

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. The man on the left is wearing a dark green robe and has a light-colored bag slung over his shoulder. The man on the right is wearing a dark purple or brown robe. The background shows more of the stone wall and some greenery, including a tree trunk on the left and some small yellow flowers. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

Prepare the Way
Luke 1:57-80

Curt Deming
Melbourne Community Church
December 2, 2018

Nazareth Jerusalem

at the time of
the birth of
Jesus



GREAT SEA
(The Mediterranean)

SIDON

TYRE

CAPERNAUM

Galilee

NAZARETH

Samaria

SHILOH

Judea

JERUSALEM

QUMRAN

SALT
SEA

JORDAN
RIVER

SEA OF
GALILEE

The
Decapolis

DAMASCUS

Syria


Arabia

MELBOURNE
COMMUNITY
CHURCH
REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE

Nazareth Jerusalem

at the time of
the birth of
Jesus





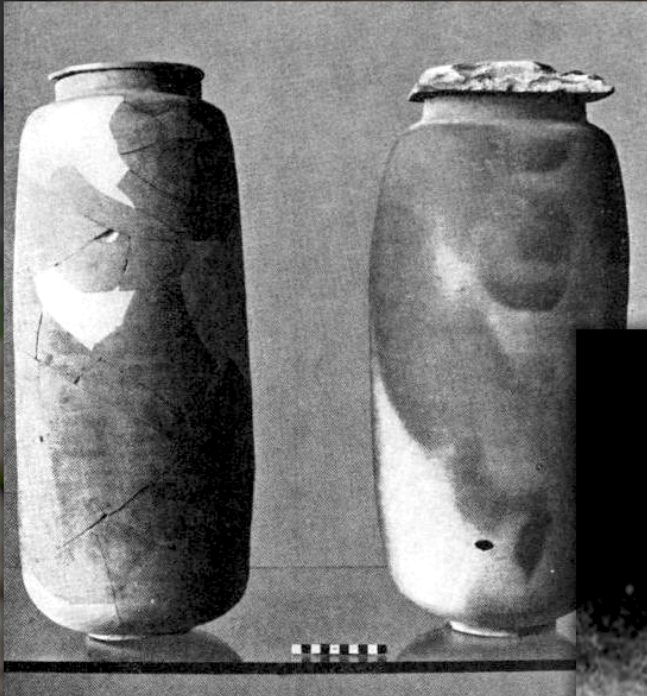
Qumran Cave 4Q
with other caves in
the background

Photo by:
By Effi Schweizer



Caves 4Qa right & 10Q left
of upper center,
seen from Wadi Qumran
to the south

Photo by:
I Hutchesson



Jars from
the Qumran Caves
were found with
the Dead Sea
Scrolls inside.

Scrolls before being unravelled.





What will we learn?

- ❖ We should never stop learning and growing.
- ❖ The Lord turns disgrace to joy.
- ❖ Salvation is God's gift of forgiveness and reconciliation.
- ❖ Jesus brings light and peace, and we should also.

A photograph of two men in traditional, dark-colored robes and head coverings walking away from the camera on a rocky, uneven path. The background shows a stone wall and some greenery. The text 'Luke series:' is overlaid in white, stylized font with a black outline, and a red horizontal line is drawn below it.

Luke series:

- I. The Launch: 1:1-9:50
- II. The Teachings: 9:51-19:44
- III. The Passion: 19:45-24:53

Luke's major themes:

- ❖ The Gospel for all
- ❖ History
- ❖ Prayer
- ❖ Money
- ❖ Salvation
 - repentance
 - forgiveness
 - joy

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)

John the Baptist and Jesus

- ❖ Gabriel's visit
- ❖ An unlikely birth
- ❖ A question
- ❖ A sign
- ❖ A song



Luke 1:1-25

- ❖ The Bible is rooted in history and geography.
- ❖ Israel's promised Messiah is the Savior of the world.
- ❖ The Lord reverses the fortunes of his people.
- ❖ God answers prayers, often in unexpected ways.

Luke 1:26-38

- ❖ The Lord works in strange, surprising ways.
- ❖ “No word from God will ever fail.”
- ❖ Mary shows us how to respond to God — with trust and obedience.

Luke 1:39-56

- ❖ Faith should be evidenced by works.
- ❖ Life begins in the womb.
- ❖ Blessing comes from belief.
- ❖ The Lord reverses fortunes.

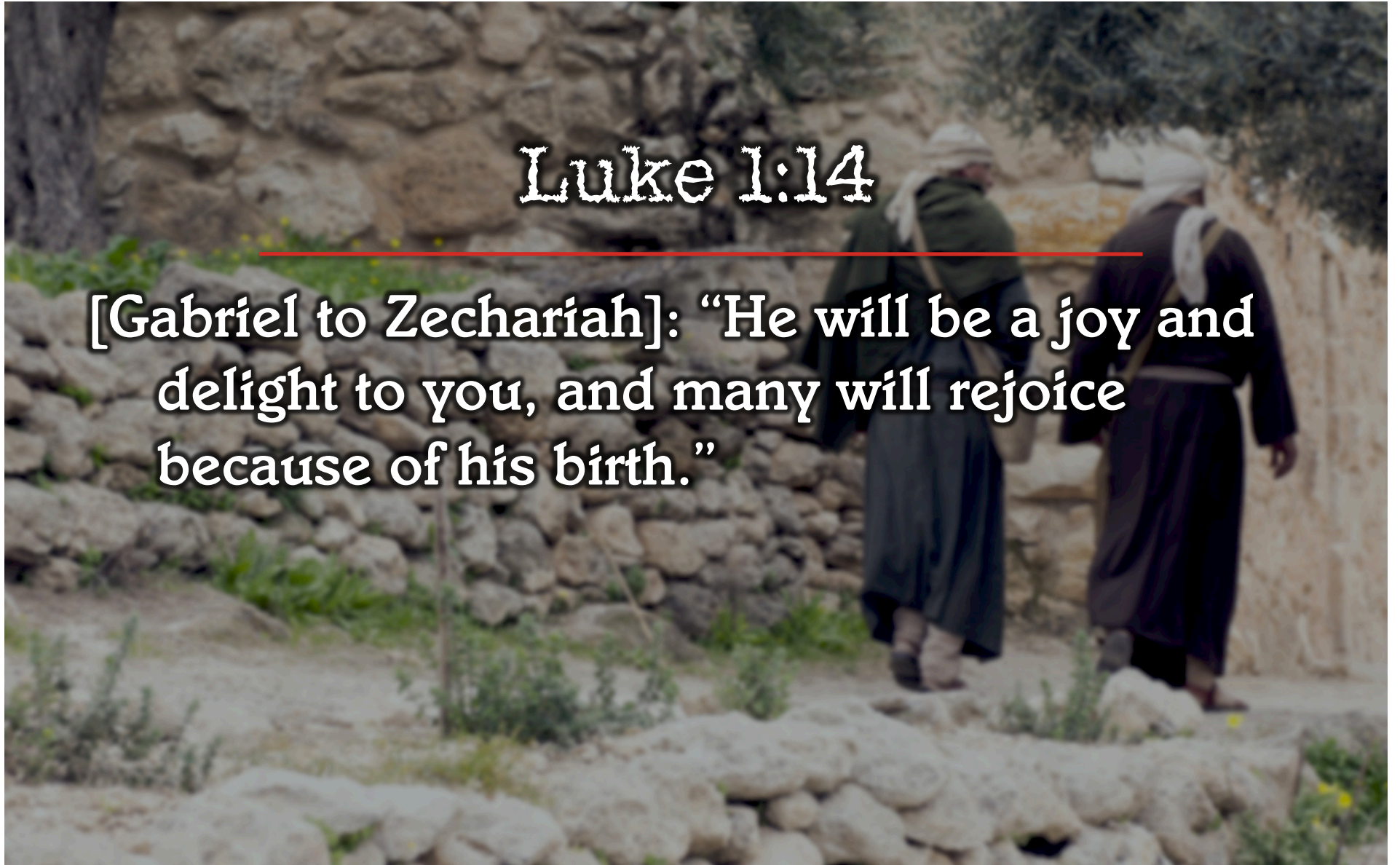


Luke 1:57-58

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

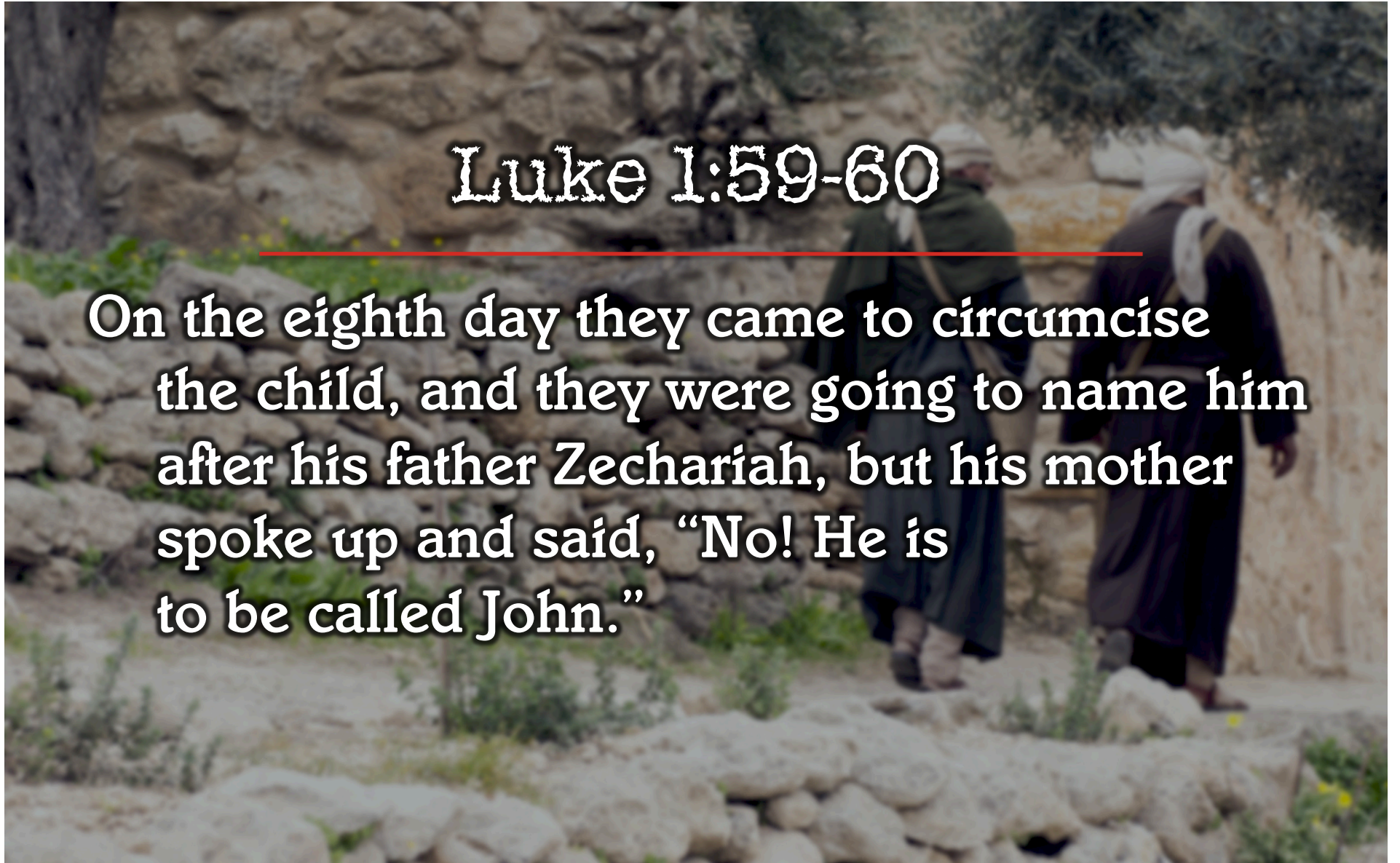
Luke 1:14

[Gabriel to Zechariah]: “He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth.”



Luke 1:59-60

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John."



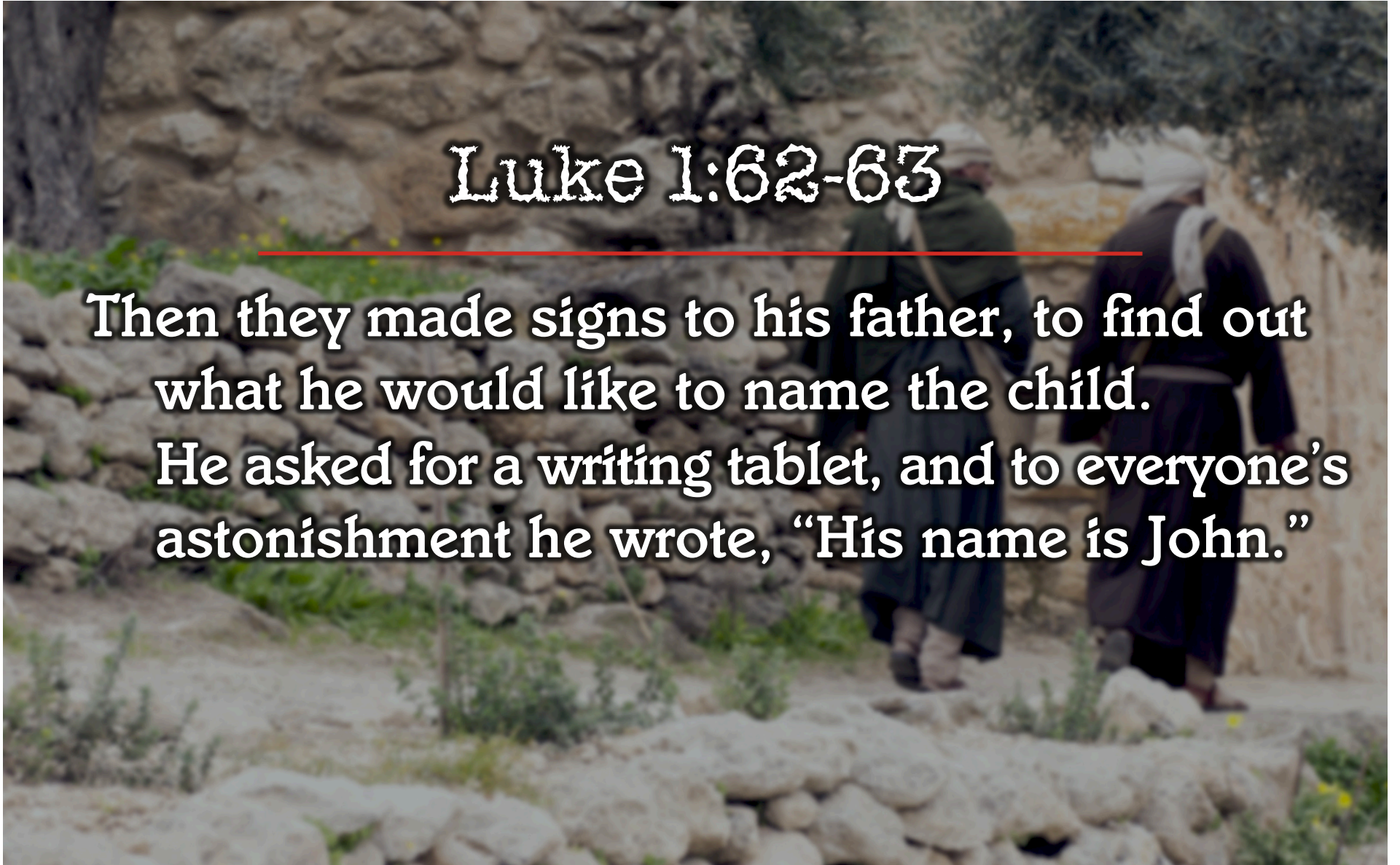
A photograph of two men in traditional, long, dark robes and white head coverings walking away from the camera on a rocky, uneven path. The path is bordered by a low wall of rough-hewn stones. The background shows more of the rocky terrain and some sparse greenery. The text 'Luke 1:61' is overlaid in a white, serif font, centered above the path. A thin red horizontal line is positioned below the text.

Luke 1:61

They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name."

Luke 1:62-63

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John."

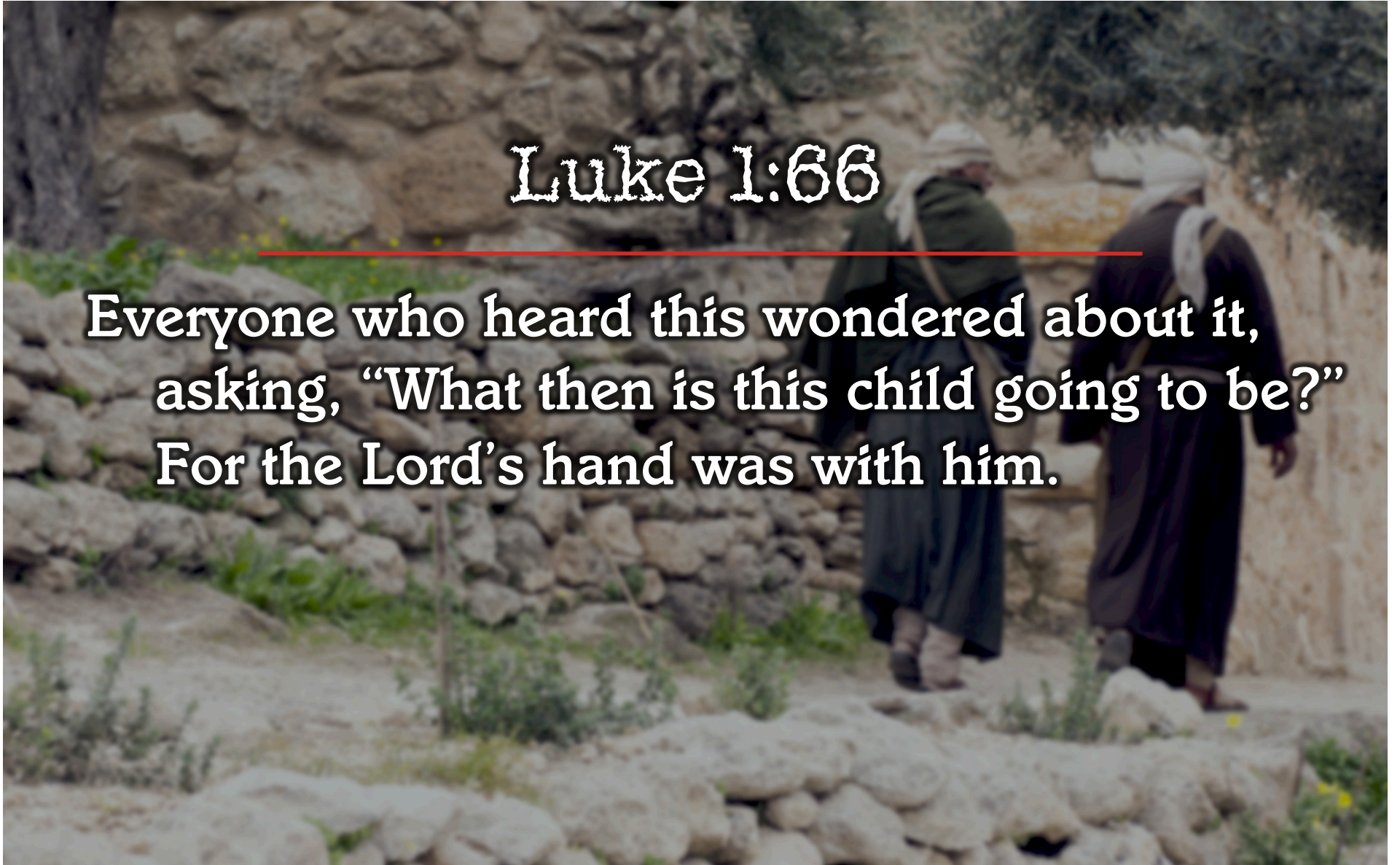


Luke 1:64-65

Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things.

Luke 1:66

Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.



The background of the slide is a photograph of two individuals, likely pilgrims or travelers, walking away from the camera on a rugged, rocky path. They are dressed in traditional, dark-colored robes and head coverings. The path is made of large, light-colored stones and is bordered by a low stone wall on the left. The background shows a steep, rocky hillside with some sparse vegetation.

Christmas songs:

- ❖ *Magnificat*
- ❖ *Benedictus*
- ❖ *Gloria in Excelsis*
- ❖ *Nunc Dimittis*

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 outdoors with some greenery and trees in the background.

Luke 1:67-68

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

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

Luke 1:69-71

“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 —

A photograph of two men in traditional, dark-colored robes and white head coverings walking away from the camera on a rocky, uneven path. The background consists of a large, rough stone wall and some sparse green vegetation. The text is overlaid on the image.

Luke 1:72-73

**“to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember his holy covenant,
the oath he swore to our father Abraham:**

Luke 1:74-75

“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.



The Lord's OT Covenants:

- ❖ Abraham
- ❖ Noah
- ❖ Moses
- ❖ David



Genesis 12:1-2

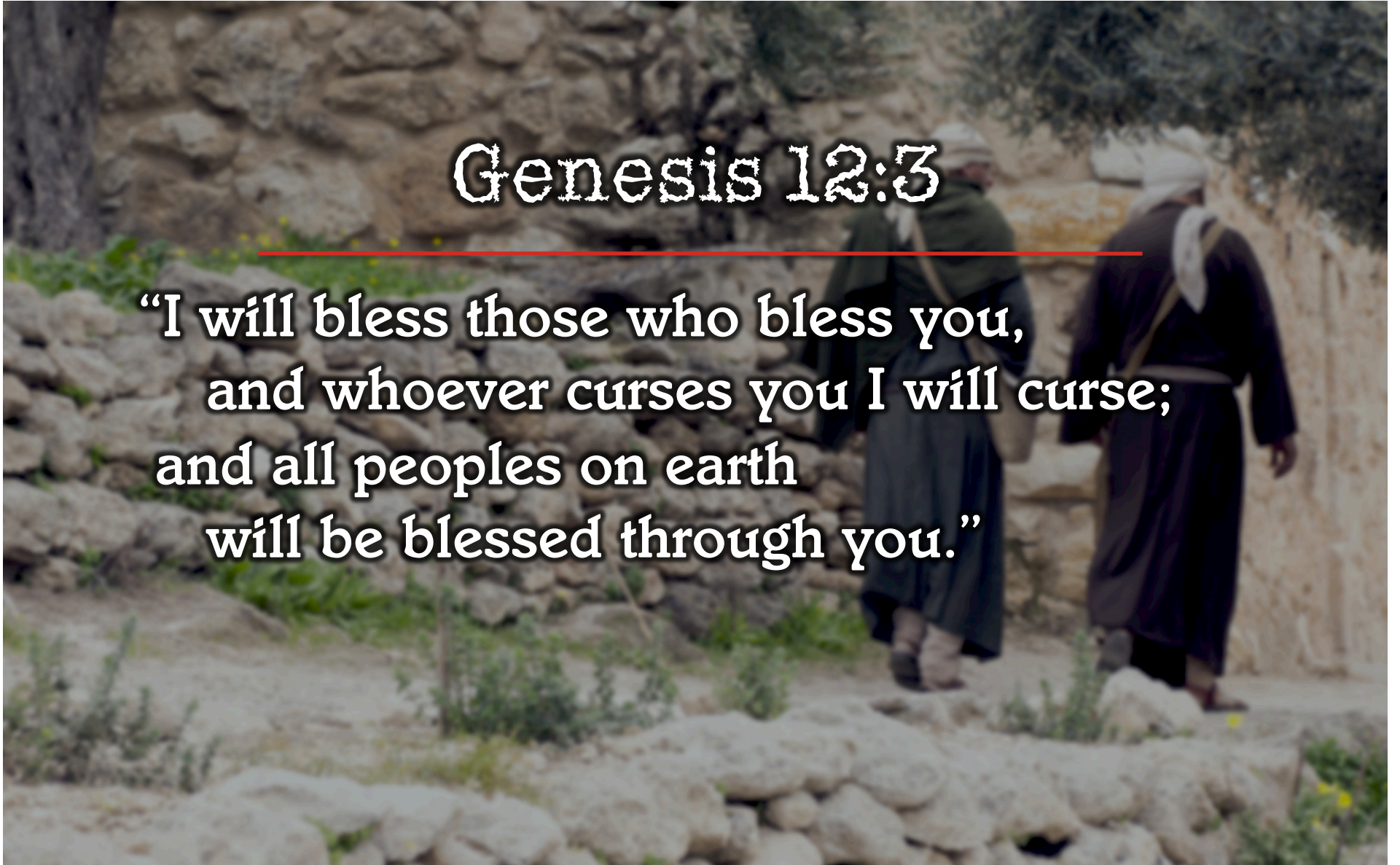
The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

Genesis 12:3

**“I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”**

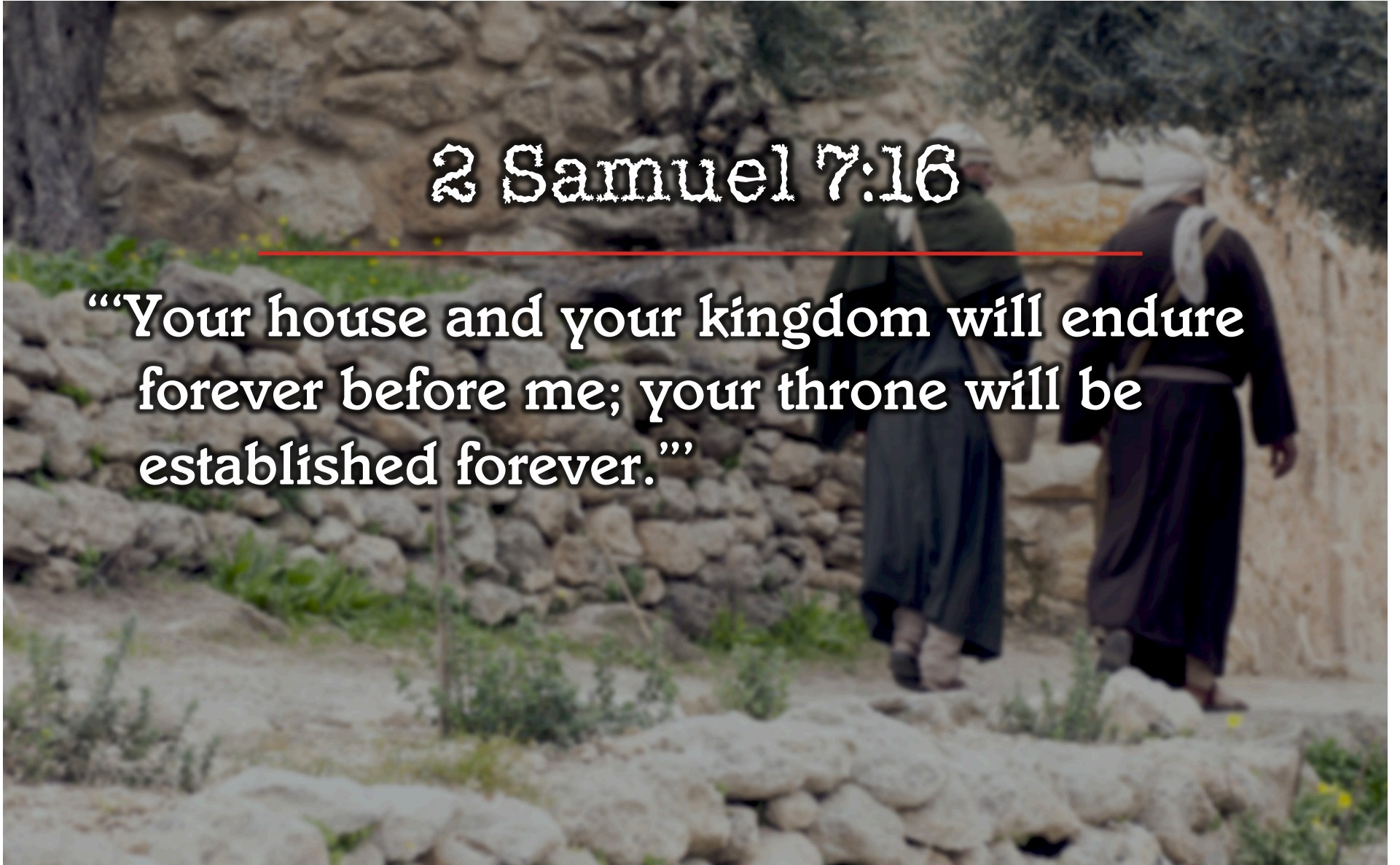


2 Samuel 7:14-15

[The LORD declares]: “I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

2 Samuel 7:16

“Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”





Luke 1:76-77

**“And you, my child, will be called
a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord
to prepare the way for him,
to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,**



Luke 1:78-79

“because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

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 uneven stones and is flanked by a low stone wall on the left and a taller wall on the right. The overall scene is outdoors, with some greenery visible in the background.

William Barclay:

[Peace]: “does not mean merely freedom from trouble; it means all that makes for a man’s highest good.”

A photograph of two people in traditional, dark-colored robes and head coverings walking away from the camera on a rocky, uneven path. The background consists of a large, textured stone wall. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a dark or overcast day.

Isaiah 9:2

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned

Malachi 4:2

[The LORD Almighty]: “But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves.”



2 Peter 1:19

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

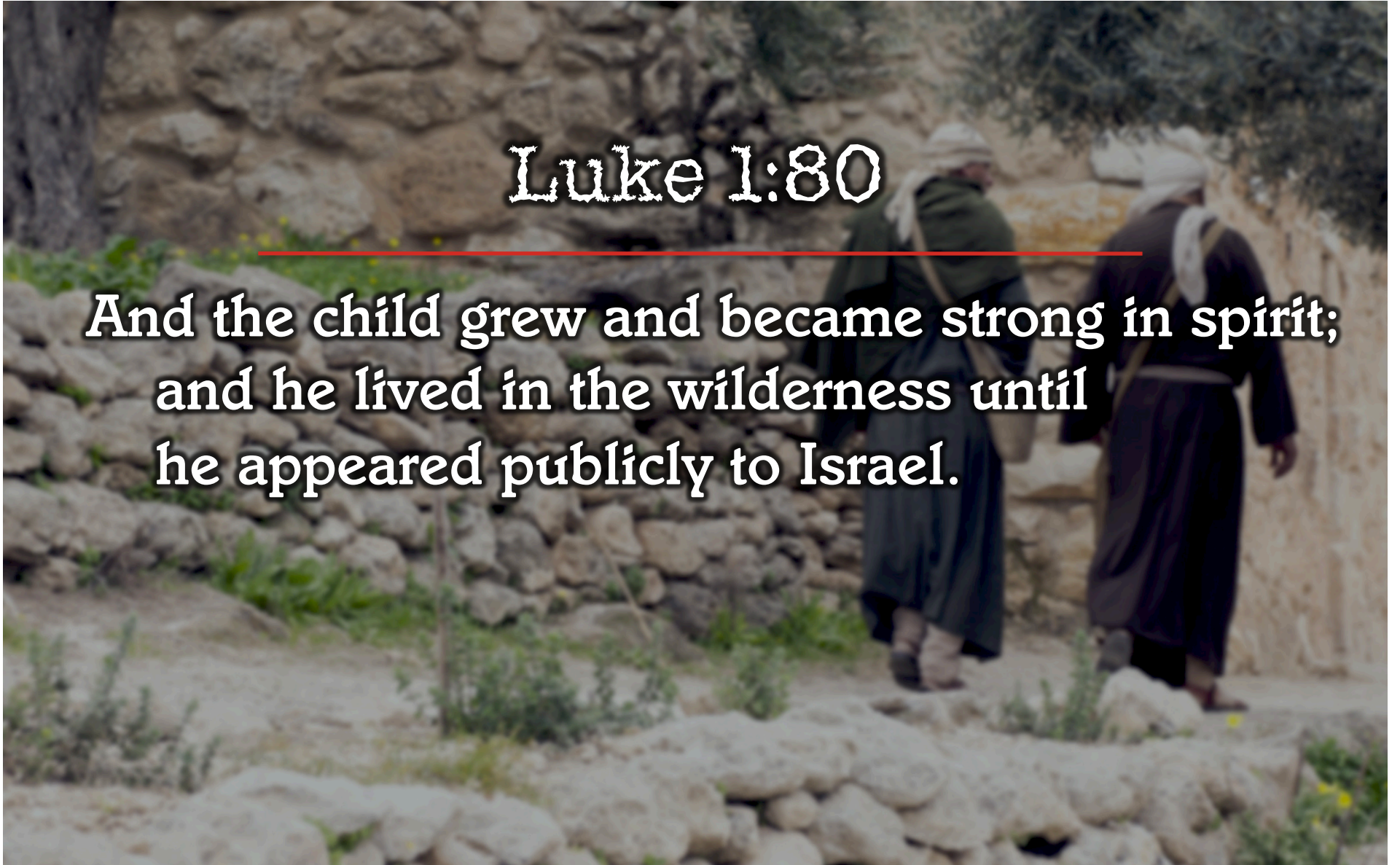


Revelation 22:16

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

Luke 1:80

And the child grew and became strong in spirit;
and he lived in the wilderness until
he appeared publicly to Israel.





Malachi 3:1

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

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 stone wall on the left and a taller, more substantial stone wall on the right. The background shows more of the rocky terrain and some sparse vegetation. The overall scene is set in a natural, outdoor environment.

Isaiah 40:3

A voice of one calling:
“In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.”

Religio-political parties:

- ❖ Pharisees
- ❖ Sadducees
- ❖ Zealots
- ❖ Essenes



What have we learned?

- ❖ We should never stop learning and growing.
- ❖ The Lord turns disgrace to joy.
- ❖ Salvation is God's gift of forgiveness and reconciliation.
- ❖ Jesus brings light and peace, and we should also.



A photograph of two individuals in traditional, dark-colored robes and head coverings walking away from the camera on a rocky, uneven path. The background shows a stone wall and some greenery. The text 'Are you being called?' is overlaid in a white, serif font with a black outline, underlined with a red line.

Are you being called?

- ❖ 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

❖ Luke 1:15

❖ Luke 1:41

❖ Psalm 22:9-10

❖ Psalm 139:13

❖ Isaiah 49:1

❖ Jeremiah 1:4-5