

An open book is shown from a high angle, with its pages fanned out. The book is illuminated by a bright, warm light source, likely the sun, which creates a strong lens flare in the center of the image. The text on the pages is partially legible, including phrases like "As for his father," "Because he cruelly," "Robbed his brother," "And did what," "his people," and "Behold, he sha...".

Getting Ready for Sunday!

Sunday, 7 January 2024

The Feast of The Epiphany

(Saturday 6 January 2024)


The word epiphany means ‘a new knowing’ or the ‘revelation’. Jesus was revealed to the Wise Men as a sign that He was showing Himself to the whole world. The Good News is for all people throughout the world.

As Jesus was shown to the wise men then, He is shown to us every day and we share in the task of sharing Him by sharing Good News and being the Good News of love for others.

A painting of the Nativity scene. Mary is seated on the right, holding the infant Jesus in a manger. Joseph is on the left, and various animals like a donkey and sheep are present. The scene is set in a stable with a manger.

We are still in the season of Christmas!

The Christmas season will continue for another week until next Sunday when we will celebrate the Baptism of Jesus – when He begins His ministry.

A painting depicting the three wise men on camels, carrying gifts, following the infant Jesus in a desert landscape. The scene is set in a vast, arid desert with rolling hills in the background. The three wise men are the central figures, each riding a camel and wearing a yellow cloak. They are carrying gifts on their camels. In the foreground, a small figure of the infant Jesus is visible, followed by a group of people on foot. The overall tone is solemn and reverent.

The Visit of the Wise Men
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.’

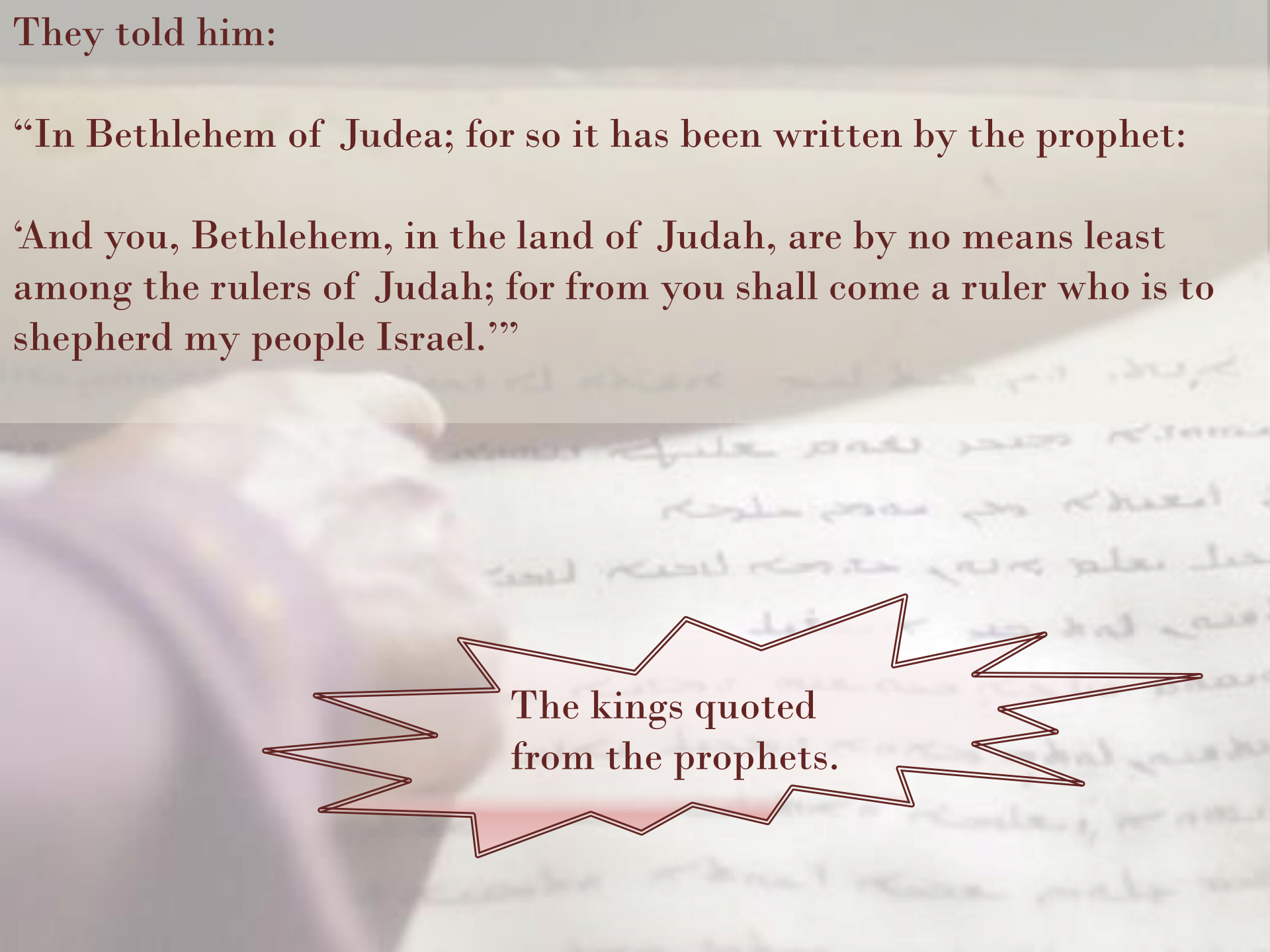
When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

Herod was afraid that this new king was going to take over his kingdom!

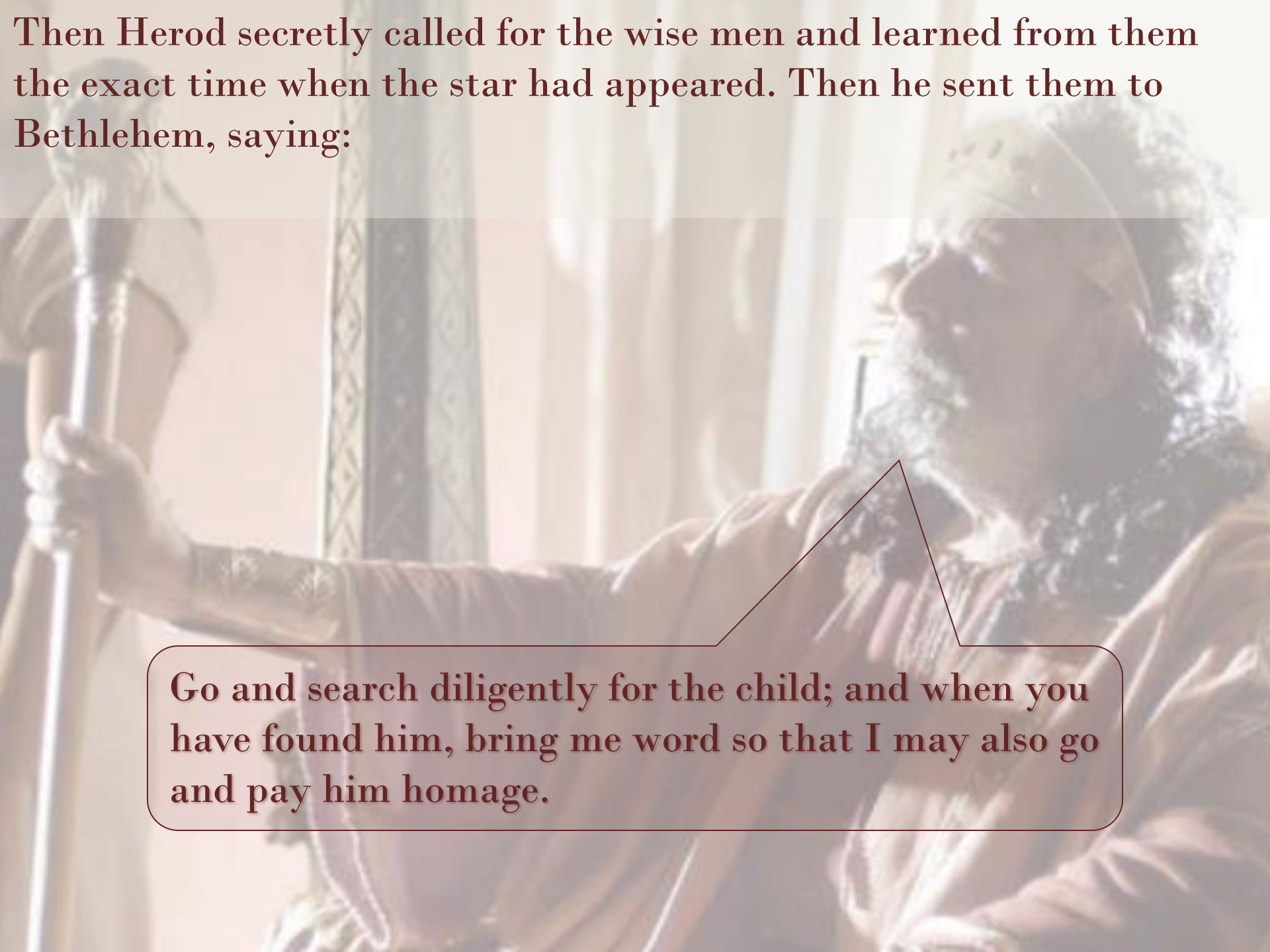
They told him:

“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.’”



The kings quoted
from the prophets.

A man with a long white beard and a turban, holding a staff, looking upwards. The background is a soft, warm light, possibly from a window or a lamp. The man is wearing a brown robe with a white sash. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the light source creating a strong glow on the man's face and the staff.

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying:

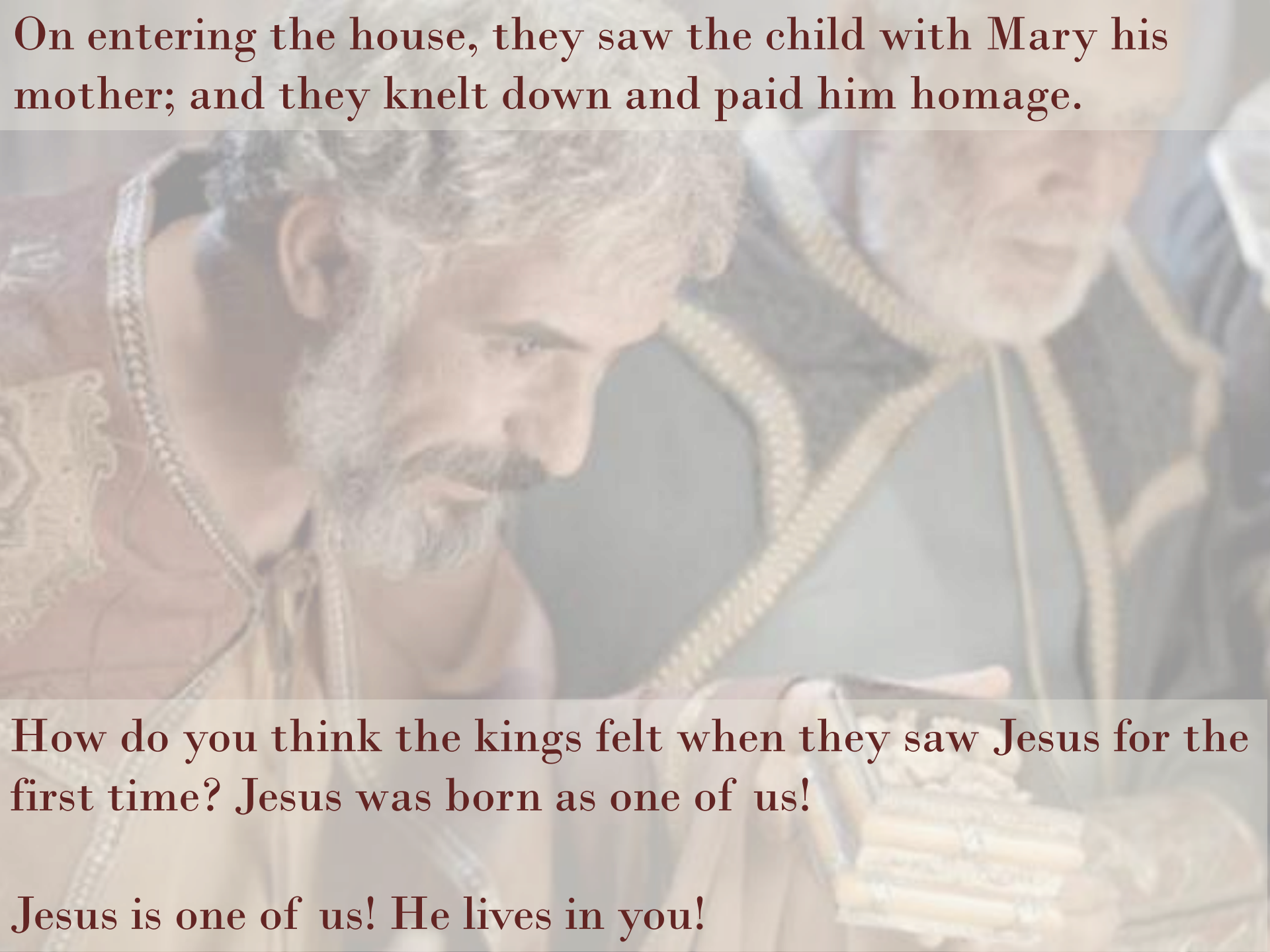
Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.



When they had heard the king, 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 that the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy.





On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.

How do you think the kings felt when they saw Jesus for the first time? Jesus was born as one of us!

Jesus is one of us! He lives in you!

Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



The kings gave Jesus the best they had!

What are you going to offer to Jesus today?

What is the best you can give to Him?

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Wise Men chose not to return to tell Herod where he could find Jesus because they did not want to betray Him!

They stood up for what was the right thing to do!

The background of the entire slide is a soft-focus photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are rolling sand dunes. In the middle ground, a caravan is visible, consisting of several camels and people. Some camels are carrying loads, and some people are walking alongside them, some holding long poles or staffs. The scene is captured in a hazy, golden light, suggesting either dawn or dusk. The overall tone is peaceful and evocative of a journey in a vast, open landscape.

When did you last stand up for the right thing? For justice?

Bible Search

Read Matthew 2:1-12 in your family Bible - this is the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday.



Activity

Write about how you feel about meeting Jesus during this Christmas.

Or you may prefer to draw a picture to show the message which you got from today's Gospel!



Consider



How has Jesus shown Himself to you during the last few days? (Think about kindnesses and love shown to you, or a feeling you may have had when you were talking to Jesus.)

Do you have to stand up for anything that is right today? – or speak a truth about something?

Think about how amazing it is that Jesus chose to become one of us and that He chooses to remain with us and in us because He loves each one of us!

Praying to Jesus

Pray for the grace to be open to see
God in ordinary places this week.



Ask Jesus to give you the courage
to be proud to be His follower!

