

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-21; Matthew 2





Your questions...



CONTEXT

WHO?



Mary



Joseph





+



Mary and Joseph were engaged, which in their culture and time meant they were legally married, but the wedding celebration hadn't happened yet.



Angels Gabriel and others



Magi





King Herod



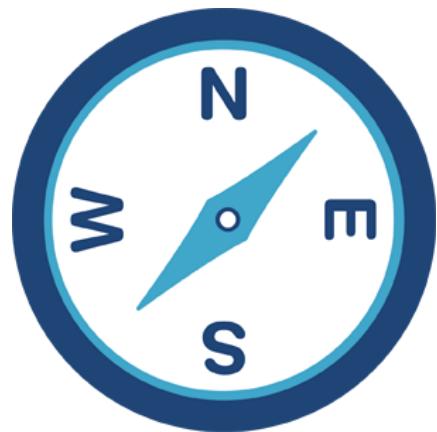
When

- Jesus born during reign of Caesar Augustus and governorship of Quirinius (about 3-2 B.C.). Magi arrive about 2 years later.
- During a time of universal common language (Greek) and government (the Roman Empire).

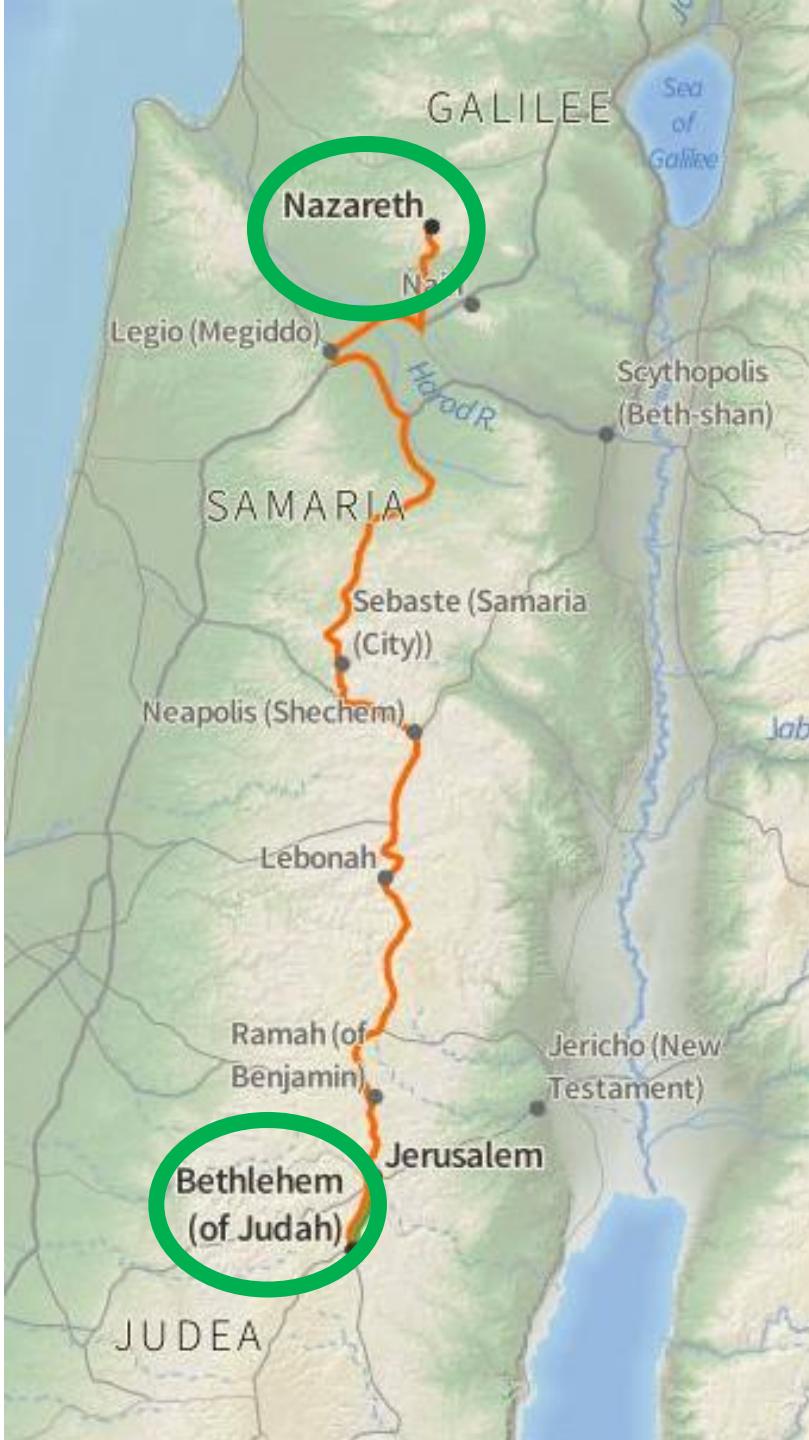
The Roman Empire

in 117 AD, at its greatest extent

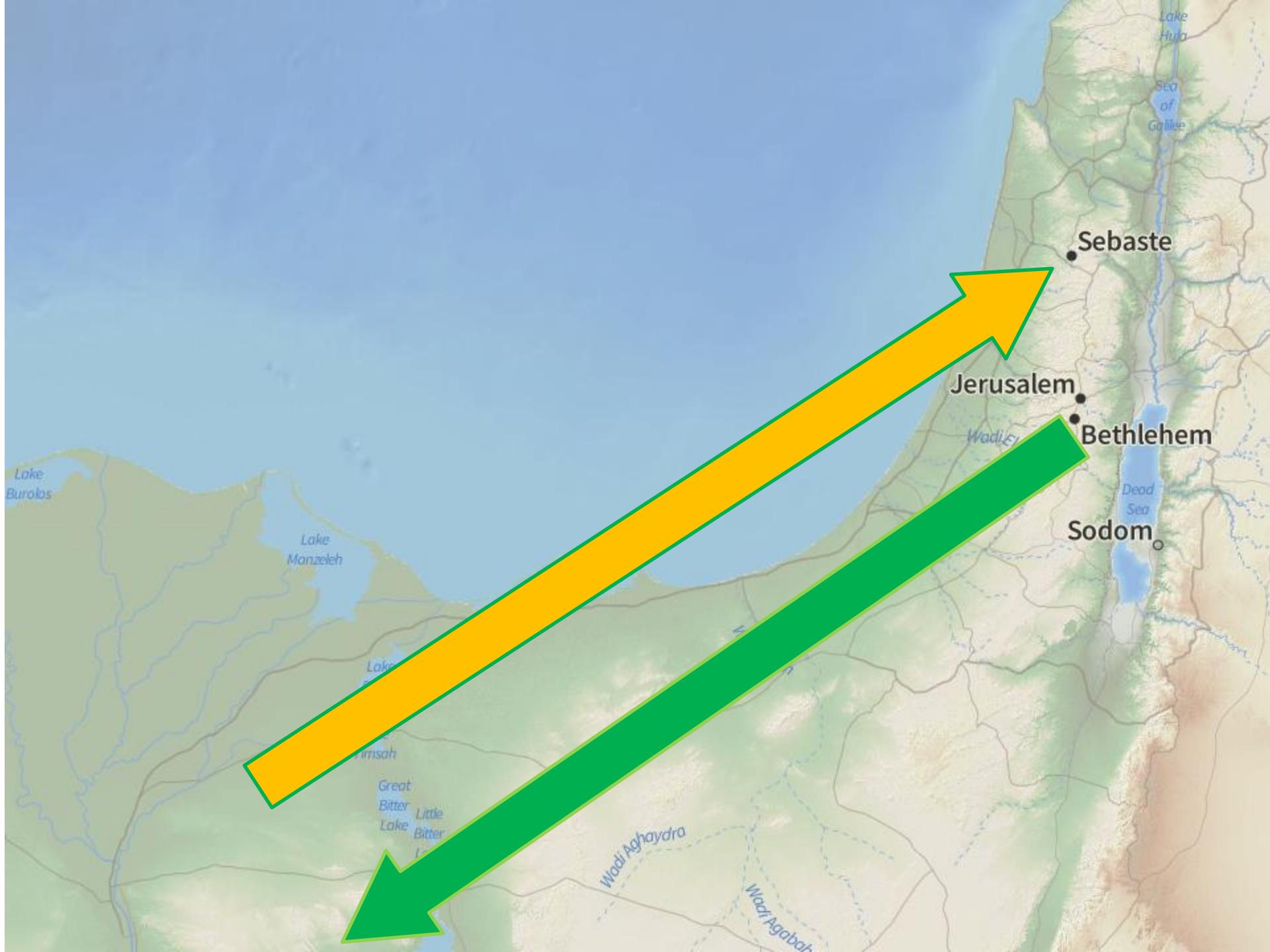




WHERE







A fairytale?



The Story



Luke 1:26-38

1.) Read 1:26-30. According to Gabriel why was Mary chosen to be the mother of God's Son?

- Because God in his favor and grace had chosen her



Luke 1:26-38

2.) Read 1:34-37. How would Mary, a virgin, become pregnant with Jesus Christ?

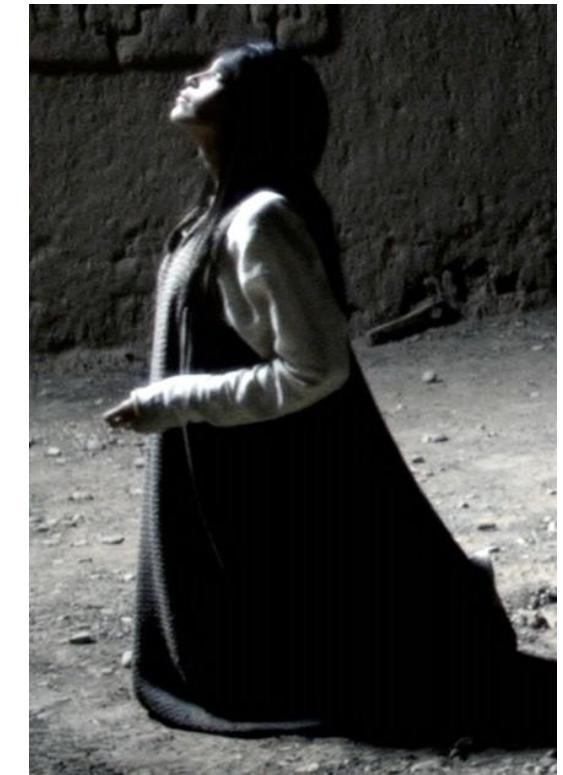
- The Holy Spirit would perform this miracle.



Luke 1:26-38

3.) Read 1:38. How did Mary respond to this unbelievable promise?

- With faith. She trusted God could do exactly as he promised.



Read: Matthew 1:18-24

2.) In the person of Jesus God himself lived among us as a human being. Thus, his other name: “Immanuel”, which means: _____

עִמָּנוּאֵל

Immanuel

Read: Matthew 1:18-24

2.) In the person of Jesus God himself lived among us as a human being. Thus, his other name: “Immanuel”, which means: “God – with – Us”

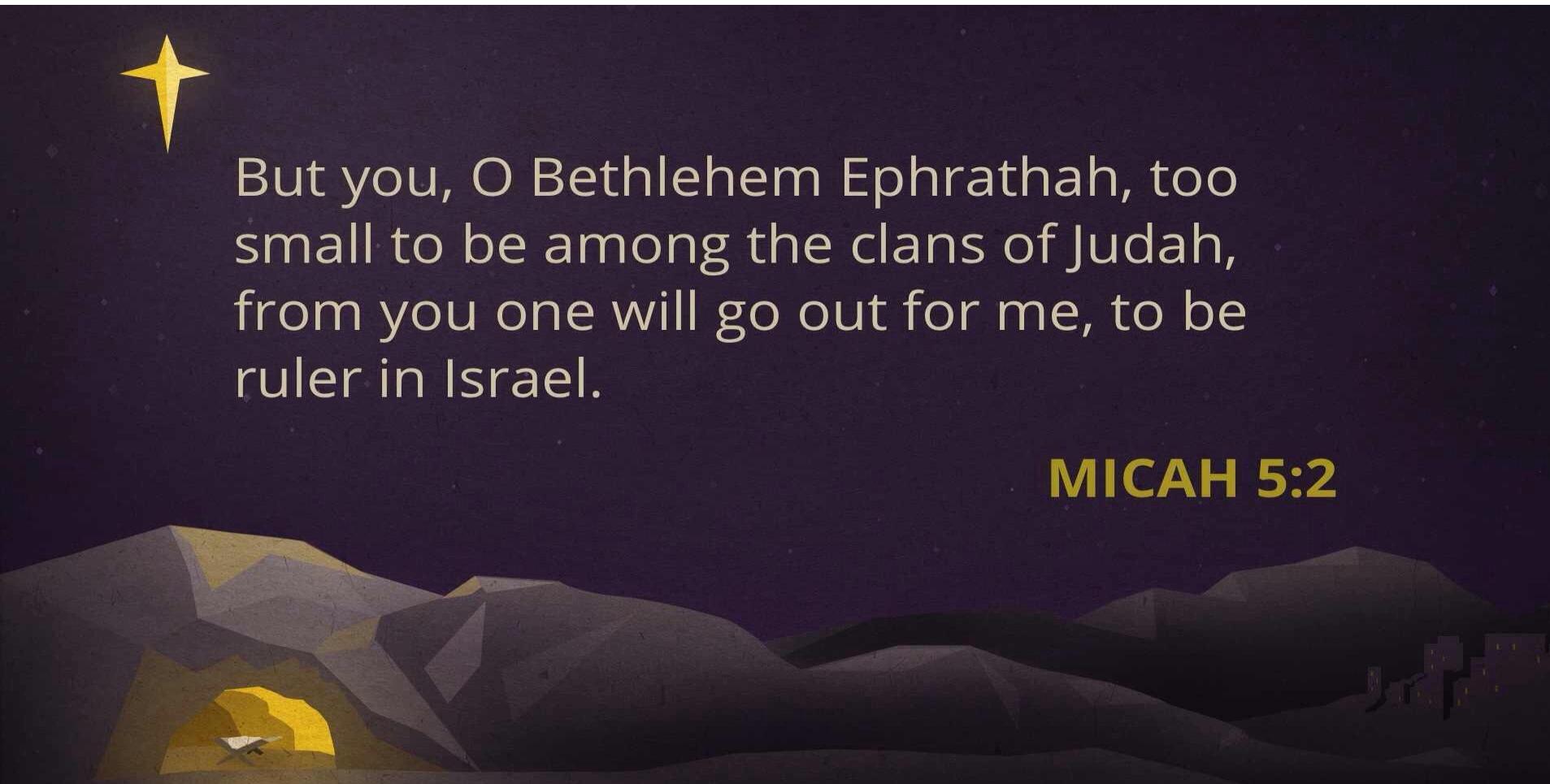
עִמָּנוּאֵל

Immanuel

Read: Luke 2:1-7



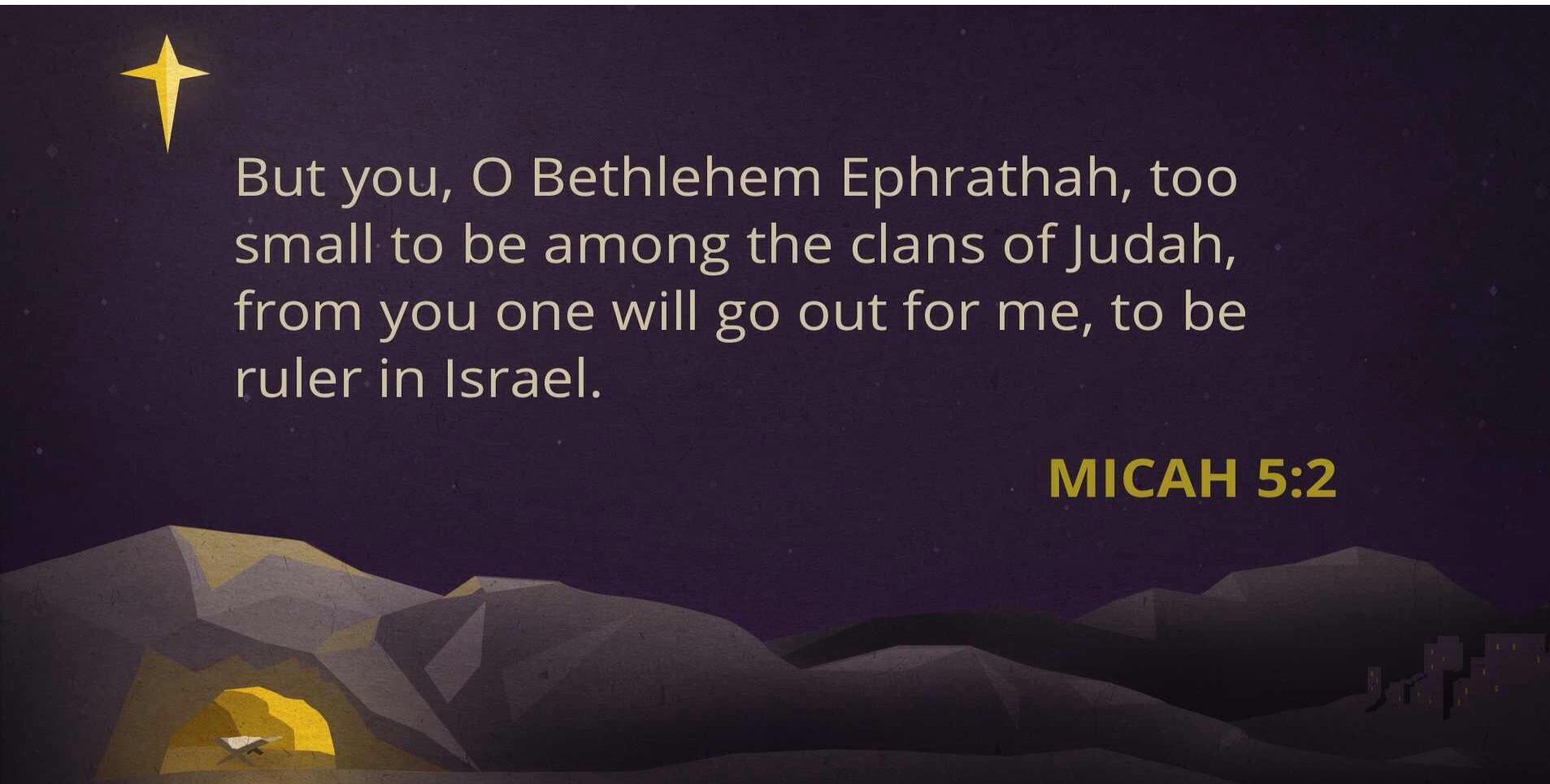
1.) How does this turn in world events show that our God is in control of history?



But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you one will go out for me, to be ruler in Israel.

MICAH 5:2

- He used Caesar's decree so his Son be born exactly where the prophets had said









Read: Luke 2:8-20

- God wanted people to know that the Savior, who would bring peace between God and humanity, had been born, but his means of spreading the news were some poor and lowly shepherds. So he also uses unimpressive you and me to tell others about Jesus Christ.

Overview: Matthew 2

- Jesus Christ is the Savior of Jews and non-Jews alike. God put a special star in the sky to lead the magi to Jesus.



1.) How did Herod and the magi react differently to the news that the King of the Jews had been born?



a.) Herod:



a.) Herod: felt threatened, used force to “protect” his earthly kingdom and power



b.) The magi:



b.) The magi: wanted to worship Jesus, and brought him their best gifts.



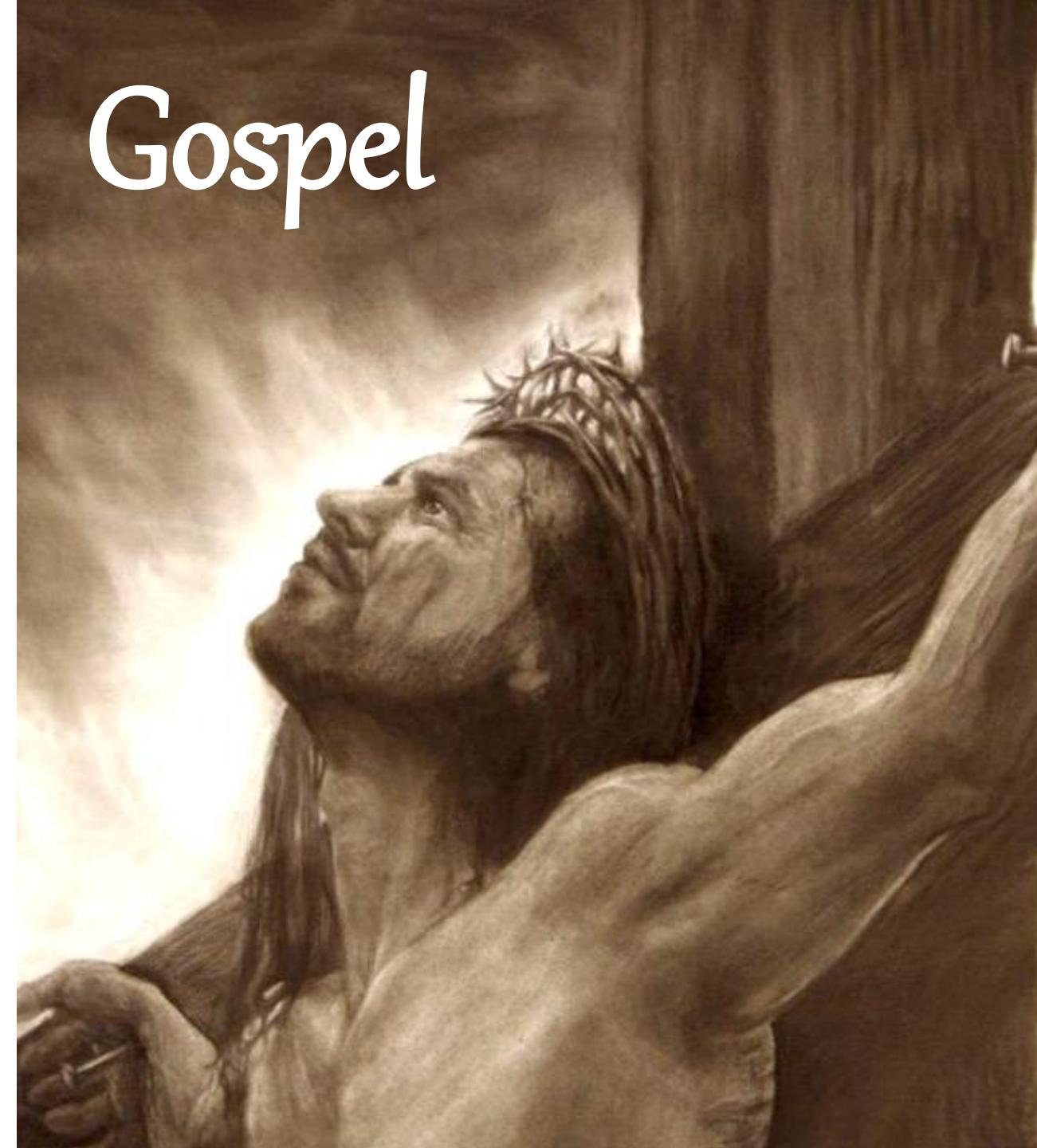




LAW



Gospel



LAW

- God's commands, threats, punishments...
 - We needed a Savior from our sins
 - Fear of Mary and shepherds at the sight of holy angels
 - Through angels God gives commands to Mary, Joseph, wise men, etc.

Gospel

- God's mercy, forgiveness, goodness, and promises...
 - As long foretold God sent his only Son into the world on a mission to take away our sins
 - God's choosing Mary to be Christ's mother
 - God sent angels and a miraculous star to proclaim that Christ is born
 - God protected Jesus and family from danger

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?



John 1:1-3a, 14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

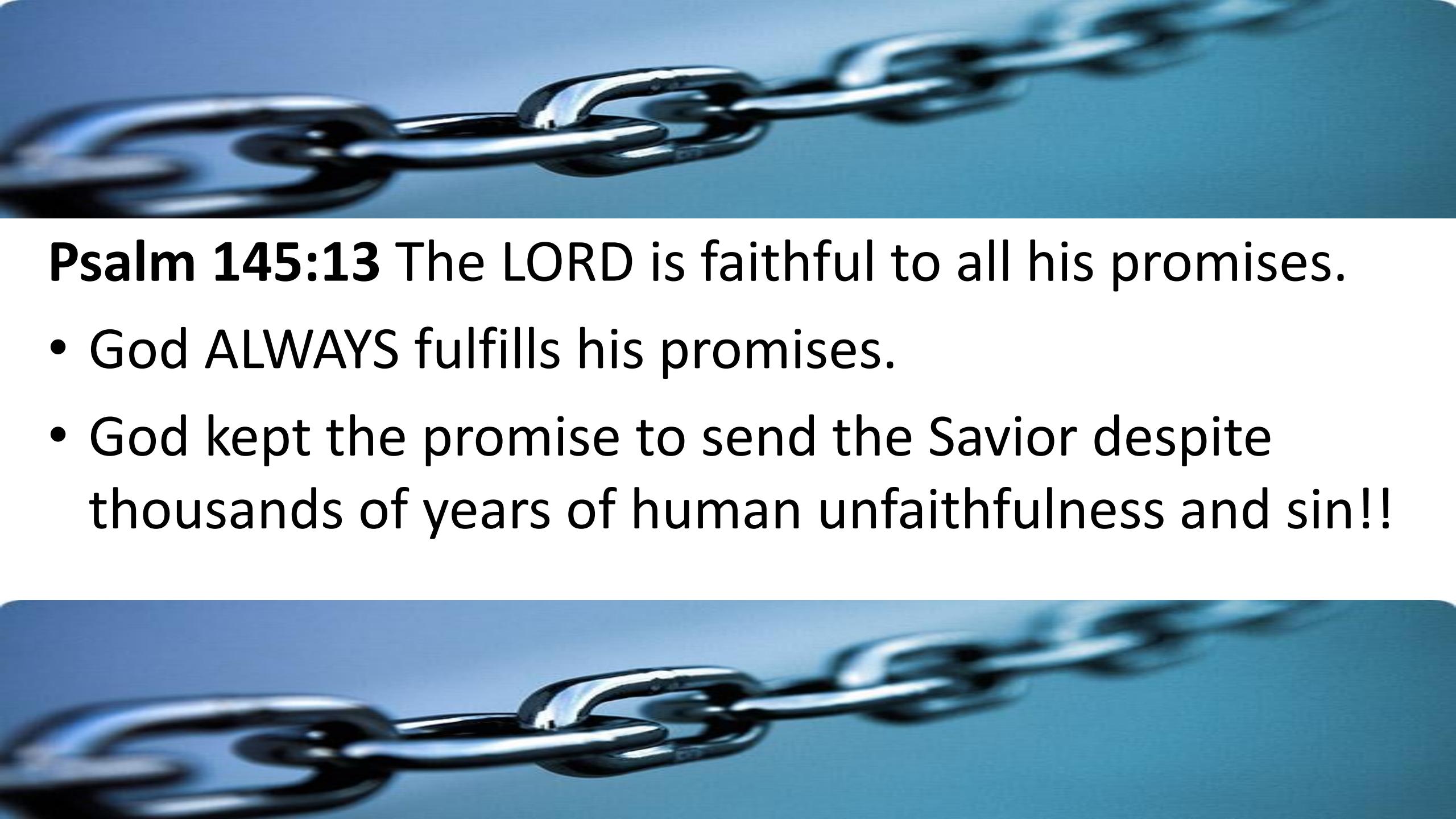
Genesis 1:3-5 (Day 1)

- 3.) What did God use to create these things?
 - b.) His powerful word

לֹאמֶר :

John 1:1-3a, 14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

- The Son of God, the eternal Word, became a human being.
- This is a mystery that cannot be understood with our mind but only believed by faith!



Psalm 145:13 The LORD is faithful to all his promises.

- God ALWAYS fulfills his promises.
- God kept the promise to send the Savior despite thousands of years of human unfaithfulness and sin!!

Galatians 4:4-5 When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

- God guided all time and history so that the Savior would come at the right time and place.



John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- Jesus is the living proof of God's love
- God gave us the most precious thing he had!
- Jesus came for one reason—to take our sins away and give us peace with God!



Next week we will have a special opportunity to talk with missionary Peterson Ballah from Liberia!

Each of you send me one question you'd like me to consider asking him!

Read

- Matthew 3:1-4:11; John 1:29-34 (The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus)
- Complete Reading Reflection Guide

Memory Work:

- Titus 3:5
- Matthew 28:19
- New Testament Books (through 2 Thessalonians)