

Journey From Afar

1. From the Hopeless to the Hopeful
2. From the Destructive to the Constructive
3. From Anxiety to Joy
4. From Conflicts to Peace
5. From Heaven to Earth
6. From the End to the Beginning



Living Nativity
Sat. Dec. 21st at 7 & 8 p.m.
Christmas Cantata
Dec. 22, at 11 a.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Dec. 24, at 10 p.m.

Advent and Christmas at Lanham United Methodist Church
5512 Whitfield Chapel Road, Lanham, MD 20706
(301) 577-1500



Journey From Afar

*Part 2. From the Destructive Ways of Life
to the Constructive!*

Luke 3:1-17



John the Baptist Preaching
- Giovanni Battista Tiepolo

From the Destructive to the Constructive

1. God wants the people living under the power of sins to set out a journey from the destructive ways of life.



From the Destructive to the Constructive



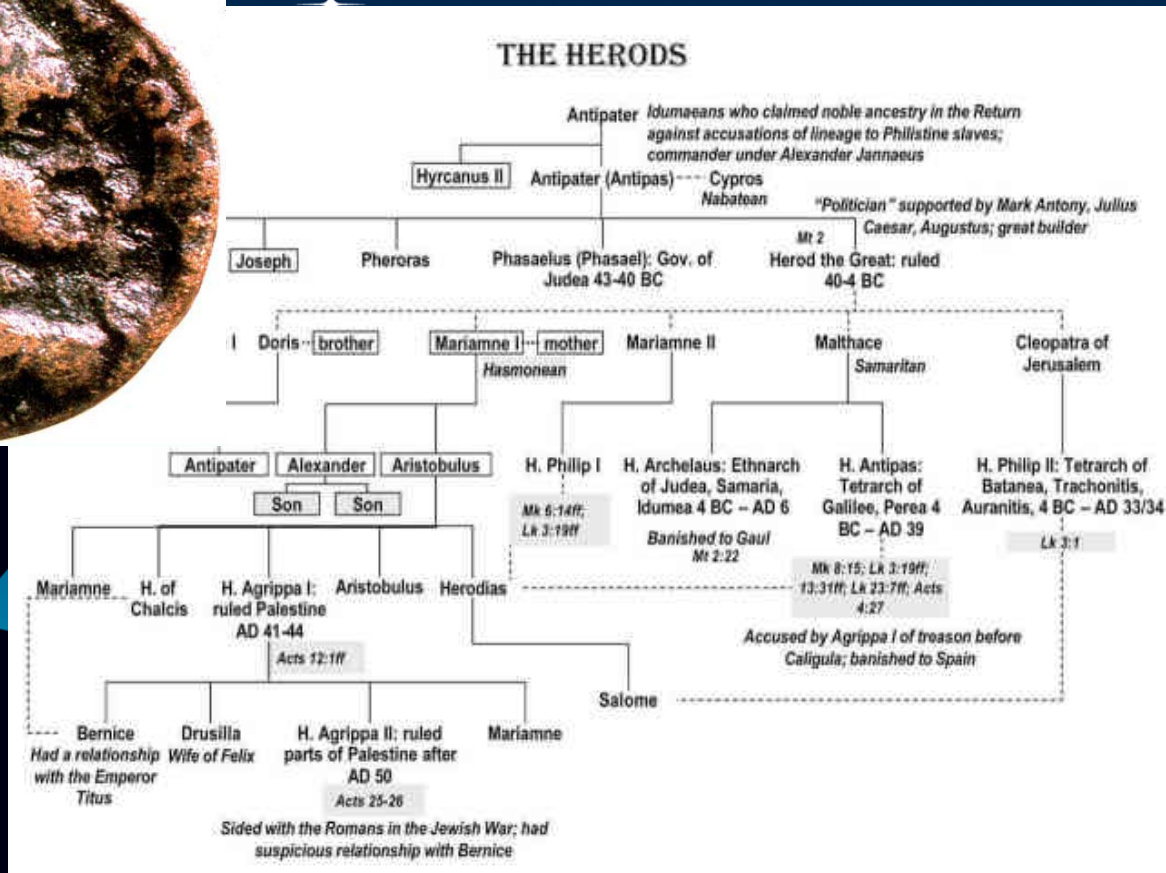
From the Destructive to the Constructive

- **Tiberius** (*Tiberius Caesar Divi Augusti filius Augustus*)
- Born 16 November 42 BC – Died 16 March 37 AD
- Roman Emperor from 14 AD to 37 AD.
- John Baptist Began His Ministry in the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar



From the Destructive to the Constructive

Herod Antipas

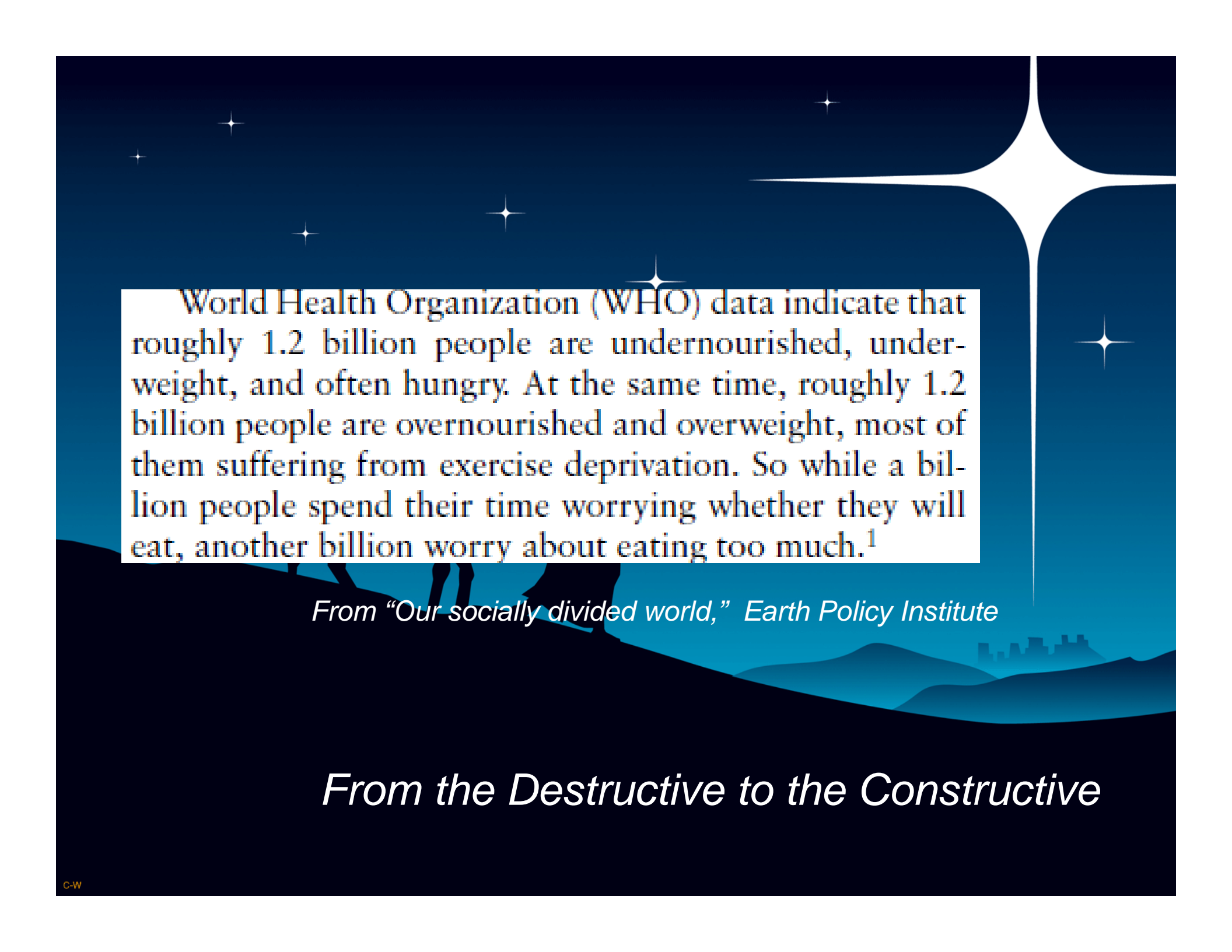


From the Destructive to the Constructive



Jesus is questioned
by the chief priest Annas.

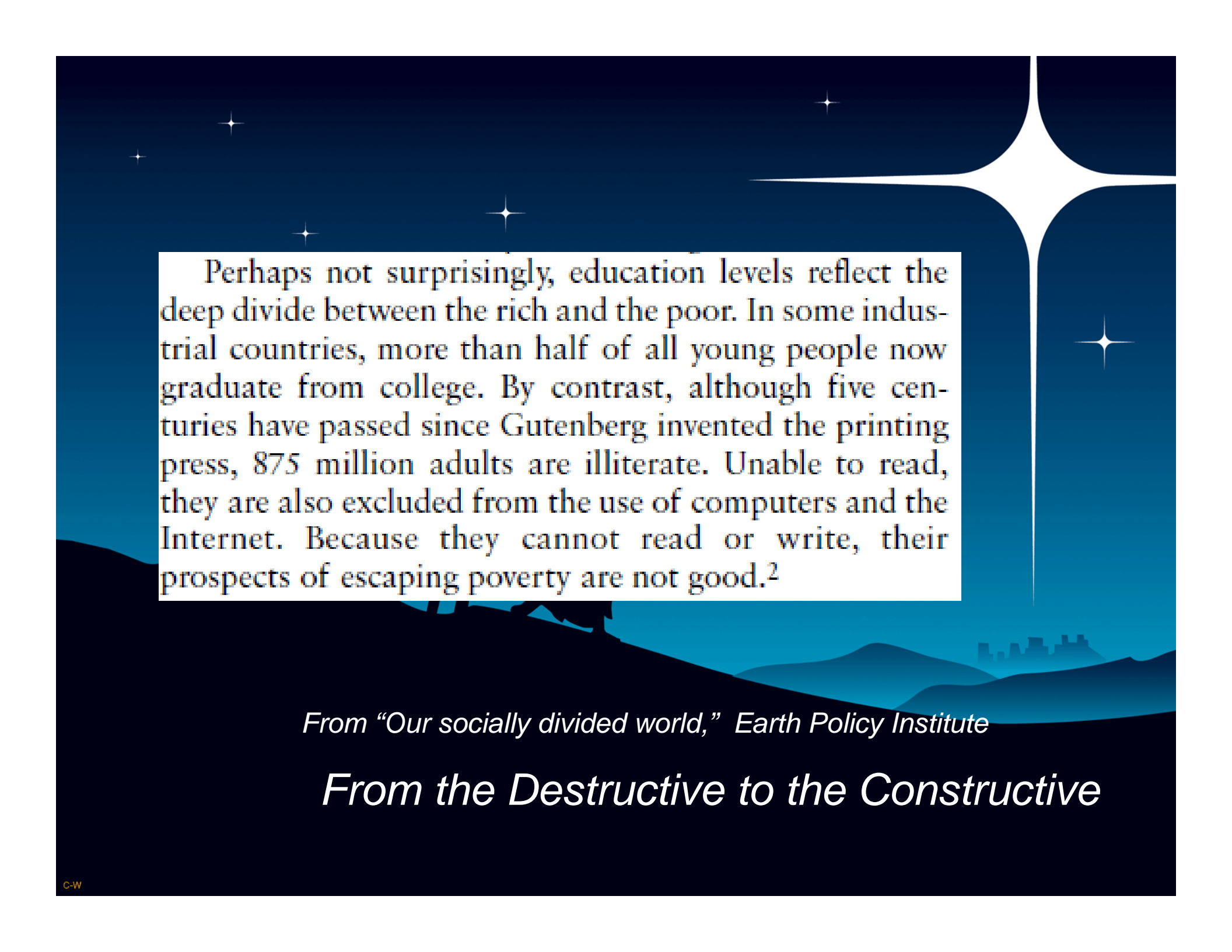
From the Destructive to the Constructive



World Health Organization (WHO) data indicate that roughly 1.2 billion people are undernourished, underweight, and often hungry. At the same time, roughly 1.2 billion people are overnourished and overweight, most of them suffering from exercise deprivation. So while a billion people spend their time worrying whether they will eat, another billion worry about eating too much.¹

From "Our socially divided world," Earth Policy Institute

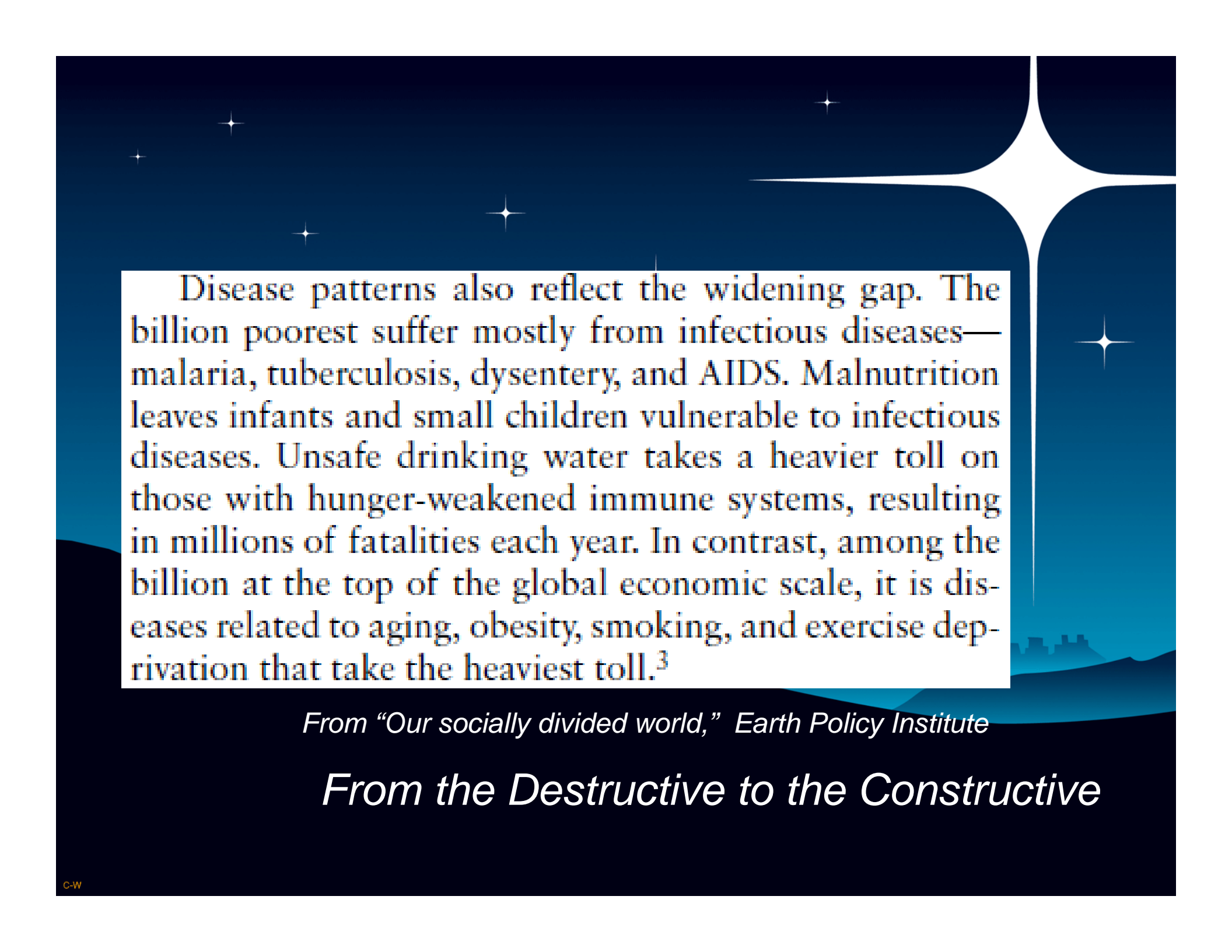
From the Destructive to the Constructive



Perhaps not surprisingly, education levels reflect the deep divide between the rich and the poor. In some industrial countries, more than half of all young people now graduate from college. By contrast, although five centuries have passed since Gutenberg invented the printing press, 875 million adults are illiterate. Unable to read, they are also excluded from the use of computers and the Internet. Because they cannot read or write, their prospects of escaping poverty are not good.²

From "Our socially divided world," Earth Policy Institute

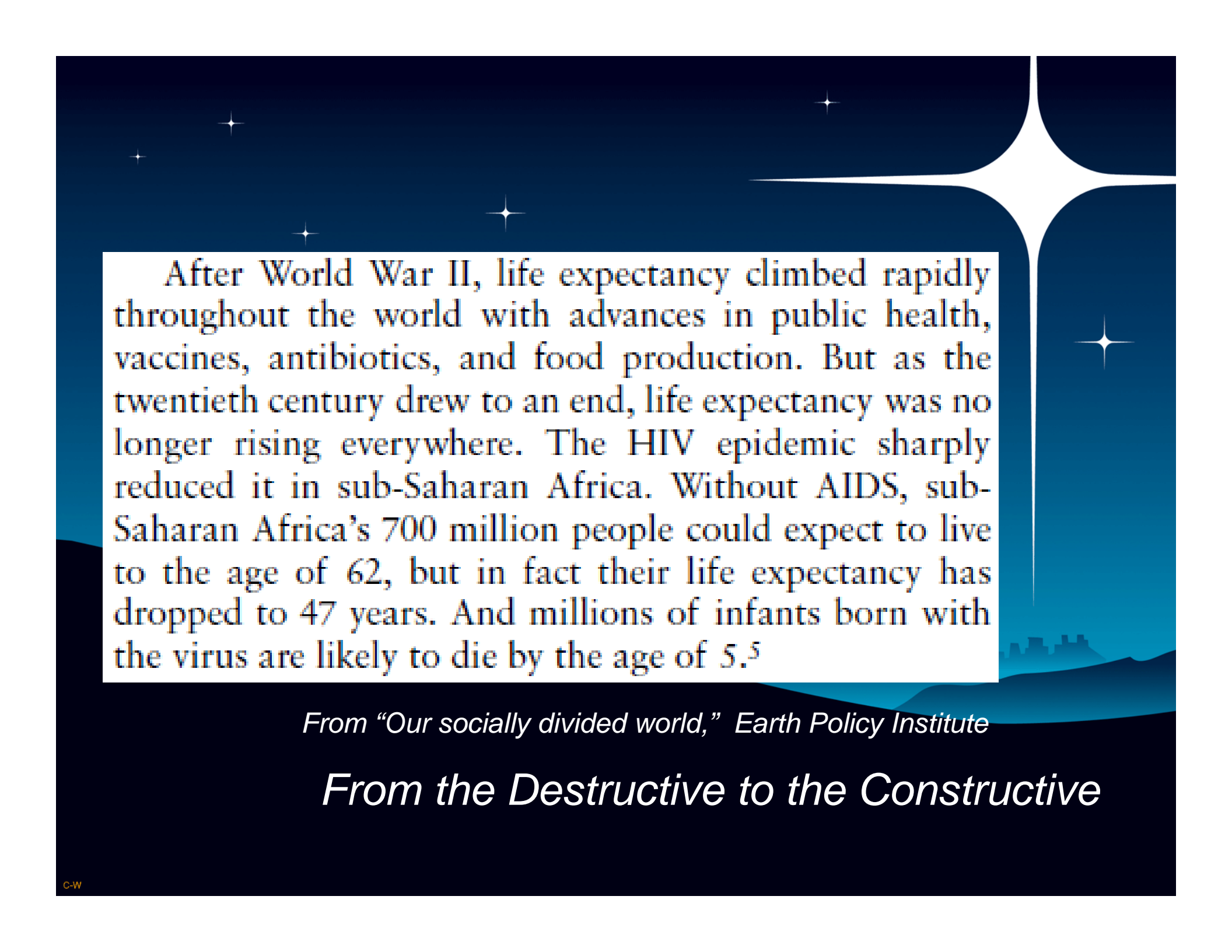
From the Destructive to the Constructive



Disease patterns also reflect the widening gap. The billion poorest suffer mostly from infectious diseases—malaria, tuberculosis, dysentery, and AIDS. Malnutrition leaves infants and small children vulnerable to infectious diseases. Unsafe drinking water takes a heavier toll on those with hunger-weakened immune systems, resulting in millions of fatalities each year. In contrast, among the billion at the top of the global economic scale, it is diseases related to aging, obesity, smoking, and exercise deprivation that take the heaviest toll.³

From “Our socially divided world,” Earth Policy Institute

From the Destructive to the Constructive



After World War II, life expectancy climbed rapidly throughout the world with advances in public health, vaccines, antibiotics, and food production. But as the twentieth century drew to an end, life expectancy was no longer rising everywhere. The HIV epidemic sharply reduced it in sub-Saharan Africa. Without AIDS, sub-Saharan Africa's 700 million people could expect to live to the age of 62, but in fact their life expectancy has dropped to 47 years. And millions of infants born with the virus are likely to die by the age of 5.⁵

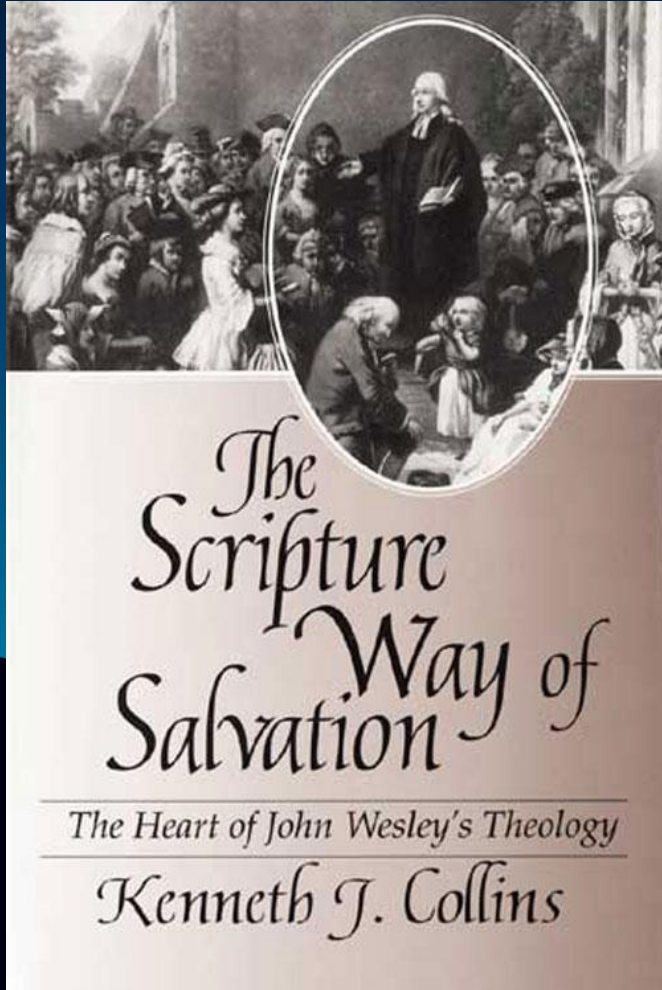
From "Our socially divided world," Earth Policy Institute

From the Destructive to the Constructive

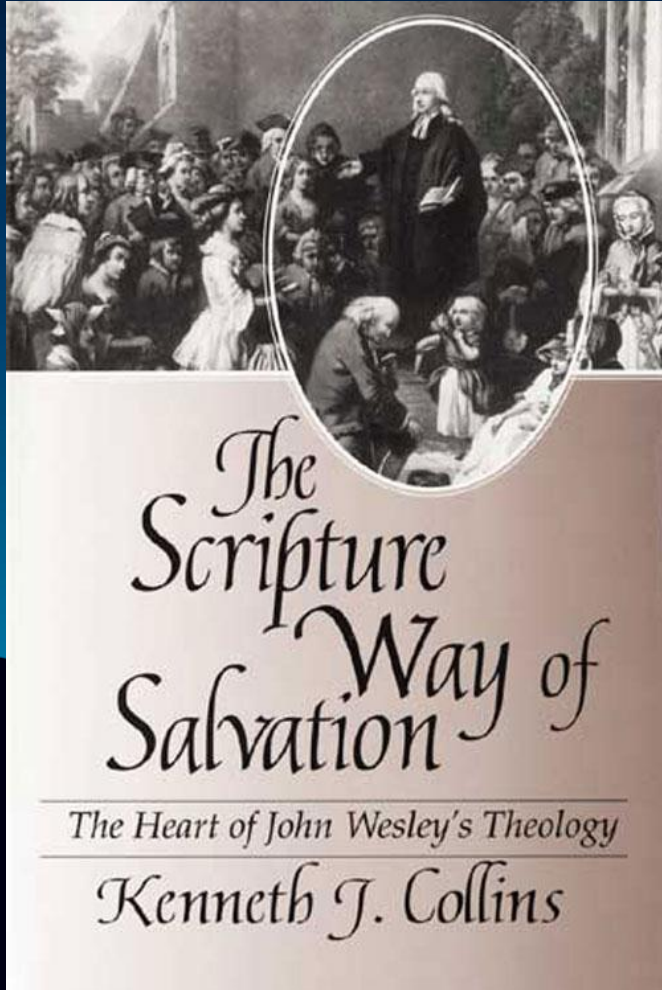
2. Through the act of repentance the people begin a journey to make their lives blessed and constructive.



From the Destructive to the Constructive



From the Destructive to the Constructive



**It begins
with the act of forgiveness.**

From the Destructive to the Constructive



From the Destructive to the Constructive



From the Destructive to the Constructive

The background of the slide features a dark blue night sky with several white stars. In the lower half, there is a silhouette of a landscape with rolling hills. On the left, a camel is being led by a person, and another person is walking alongside it. In the distance, on the right, a silhouette of a city or castle is visible on a hill. The overall theme is the journey of the Three Kings.

3. What is required of the people of God in the journey? (vv. 10-14)

- “To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God! (Micah 6:8).
- Our Journey toward “The Manger”

From the Destructive to the Constructive



*"What should we do then?"
the crowd asked.*

From the Destructive to the Constructive

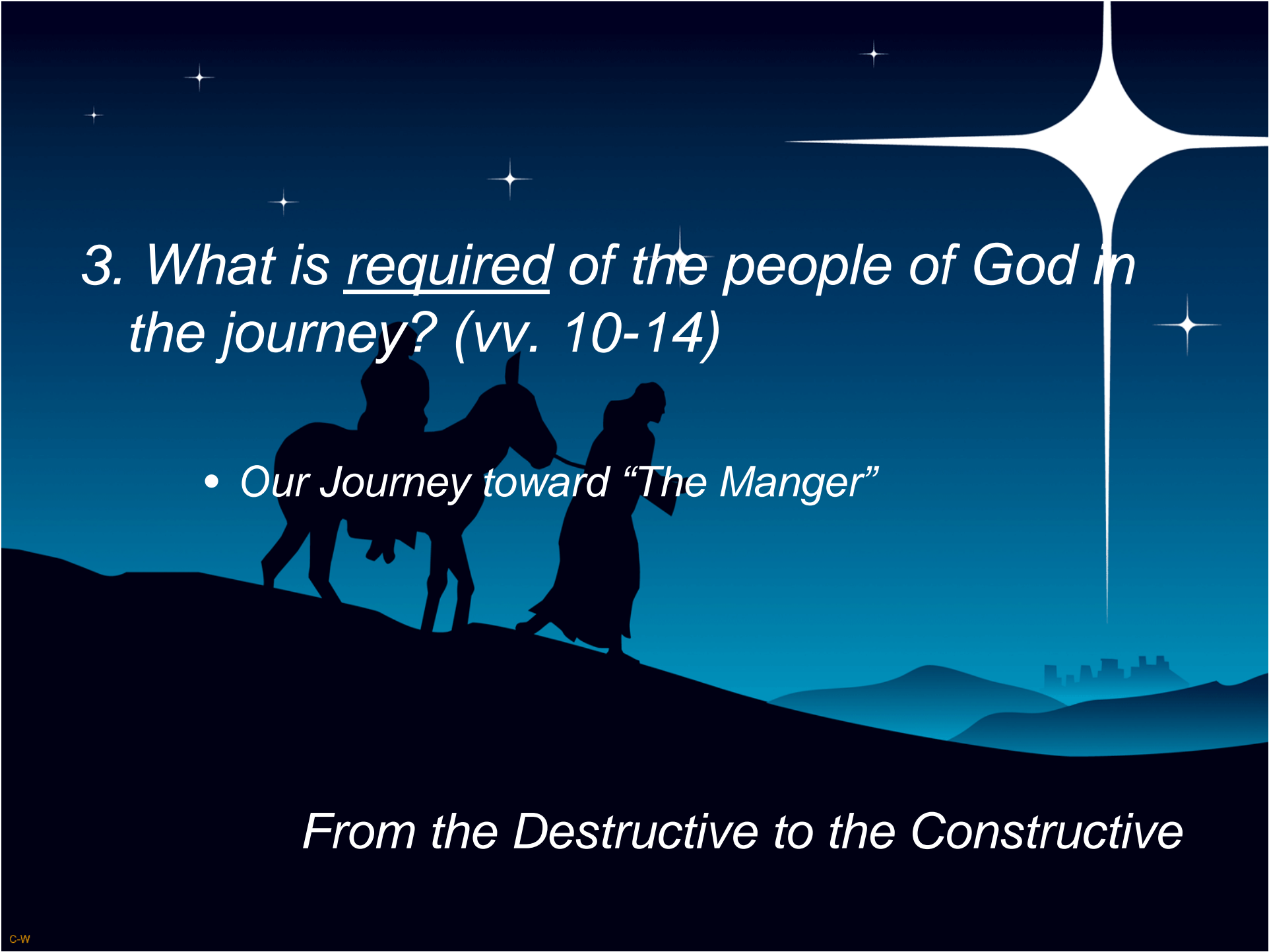


John answered,

*"The man with two tunics should **share** with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same."*

Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" 13 "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

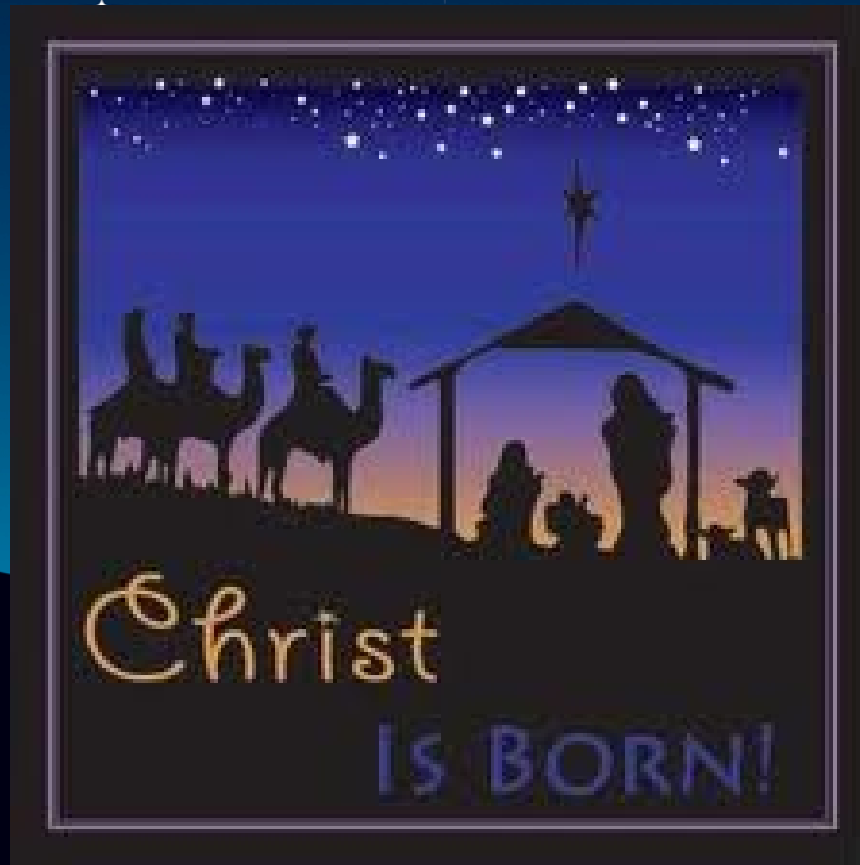
Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely-- be content with your pay."

The background of the slide is a dark blue gradient with a silhouette of the Three Kings journeying at night. One king is riding a donkey, and the other two are walking, one leading the donkey. They are silhouetted against a lighter blue sky filled with several white, four-pointed stars. In the distance, a silhouette of a city with a castle on a hill is visible. The overall mood is serene and spiritual.

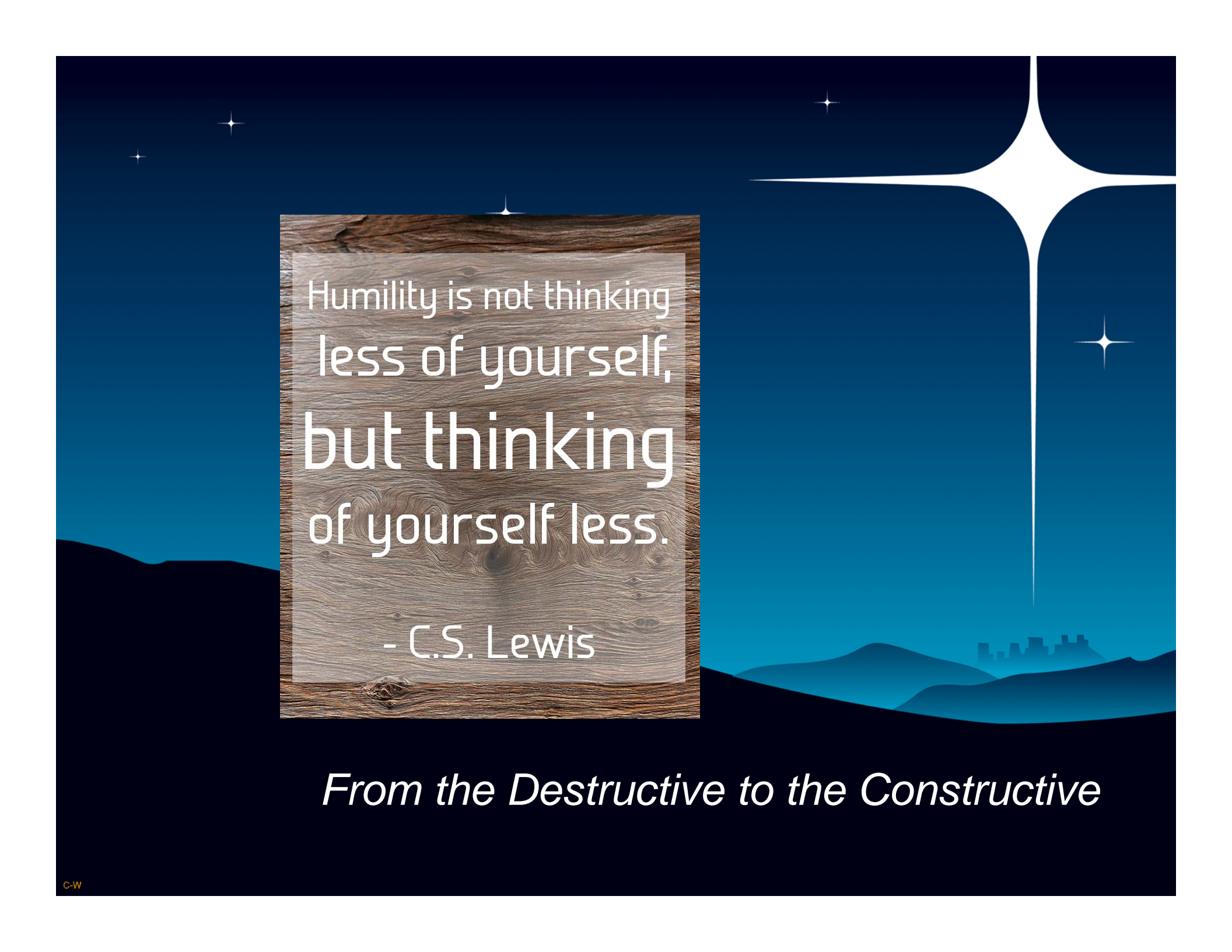
3. What is required of the people of God in the journey? (vv. 10-14)

- Our Journey toward “The Manger”

From the Destructive to the Constructive



From the Destructive to the Constructive



Humility is not thinking
less of yourself,
but thinking
of yourself less.

- C.S. Lewis

From the Destructive to the Constructive



From the Destructive to the Constructive

*4. The purpose of journey is for all mankind
to see God's salvation.*



From the Destructive to the Constructive