



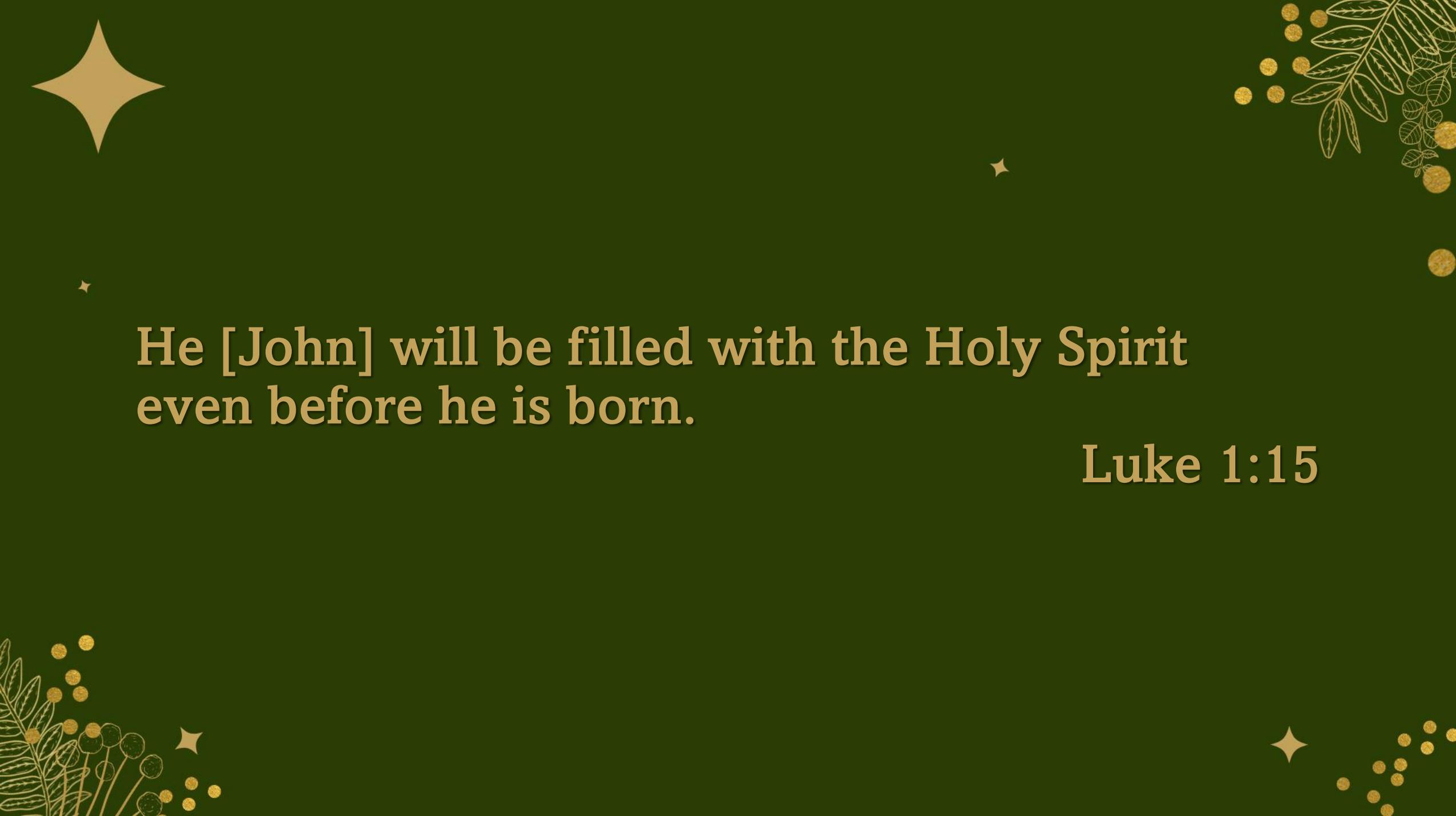
A BLESSING
FOR ALL...



“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

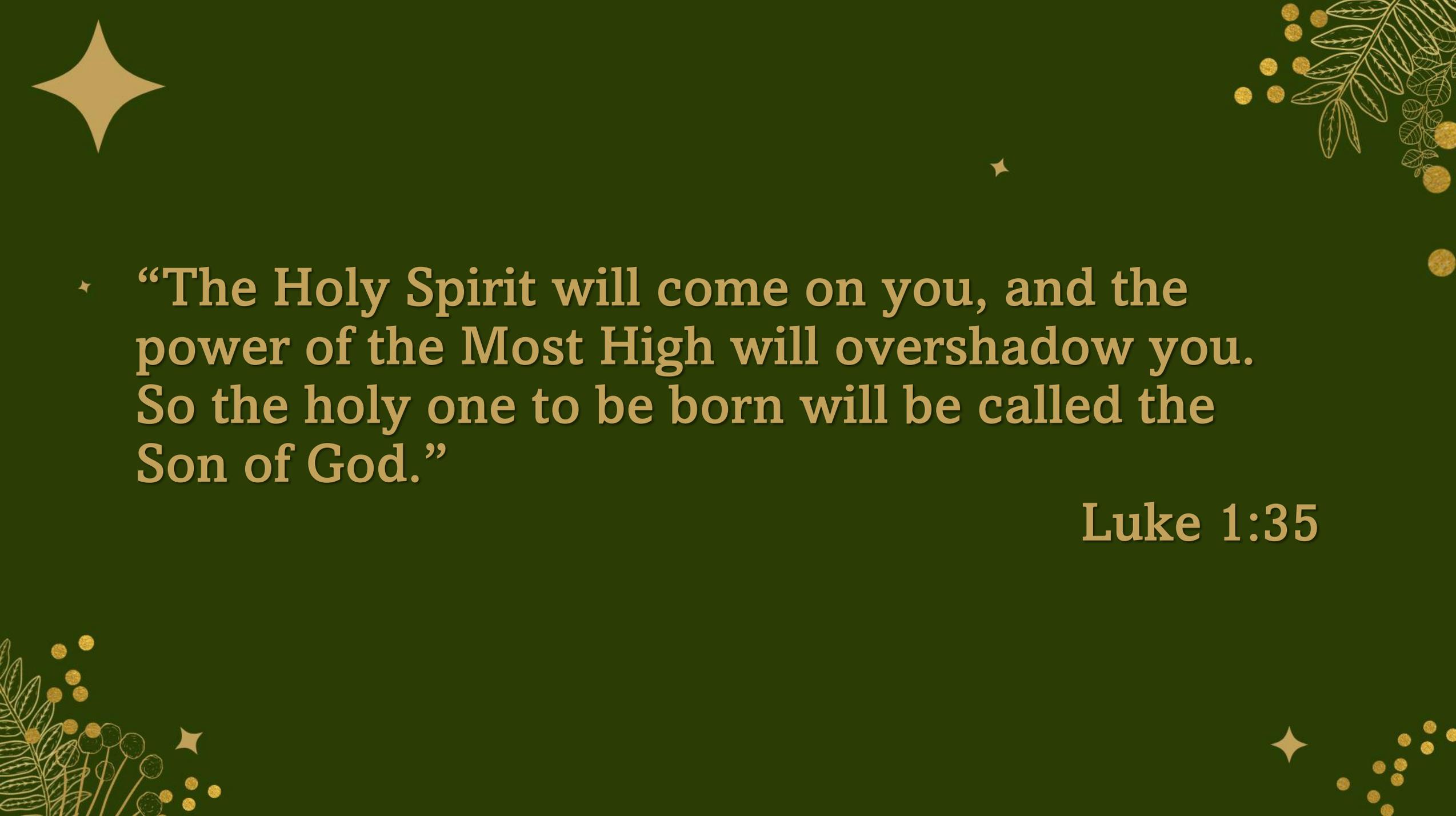
Revelation 21:3-4





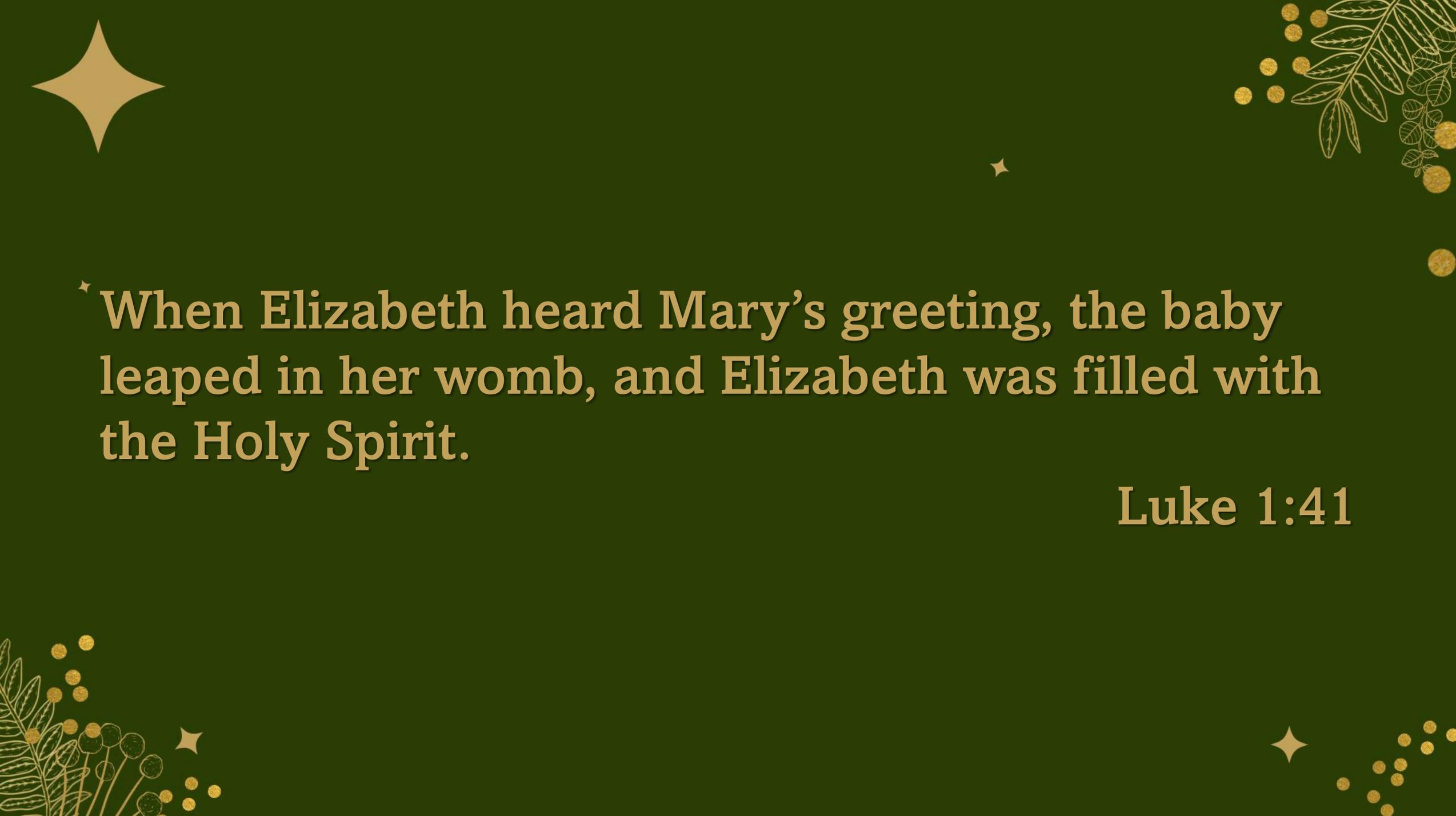
He [John] will be filled with the Holy Spirit
even before he is born.

Luke 1:15



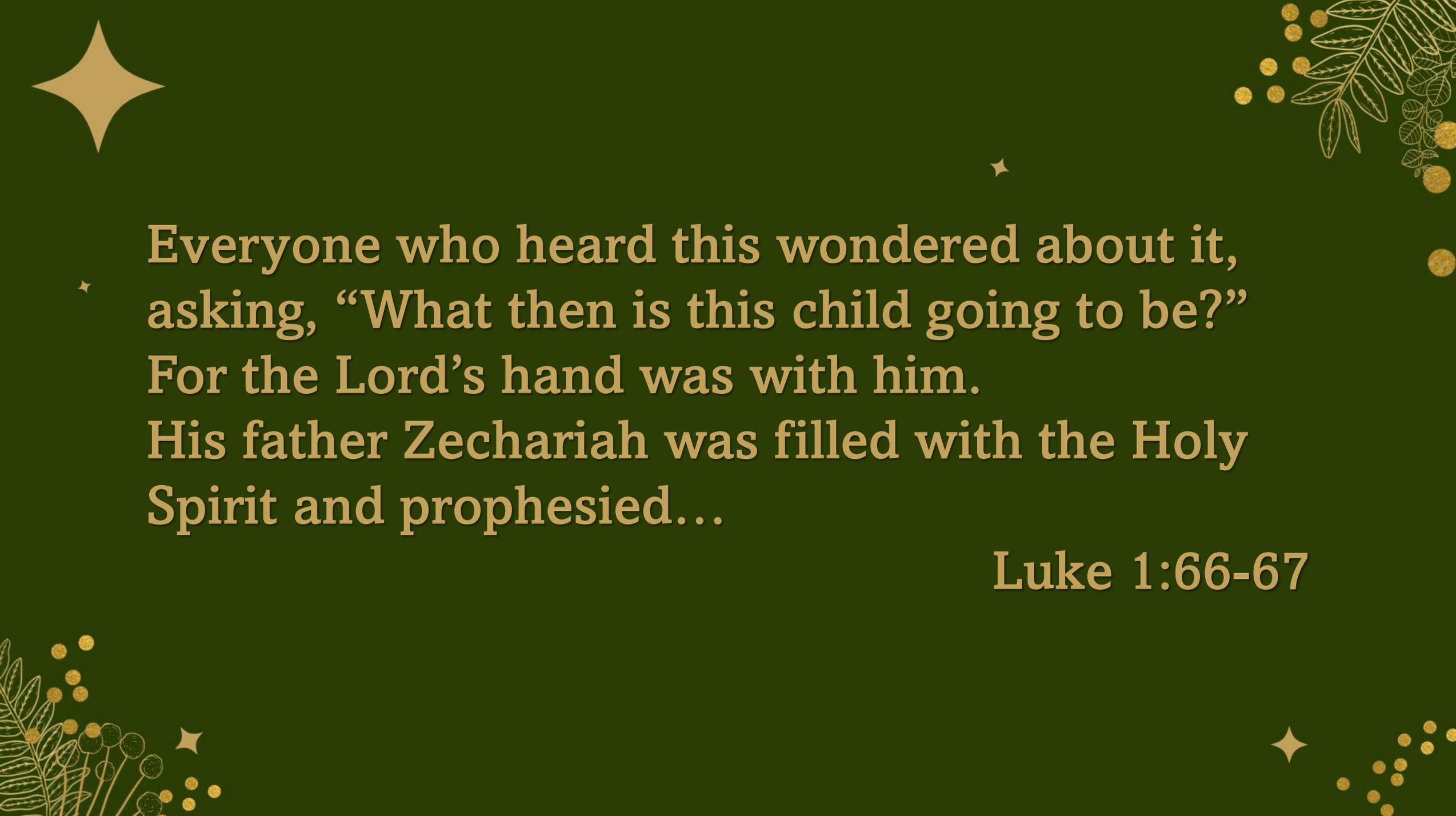
★ “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”

Luke 1:35



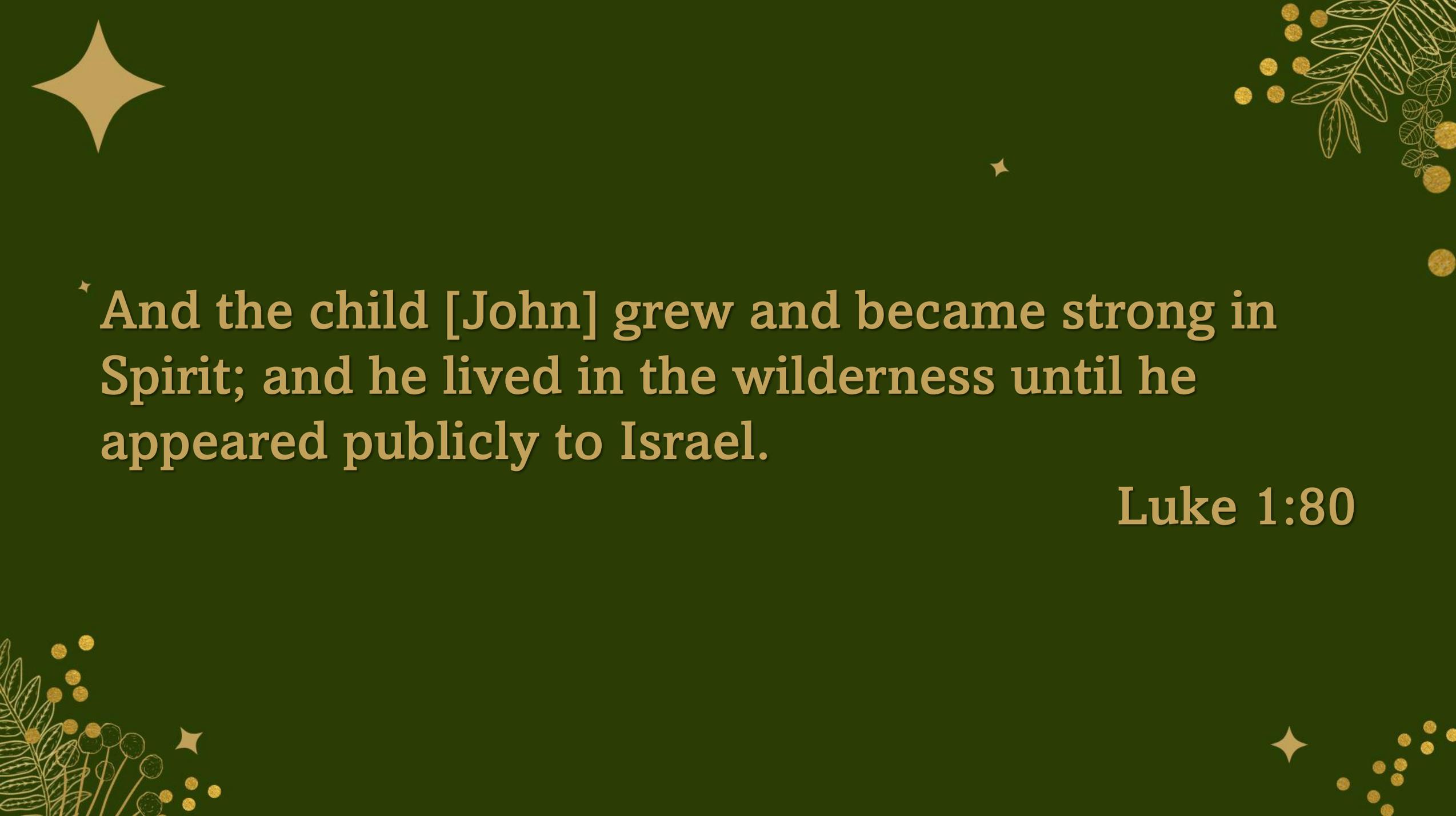
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:41



Everyone who heard this wondered about it,
asking, “What then is this child going to be?”
For the Lord’s hand was with him.
His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy
Spirit and prophesied...

Luke 1:66-67



★ And the child [John] grew and became strong in Spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

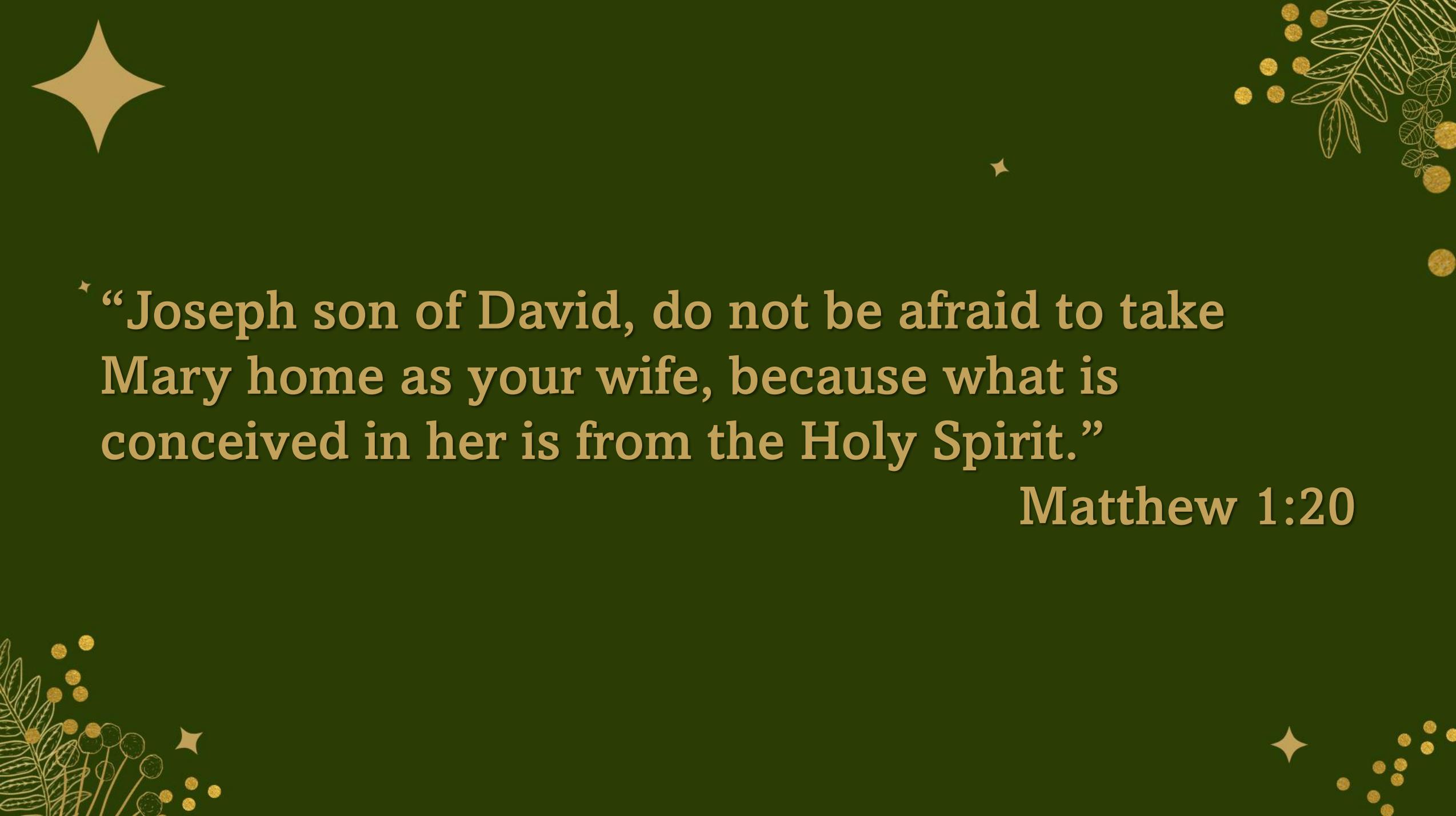
Luke 1:80



This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:18





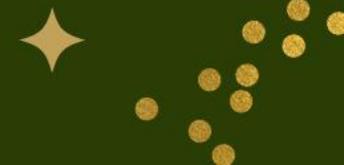
★ “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”

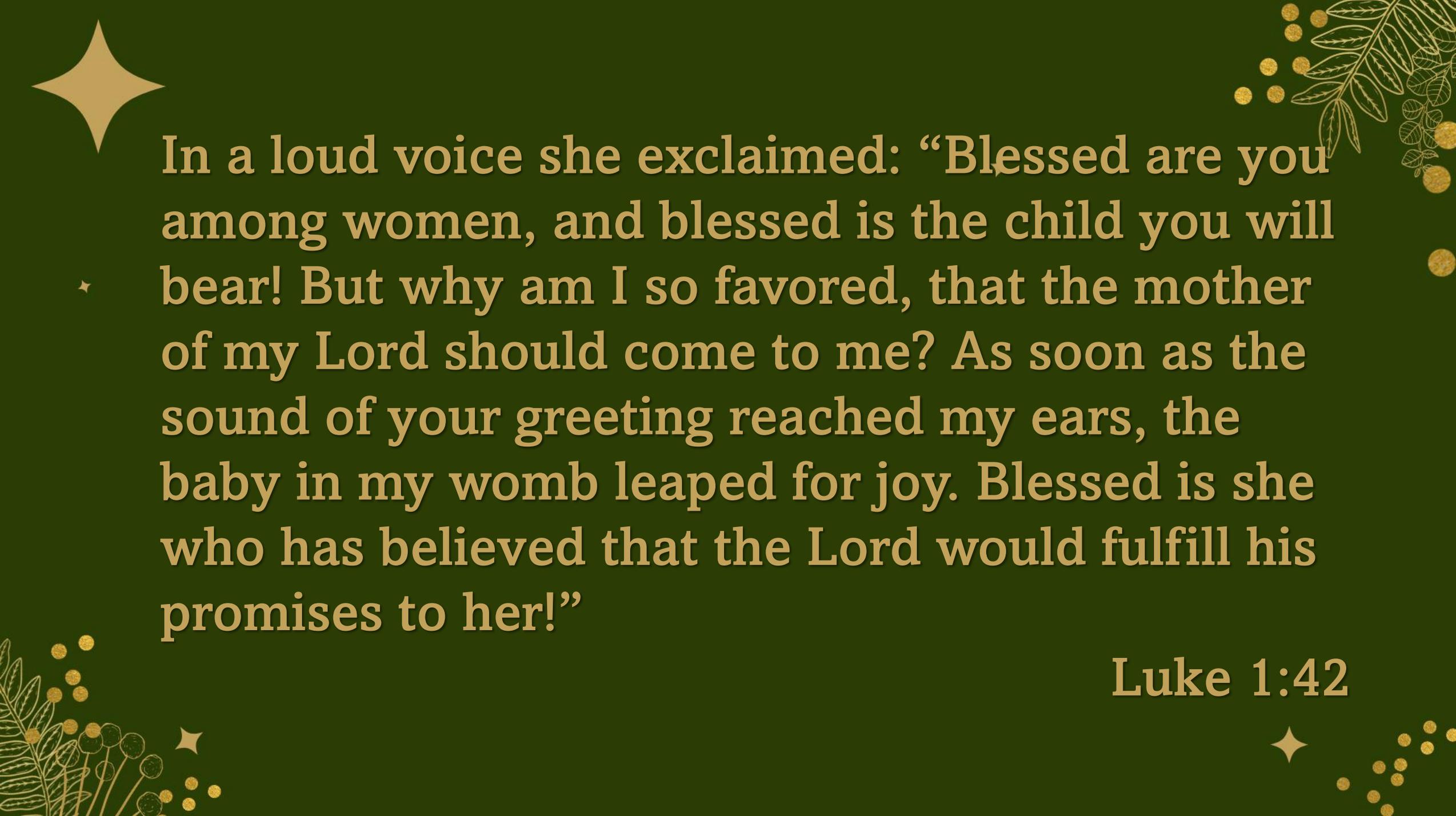
Matthew 1:20



Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit...

Luke 1:25-27





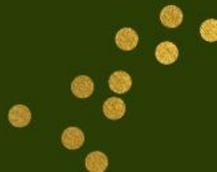
In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

Luke 1:42



“And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the
Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the
way for him”

Luke 1:76





“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 1:35

“Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 1:20





For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all
nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

Luke 2:30-32



THEOLOGY

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED SPIRIT

W. DAVID O. TAYLOR





To put the matter bluntly, there is no Incarnation apart from the power of the Holy Spirit. There are no miraculous births without the work of the indwelling Spirit. There is no ability to confirm or to recognize the true identity of the Christ child apart from the illuminating ministry of the Third Person of the Trinity. The Spirit is very much visible, not invisible, in the Nativity narratives, and an active rather than passive agent in Luke's "account of the things" (1:1).



W. David O. Taylor





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. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1-3,14





At Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Genesis 1:1-2

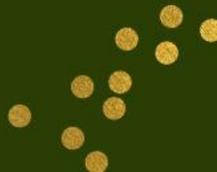




At Creation

When you send your Spirit,
they are created

Psalm 104:30

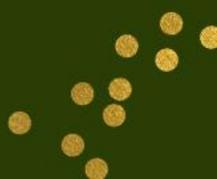




Empowers Leaders

Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Gideon.

Judges 6:34





Empowers Leaders

Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Gideon.

Judges 6:34

The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him [Samson] so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands.

Judges 14:6





Empowers Leaders

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David.

1 Samuel 16:13





Empowers Leaders

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David.

1 Samuel 16:13

“This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty.

Zechariah 4:6

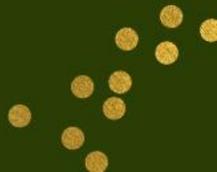




Guiding Prophets

When Balaam looked out and saw Israel encamped
tribe by tribe, the Spirit of God came on him and he
spoke his message

Numbers 24:2-3





Guiding Prophets

When Balaam looked out and saw Israel encamped
tribe by tribe, the Spirit of God came on him and he
spoke his message

Numbers 24:2-3

But as for me, I am filled with power,
with the Spirit of the Lord.

Micah 9:8



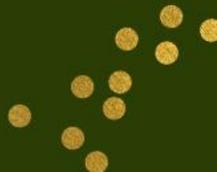


Guiding Prophets



- ★ The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor...
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Isaiah 61:1-2



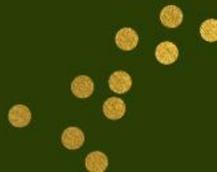


Guiding Prophets

Messianic Expectations

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—

Isaiah 11:1-2





Guiding Prophets Messianic Expectations

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—

Isaiah 11:1-2

I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will bring justice to the nations.

Isaiah 42:1



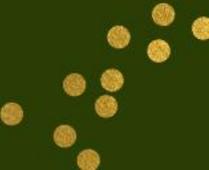


Guiding Prophets

Spirit Upon All God's People

- ★ Till the Spirit is poured on us from on high...My people will live in peaceful dwelling places...how blessed you will be.

Isaiah 32:15,18,20



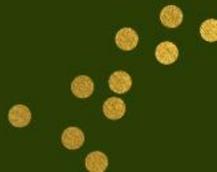


Guiding Prophets

Spirit Upon All God's People

✦ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Ezekiel 36:26-27





Guiding Prophets

Spirit Upon All God's People

★ “And afterward,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.

Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”



Joel 2:28-29



Guiding Prophets Renewal of Creation

I will show wonders in the heavens
and on the earth,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and dreadful day
of the Lord.



Joel 2:30-31





Guiding Prophets Renewal of Creation

★ And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved;
for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
there will be deliverance,
as the Lord has said,
even among the survivors
whom the Lord calls.



Joel 2:32



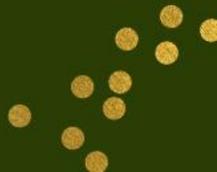


Guiding Prophets

Confirmation of the Messiah

★ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Mark 1:7-8





The Spirit & the Messiah



At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Mark 1:9-10





The Spirit & the Messiah



Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil...

Luke 4:1-2





The Spirit & the Messiah



Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

Luke 4:14-15



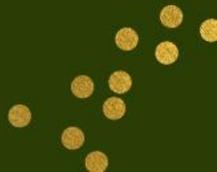


The Spirit & the Messiah



One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.

Luke 5:17



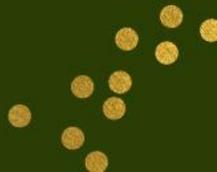


The Spirit & the Messiah



At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth...”

Luke 10:21



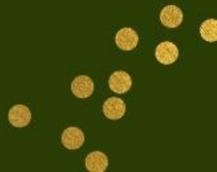


The Spirit & the Believer



Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.”

John 3:5-6





The Spirit & the Believer

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”



John 16:12-15



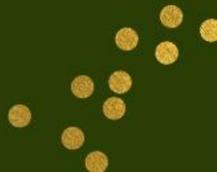


The Spirit & the Believer



“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth...”

John 14:15-17



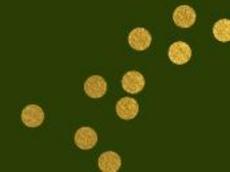


The Spirit & the Believer



“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28:19



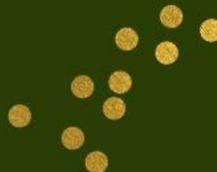


The Spirit & the Believer



“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Luke 24:49





The Spirit & the Believer

“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Luke 24:49

“It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



Acts 1:7-8

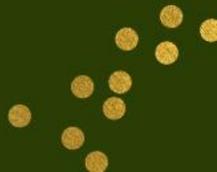


The Spirit & the Believer



“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 2:38-39

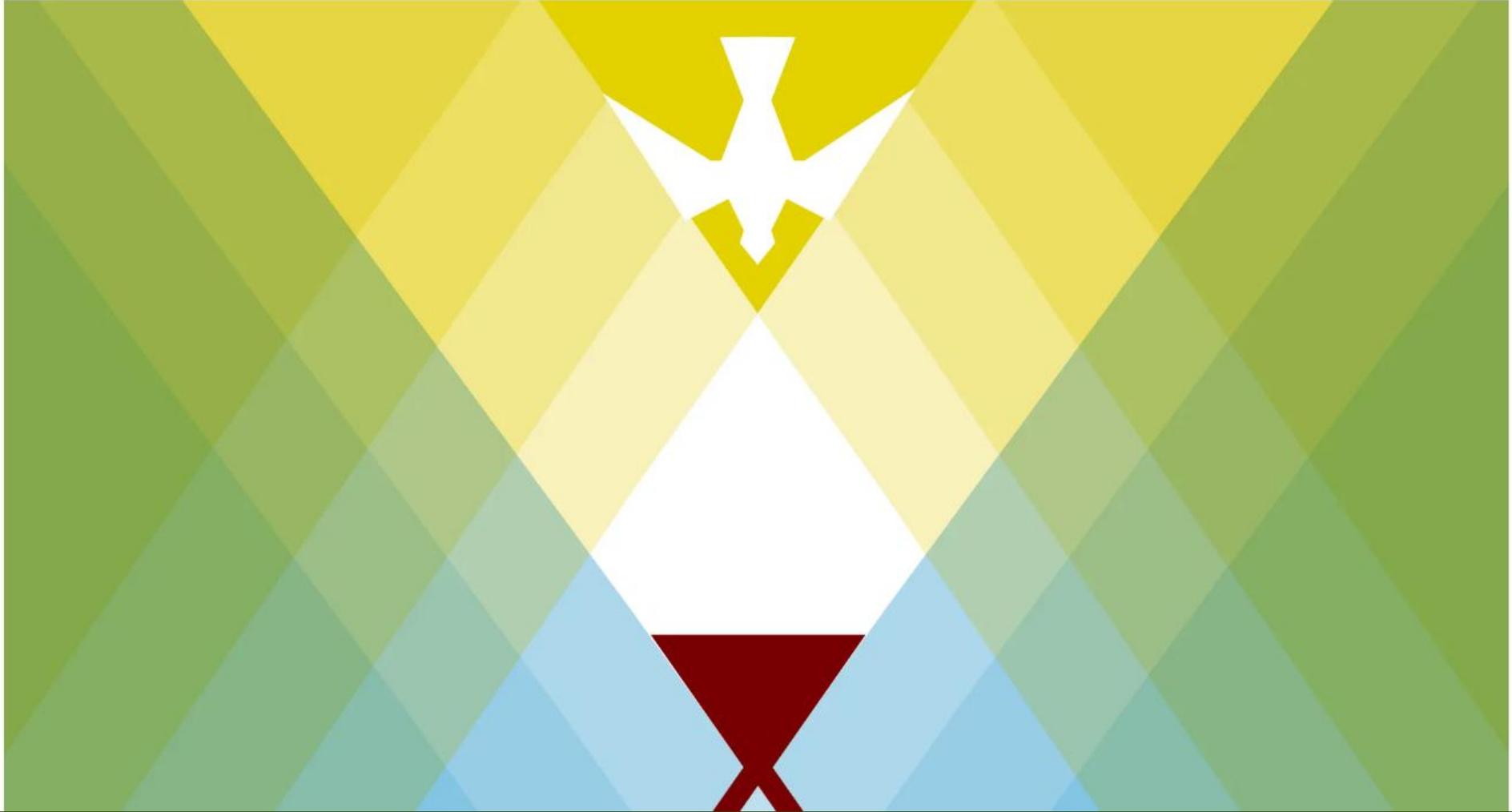


THEOLOGY

The Holy Ghost of Christmas Past, Present, and Future

JOHN D. WITVLIET

Our Christmas stories may be missing their most important character.

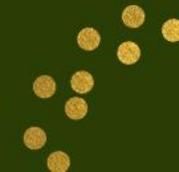




Here are two missions, two gifts, two experiences of grace: God sent his Son, and then God sent the Spirit of his Son. The first gift arrived in Bethlehem. The second arrives deep within the souls of believers. The first Christmas gift came then and there. The second comes again and again in the here and now. Indeed, every single time anyone anywhere professes “Jesus is Lord,” we can be grateful for the work of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3).



John D. Witvliet





The Spirit & the Believer



- “Spirit gives birth to spirit.” John 3:6
 - “He will guide you into all the truth.” John 16:13
 - “[An] advocate to help you and be with you forever.” John 14:16
 - “When the Holy Spirit comes on you...you will be my witnesses.” Acts 1:8
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