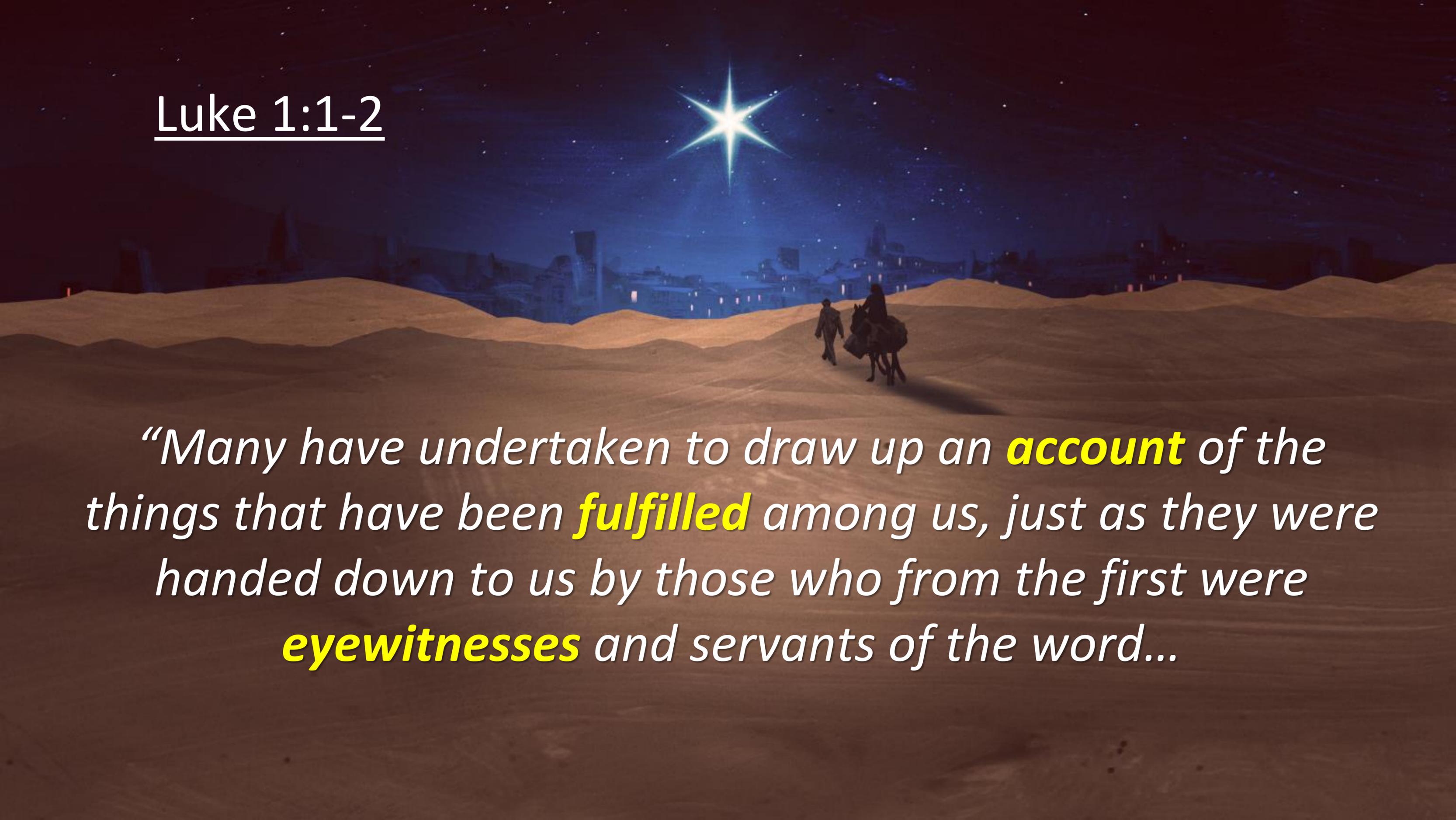


*It is a period of civil war.
Rebel spaceships, striking*

A night scene in a desert with a bright star in the sky and a city in the distance. The sky is dark blue with a bright, multi-pointed star in the upper center. Below the star, the text "The difference between 'A' story and 'THE' Story" is written in white, with the 'A' and 'THE' underlined in yellow. In the foreground, there are rolling sand dunes. In the middle ground, a person is riding a horse, and another person is walking. In the background, a city with lights is visible under the starry sky.

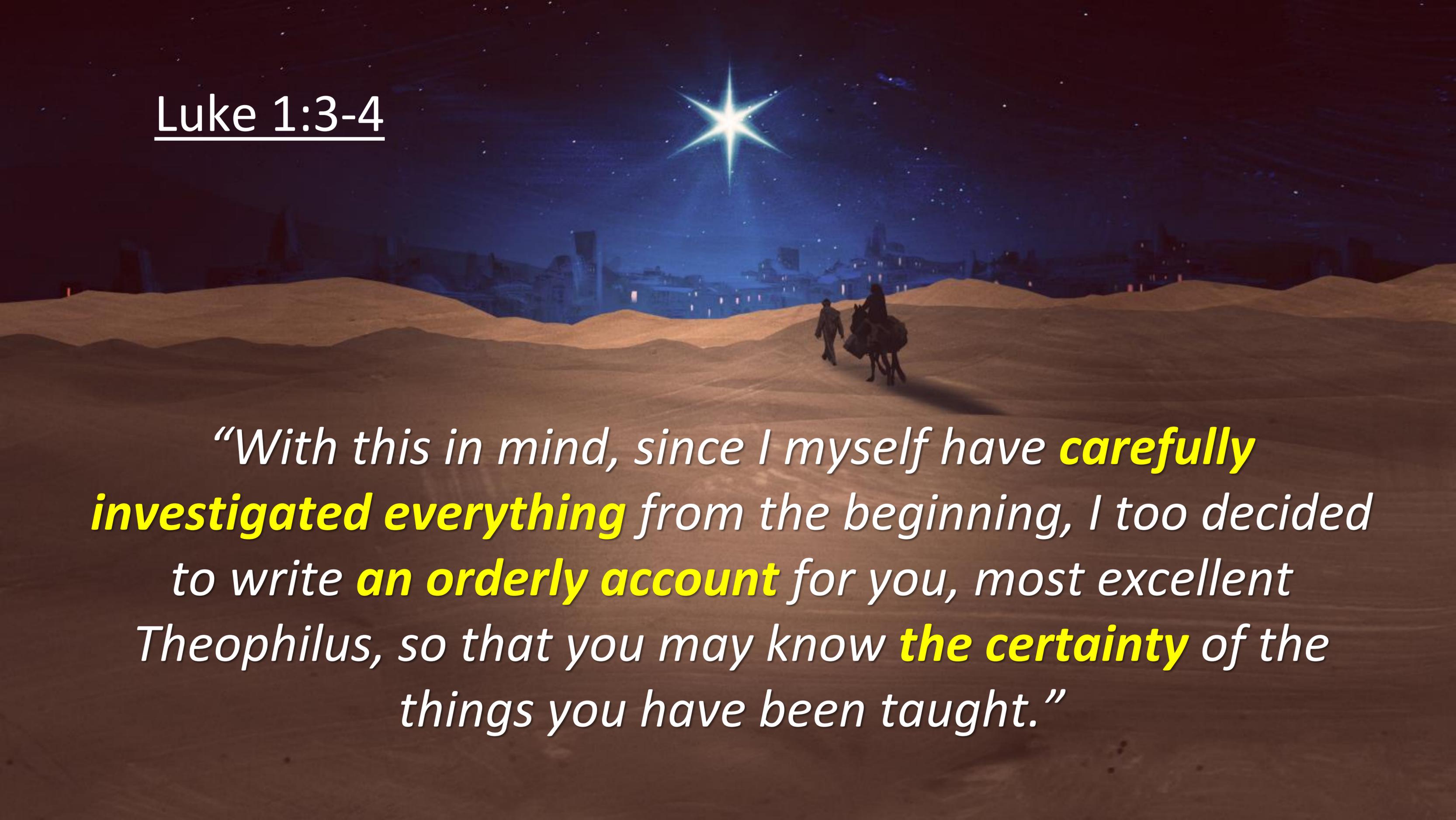
The difference between "A" story
and "THE" Story

Luke 1:1-2

A night scene in a desert landscape. In the foreground, two figures are walking across the sand dunes; one is on a dark horse. In the background, a city with lights is visible under a dark blue sky filled with stars. A prominent, bright, multi-pointed star shines in the upper center of the sky.

*“Many have undertaken to draw up an **account** of the things that have been **fulfilled** among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were **eyewitnesses** and servants of the word...”*

Luke 1:3-4

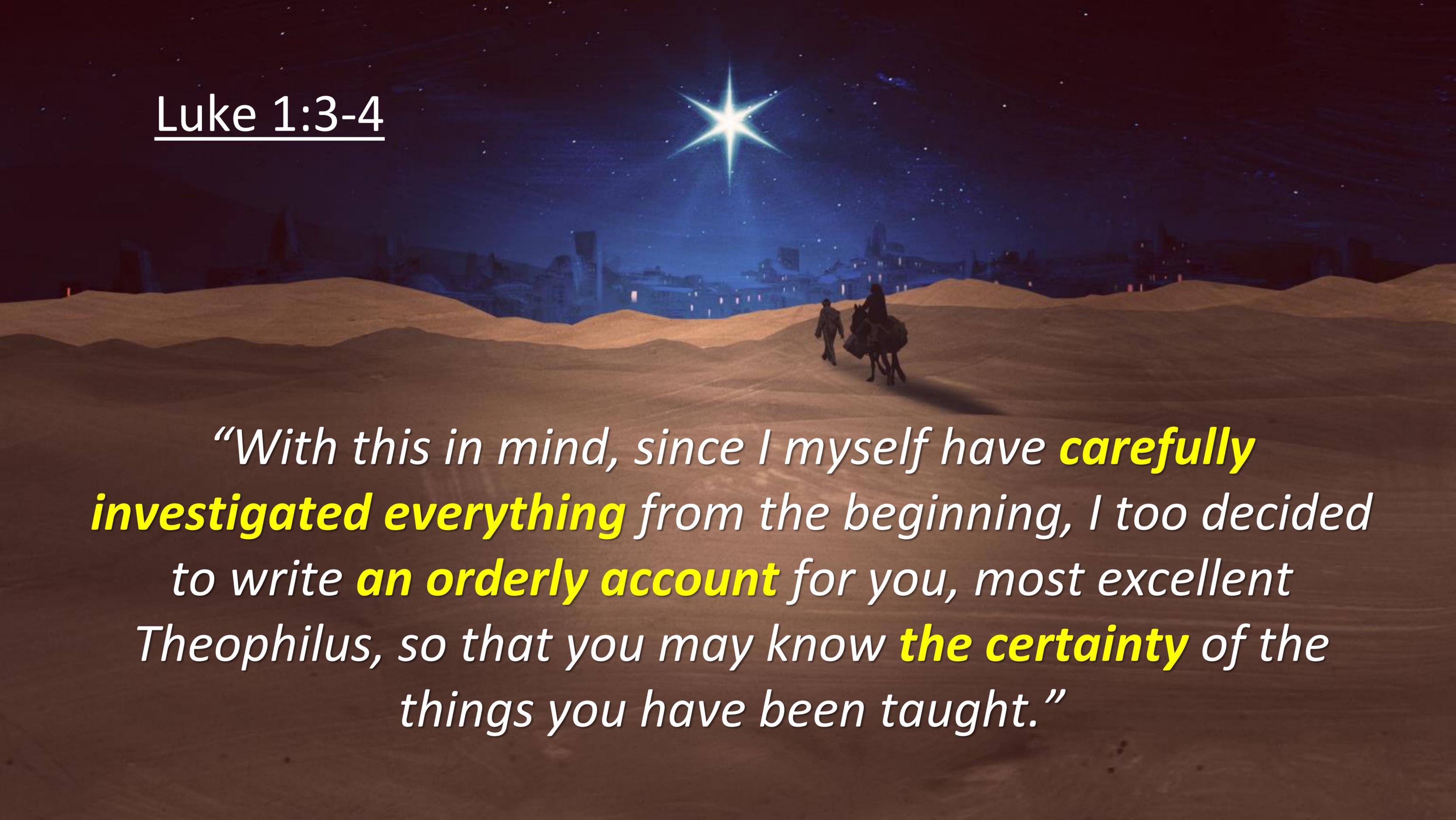
A night scene in a desert with a bright star in the sky and a city in the distance. The scene is illuminated by a bright, multi-pointed star in the dark blue night sky. In the foreground, two figures are walking across the sand dunes; one is on a horse. In the background, a city with lights is visible on a hillside.

*“With this in mind, since I myself have **carefully investigated everything** from the beginning, I too decided to write **an orderly account** for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know **the certainty** of the things you have been taught.”*

A night sky with a bright star and a city in the distance. The sky is dark blue with many small stars. A large, bright, multi-pointed star is in the upper center. Below the star, a city with many lights is visible in the distance. In the foreground, there are rolling sand dunes. A person is riding a horse, and another person is walking, both moving towards the city.

The Christmas Story is the ACCOUNT of God acting in history.

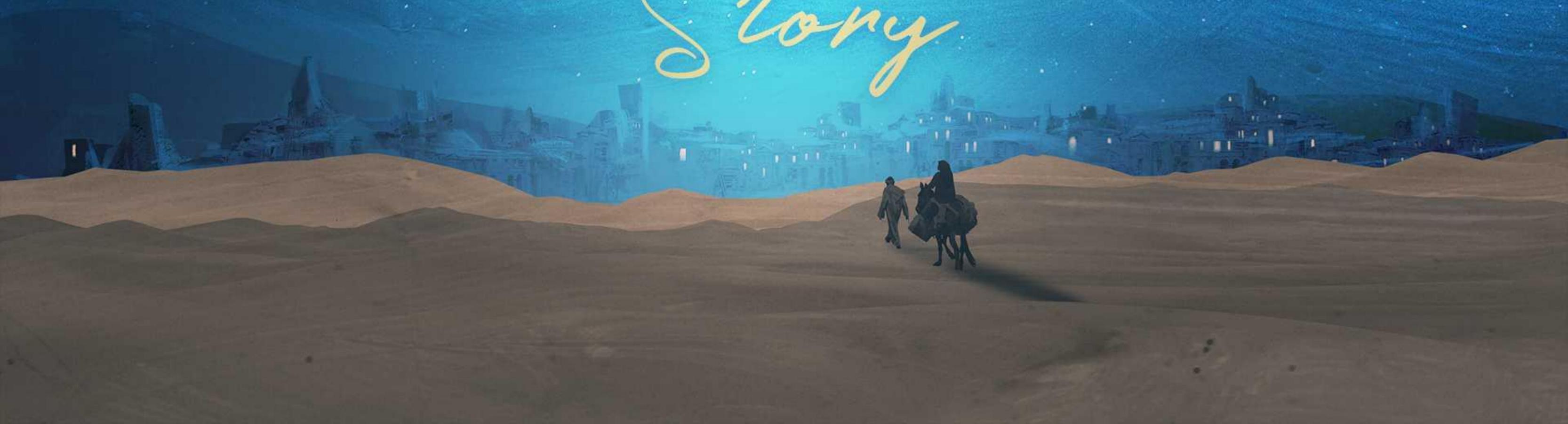
Luke 1:3-4

A night scene in a desert landscape. In the foreground, two figures are walking across sand dunes; one is on a horse. In the background, a city with lights is visible under a dark blue sky filled with stars. A prominent, bright, multi-pointed star is centered in the upper half of the image.

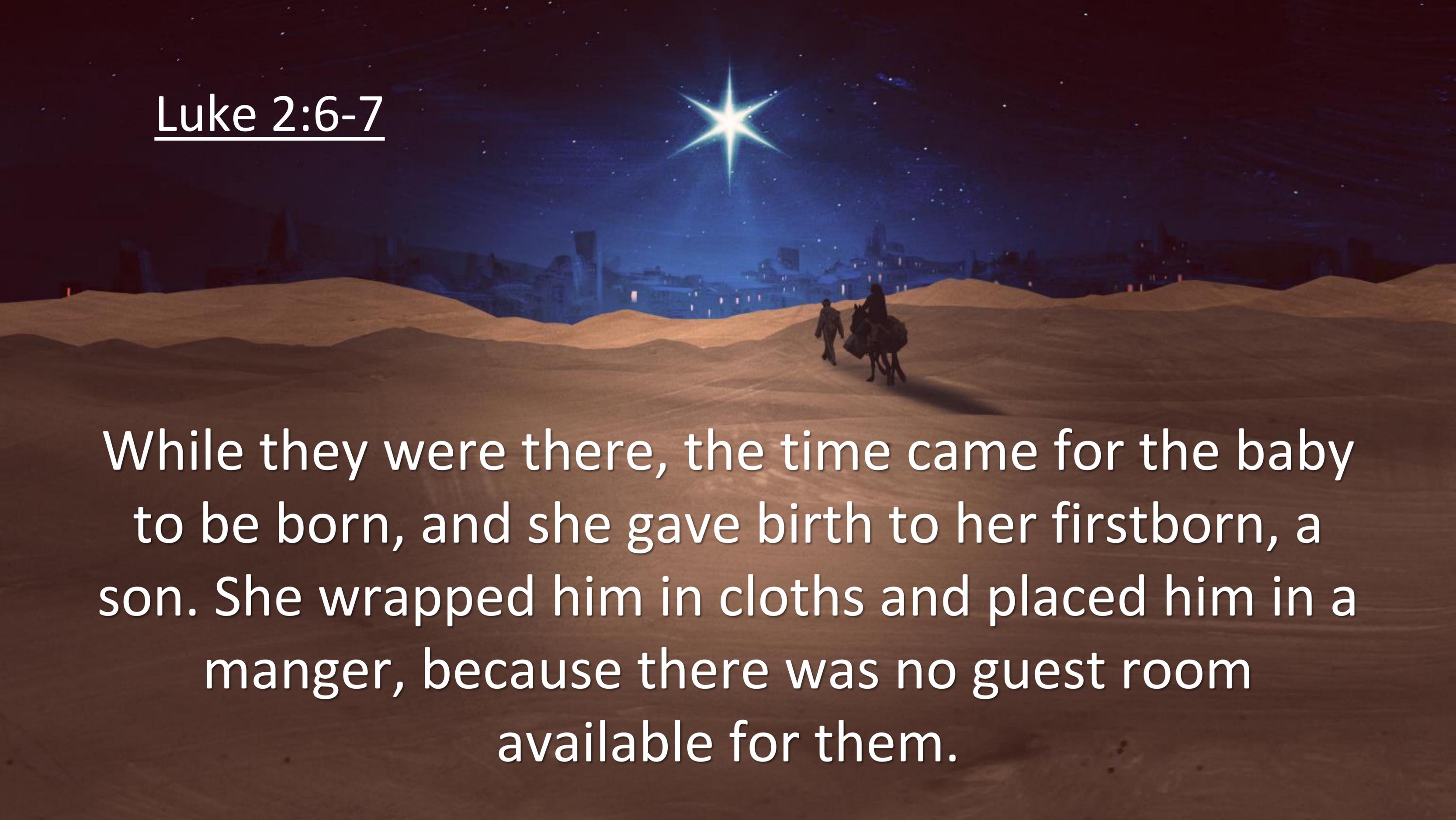
*“With this in mind, since I myself have **carefully investigated everything** from the beginning, I too decided to write **an orderly account** for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know **the certainty** of the things you have been taught.”*



T H E
CHRISTMAS
Story



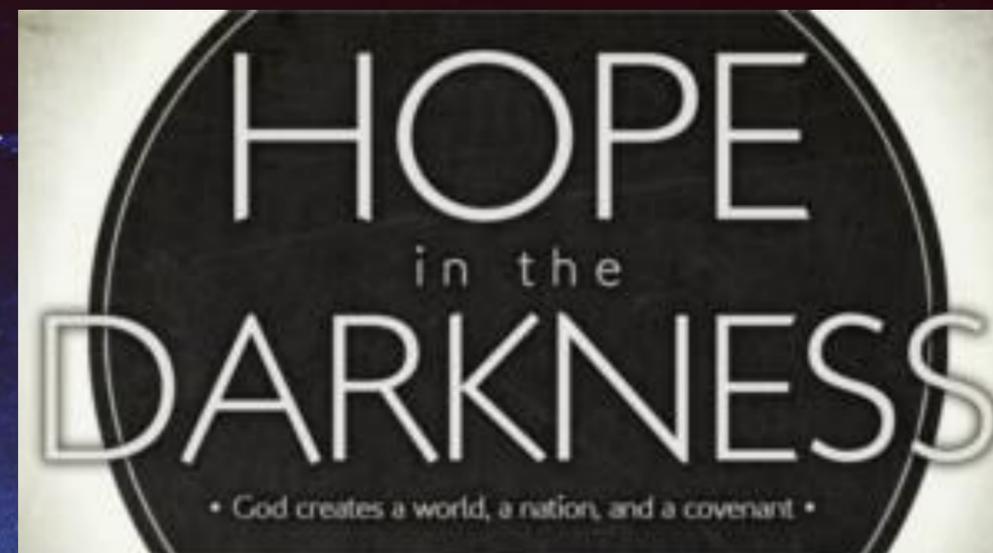
Luke 2:6-7

A night scene in a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are rolling sand dunes. In the middle ground, two figures are visible: one walking and one riding a donkey. In the background, a city with lights is visible under a dark blue night sky. A bright, multi-pointed star is shining in the sky, casting a glow. The overall atmosphere is serene and historical.

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.

THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.







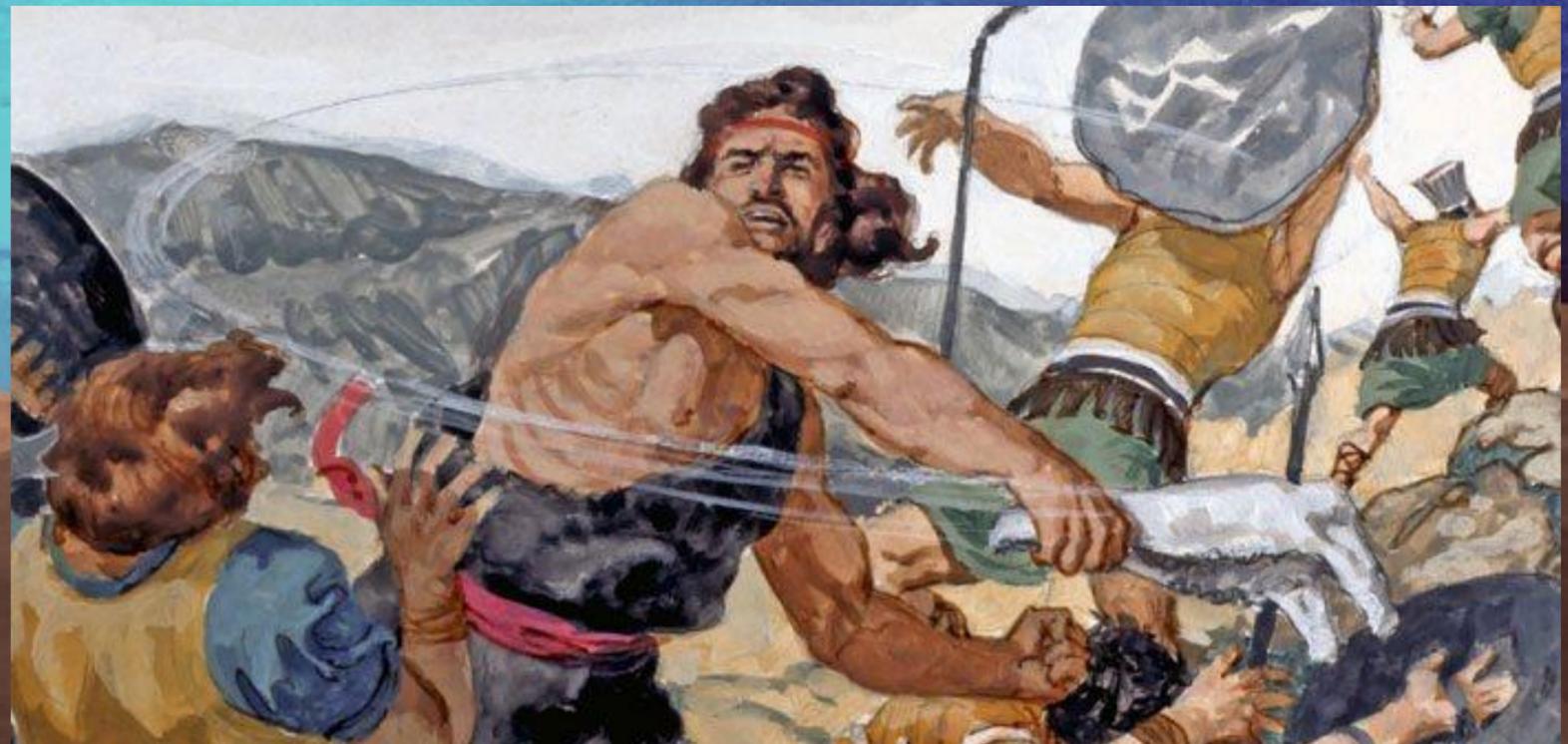
The background of the slide is a composite image. The top half shows a dark blue night sky with a prominent, bright, multi-pointed star in the upper center. Below the sky, a cityscape with illuminated buildings is visible, though somewhat faded and blue-tinted. The bottom half of the image shows a desert landscape with rolling sand dunes. In the foreground, a silhouette of a person riding a donkey is walking towards the right, with another smaller silhouette walking alongside it.

The Christmas Story is the **ACCOUNT** of God
acting in history.

1. Not just the birth of a child, but the birth
of our **RESCUER**

The Christmas Story is the **ACCOUNT** of God acting in history.

1. Not just the birth of a child, but the birth of our **RESCUER**



The background of the slide is a composite image. The top half shows a dark blue night sky filled with stars, with a single, exceptionally bright star in the upper center that has a prominent four-pointed starburst effect. The bottom half shows a desert landscape with rolling sand dunes. In the distance, a small town or village is visible, illuminated by warm lights. In the foreground, a person is riding a dark-colored donkey or mule across the dunes, with another person walking alongside it. The overall scene is peaceful and evokes the traditional imagery of the Christmas story.

The Christmas Story is the **ACCOUNT** of God acting in history.

1. Not just the birth of a child, but the birth of our **RESCUER**

2. Not random events, but a **PLAN** unfolding with **PURPOSE**



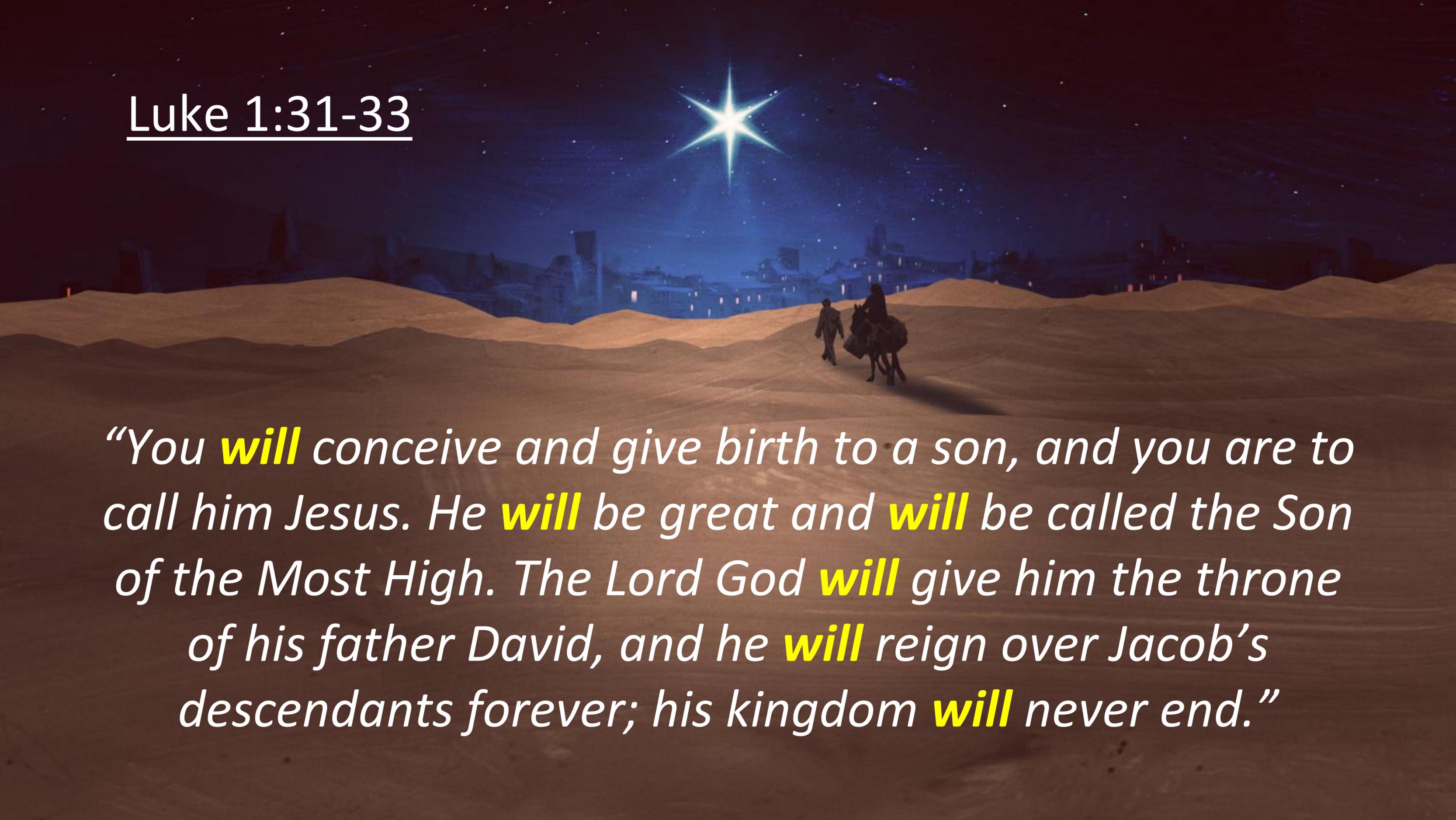
The background of the slide is a composite image. The upper portion shows a dark blue night sky filled with stars, with a single, exceptionally bright star with a four-pointed starburst effect in the upper center. The lower portion shows a desert landscape with rolling sand dunes under a twilight sky. In the distance, a small town or village is visible with some lights. In the foreground, a person is riding a dark-colored donkey or mule across the dunes, with another person walking alongside it.

The Christmas Story is the **ACCOUNT** of God acting in history.

1. Not just the birth of a child, but the birth of our **RESCUER**

2. Not random events, but a **PLAN** unfolding with **PURPOSE**

Luke 1:31-33

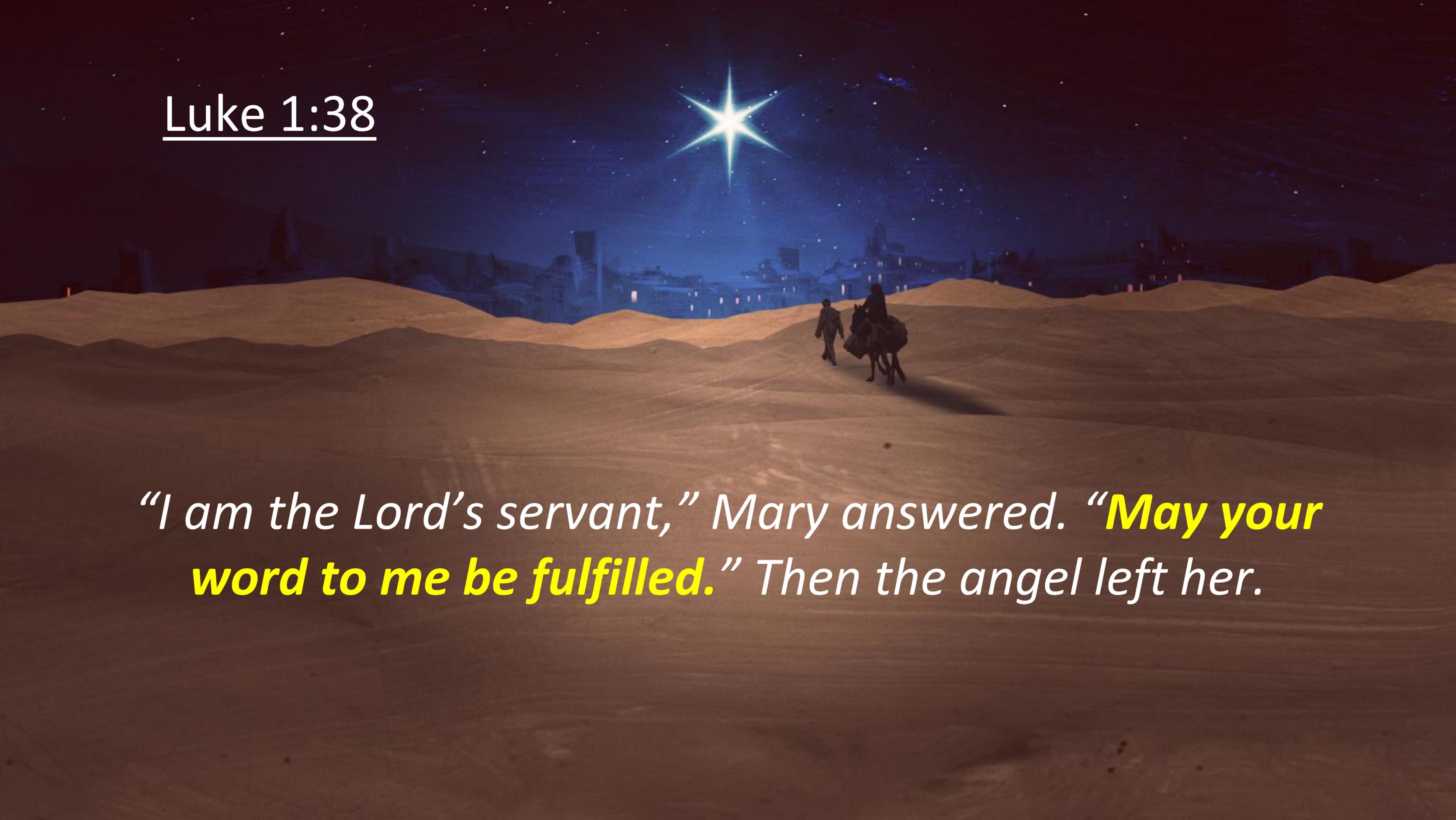
A night scene in a desert with a bright star in the sky and a city in the distance. The scene is illuminated by a bright, multi-pointed star in the dark blue night sky. In the foreground, a person is walking alongside a person riding a dark horse. The ground is sandy and undulating. In the background, a city with lights is visible through the haze of the night.

*“You **will** conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him 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 Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom **will** never end.”*

A night scene in a desert. In the foreground, there are rolling sand dunes. In the middle ground, a person is walking next to a person riding a horse. In the background, a city with lights is visible under a dark blue sky filled with stars. A single, very bright star with a four-pointed starburst is the focal point in the upper center of the sky.

God's Story continues IN ME as I
TRUST Him.

Luke 1:38

A night scene in a desert landscape. In the foreground, a person is walking alongside a person riding a donkey. The ground is sandy and undulating. In the background, a city with lit-up buildings is visible under a dark blue night sky filled with stars. A single, very bright star with a multi-pointed glow is the central focus of the sky.

*“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. **“May your word to me be fulfilled.”** Then the angel left her.*

