



Follow the Star

The journey of discovering Jesus



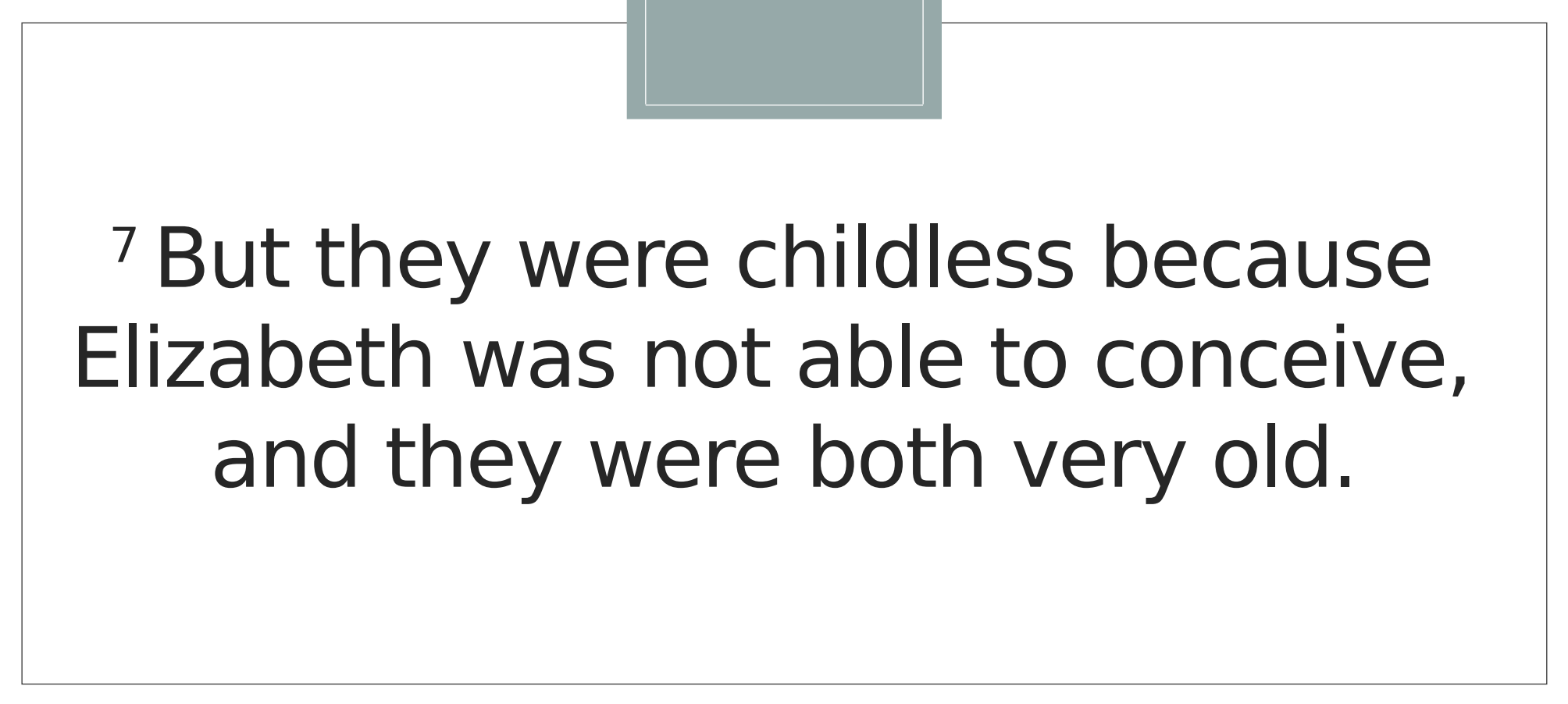
The birth of Jesus was prophesized
for years before his birth

Gen 49:10 / Micah 5:2 / Isaiah 7:14

5 In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron.



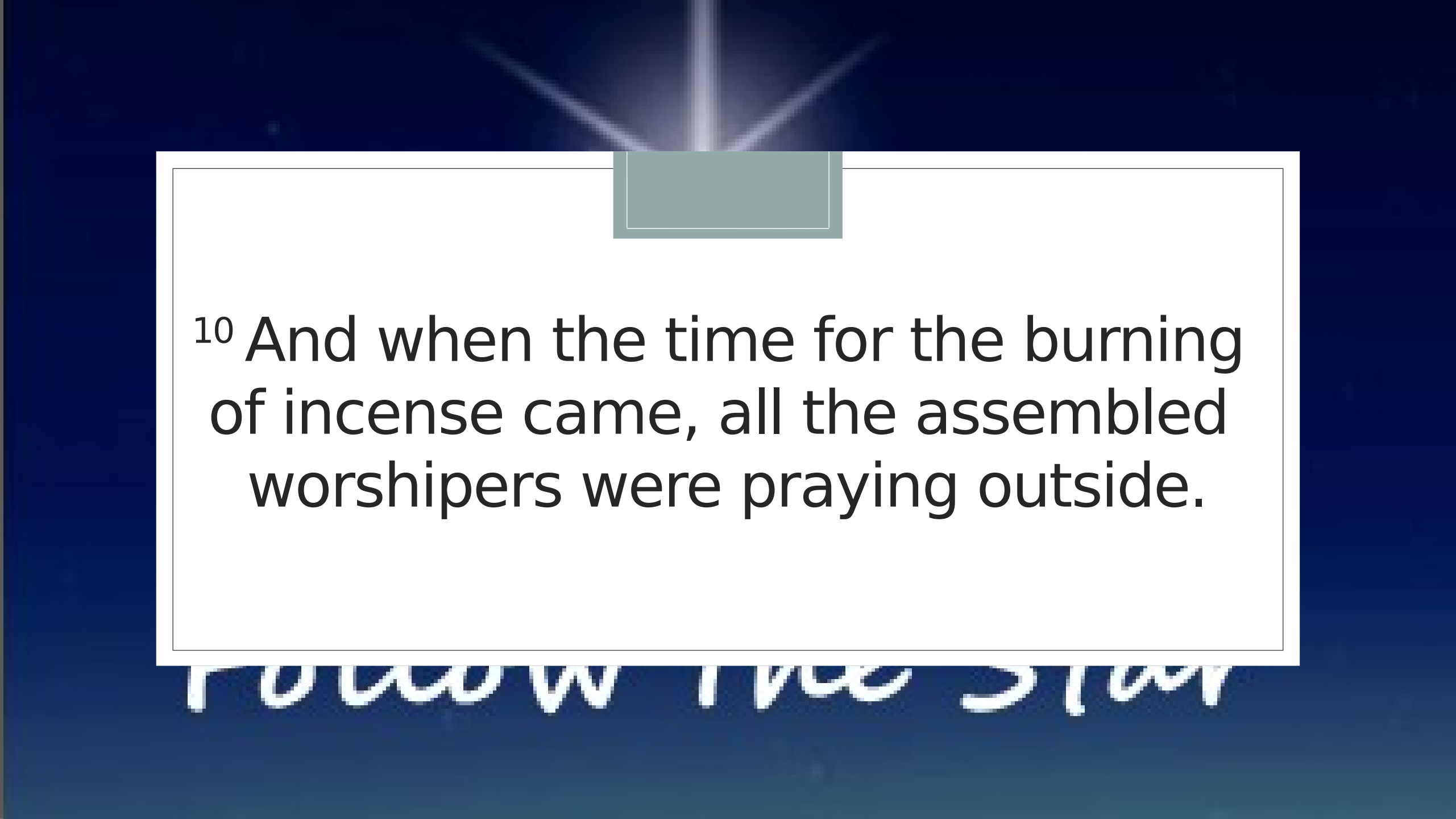
‘ Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commands and decrees blamelessly.



⁷ But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

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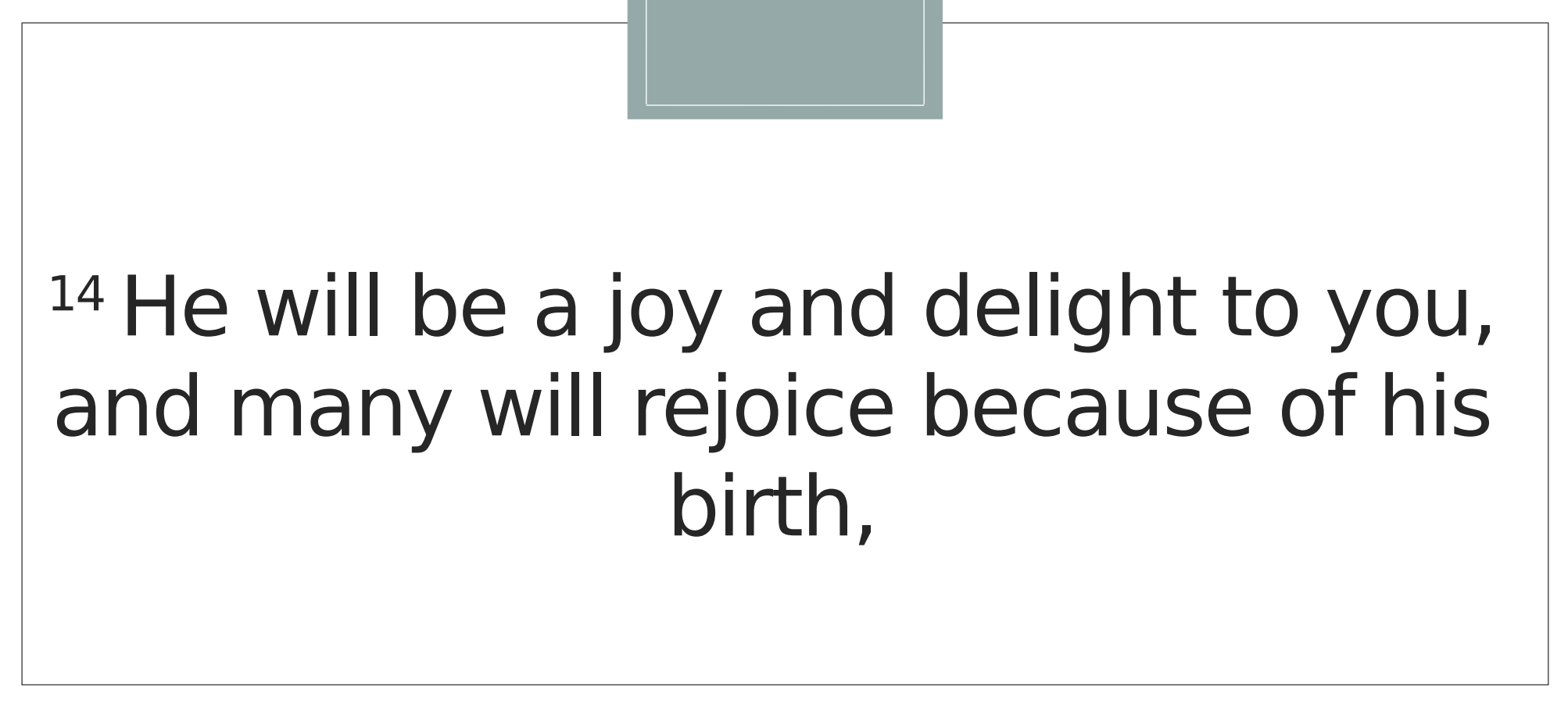
Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense..



¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.¹² When Zechariah saw him, fear.

¹³ But the angel said to him: “Do not
been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will
bear you a son, and you are to call
him John.



¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you,
and many will rejoice because of his
birth,

¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or

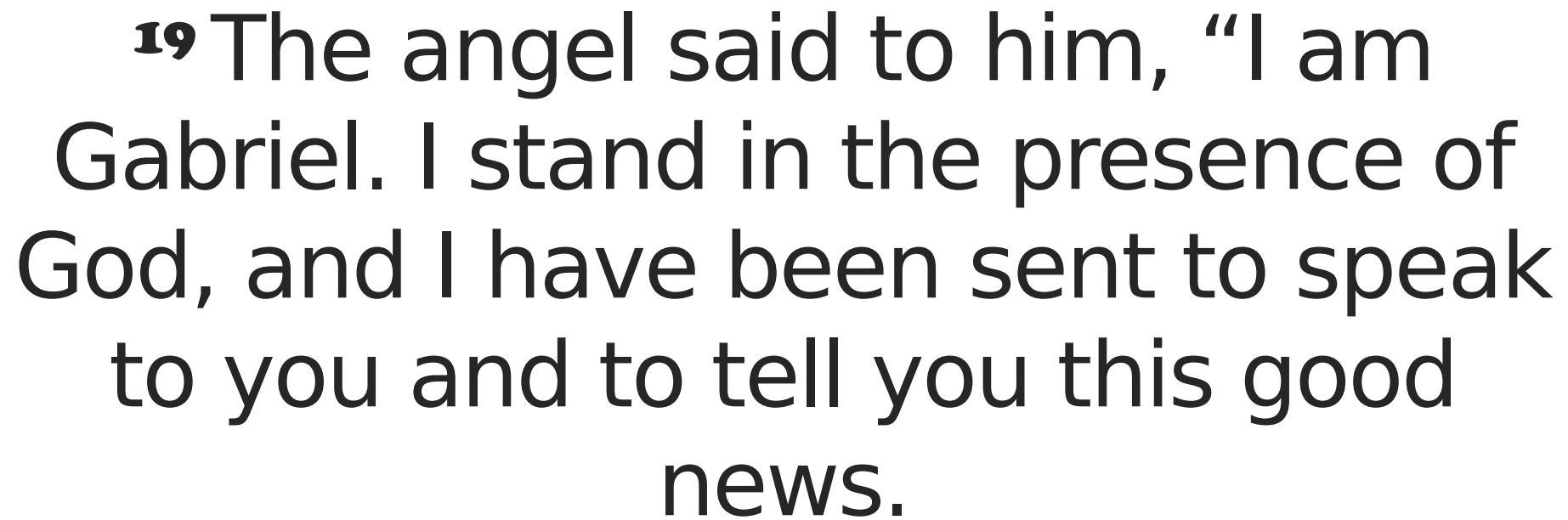
¹⁶ He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.

17 And he will go on before the Lord,
in the spirit and power of Elijah, to

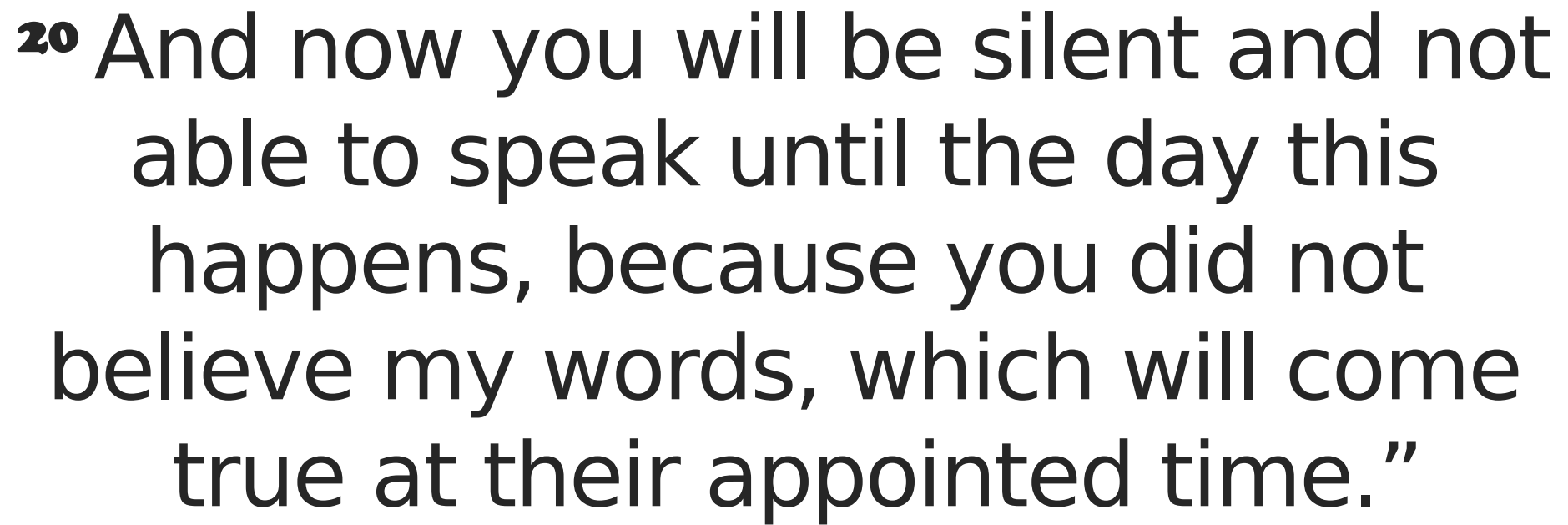
children and the disobedient to the
wisdom of the righteous to make
ready a people prepared for the

Lord.”

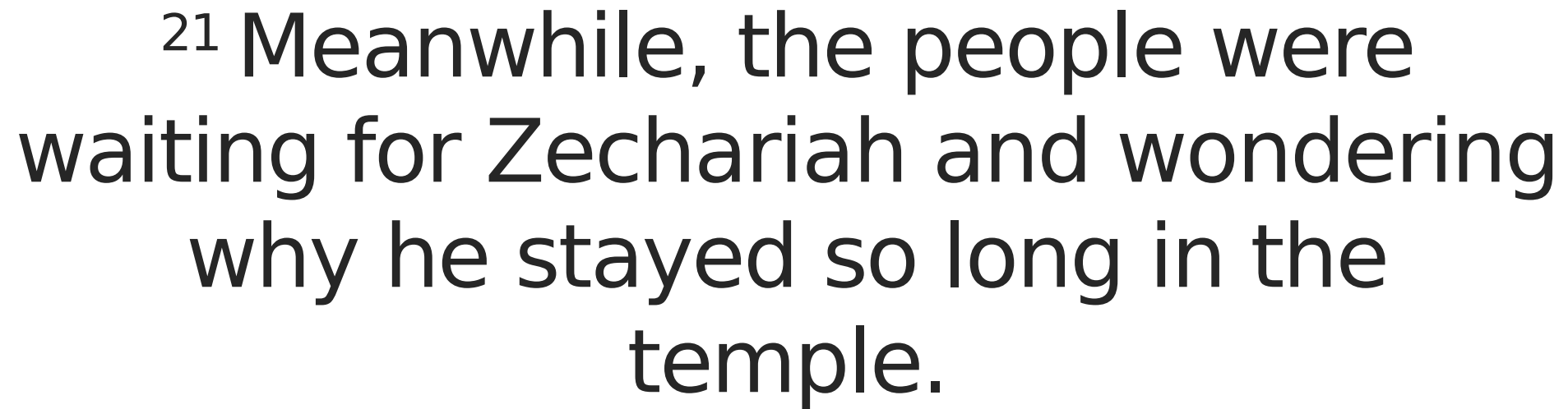
18 Zechariah asked the angel, “How
and my wife is well along in years.”



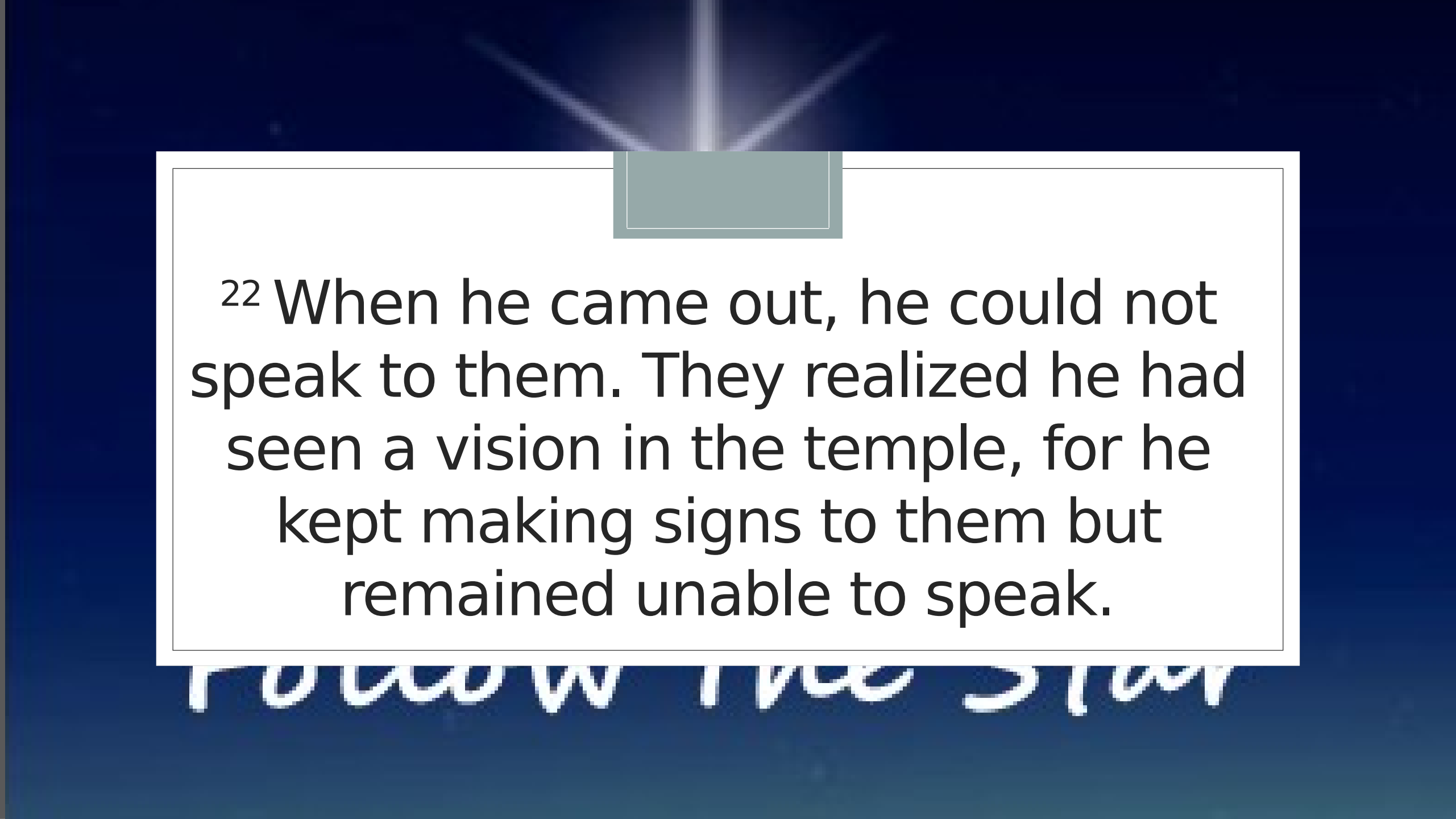
19 The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.



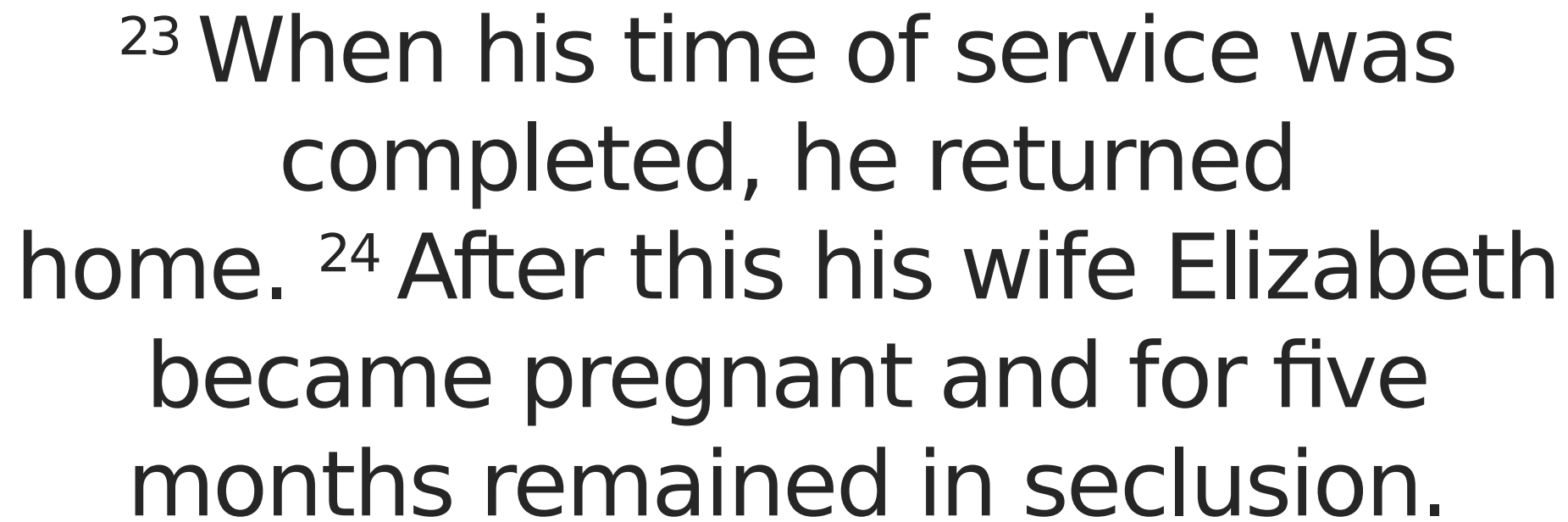
20 And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”



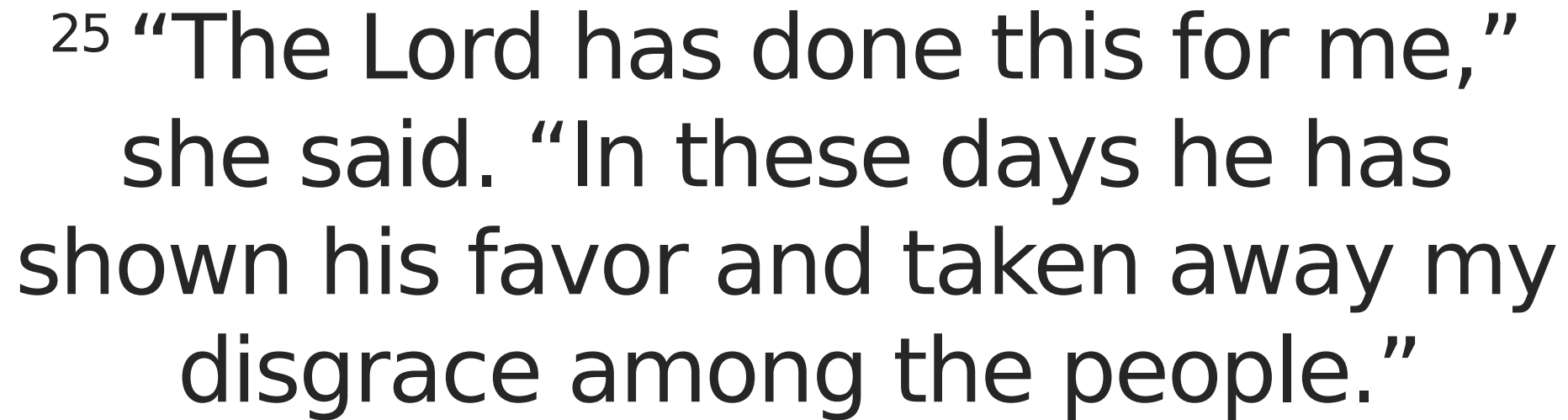
²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple.



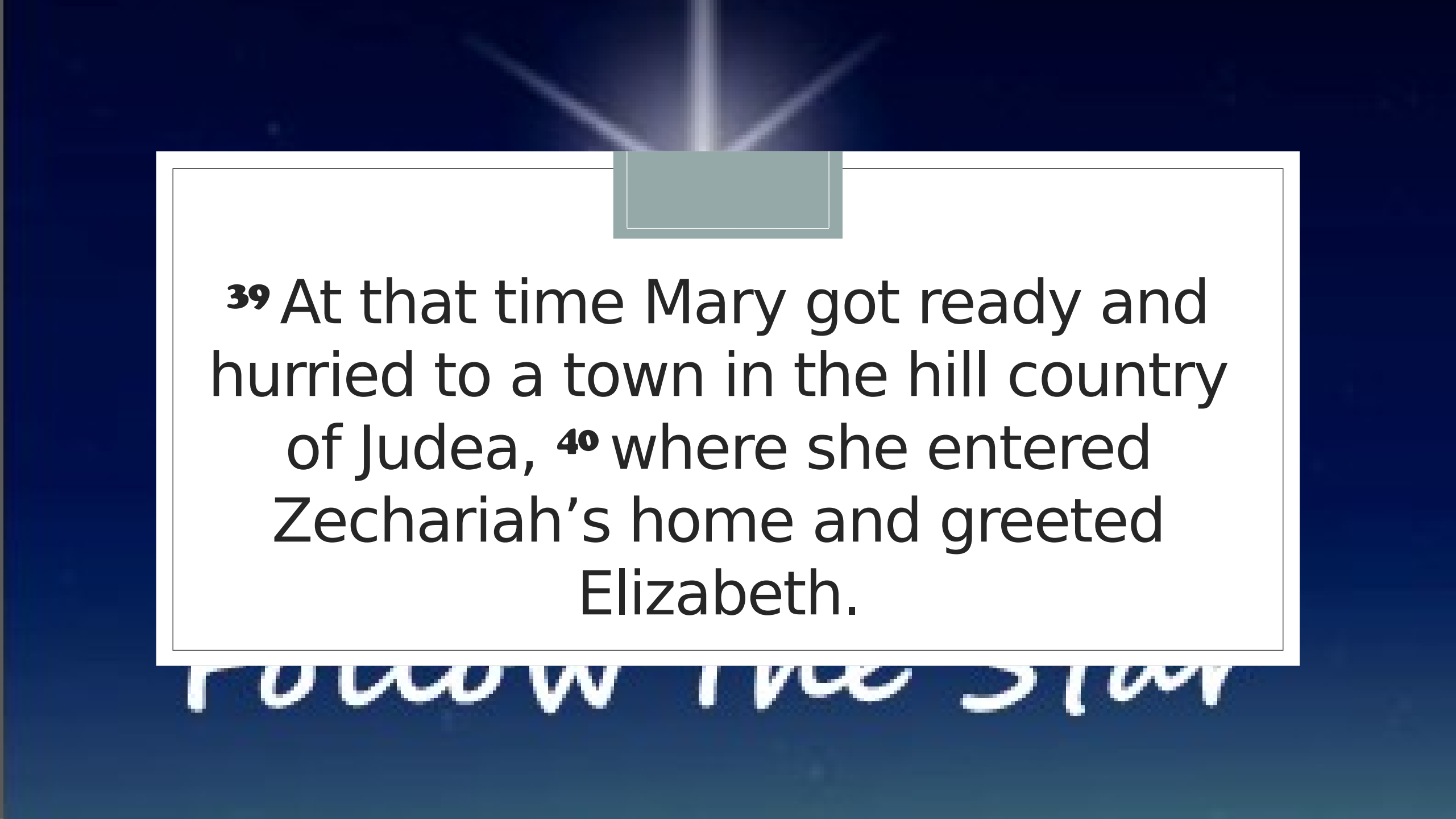
²² When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.



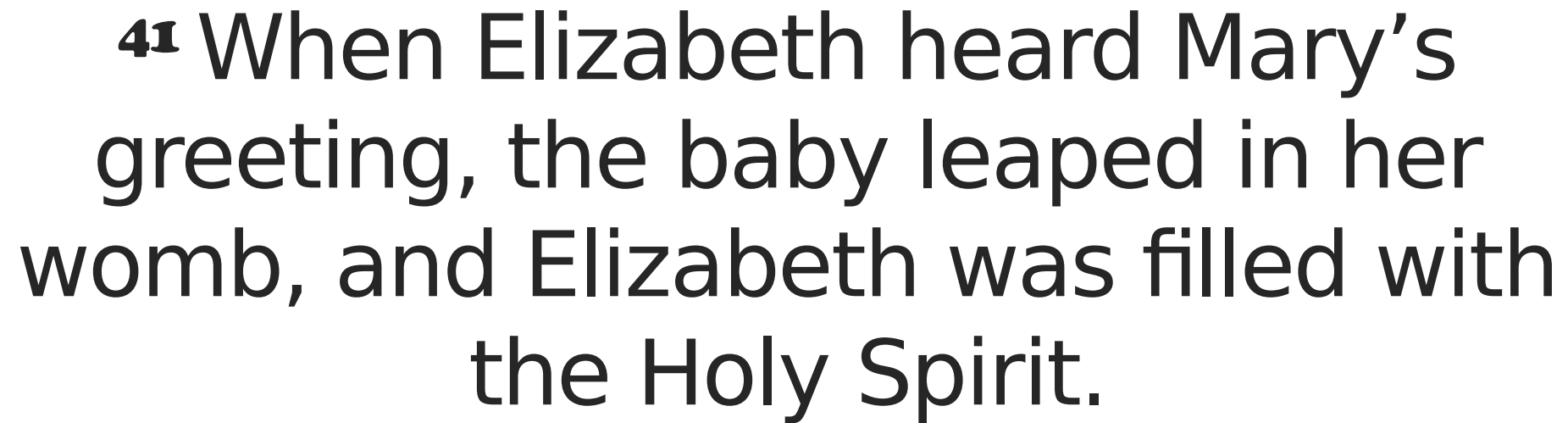
²³ When his time of service was completed, he returned home. ²⁴ After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.



²⁵ “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”



39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, **40** where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.



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

42 In a loud voice she exclaimed:

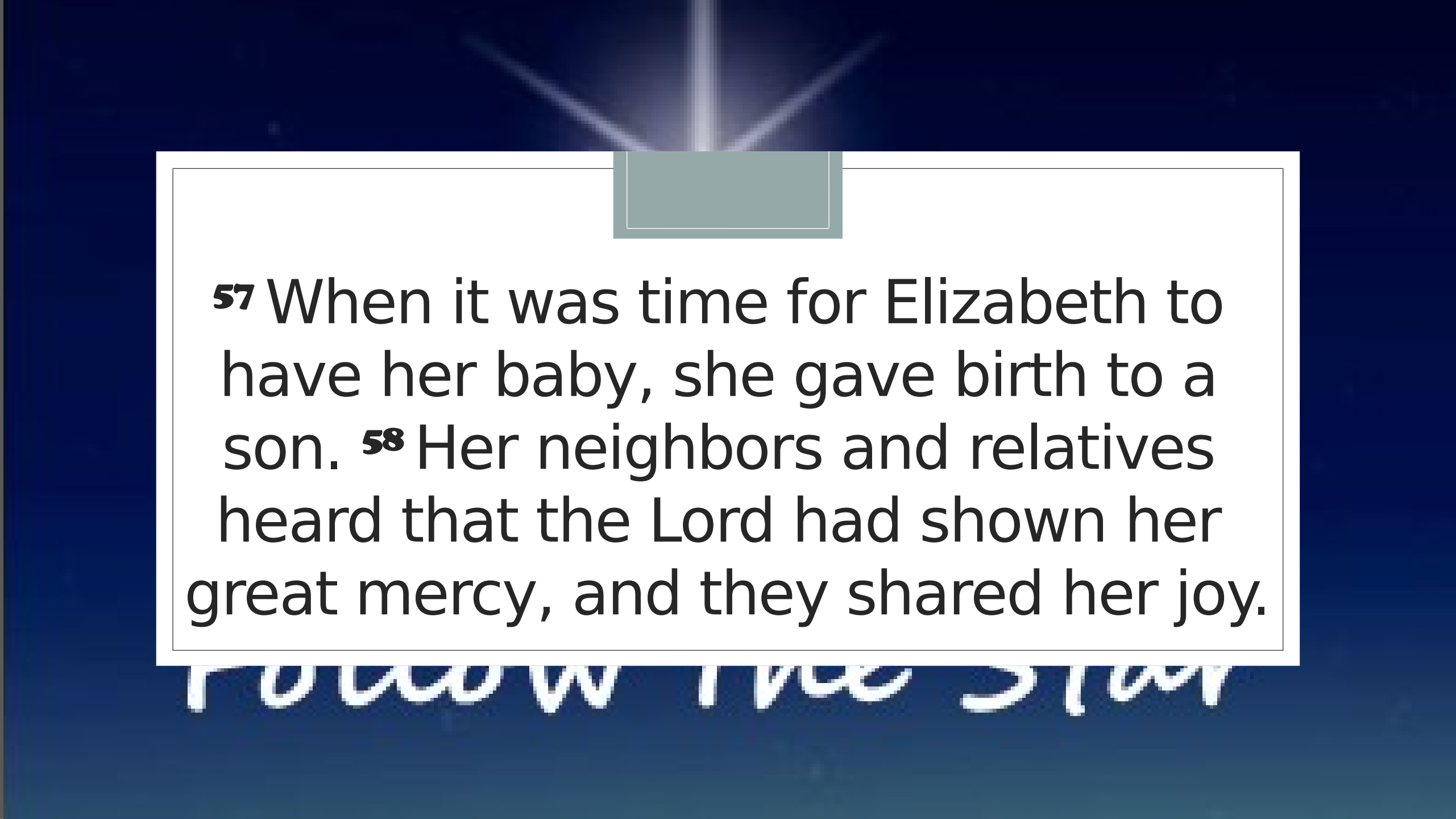
blessed is the child you will

43 But why am I so favored, that
the mother of my Lord should come
to me?

⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your
greeting reached my ears, the baby

⁴⁵ Blessed

would fulfill his promises to her!”



57 When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. **58** Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

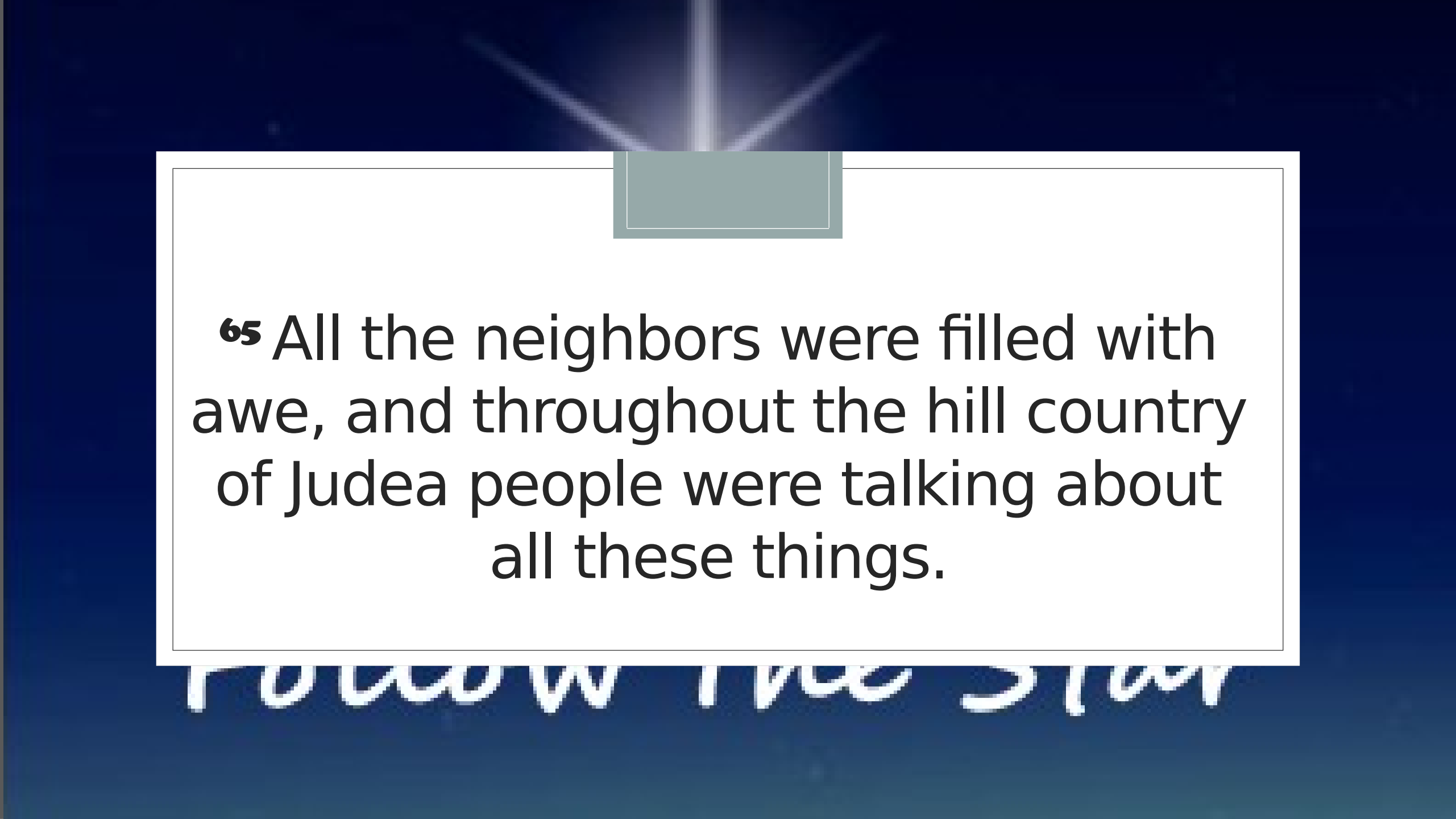
59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father

60 but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

⁶¹ They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child.

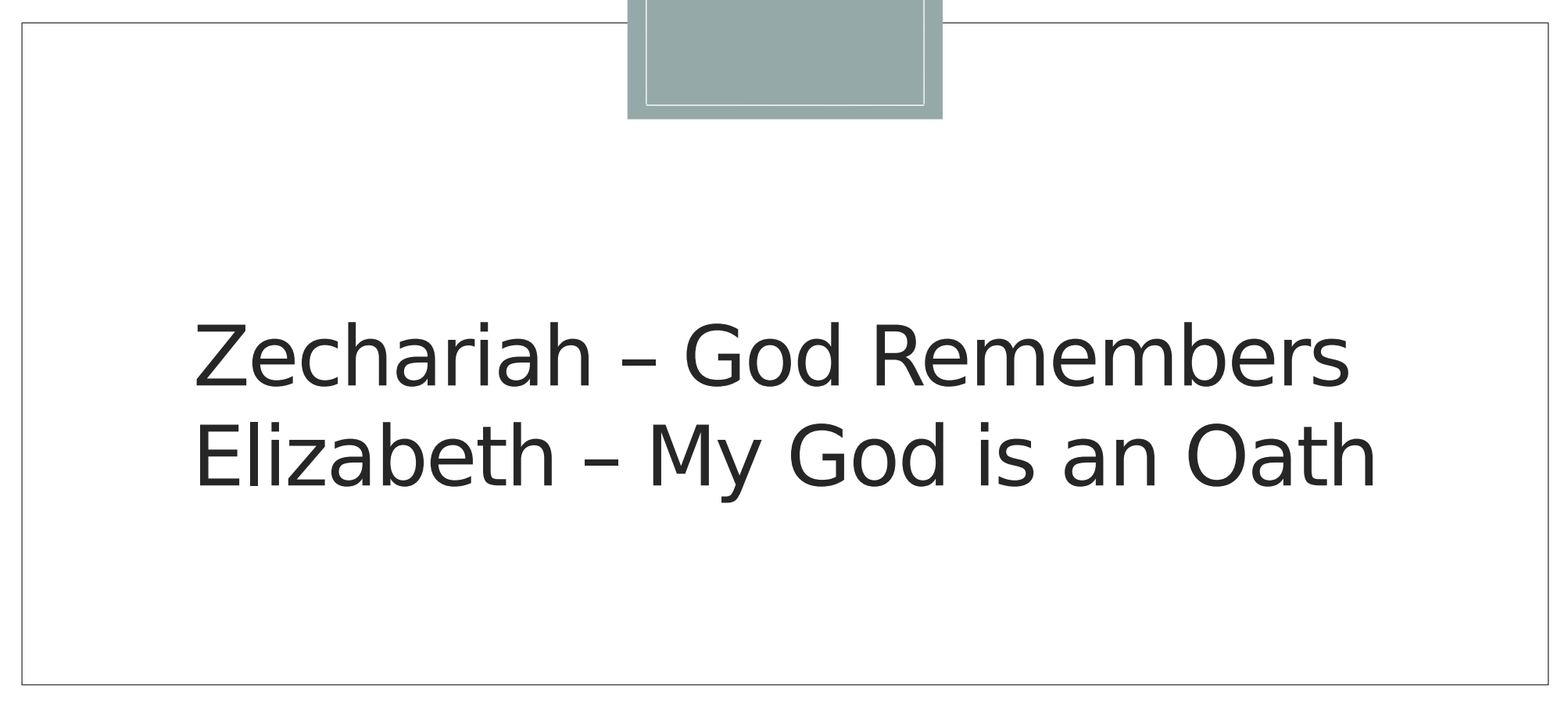
⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John."⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God.



65 All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things.

Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

Vs 5 – Zechariah and Elizabeth
- both from priestly lineage
- in the division of Abijah
- 1st Chron 24



Zechariah – God Remembers
Elizabeth – My God is an Oath

6 Both of them were righteous in the
7 But they were childless
because Elizabeth was not able to
conceive



Vs 8 - Zechariah is on duty



Vs 10 - The time came

was startled and was gripped with
fear

was startled and was gripped with
fear

Vs 13 - Don't Be Afraid



Your prayers have been heard

FOLLOW THE STAIR

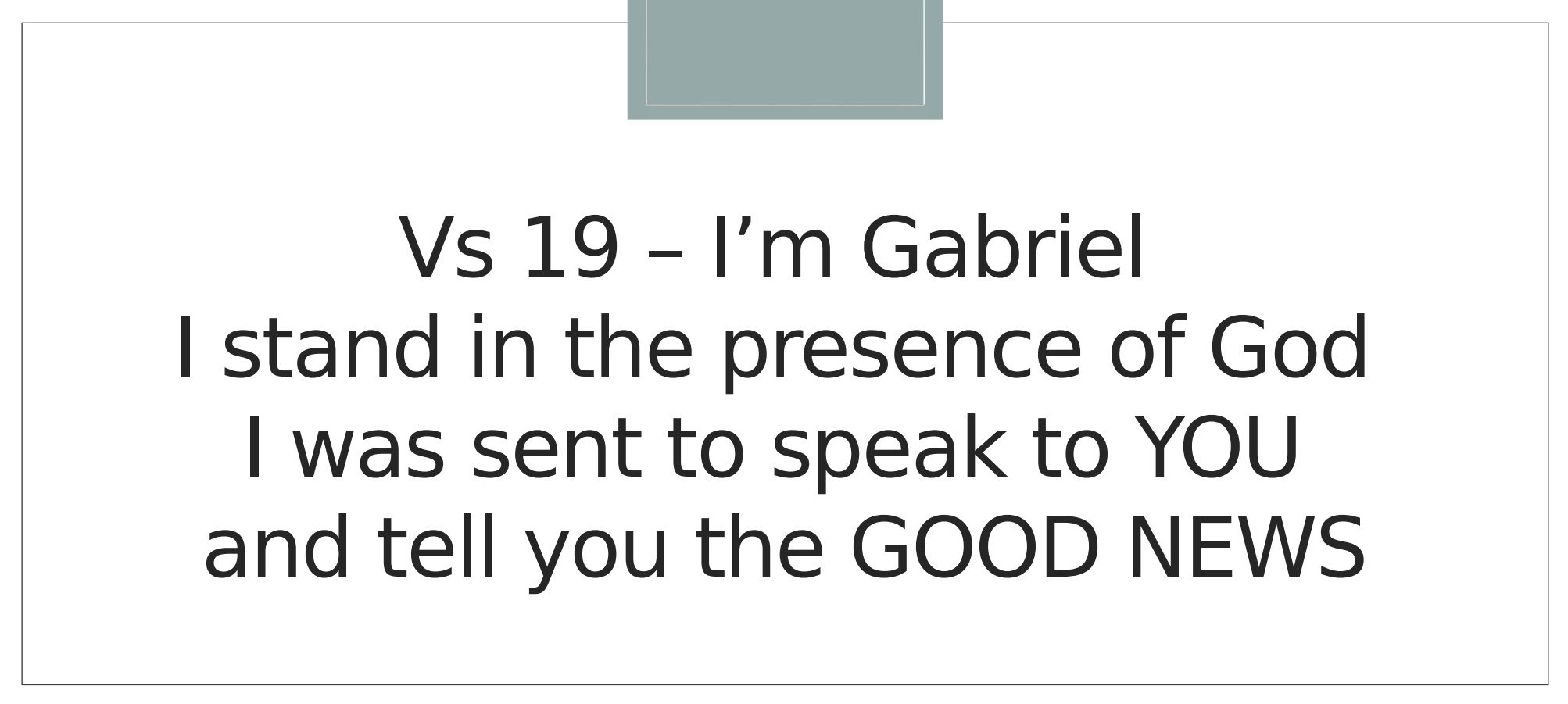


Vs 14 - Let me tell you about your
son



Vs 18 - How can I be sure of this?

Follow the steps



Vs 19 - I'm Gabriel
I stand in the presence of God
I was sent to speak to YOU
and tell you the GOOD NEWS

Vs 20 - and now you will be silent
until the day this happens

which will come true at their
appointed time



Vs 21 - everyone's waiting for
Zechariah



This impossible situation with man
is made possible by the possible God



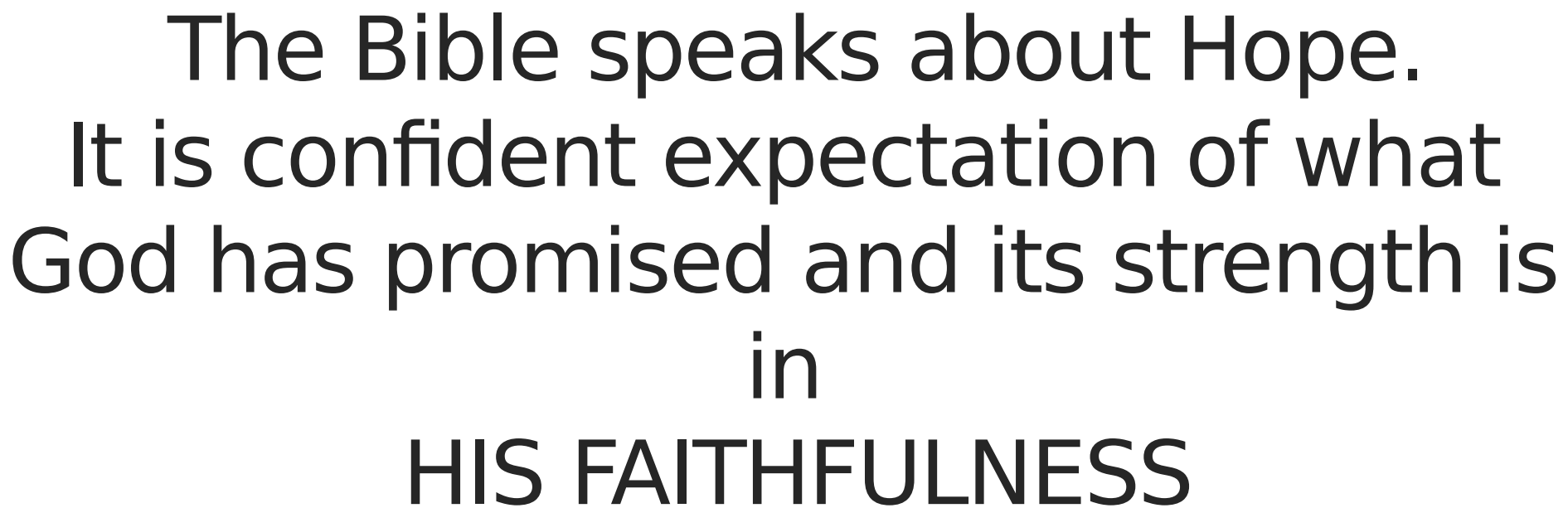
Vs 39-45 - Elizabeth is filled with the
Holy Spirit

Vs 57 - It's a boy

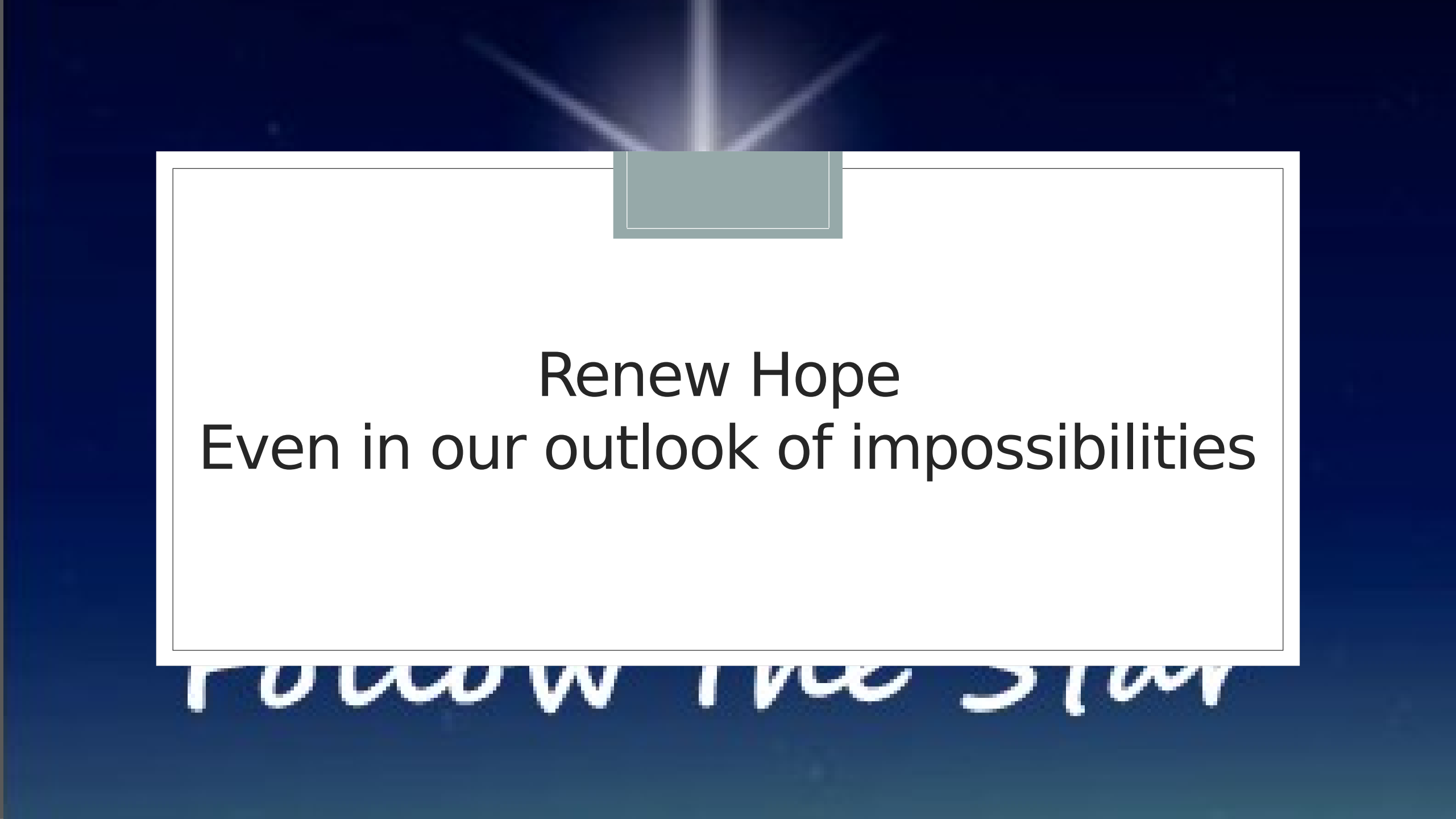


What is Hope?

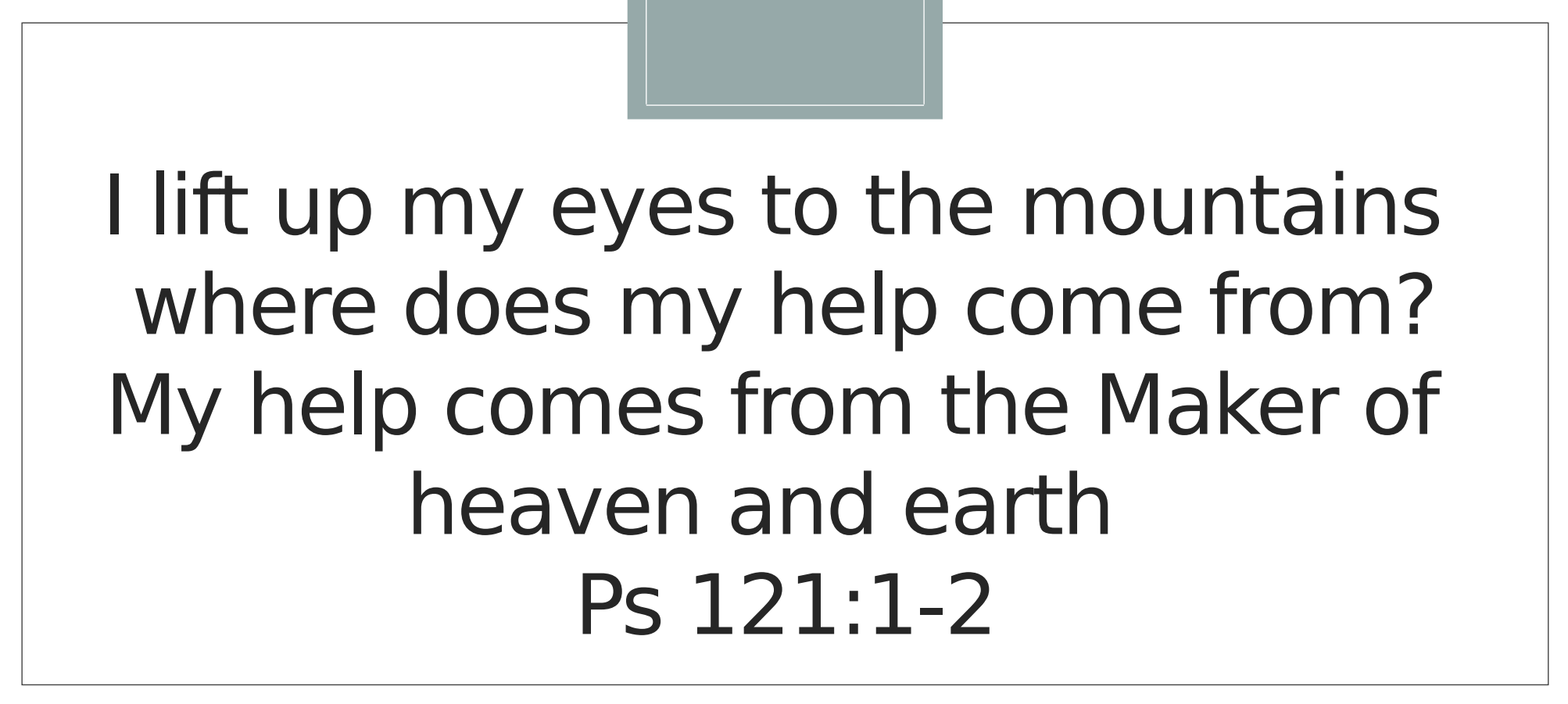
A feeling of expectation
those feelings are only as good and
reliable as the person you are
hoping in



The Bible speaks about Hope.
It is confident expectation of what
God has promised and its strength is
in
HIS FAITHFULNESS

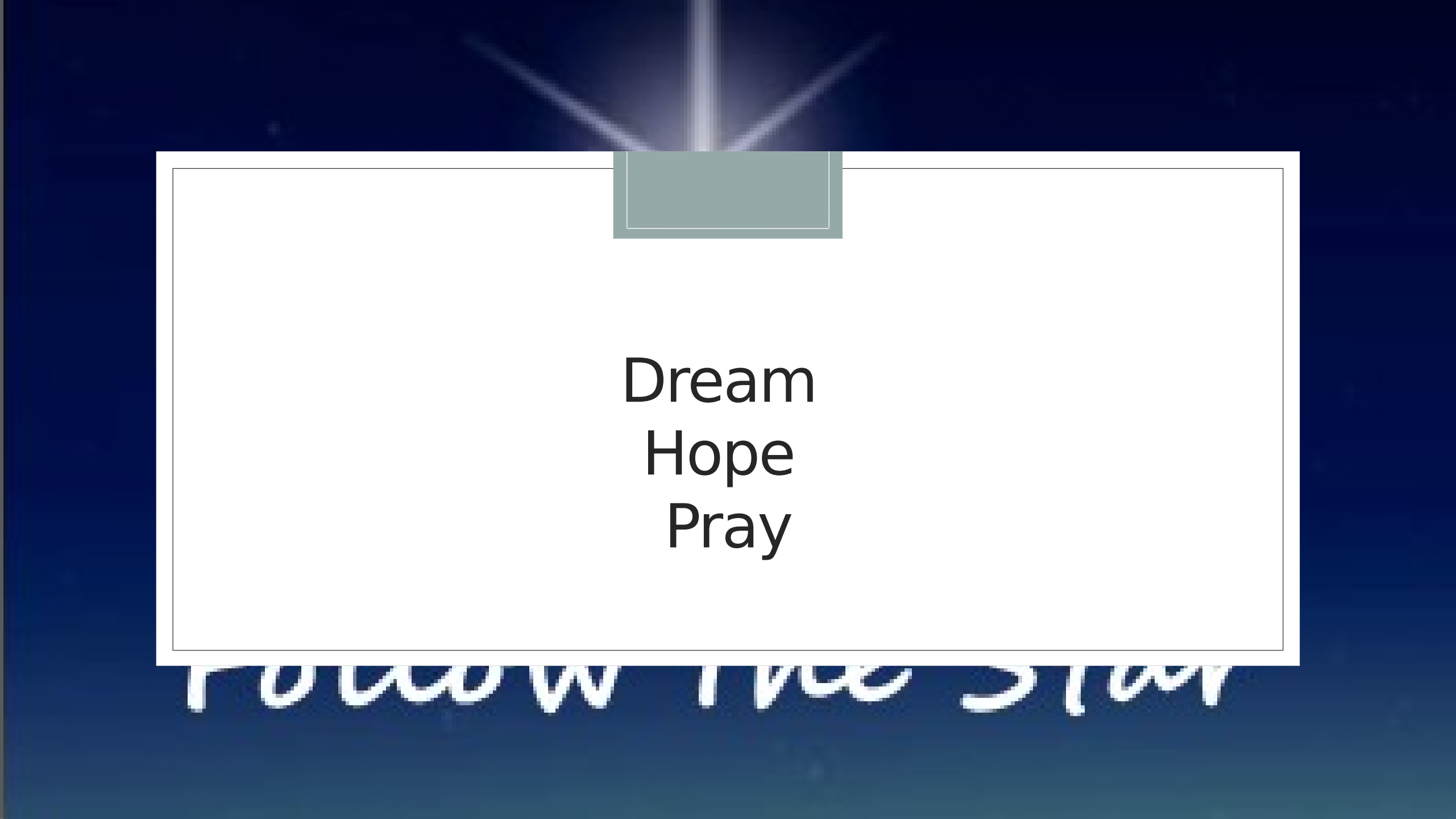


Renew Hope
Even in our outlook of impossibilities



I lift up my eyes to the mountains
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Maker of
heaven and earth

Ps 121:1-2



Dream
Hope
Pray

FOLLOW THE STARS



Follow the Star

The journey of discovering Jesus