

race

nine

Nine lessons
Nine music tracks
Nine somethings
It's the Grace Christmas variety show!

Magicians, panto dames
and dogs leaping through hoops
all welcome.

8pm Saturday 11th December
at St. Mary's church Ealing W5

grace



You are welcome

In the name of the one
who was hated by many
and betrayed by his friends,
we welcome you.

Here you may pause in your travels,
safe from the darkness.

By the power of the one
who lived in weakness
and had no soft bed to lie in,
we open our space.

Here you may rest from your troubles
and soothe weary limbs.

Through the love of the one
who cared for all who came
and yet was rejected by society,
we accept you as you are.

Here you may lay down your defences
and be yourself.

1: the creation

Genesis 1, vv 1-5, 26-8, 31



2: the fall

Genesis 3, vv 8-15, 17-19

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

So the Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this, **cursed** are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat **dust** all the days of your life.

And I will put **enmity** between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will **crush** your head, and you will **strike** his heel.”

To Adam he said,

“Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it’, **cursed** is the ground because of you; through **painful** toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

By the **sweat** of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for **dust** you are and to dust you will return.”

cursed enmity

crush strike painful

sweat dust

**creation groans
in bondage**

A crumpled brown paper bag, likely a fast-food wrapper, lies on a dark, coarse-grained gravel surface. The bag is heavily wrinkled and folded, with several horizontal yellow stripes visible. A small red circular logo is partially visible on the left side of the bag. The text "Mercy, mercy me" is overlaid in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

Mercy, mercy me

Things ain't what they
used to be



Where did all
the blue skies go?

Poison is the wind
that blows from the north
and south and east

lord have mercy
christ have mercy

A blue surgical mask lies on a bed of dry, brown leaves. The mask is positioned diagonally, with its top edge towards the upper left. It has a standard three-layer construction with visible pleats and perforated edges for ear loops. The surrounding leaves are various shades of brown and tan, some showing signs of decay and small holes. A few thin, dry sticks are scattered across the scene.

Mercy, mercy me

Things ain't what they
used to be



**Oil wasted on the oceans
and upon our seas**

Fish full of mercury

lord have mercy
christ have mercy



Mercy, mercy me

Things ain't what they
used to be



Radiation underground
and in the sky

Animals and birds who
live nearby are dying

lord have mercy
christ have mercy

Mercy, mercy me

Things ain't what they
used to be





**What about this
overcrowded land?**

**How much more abuse
from man can she stand?**

lord have mercy
christ have mercy

3: the people who walked in darkness

Genesis 3, vv 8-15, 17-19

THE PEOPLE
WHO WALKED
IN DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN
A GREAT LIGHT.

ISAIAH 9:2

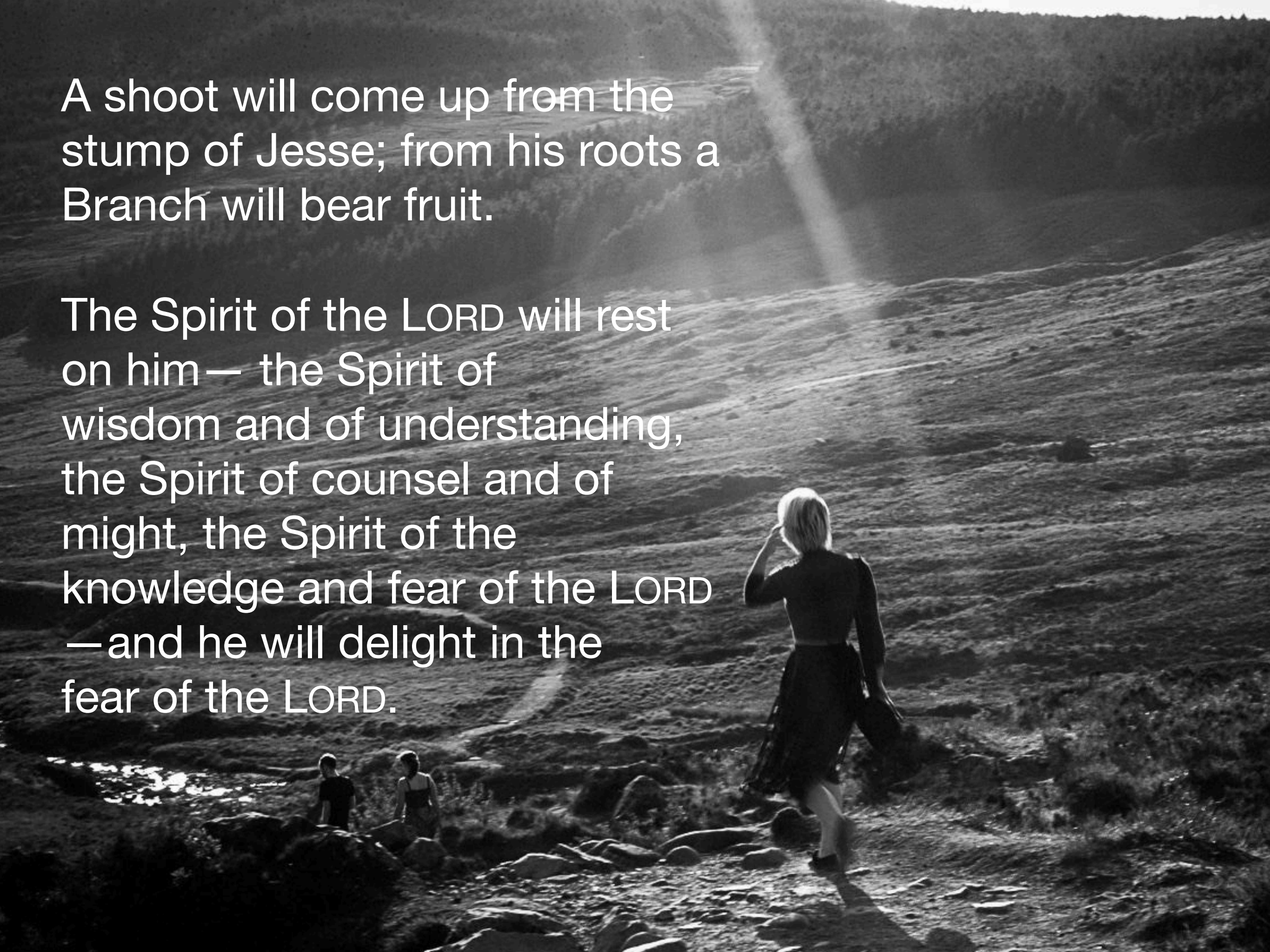


4: isaiah's vision of the kingdom

Isaiah 11, vv 1-3a, 4a, 6-9

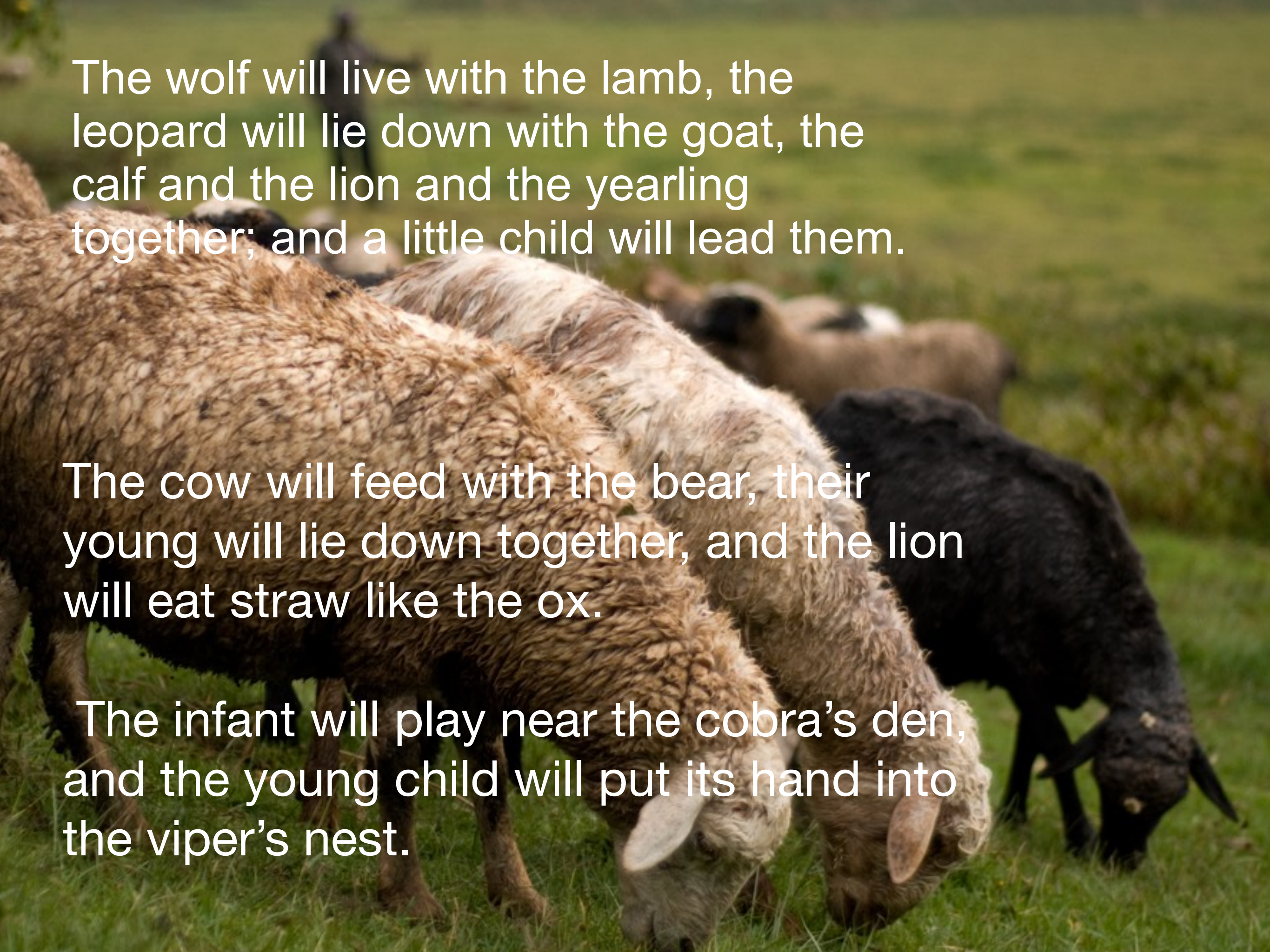
A shoot will come up from the
stump of Jesse; from his roots a
Branch will bear fruit.

The Spirit of the LORD will rest
on him— the Spirit of
wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of
might, the Spirit of the
knowledge and fear of the LORD
—and he will delight in the
fear of the LORD.



He will not judge by what he
sees with his eyes...but with
righteousness he will judge
the needy



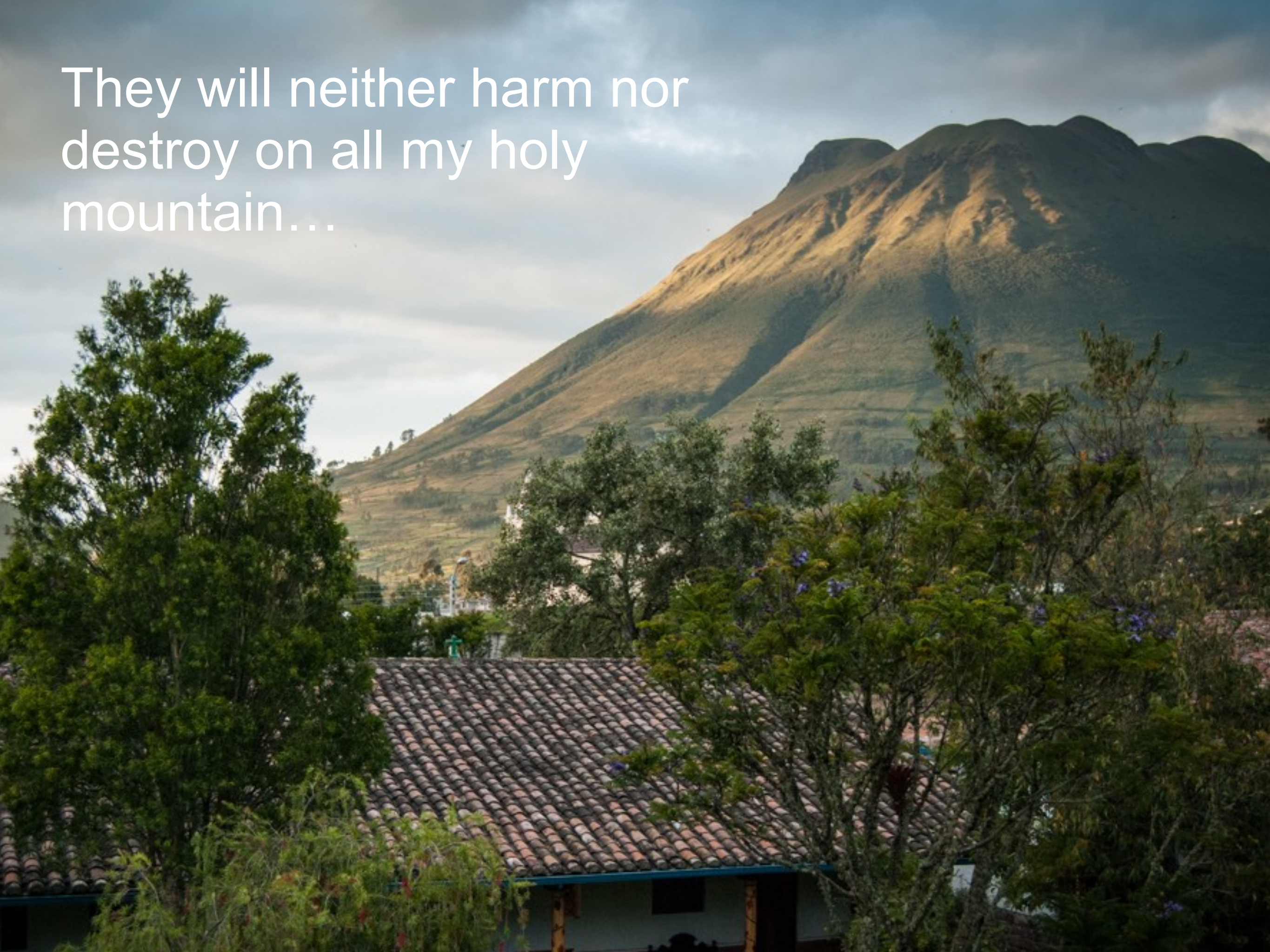
A photograph of a flock of sheep grazing in a lush green field. In the foreground, a large, fluffy brown sheep is seen from the side, grazing. Behind it, another brown sheep is visible, and to the right, a black sheep is grazing. The background is a soft-focus green field with a few more sheep in the distance.

The wolf will live with the lamb, the
leopard will lie down with the goat, the
calf and the lion and the yearling
together; and a little child will lead them.

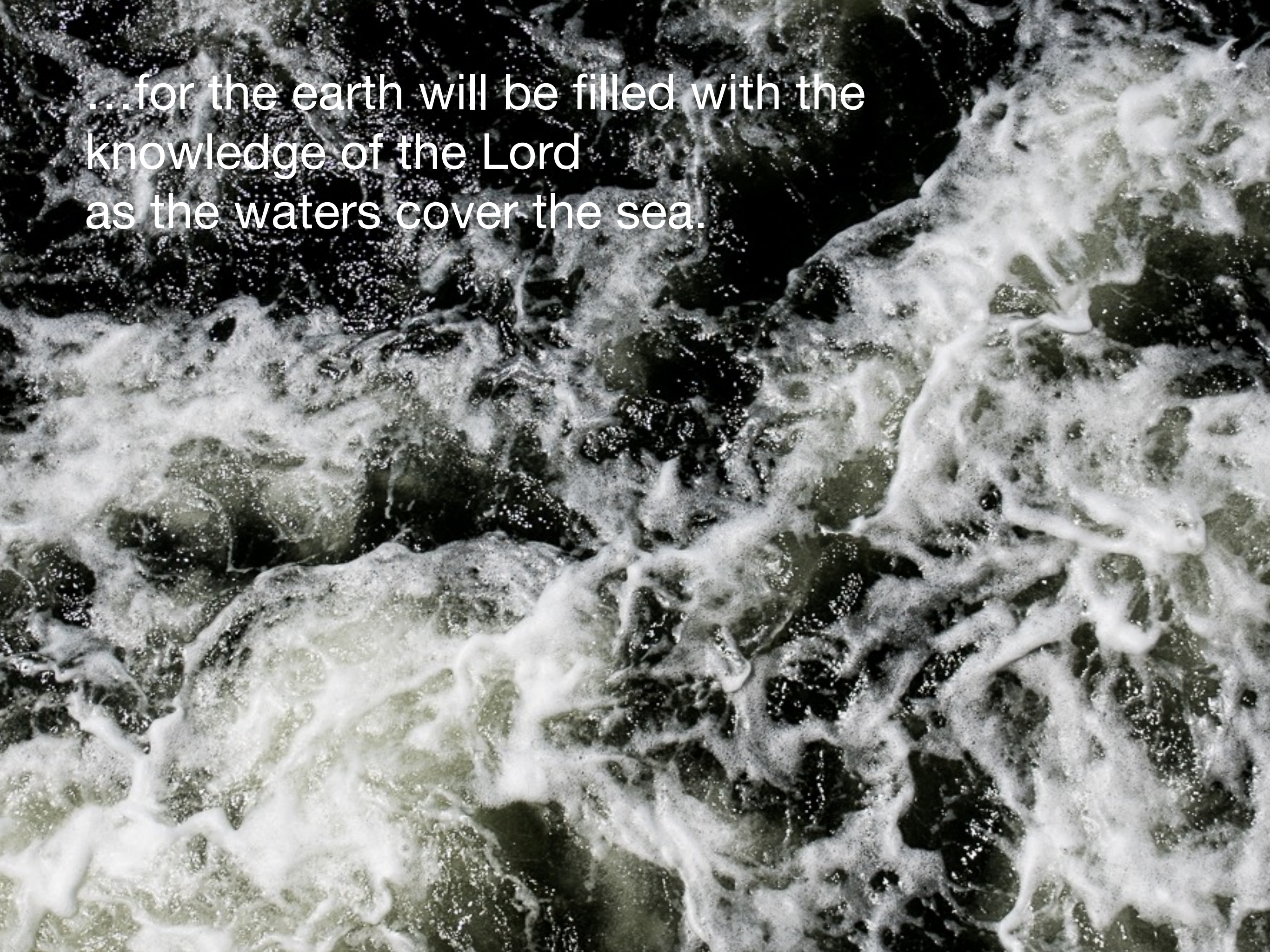
The cow will feed with the bear, their
young will lie down together, and the lion
will eat straw like the ox.

The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into
the viper's nest.

They will neither harm nor
destroy on all my holy
mountain....



...for the earth will be filled with the
knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.



What Is Your Image of the Kingdom of God?

Take 4 minutes to share one of the following

- Draw a picture
 - Share a photo
 - Write a response
-

Virtual Participants:

Jamboard Link (Shared in Chat)

https://jamboard.google.com/d/1egzRMik3KsbAOTDiMGtM1VQqT8_2_a36SbnlhRkN71E/edit?usp=sharing

In-Person Participants:

Jamboard QR Code



5: the annunciation

Luke 1, vv 26-35, 38



6: the nativity

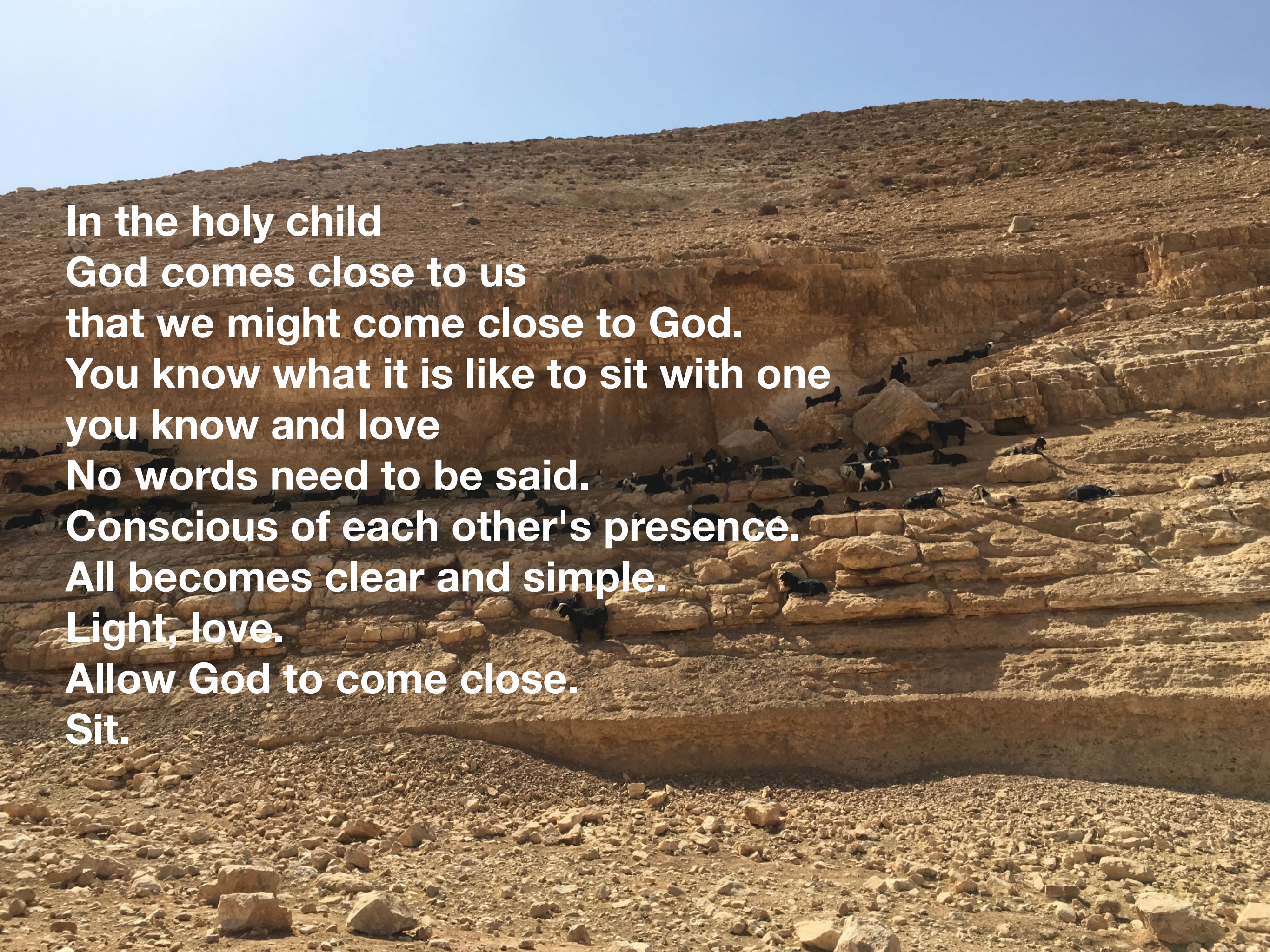
Luke 2, vv 1, 3-7



7: the shepherds

Luke 2, vv 8-16



A photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there is a rocky, uneven ground covered with small stones and pebbles. In the middle ground, a large, steep hillside rises, composed of layered, light-brown rock formations. A herd of goats, mostly black with some white markings, is scattered across the hillside, some standing and some resting. The background shows the continuation of the hillside under a clear, bright blue sky.

In the holy child
God comes close to us
that we might come close to God.
You know what it is like to sit with one
you know and love
No words need to be said.
Conscious of each other's presence.
All becomes clear and simple.
Light, love.
Allow God to come close.
Sit.

8: the magi

Matthew 2, vv 1-12











The Visit of the Wise Men & the Escape to Egypt

THE
NATIONAL
GALLERY

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men to learn from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay homage." When they had heard him, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt and paid homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



Workshop of Goossen van der WEYDEN. The Flight into Egypt,
about 1516, NG1084 © The National Gallery, London.
Bequeathed by Mrs Joseph H. Green, 1880.

9: the word

John 1, vv 1-14



God of the new day and the passing night

May we forgive and be forgiven

May past hurts not hold us back

And our vision be renewed

God of the now and the fleeting moment

**May we recognise the hurt and
loneliness around us**

**May our hands
be those that bring healing
And the words of liberation
spill from our mouths**

God of our past and all that has been

**May we recognise your hand
guiding our story**

May we rest in those who loved us

**And be ready to leap from the
shoulders of giants**

God of our tomorrows

**Born into poverty,
dependent on a new mother's love
May we learn to rely on you this day
And act as if our hope in the future
is irresistible**



race