

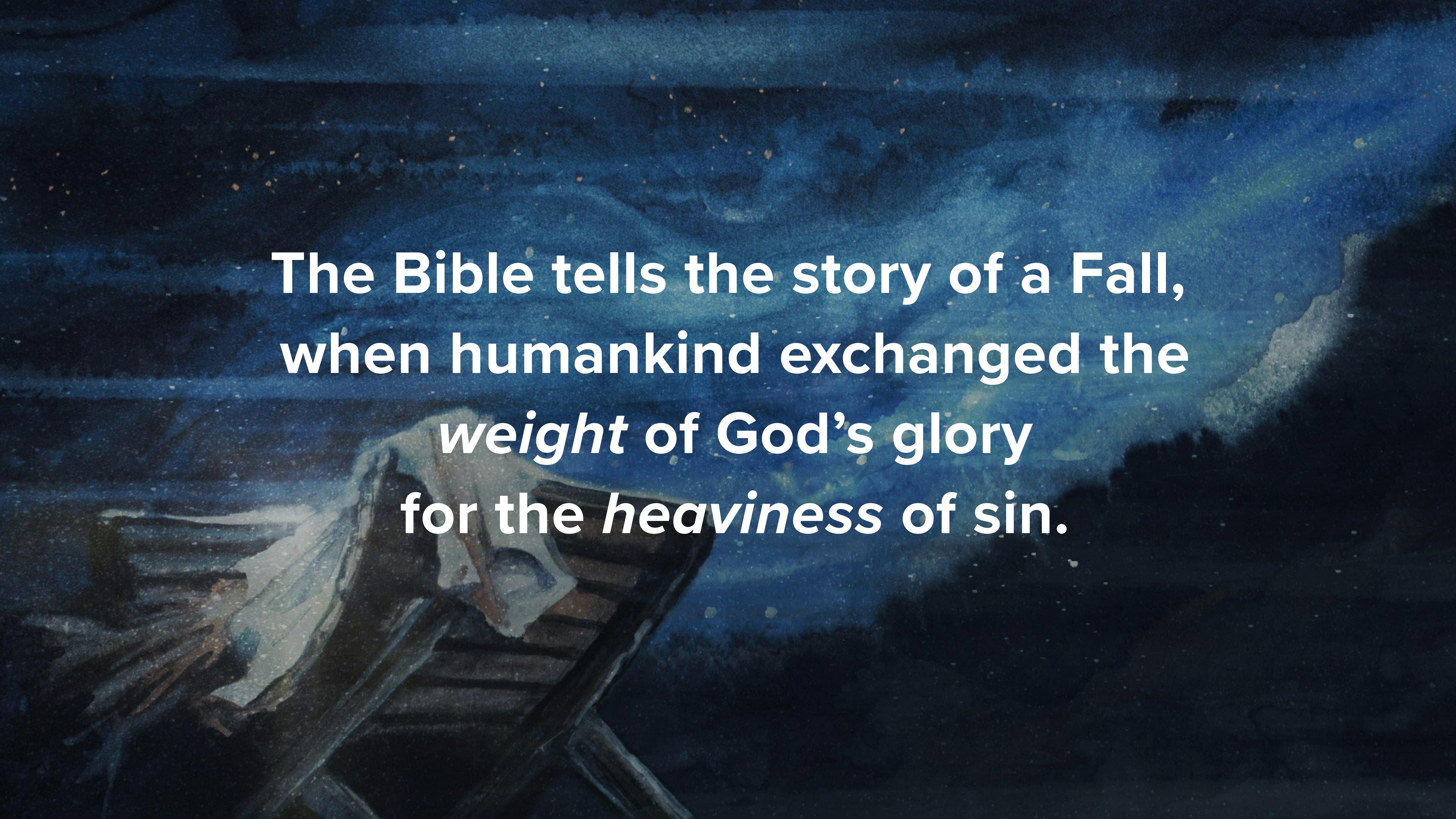


Christmas When Heaven Meets Earth

SEASON'S MEETINGS: A SERIES FOR ADVENT



The meeting of Heaven and Earth
in the birth of Jesus Christ was the
weight of Heaven's Love.

A dark, textured background, possibly a book cover or a painting, showing a faint, glowing figure of Adam and Eve in a Garden of Eden setting. The figure is partially visible, with Adam's body and Eve's head and shoulders glowing in a soft light.

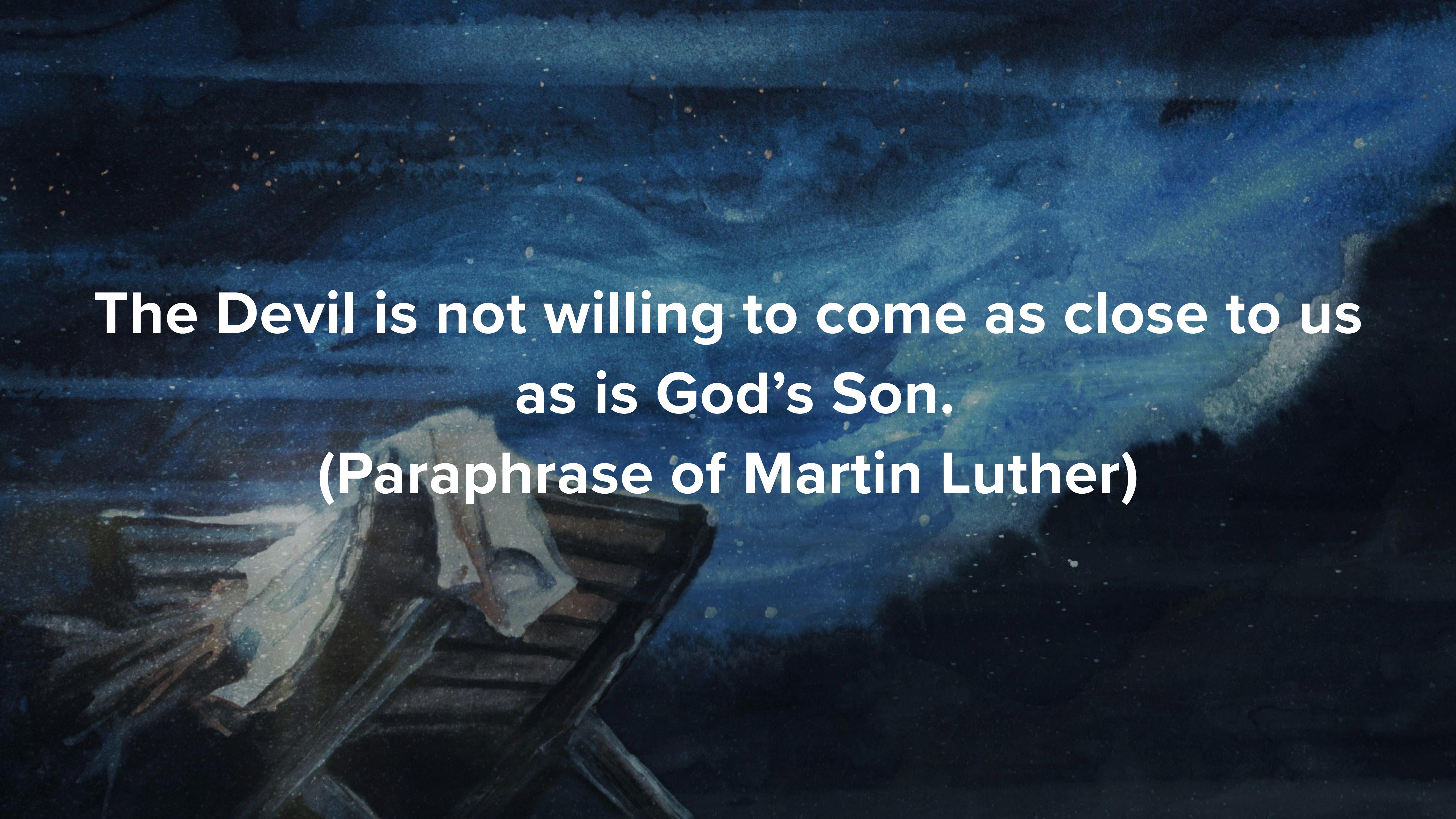
The Bible tells the story of a Fall,
when humankind exchanged the
weight of God's glory
for the *heaviness of sin.*



The Devil takes the weight of God-given responsibility and replaces it with the heaviness of the world's expectations.

“For those who are great and powerful in this world, there are two places where their courage fails them, which terrify them to the very depths of their souls, and which they dearly avoid. These are the manger and the cross of Jesus Christ.”

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

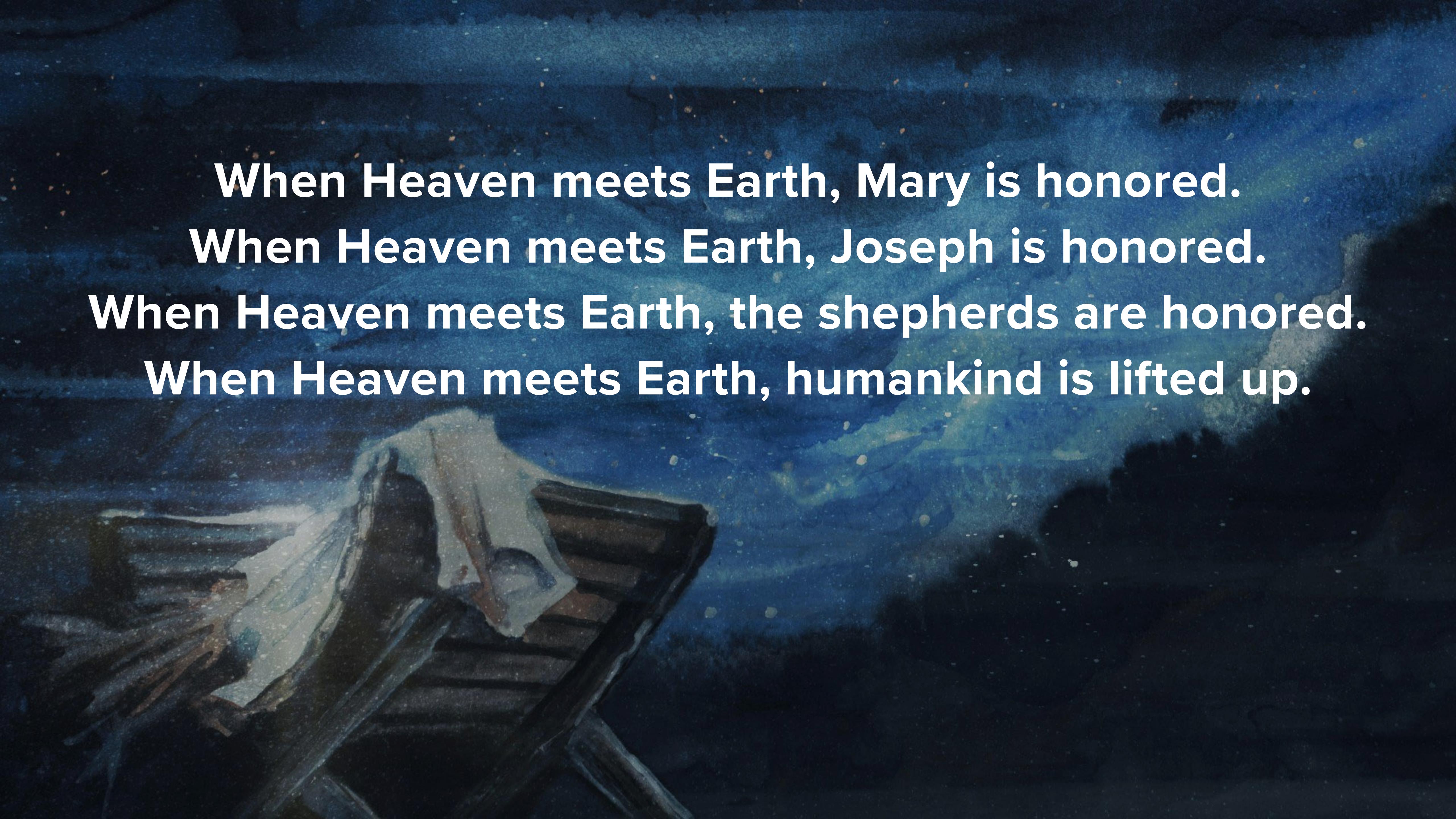
A dark, textured background, possibly a book cover or a painting, showing a faint, glowing figure of Jesus on the cross. The figure is rendered in a soft, light blue and yellow hue, appearing to float in a dark space.

**The Devil is not willing to come as close to us
as is God's Son.**

(Paraphrase of Martin Luther)



The weight of Heaven's love was greater than
the heaviness of our sin.

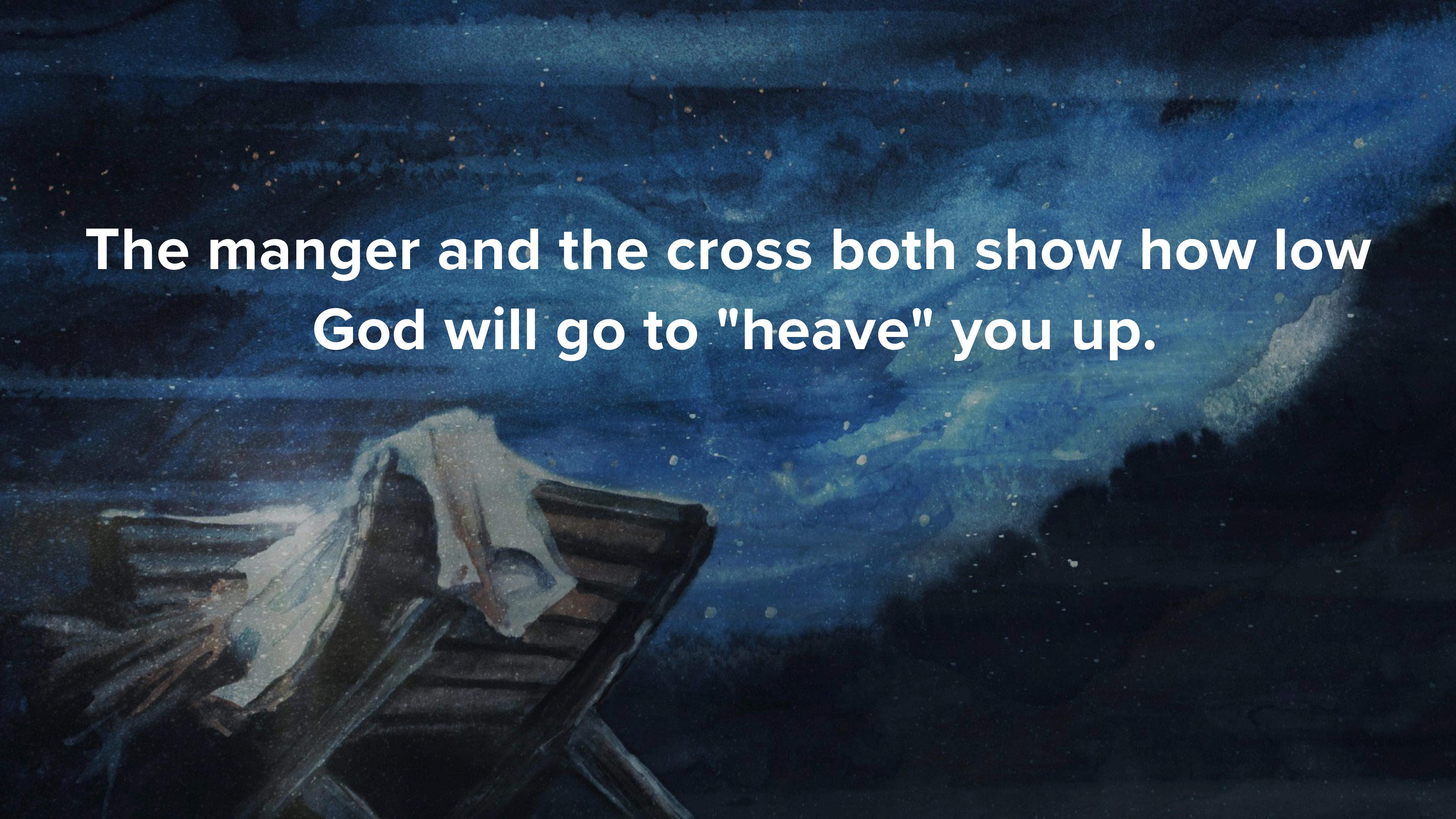


When Heaven meets Earth, Mary is honored.

When Heaven meets Earth, Joseph is honored.

When Heaven meets Earth, the shepherds are honored.

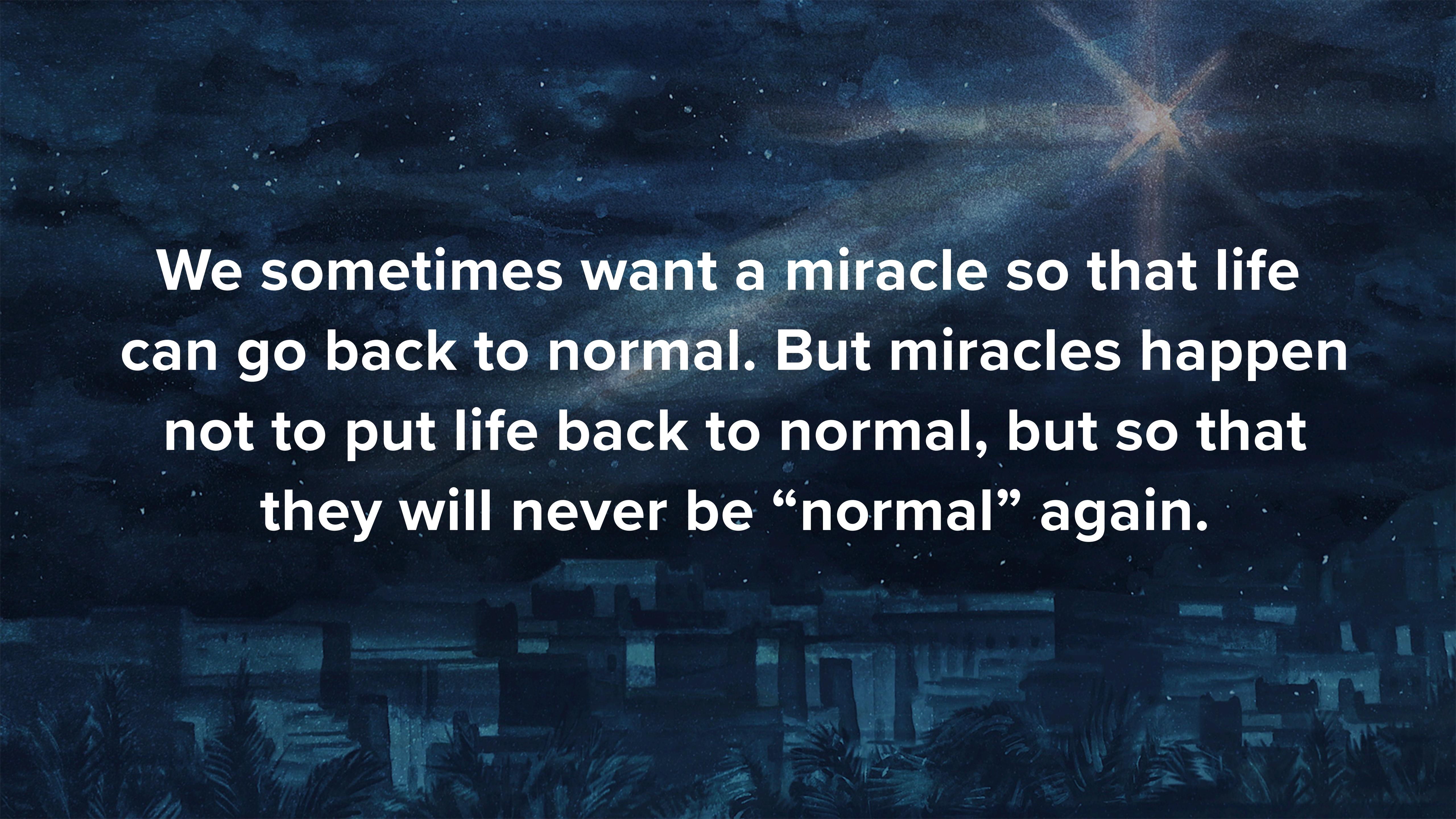
When Heaven meets Earth, humankind is lifted up.



The manger and the cross both show how low
God will go to "heave" you up.

“The throne of God in the world is set not on the thrones of humankind but in humanity’s deepest abyss, in the manger. There are no flattering courtiers standing around his throne, just some rather dark, unknown, dubious-looking figures, who cannot get enough of looking at this miracle and are quite prepared to live entirely on the mercy of God.”

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER



We sometimes want a miracle so that life
can go back to normal. But miracles happen
not to put life back to normal, but so that
they will never be “normal” again.