



PEACE on earth

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Part 2:

The Peace of God

Luke 2:1-20

A celestial scene featuring a bright, multi-pointed star at the top center, emitting several rays of light that fan out across the sky. The sky is a mix of deep blue, purple, and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. Numerous smaller stars are visible in the background. In the foreground, the word "PEACE" is written in large, white, serif capital letters. The letter "A" is particularly large and serves as a frame for a silhouette of a person sitting in a chair, looking up at the star.

PEACE

O N E A R T H

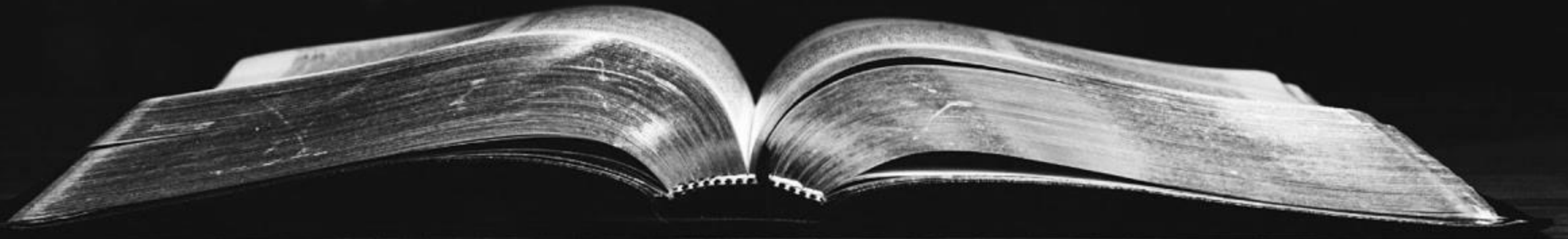
Our Method of Study

Narrative Criticism

The Setting

Luke 2:1-20

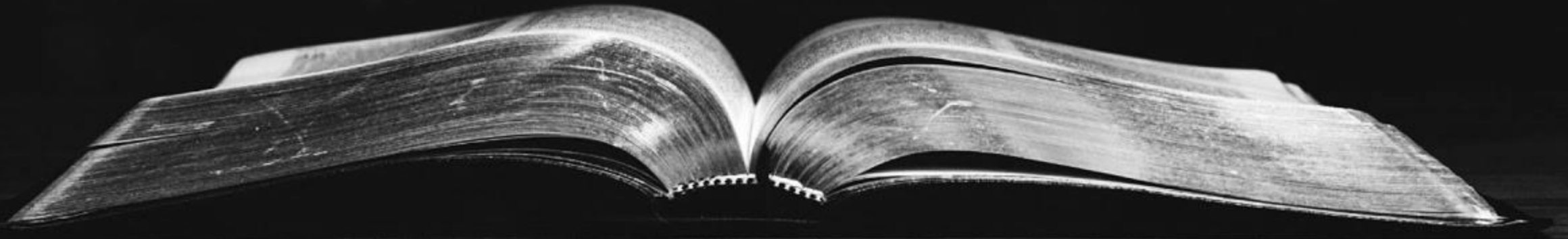
¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.



Three Settings where
the House of Caesar is
mentioned in the Gospel
of Luke:

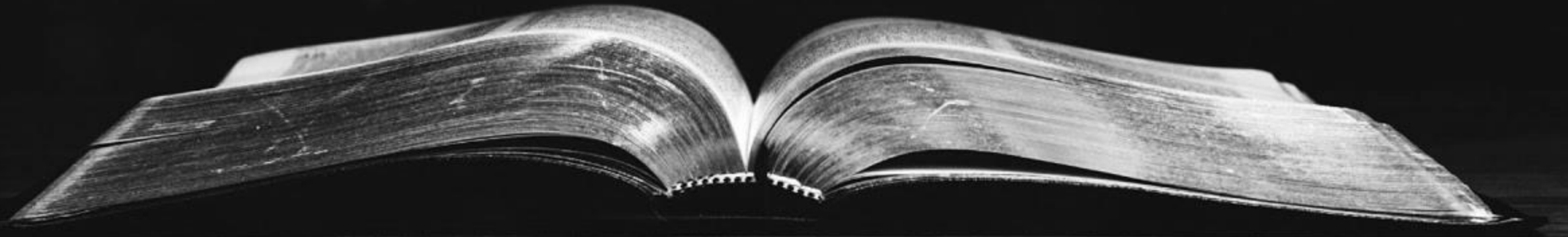
Luke 20:19-26

¹⁹ The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.



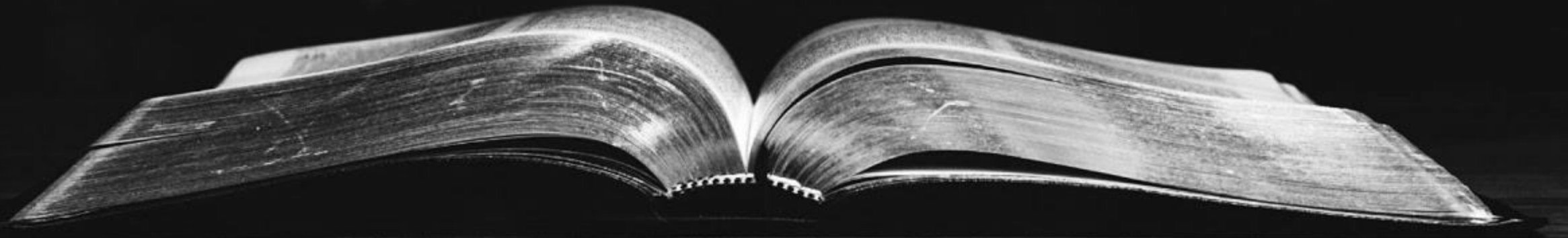
Luke 20:19-26

²⁰ Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be sincere. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said, so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor.



Luke 20:19-26

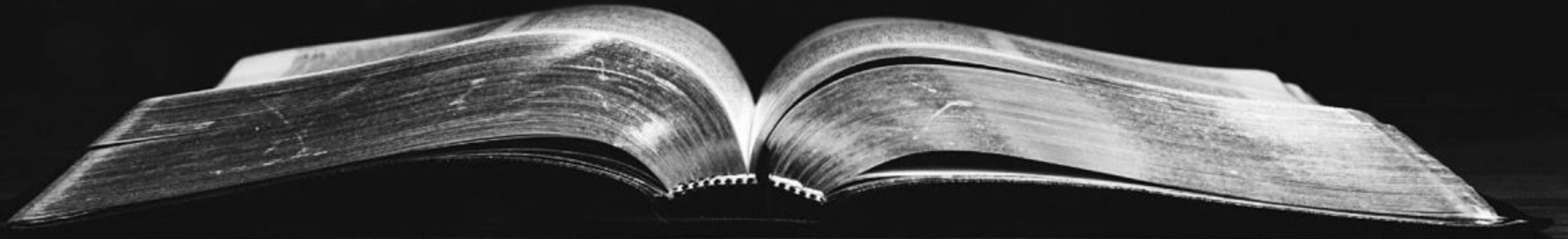
²¹ So the spies questioned him: “Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right, and that you do not show partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. ²² Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”



Luke 20:19-26

²³ He saw through their duplicity and said to them, ²⁴ “Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription are on it?”

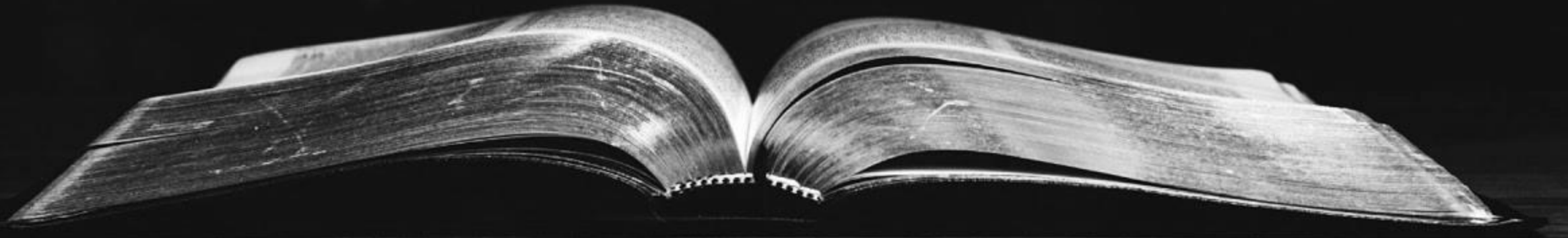
“Caesar’s,” they replied.



Luke 20:19-26

²⁵ He said to them, “Then give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

²⁶ They were unable to trap him in what he had said there in public. And astonished by his answer, they became silent.



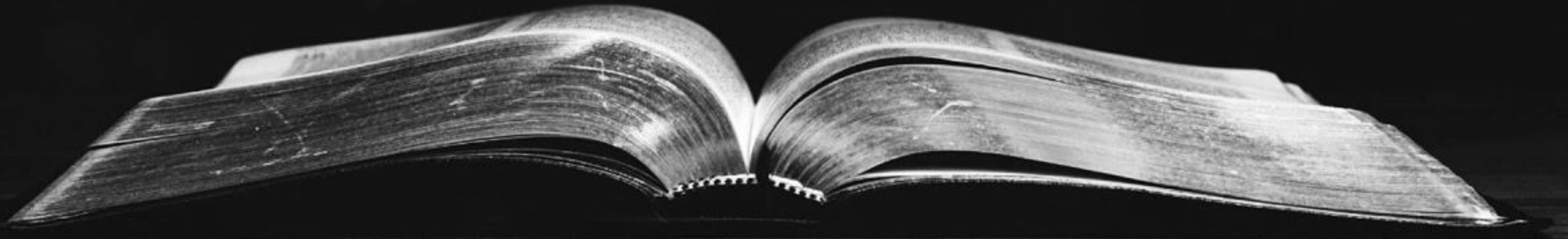
Luke 3:1-3

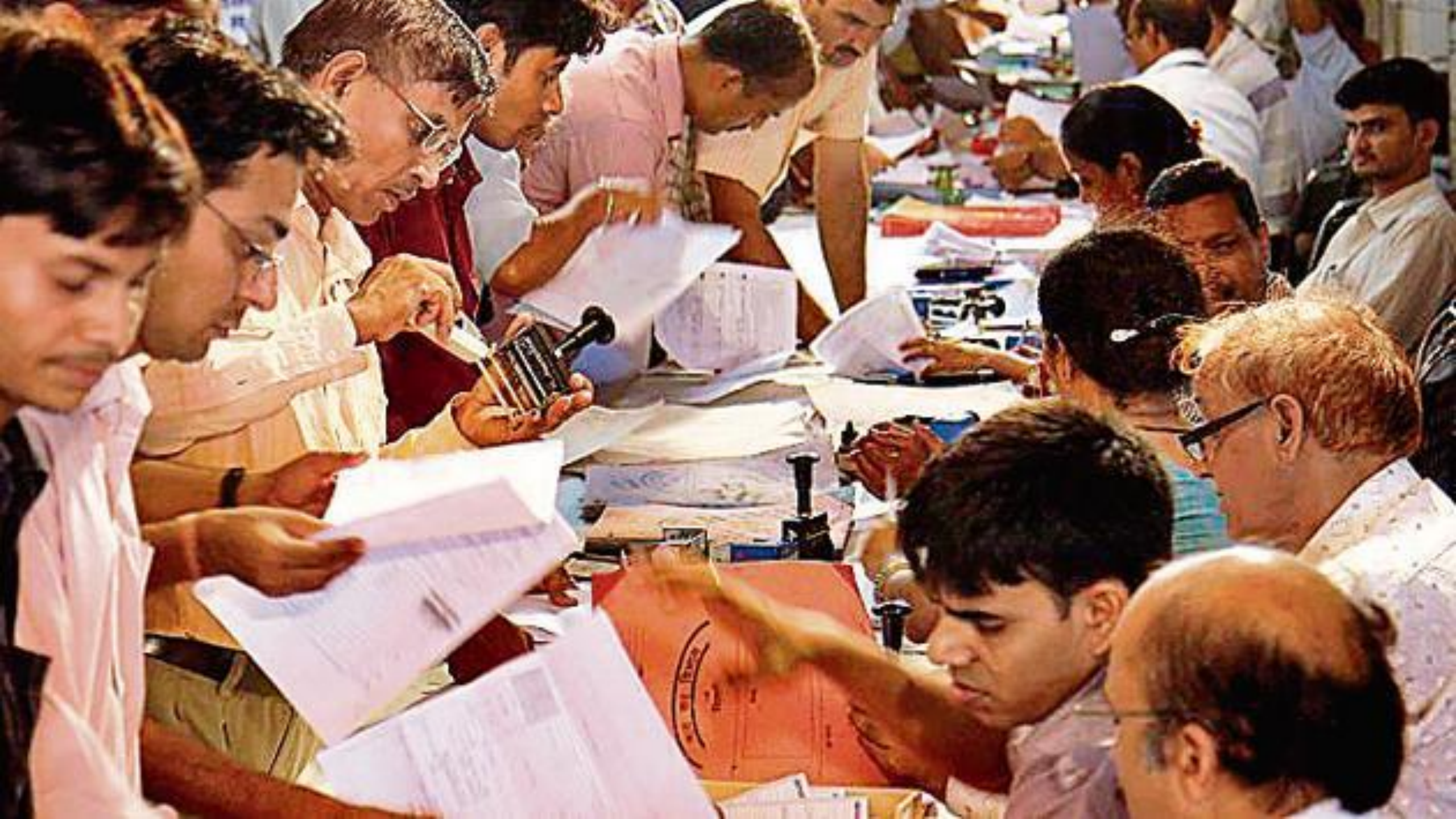
¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—



Luke 3:1-3

² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.





The First Act: The Need to Register

Luke 2:4-7

⁴ 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. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.



Luke 2:4-7

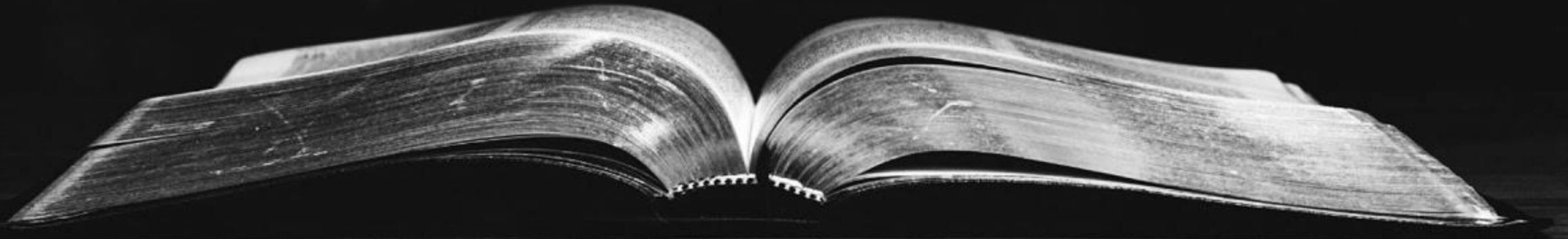
⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.



The Second Act:
The Primary Characters
and Their Conversation

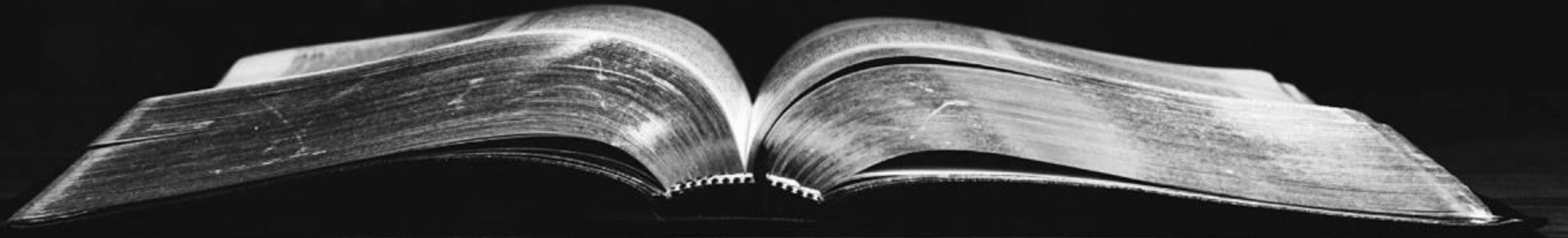
Luke 2:8-12

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.



Luke 2:8-12

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. 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.”





Luke 2:13-14

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.”



The Third Act: The Response

Luke 2:15-20

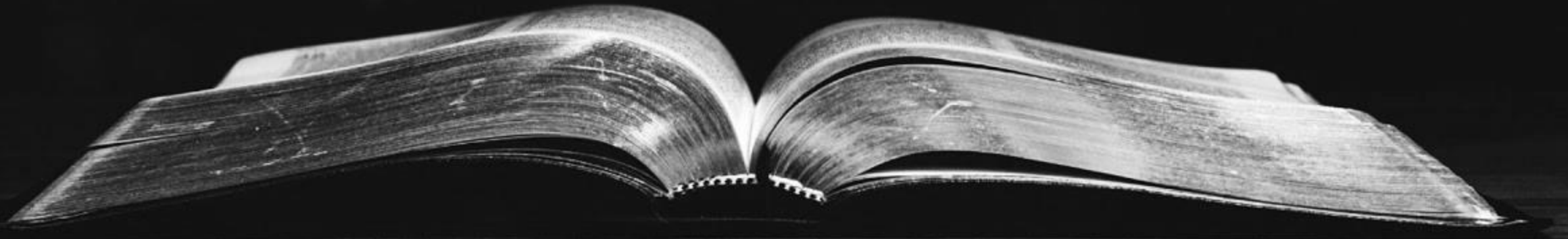
¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

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



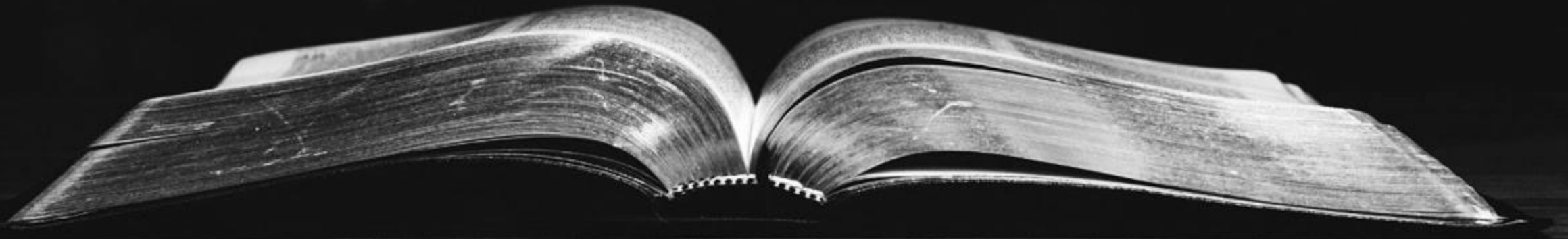
Luke 2:15-20

¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.



Luke 2:15-20

¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

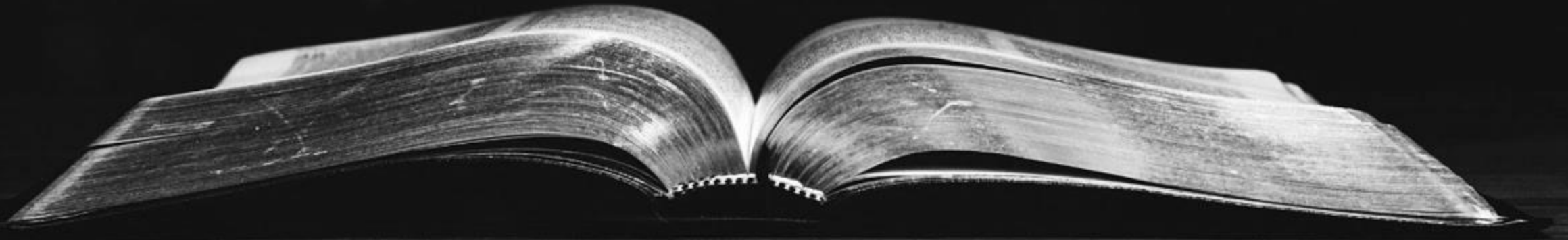


The Final Act:
Peace Completed –
The Cost God Had to Pay



Luke 22: 52-53

⁵² Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. ⁵³ Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid.



The Challenge:

Peace to Those On Whom His Favor Rests

KJV - εὐδοκία (eudokia) — nominative form
“peace and goodwill are given to everyone.”

NIV, ESV, NRSV, etc. - use earlier/older manuscripts
that have εὐδοκίας (eudokias) — genitive form
“peace to those whom God favors” or
“peace among those with whom He is pleased.”

How Do We Receive God's Favor to
Avail Ourselves of His Gift of Peace?

In the Context of Luke 2:1-20

1. Receive God's Message
2. Seek and Believe the Messiah
3. Praise, Glorify, and Declare Who He Is
— in our hearts and lives.
4. Spread the Message

A festive Christmas scene featuring a red lantern, lit candles, and snow-covered pine branches against a bokeh background. The lantern is red with a glass panel and a small star cutout. It sits on a snowy surface next to three lit white candles. A red and white striped candy cane lies on the snow. The background is a soft blue with out-of-focus lights and snow-covered pine branches.

Merry Christmas!