

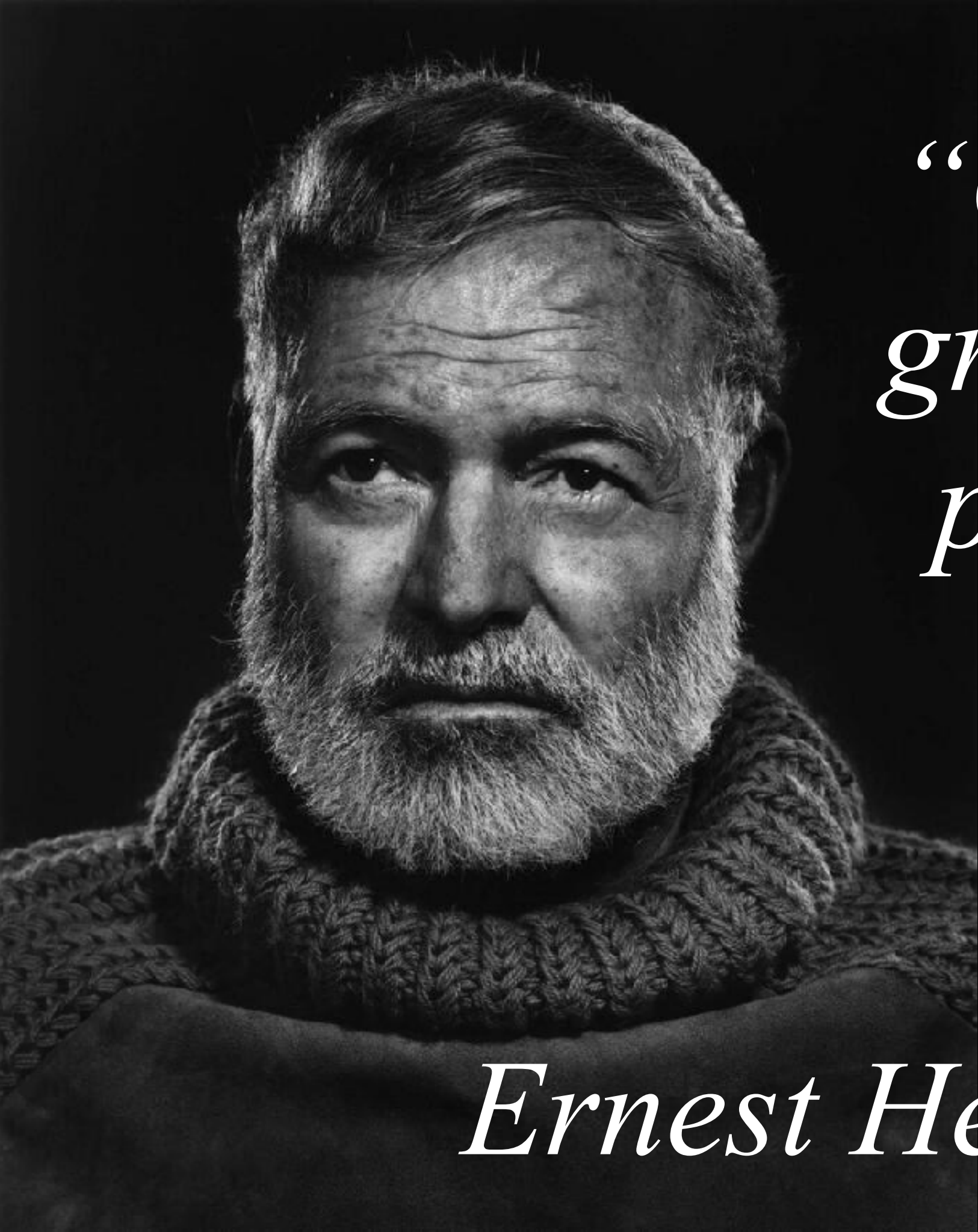
# Advent Series: Week 3

## Strength & Courage

**Matthew 1:18-25;  
2:13-23**

Hard things are put in our way,  
not to stop us, but  
to call out our  
courage and  
strength.

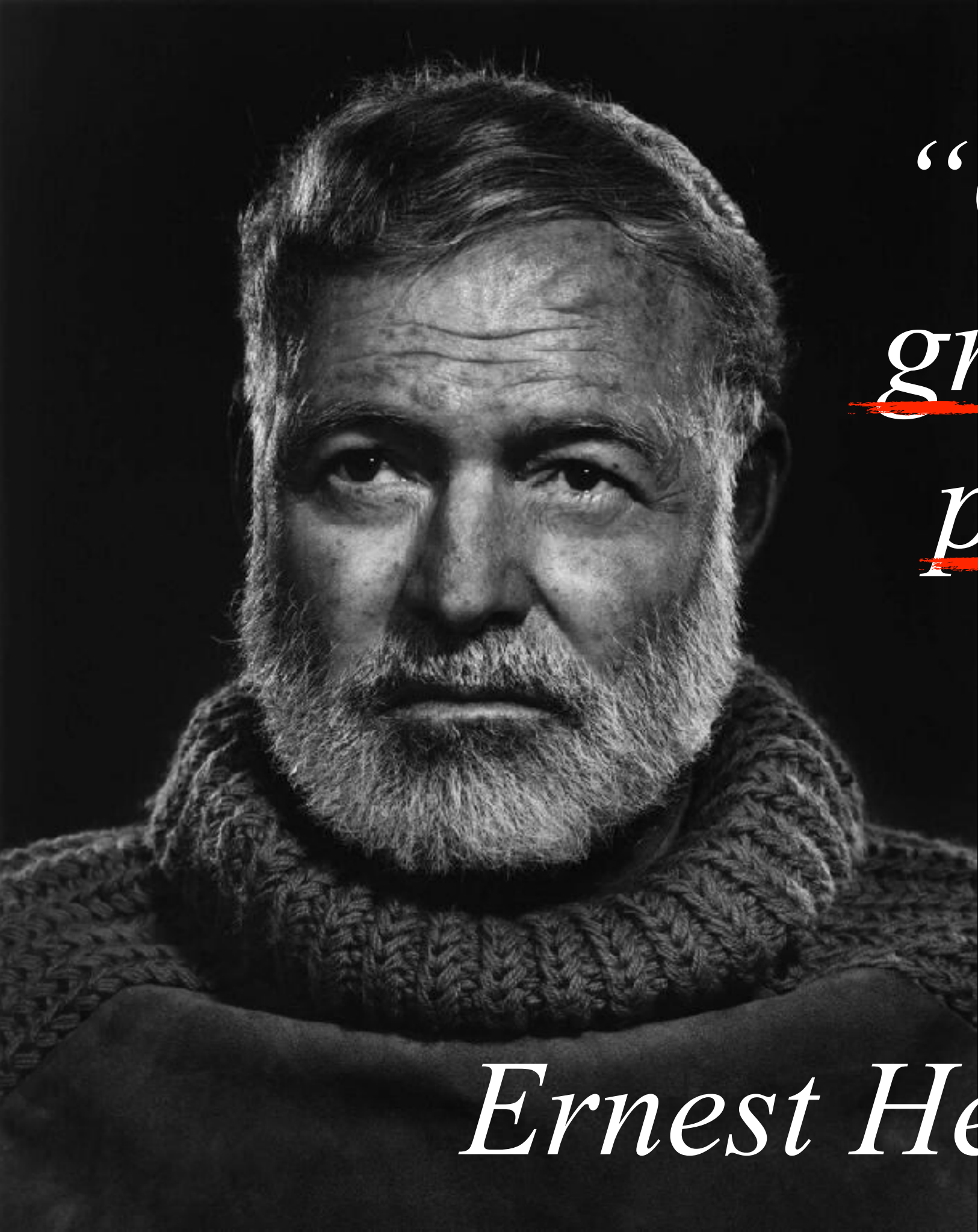


A black and white portrait of Ernest Hemingway. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a thick, textured knit sweater. He has a full, grey beard and mustache, and his hair is also grey. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious, contemplative expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

*“Courage is  
grace under  
pressure.”*

*Ernest Hemmingway*



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## Joshua 1:4b-9

I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage . . . . Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you . . . . Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God *is* with you wherever you go.



# Joshua 1:4b-9

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# Matthew 1:18

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.





# Matthew 1:19

Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.



# Matthew 1:20

But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.





# Matthew 1:21

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”



# Matthew 1:22

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:





# Matthew 1:23

Behold, the virgin shall be with child,  
and bear a Son, and they shall call His  
name Immanuel,” which is translated,  
“God with us.”



# Matthew 1:24

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep,  
did as the angel of the Lord commanded  
him and took to him his wife,





# Matthew 1:25

and did not know her till she had  
brought forth her firstborn Son. And he  
called His name Jesus.



# Matthew 2:12

Then, being divinely warned in a dream  
that they should not return to Herod,  
[the wise men] departed for their own  
country another way.





# Matthew 2:13

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”



# Matthew 2:14

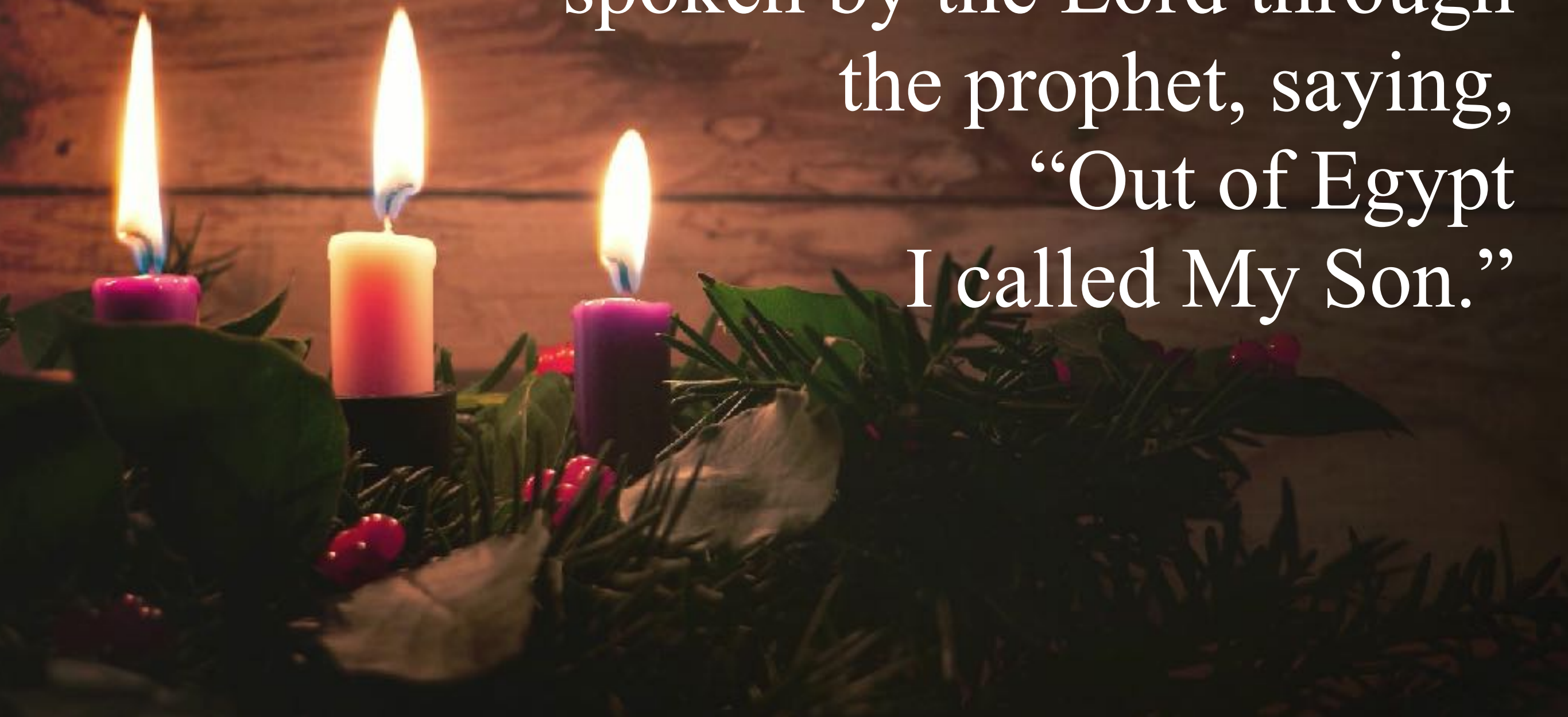
When he arose, he took the young Child  
and His mother by night and departed  
for Egypt,





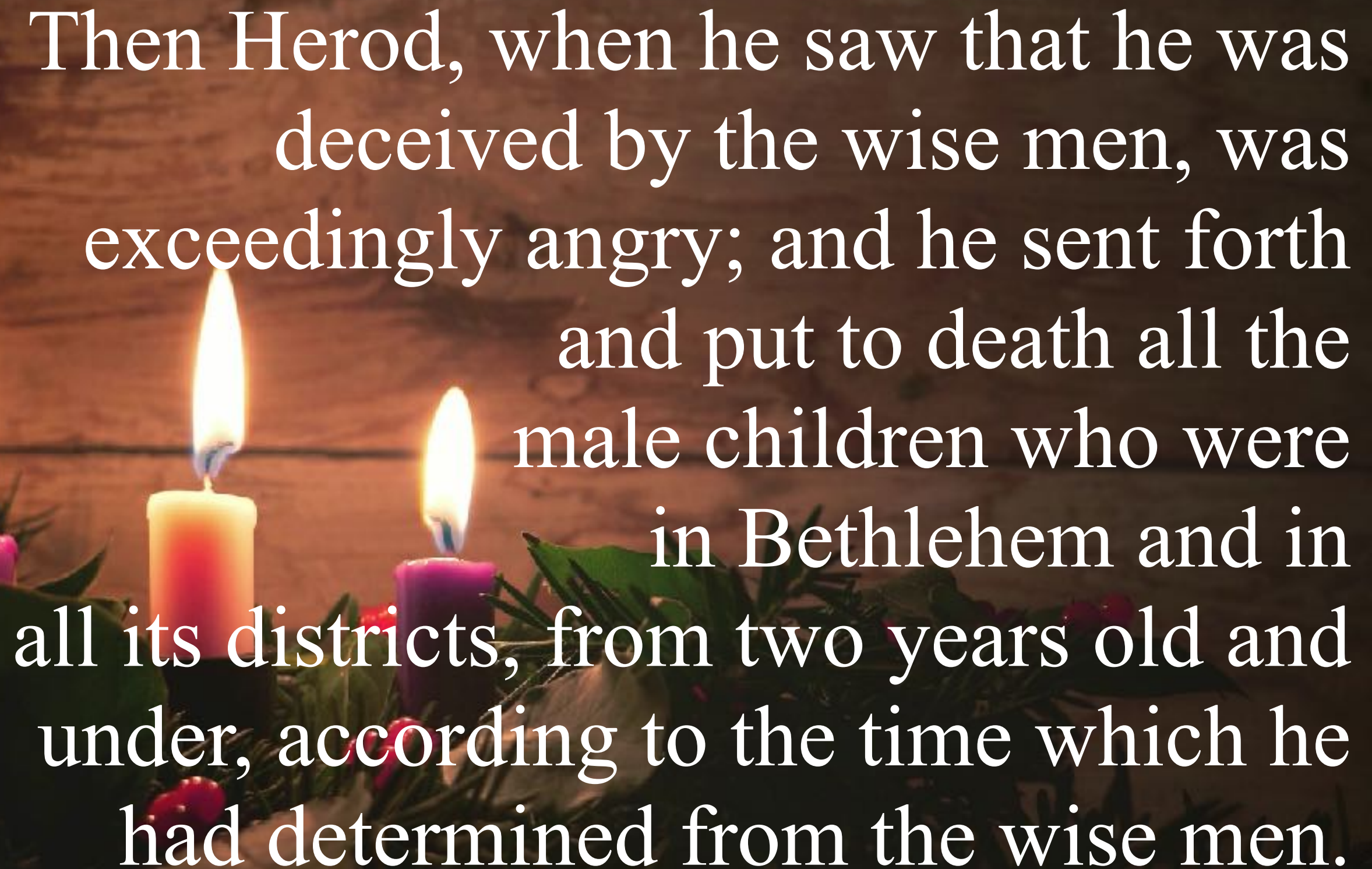
# Matthew 2:15

and was there until the death of Herod,  
that it might be fulfilled which was  
spoken by the Lord through  
the prophet, saying,  
“Out of Egypt  
I called My Son.”



# Matthew 2:16

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.





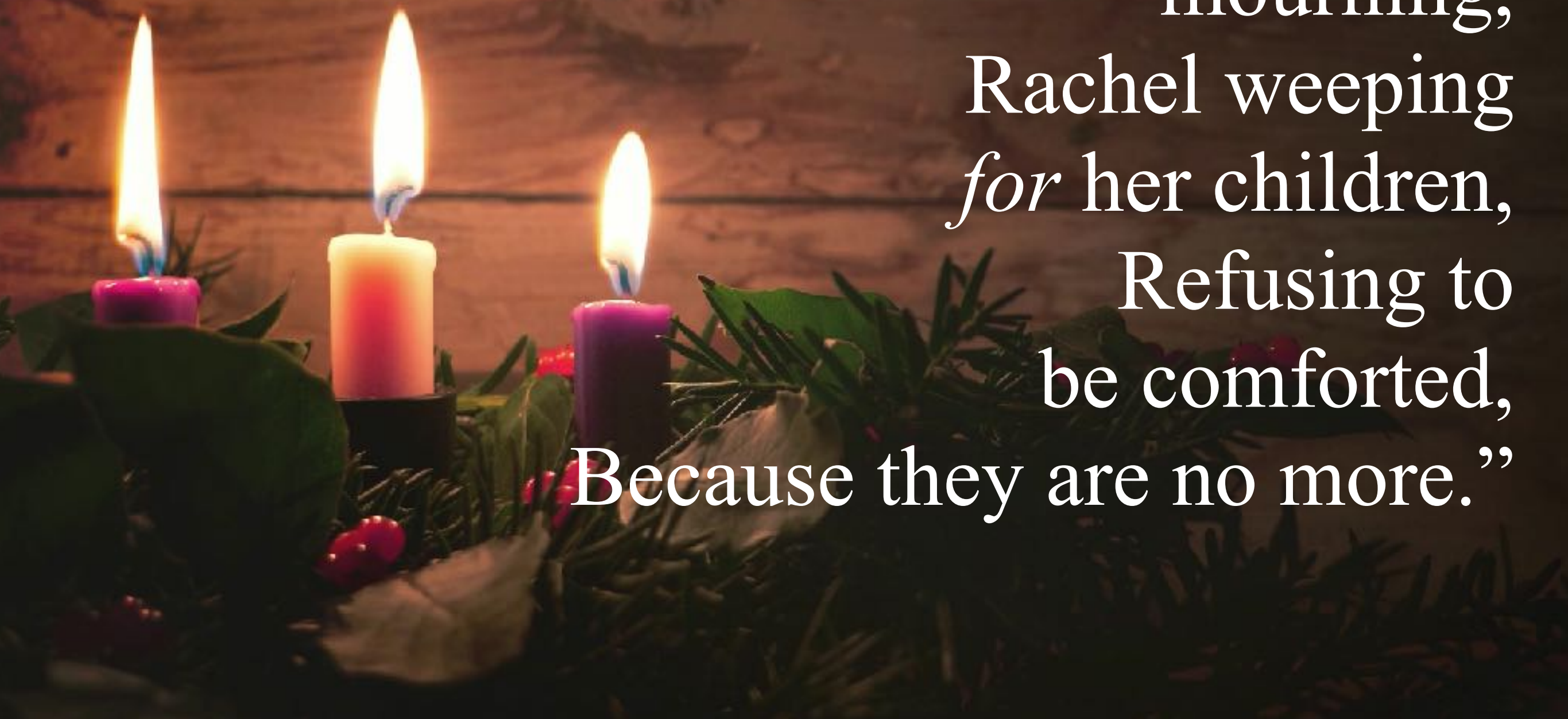
# Matthew 2:17

Then was fulfilled what was spoken by  
Jeremiah the prophet, saying:



# Matthew 2:18

A voice was heard in Ramah,  
Lamentation, weeping, and great  
mourning,  
Rachel weeping  
*for* her children,  
Refusing to  
be comforted,  
Because they are no more.”





# Matthew 2:19

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an  
angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to  
Joseph in Egypt,



# Matthew 2:20

saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.”





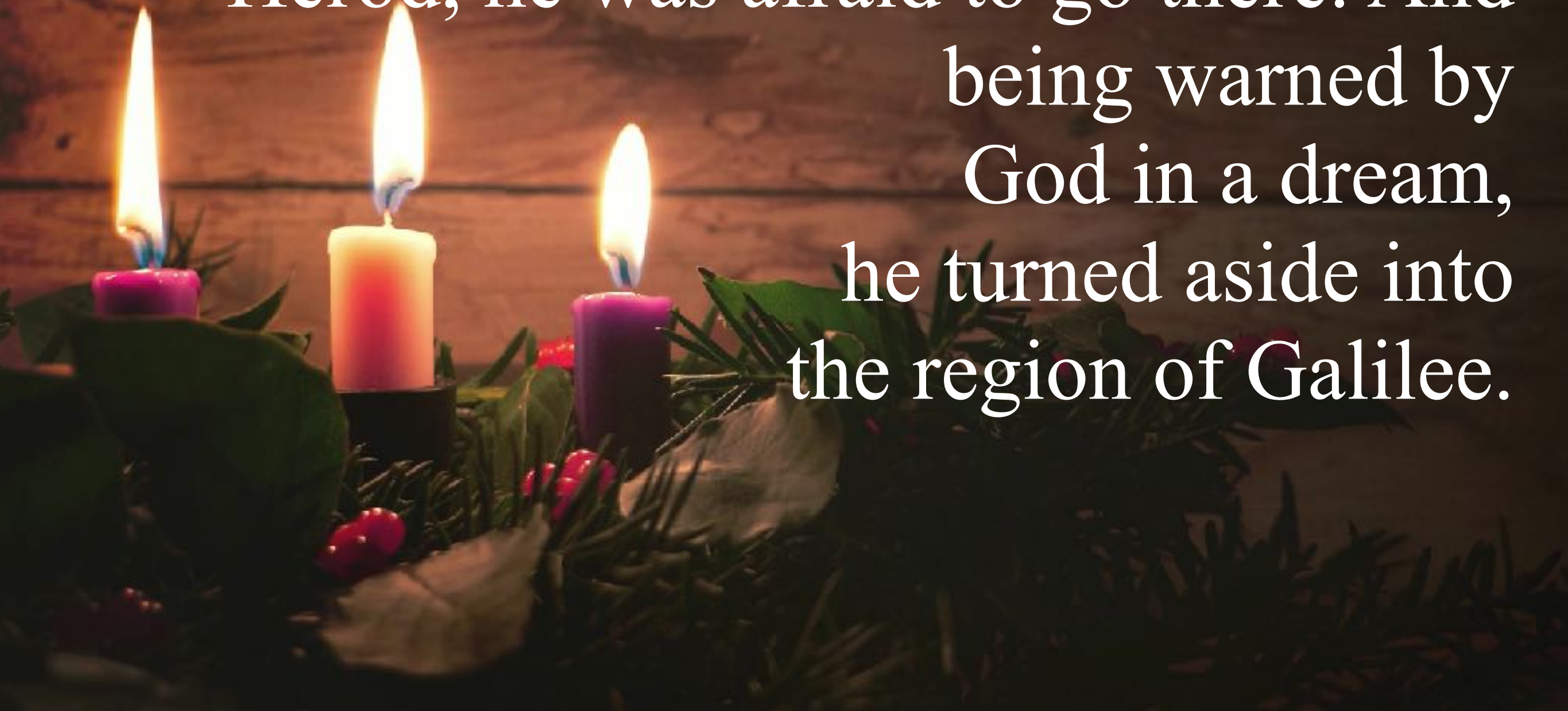
# Matthew 2:21

Then he arose, took the young Child and  
His mother, and came into the land of  
Israel.



# Matthew 2:22

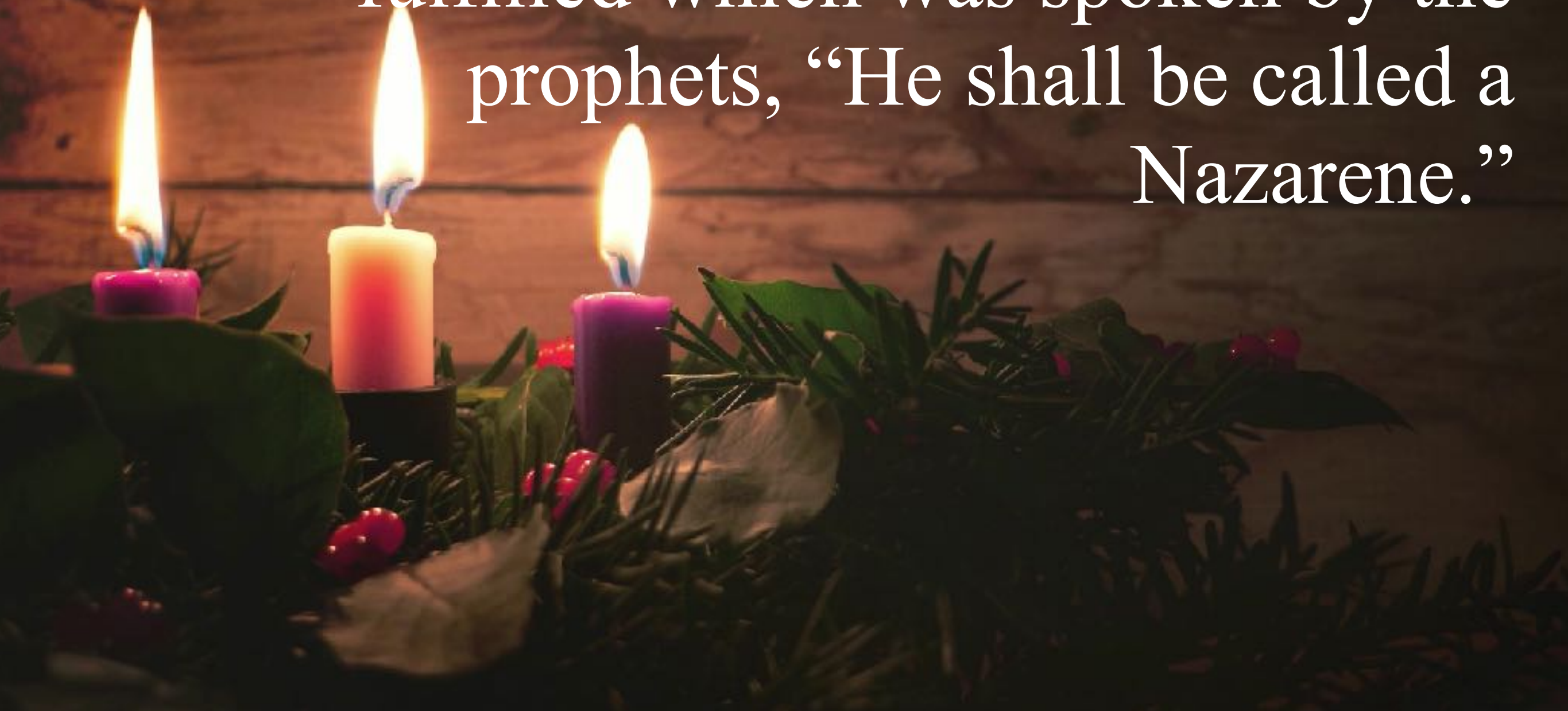
But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.





# Matthew 2:23

And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”



**John 14:27a**

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you.



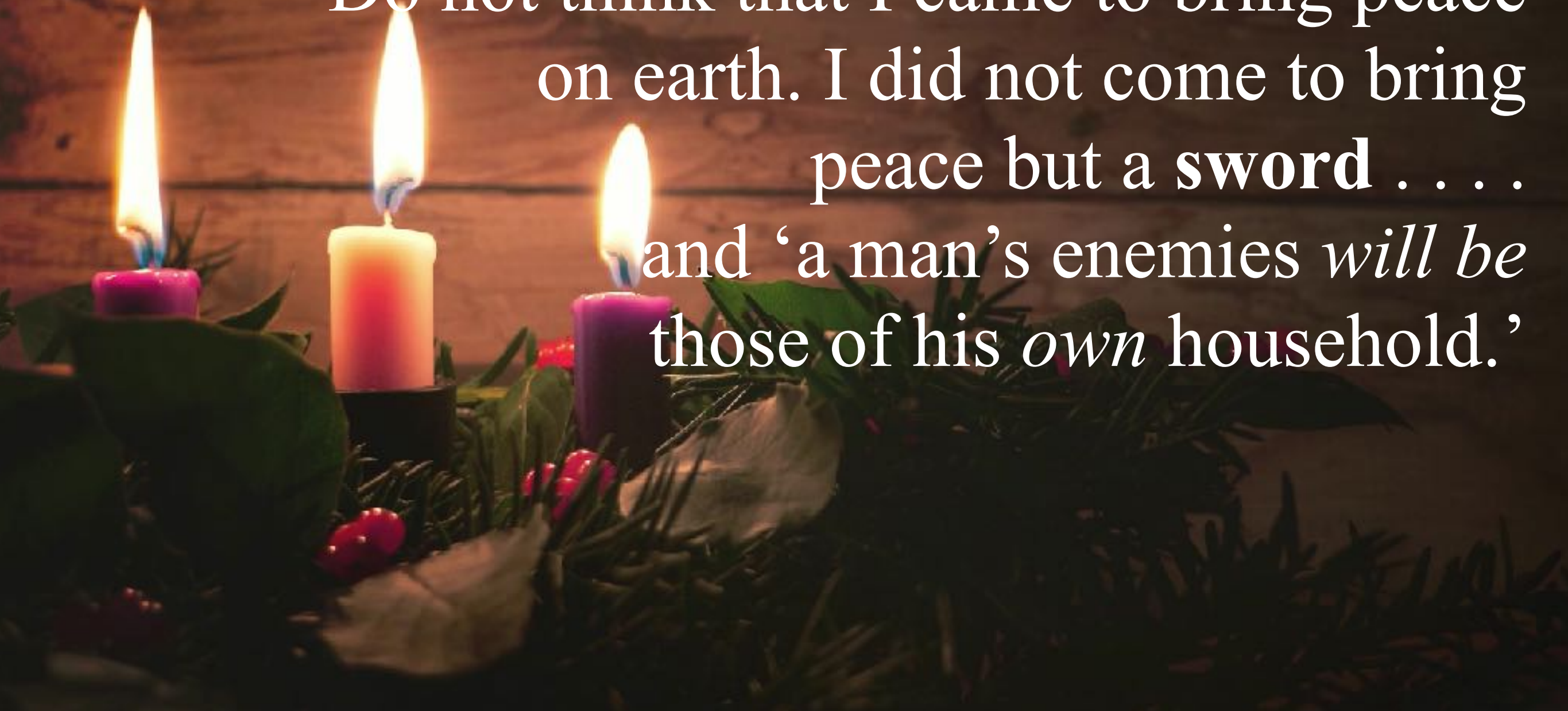


**John 14:27a**

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you.

**Matthew 10:34-36**

“Do not think that I came to bring peace  
on earth. I did not come to bring  
peace but a **sword** . . . .  
and ‘a man’s enemies *will be*  
those of his *own* household.’

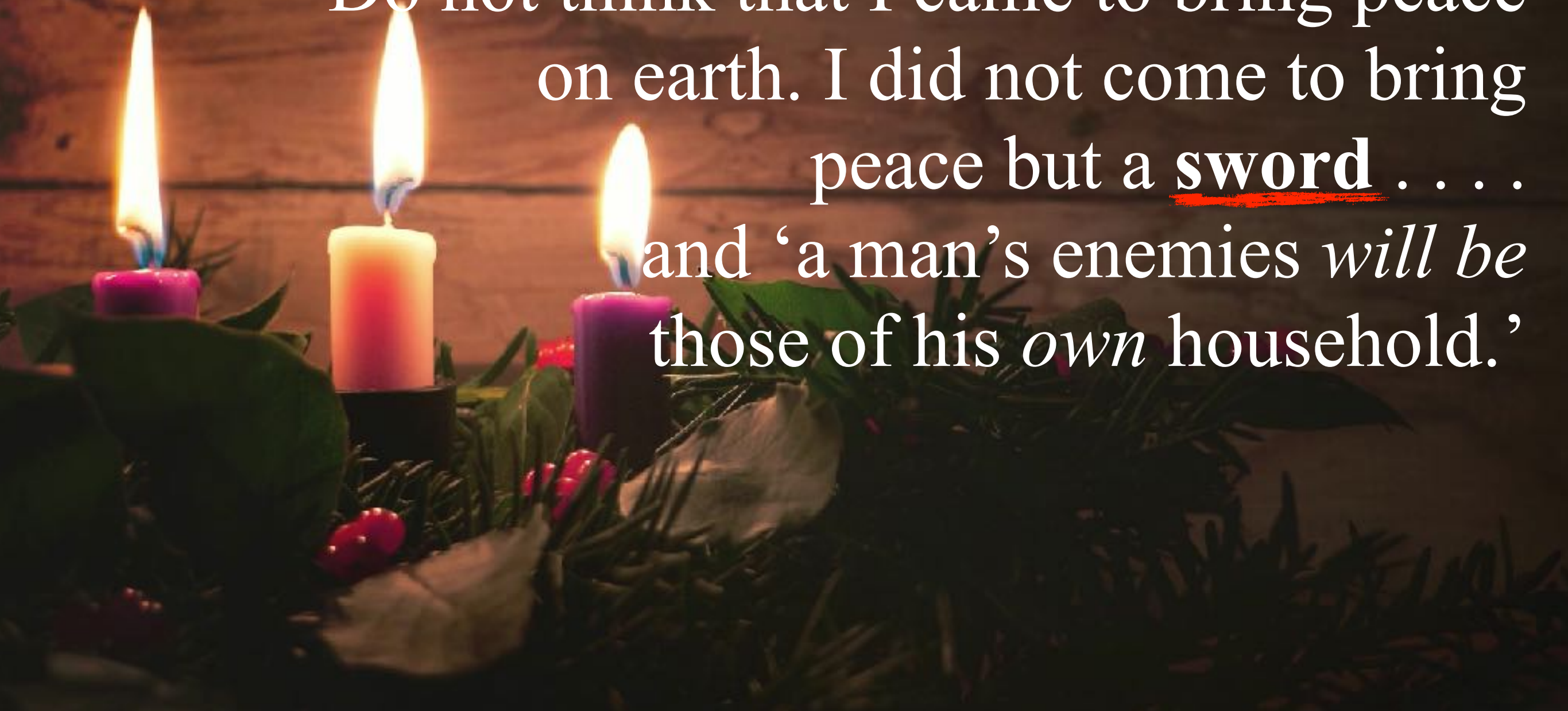


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peace but a sword . . . .  
and ‘a man’s enemies *will be*  
those of his *own* household.’





## Luke 2:34b-35a

“Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall  
and rising of many in Israel, and . . . a  
sword will pierce through your own soul  
also.



## 2 Timothy 3:12

all who desire to live godly in Christ  
Jesus will suffer persecution.





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all who desire to live godly in Christ  
Jesus will suffer persecution.







**Why do we need strength & courage?**



# Why do we need strength & courage?

- **Spiritual warfare**





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**John 10:10a**

The thief does not come  
except to steal, and  
to kill, and to destroy.

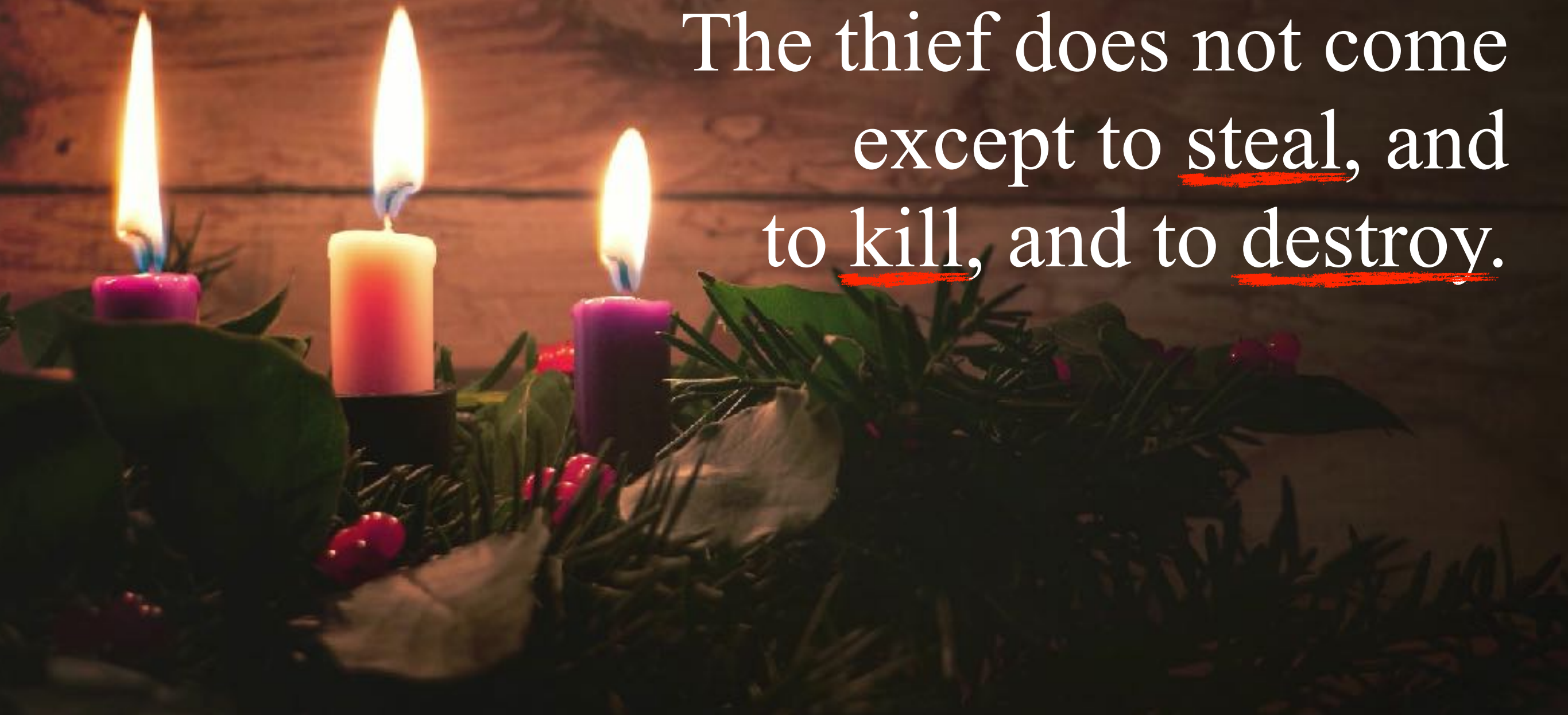


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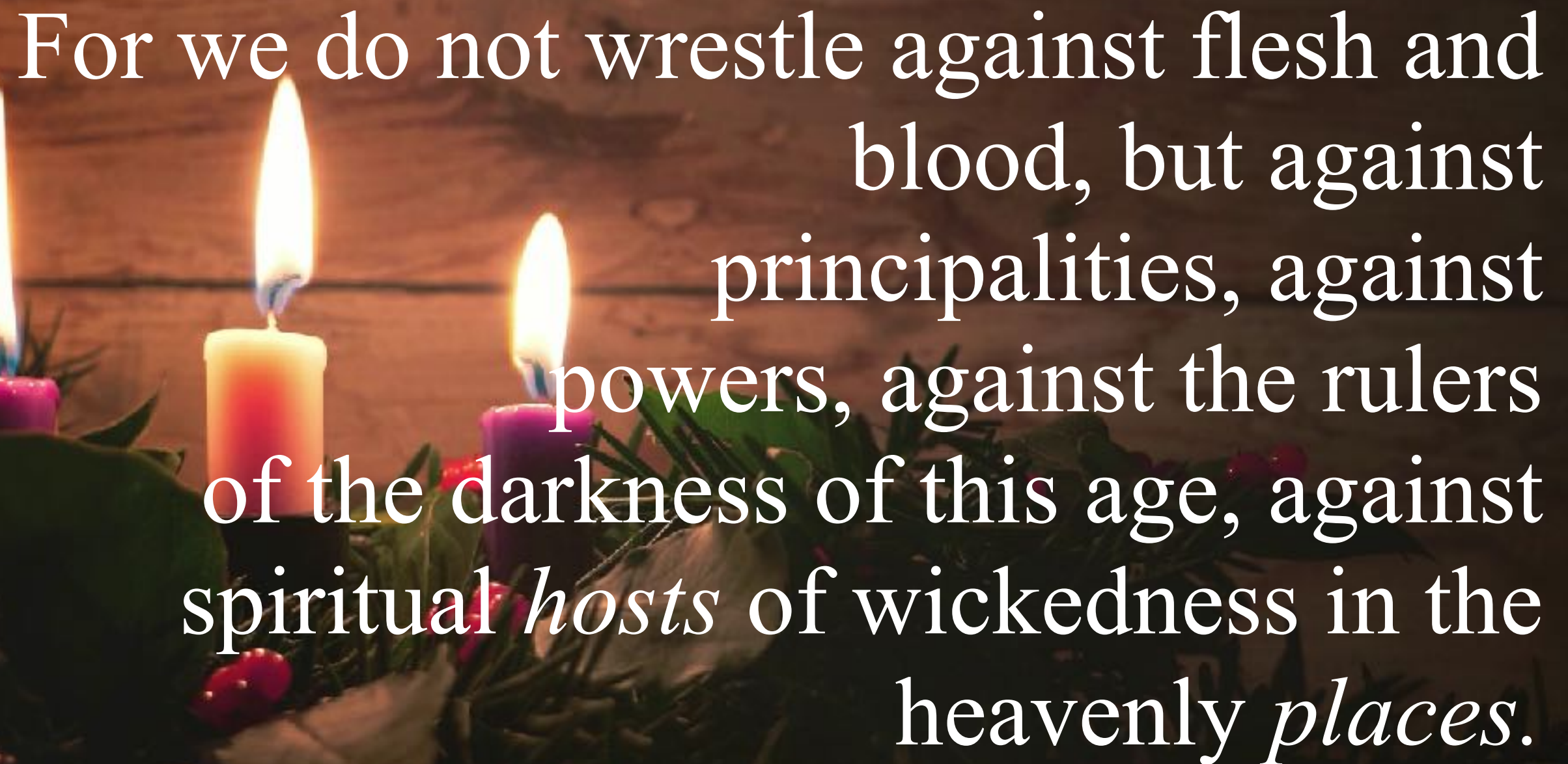


# Why do we need strength & courage?

- **Spiritual warfare**

## Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.





# Why do we need strength & courage?

- Spiritual warfare



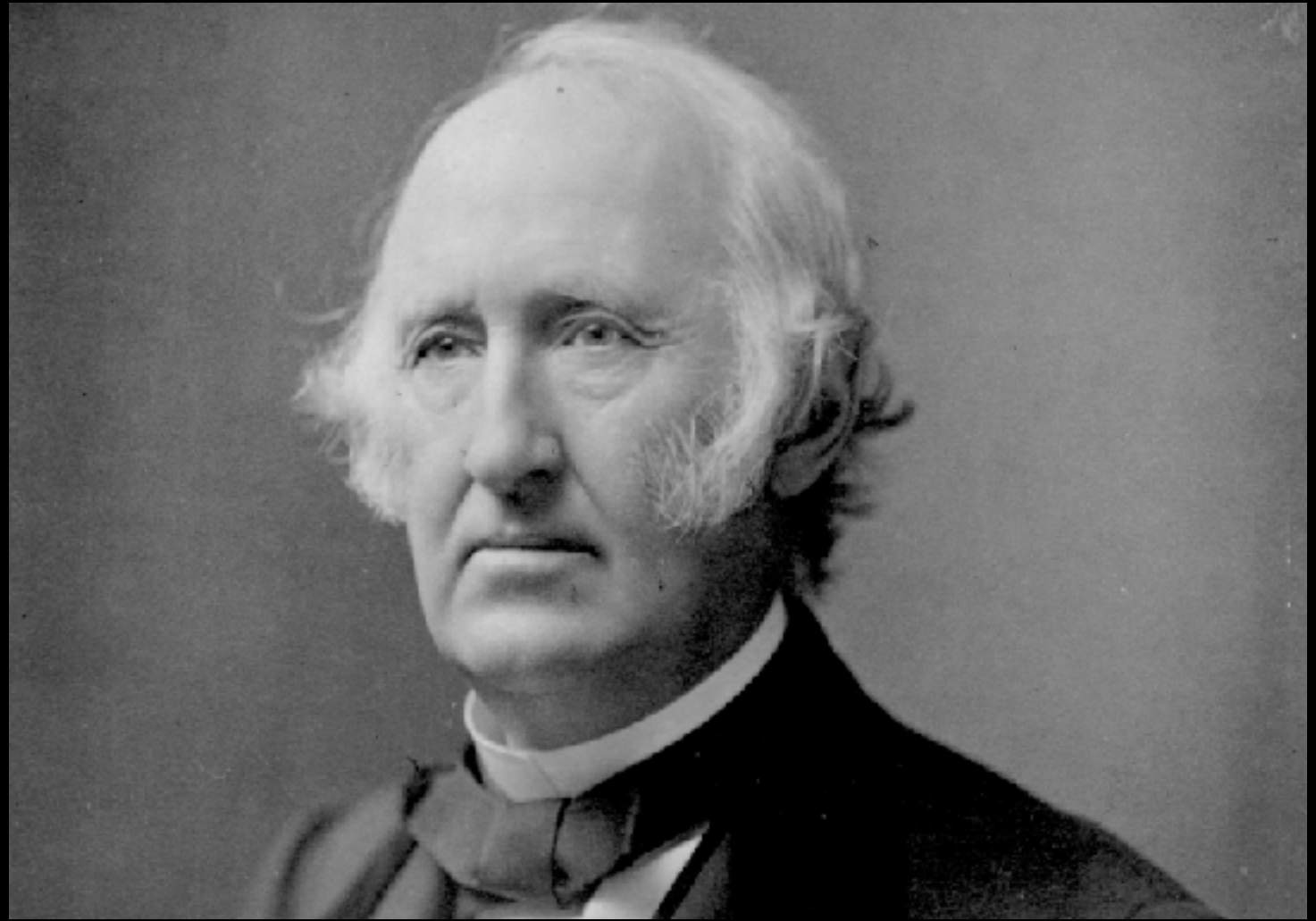
# Why do we need strength & courage?

- Spiritual warfare
- **Cultural antagonism**





*“Physical  
bravery is an  
animal instinct;  
moral bravery  
is much higher  
and truer  
courage.”*



*Wendell Phillips*

# Why do we need strength & courage?

- Spiritual warfare
- Cultural antagonism





# Why do we need strength & courage?

- Spiritual warfare
- Cultural antagonism
- **Fear-based sin**







# Matthew 1:24

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep,  
did as the angel of the Lord commanded  
him and took to him his wife



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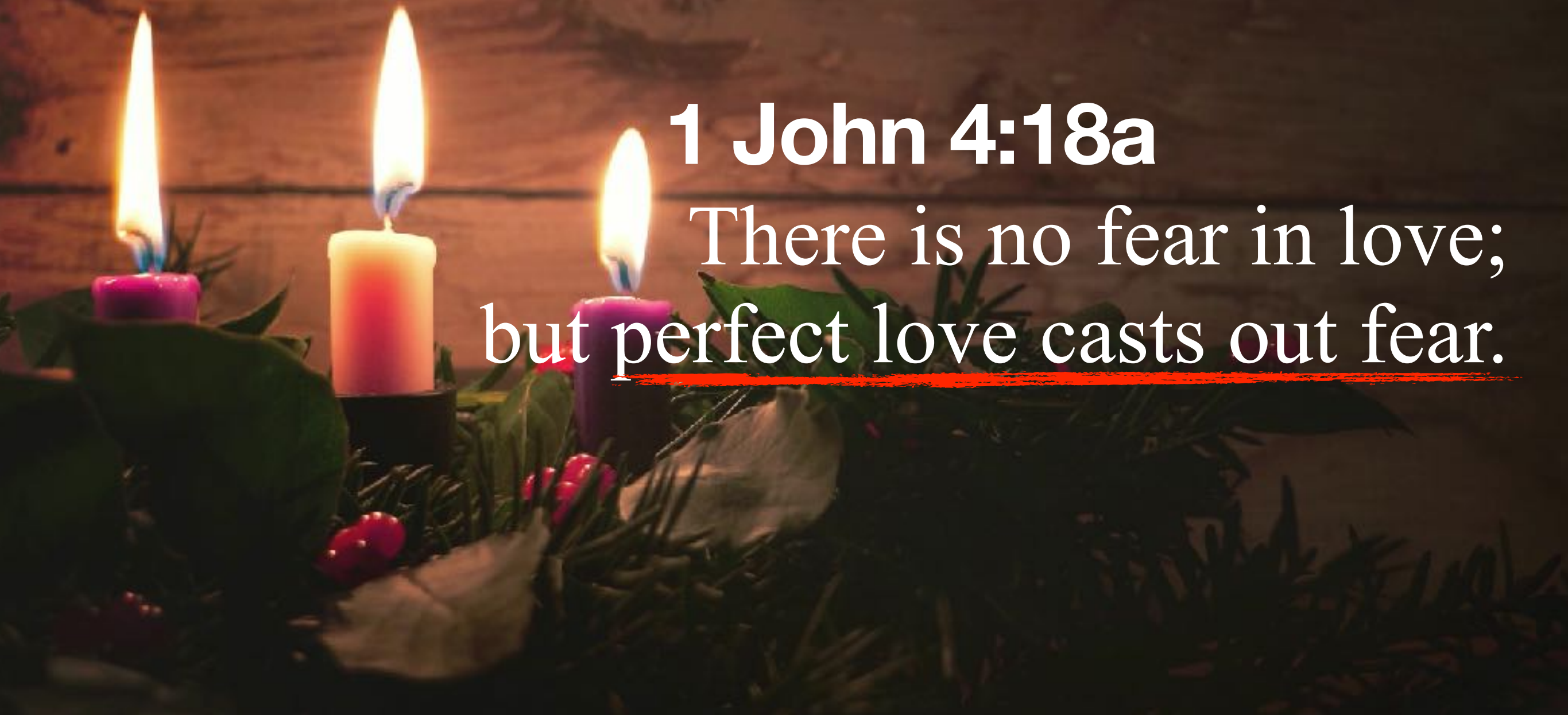


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**1 John 4:18a**

There is no fear in love;  
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# Why do we need strength & courage?

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- **Godly discipline**

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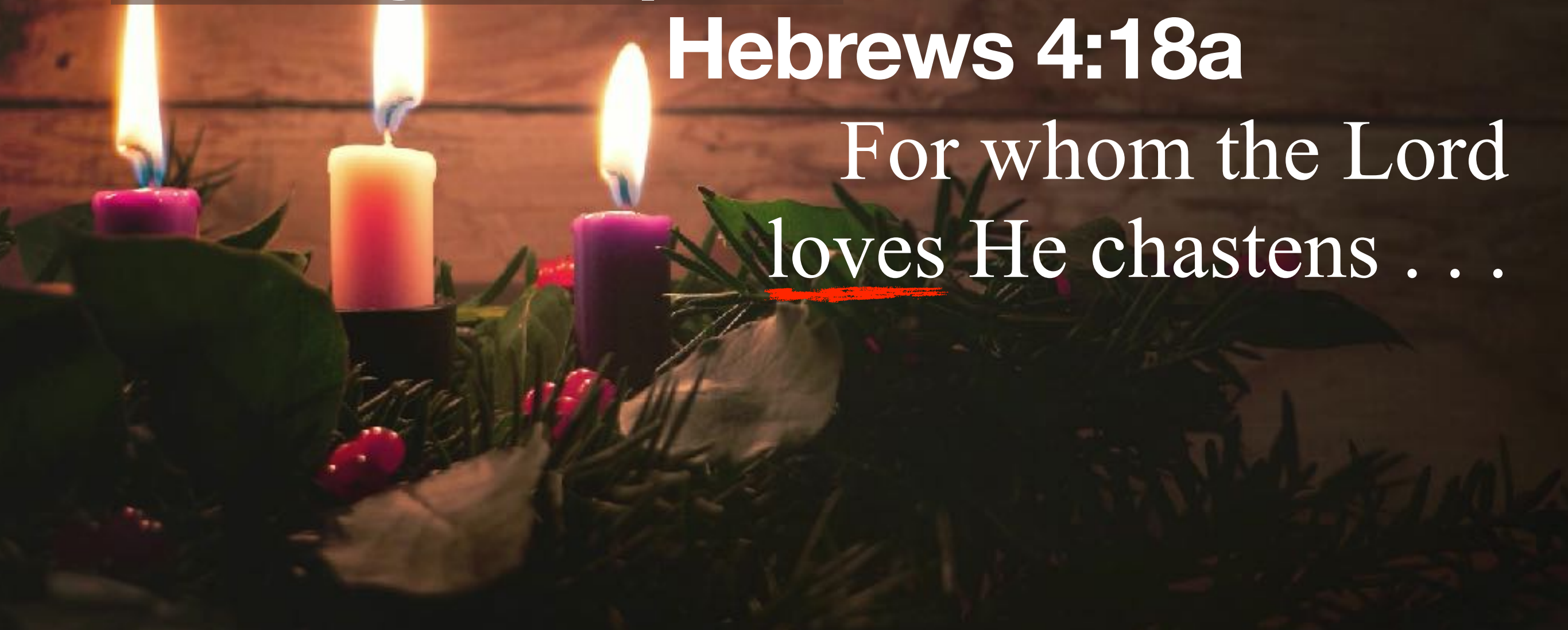


# Why do we need strength & courage?

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- Fear-based sin
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**Hebrews 4:18a**

For whom the Lord  
loves He chastens . . .





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# Why do we need strength & courage?

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**John 15:2b**

every branch that  
bears fruit He prunes,  
that it may bear more fruit.



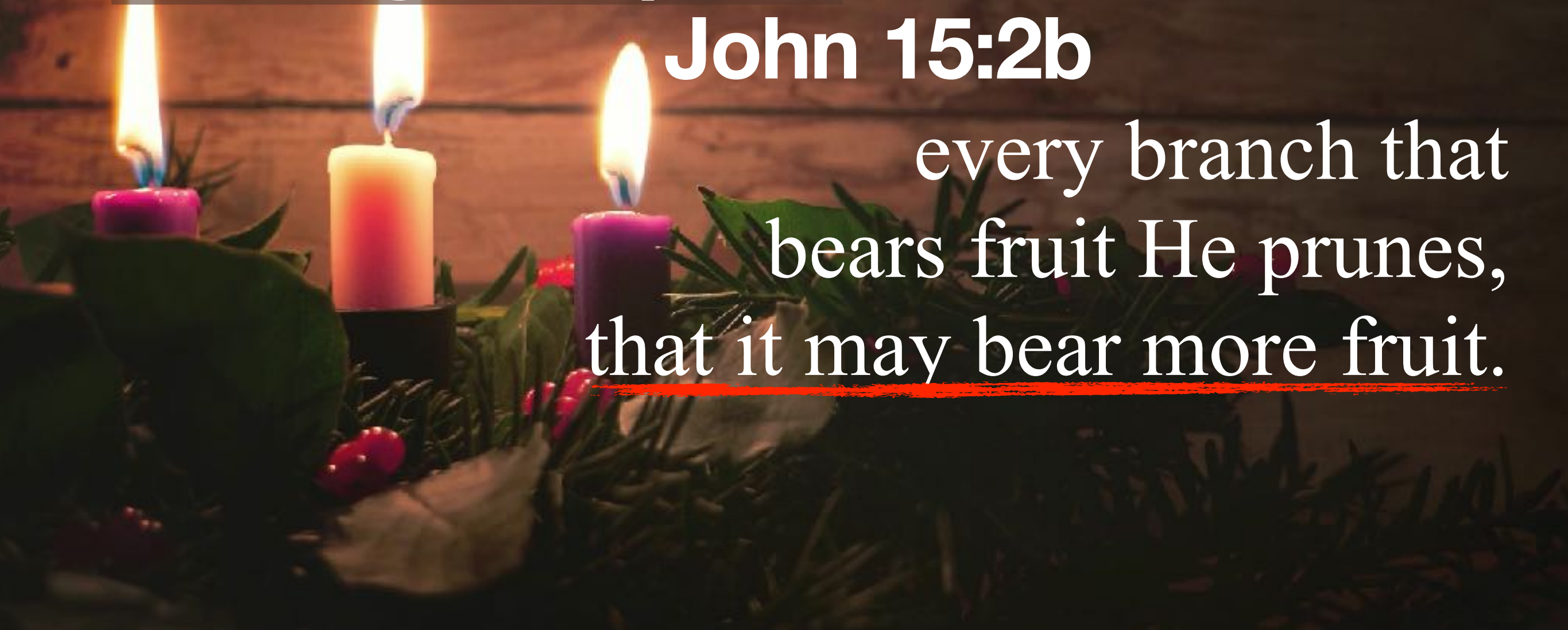


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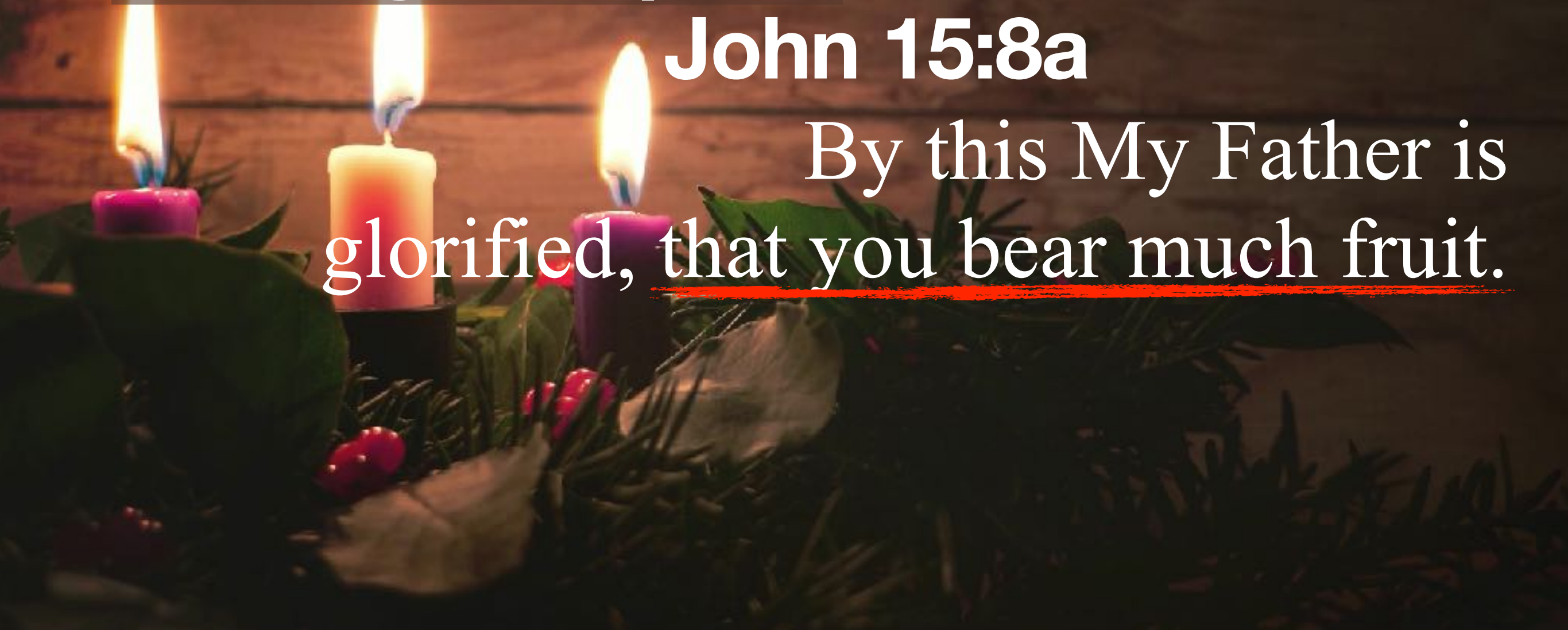


# Why do we need strength & courage?

- Spiritual warfare
- Cultural antagonism
- Fear-based sin
- **Godly discipline**

**John 15:8a**

By this My Father is  
glorified, that you bear much fruit.



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- **Spiritual warfare**
- **Cultural antagonism**
- **Fear-based sin**
- **Godly discipline**





# Why do we need strength & courage?

- Spiritual warfare
- Cultural antagonism
- Fear-based sin
- Godly discipline

James 1:2

My brethren,  
count it all joy  
when you fall  
into various trials.



# James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of  
God, who gives to all liberally and  
without reproach, and it will be given to  
him.







# What do strength & courage look like?





# Matthew 1:19

Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.



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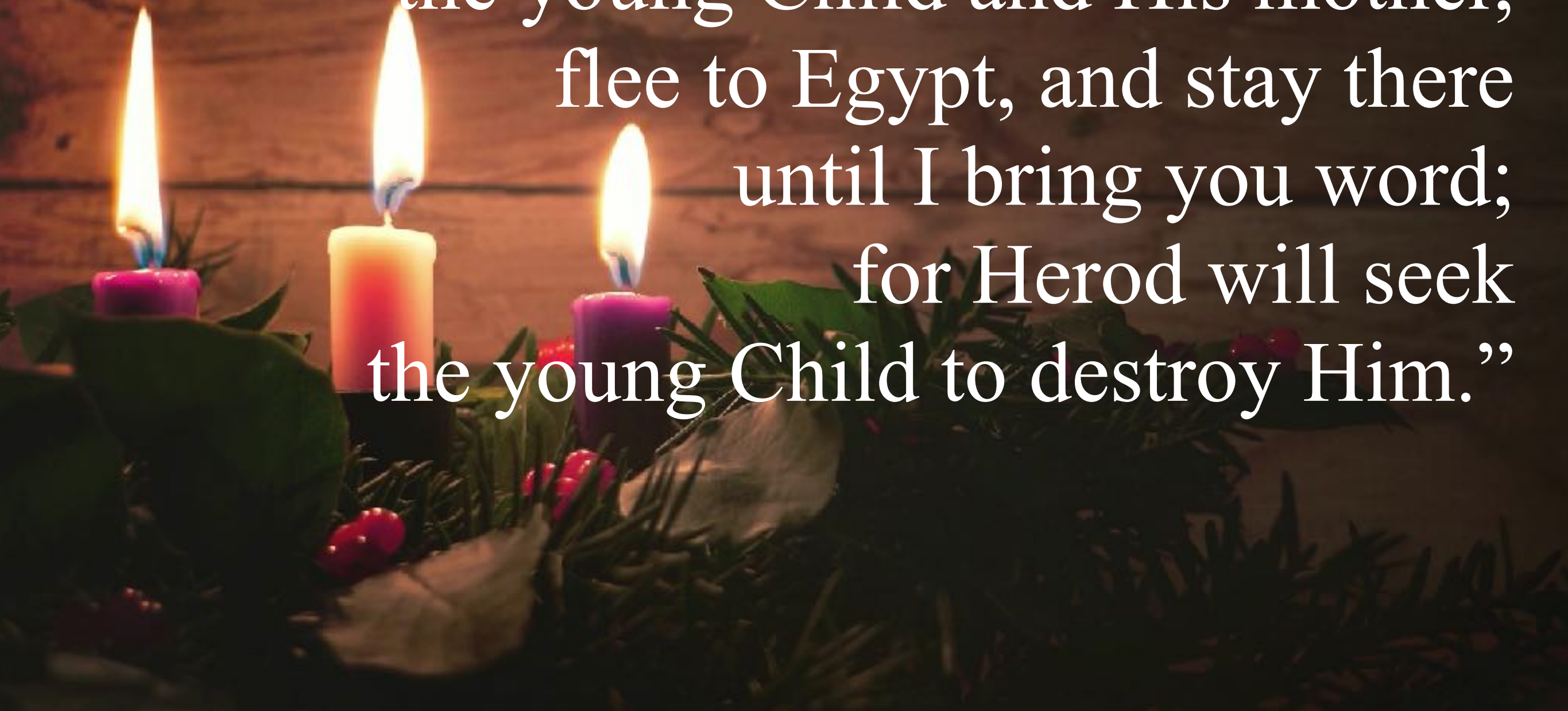
# What do strength & courage look like?

- Obedient to God's command and consistent with His character.



## Matthew 2:13b

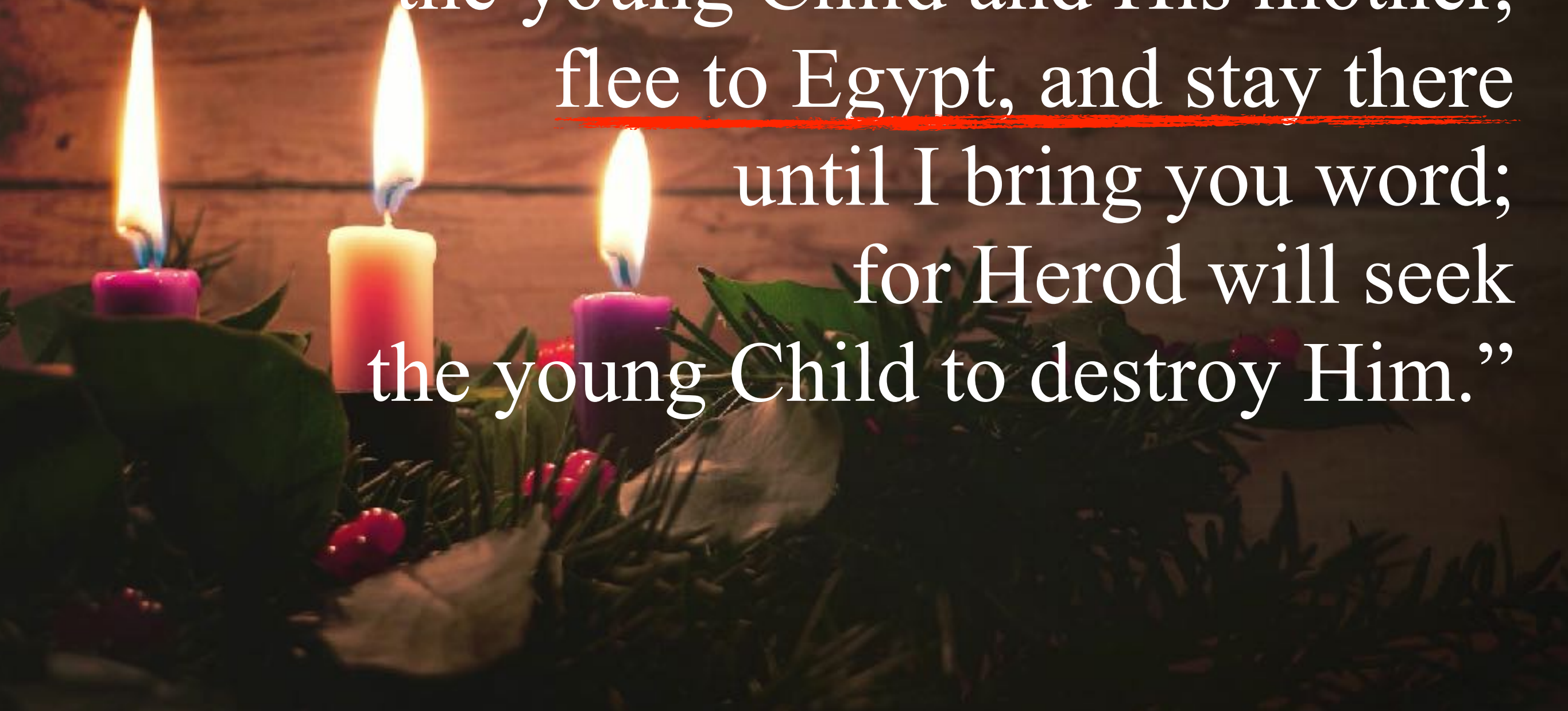
Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”





## Matthew 2:13b

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- Obedient to God's command and consistent with His character.
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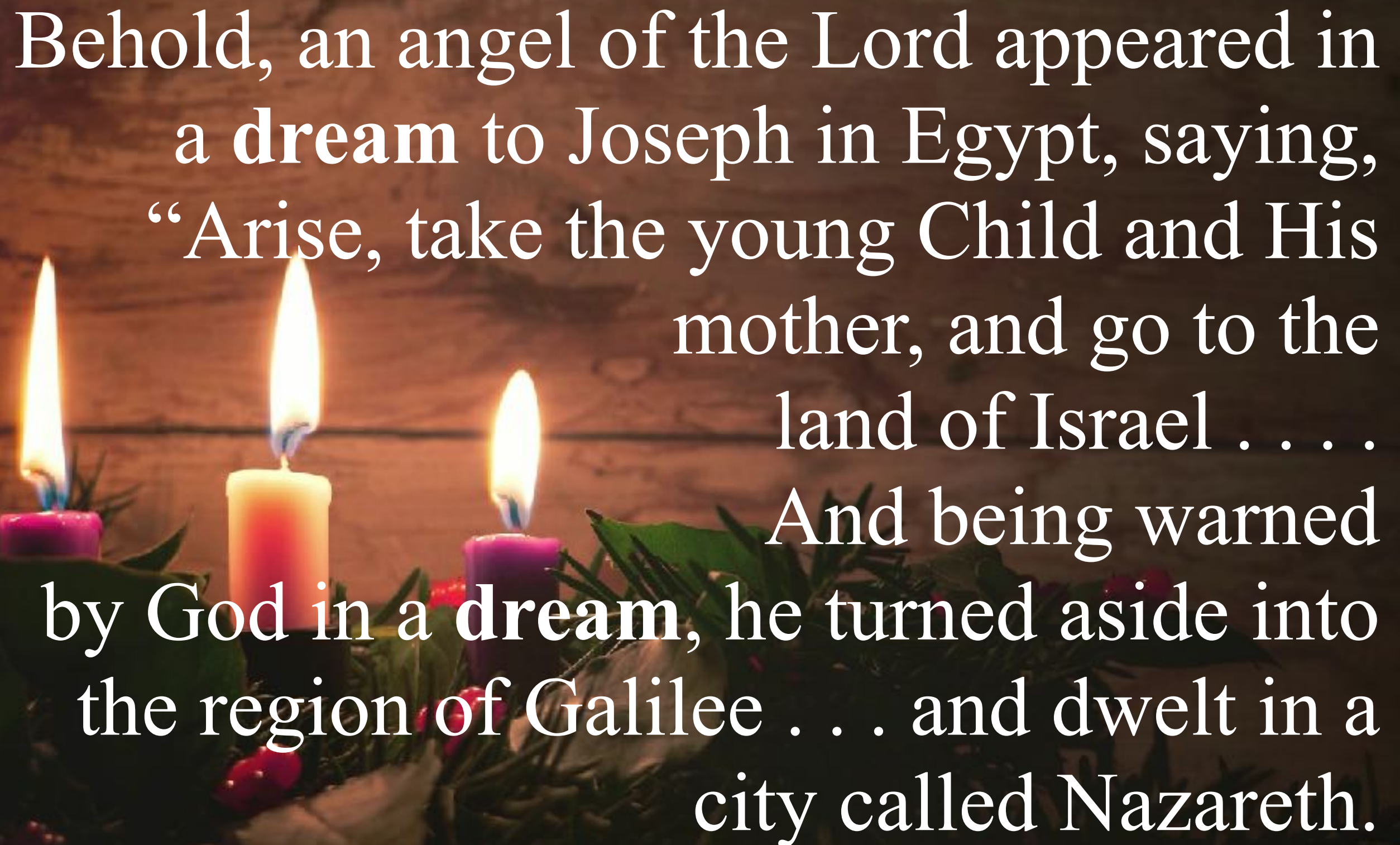
The background of the slide features a close-up photograph of three lit candles in a decorative holder. The holder is adorned with greenery, including pine needles and red berries. The candles are lit, casting a warm, golden glow. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly wood or stone.

*It takes great courage  
to stand and fight  
for something,  
but sometimes it takes  
even more courage  
to walk away  
especially if you know  
you're right.*



## Matthew 2:19b, 22-23

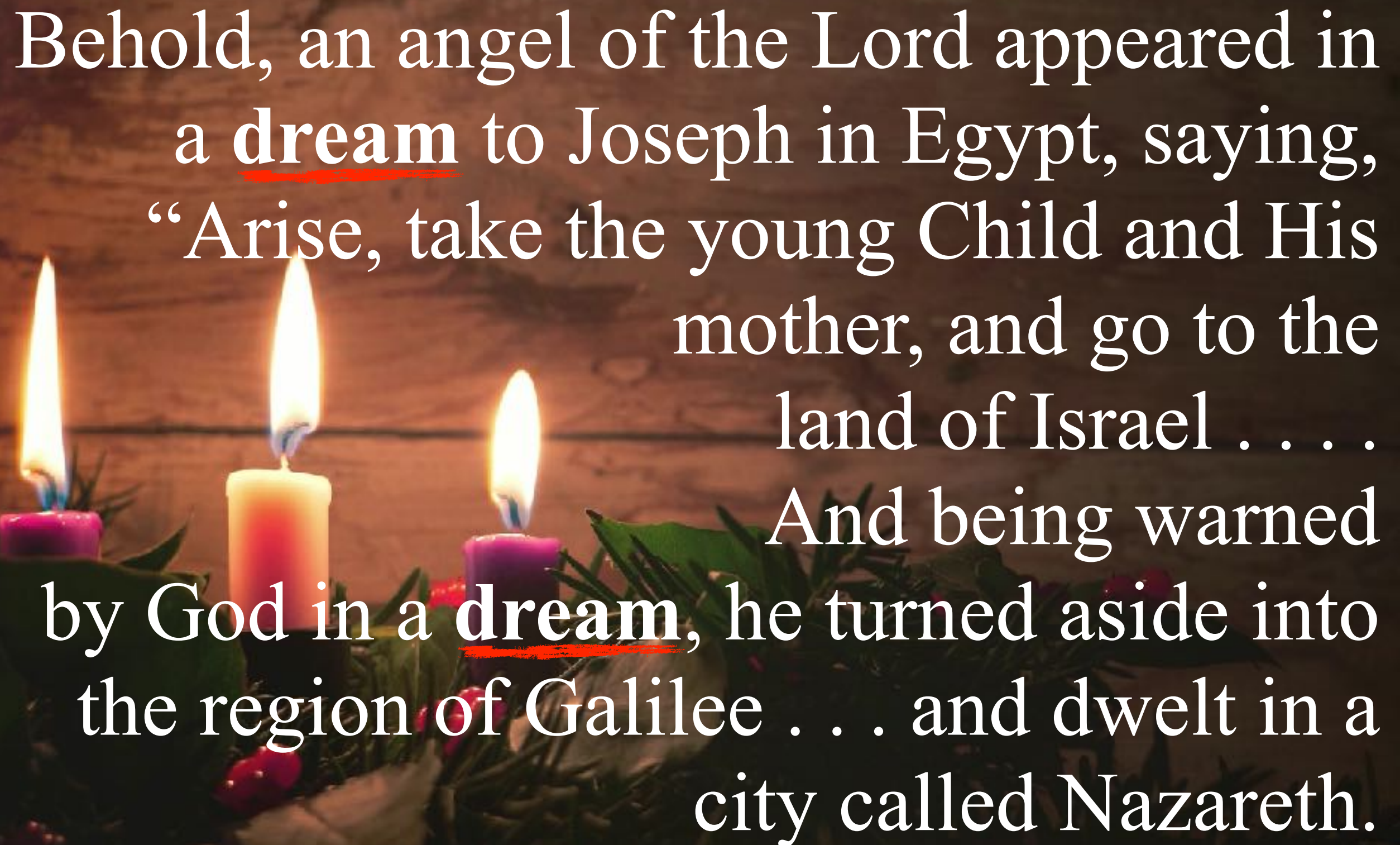
Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a **dream** to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel . . . . And being warned by God in a **dream**, he turned aside into the region of Galilee . . . and dwelt in a city called Nazareth.

The background of the image is a dark, textured surface, possibly wood, with three lit candles. On the left is a small purple candle, in the center is a taller yellow candle, and on the right is another small purple candle. The candles are surrounded by green foliage and small red berries, creating a warm, festive atmosphere.



## Matthew 2:19b, 22-23

Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel . . . . And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee . . . and dwelt in a city called Nazareth.





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# What do strength & courage look like?

- Obedient to God's command and consistent with His character.
- Protective of others
- **Humble in attitude and action**





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# ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF JESUS

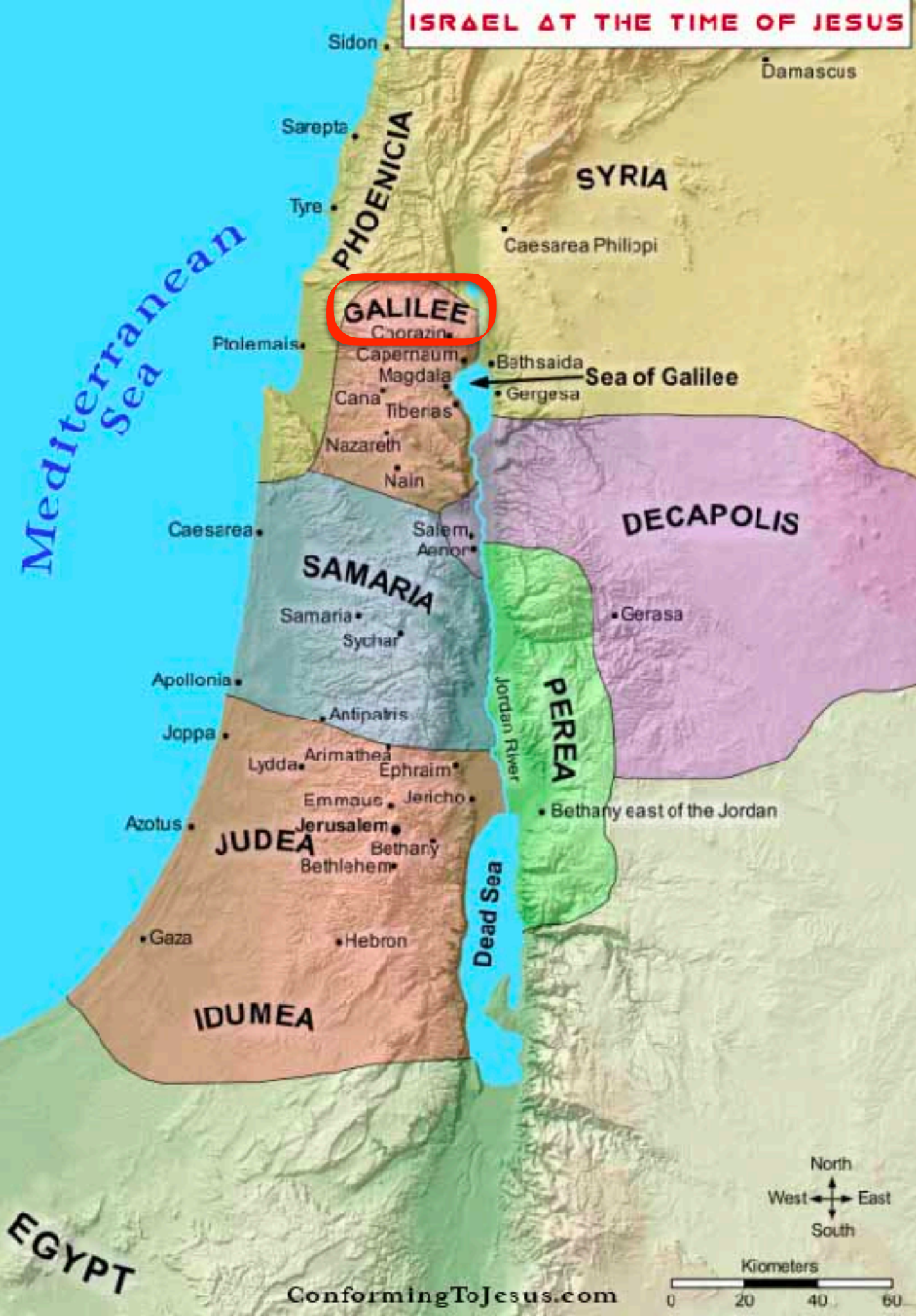






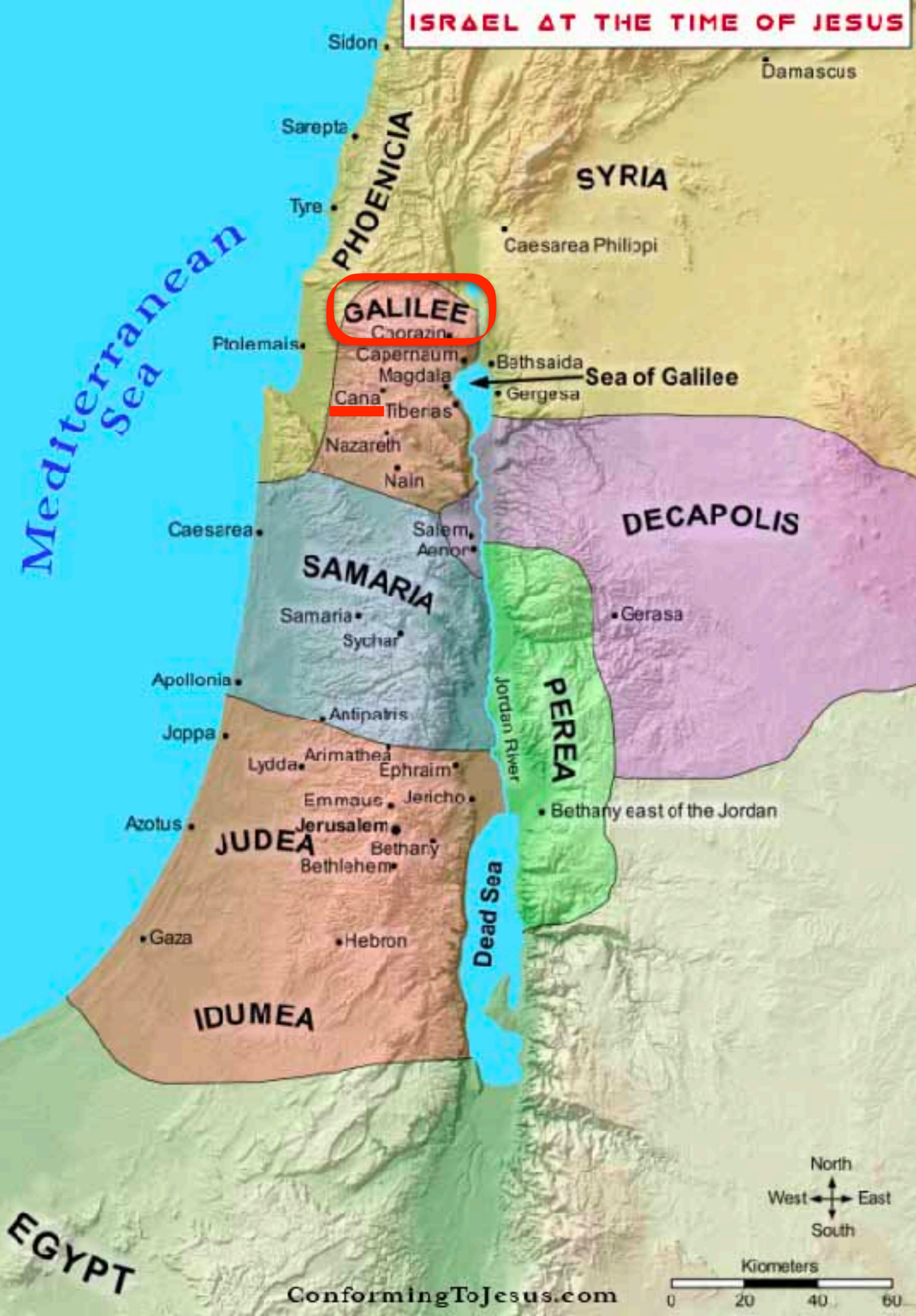
John 7:41  
 Others said,  
 “This is the  
 Christ.” But  
 some said, “Will  
 the Christ come  
 out of Galilee?”





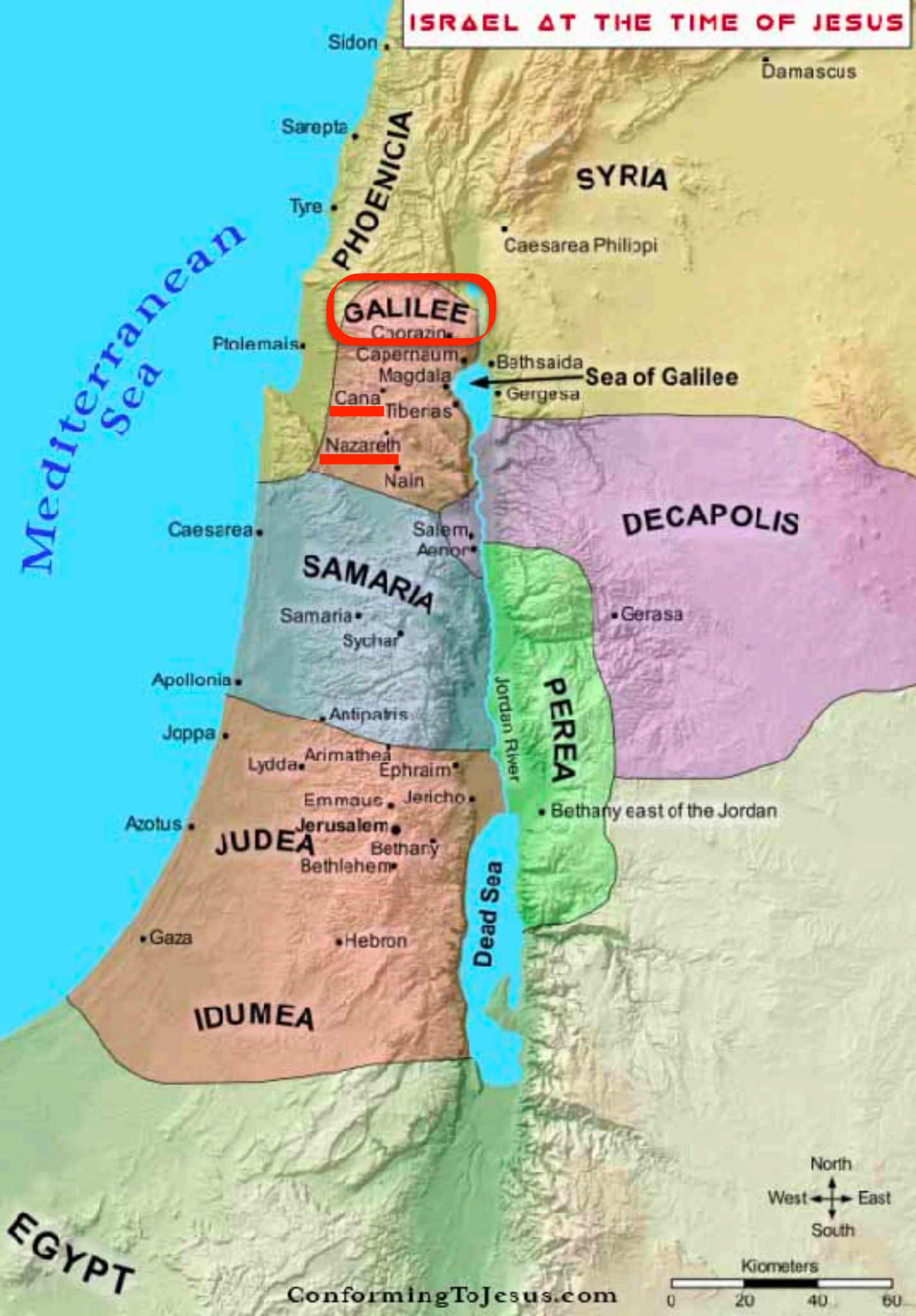
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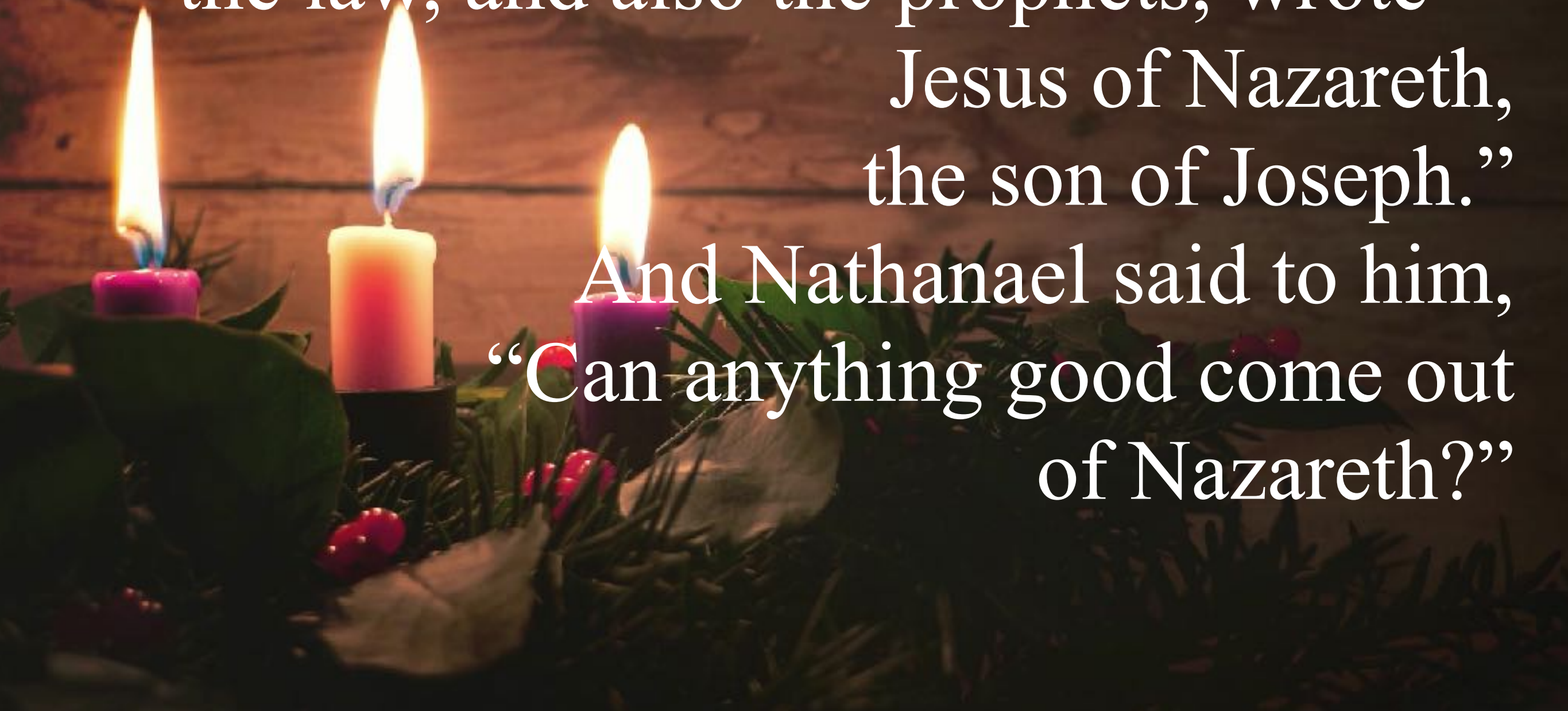
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 Others said,  
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## John 1:45-46a

Philip found Nathanael and said to him,  
“We have found Him of whom Moses in  
the law, and also the prophets, wrote—  
Jesus of Nazareth,  
the son of Joseph.”

And Nathanael said to him,  
“Can anything good come out  
of Nazareth?”

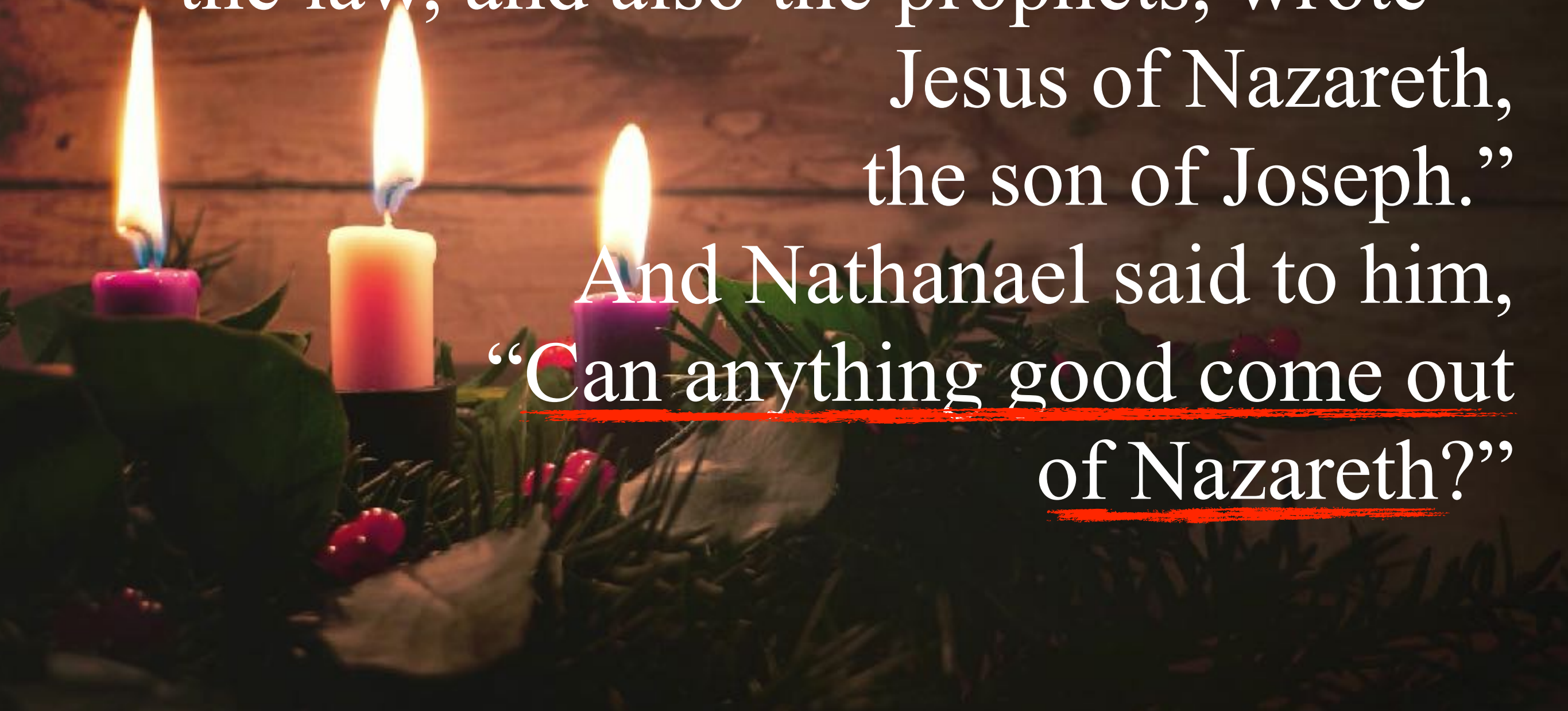




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## Mark 6:2b-3

“Where *did* this Man *get* these things?  
And what wisdom *is* this which is given  
to Him, that such mighty works are  
performed by His hands!  
Is this not the carpenter,  
the Son of Mary,  
and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and  
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us?” So they were offended at Him.

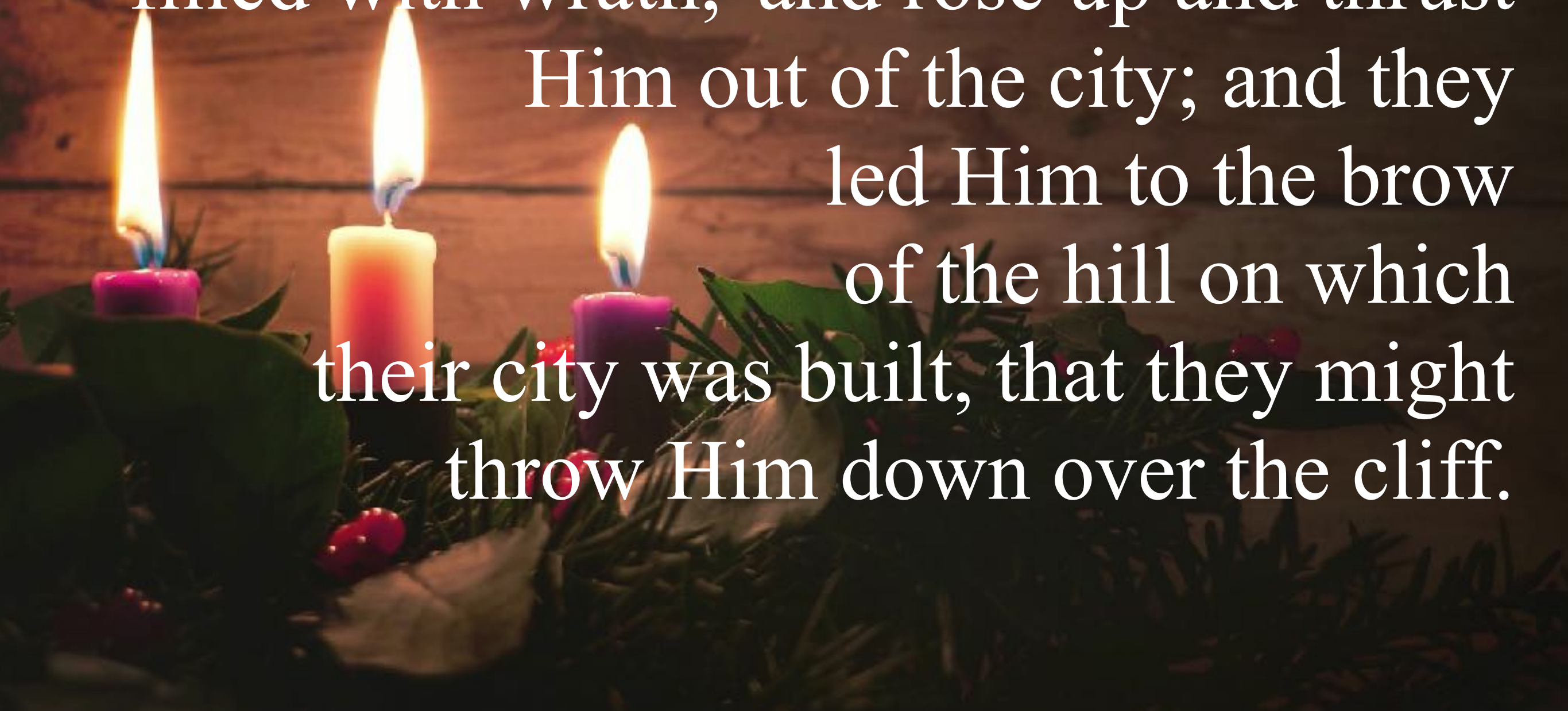


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## Luke 4:28-29

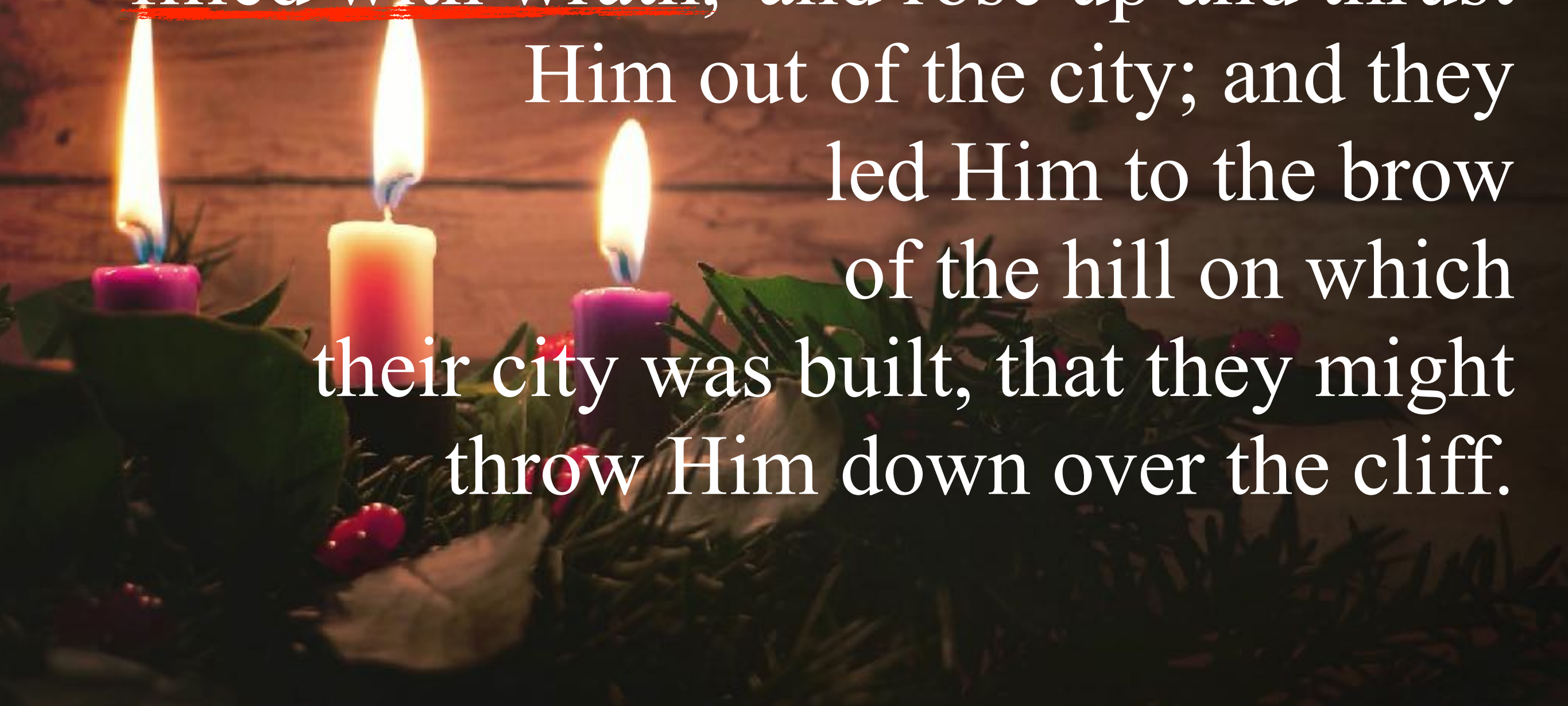
So all those in the synagogue,  
when they heard these things, were  
filled with wrath, and rose up and thrust  
Him out of the city; and they  
led Him to the brow  
of the hill on which  
their city was built, that they might  
throw Him down over the cliff.





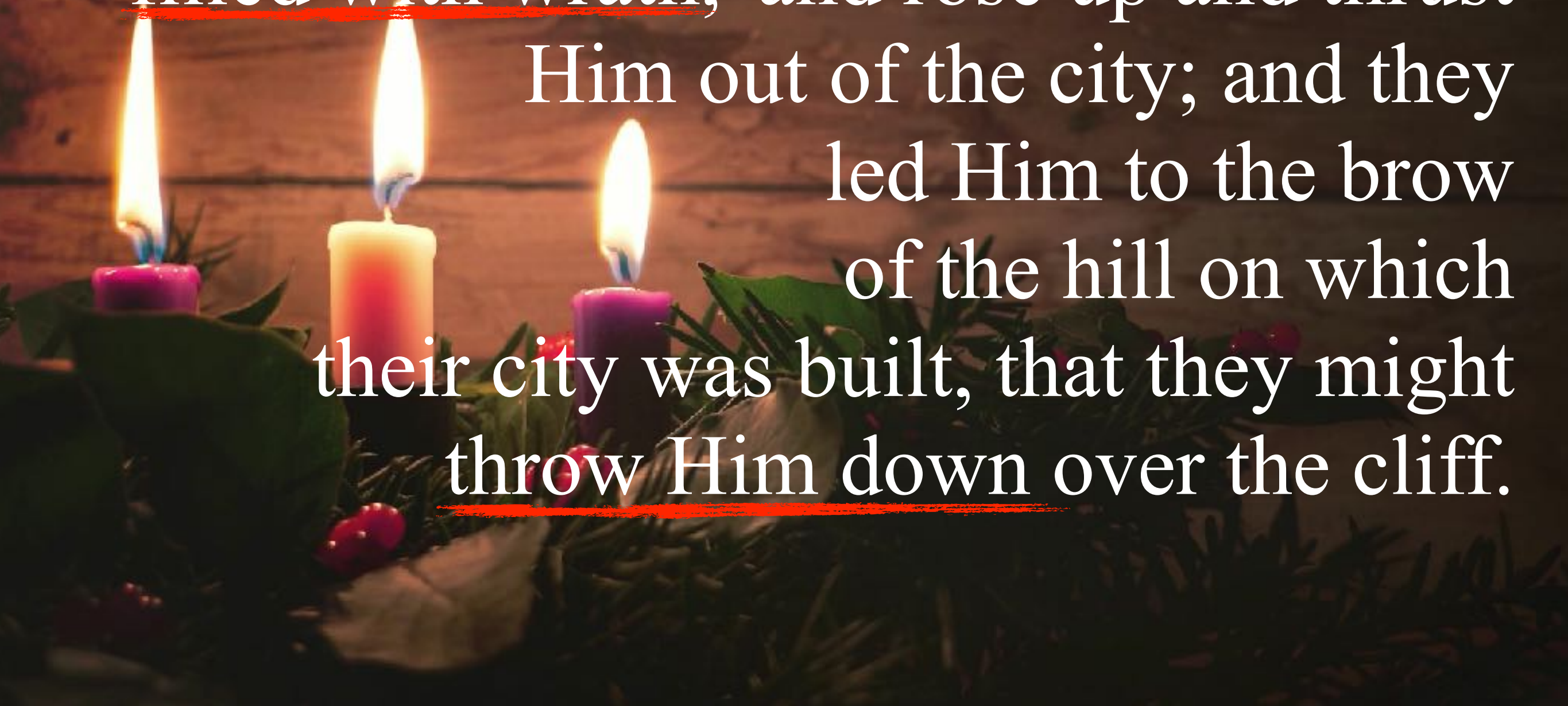
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**Where do strength & courage come from?**





# Joshua 1:9b

Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God *is* with you wherever you go.”



# Joshua 1:9b

Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”





# Matthew 1:23

Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and  
bear a Son, and they shall call His name  
Immanuel,” which is translated,  
“God with us.”



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**Where do strength & courage come from?**



# Where do strength & courage come from?

- God with us





# Psalm 18:1-2; 31-32

I will love You, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my rock

and my fortress and my deliverer;

My God, my strength, in whom I will trust;

My shield and the horn of my salvation,

my stronghold.

For who *is* God, except the Lord?

And who *is* a rock, except our God?

*It is* God who arms me with strength,

And makes my way perfect.

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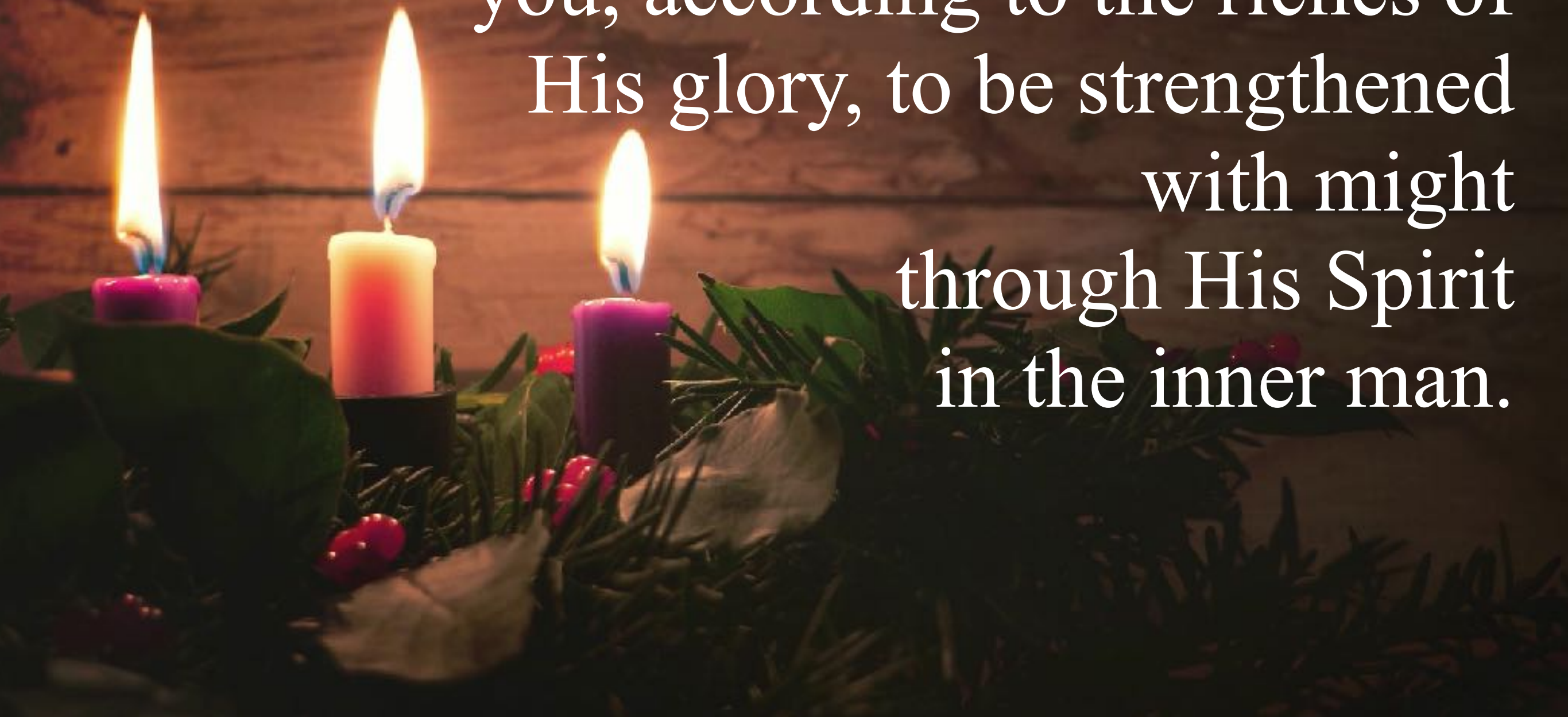
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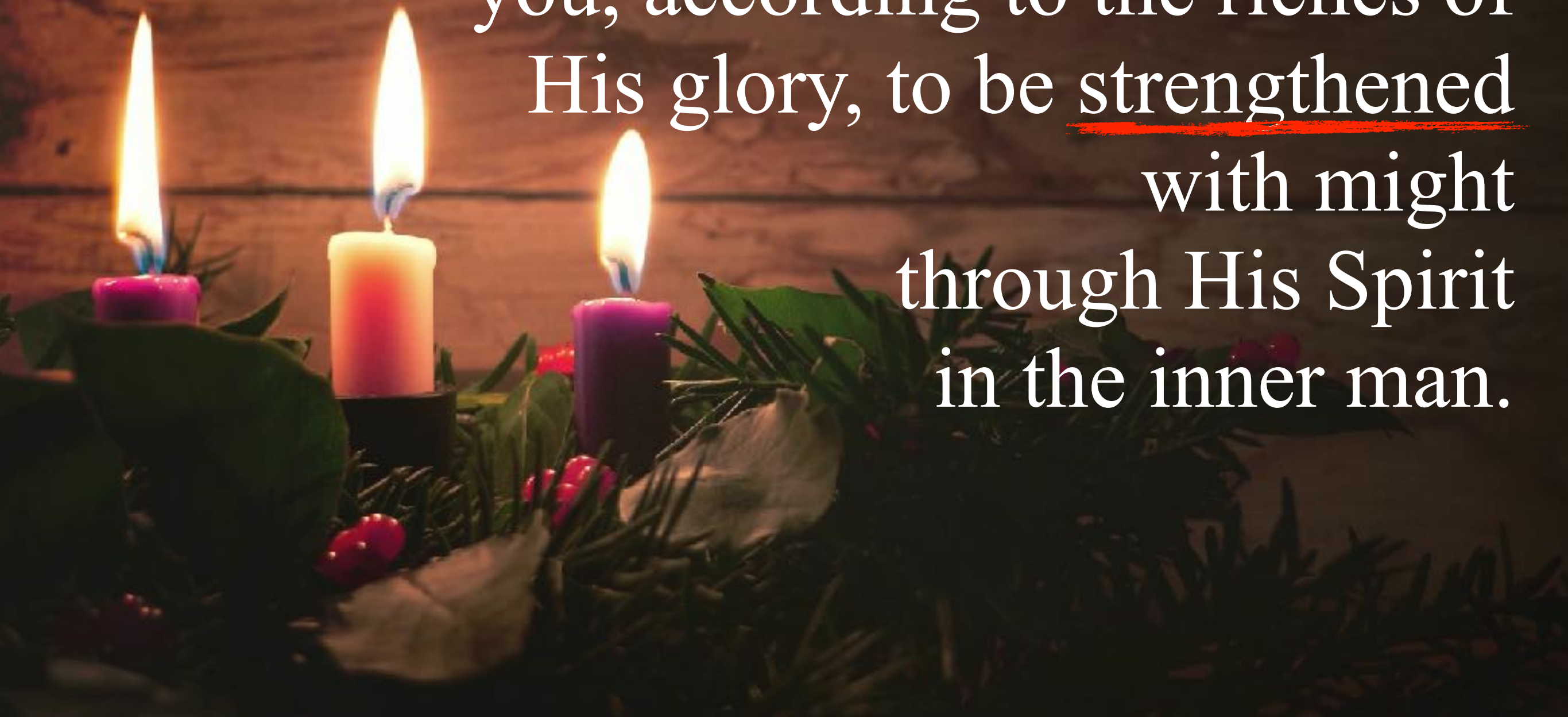
# Ephesians 3:14-16

I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord  
Jesus Christ . . . that He would grant  
you, according to the riches of  
His glory, to be strengthened  
with might  
through His Spirit  
in the inner man.



# Ephesians 3:14-16

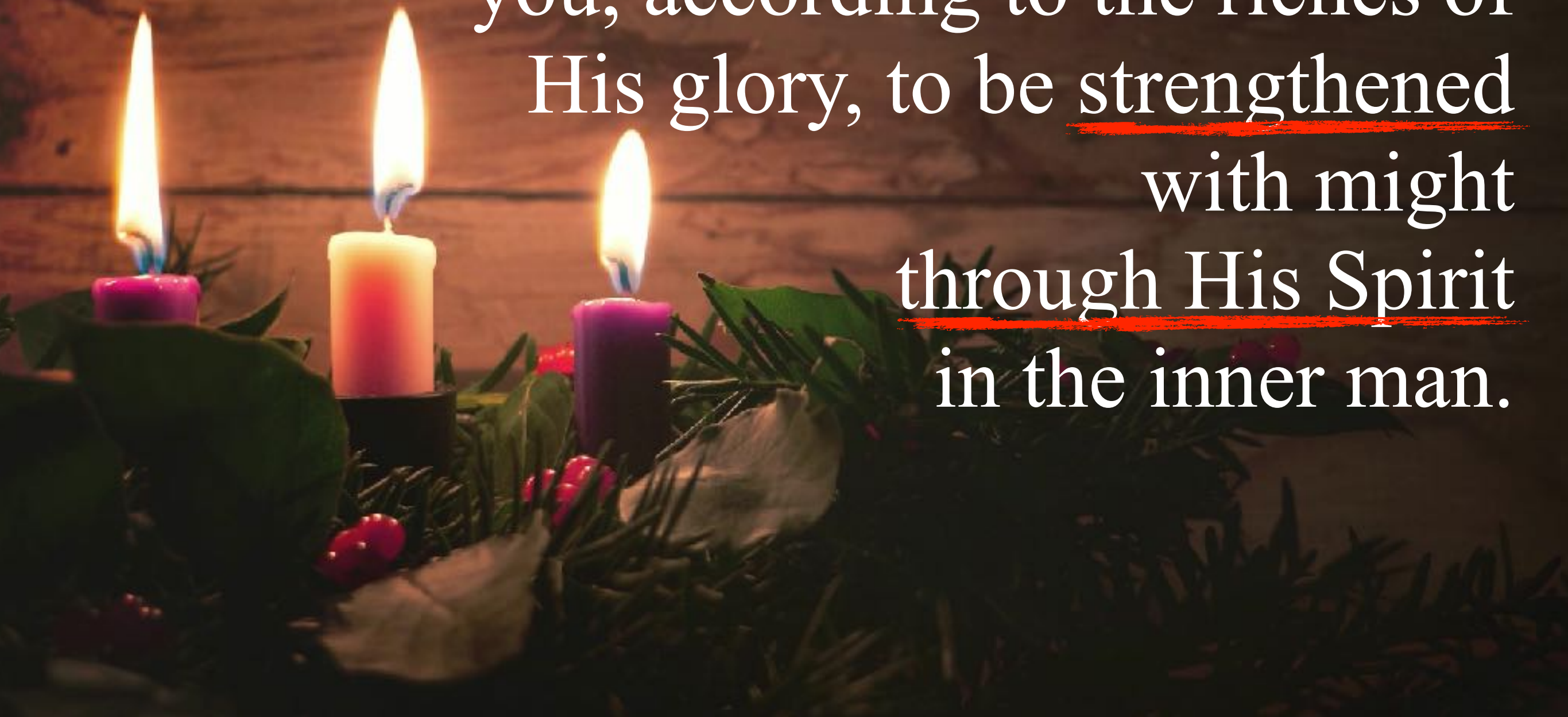
I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord  
Jesus Christ . . . that He would grant  
you, according to the riches of  
His glory, to be strengthened  
with might  
through His Spirit  
in the inner man.





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# Portrait of Strength & Courage



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- **Upward**  
*Obedient to God's command and  
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*Protective of others*



# Portrait of Strength & Courage

- **Upward**  
*Obedient to God's command and consistent with His character.*
- **Outward**  
*Protective of others*
- **Inward**  
*Humble in attitude and action*

# Matthew 1:23b

. . . the virgin shall be with child,  
and bear a Son . . .





**Matthew 1:23b**

. . . the virgin shall be with child,  
and bear a Son . . .

**Matthew 2:15b**

Out of Egypt I called My Son.



**Matthew 1:23b**

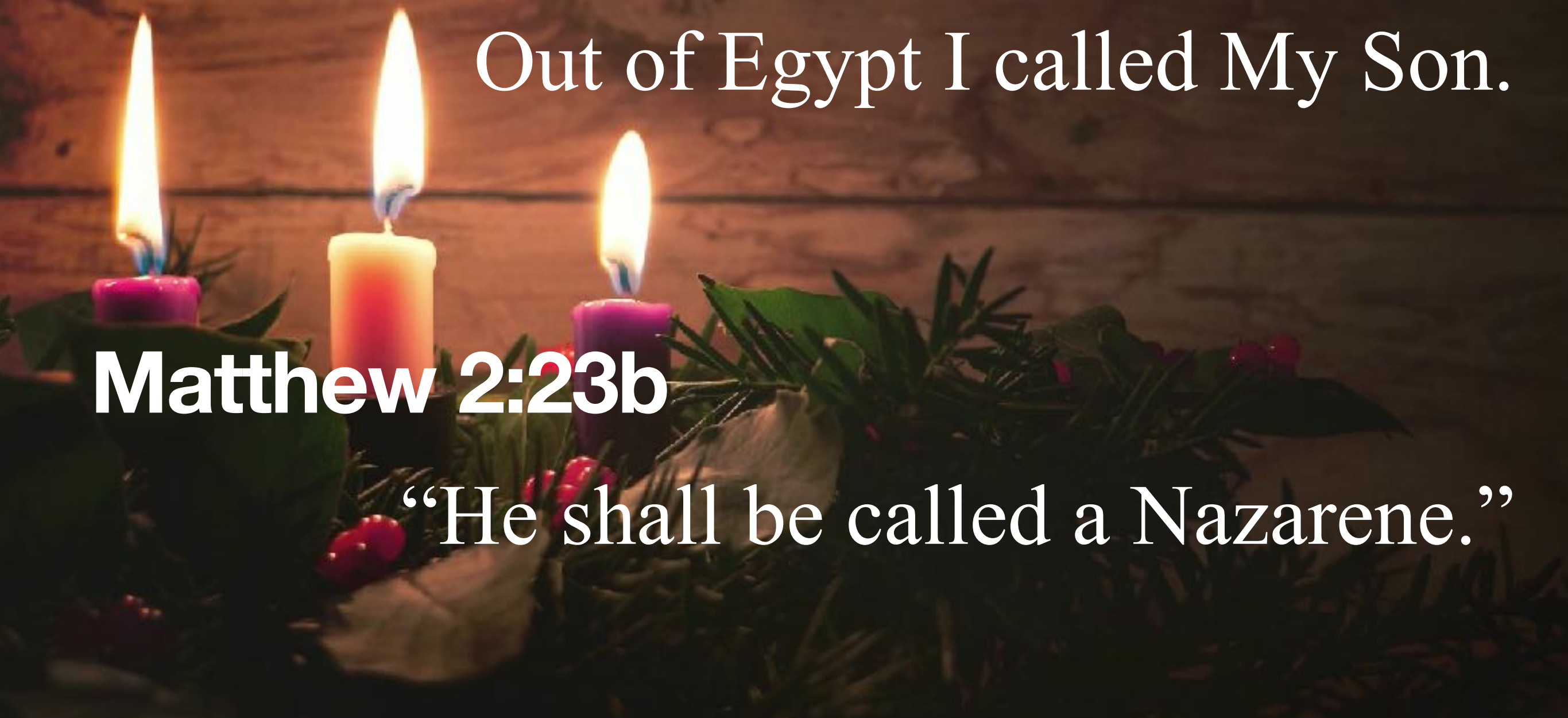
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**Matthew 2:15b**

Out of Egypt I called My Son.

**Matthew 2:23b**

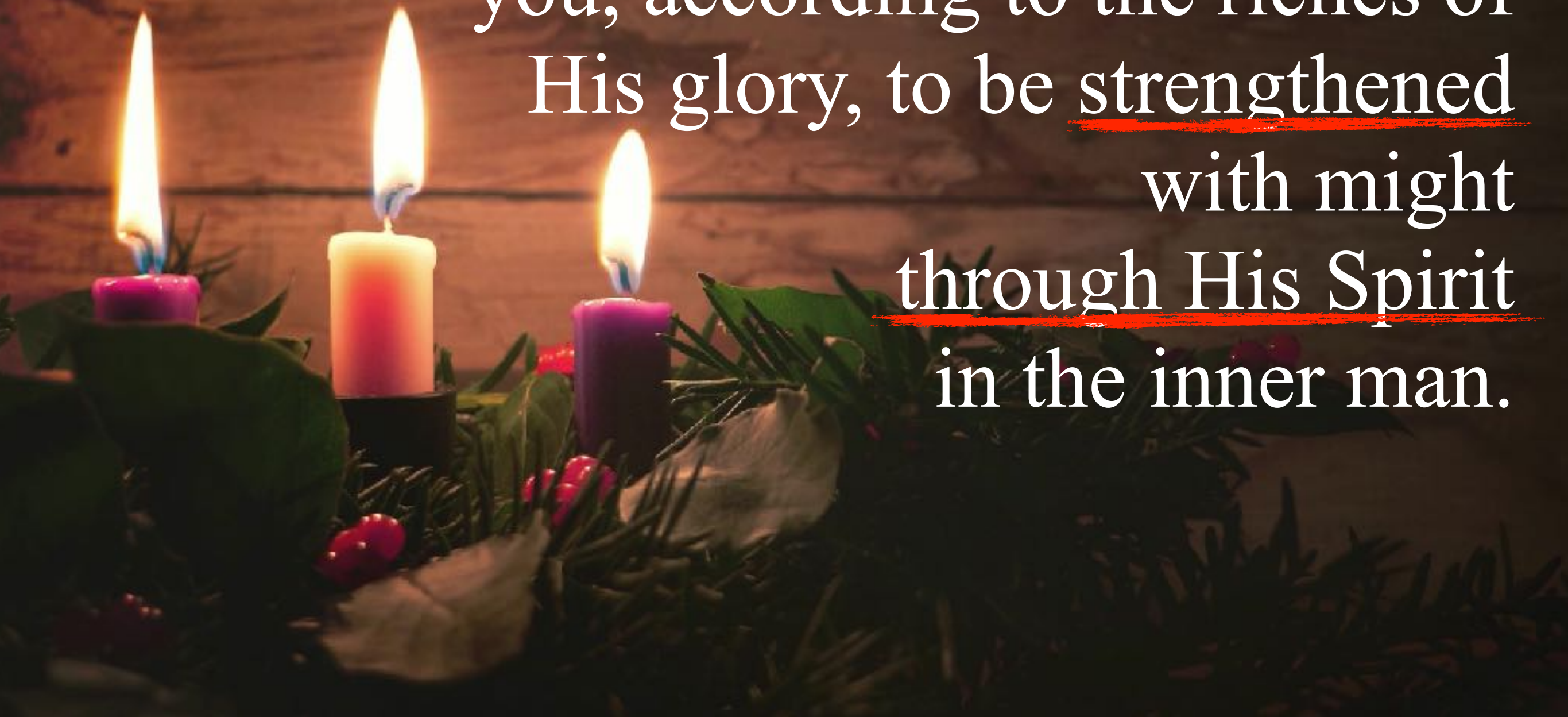
“He shall be called a Nazarene.”





# Ephesians 3:14-16

I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord  
Jesus Christ . . . that He would grant  
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His glory, to be strengthened  
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# Where do strength & courage come from?

- God with us



# Where do strength & courage come from?

- God with us
- **So stop and listen!!**





*“Courage is  
what it takes to  
stand up and  
speak;  
courage is also  
what it takes to  
sit down and  
listen.”*



*Winston Churchill*

# Advent Series: Week 3

## Strength & Courage

**Matthew 1:18-25;  
2:13-23**

Hard things are put in our way,  
not to stop us, but  
to call out our  
courage and  
strength.

