

Merry Christmas!





MERRY
CHRISTMAS













Morning Rituals

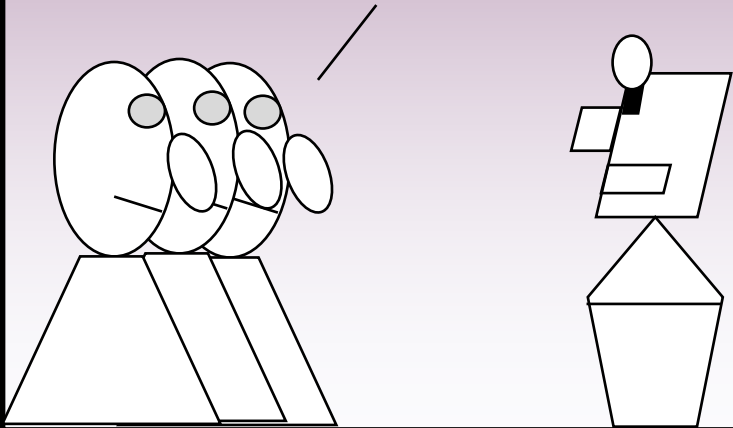


Morning Rituals



The Greek Geek

HEY GEEK, WHAT DID ADAM
SAY ON THE DAY BEFORE
CHRISTMAS?



Christmas Through the Ages



Christmas Through the Ages



Christmas Through the Ages



Roman

Christmas Through the Ages



Roman



Medieval

Christmas Through the Ages



Roman

Medieval



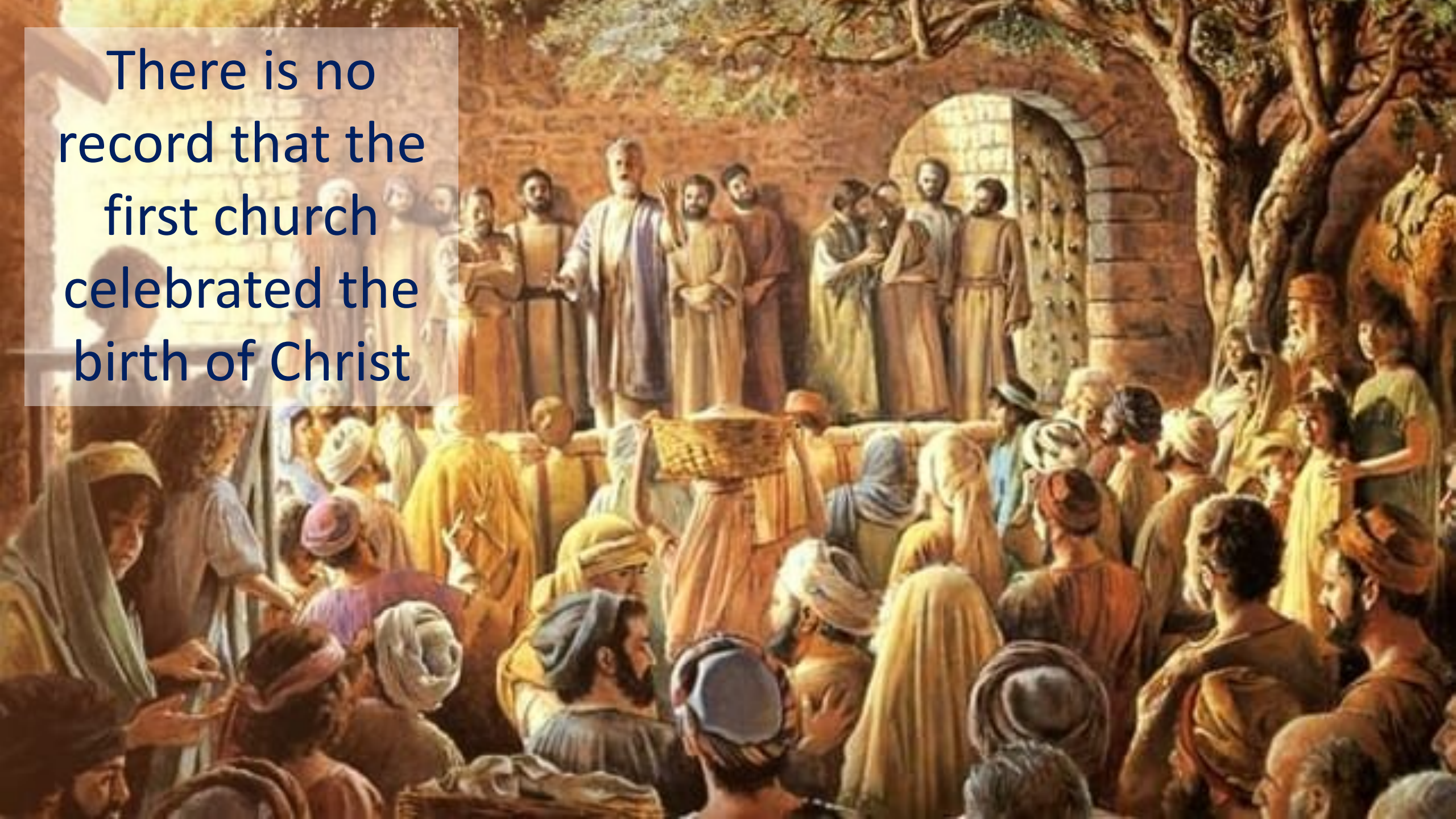
Modern

Christmas Through the Ages



Roman

There is no
record that the
first church
celebrated the
birth of Christ



Does that make it wrong?



Consider
Hanukkah



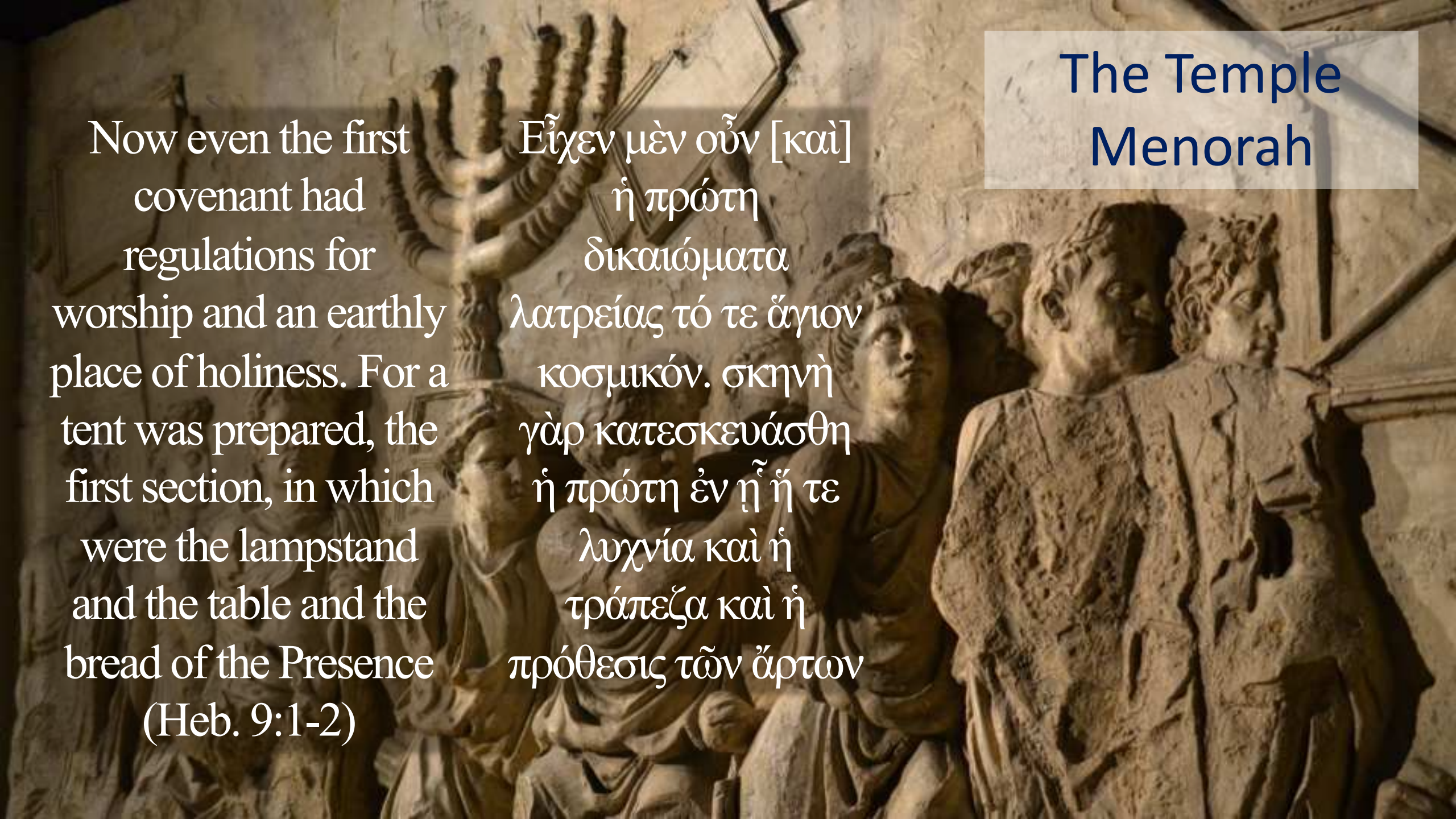
Arch of Titus

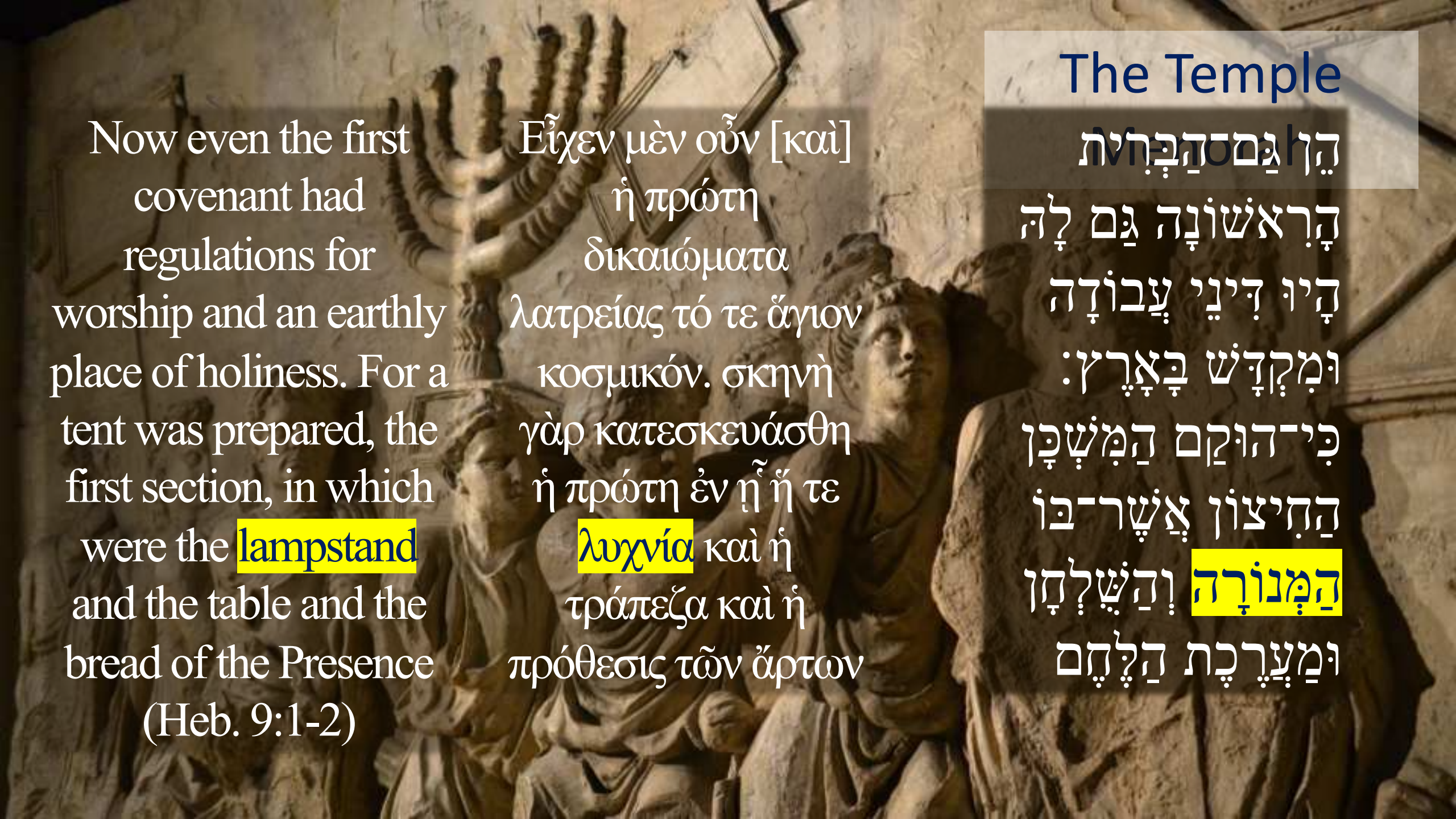


The Temple Menorah

Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence (Heb. 9:1-2)

Εἶχεν μὲν οὖν [καὶ]
ἡ πρώτη
δικαιώματα
λατρείας τό τε ἅγιον
κοσμικόν. σκηνή
γὰρ κατεσκευάσθη
ἡ πρώτη ἐν ᾗ ἦ τε
λυχνία καὶ ἡ
τράπεζα καὶ ἡ
πρόθεσις τῶν ἄρτων





Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the **lampstand** and the table and the bread of the Presence (Heb. 9:1-2)

Εἶχεν μὲν οὖν [καὶ] ἡ πρώτη δικαιοῦματα λατρείας τό τε ἅγιον κοσμικόν. σκηνὴ γὰρ κατεσκευάσθη ἡ πρώτη ἐν ᾗ ἡ τε **λυχνία** καὶ ἡ τράπεζα καὶ ἡ πρόθεσις τῶν ἄρτων

The Temple

הָיוּ גַם הַבְּהֵמוֹת
הָרְאוּשׁוֹנָה גַם לָהּ
הָיוּ דִּינֵי עֲבוֹדָה
וּמִקְדָּשׁ בָּאָרֶץ:
כִּי־הוּקָם הַמִּשְׁכָּן
הַחִיצוֹן אֲשֶׁר־בוֹ
הַמִּבְנוֹרָה וְהַנִּשְׁלֶחֶן
וּמִעֲרֹכֶת הַלֶּחֶם

The Maccabean Revolt 167-141BC



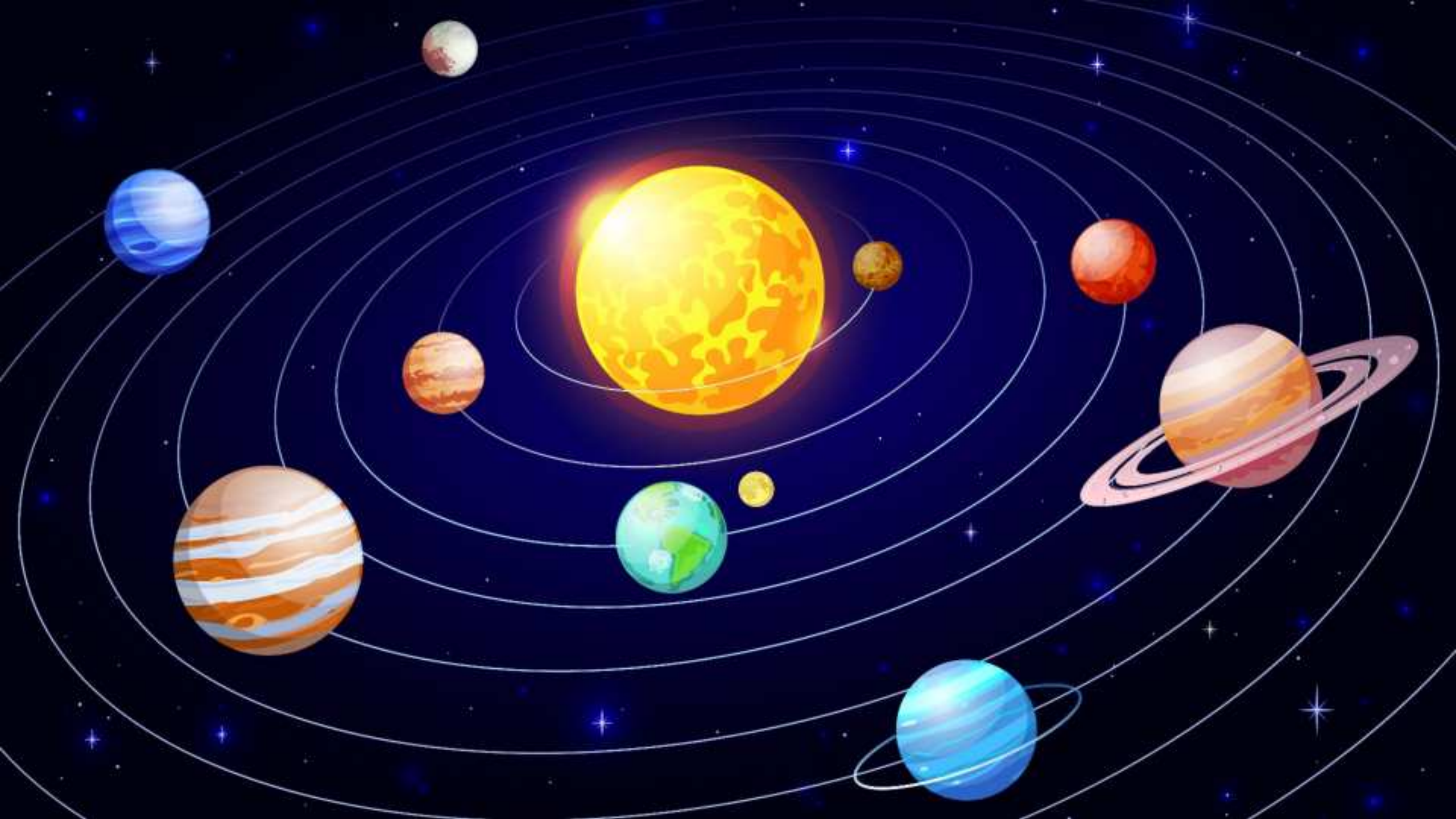
The Feast of Lights


The Feast of Dedication

At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me... (Jn. 10:22-25)

Does that make it wrong?







Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among
those with whom he is pleased!
(Lk 2:14)

Mid to late 300's

- Three Christmas liturgies



Listen, August Emperor. You have zeal for the faith, I own it; you have fear of God, I confess it. But you have a vehemence of temper, which if soothed, may speedily be changed into compassion, but, if inflamed, becomes so violent that you can scarcely restrain it. I would to God that those about you, even if they do not moderate, would at least refrain from stimulating it! This vehemence I have preferred secretly to commend to your consideration rather than run the risk of stirring it up by public act. So I have preferred to seem somewhat slack in the discharge

Aurelius Prudentius Clemens



405



Corde natus ex parentis

*Of the Father's love
begotten*



Christmas Sermon by Caesarius, Bishop of Arles 502-542

Through the Divine Mercy, beloved brethren, the day on which we long to celebrate the birthday of our Lord and Saviour is almost at hand. Therefore I pray and advise that with God's help we labour as much as we can, so that on that day we may be able to approach the altar of our Lord with a pure and upright conscience, a clean heart, and a chaste body ...

Although it is fitting for us to be adorned and distinguished by good works at all times, still on the day of the Lord's birth in particular, our good deeds, as he himself said in the Gospel, ought to shine before men. Consider, I beseech you, brethren, a powerful or noble man who wishes to celebrate either his own birthday or that of his son. With what great effort he looks for anything disgraceful in his house many days before. He

Christmas Through the Ages



Roman



Medieval



The Venerable Bede 672-735

The Angles quickly
accepted Christianity
because of their long
tradition of *modrenecht*
on Dec. 25.

Yule log



Roasted Boar's Head





Medieval Christmas Plays



St. Gall 11th

On the Nativity of the Lord at mass let there be ready two deacons having on vestments, behind the altar saying: 'Whom seek ye in the manger, say, ye shepherds?'

Let two cantors in the choir answer: 'The Saviour, Christ the Lord, a child wrapped in swaddling clothes, according to the angelic word.'

And the deacons: 'Present here is the little one with Mary, his mother, of whom Isaiah the prophet foretold: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and shall bring forth a son; and do ye say and announce that he is born."''

Then let the cantor lift up his voice and say: 'Alleluia, alleluia. Now we know indeed that Christ is born on earth, of whom sing ye all, with the Prophet: "Unto us a child is born."''

St. Francis Assisi
1181-1226



Greccio, Italy

“Simplicity was honorable,
poverty was exalted, humility was
commended, and Greccio were
made a new Bethlehem”



The Friendly Beasts 1100's



*E so net in laudibus cum
Christus natus ho die ex
Pue ri concini te, na-
Sion lauda Dominum Sal-*



*in cundis plausibus Si on cum fide libus,
Ma ri a vir gine, sine viri li semine
to regi psalli te, voce pia dici e,
ua torem hominum, purgatores criminum,*



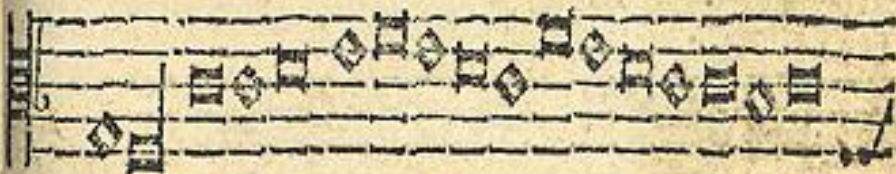
Apparuit quem genuit Maria. Sunt imple-



ta quæ prædixit Gabriel, Eya, Eya, virgo



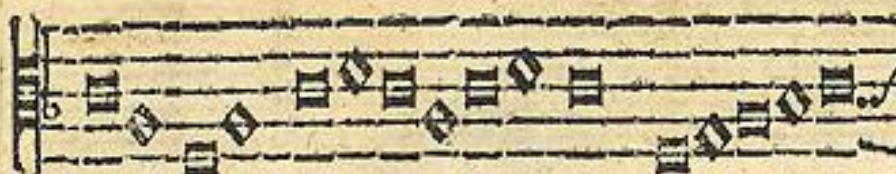
Deum genuit, quem divina voluit clemen-



tia. Hodie apparuit, apparuit in Israel,



ex Maria virgine est natus Rex.



Magnū nomen Domini Emanuel, quod annuncia-



tum est per Gabriel. Hodie Apparuit &c.

Resonet in laudibus
1300's

Christmas Through the Ages



Roman



Medieval



Modern



Adventus – “arrival”

Three Focuses



Arrival in
Bethlehem

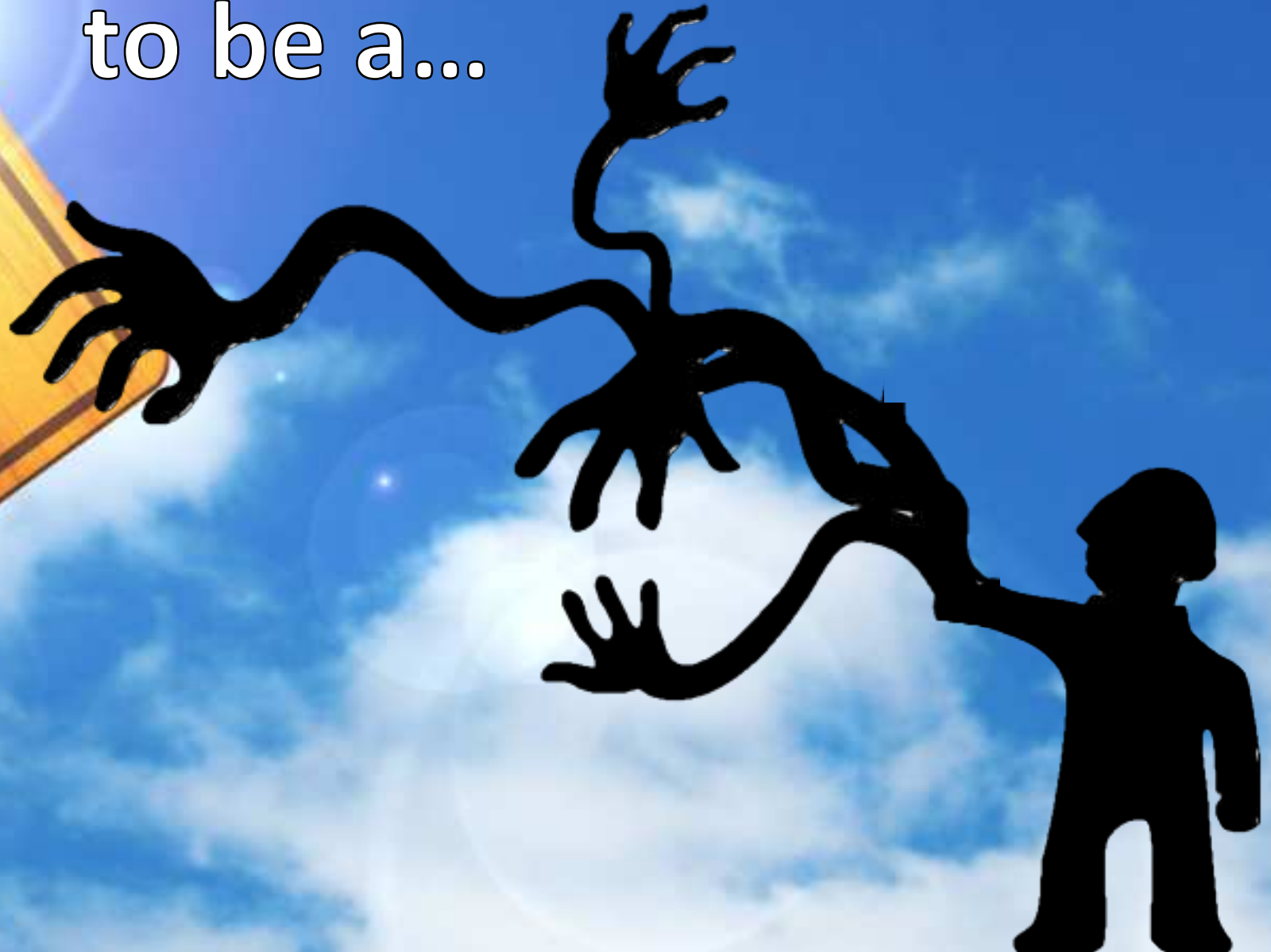


Arrival in
your life



Arrival to
come

We don't need
to be a...



Luke 1:38 And Mary said,
“Behold, I am the servant
of the Lord; let it be to me
according to your word.”
And the angel departed
from her.

Luke 1:24-25 εἶπεν δὲ
Μαριάμ· ἰδοὺ ἡ δούλη
κυρίου· γένοιτό μοι κατὰ τὸ
ῥῆμά σου. Καὶ ἀπῆλθεν ἀπ’
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A well-known Hebrew construction: *eved adonai* - עֶבֶד-יְהוָה
Israel at its best was the servant of the Lord

18x – Moses
(Exm. Josh 22:4)

2x – Joshua
2x – David

7x – Israel at its best
(exm. 2 Ki. 9:7)

Luke 1:41-42 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

Luke 1:41-42 καὶ ἐγένετο ὡς ἤκουσεν τὸν ἄσπασμόν τῆς Μαρίας ἡ Ἐλισάβετ, ἐσκίρτησεν τὸ βρέφος ἐν τῇ κοιλίᾳ αὐτῆς, καὶ ἐπλήσθη πνεύματος ἁγίου ἡ Ἐλισάβετ, καὶ ἀνεφώνησεν κραυγῇ μεγάλη καὶ εἶπεν· εὐλογημένη σὺ ἐν γυναιξίν καὶ εὐλογημένος ὁ καρπὸς τῆς κοιλίας σου

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Luke 1:43-44 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

Luke 1:43-44 καὶ πόθεν μοι τοῦτο ἵνα ἔλθῃ ἡ μήτηρ τοῦ κυρίου μου πρὸς ἐμέ; ἰδοὺ γὰρ ὡς ἐγένετο ἡ φωνὴ τοῦ ἀσπασμοῦ σου εἰς τὰ ὠτά μου, ἐσκίρτησεν ἐν ἀγαλλιάσει τὸ βρέφος ἐν τῇ κοιλίᾳ μου.

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When did you last jump for joy?









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Luke 1:46-49 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name...

Luke 1:46-49 Καὶ εἶπεν
Μαριάμ· Μεγαλύνει ἡ ψυχὴ μου
τὸν κύριον, καὶ ἠγαλλίασεν τὸ
πνεῦμά μου ἐπὶ τῷ θεῷ τῷ
σωτήρί μου, ὅτι ἐπέβλεψεν ἐπὶ
τὴν ταπείνωσιν τῆς δούλης
αὐτοῦ. ἰδοὺ γὰρ ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν
μακαριοῦσίν με πᾶσαι αἱ γενεαί,
ὅτι ἐποίησέν μοι μεγάλα ὁ
δυνατός. καὶ ἅγιον τὸ ὄνομα
αὐτοῦ...



We rightly break
into song!



Next Week




Points For Home



Greccio, Italy


“Simplicity was honorable,
poverty was exalted, humility was
commended, and Greccio were
made a new Bethlehem”



A scenic view of a town square. In the foreground, there is a circular stone fountain with water spraying upwards. Around the fountain are several wooden benches and small potted plants. In the background, a large stone church with a tall bell tower is visible, surrounded by trees and other buildings. The sky is blue with some clouds.

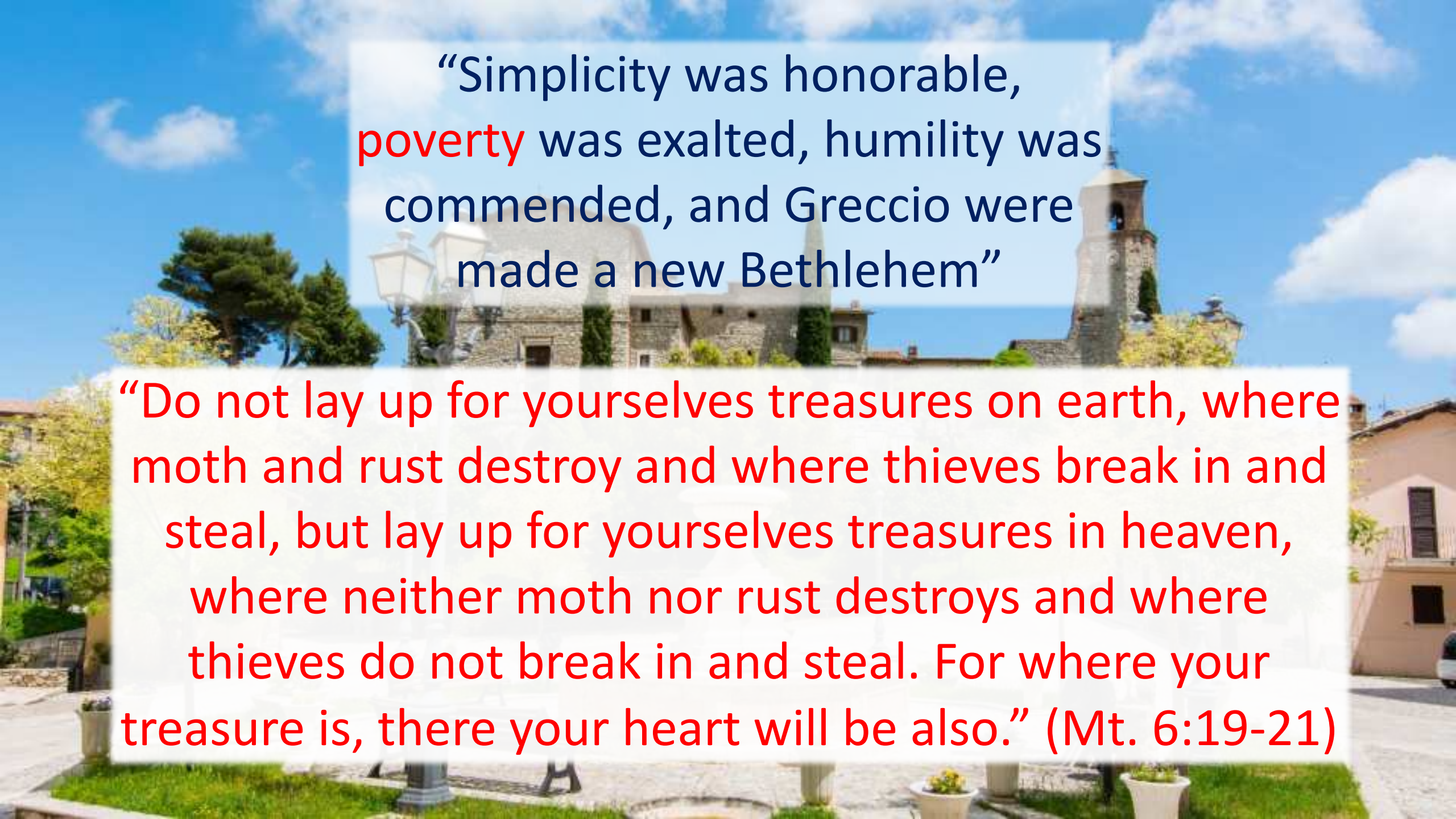
“Simplicity was honorable,
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“But seek first the kingdom of God and
his righteousness, and all these things
will be added to you.” (Mt. 6:33)

A scenic view of a town square. In the foreground, there is a circular stone fountain with a low wall around it. Several wooden benches are placed around the fountain. The square is paved with cobblestones and has some greenery and potted plants. In the background, there is a large stone church with a tall bell tower. The sky is blue with some clouds.

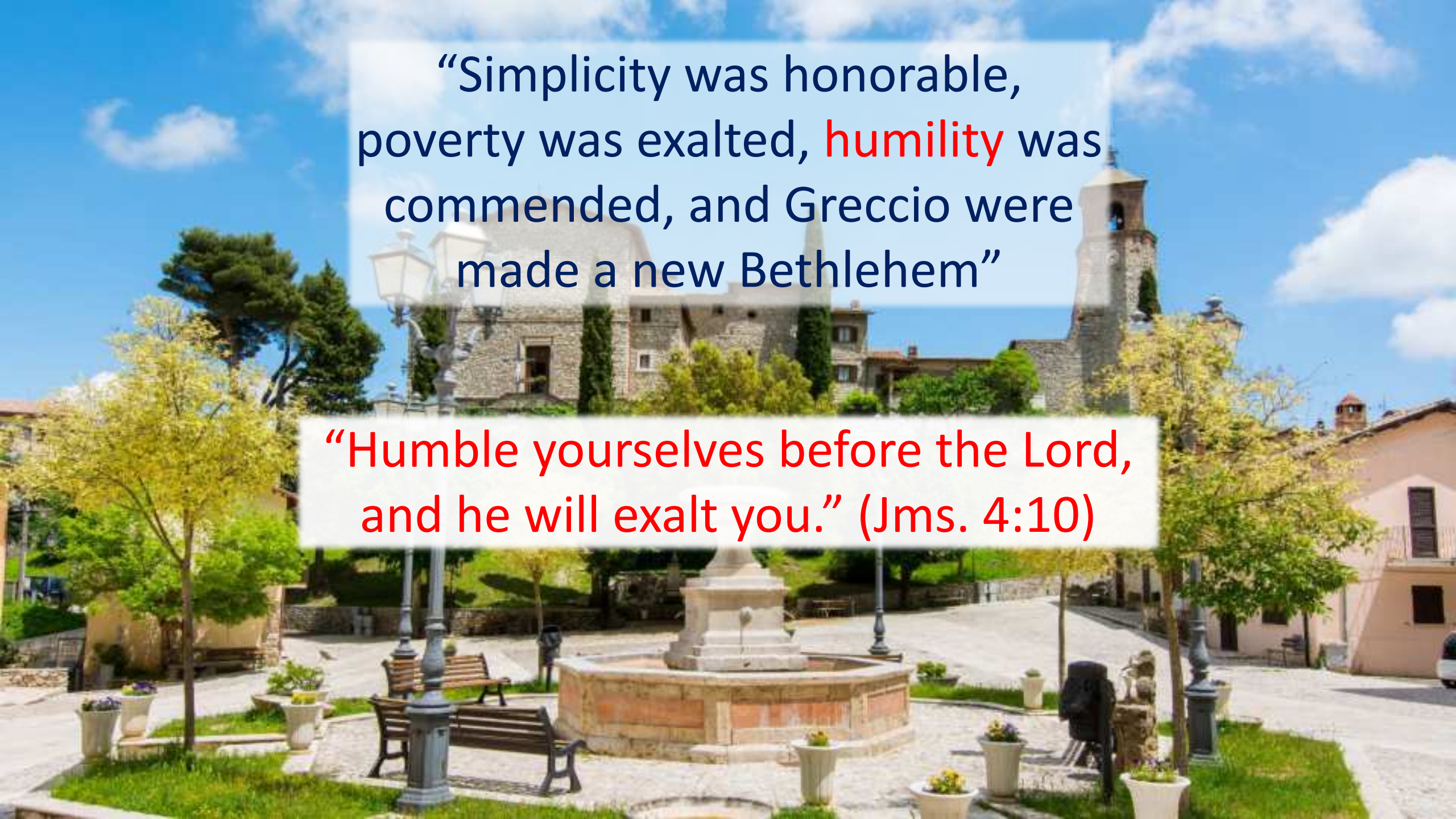
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“Simplicity was honorable,
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“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where
moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and
steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust destroys and where
thieves do not break in and steal. For where your
treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Mt. 6:19-21)



“Simplicity was honorable,
poverty was exalted, **humility** was
commended, and Greccio were
made a new Bethlehem”

“Humble yourselves before the Lord,
and he will exalt you.” (Jms. 4:10)

Merry Christmas!

