

An angel of the Lord is depicted in the upper left corner, with a halo and wings, looking towards the viewer. The background is dark and textured.

*In an angel of the Lord appeared,
I bring you*

Christmas

Good News

Gifts For Jesus



An angel of the Lord appeared.

I bring you

Story Time

*Good News
of Great Joy*

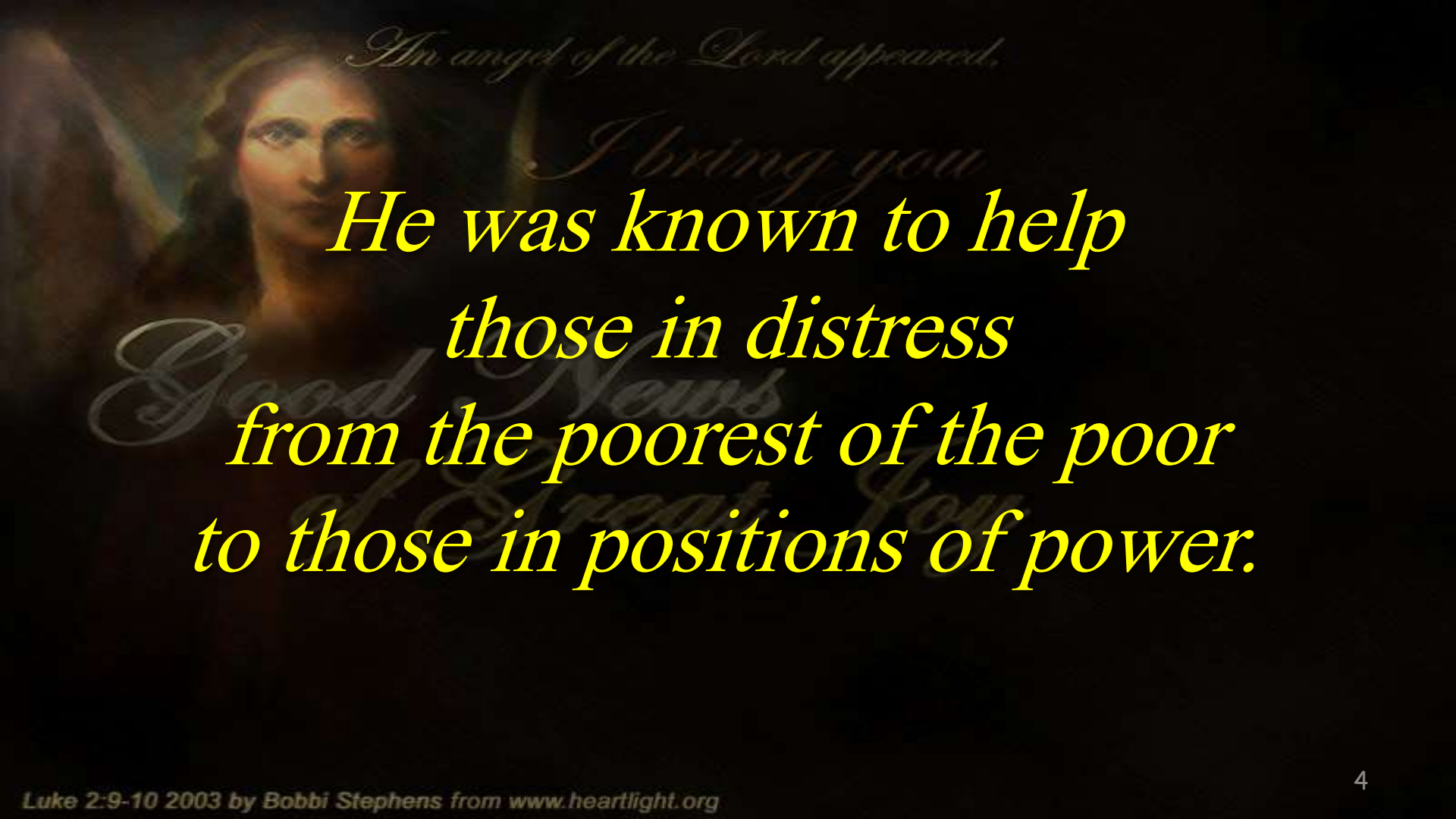


An angel of the Lord appeared.

I bring you

*Josh was a leader in the
community.*

*Good News
of Great Joy*

An angel of the Lord is depicted in the background, with a serene expression and long, dark hair. The angel's face is partially illuminated, and they appear to be wearing a dark, flowing garment. The background is dark and textured, suggesting a night sky or a cave.

*An angel of the Lord appeared,
I bring you
He was known to help
those in distress
from the poorest of the poor
to those in positions of power.*

A faint, artistic background image of an angel with long, dark hair and a serene expression, looking slightly to the left. The angel's face is the central focus of the background. The text is overlaid on this image.

An angel of the Lord appeared.

I bring you

His friends believed
he had a future in politics and
thought he should be seeking the
highest office in the land.

Good News

A faint, artistic background image of an angel with long, dark hair and a serene expression, looking slightly to the side. The angel's face is softly lit, and their wings are visible on the left side. The overall tone is dark and ethereal.

An angel of the Lord appeared.

I bring you

*He was also known be willing
to speak truth to power.*

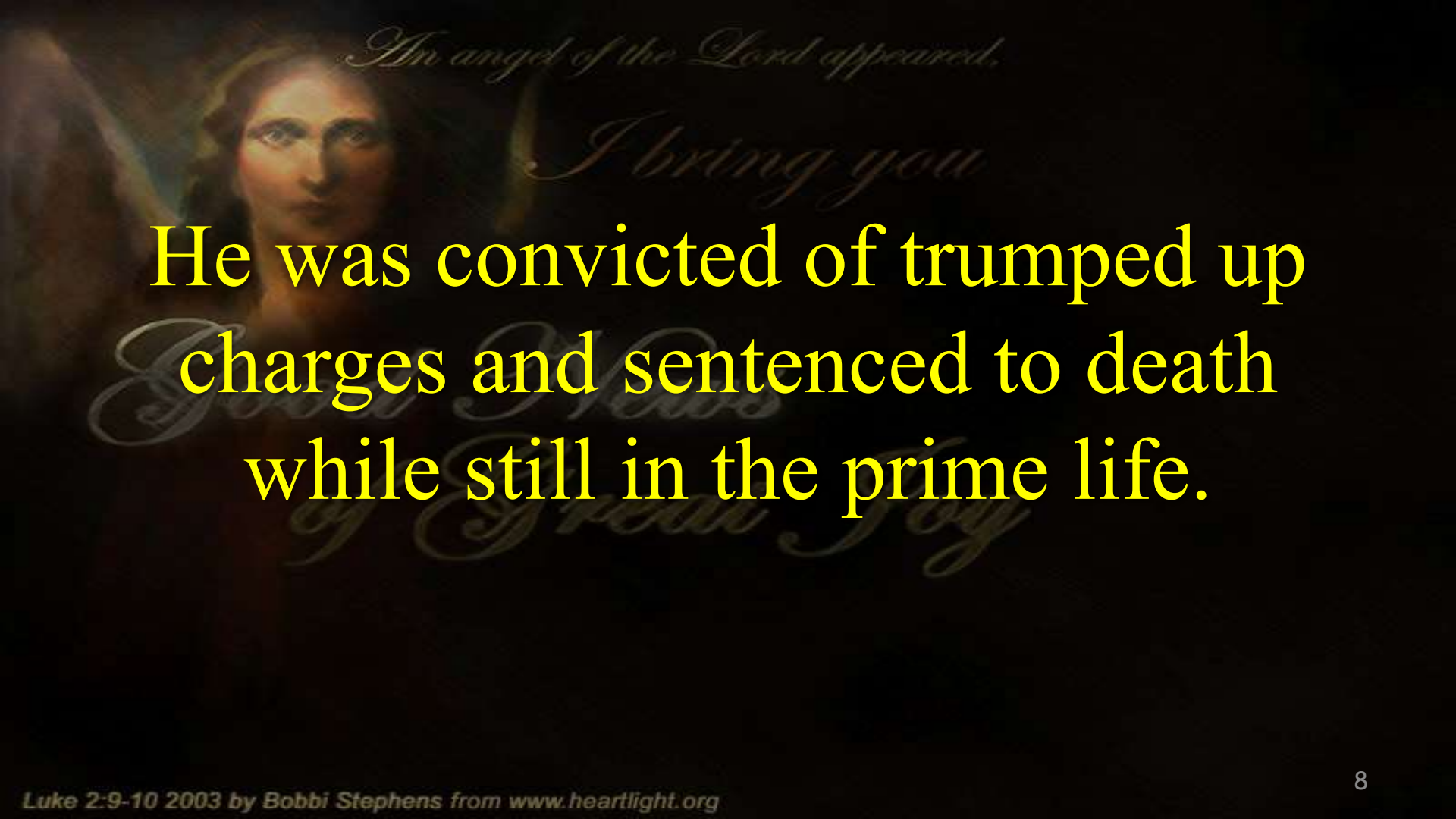
*Good News
of Great Joy*

A faint, artistic illustration of an angel with long, dark hair and a serene expression, looking directly at the viewer. The angel's face is softly lit, and a hint of a halo or light around the head is visible. The background is dark and textured, suggesting a night sky or a deep, mysterious space. The overall tone is spiritual and ethereal.

An angel of the Lord appeared.

I bring you


*He had a spirit about him that
attracted people.*

The background of the slide features a faint, artistic depiction of an angel with large, feathered wings and a serene expression, looking towards the viewer. The angel is set against a dark, atmospheric background with soft, ethereal light. Overlaid on this image is the text of the slide in various fonts and colors.

*An angel of the Lord appeared,
I bring you*

He was convicted of trumped up
charges and sentenced to death
while still in the prime life.

*Peace I have
of Great Joy*



*An angel of the Lord appeared,
saying unto
Good News
of Great Joy*

Those who contrived
and executed this injustice thought
they had stopped his movement.

They were wrong!

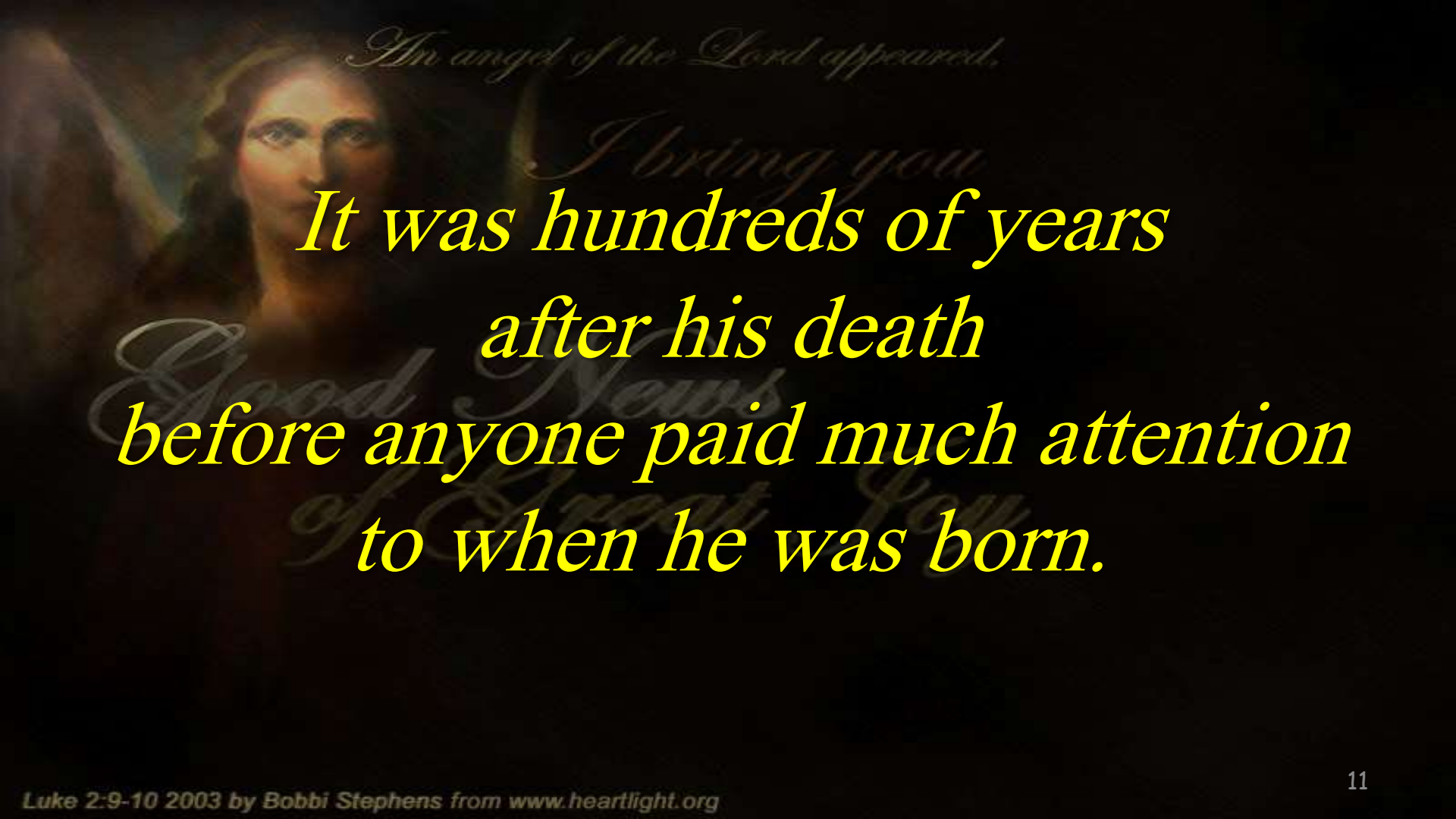
A faint, artistic illustration of an angel with long, dark hair and a serene expression, looking directly at the viewer. The angel's face is softly lit, and a hint of a halo is visible. The background is dark and textured, with some light rays emanating from behind the angel's head. The overall tone is spiritual and ethereal.

An angel of the Lord appeared.

I bring you

Hundreds of people said they saw
Him alive.

*Good News
of Great Joy*



An angel of the Lord appeared.

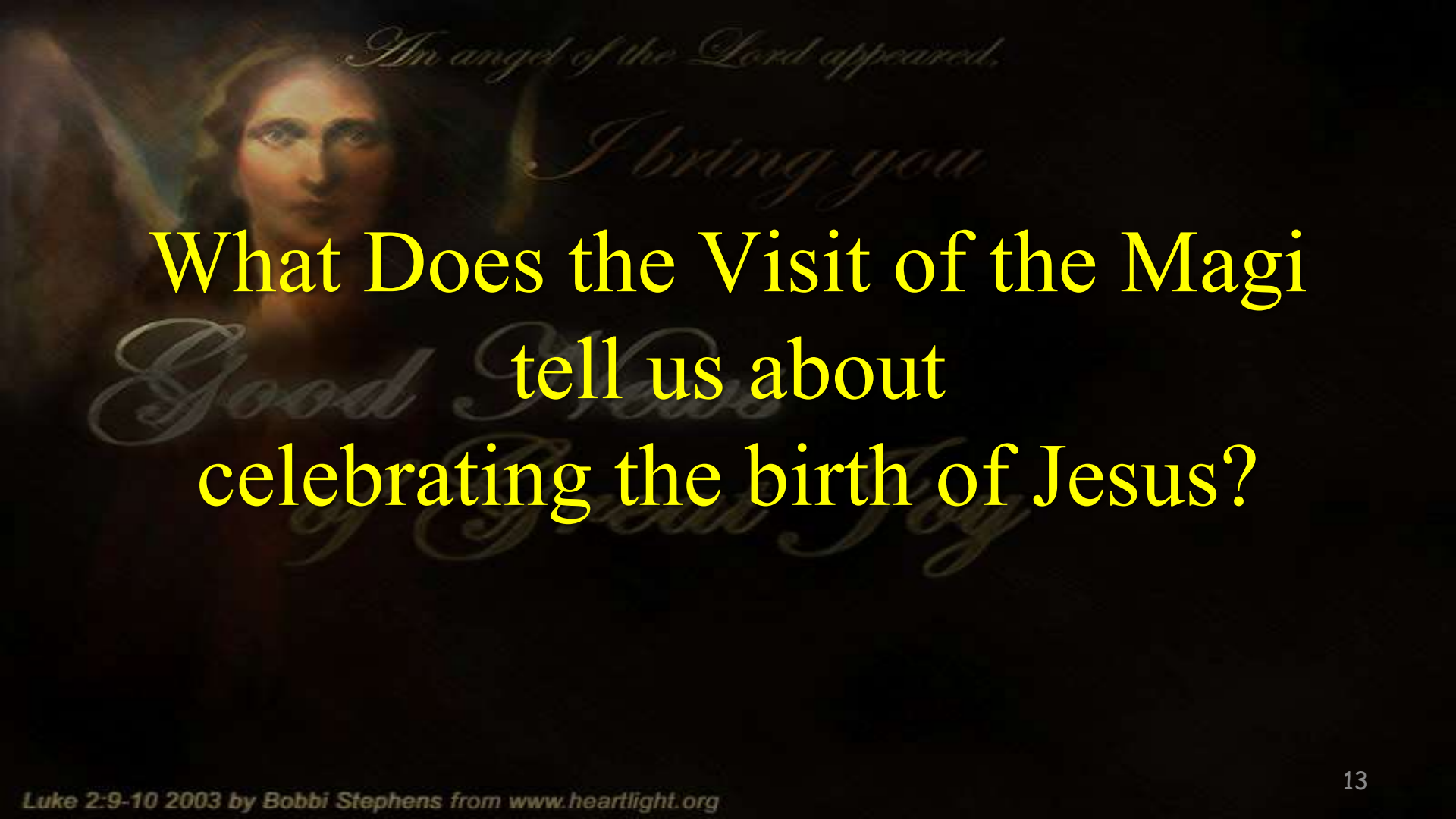
I bring you

*It was hundreds of years
after his death
before anyone paid much attention
to when he was born.*

The background of the slide features a soft, ethereal image of an angel's face and wings. The angel has long, dark hair and a gentle expression, with light emanating from behind their head. The wings are visible on the left side, appearing as soft, feathered shapes. The overall tone is dark and moody, with the angel's face being the primary light source.

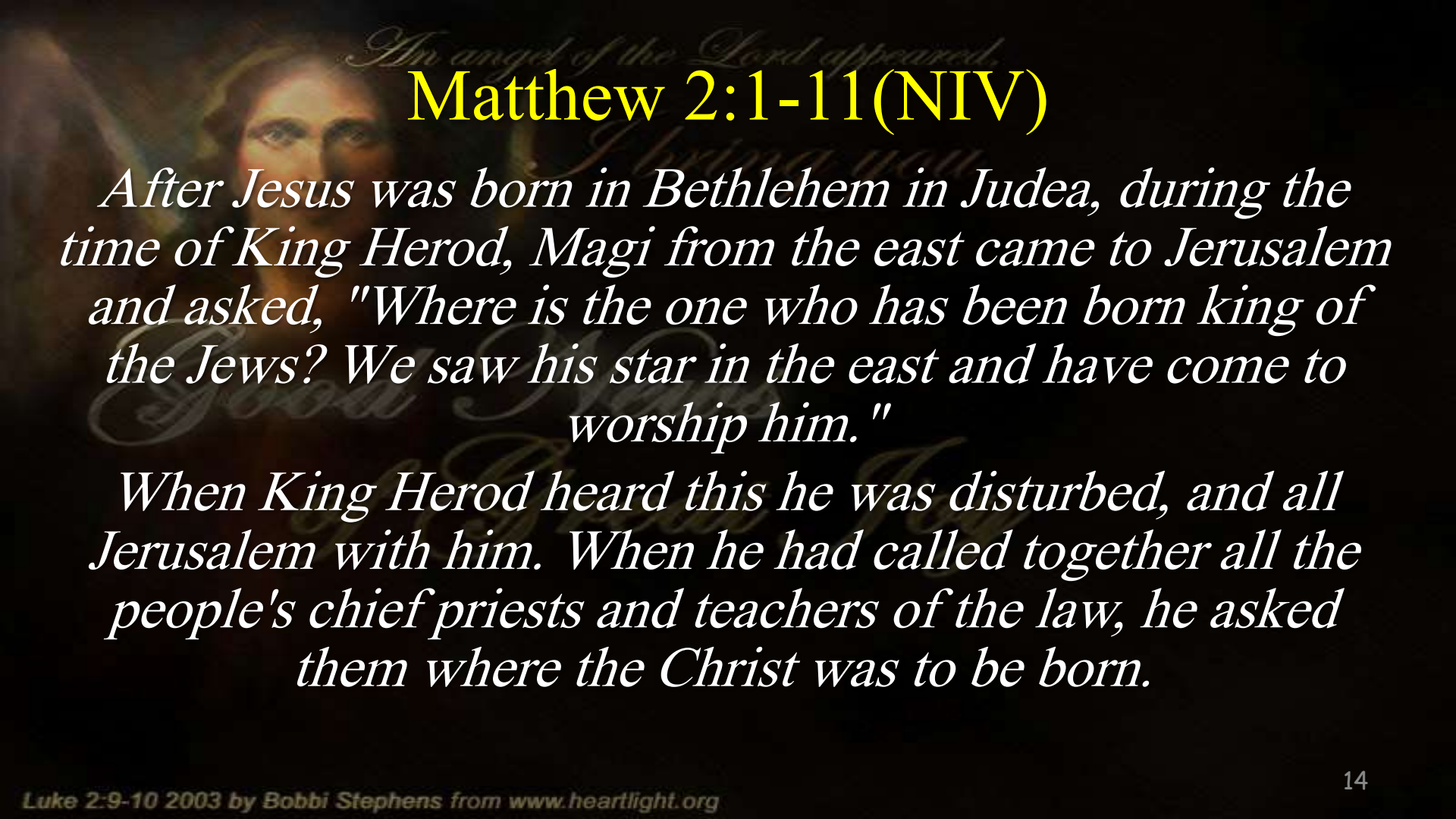
An angel of the Lord appeared.

It would be good thing if
something was done that
celebrated that person in a way
that honored him or her
as the case may be.



*An angel of the Lord appeared,
I bring you
Good News
of Great Joy*

**What Does the Visit of the Magi
tell us about
celebrating the birth of Jesus?**



Matthew 2:1-11(NIV)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born.

An angel of the Lord appeared.

"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'"

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."



An angel of the Lord appeared.

*After they had heard the king, they went on their way,
and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them
until it stopped over the place where the child was.*

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

*On coming to the house, they saw the child with his
mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.
Then they opened their treasures and presented him with
gifts of gold and of (frank)incense and of myrrh.*



The Gifts Brought To Jesus

Gold

Frankincense

Myrrh



GOLD

- Gold has been prized, and used as a medium of exchange since 2500 BC.
 - It was always a gift fit for a King
- Giving it, showed submission and respect to royalty.
- It was prized in Worship, as the Tabernacle and Temple of the Lord's presence were decorated with gold.
- The vision of the heavenly city has “streets of gold.”
 - With it we worship Christ or we worship it.



FRANKINCENSE

- An appropriate gift for a Priest.
- It was used by the Priests as a symbol of the greatness of the name of the Lord. Mal. 1:11, Cant 1:3
- It is an emblem, the fragrance of which symbolizes the prayers of the people of God. Revelation 5:8, 8:3
- Jesus was and is both Priest and King. Hebrews 7:1-ff
- Jesus still intercedes for us, as our forever High Priest.



Myrrh

- Myrrh was used as a perfume to prepare Esther to be presented to the King Xerxes of Persia. Esther 2:12
- It was only to be used to anoint a Priest. Exodus 30:33
- It was an embalming fragrance--used on Jesus' body.
- *“Joseph of Arimathea...accompanied by Nicodemus...brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen.”*



What Do These Gifts Tell Us?

One has to wonder if these Magi knew how deeply appropriate the symbolism of their gifts would be.

- They acknowledge His Kingship.
- They acknowledge His role as High Priest.
- They foretold His Suffering and Death.




What Gifts Do We Bring?

- As followers of Christ, we must acknowledge that those symbols should be reflected in our gifts to God.
- Is he King of our lives? Do we give Jesus our total submission?
- Do we realize that we can approach our Heavenly Father ONLY because Jesus is our High Priest?
- Do we confess that we have life because Jesus suffered and Died in our place?



May I Suggest What God Wants From Us.

- He wants our *Trust*. Our obedience to Him is our sign of trust. He will never take it; it must be freely offered.
- He wants our *Worship*. Our praise and prayers rise as a fragrant offering to God. He will never take it; it must be freely offered.
- He wants our *Hearts*. He desires our love and offered his love in the person of Jesus. He will never take it; it must be freely offered.



Romans 12:1-2 (NLT2)

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice--the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.



An angel of the Lord appeared.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer Wrote,

“Who Among Us

Will Celebrate Christmas Right?

- Those who finally lay down all their power, honor and prestige, all their vanity, pride and self will at the manger,*
- Those who stand by the lowly and let God alone be exalted,*
- Those who see in the child in the manger the glory of God, precisely in this lowliness.”*