

The background is a dark blue night sky filled with numerous small, twinkling stars. A single, larger, bright star with a multi-pointed, starburst effect is positioned at the top center. At the bottom of the image, there is a dark silhouette of a forest with pointed trees, suggesting a winter or Christmas setting.

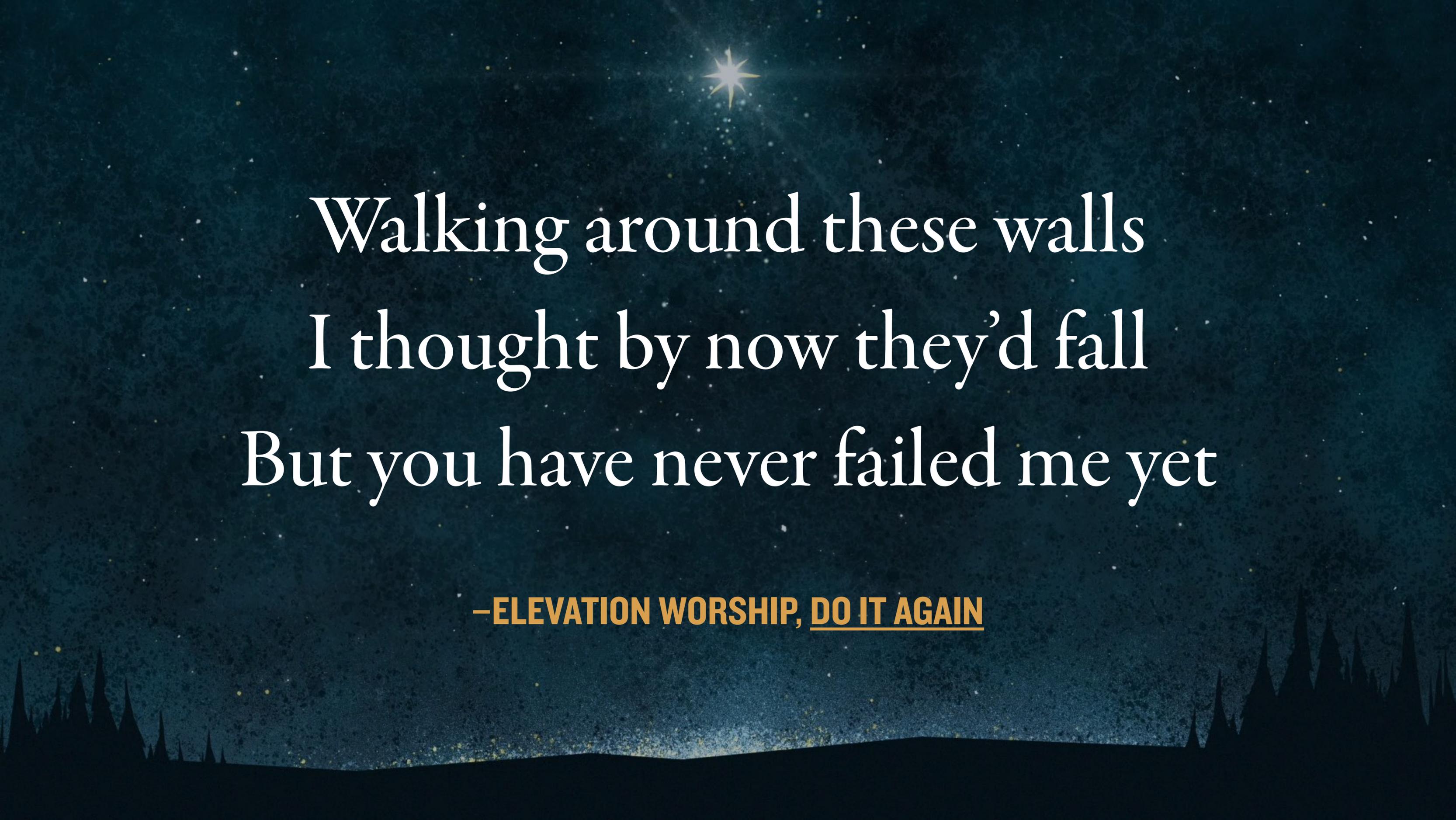
# DO NOT BE AFRAID

A CENTRAL *Christmas* SERIES

The background is a dark blue night sky filled with numerous small, faint stars. A single, larger, bright star with a multi-pointed, starburst effect is positioned near the top center. At the bottom of the image, there is a dark silhouette of a forest with various tree shapes, suggesting a landscape under a starry night sky.

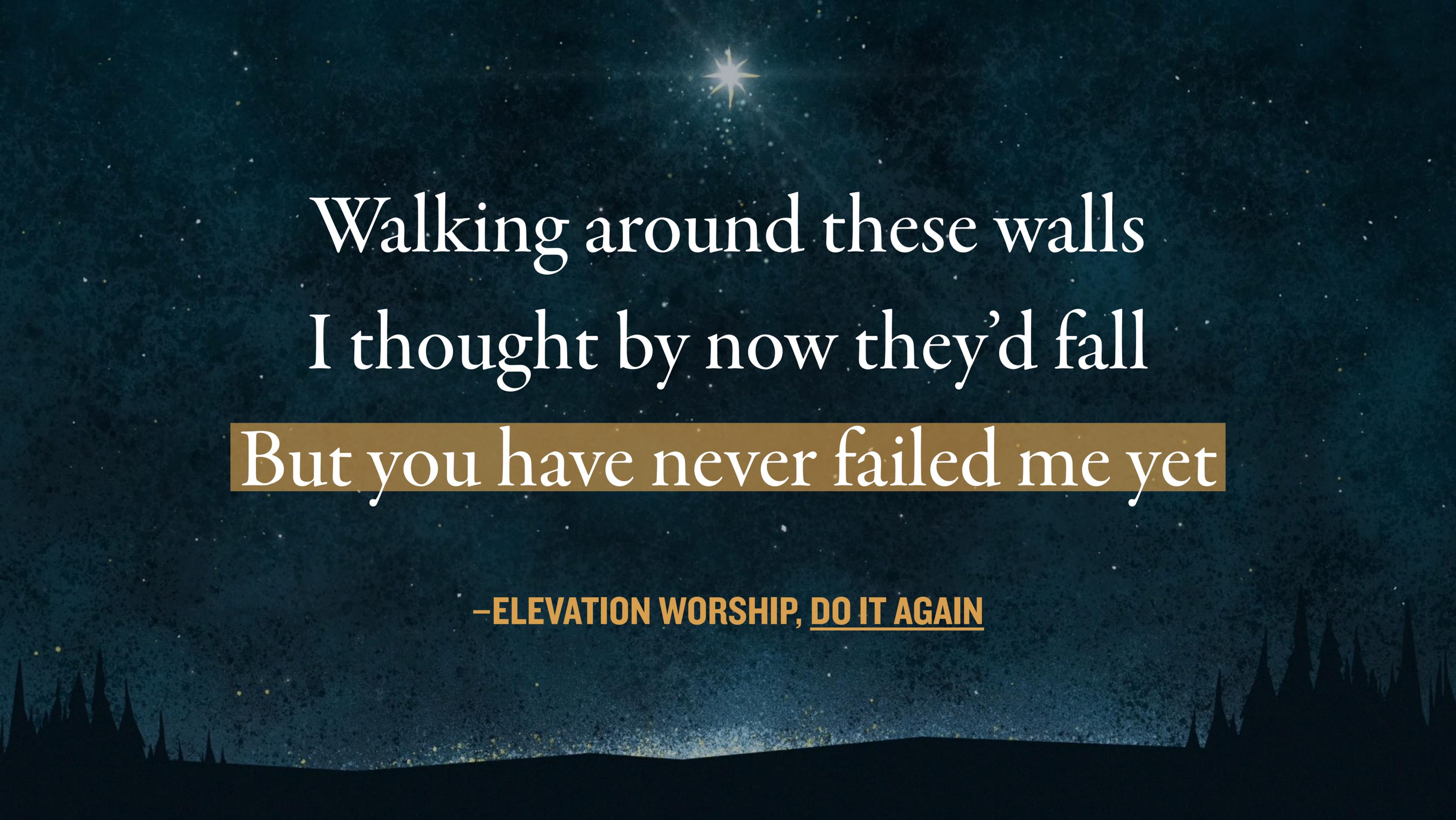
# God's Word Never Fails

*Luke 1:26–38*

A night sky with a star and a silhouette of a forest. The background is a dark blue night sky filled with small white stars. A single, larger, bright star with a multi-pointed glow is positioned at the top center. At the bottom of the image, there is a dark silhouette of a forest with pointed trees. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

Walking around these walls  
I thought by now they'd fall  
But you have never failed me yet

—ELEVATION WORSHIP, DO IT AGAIN

A night sky with a star and a forest silhouette. The background is a dark blue night sky filled with stars. A single, bright, multi-pointed star is positioned at the top center. At the bottom, there is a dark silhouette of a forest with pointed trees. The text is centered in the sky.

Walking around these walls  
I thought by now they'd fall  
But you have never failed me yet

–ELEVATION WORSHIP, DO IT AGAIN

## LUKE 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

## LUKE 1:26-38

<sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

## LUKE 1:26-38

<sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

## LUKE 1:26-38

<sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

## LUKE 1:26-38

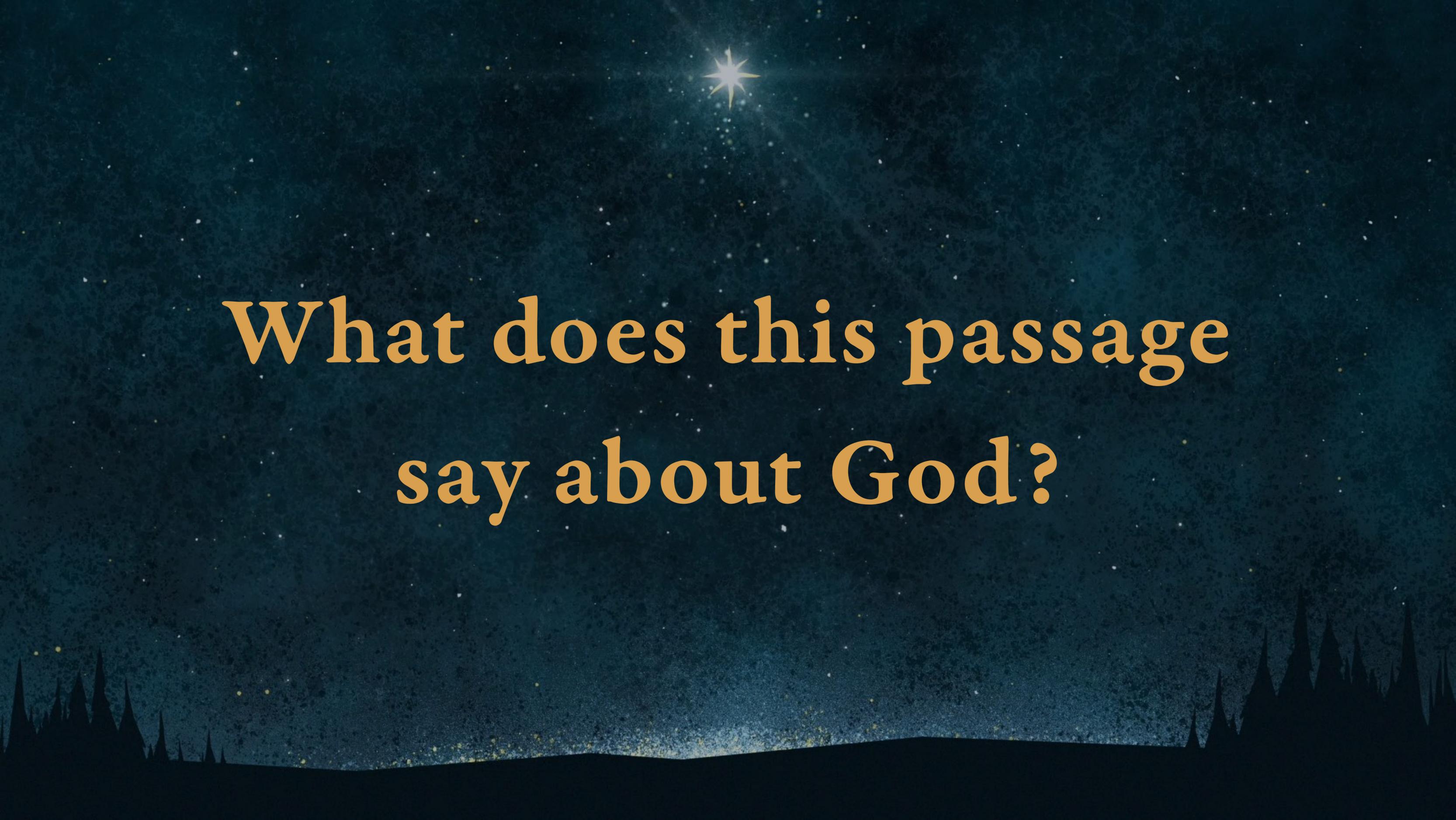
<sup>34</sup> “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup> The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

## LUKE 1:26-38

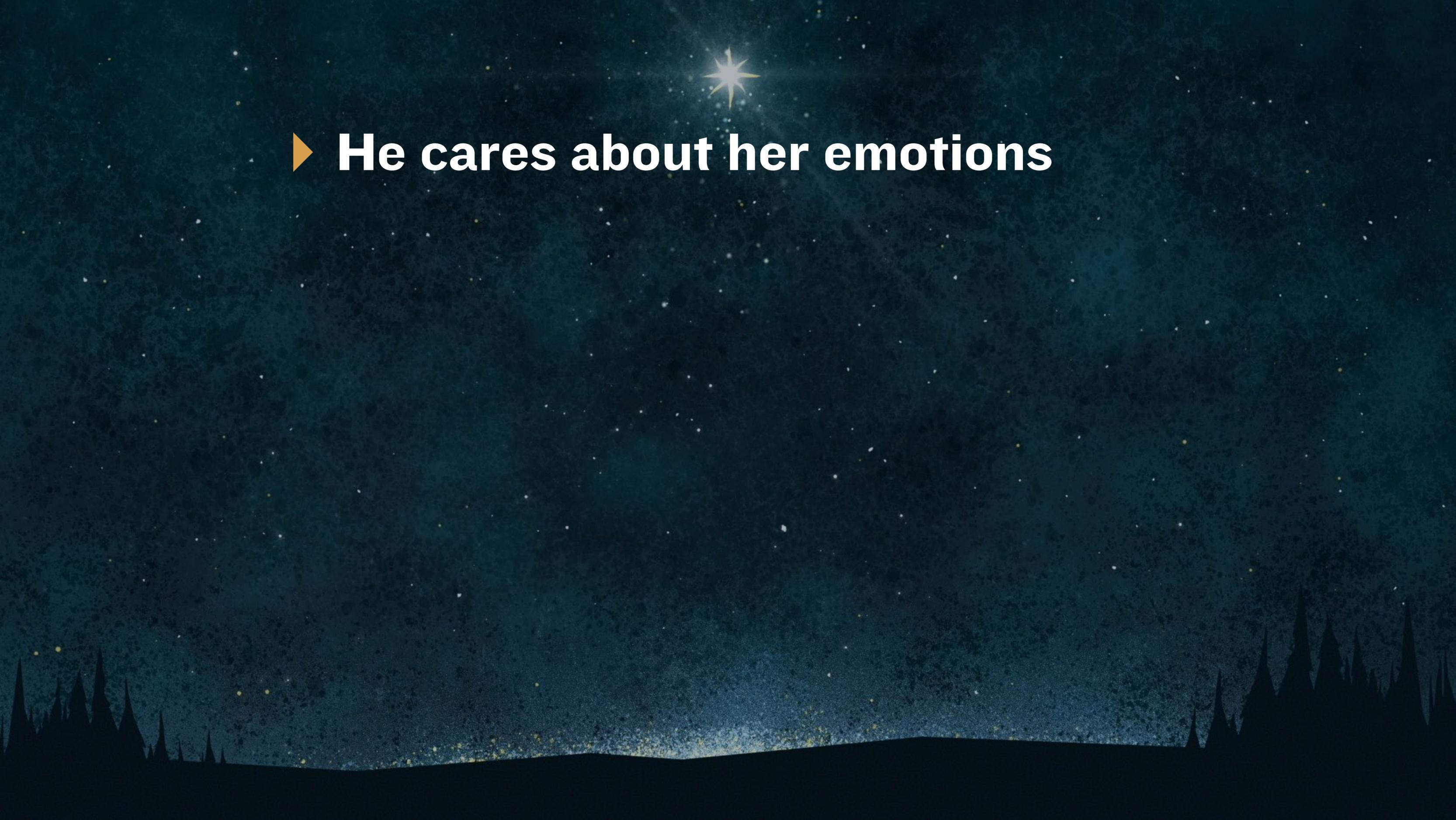
<sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

## LUKE 1:26-38

<sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail.” <sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

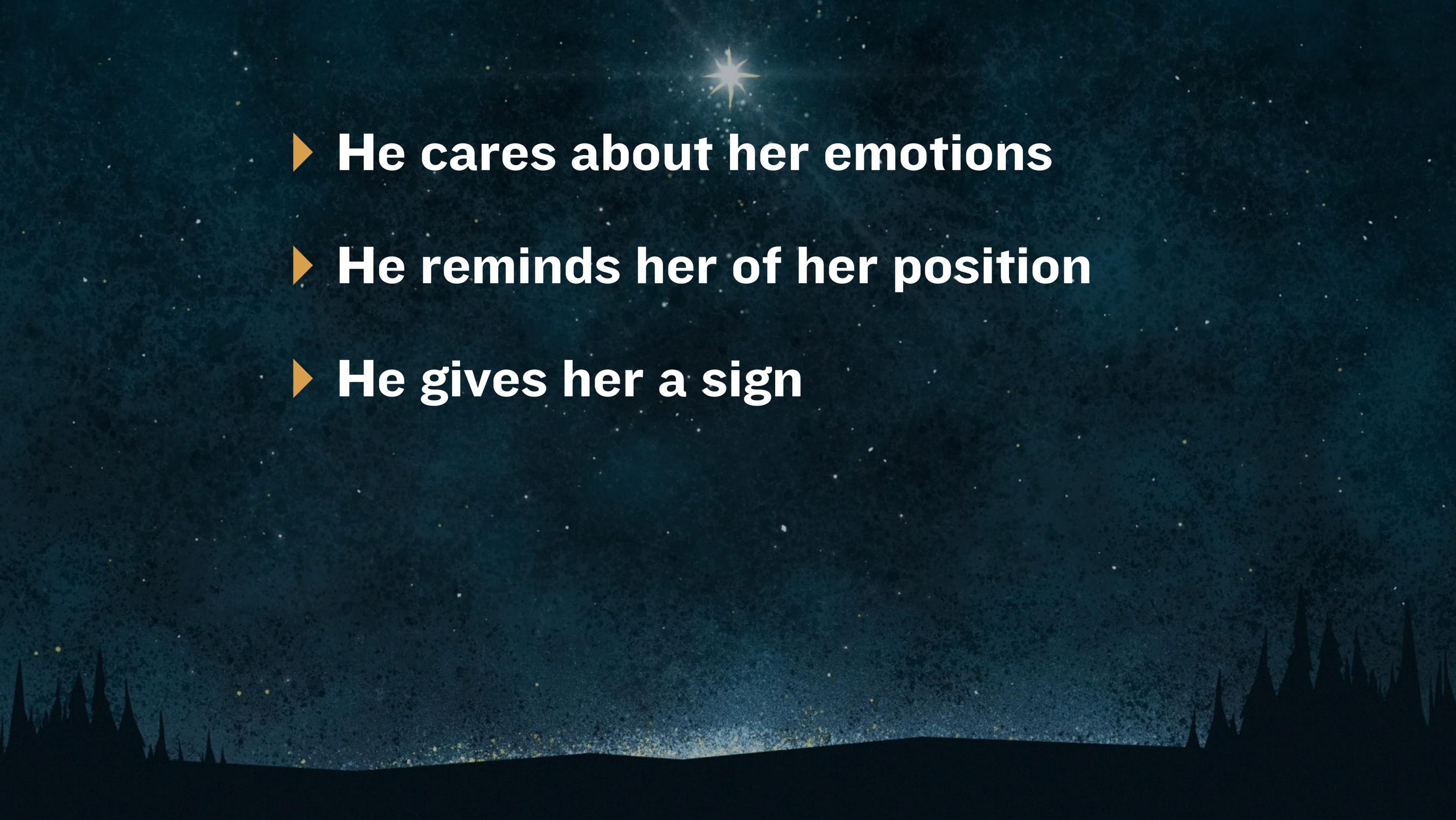
A night sky with a bright star and a silhouette of a forest. The background is a dark blue night sky filled with numerous small, faint stars. A single, very bright star with a prominent four-pointed starburst is positioned near the top center. At the bottom of the image, there is a dark silhouette of a forest with pointed trees, suggesting a landscape under a starry night sky.

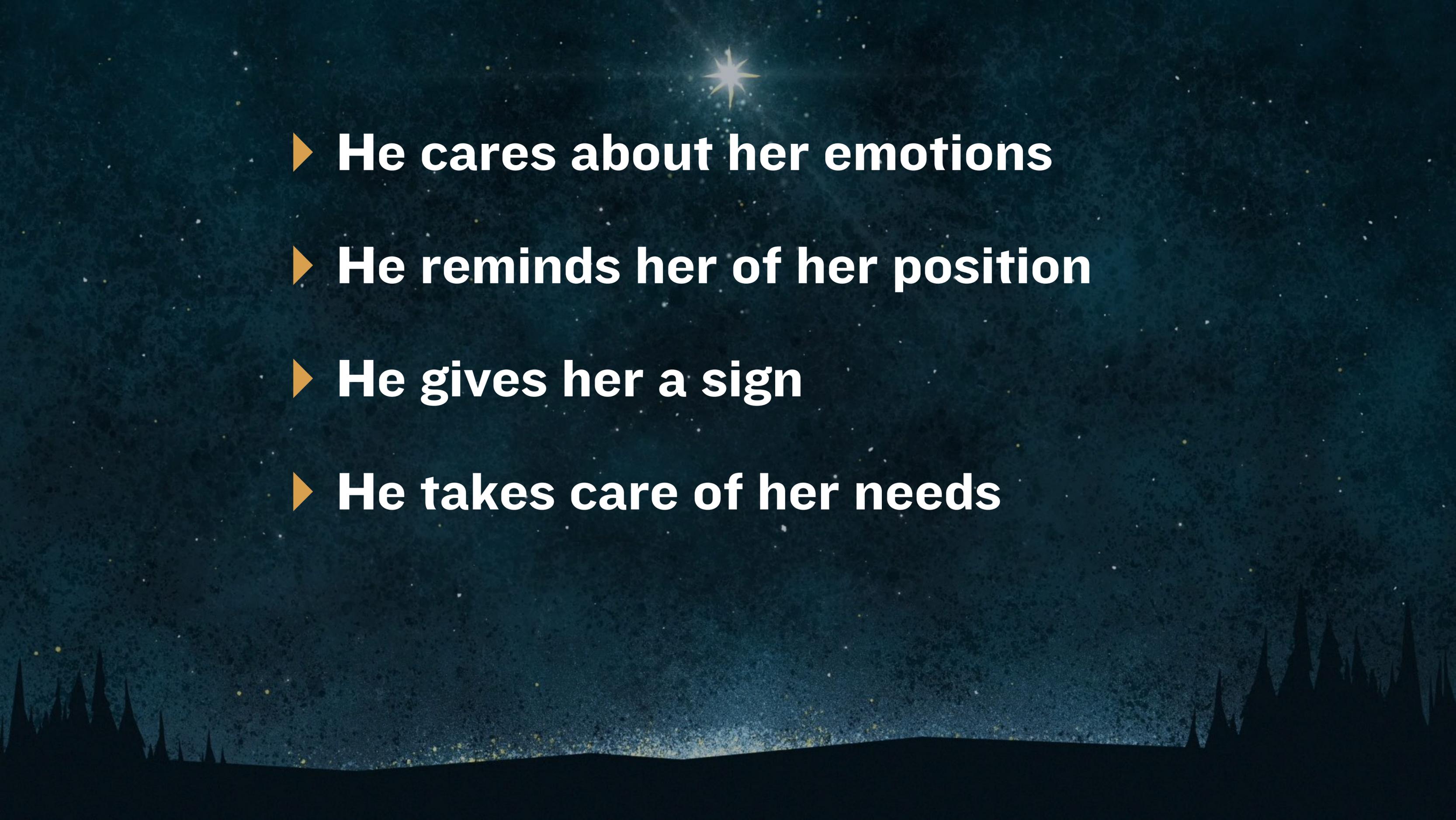
**What does this passage  
say about God?**

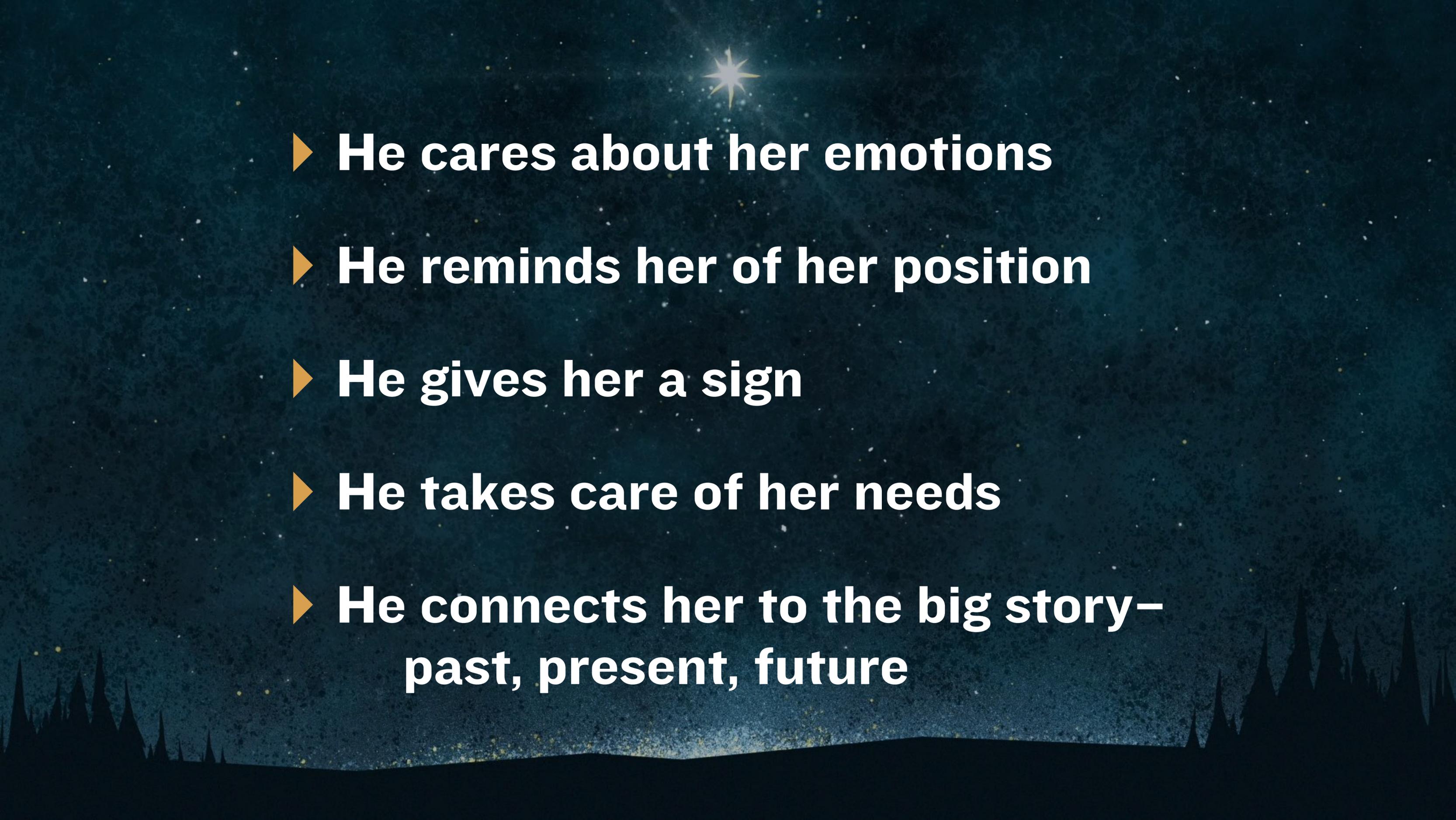


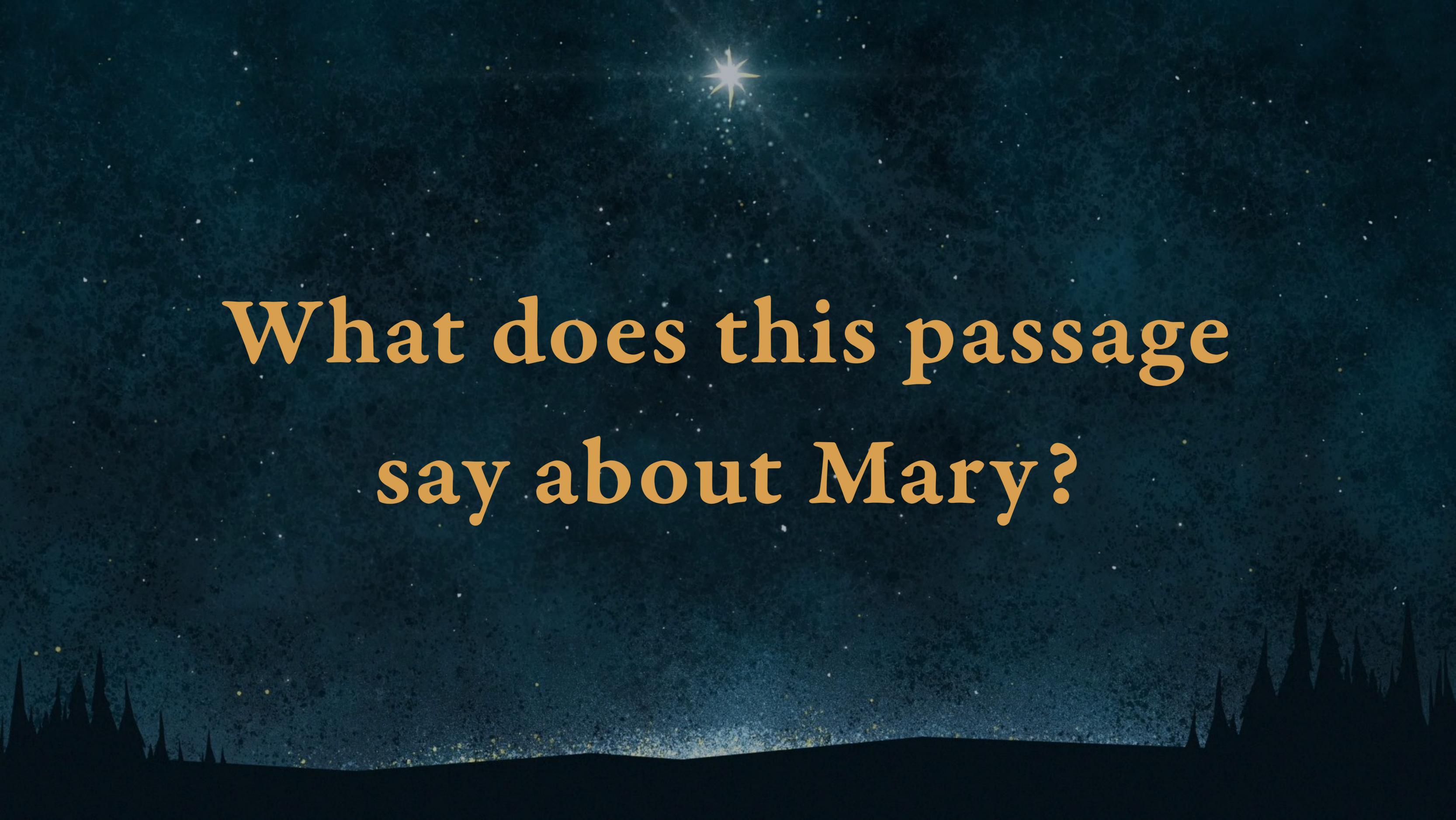
▶ **He cares about her emotions**

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- ▶ **He cares about her emotions**
  - ▶ **He reminds her of her position**

- 
- A night sky with a star and a forest silhouette. The background is a dark blue night sky filled with numerous small, faint stars. A single, larger, bright star with a multi-pointed, starburst-like glow is positioned near the top center. At the bottom of the image, there is a dark silhouette of a forest with various tree shapes, including some with pointed tops. The overall scene is serene and evocative of a quiet night.
- ▶ **He cares about her emotions**
  - ▶ **He reminds her of her position**
  - ▶ **He gives her a sign**

- 
- A dark blue night sky with a bright star at the top center. The bottom of the image shows a silhouette of a forest with pointed trees.
- ▶ **He cares about her emotions**
  - ▶ **He reminds her of her position**
  - ▶ **He gives her a sign**
  - ▶ **He takes care of her needs**

- 
- A night sky with a star and a forest silhouette. The background is a dark blue night sky filled with small white stars. A single, larger, bright star with a multi-pointed, glowing aura is positioned near the top center. At the bottom of the image, there is a dark silhouette of a forest with pointed trees, and a dark, undulating horizon line below it.
- ▶ **He cares about her emotions**
  - ▶ **He reminds her of her position**
  - ▶ **He gives her a sign**
  - ▶ **He takes care of her needs**
  - ▶ **He connects her to the big story—  
past, present, future**

A night sky with a bright star and a silhouette of a forest.

**What does this passage  
say about Mary?**

## LUKE 1:38A

38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled”...

## HEBREWS 10:23

<sup>23</sup> Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,  
for he who promised is faithful.



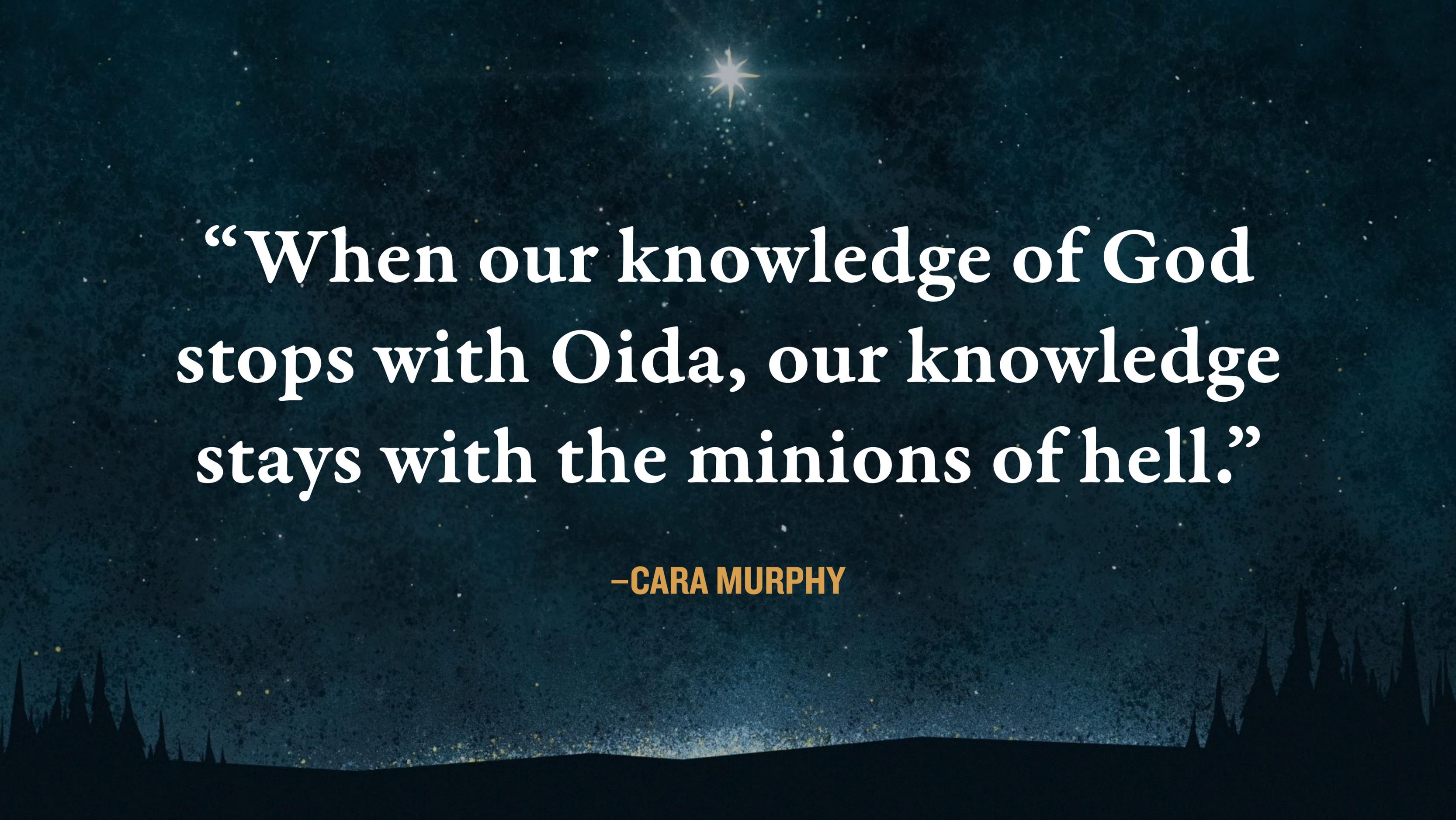
**“To Know” . . .**

# –OIDA

Addresses the domain of the intellect. Study scripture to apply our intellect to the word of God.

## MARK 1:34B

34 ...he would not let the demons speak because they knew (*oida*) who he was.

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**“When our knowledge of God  
stops with Oida, our knowledge  
stays with the minions of hell.”**

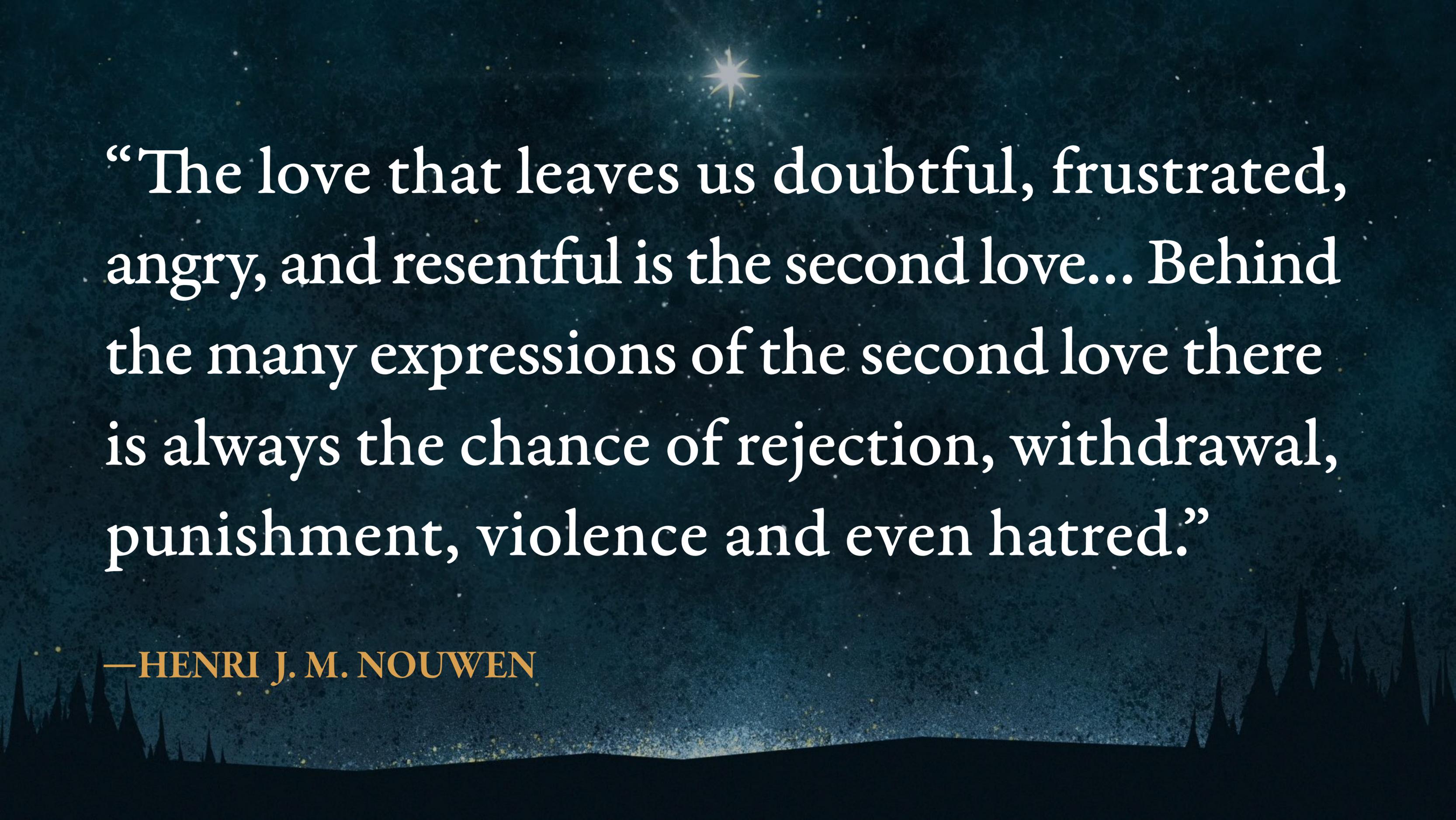
**–CARA MURPHY**

## –GINOSKO

It is a dynamic active knowing that involves the intellect but also the soul. It is so deep and such a mystery it is often biblically an idiom for sexual intimacy. It is a progressive intimate knowing.

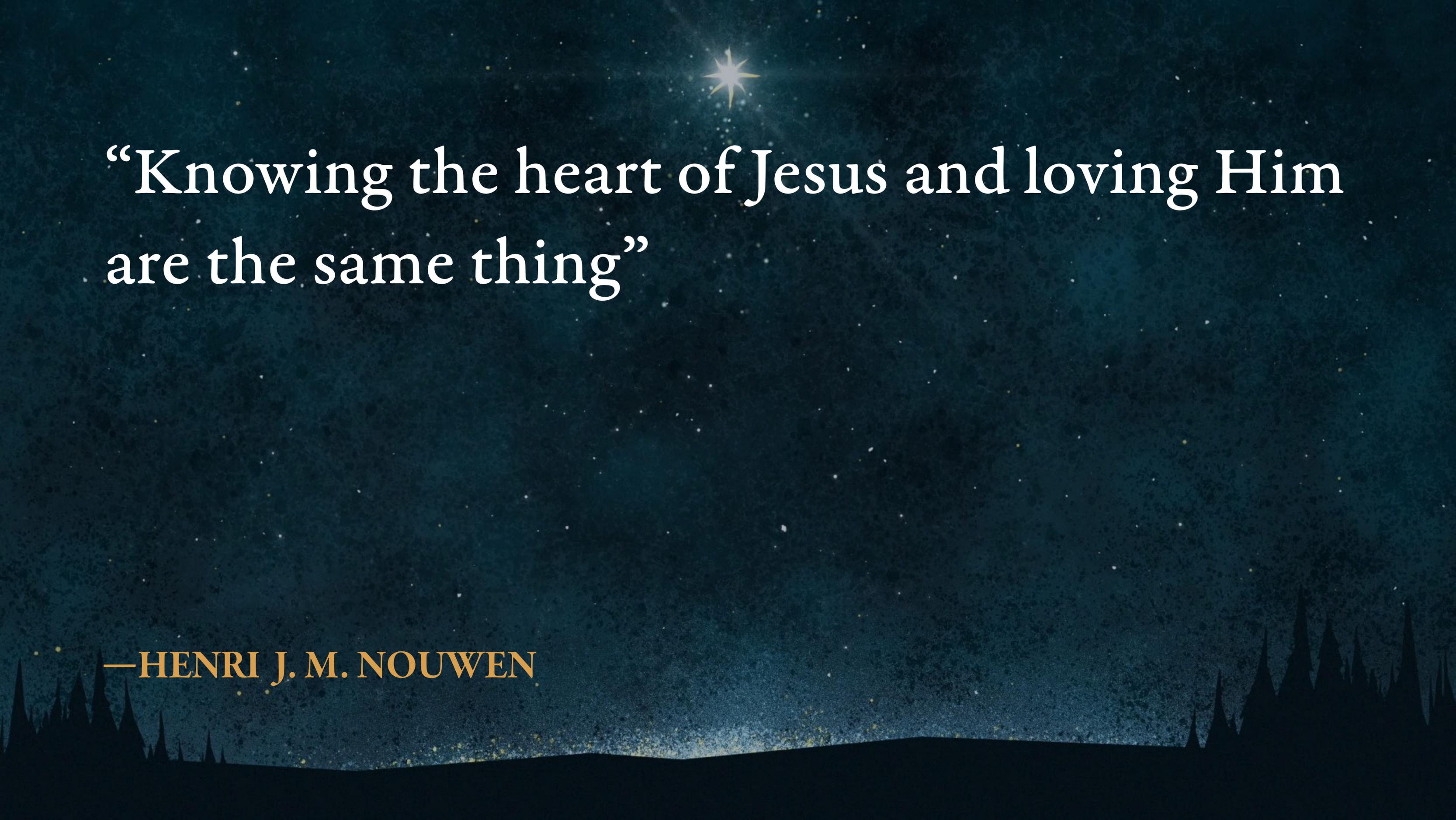
## REVELATION 2:4 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.



“The love that leaves us doubtful, frustrated, angry, and resentful is the second love... Behind the many expressions of the second love there is always the chance of rejection, withdrawal, punishment, violence and even hatred.”

—HENRI J. M. NOUWEN



“Knowing the heart of Jesus and loving Him  
are the same thing”

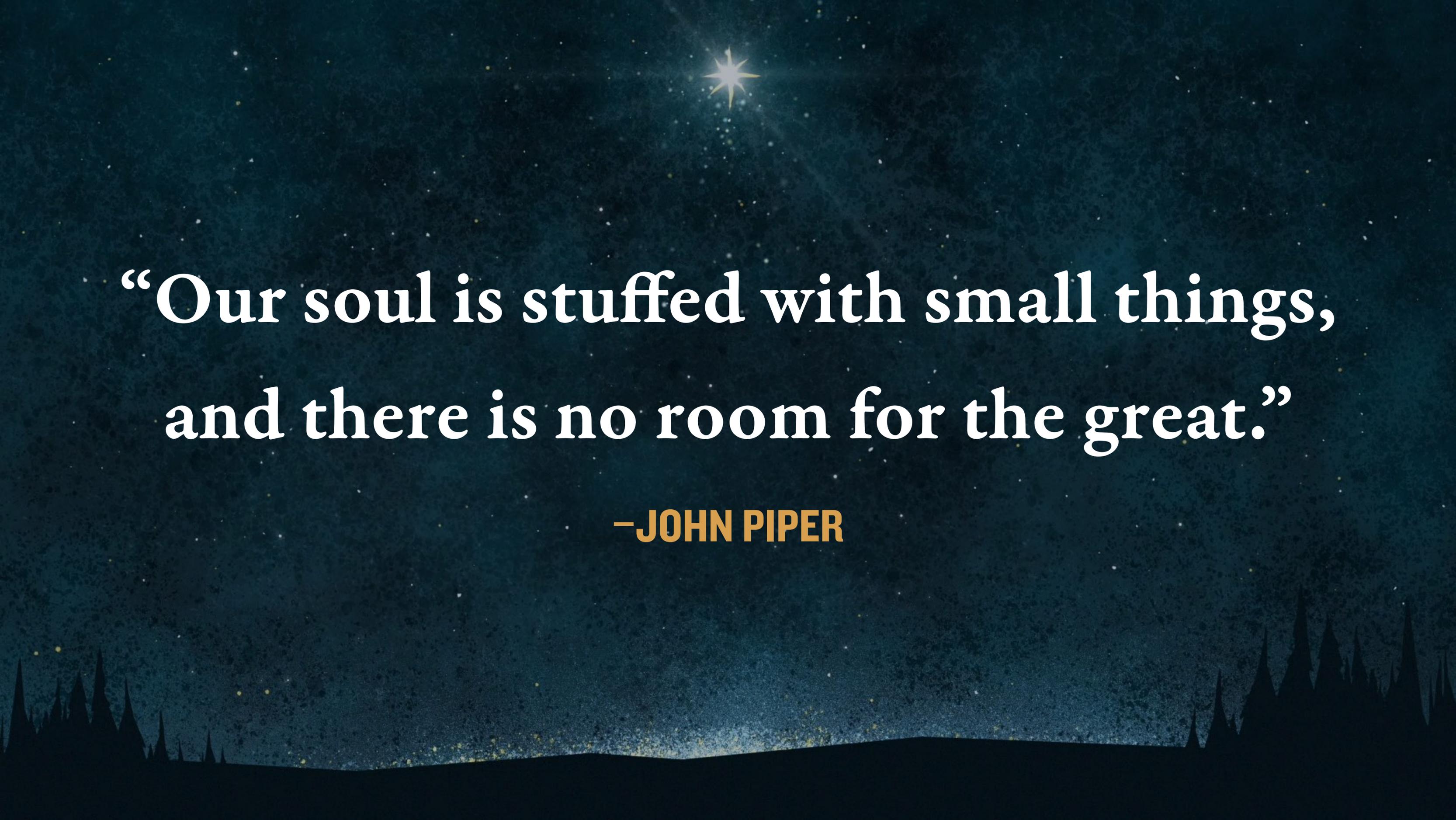
—HENRI J. M. NOUWEN

## JEREMIAH 9:23-24

<sup>23</sup> This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches,

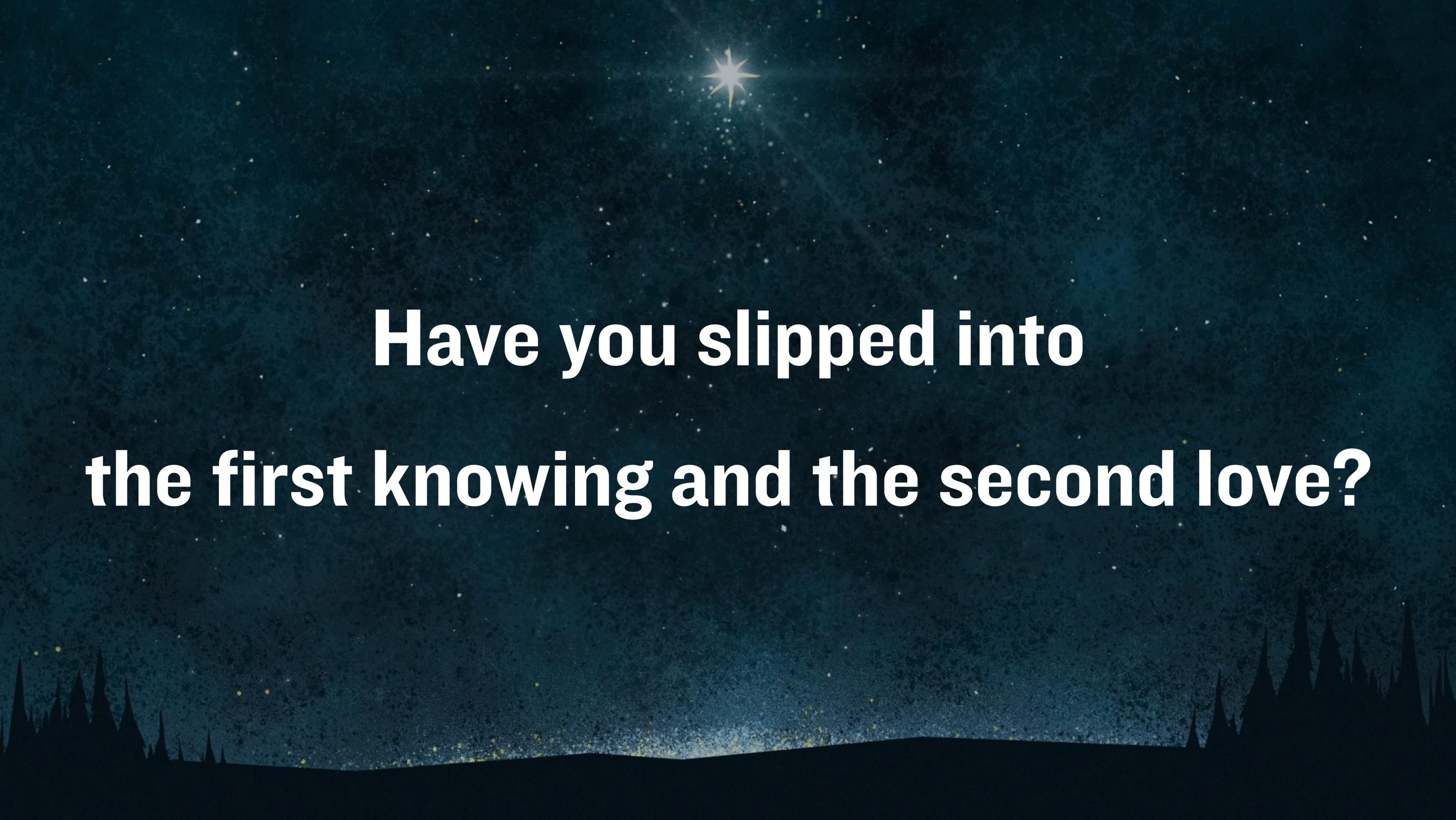
## JEREMIAH 9:23-24

<sup>24</sup> but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.



“Our soul is stuffed with small things,  
and there is no room for the great.”

—JOHN PIPER

A dark blue night sky filled with stars, with a prominent bright star at the top center. The bottom of the image shows a silhouette of a forest with pointed trees against a dark horizon.

**Have you slipped into  
the first knowing and the second love?**

