



26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.



(Luke 1:26,27)



GREETINGS

YOU WHO ARE HIGHLY FAVORED!
the Lord is with you!

Last Sunday, we saw how God chose Mary, a virgin, and a descendant of David, to be the mother of the Christ.

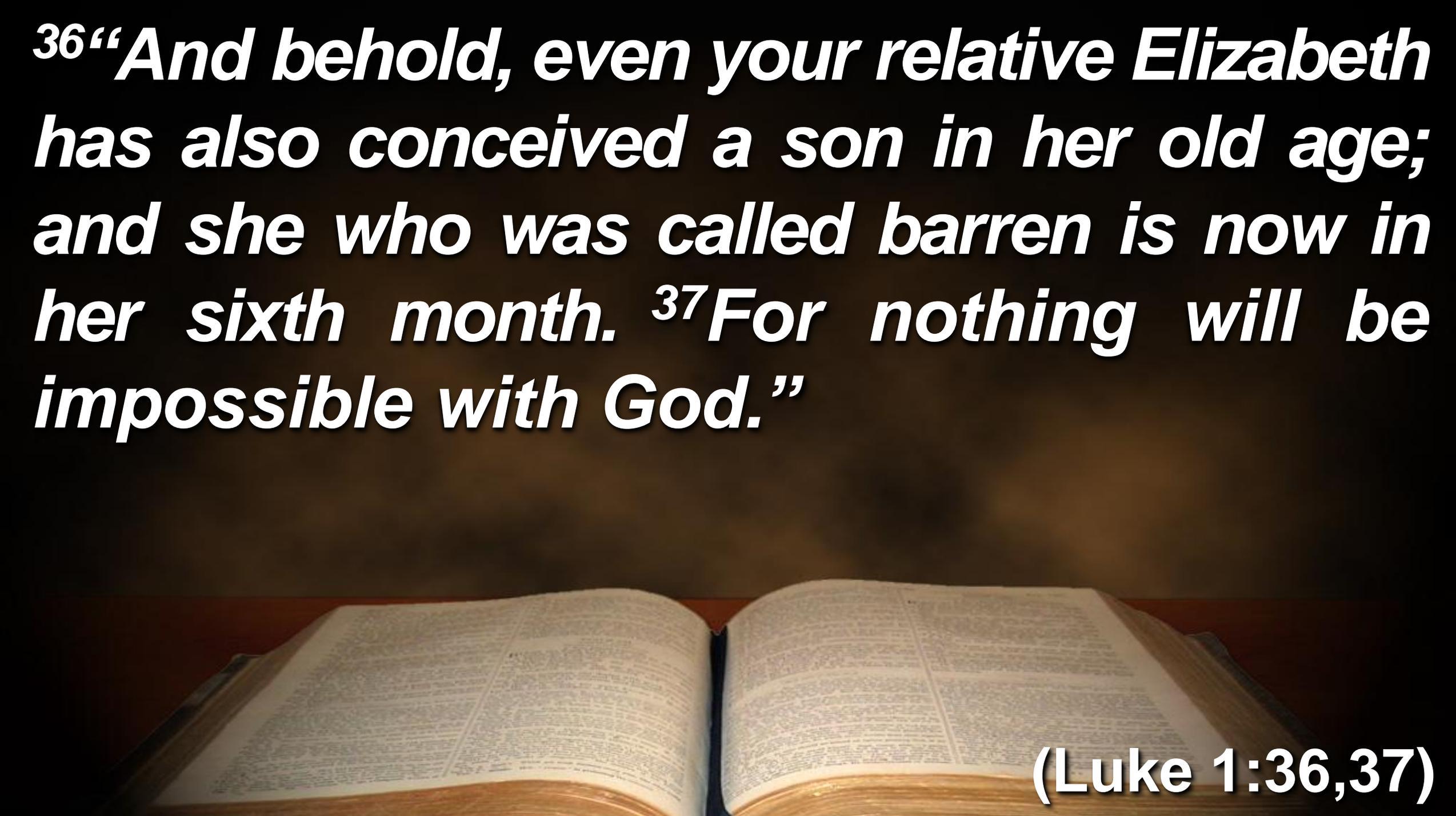
35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."

(Luke 1:35)

— THE KING IS COMING —
PREPARE YE THE
WAY

We saw how the timing of Christ's coming was in line with the coming of the promised Forerunner, John the Baptist.

36“And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. 37For nothing will be impossible with God.”



(Luke 1:36,37)



We also saw how Mary responded to Gabriel's message by humbly trusting in, and submitting herself to God.

38 And Mary said, "Behold, the bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.



(Luke 1:37,38)

39 Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

(Luke 1:39-41)



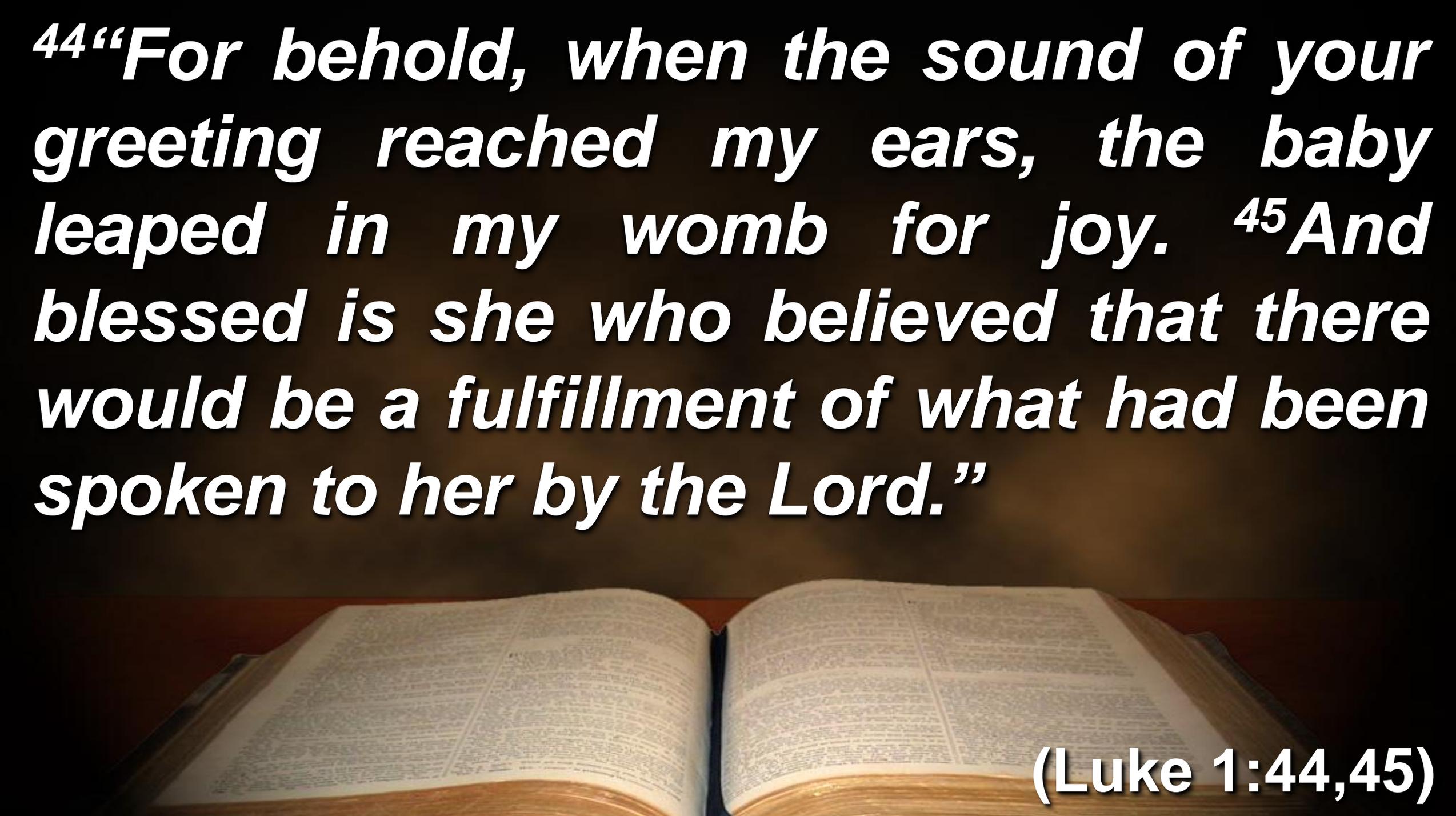
“For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother’s womb.” (Luke 1:15)

Elizabeth, and John in her womb, prompted by the Holy Spirit, rejoiced in hearing Mary’s greeting.

42 And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?"

(Luke 1:42,43)

44“For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. 45And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.”



(Luke 1:44,45)



Mary was lauded for her faith,
and her faith gave way to
praise unto God.

46 And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord, 47 and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 For He has had regard for the humble state of His bonds slave; for behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed."

(Luke 1:46-49)



Magnificat

Mary declares how magnificent God is by expressing:

- the **joy** she feels in her heart
- what God has done for her in **blessing** her

***49“For the Mighty One has done great things for me; and holy is His name.
50And His mercy is upon generation after generation toward those who fear Him. 51He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart.”***

(Luke 1:50-52)



Magnificat

Mary declares how magnificent God is by expressing:

- the joy she feels in her heart
- what God has done for her in blessing her
- how God is holy, and how kind He is to the humble

52“He has brought down rulers from their thrones, and has exalted those who were humble. 53He has filled the hungry with good things; and sent away the rich empty-handed. 54He has given help to Israel His servant, in remembrance of His mercy, 55as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants forever.”

(Luke 1:52-55)

56 And Mary stayed with her about three months, and then returned to her home.

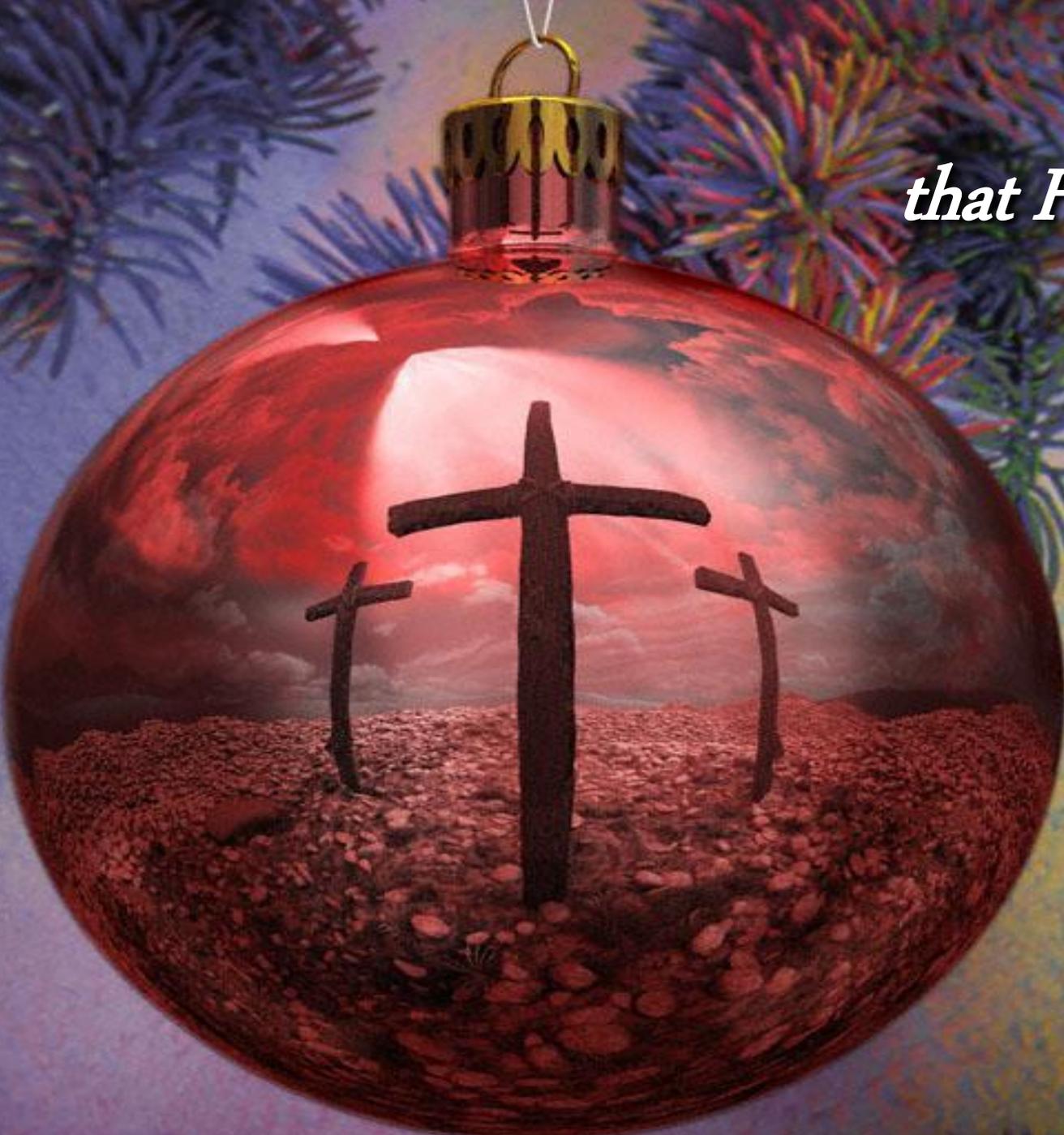


(Luke 1:56)

As Mary humbly responded to God's gracious choosing of her to be the mother of the Christ, we too can respond to God's gracious choosing of us, and declare how magnificent He is!







*“For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him
shall not perish,
but have eternal life.”*

(John 3:16)

hope



hope

¹⁴For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

(Romans 8:14-17)



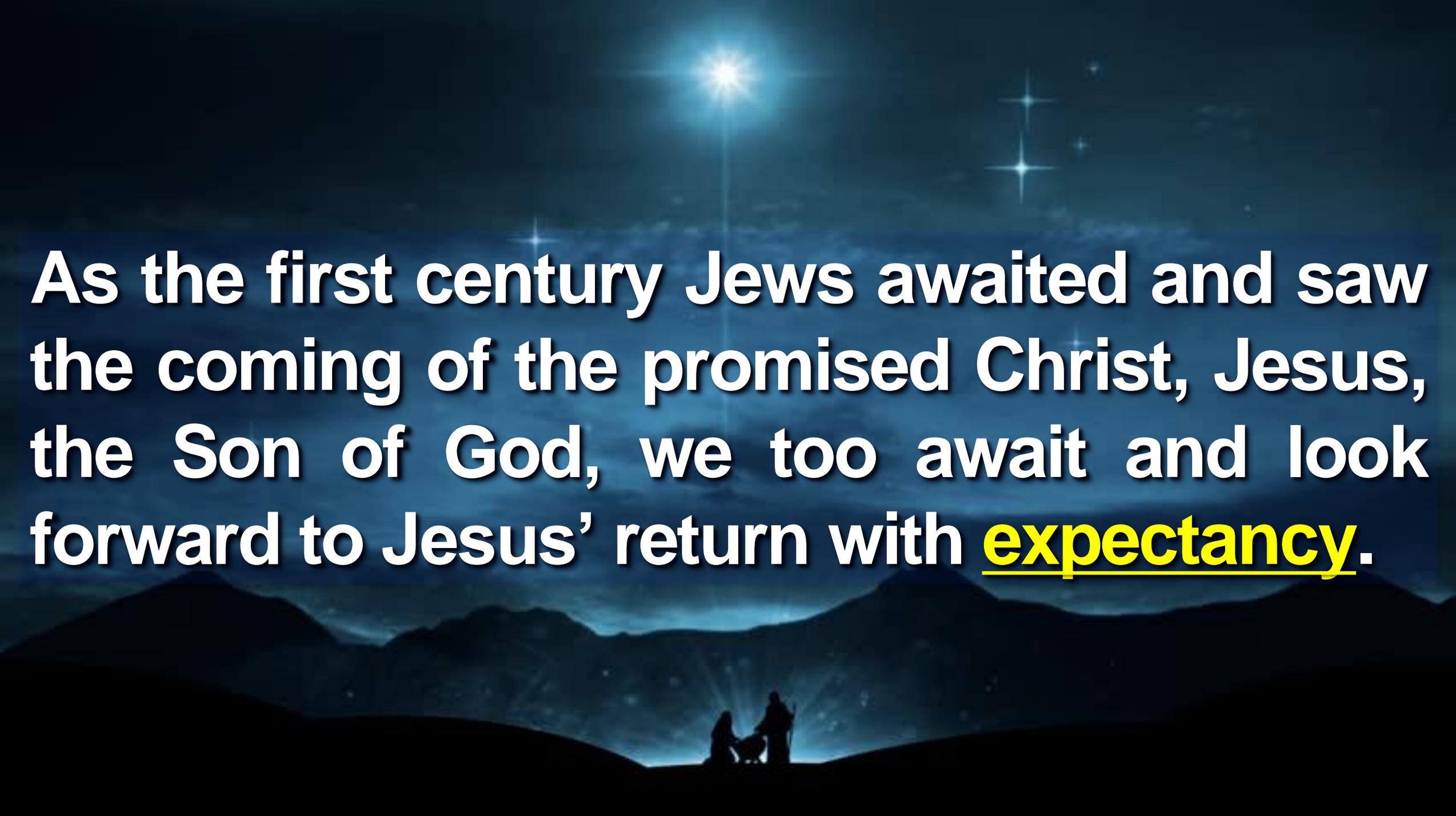
18For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

(Romans 8:18-21)



²²For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. ²³And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

(Romans 8:22-25)

A night sky with a bright star and silhouettes of people on a hill. The background is a dark blue night sky with a bright star at the top center and several smaller stars. In the foreground, the silhouettes of three people are visible on a hill, looking up at the sky. The text is overlaid on the sky.

As the first century Jews awaited and saw the coming of the promised Christ, Jesus, the Son of God, we too await and look forward to Jesus' return with expectancy.