


# HOLIDAY TRAVEL PLANS



# Matthew 2:1-2 (ESV)

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

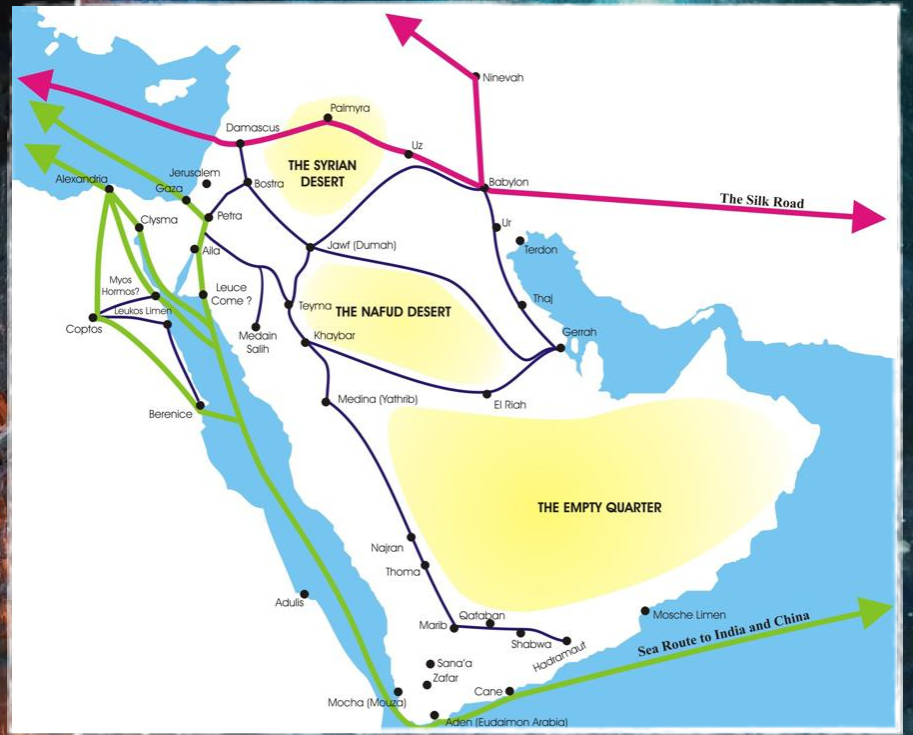
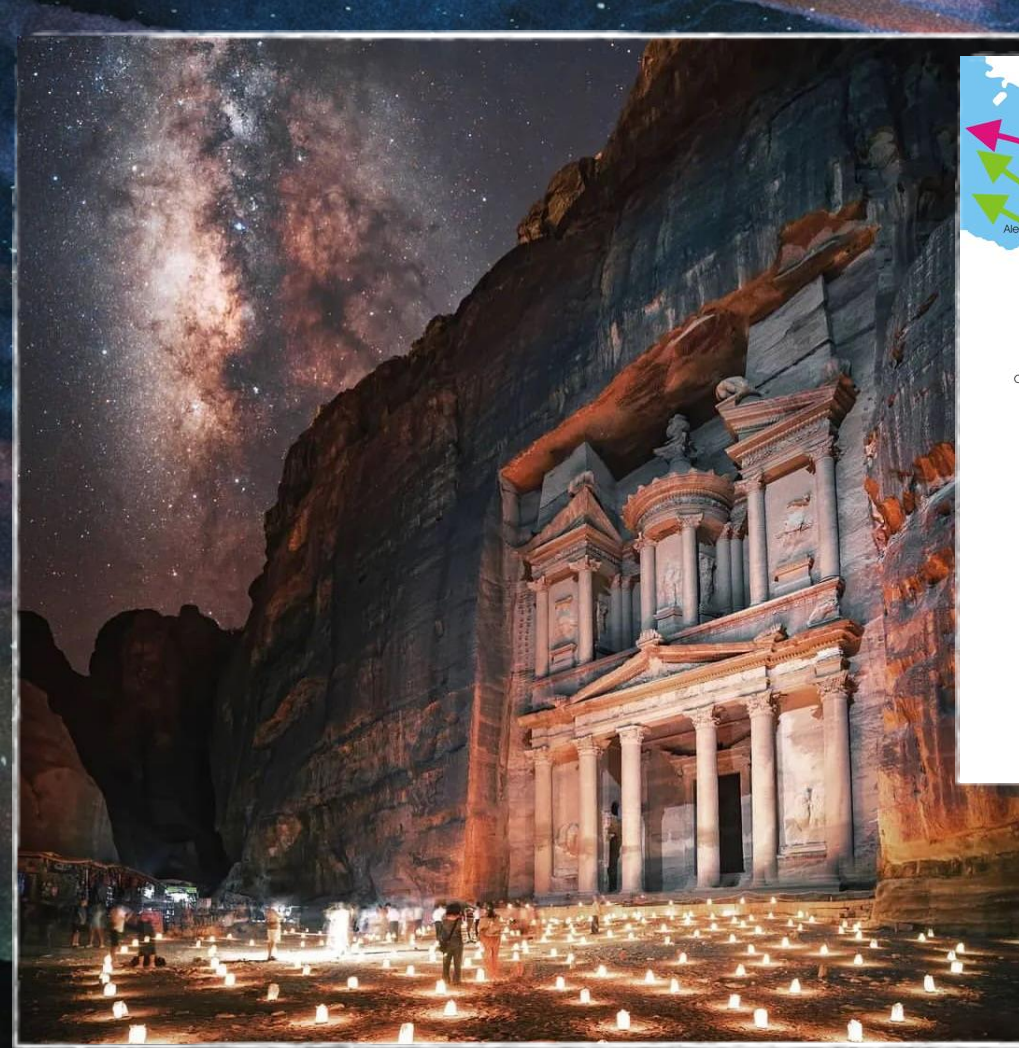
The image features a vibrant, multi-colored night sky with streaks of purple, blue, and orange, suggesting a nebula or a starry night. In the foreground, the silhouettes of three wise men riding camels are visible against the horizon. The overall scene is set against a dark, starry background.

Q1: Who is traveling & from where?





The Magi

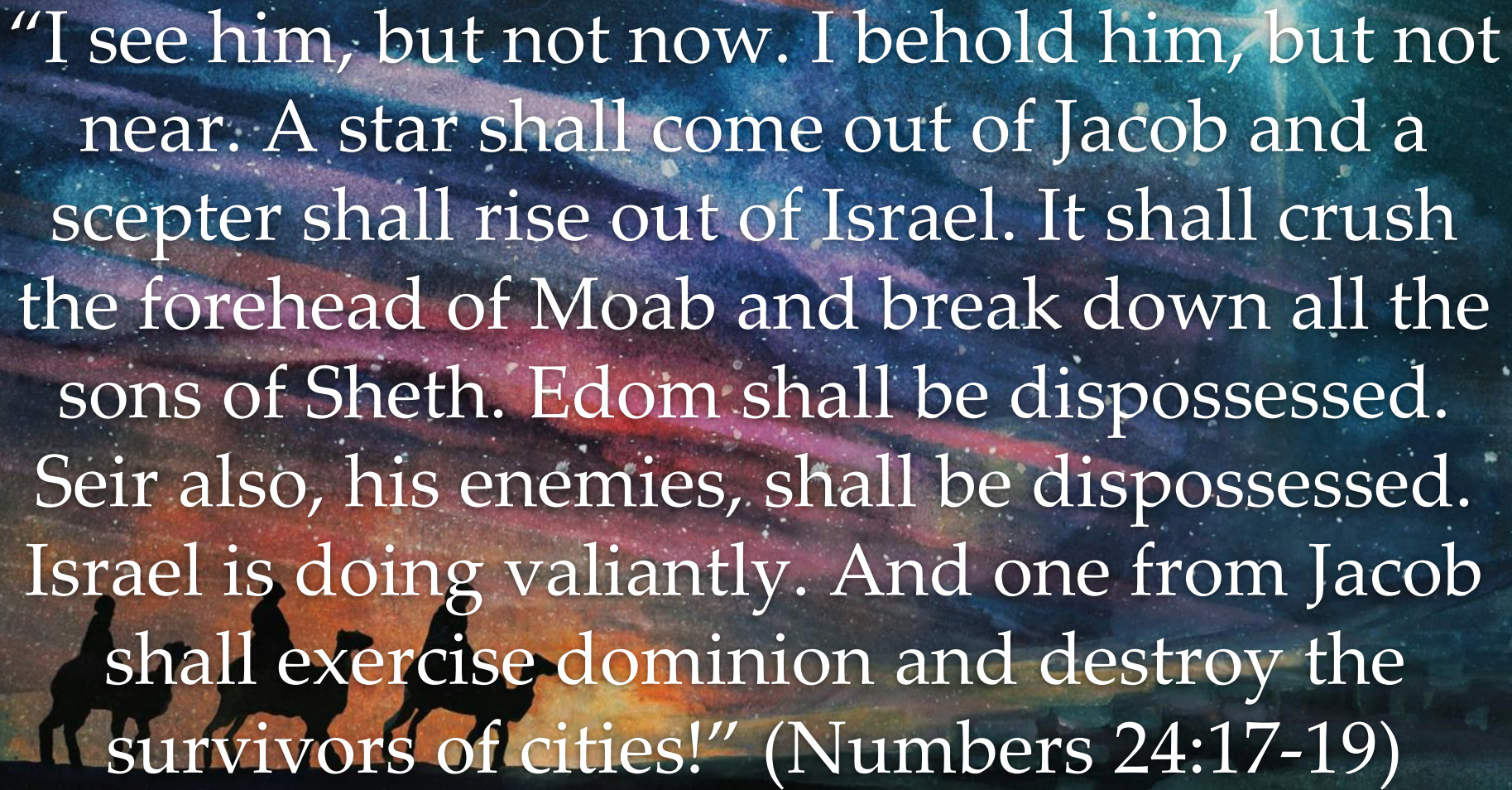


# The Kingdom of Nabataea

Q2: Why do the wise men  
embark on such a journey?





The background features a vibrant, multi-colored nebula in shades of blue, purple, and red against a dark starry sky. In the lower-left foreground, the silhouettes of three riders on camels are visible, moving from left to right across a dark horizon.

“I see him, but not now. I behold him, but not near. A star shall come out of Jacob and a scepter shall rise out of Israel. It shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth. Edom shall be dispossessed. Seir also, his enemies, shall be dispossessed. Israel is doing valiantly. And one from Jacob shall exercise dominion and destroy the survivors of cities!” (Numbers 24:17-19)



A night sky filled with stars, with a prominent star cluster in the upper right. The Milky Way is visible as a faint, glowing band of light across the lower half of the sky. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of a building with a curved facade is visible on the right, and a satellite dish is positioned in the center. The entire scene is framed by a white border.

# The “Star” of Bethlehem?



The wise men long for LIGHT  
to shine in the darkness.

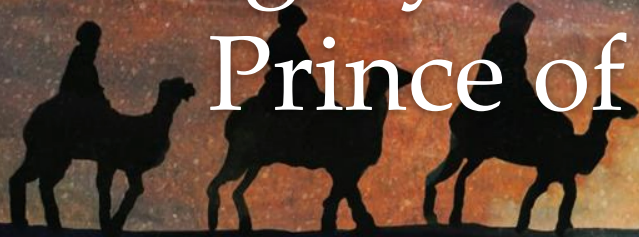
“The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light. Those who  
dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on  
them has light shone.” (Isaiah 9:2)



“The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world... The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:9, 5)

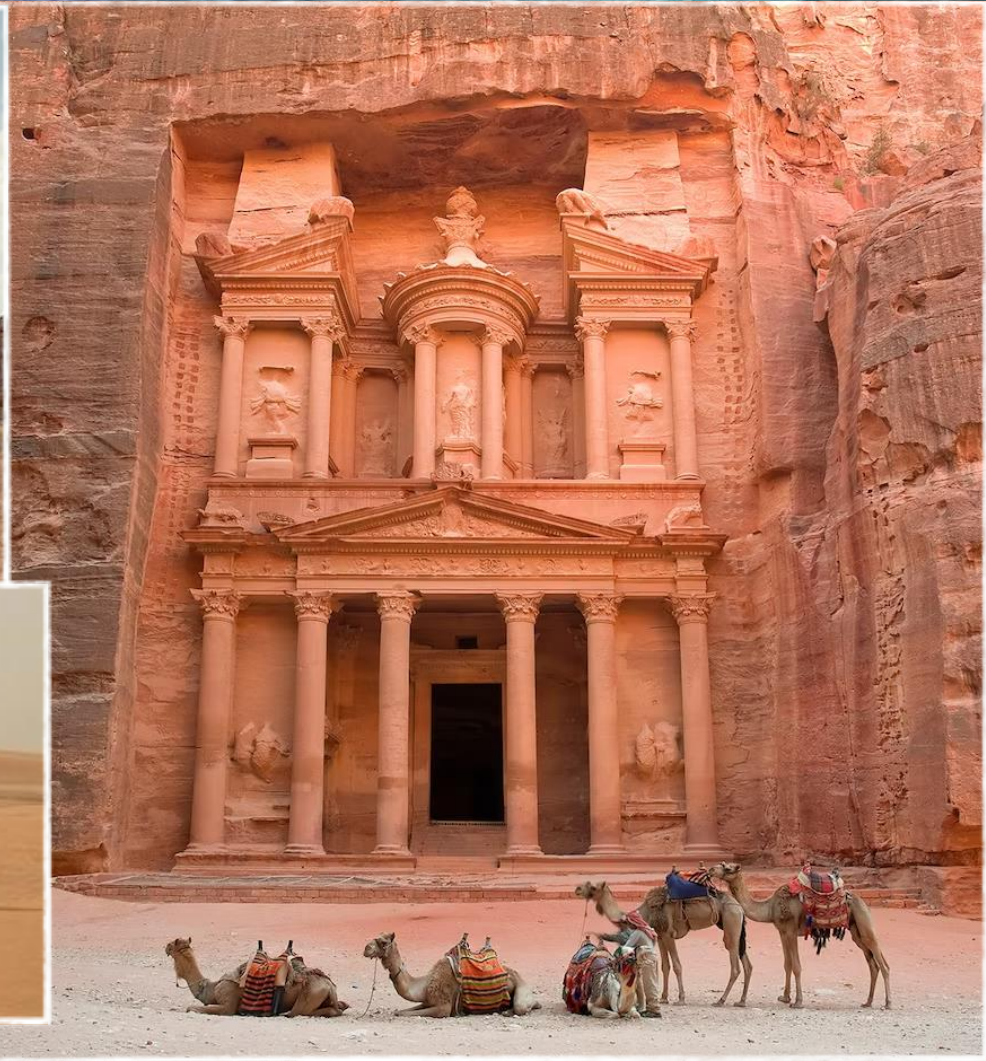


“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)



Q3: What was the journey  
like?





**Q4: Why do our travelers  
end up first at Jerusalem &  
then in Bethlehem?**





# Matthew 2:3-4 (ESV)

3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.



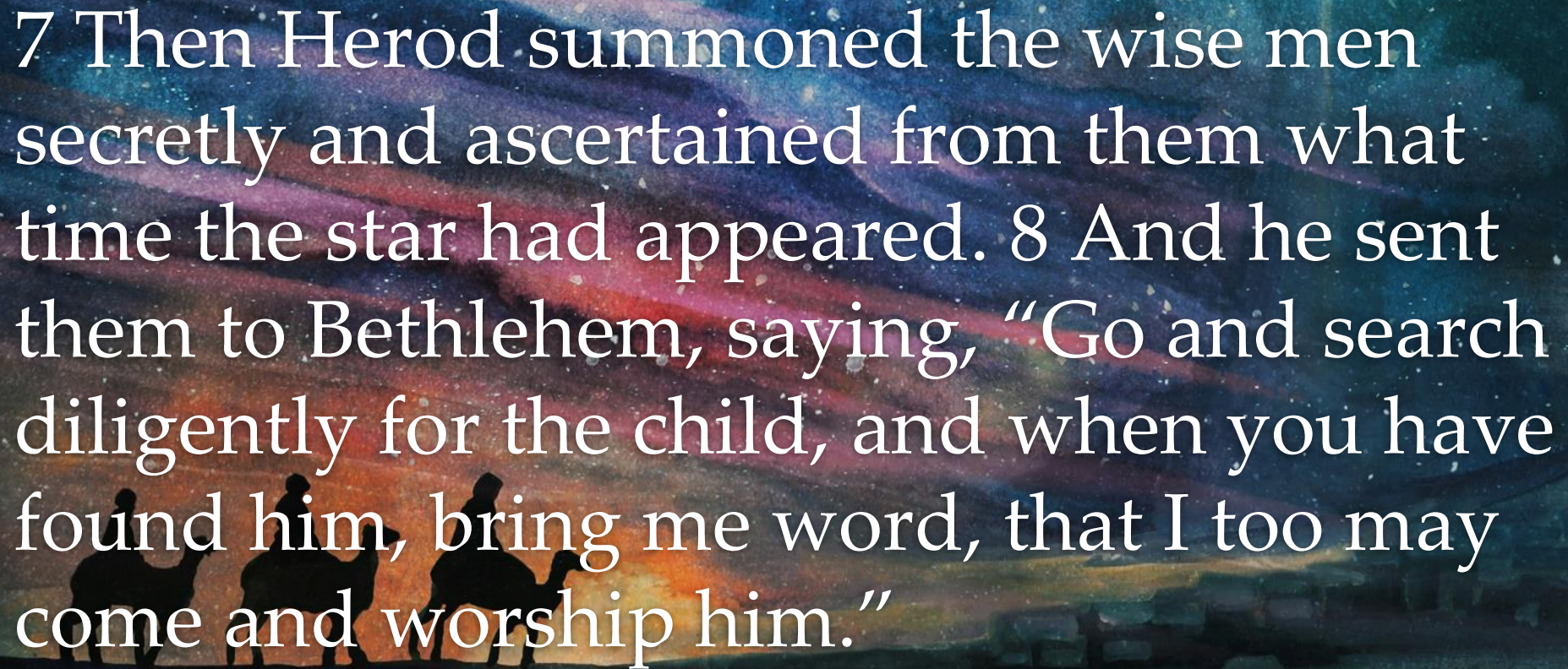
## Matthew 2:5-6 (ESV)

5 They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: 6 ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”



## Matthew 2:7-8 (ESV)

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

The background of the image is a vibrant, multi-colored night sky with streaks of purple, blue, and orange. In the lower-left corner, the silhouettes of three wise men riding camels are visible against the horizon. A bright star with a lens flare is positioned in the upper-right corner of the sky.

## Matthew 2:9-10 (ESV)

9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.



**Q5: What happens when the  
wise men reach their  
destination?**



# Matthew 2:11 (ESV)

11 And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.



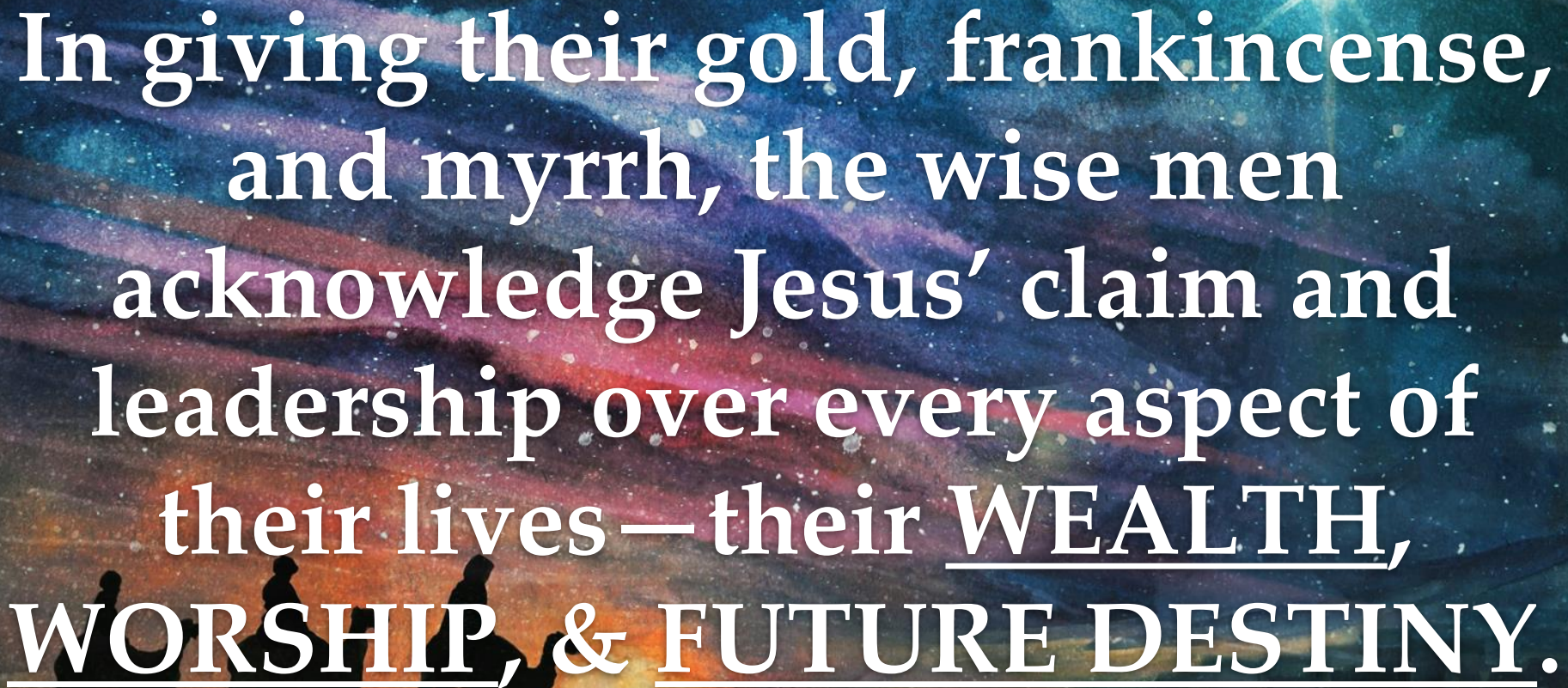


Myrrh & Frankincense

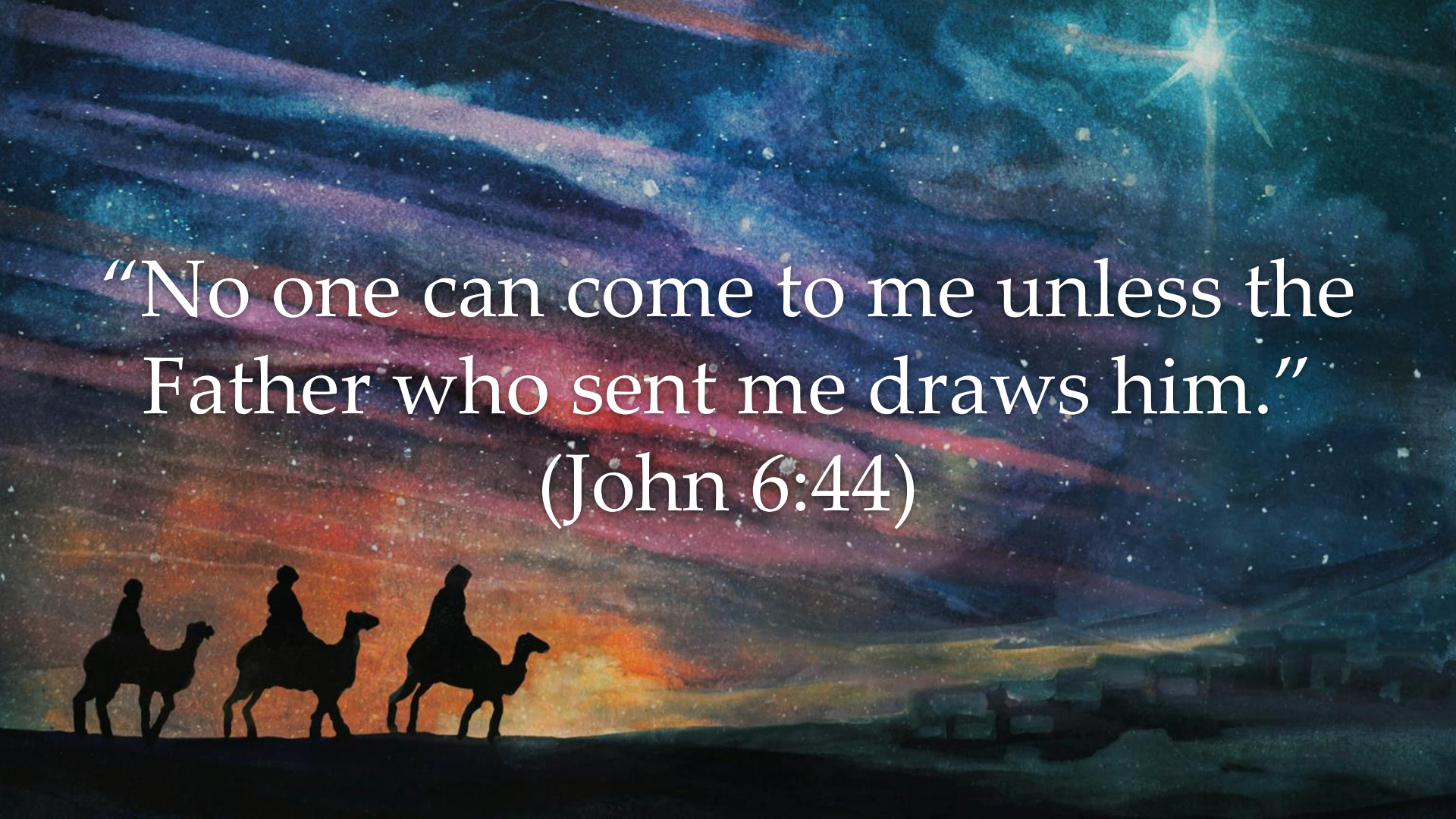
The Magi have come with  
exuberant delight to PAY  
HOMAGE to Jesus — to pledge to  
Him their affection, devotion, and  
allegiance and to accept Him as  
their Lord.







In giving their gold, frankincense,  
and myrrh, the wise men  
acknowledge Jesus' claim and  
leadership over every aspect of  
their lives — their WEALTH,  
WORSHIP, & FUTURE DESTINY.

The background is a rich, multi-colored night sky with streaks of purple, blue, and orange. A bright, multi-pointed star is visible in the upper right corner. In the foreground, the silhouettes of three people riding camels are visible against the colorful sky. The overall scene suggests a journey or pilgrimage.

“No one can come to me unless the  
Father who sent me draws him.”  
(John 6:44)

“[God] himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us.”

(Acts 17:25-27)

