

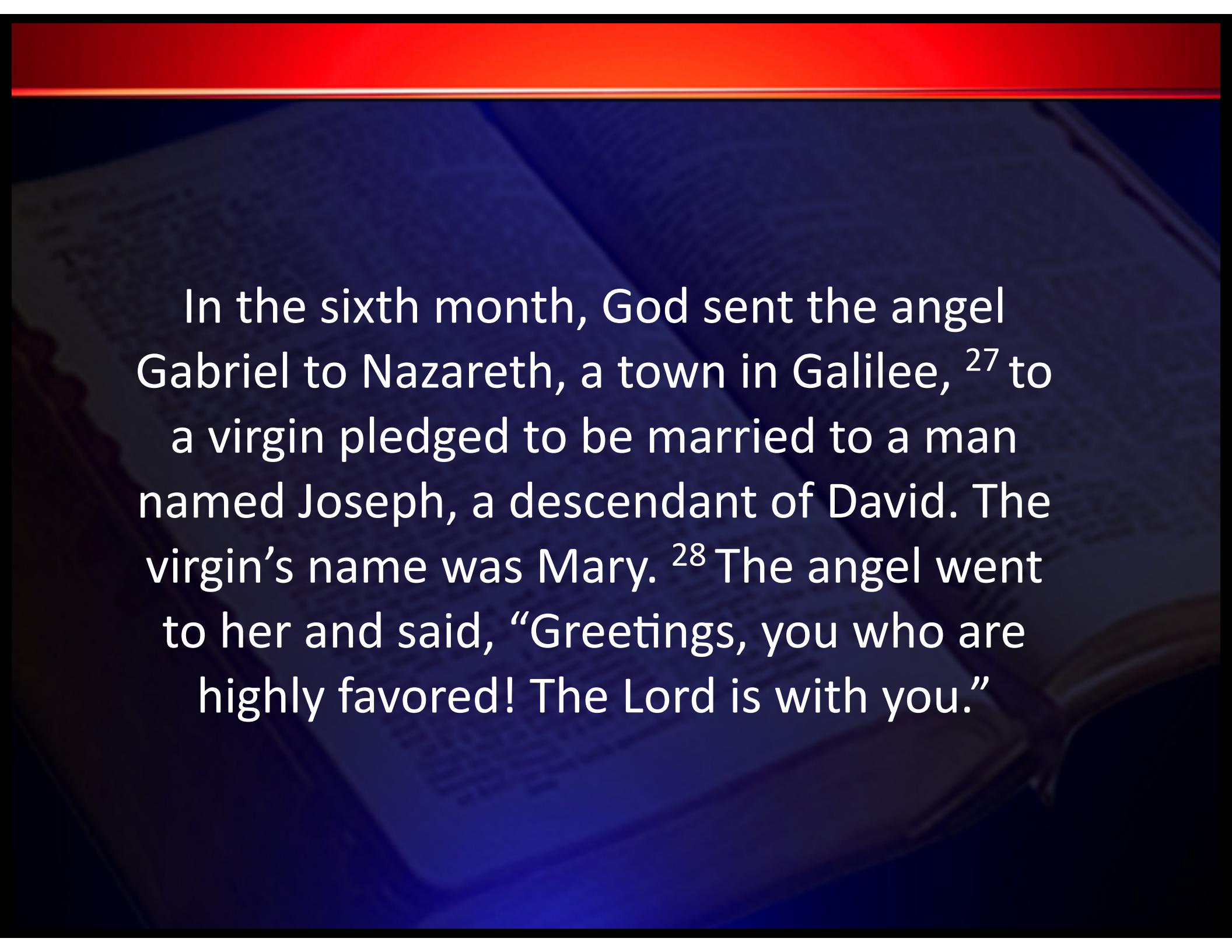
THE CHRISTMAS

L I G H T

SHINING A LIGHT ON THE BIRTH OF JESUS



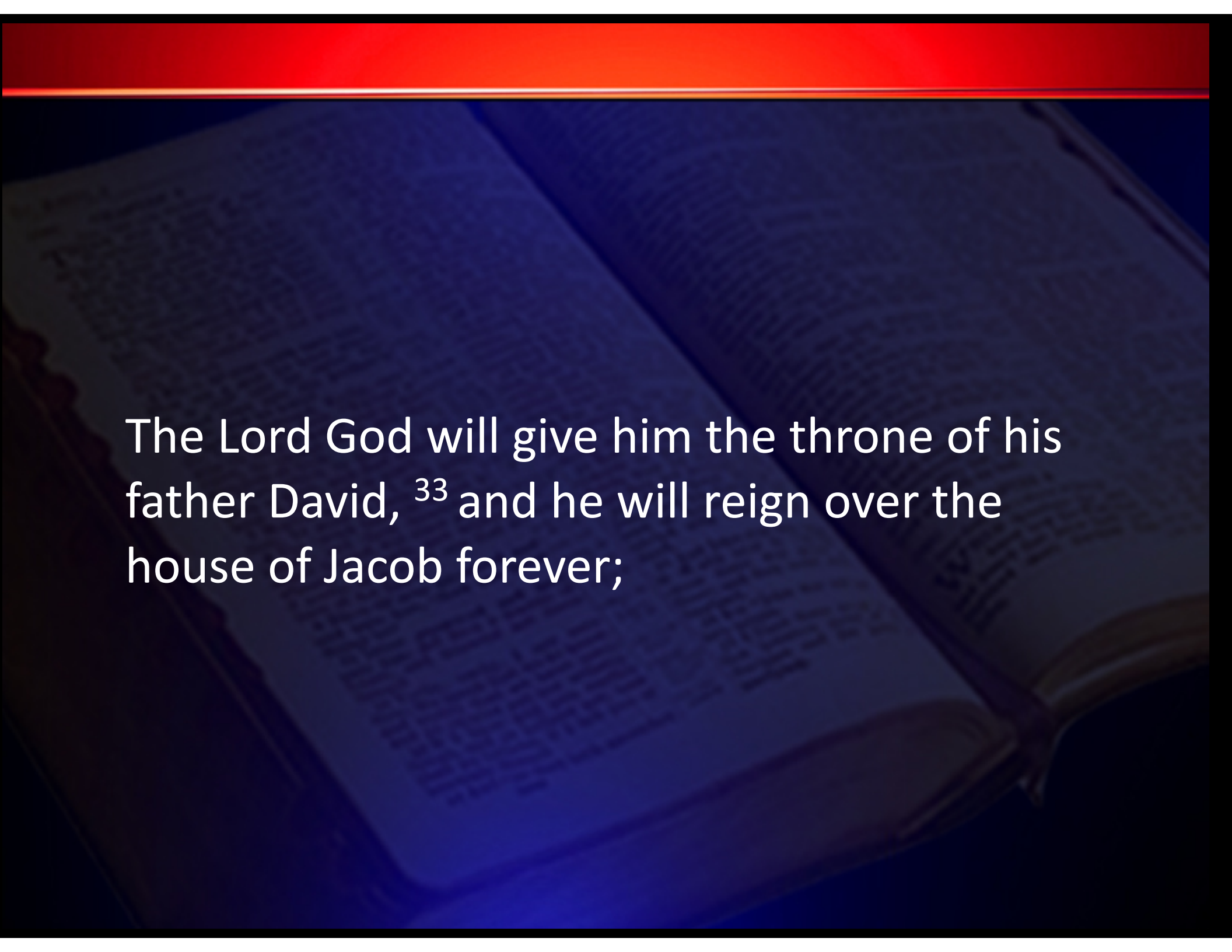




In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

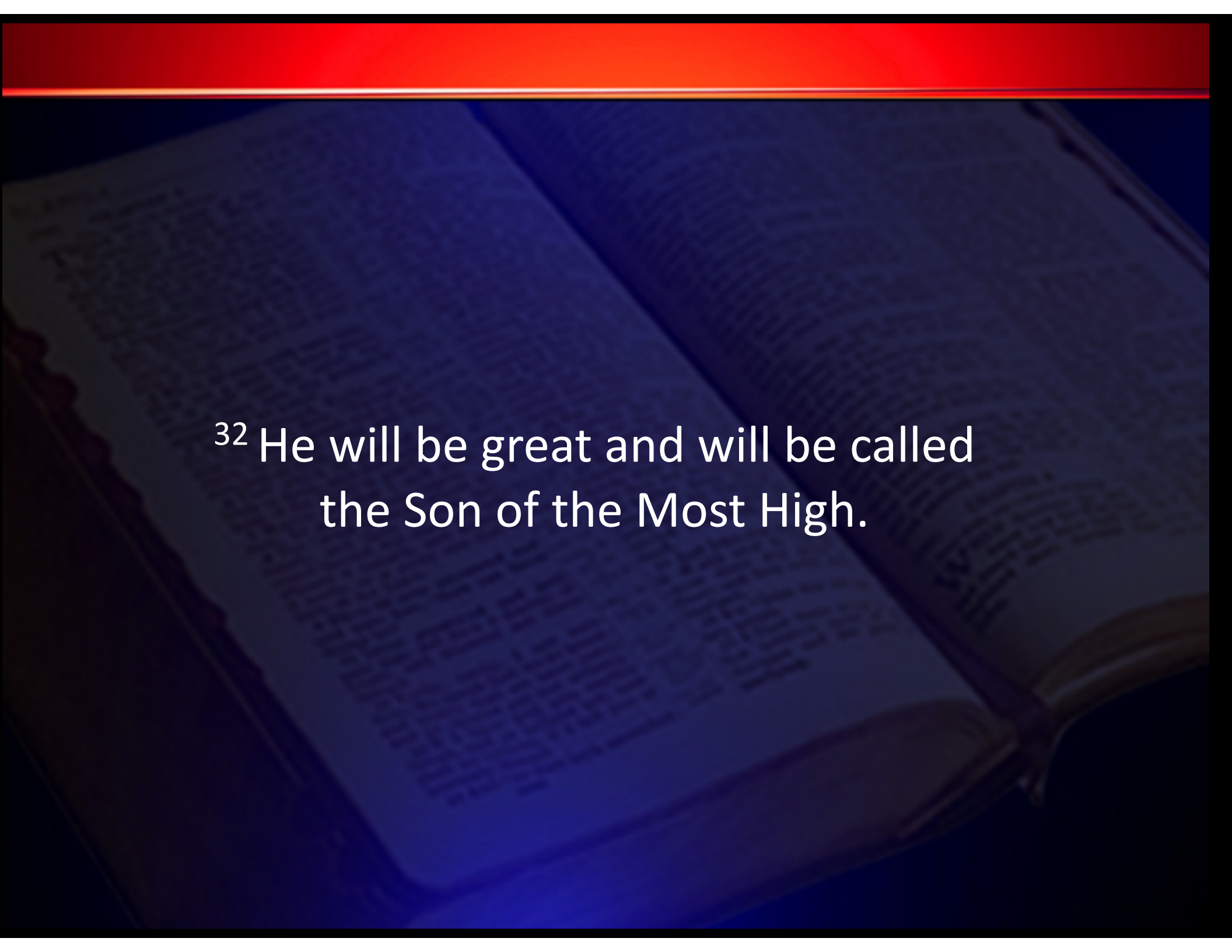
²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon 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. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God.” ³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.



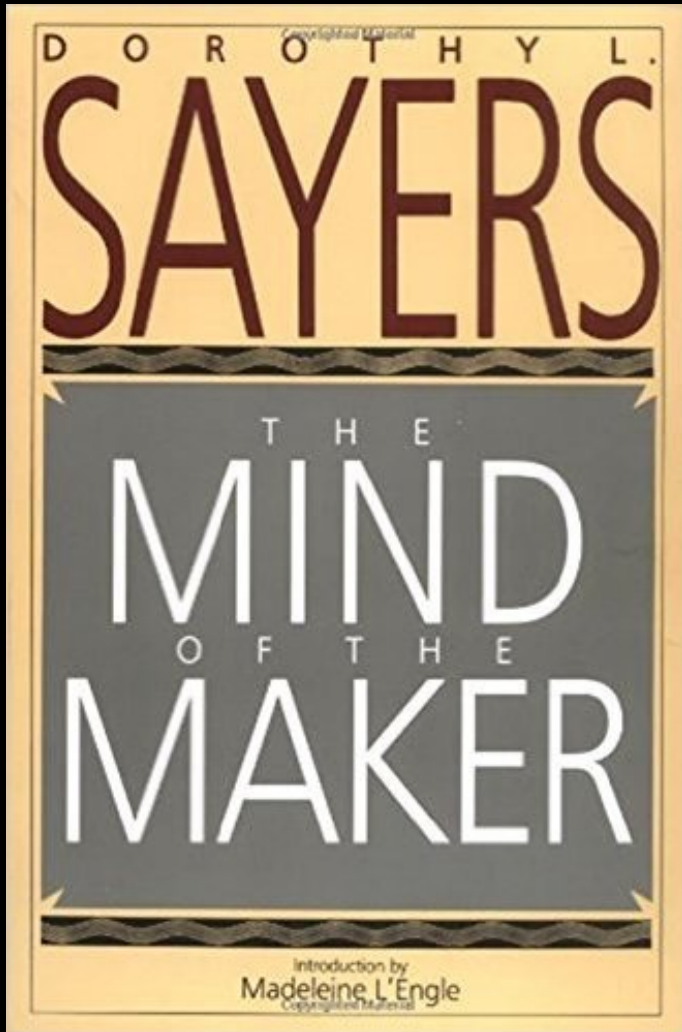
The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever;

The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

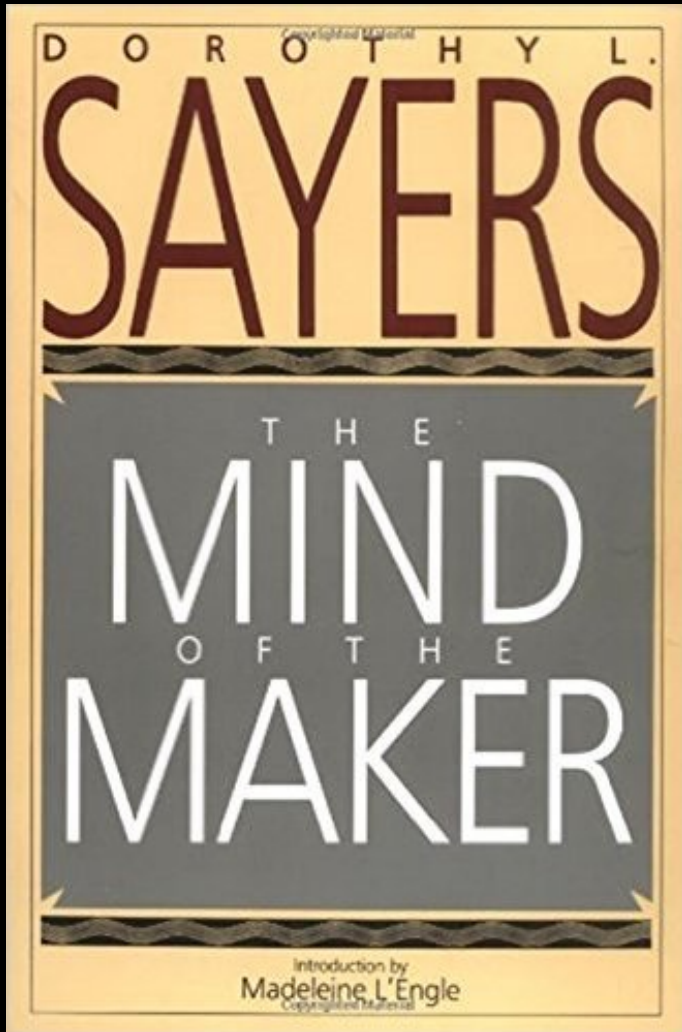


³² He will be great and will be called
the Son of the Most High.





“[The incarnation means] that for whatever reason God chose to make man as he is—limited and suffering and subject to sorrows and death—he had the honesty and the courage to take his own medicine. He can exact nothing from man that he has not exacted from himself.

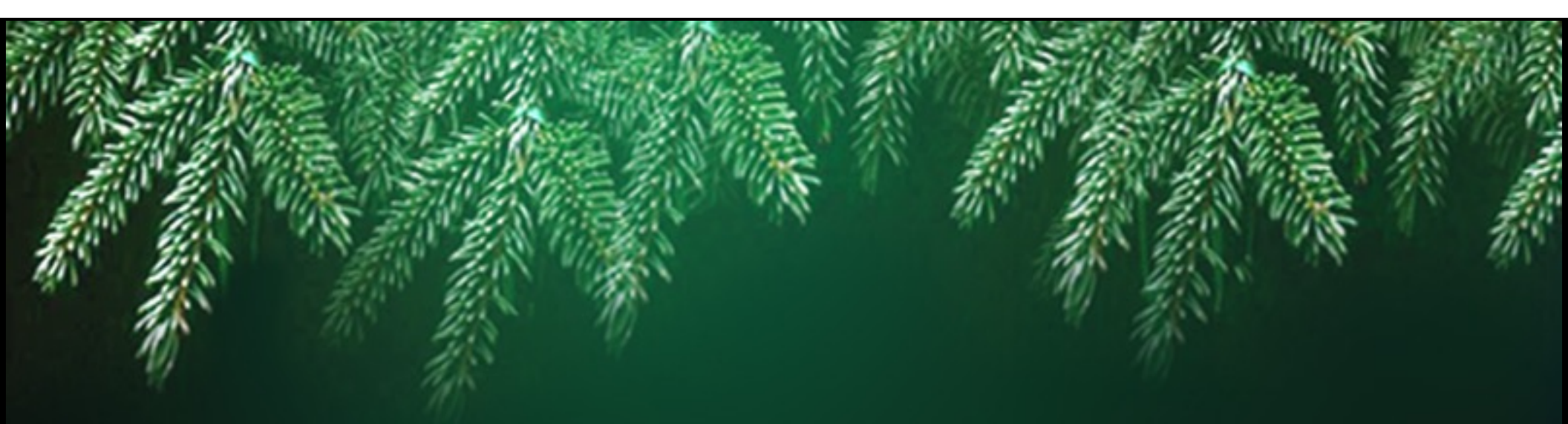


He has himself gone through the whole of human experience, from the trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the worst horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair, and death. [...] He was born in poverty and died in disgrace ...” He suffered infinite pain all for us. “He ... thought it well worthwhile.”¹⁵



1. Healthy Hesitancy

“Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.” vs. 29



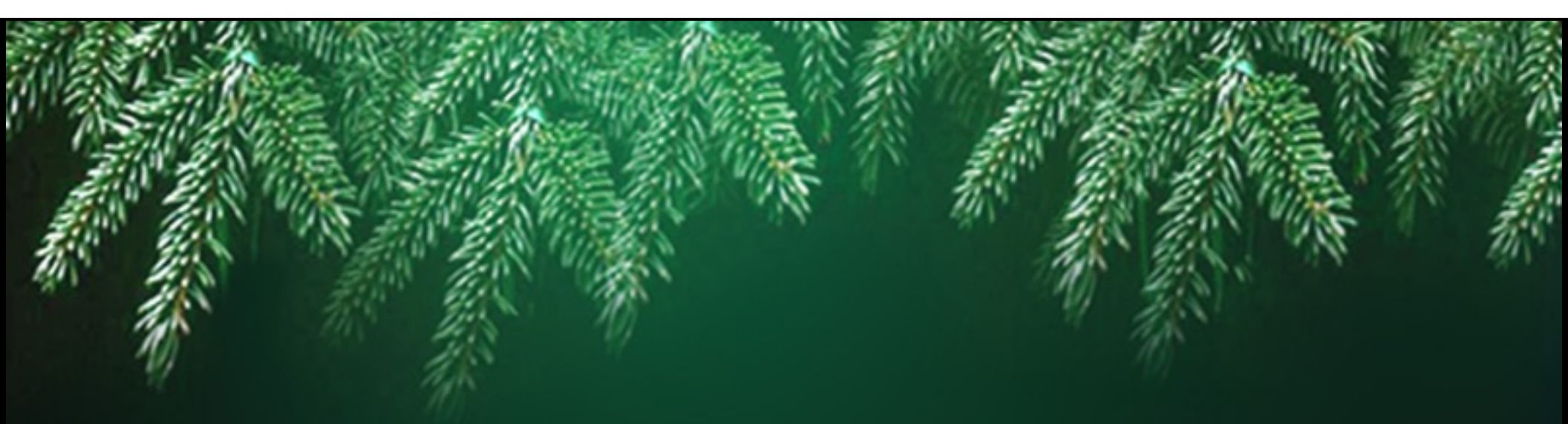
³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month.



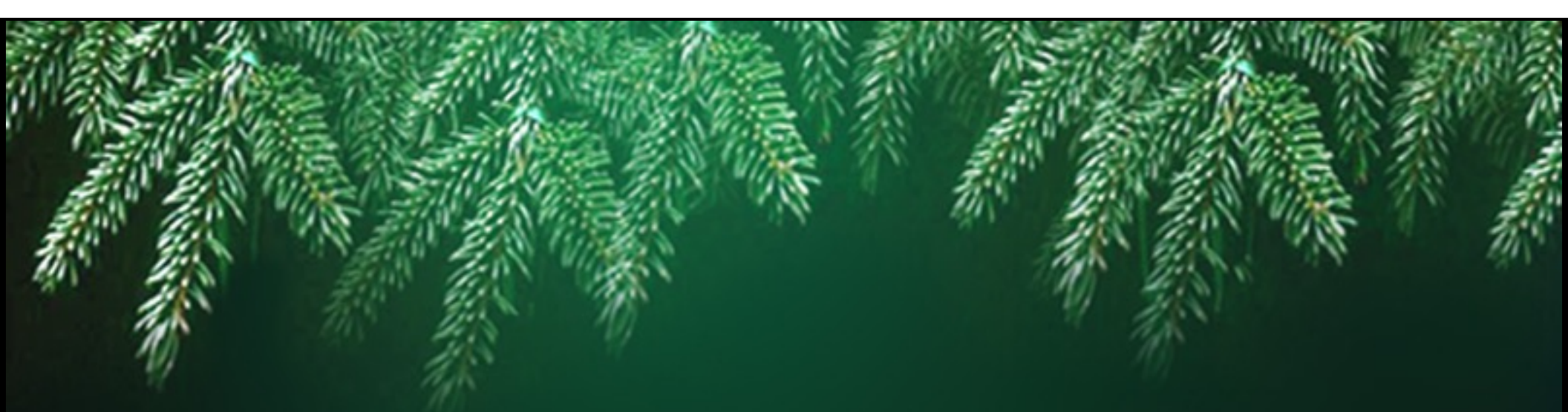
2. Cautious Surrender

“Behold, I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be done to me according to thy will.”

Luke 1:38



37 For nothing is
impossible with God.”



Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Philippians 2:6-8

