

A photograph of two men in traditional, dark-colored robes and white head coverings walking away from the camera on a dirt path. They are positioned in front of a large, rustic stone wall made of irregular, light-colored stones. The man on the left is wearing a dark green robe and has a light-colored satchel slung over his shoulder. The man on the right is wearing a dark purple or brown robe. The background shows some greenery, including a tree trunk on the left and some bushes on the right. The overall scene is set in a rural, possibly Mediterranean or Middle Eastern, environment.

Good News, Great Joy  
Luke 2:1-21

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Melbourne Community Church  
December 16, 2018

The background of the slide is a photograph of a stone wall. Two people, likely in traditional Middle Eastern or North African clothing, are walking away from the camera on a path. The person in the foreground is wearing a dark, long-sleeved robe and a white head covering. The person behind them is also in similar attire. The wall is made of rough, grey stones, and there are some small green plants growing between the stones.

## Upton Sinclair:

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**“Or consider Christmas — could Satan in his most malignant mood have devised a worse combination of graft plus bunkum than the system whereby several hundred million people get a billion or so gifts for which they have no use,**



## Upton Sinclair:

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“and some thousands of shop clerks die of exhaustion while selling them, and every other child in the Western world is made ill from overeating — all in the name of the lowly Jesus?”



## What will we learn?

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- ❖ The Providential will of God is certain and often surprising.
- ❖ Jesus is Savior, Christ and Lord.
- ❖ Jesus humbled himself, and we should also.
- ❖ Mary and the shepherds responded to God with obedience and praise, and we should also.

A background image showing two men in traditional, dark-colored robes and head coverings walking away from the camera on a rocky, uneven path. The path is bordered by a low stone wall on the left and a taller wall on the right. The scene is set outdoors with some greenery and trees in the background.

## Luke series:

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I. The Launch: 1:1-9:50

II. The Teachings: 9:51-19:44

III. The Passion: 19:45-24:53

A photograph of two men in traditional, dark-colored robes and head coverings walking away from the camera on a stone path. The path is made of large, irregular stones and is bordered by a low stone wall. The background shows a rocky hillside with some sparse vegetation. The text 'Luke 1-2' is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font, with a red horizontal line below it.

## Luke 1-2

- ❖ Gabriel and Zechariah (1:5-25)
- ❖ Gabriel and Mary (1:26-38)
- ❖ Mary's song (1:39-56)
- ❖ Birth of John the Baptist (1:57-66)
- ❖ Zechariah's song (1:67-80)
- ❖ Birth of Jesus (2:1-7)

## Luke 2:1-3

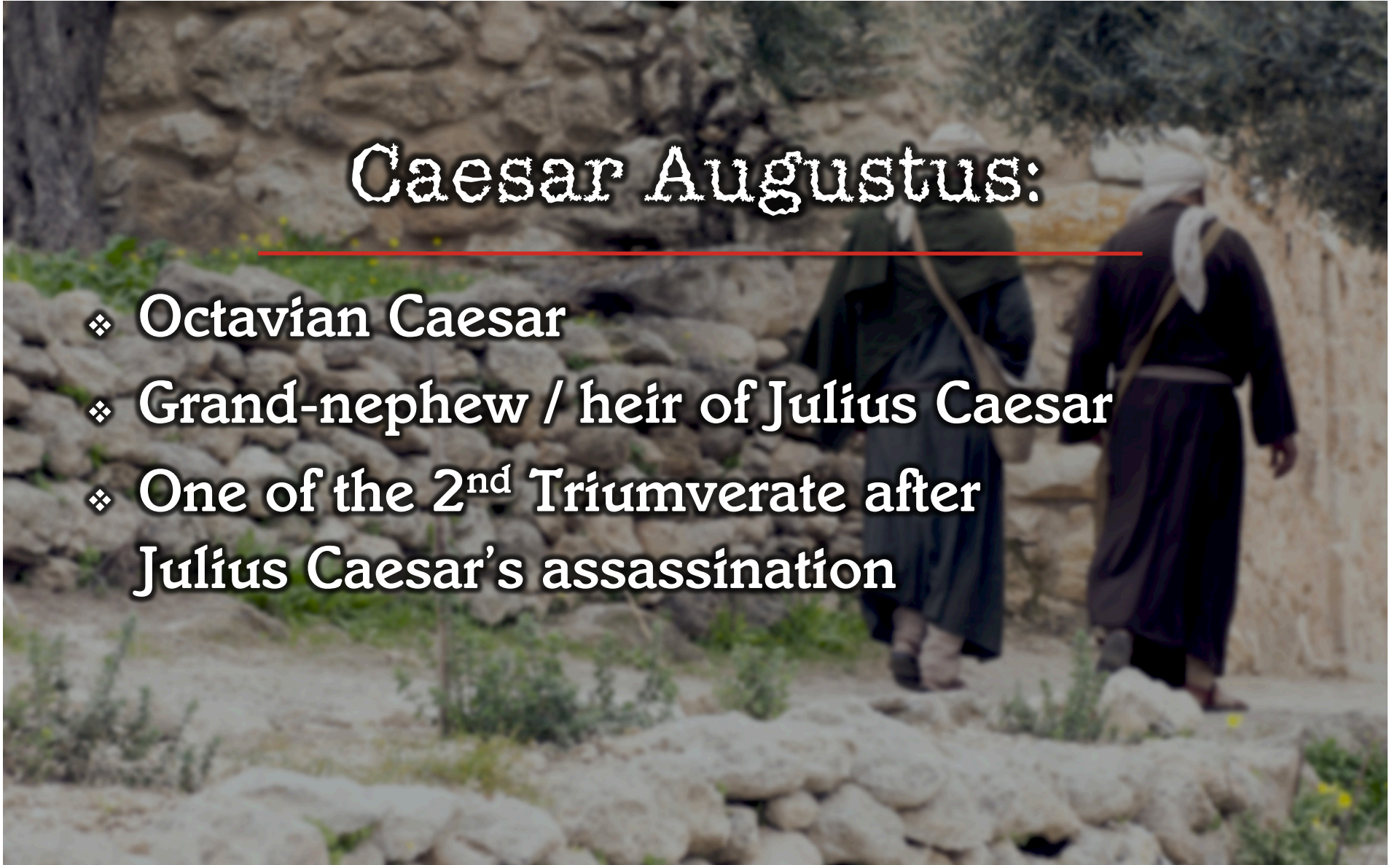
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In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

# Caesar Augustus:

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- ❖ Octavian Caesar
- ❖ Grand-nephew / heir of Julius Caesar
- ❖ One of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Triumverate after Julius Caesar's assassination





# Caesar Augustus:

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- ❖ Defeated Mark Antony and Cleopatra at the Battle of Actium in 31 BC
- ❖ His reign started the Pax Romana (27 BC – AD 180)



ATLANTIC OCEAN

Britian

Belgica

Germania

Sarmatia

Gaul

Dacia

Illyricum

BLACK SEA

Spain (Tarshish?)

Italia

Moesia

• ROME

Thrace

Pontus

Armenia

# Roman Empire

Macedonia

Cappadocia

Africa

CORINTH

EPHESUS

SYRIAN ANTIOCH

Achia

Euphrates River

Syria

GREAT SEA (The Mediterranean)

Crete

Cyprus

• JERUSALEM

Numidia

Cyrenacia

Egypt

Nabatea (Arabia)

MELBOURNE COMMUNITY CHURCH  
REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE

Nile River

RED SEA



ATLANTIC OCEAN

Britian

Belgica

Germania

Sarmatia

Gaul

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BLACK SEA

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# Roman Empire

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Nabatea (Arabia)

MELBOURNE COMMUNITY CHURCH  
REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE

Nile River

RED SEA

The background of the slide is a photograph of two men in traditional, dark-colored robes and head coverings walking away from the camera on a rocky, uneven path. The path is bordered by a low wall of large, light-colored stones. The background shows more of the rocky terrain and some sparse greenery.

## Isaiah 45:1

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“This is what the LORD says to his anointed,  
to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of  
to subdue nations before him  
and to strip kings of their armor,  
to open doors before him  
so that gates will not be shut”

## Luke 2:4-5

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So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.



## Micah 5:2

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“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.”

# Israel

at the time of  
the birth of Christ

GREAT SEA  
(The Mediterranean)

Ashkelon



Arabia

# Israel

at the time of  
the birth of Christ



MELBOURNE  
COMMUNITY  
CHURCH  
REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE



The background of the slide is a photograph of a stone wall. Two people, likely men, are walking away from the camera on a path. They are wearing traditional, heavy clothing and head coverings. The scene is outdoors, with some greenery and a tree visible in the background.

## Luke 2:6-7

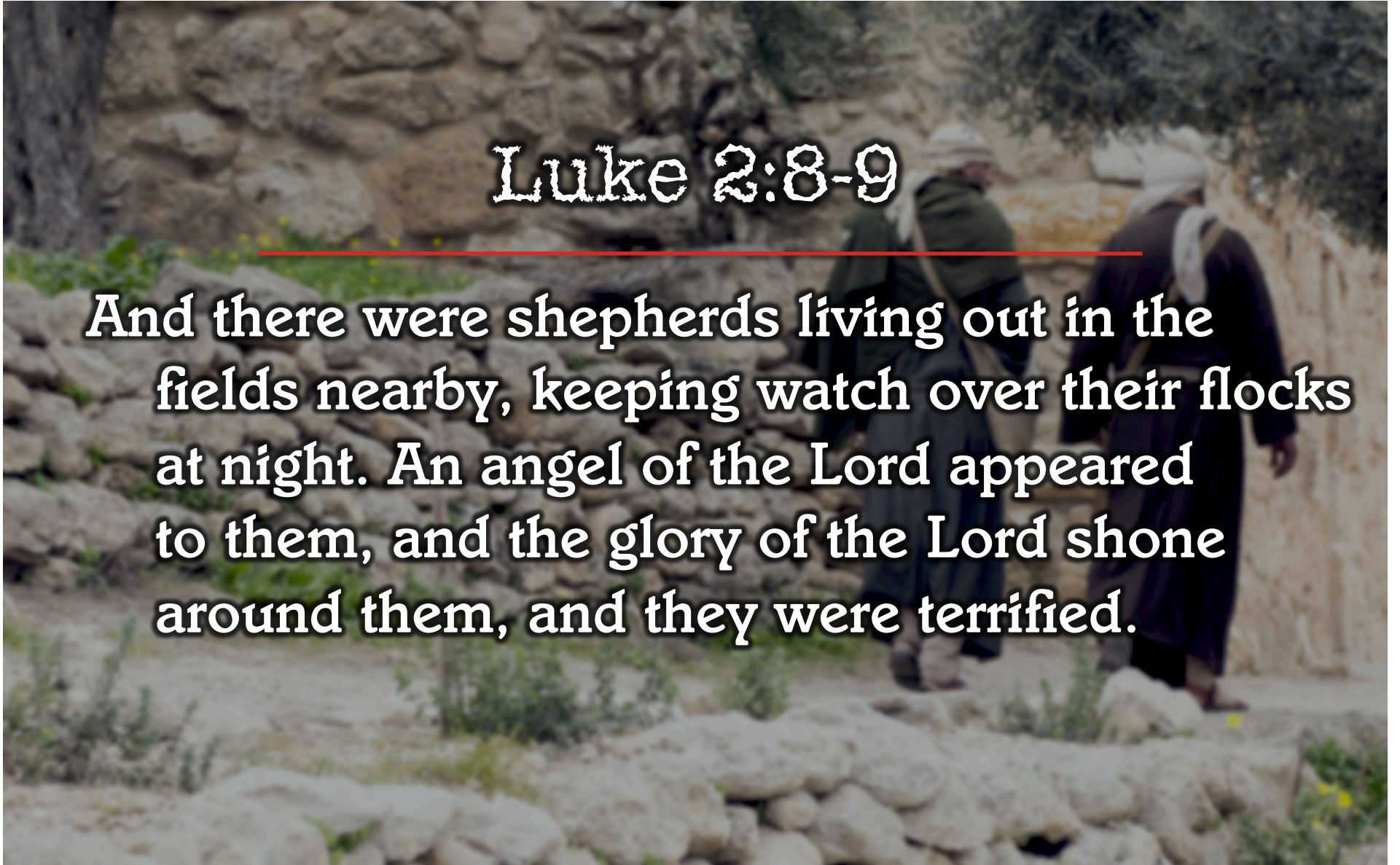
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While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

## Luke 2:8-9

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And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.



The background of the slide is a photograph of two individuals, likely pilgrims, walking away from the camera on a rugged, rocky path. They are wearing traditional, dark-colored robes and head coverings. The path is made of large, light-colored stones, and the surrounding environment appears to be a natural, outdoor setting with some greenery and a stone wall in the background.

## “glory of the Lord”

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- ❖ Tabernacle – Exodus 40:34-35
- ❖ Temple – 1 Kings 8:11;  
2 Chronicles 5:7; Psalm 63:2
- ❖ Restoration of Israel – Isaiah 40:3-5
- ❖ End of days – Habakkuk 2:14



## Luke 2:10-11

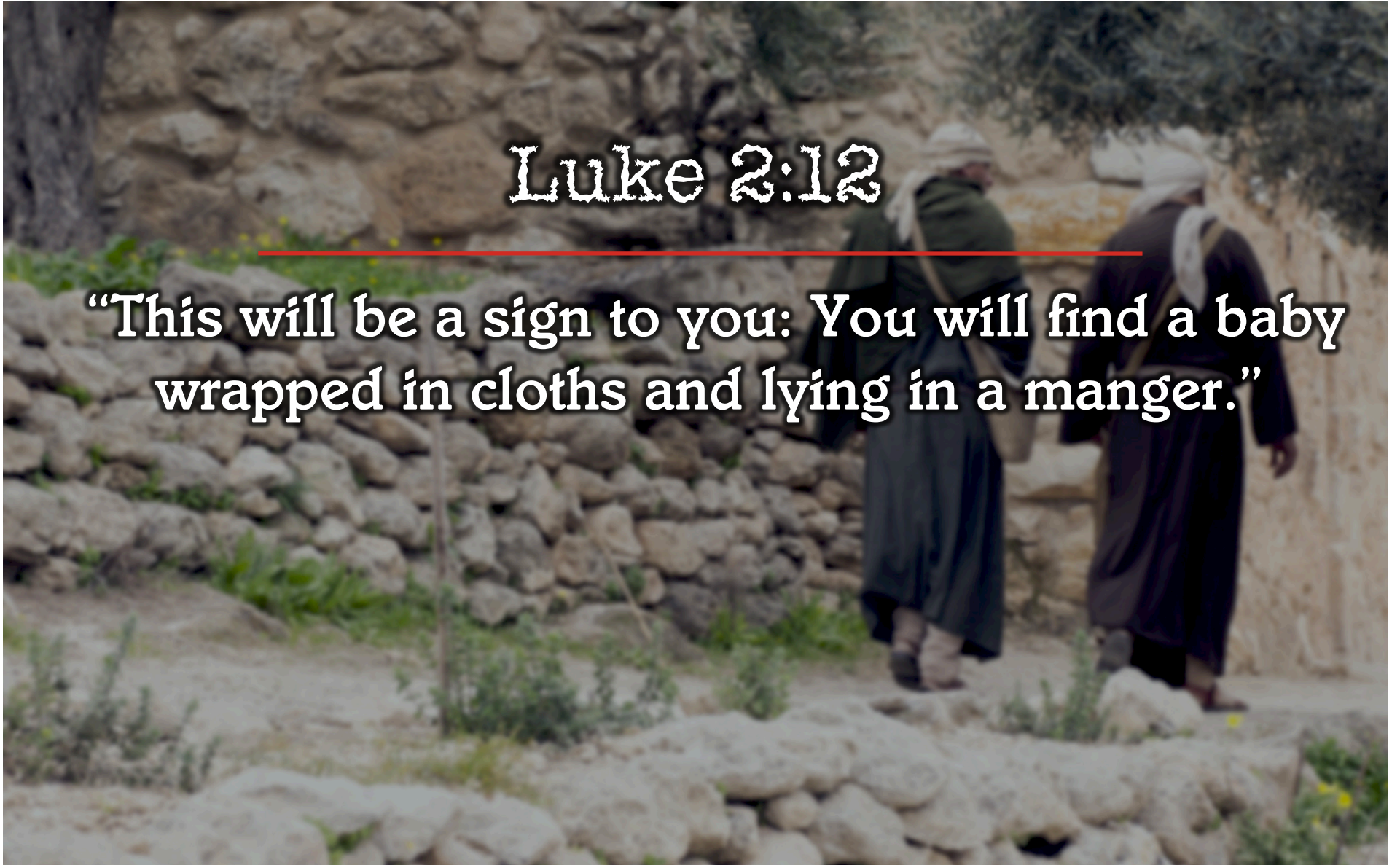
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But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

## Luke 2:12

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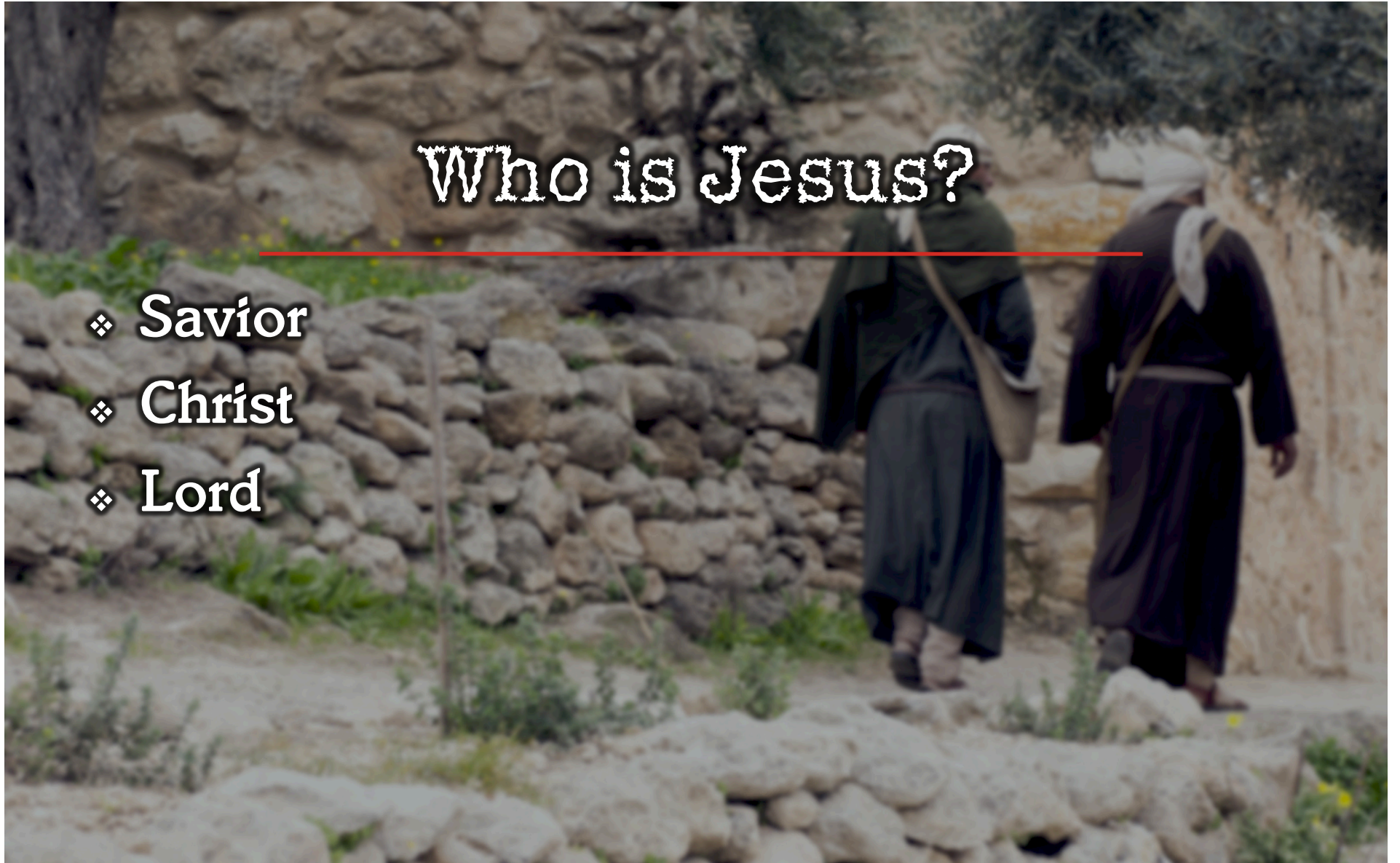
**“This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”**



# Who is Jesus?

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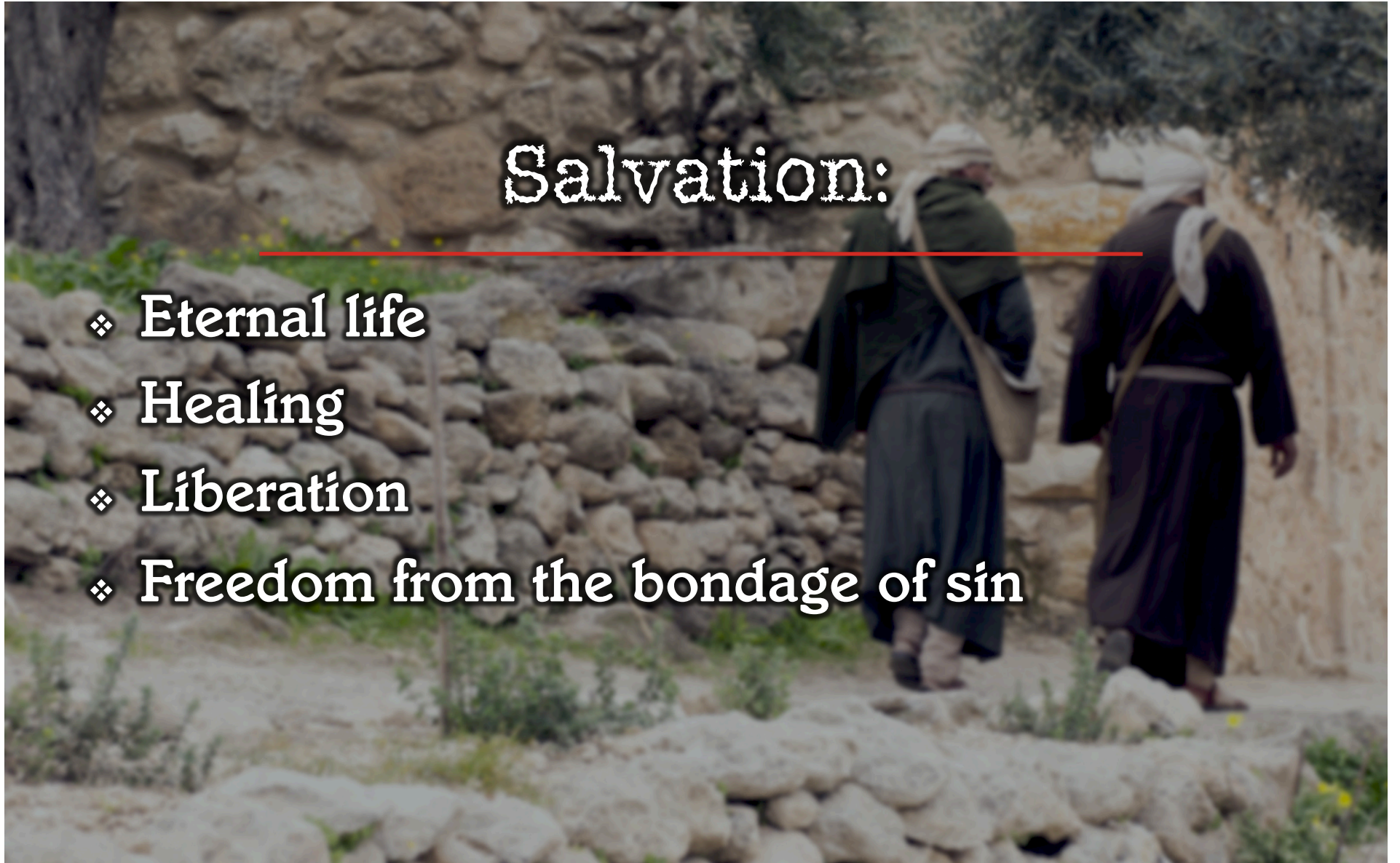
- ❖ Savior
- ❖ Christ
- ❖ Lord



# Salvation:

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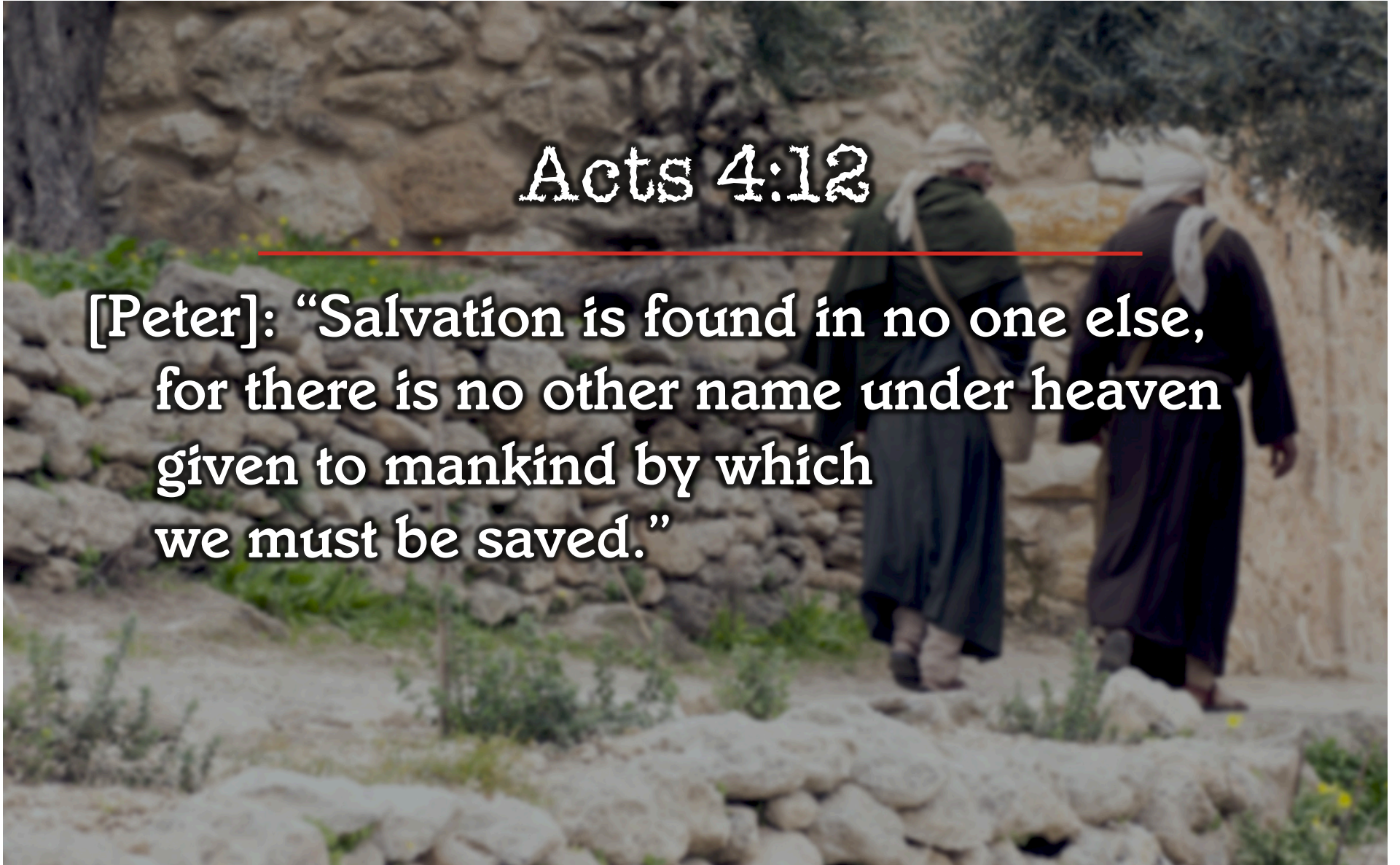
- ❖ Eternal life
- ❖ Healing
- ❖ Liberation
- ❖ Freedom from the bondage of sin



## Acts 4:12

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[Peter]: “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”





## Luke 2:13-14

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Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”





## Isaiah 9:6

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For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

A photograph of two men in traditional, dark, long-sleeved robes and white head coverings walking away from the camera on a rocky, uneven path. The path is bordered by a low stone wall on the left and a taller, more substantial stone wall on the right. The background shows more of the stone wall and some greenery. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be in a rural or historical setting.

## Zechariah 9:10

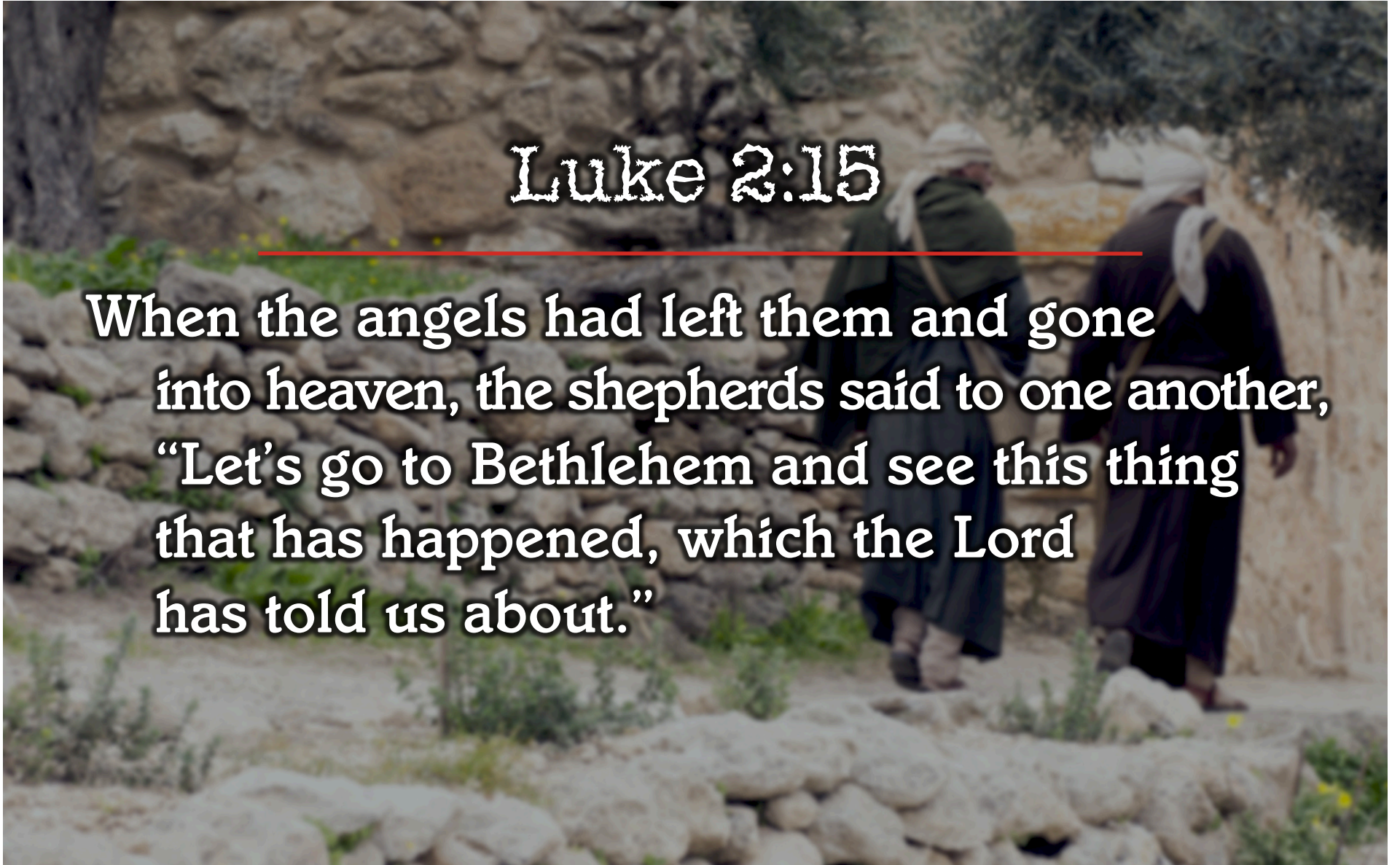
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He will proclaim peace to the nations.  
His rule will extend from sea to sea  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

## Luke 2:15

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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, which the Lord has told us about.”



## Luke 2:16-18

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So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

## Luke 2:19-20

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But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

A photograph of two men in traditional, long, dark robes and white head coverings walking away from the camera on a rocky, uneven path. The path is bordered by a low wall of large, light-colored stones. The background shows more of the stone wall and some greenery. The text 'Acts 21:17' is overlaid in a white, stylized font at the top center of the image.

Acts 21:17

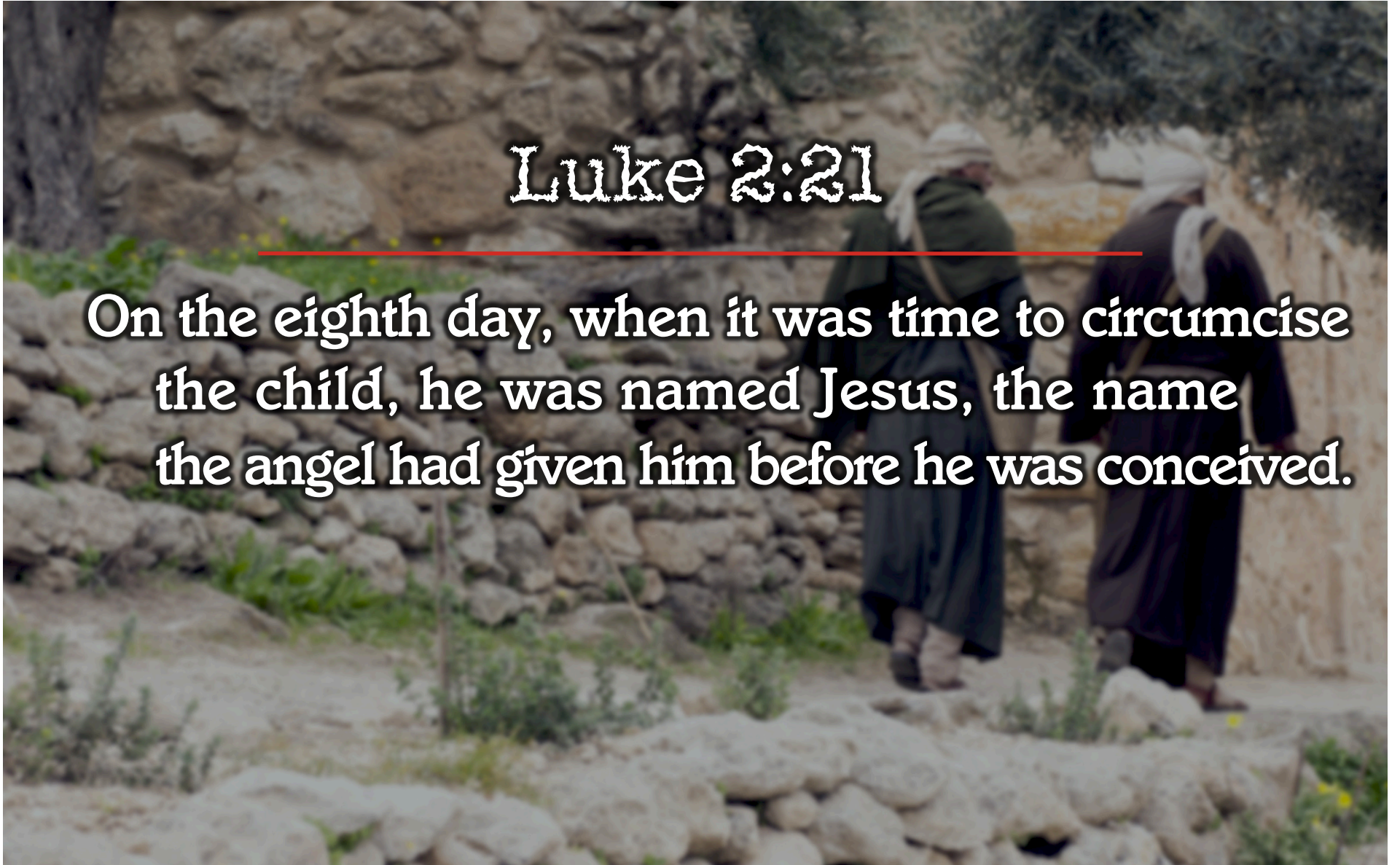
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When we arrived at Jerusalem, the brothers and sisters received us warmly.

## Luke 2:21

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On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.







## Darrell Bock:

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“Importance is not a matter of one’s environment or the supposed status that things bring. Rather importance is a function of one’s role in God’s work. Jesus is important not because of the setting of his birth, but because of who he is before God.”

## What have we learned?

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- ❖ The Providential will of God is certain and often surprising.
- ❖ Jesus is Savior, Christ and Lord.
- ❖ Jesus humbled himself, and we should also.
- ❖ Mary and the shepherds responded to God with obedience and praise, and we should also.



# Are you being called?

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- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper



# Life Begins in the Womb

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❖ Luke 1:15

❖ Luke 1:41

❖ Psalm 22:9-10

❖ Psalm 139:13

❖ Isaiah 49:1

❖ Jeremiah 1:4-5