



Make  
Yourself  
at HOME

*Melinda Priest*



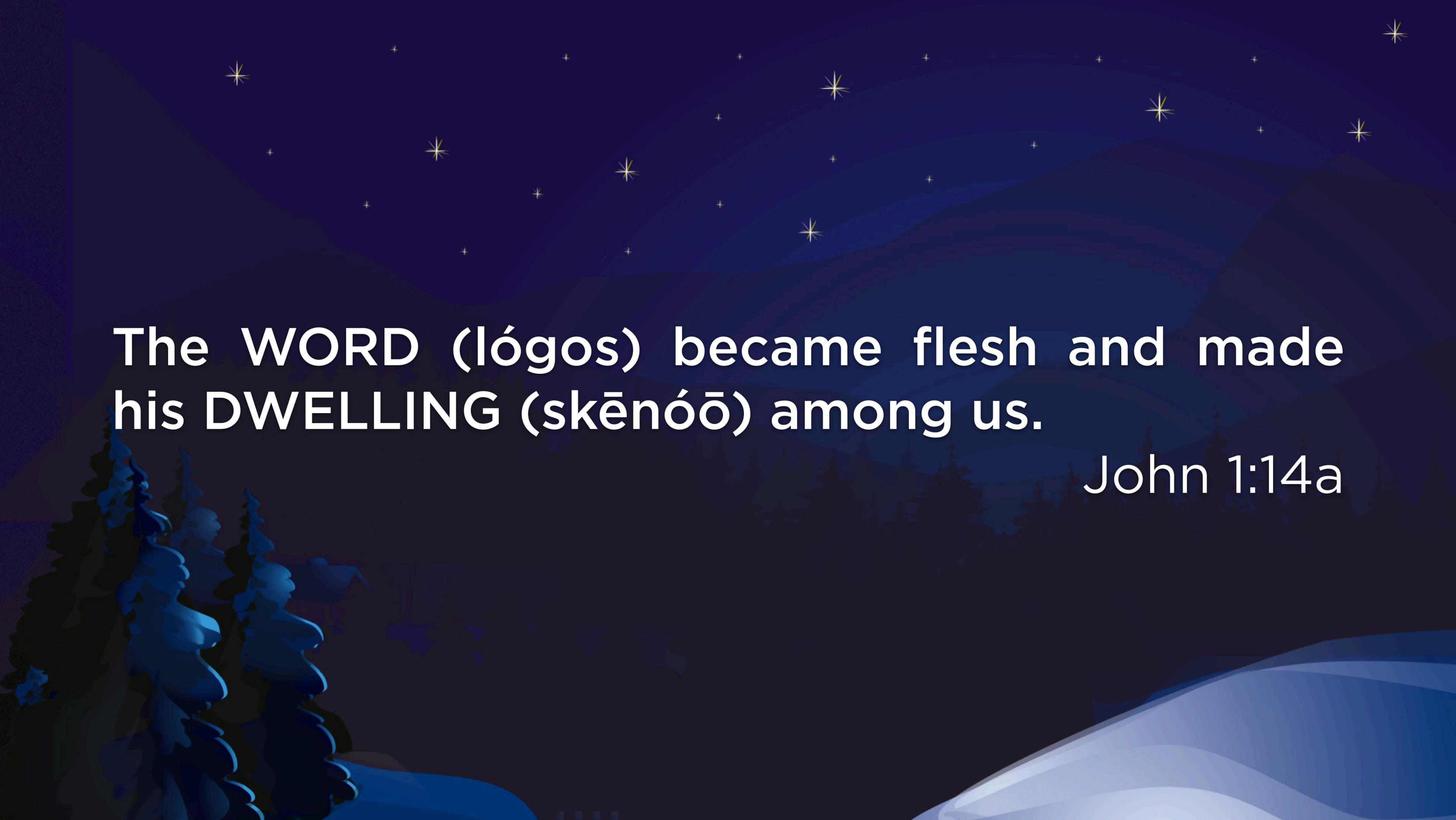
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A stylized night landscape with mountains, trees, and a starry sky. The scene is rendered in shades of blue and dark blue, with a starry sky and silhouetted trees and mountains. The text "John 1:1-14" is centered in the middle of the image.

# John 1:1-14

A night landscape with a starry sky, rolling hills, and evergreen trees. The sky is dark blue with numerous yellow stars of varying sizes. The hills are rendered in shades of blue and purple, creating a sense of depth. In the foreground, there are several evergreen trees, some in silhouette and some with a slight blue glow. The overall mood is serene and peaceful.

The WORD (lógos) became flesh and made  
his DWELLING (skēnóō) among us.

John 1:14a

A night landscape illustration. The sky is dark blue with numerous white stars of varying sizes. Below the sky are rolling hills and mountains in shades of blue. In the foreground, there are several dark blue evergreen trees on the left side. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.

# Lógos

a word, being the expression of  
a thought; a saying.

# Skēnóō

to tent or encamp, to occupy (as a mansion) or to reside (as God did in the Tabernacle of old, a symbol of protection and communion):—dwell.

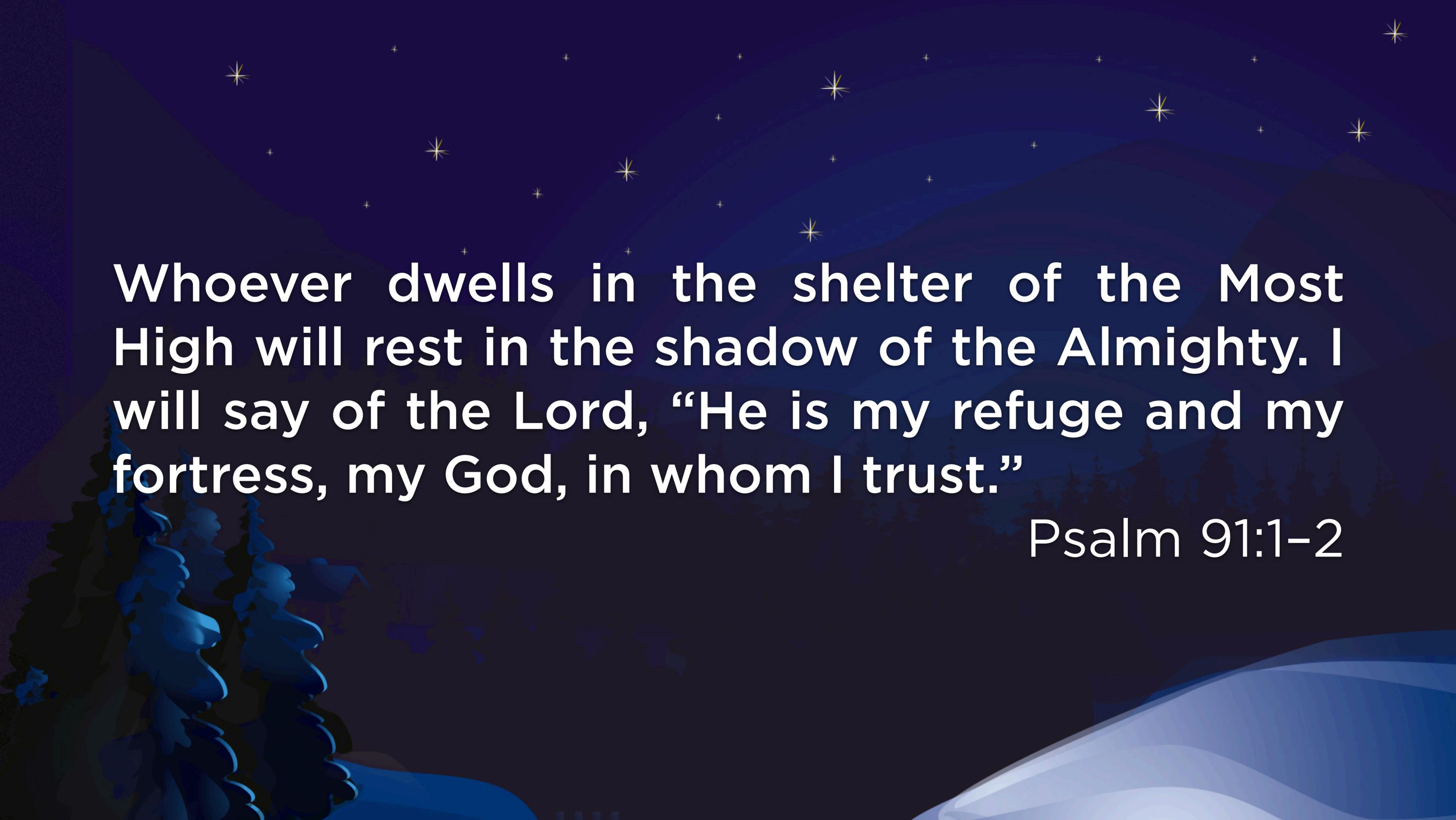


The Word became flesh and blood, and  
moved into the neighborhood.

John 1:14a (MSG)







Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

Psalm 91:1-2



If you are searching for HOME this morning Christ invites you to....make yourself at home in Him.



The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give."... "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.

Exodus 25: 1-2, 8

Tabernacle, Tent of Meeting “Tabernacle” in Hebrew (mishkan) is a general word for a tent or a dwelling. In the Pentateuch particularly, “tabernacle” most often refers to the special dwelling place of God among the Hebrew people during their wandering through the wilderness. The tabernacle was the abode of God’s glory before the building of Solomon’s temple in Jerusalem.

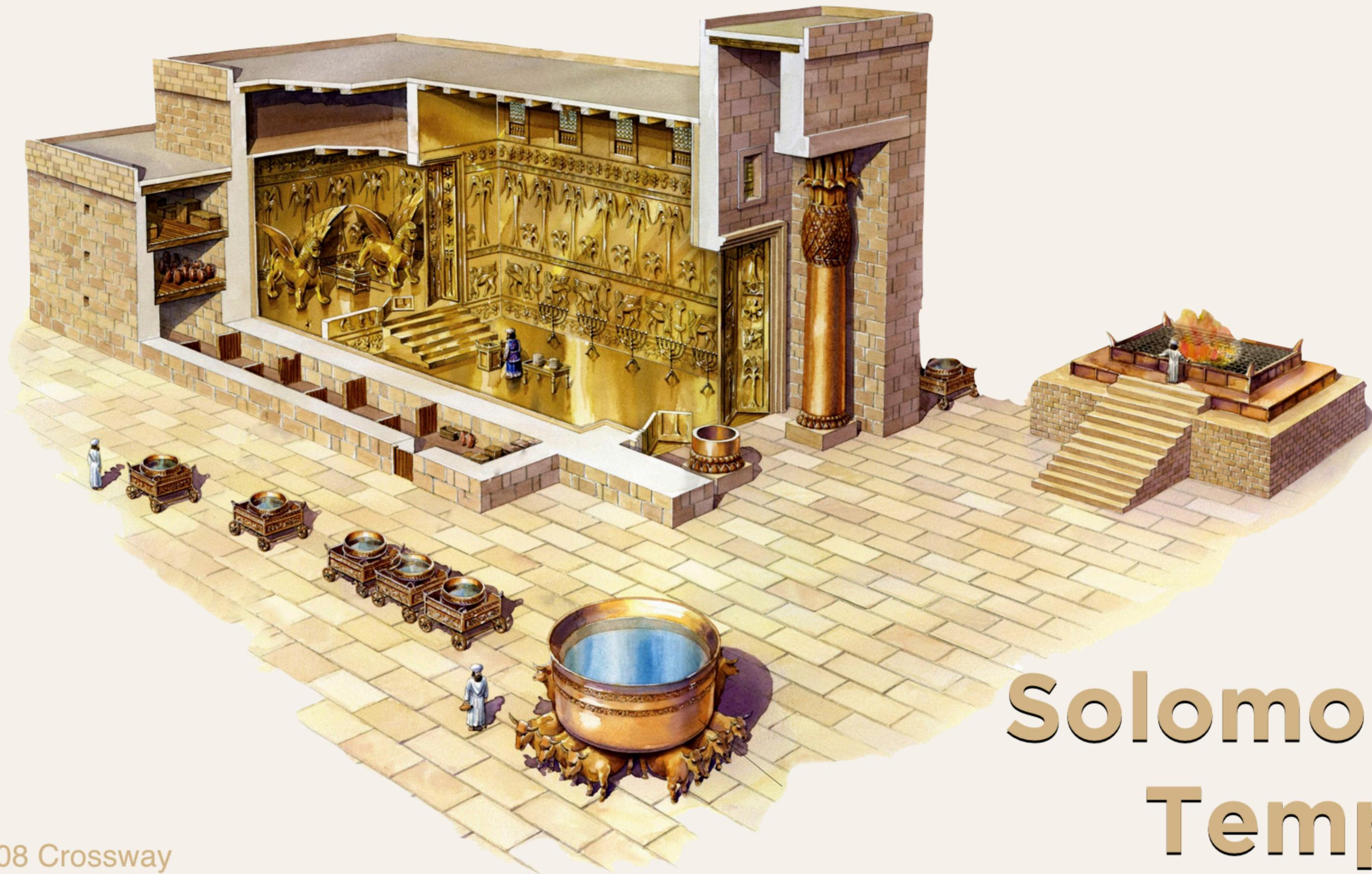
Tremper Longman III



# Tabernacle

My father David had it in his heart to build a temple for the Name of the Lord, the God of Israel. But the Lord said to my father David, “You did well to have it in your heart to build a temple for my Name. Nevertheless, you are not the one to build the temple, but your son, your own flesh and blood—he is the one who will build the temple for my Name.”

1 Kings 8:17–19

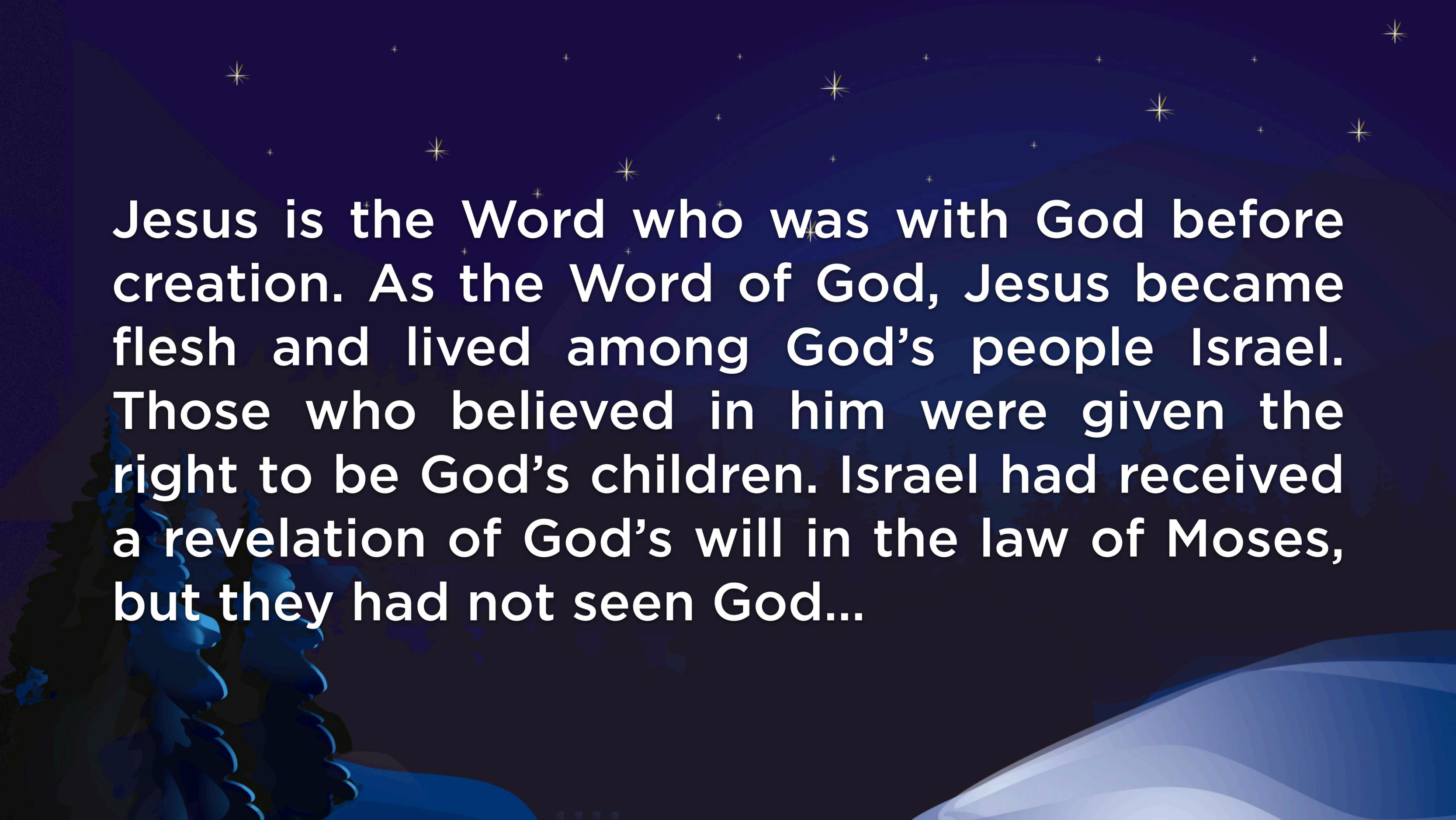


# Solomon's Temple

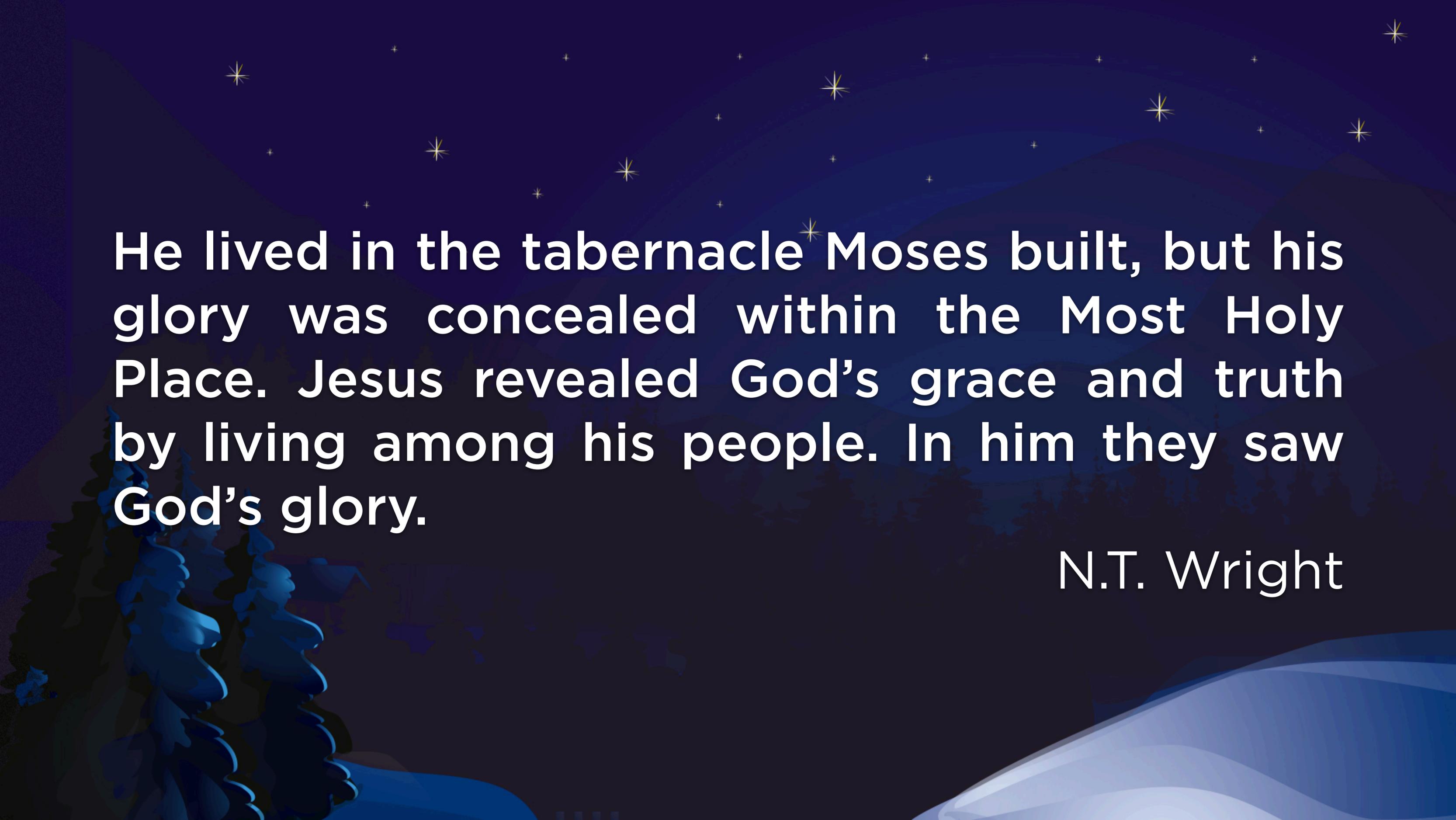


# Herod's Temple

0907 47 43  
Please do not climb



Jesus is the Word who was with God before creation. As the Word of God, Jesus became flesh and lived among God's people Israel. Those who believed in him were given the right to be God's children. Israel had received a revelation of God's will in the law of Moses, but they had not seen God...

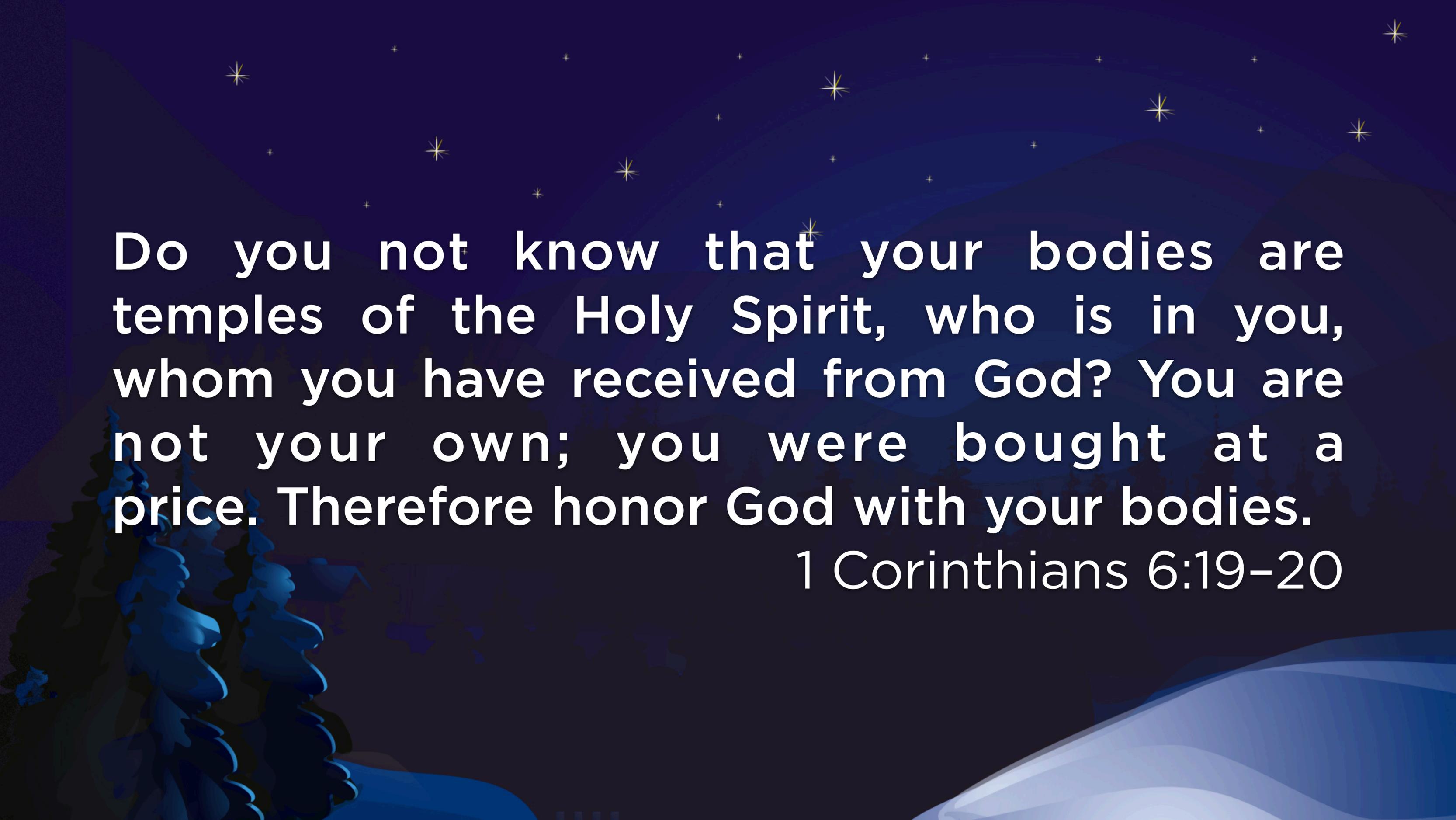
The background features a dark blue night sky filled with numerous small, bright yellow stars. In the lower portion of the image, there are stylized blue hills and a large, dark blue evergreen tree on the left side. The overall aesthetic is serene and celestial.

He lived in the tabernacle Moses built, but his glory was concealed within the Most Holy Place. Jesus revealed God's grace and truth by living among his people. In him they saw God's glory.

N.T. Wright

A night landscape illustration. The sky is dark blue with numerous white stars of varying sizes. Below the sky are several layers of dark blue mountains, creating a sense of depth. In the foreground, there are dark blue evergreen trees on the left and a lighter blue, rounded shape on the right, possibly representing a snowdrift or a hill. The overall mood is serene and quiet.

**You are His temple!**

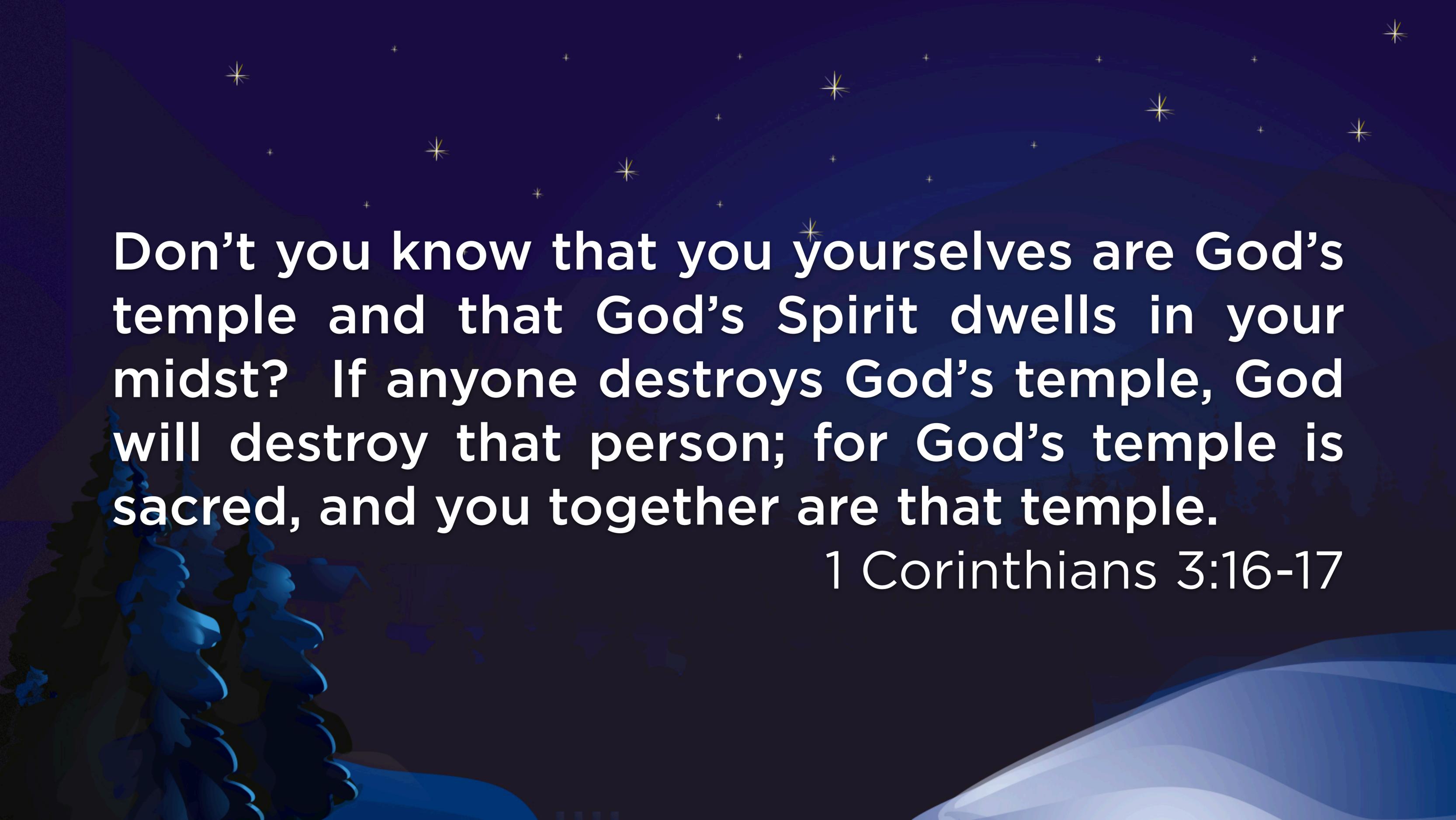
A night sky with a dark blue background, scattered with numerous small, bright yellow stars. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of blue mountains and a large, dark blue evergreen tree on the left side.

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

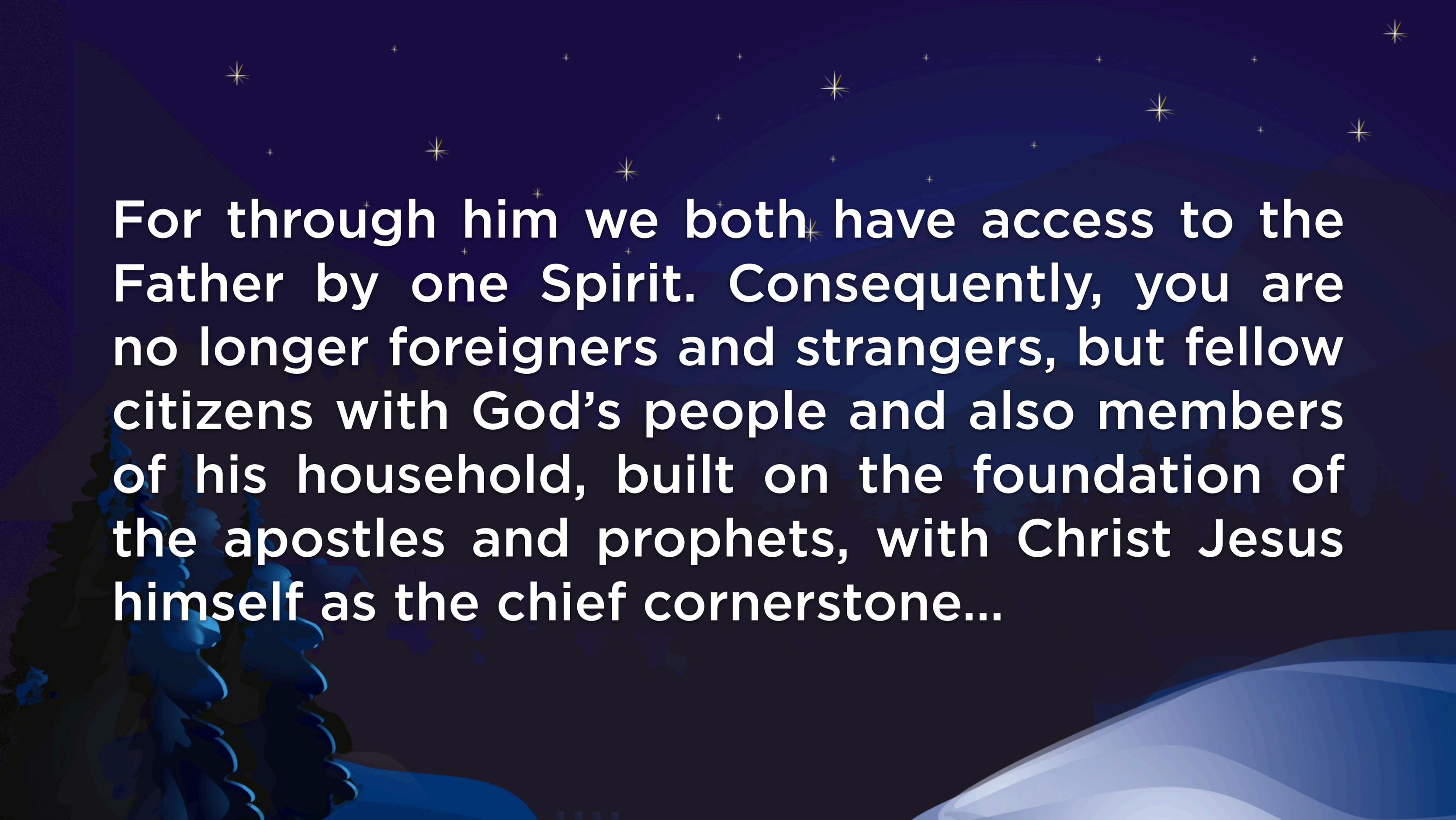
A night landscape illustration. The sky is dark blue with numerous white stars of varying sizes. Below the sky are rolling hills and mountains in shades of blue. In the foreground, there are several evergreen trees, some in silhouette and some with a light blue glow. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.

**Christ wants to make  
His home in us!**

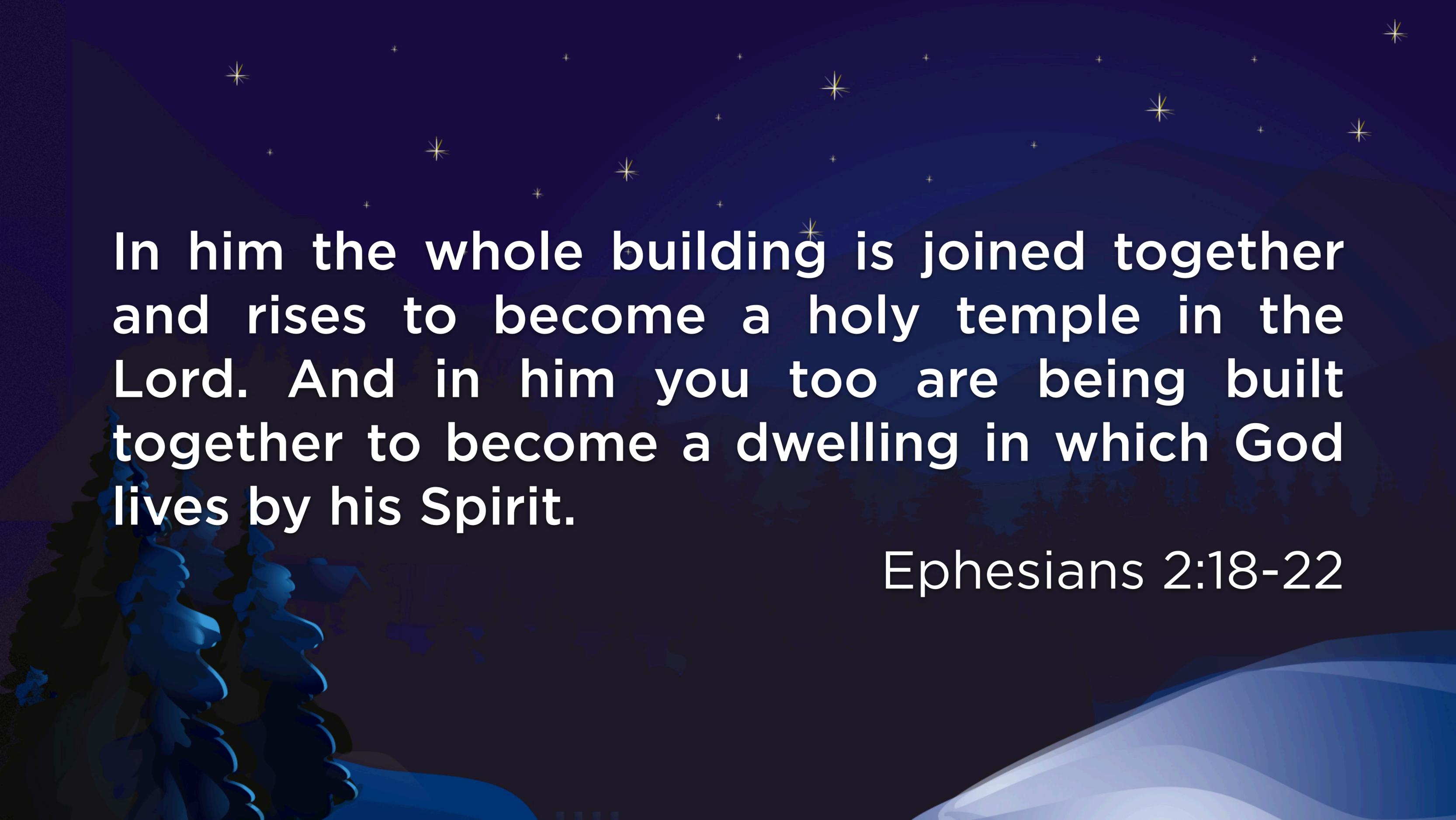


Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17



For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone...



In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:18-22

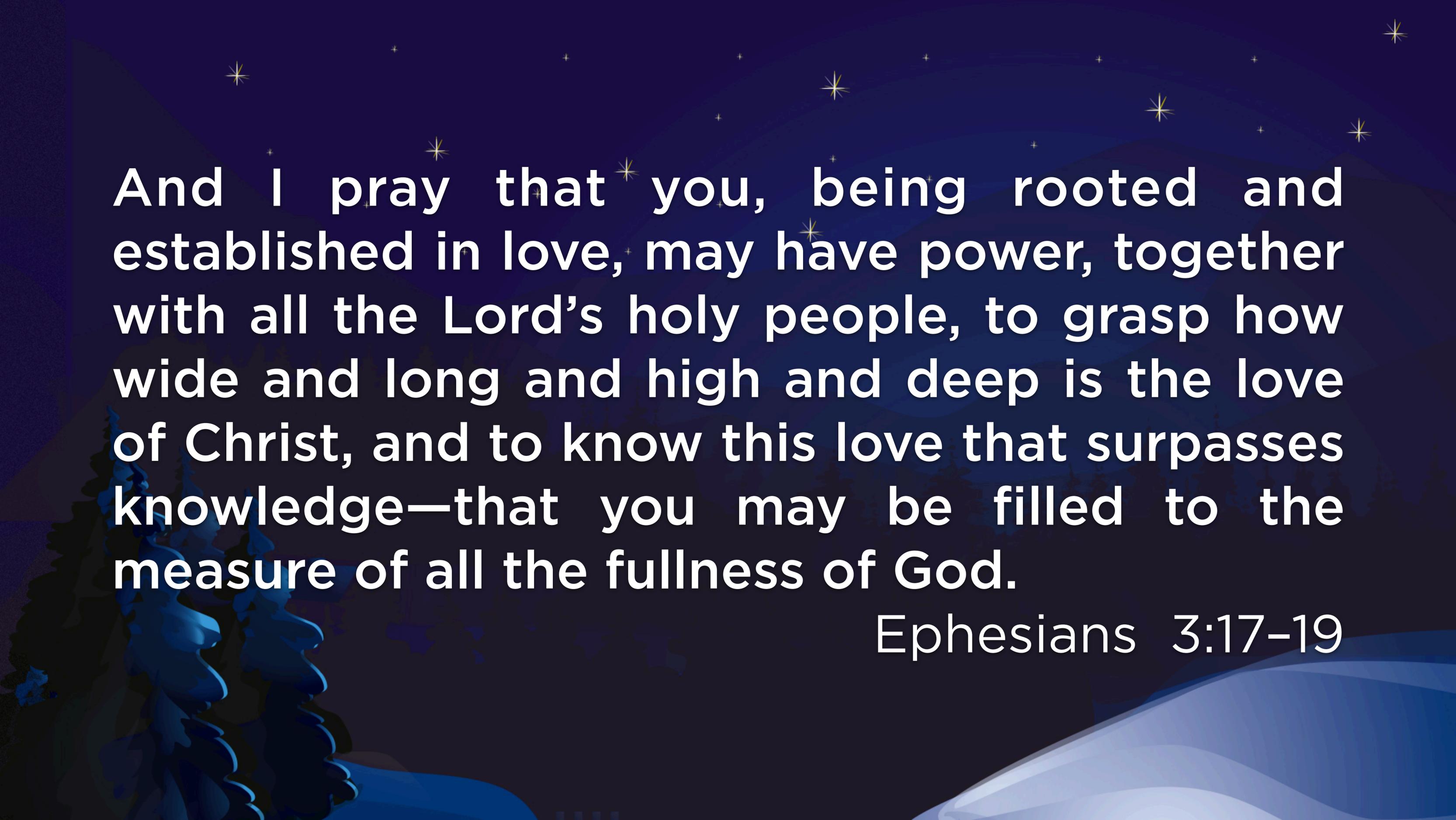
A night landscape with a starry sky, rolling hills, and evergreen trees. The sky is dark blue with numerous yellow and white stars of varying sizes. The hills are rendered in shades of blue and purple, creating a sense of depth. In the foreground, there are several evergreen trees, some in silhouette and some with a light blue glow. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

The reality is God no longer dwells in a house made with human hands. Christ dwells within His people..but only where He is invited.

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

Ephesians 3:14-17a

Pg. 1175

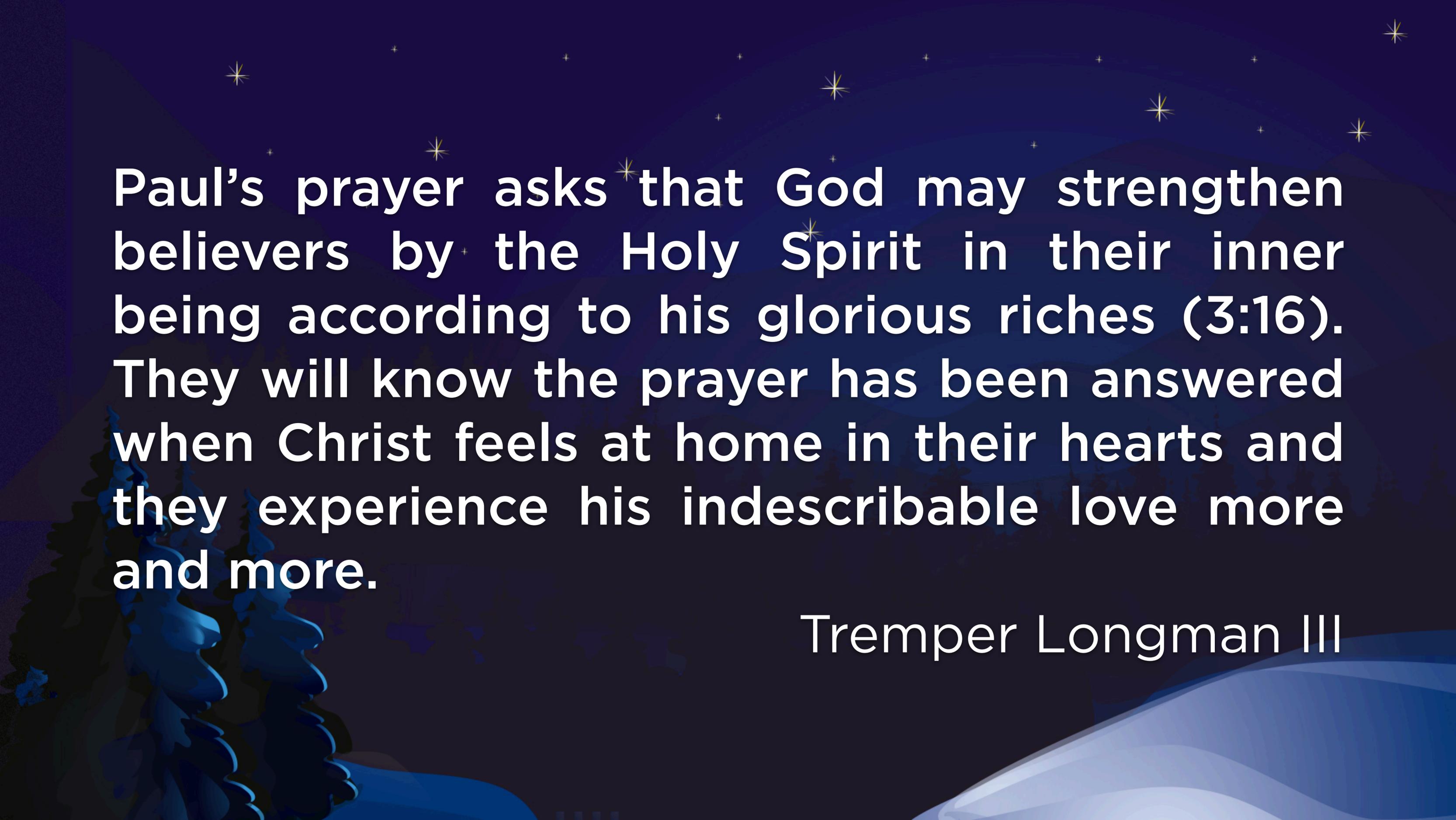


And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17-19

# Katoikéō

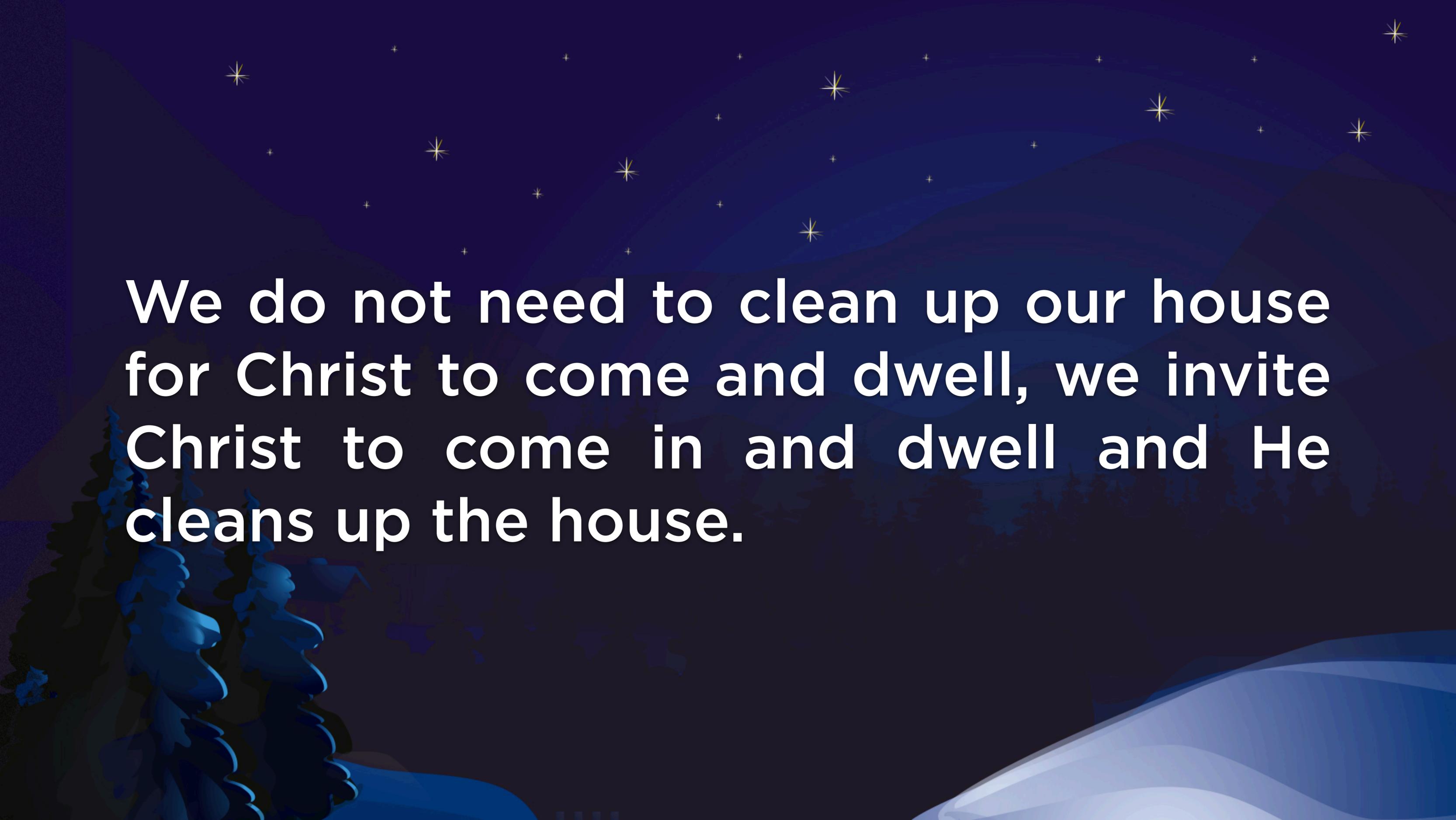
properly, settle down as a permanent resident, i.e. in a fixed (permanent) dwelling place as one's personal residence; (figuratively) "to be exactly at home.



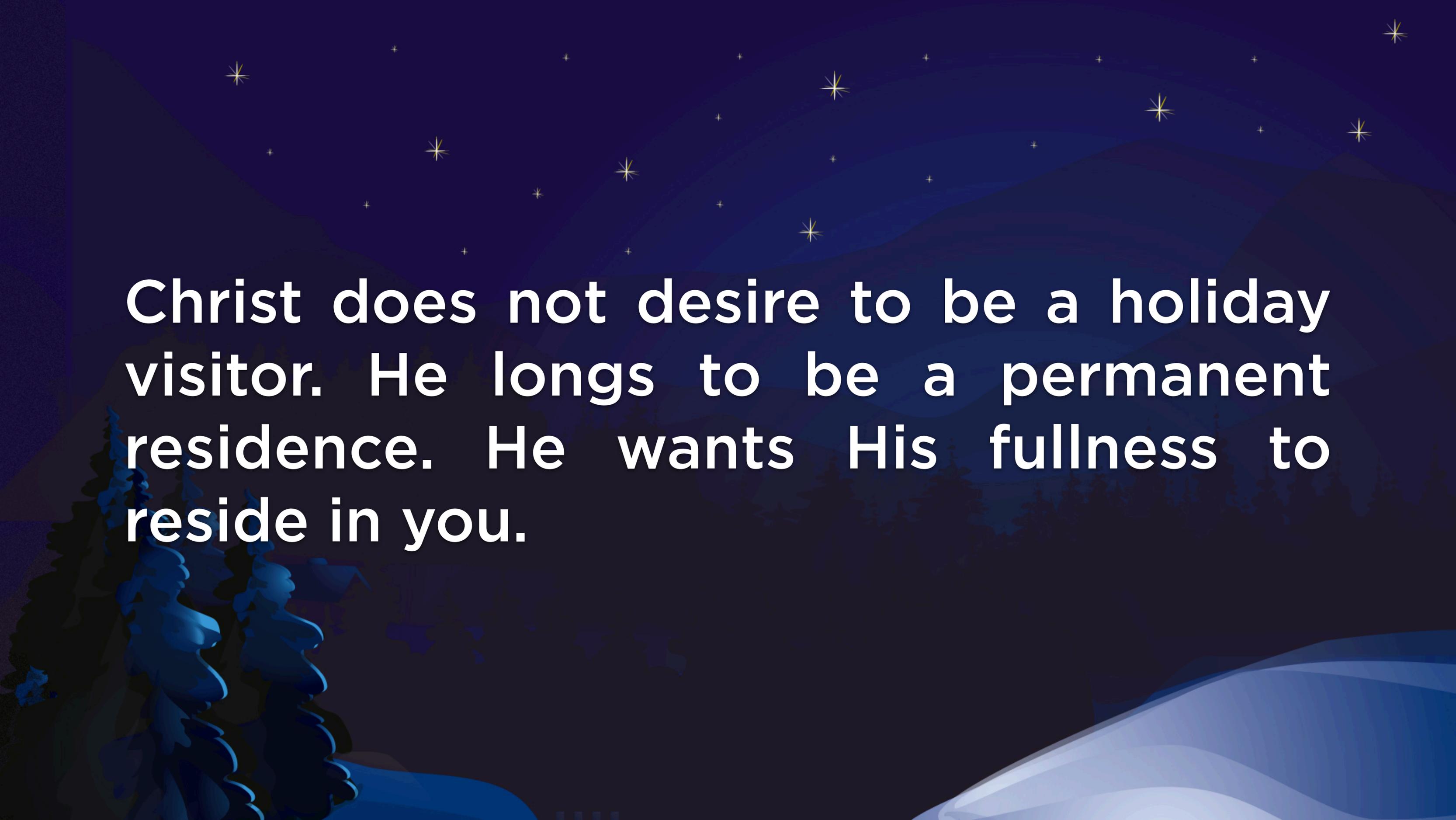
Paul's prayer asks that God may strengthen believers by the Holy Spirit in their inner being according to his glorious riches (3:16). They will know the prayer has been answered when Christ feels at home in their hearts and they experience his indescribable love more and more.

Tremper Longman III



A night landscape with a starry sky, rolling hills, and evergreen trees. The sky is dark blue with numerous small, bright stars. The hills are rendered in shades of blue, and the trees in the foreground are dark blue and silhouetted against the night sky.

**We do not need to clean up our house  
for Christ to come and dwell, we invite  
Christ to come in and dwell and He  
cleans up the house.**

A night landscape with a starry sky, dark blue mountains, and evergreen trees in the foreground. The sky is a deep blue with numerous small, bright yellow stars. The mountains are dark blue and layered, creating a sense of depth. In the foreground, there are several evergreen trees, some in silhouette and some with a light blue glow. The overall mood is serene and peaceful.

**Christ does not desire to be a holiday visitor. He longs to be a permanent residence. He wants His fullness to reside in you.**

# Fullness

In the New Testament the body of believers, as that which is filled with the presence, power, agency, riches of God and of Christ: that you may become a body wholly filled and flooded by God.

Paul prays for the power of the Spirit (3:16b-17a), “so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.” He is not talking about a dramatic, one-time experience, but rather an ongoing experience of God’s power to change our hearts, as we walk in the Spirit every day, that results in Christ’s taking up residence in us in a deeper, more conscious way than we experienced at conversion.

Steve Cole

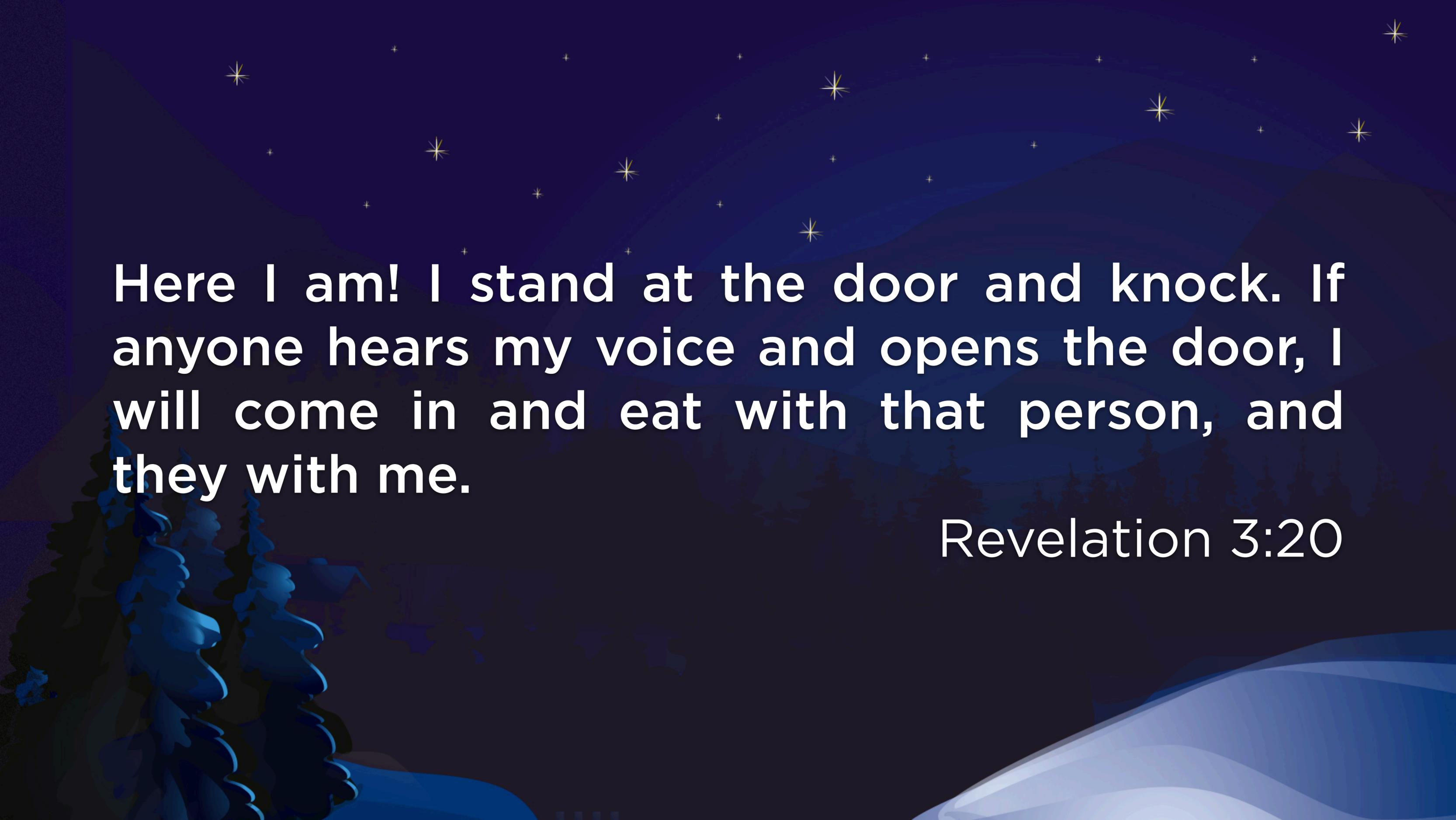
A night landscape illustration. The sky is dark blue with numerous yellow and white stars of varying sizes. Below the sky are dark blue, layered mountain ranges. In the foreground, there are dark blue evergreen trees on the left and a lighter blue, rounded shape on the right, possibly representing a snow-covered hill or a body of water. The overall scene is serene and quiet.

**God does not desire perfection, but He  
does require our permission.**

A night landscape illustration. The sky is dark blue with numerous yellow and white stars of varying sizes. Below the sky are dark blue, layered mountain ranges. In the foreground, there are dark blue evergreen trees on the left and a lighter blue, rounded shape on the right, possibly representing a snow-covered hill or a body of water. The overall scene is serene and quiet.

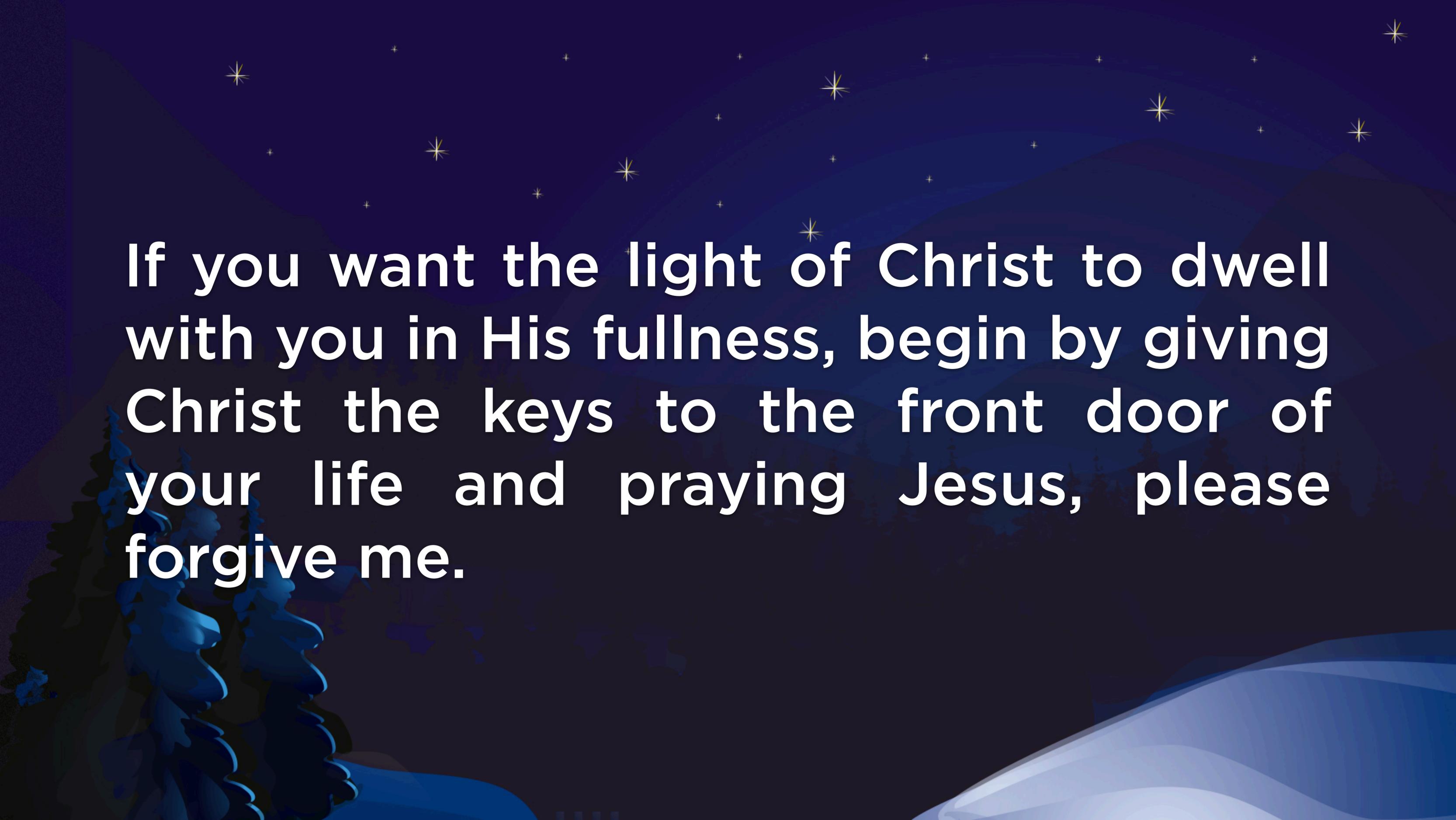
**God does not desire perfection, but He  
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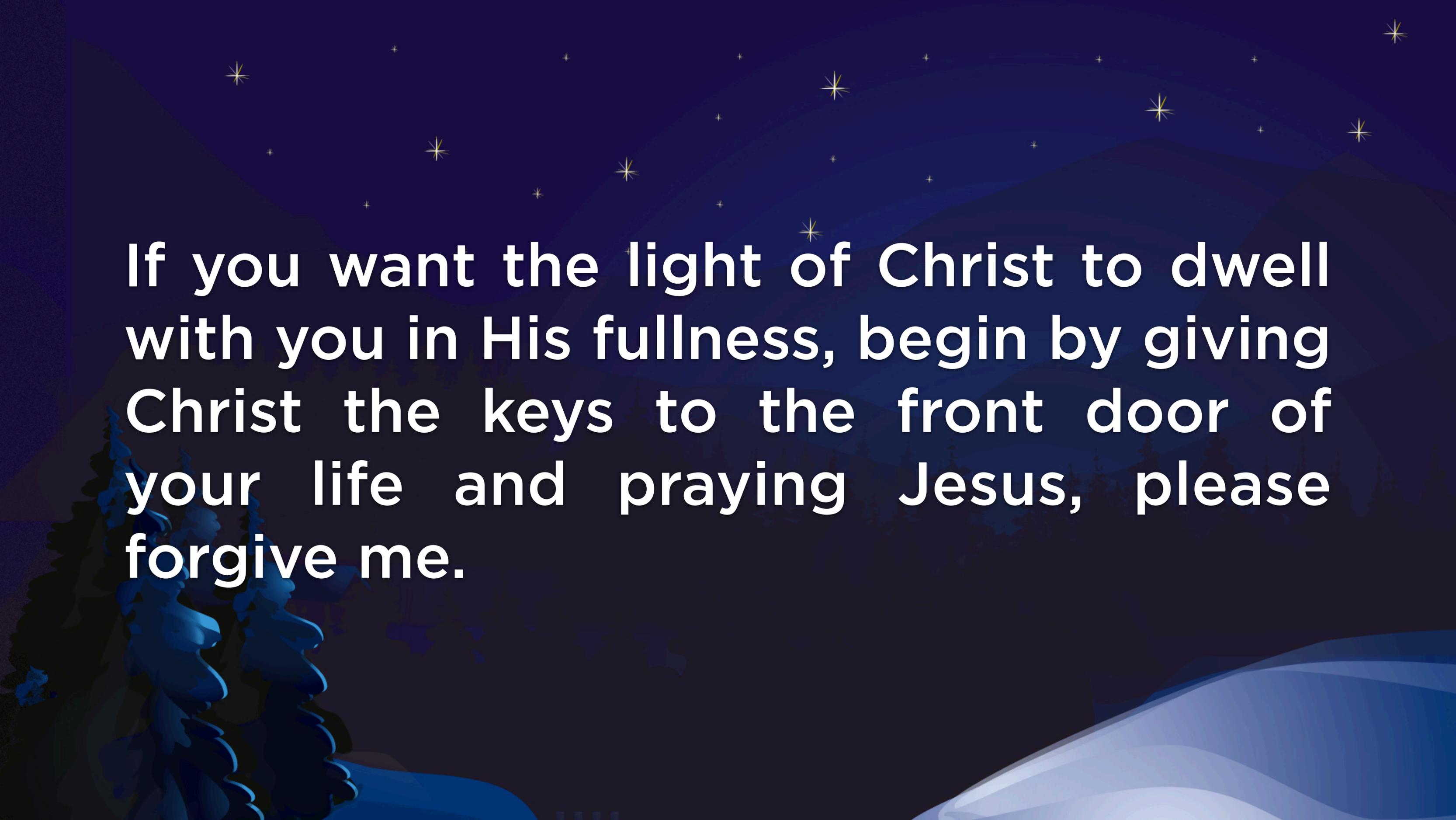


Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Revelation 3:20

A night landscape with a dark blue sky filled with numerous small, bright stars. In the foreground, there are rolling hills and a large, dark blue pine tree on the left side. The overall scene is serene and peaceful.

If you want the light of Christ to dwell with you in His fullness, begin by giving Christ the keys to the front door of your life and praying Jesus, please forgive me.

A night landscape with a dark blue sky filled with numerous small, bright stars. In the foreground, there are rolling hills and evergreen trees, all rendered in shades of blue. The overall scene is serene and peaceful.

If you want the light of Christ to dwell with you in His fullness, begin by giving Christ the keys to the front door of your life and praying Jesus, please forgive me.



A 3D-rendered wooden door with a silver handle and a gold-colored rectangular frame. The word "FEAR" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters in the center of the door. The door is set in a dark grey frame against a dark grey wall. The floor is a light brown wood-grain pattern.

**FEAR**



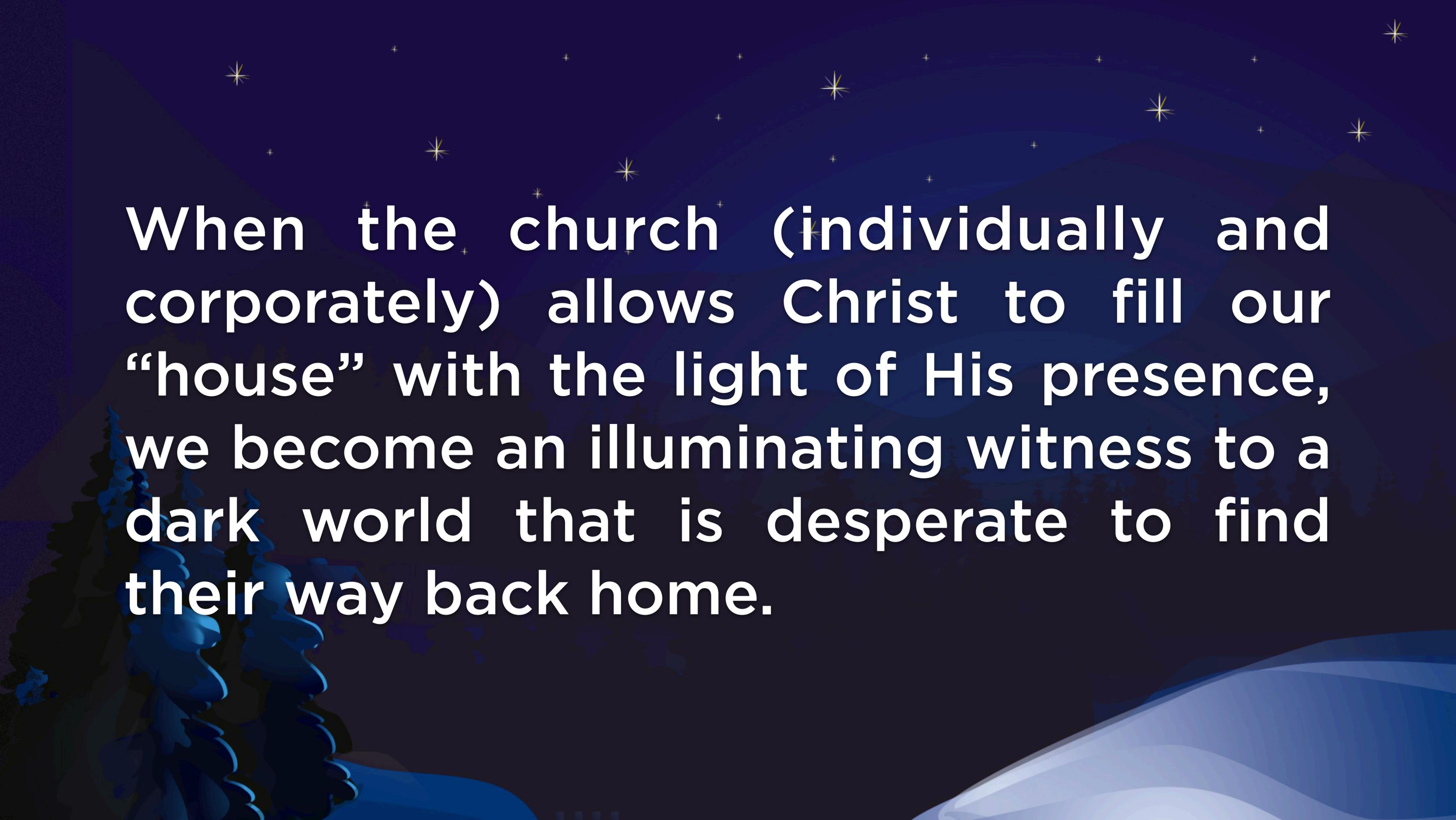
A 3D-rendered wooden door with a silver handle and a gold-colored rectangular frame. The door is set in a dark grey frame against a dark grey wall. The floor is a light brown wood. The word "DISAPPOINTMENT" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the door.

**DISAPPOINTMENT**





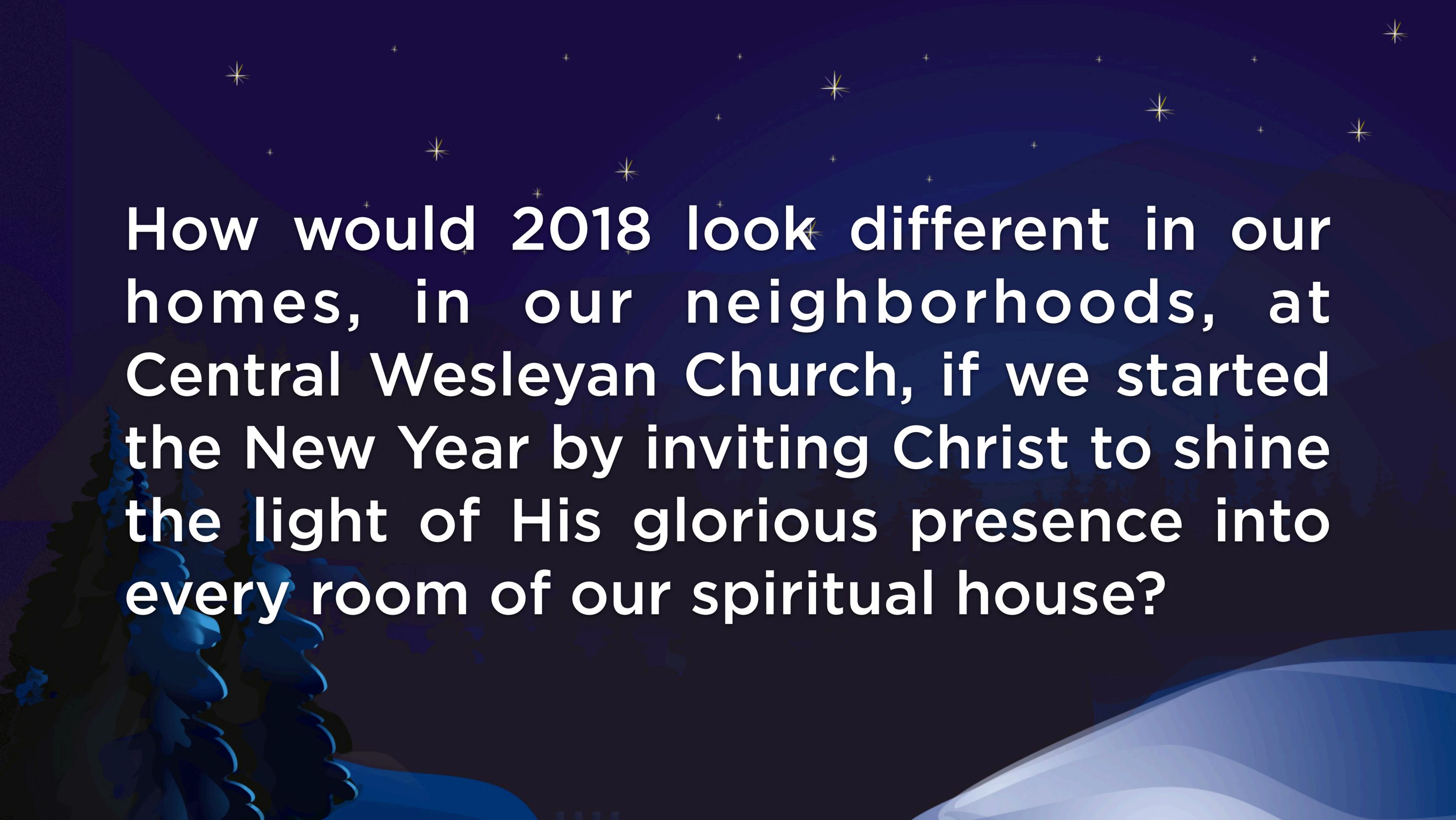


The background features a dark blue night sky filled with numerous small, bright yellow stars. In the lower portion, there are dark blue, stylized silhouettes of a tree on the left and rolling hills or mountains on the right. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

When the church (individually and corporately) allows Christ to fill our “house” with the light of His presence, we become an illuminating witness to a dark world that is desperate to find their way back home.

A night landscape with a starry sky, dark mountains, and evergreen trees in the foreground. The sky is a deep blue with numerous white stars of varying sizes. The mountains are dark blue and black, creating a sense of depth. In the foreground, there are several evergreen trees, some in silhouette and some with a light blue glow. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

**What if your New Year's resolution was  
to allow Christ to make Himself at  
home in your heart?**

The background features a dark blue night sky filled with numerous small, bright yellow and white stars. In the lower portion of the image, there is a silhouette of a mountain range in shades of blue. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

How would 2018 look different in our homes, in our neighborhoods, at Central Wesleyan Church, if we started the New Year by inviting Christ to shine the light of His glorious presence into every room of our spiritual house?

A stylized night landscape illustration. The background features layered, dark blue mountains under a deep blue sky filled with numerous small, bright yellow stars. In the foreground, there are dark blue evergreen trees on the left and a lighter blue, rounded shape on the right, possibly representing a snowdrift or a body of water. The overall mood is serene and quiet.

**Will you give Him the keys?**



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