

Nativity



Divine Encounters



Divine Encounters

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

Matthew 2:1-2



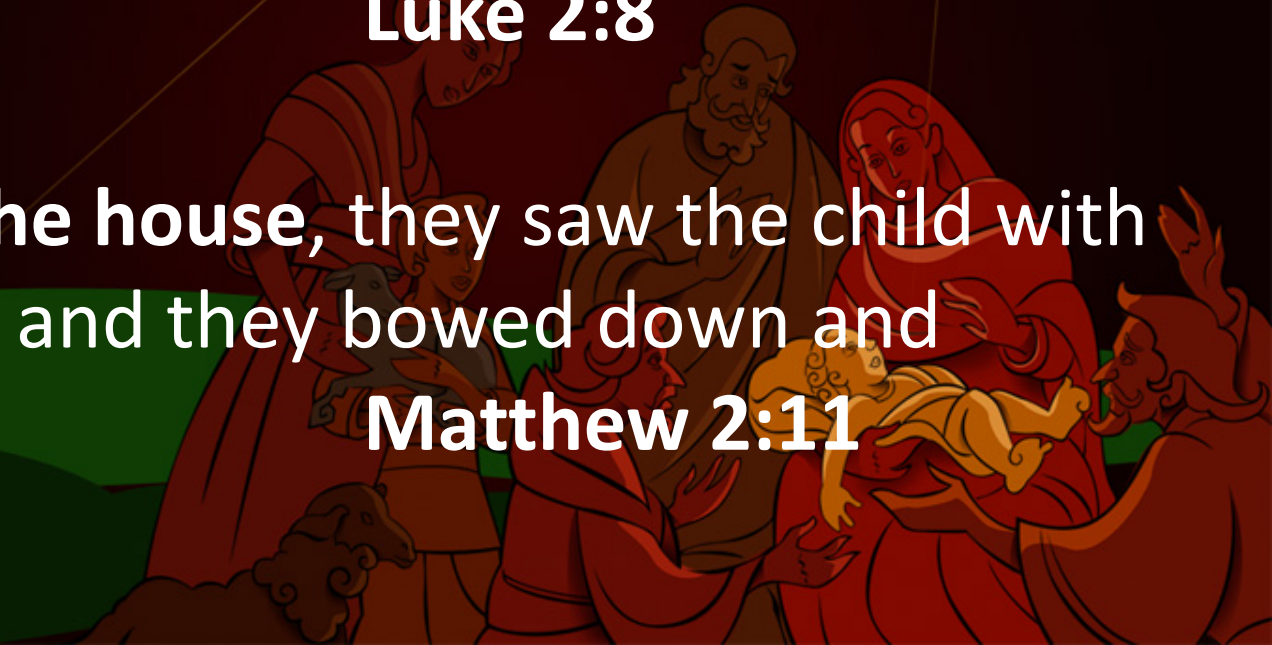
Divine Encounters

⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. **She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger,** because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:8

¹¹**On coming to the house,** they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

Matthew 2:11



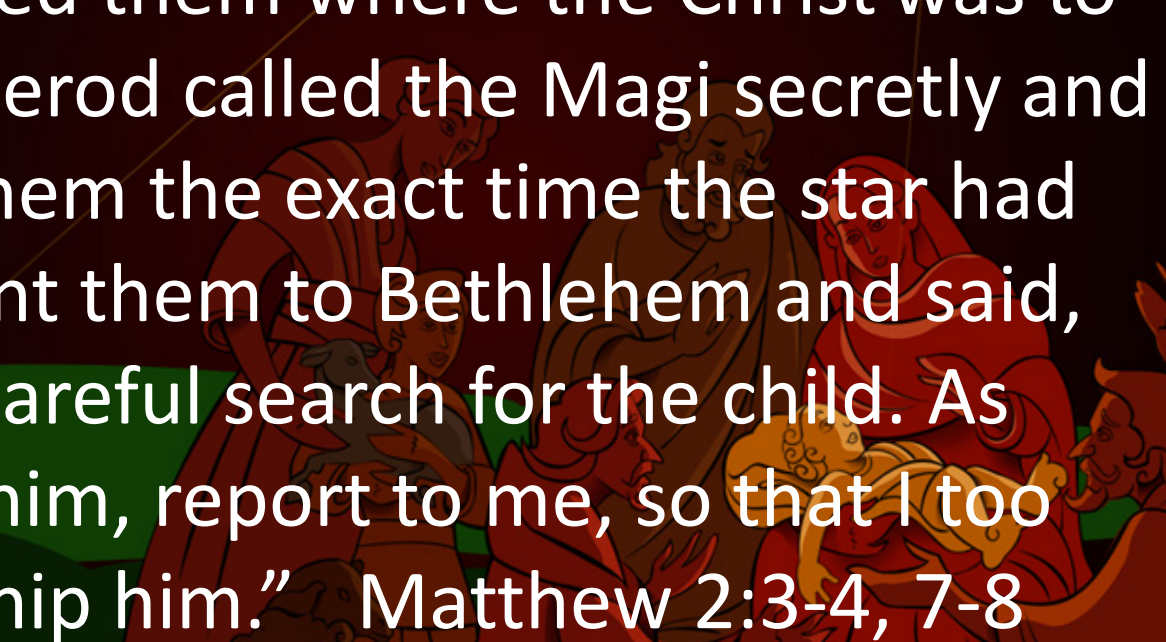
Divine Encounters

1. King Herod's Encounter.



Divine Encounters

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born...⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." Matthew 2:3-4, 7-8

An illustration in the bottom right corner shows a group of people in traditional, earth-toned robes. A woman in the foreground holds a young child. In the background, a bright star is visible in the dark sky, with lines radiating from it, suggesting the path of the star. The scene is set against a dark, reddish-brown background.

Divine Encounters

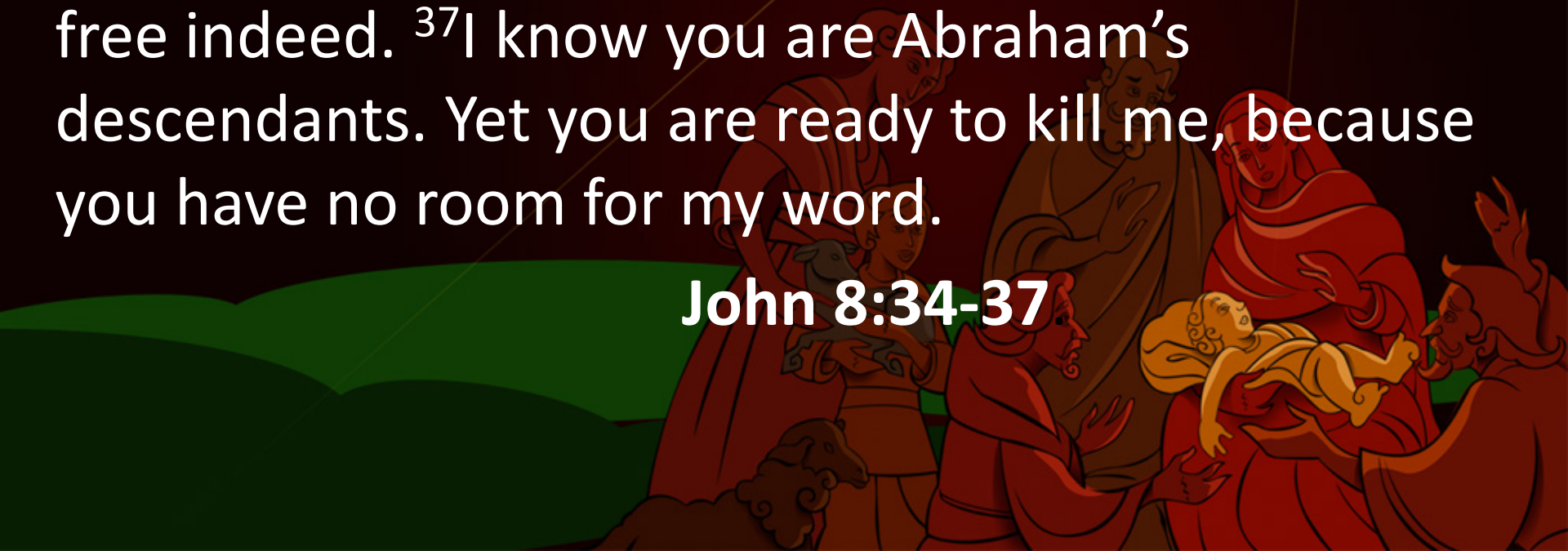
⁴In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God. ⁵His ways are always prosperous; he is haughty and your laws are far from him; he sneers at all his enemies. ⁶He says to himself, “Nothing will shake me; I’ll always be happy and never have trouble.” ⁷His mouth is full of curses and lies and threats; trouble and evil are under his tongue. ⁸He lies in wait near the villages; from ambush he murders the innocent, watching in secret for his victims.

Psalm 10:4-8

Divine Encounters

³⁴Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷I know you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word.

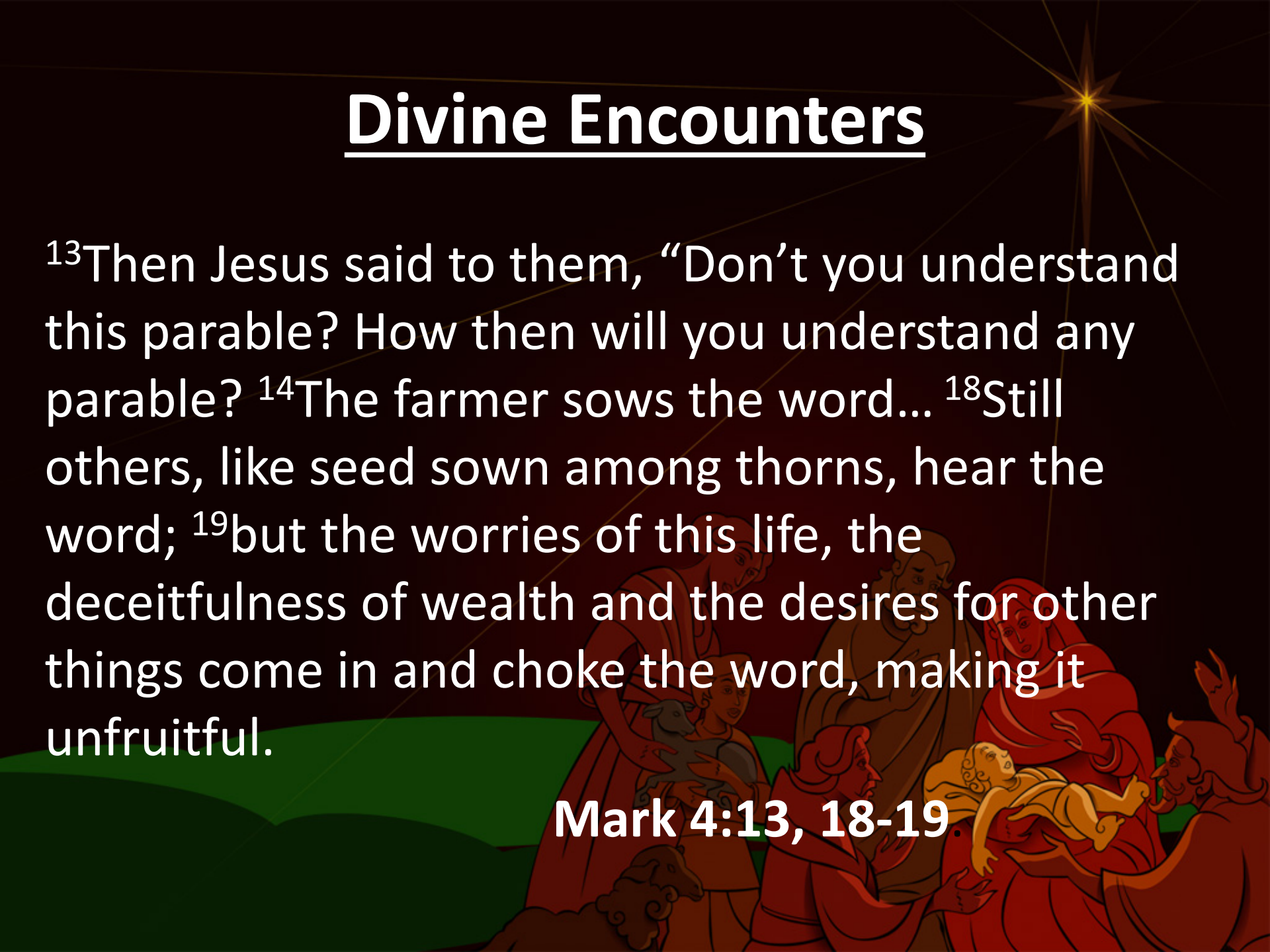
John 8:34-37



Divine Encounters

¹³Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? ¹⁴The farmer sows the word... ¹⁸Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

Mark 4:13, 18-19



Divine Encounters

1. King Herod's Encounter.
2. The Religious Leaders Encounter.



Divine Encounters

⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."

Matthew 2:4-6



Divine Encounters

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

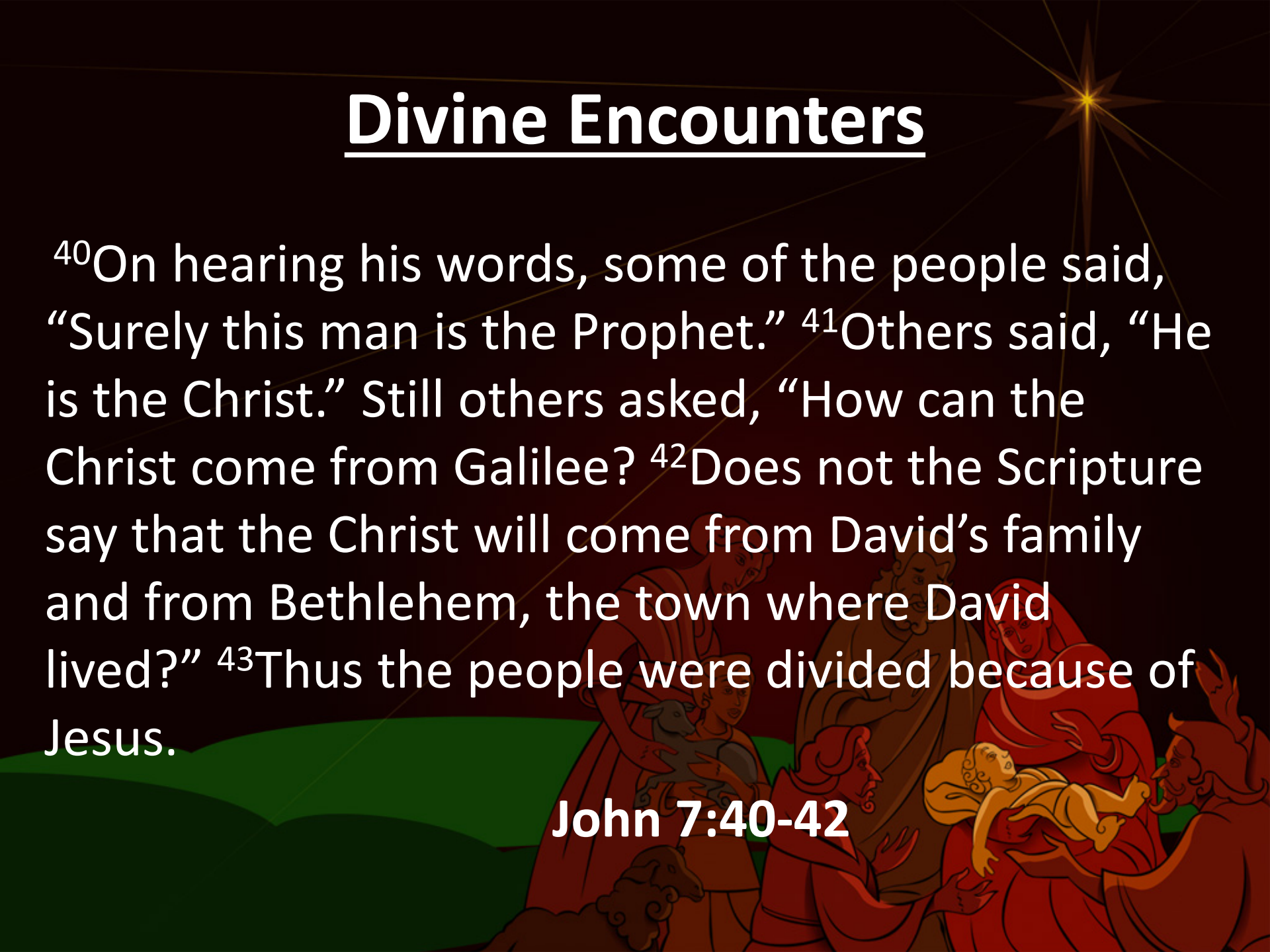
Micah 5:2



Divine Encounters

⁴⁰On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.” ⁴¹Others said, “He is the Christ.” Still others asked, “How can the Christ come from Galilee? ⁴²Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David’s family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?” ⁴³Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.

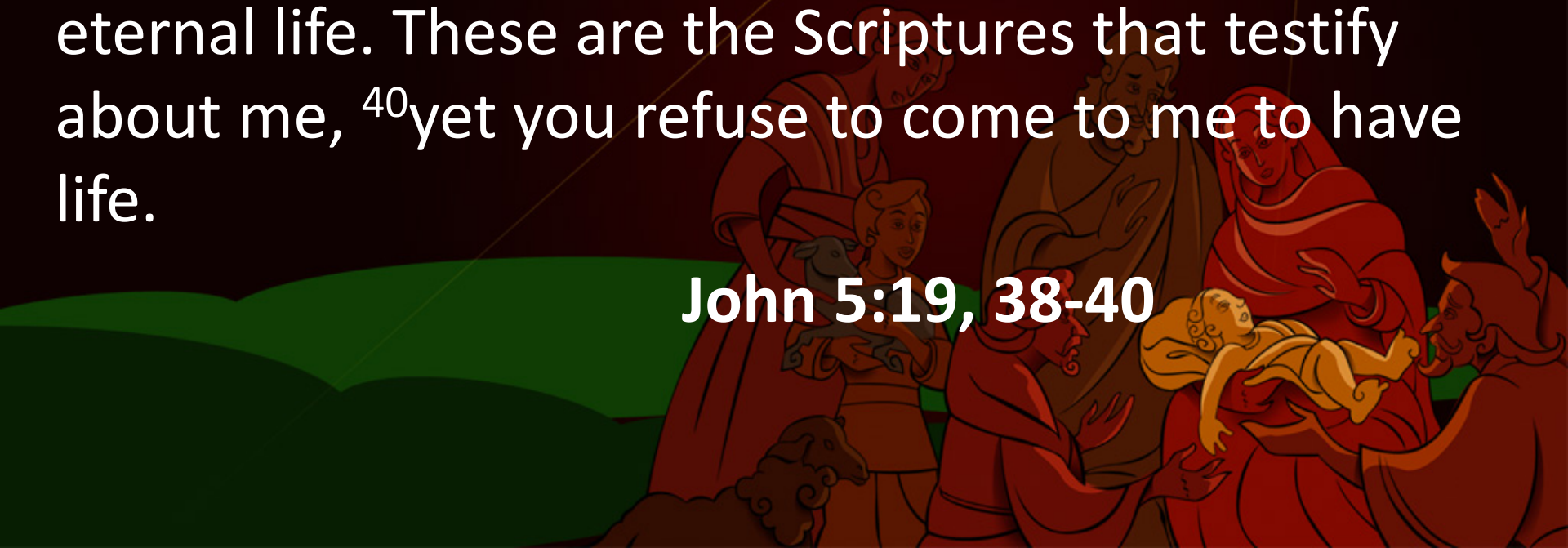
John 7:40-42



Divine Encounters

¹⁹Jesus gave them this answer:.... ³⁸nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. ³⁹You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

John 5:19, 38-40



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⁴²Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

John 12:42



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³Jesus replied,... ⁷You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: ⁸““These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁹They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.’

Matthew 15:3a, 7-9



Divine Encounters

1. King Herod's Encounter.
2. The Religious Leaders Encounter.
3. **The Magi's Encounter.**



Divine Encounters

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

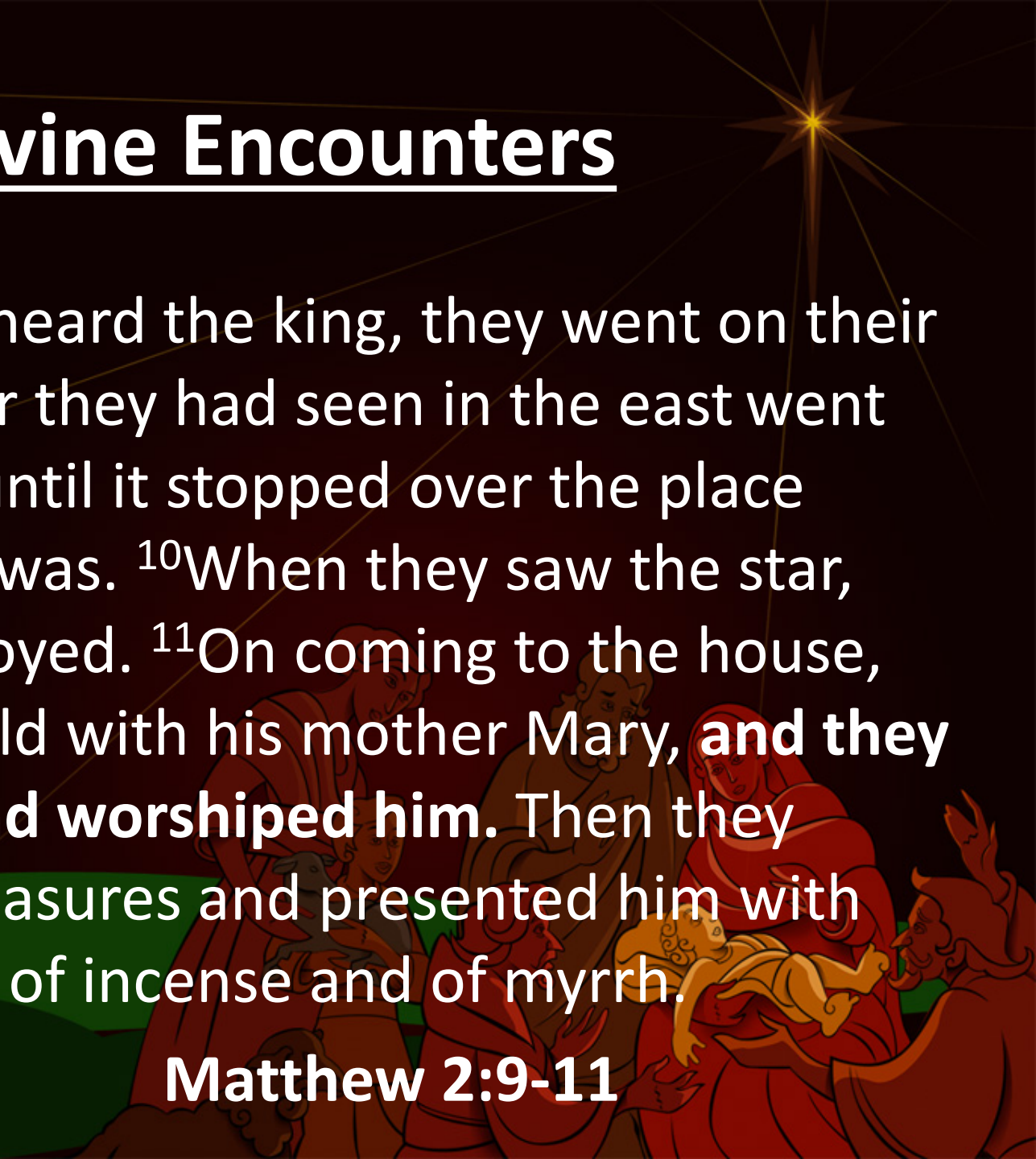
Matthew 2:7-8



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⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, **and they bowed down and worshiped him.** Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Matthew 2:9-11



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...I will bring him near and he will come close to me, for who is he who will devote himself to be close to me?’ declares the LORD. ²²“So you will be my people, and I will be your God.”

Jeremiah 30:21b-22



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¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

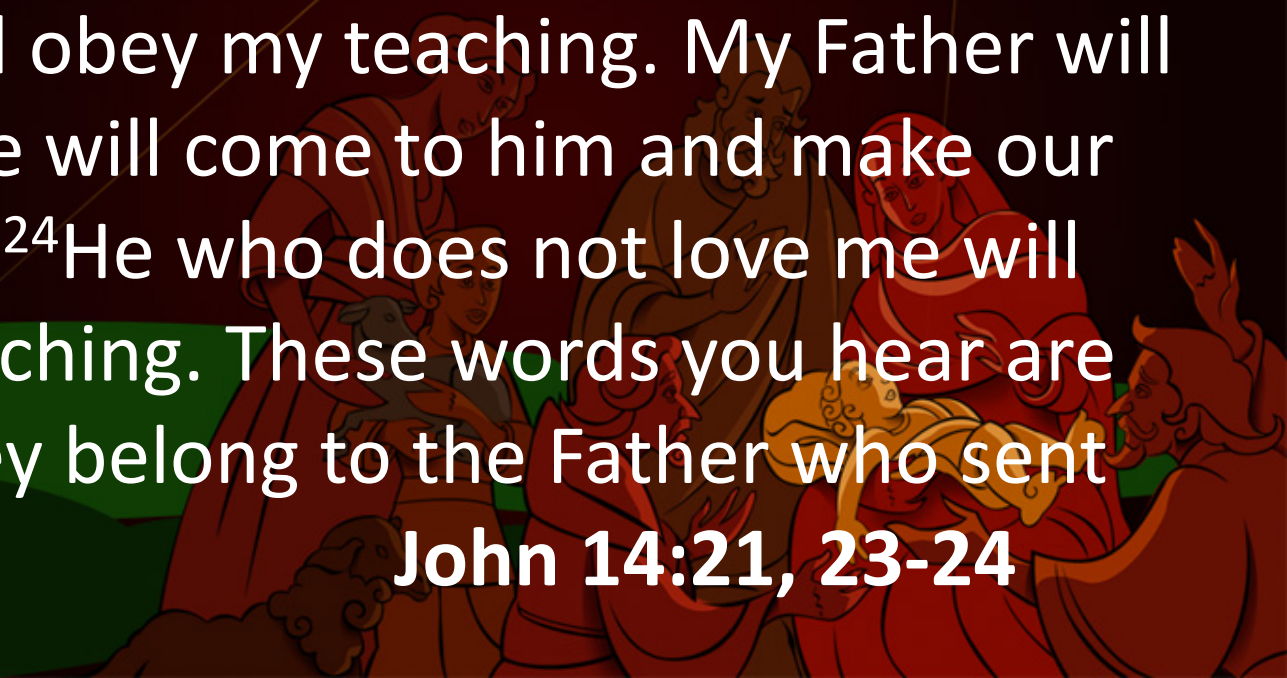
Matthew 2:12



Divine Encounters

²¹Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him... ²³Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.”

John 14:21, 23-24



Divine Encounters

²For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.

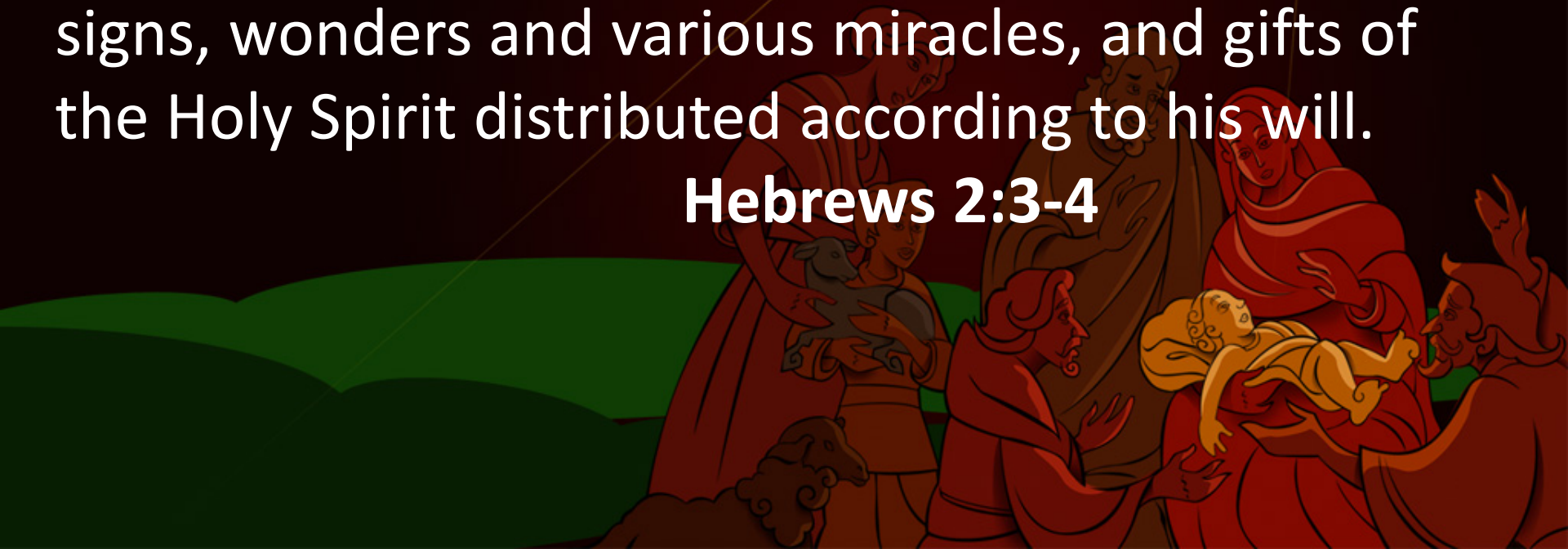
Hebrews 4:2



Divine Encounters

³how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Hebrews 2:3-4



Divine Encounters

¹²Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. **John 1:12**

Dear God, I understand that I have broken your Law and sinned against you. Please forgive my sins. Thank you that Jesus suffered on the cross in my place and rose from the dead. I now place my trust in Him as my Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord - Acts 3:19

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - John 1:12

