


- 
1. *To the Hopeful – Nov. 27*
 2. *To the One who Brings Good Tidings – Dec. 4*
 3. *To the Joyous – Dec. 11*
 4. *To the Peaceful – Dec. 18*
 5. *To the Holy Nativity – Sat., Dec. 24*
 6. *To the Manger – Dec. 25*
 7. *To New Days Ahead – Sat., Dec. 31 at Lanham Campus*

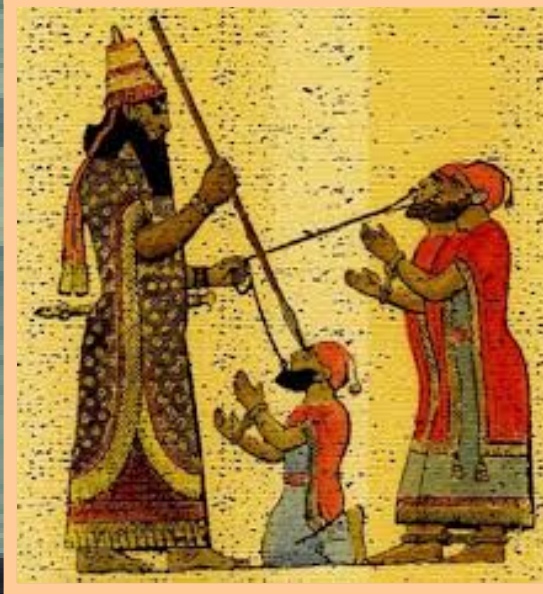
Journey from Afar
Advent Journey at Savage-Lanham

Text in Context

Isaiah 7:1-16

Expansion of the Assyrian Armies

- 8th Cen. B.C.



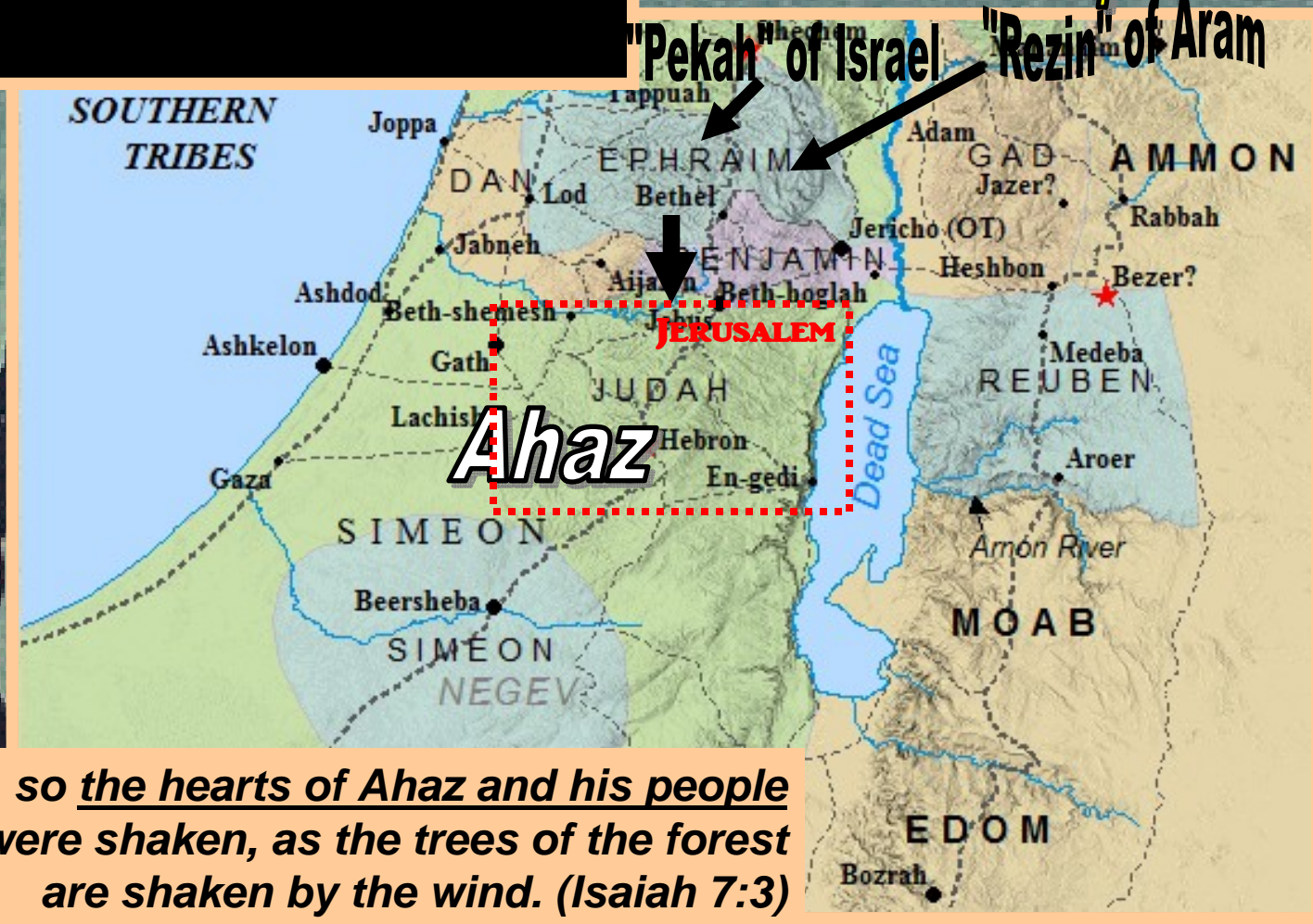
A threat of North

Syro-Ephraimitic War
(735-722 BC)

Text in Context

Isaiah 7:1-2

Aram's Allies w. Ephraim & Pekah



... so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind. (Isaiah 7:3)



Text in Context

Isaiah 7:4-13

Prophetic Message of Hope



The Lord will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and gave birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)


A green rectangular box with a white border, filled with various shades of green snowflakes of different sizes and patterns.

GOD IS WITH US

Text in Context

Isaiah 7:4-13

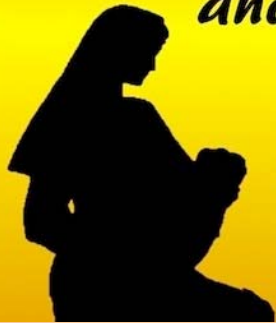
Prophetic Message of Hope

Silhouettes of three people riding camels against a dark background. The person in the middle is smaller, flanked by two larger figures. The camels are walking towards the right.

*"It will not take place, it will not happen,
for the head of Aram is Damascus, and
the head of Damascus is only Rezin.
Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be
too shattered to be a people.
If you do not stand firm in your faith,
you will not stand at all."*

Lesson for the Day
Matthew 1:18-23, esp. v. 23
Good News acc. to Matthew

*A virgin shall conceive
and bear a Son*



and His name shall be called
Emmanuel

Isaiah 7:14

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

- **Angelic dream of "Joseph" saved Israel from famine**
- **Connects Jesus to Moses, who set free the Israelites**
- **A child named after Joshua who saved his people**





1. *Our life is a long journey from afar.*

Journey from Afar

PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL

1. *Our life is a long journey from afar.*

... almost 49M people are expected to travel 50 miles or more for the holiday, the most since 2007, according to AAA.

2.3M pass through airports!
Thanksgiving travel period: 11/18-28

A Journey Home!

Journey from Afar

PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL

"an increase of 8.4% over last year's record 2.1M passengers?" LAX

1. *Our life is a long journey from afar.*



A Journey for Personal Desires

Journey from Afar

PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL

1. Our life is a long journey from afar.



A Journey for Opportunity!

Journey from Afar

U.S. Photo/Irieo Mujica Arzate

PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL

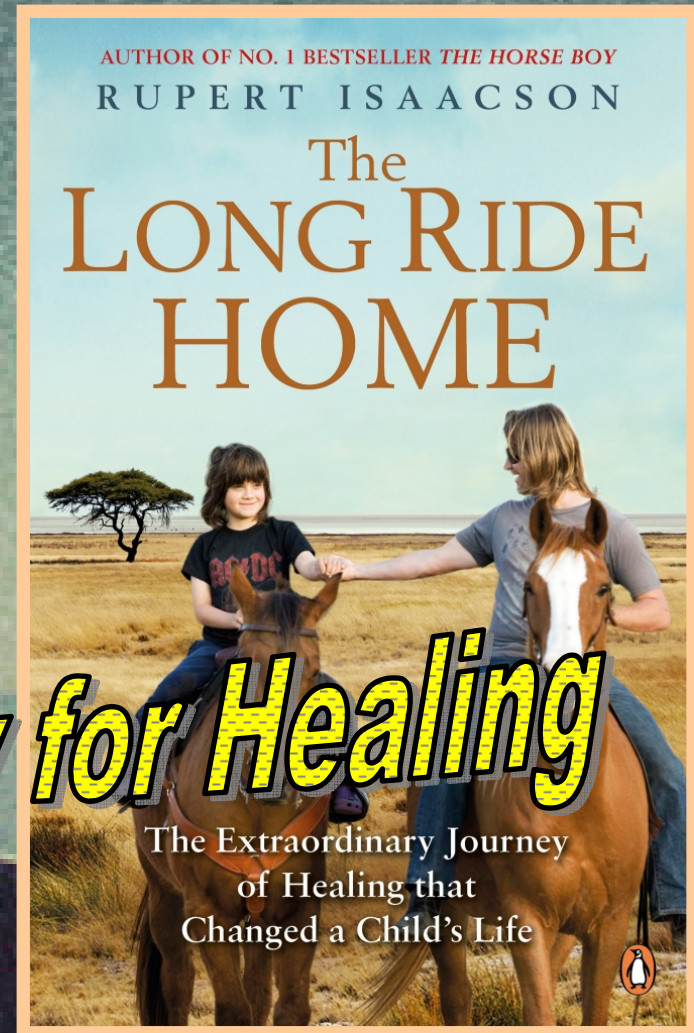
1. *Our life is a long journey from afar.*

“to the Bushmen of Namibia and Australia's coastal rainforests, and to America's Navajo reservation, *discovering new ways of connecting with autistic children using nature, movement, and animals*, unlocking children from their most severe symptoms and developing **two internationally known programs: Horse Boy Method and Movement Method.**”

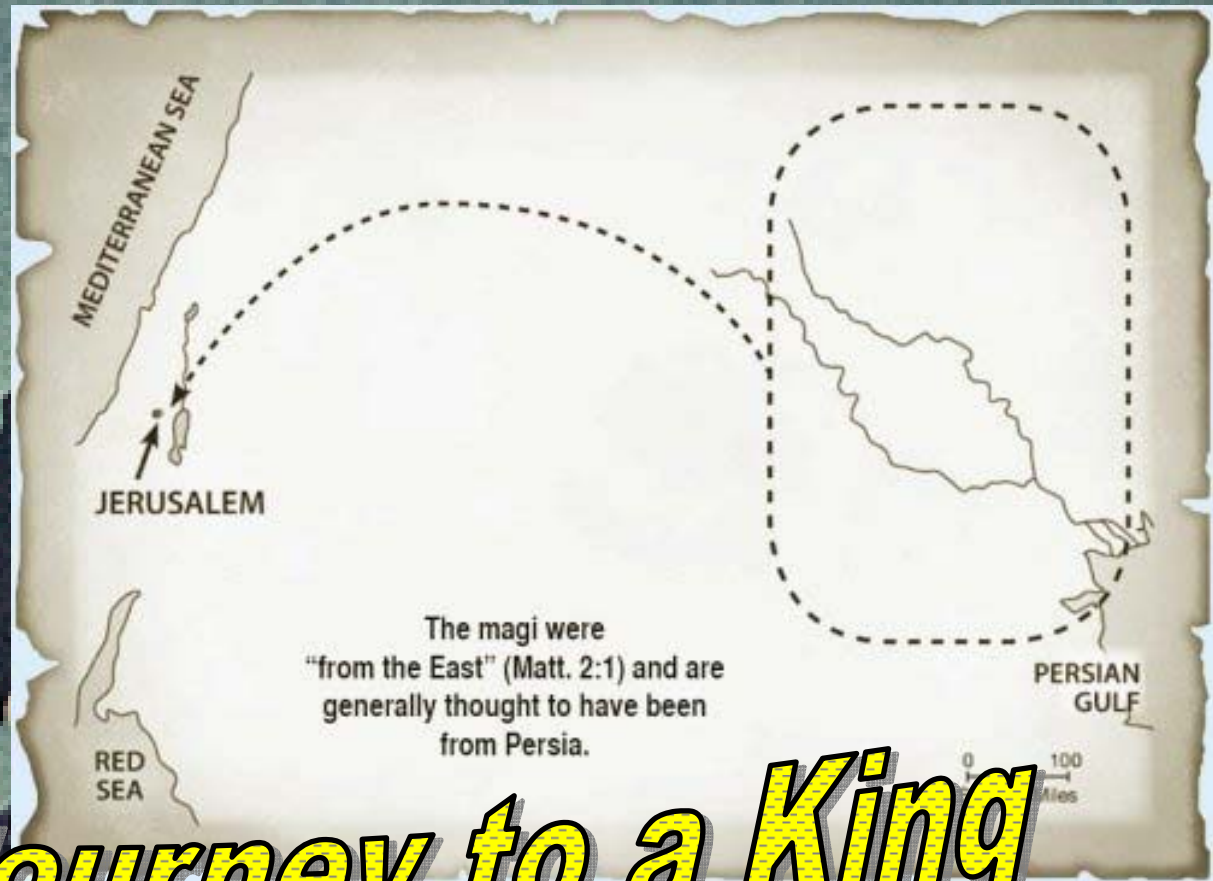
A long Journey for Healing

Journey from Afar

PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL



1. Our life is a long journey from afar.



A Journey to a King

Journey from Afar

PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL

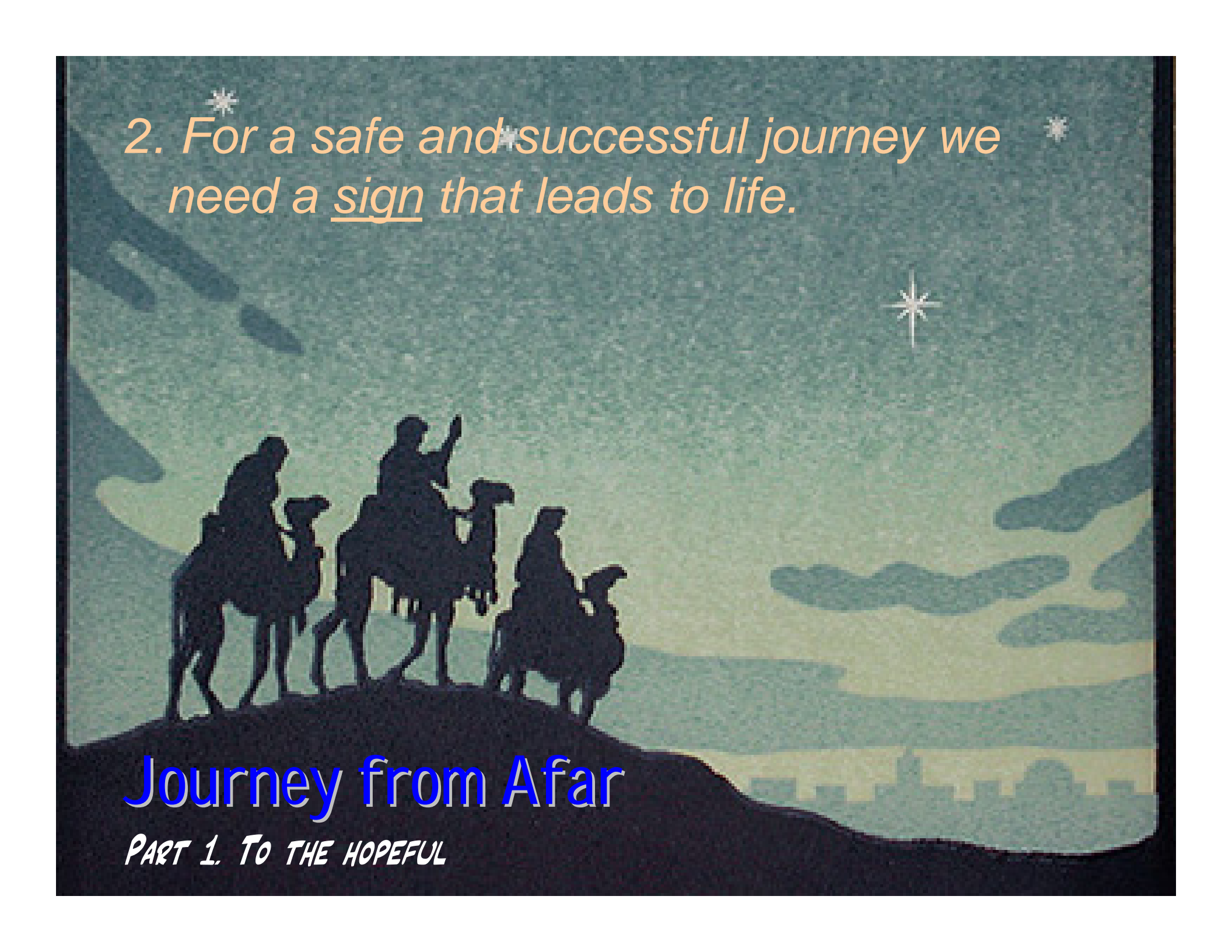
1. *Our life is a long journey from afar.*



Invitation to "Advent Journey"

Journey from Afar

PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL



2. For a safe and successful journey we need a sign that leads to life.

Journey from Afar

PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL

2. For a safe and successful journey we need a sign that leads to life.



Journey from Afar

PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL

2. For a safe and successful journey we need a sign that leads to life.

Immanuel

עִמָּנוּ אֵל

God with us

Life without **GOD**
no matter how seemingly valuable
leads to **EMPTINESS.**

Because
Immanuel
Changes
Everything

Journey from Afar

PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL

2. For a safe and successful journey we need a sign that leads to life.



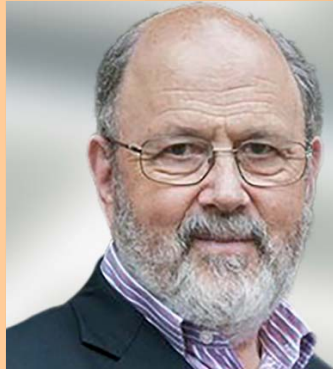
A graphic with a geometric pattern of overlapping triangles in shades of blue and white. The background is a cloudy sky. The text is centered and reads: "HOPE IS NOT A PHILOSOPHY, IT'S A PERSON JESUS the greatest sign that leads to life". The words "HOPE" and "JESUS" are in large, bold, blue letters. The phrase "the greatest sign that leads to life" is in a yellow, italicized font with a black outline.

Journey from Afar

PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL

2. For a safe and successful journey we need a sign that leads to life.

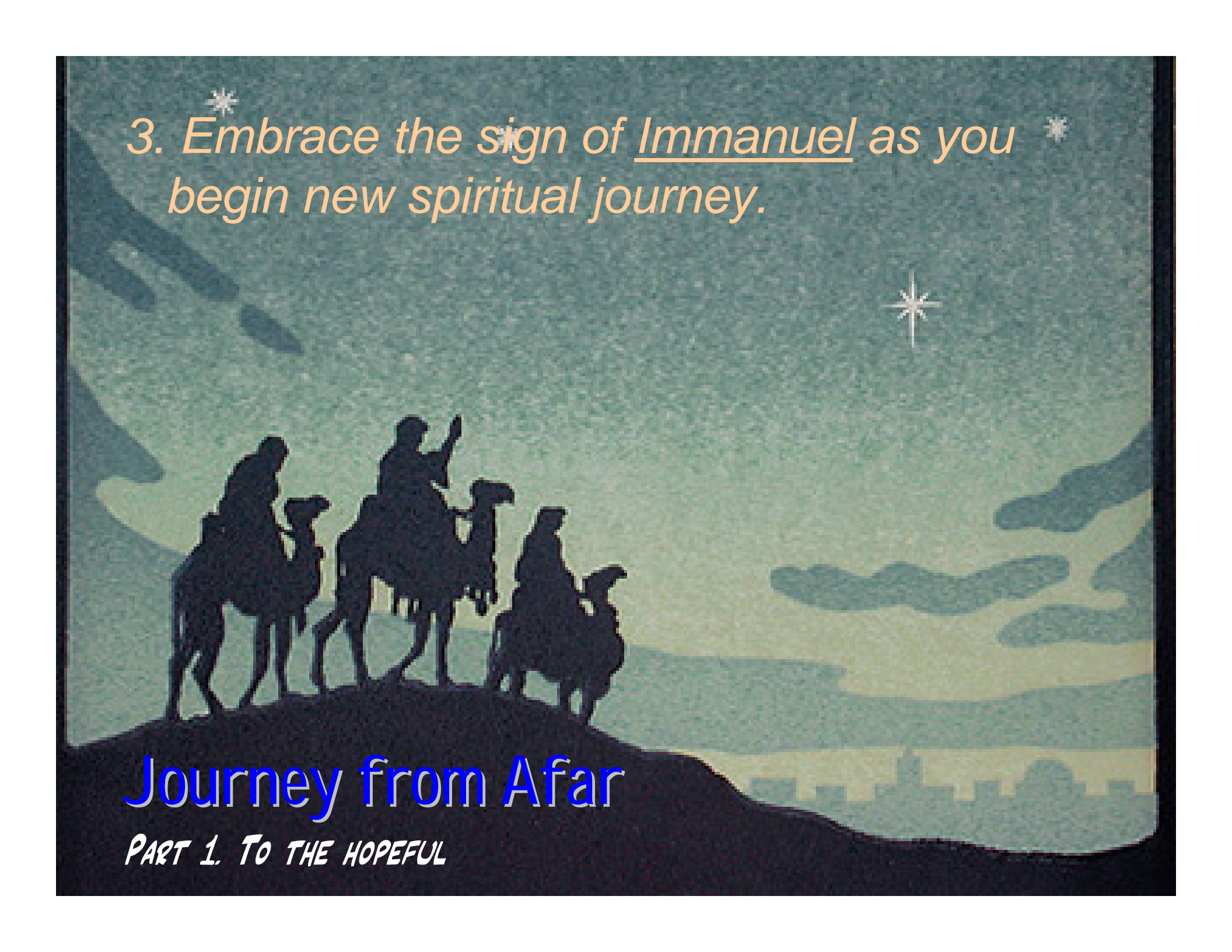
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO GOD IS, LOOK AT **JESUS**. IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN, LOOK AT **JESUS**. IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT LOVE IS, LOOK AT **JESUS**. IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT GRIEF IS, LOOK AT **JESUS**. AND KEEP LOOKING UNTIL **YOU'RE NO LONGER A SPECTATOR BUT PART OF HIS GRAND STORY.**
N.T. WRIGHT



N.T. Wright
University of St. Andrews, Scotland

Journey from Afar

PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL

The background of the slide is a stylized illustration. It shows three silhouetted figures riding camels across a dark, hilly landscape. The sky is a deep teal color, featuring a prominent, bright, multi-pointed star in the upper right quadrant. The overall mood is serene and contemplative, evoking the biblical story of the Magi following the Star of Bethlehem.

3. Embrace the sign of Immanuel as you begin new spiritual journey.

Journey from Afar

PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL

3. Embrace the sign of Immanuel as you begin new spiritual journey.

O Come, O Come,
EMMANUEL

Our HOPE comes from

"The Birth of Messiah"

acc. to Matthew

Journey from Afar

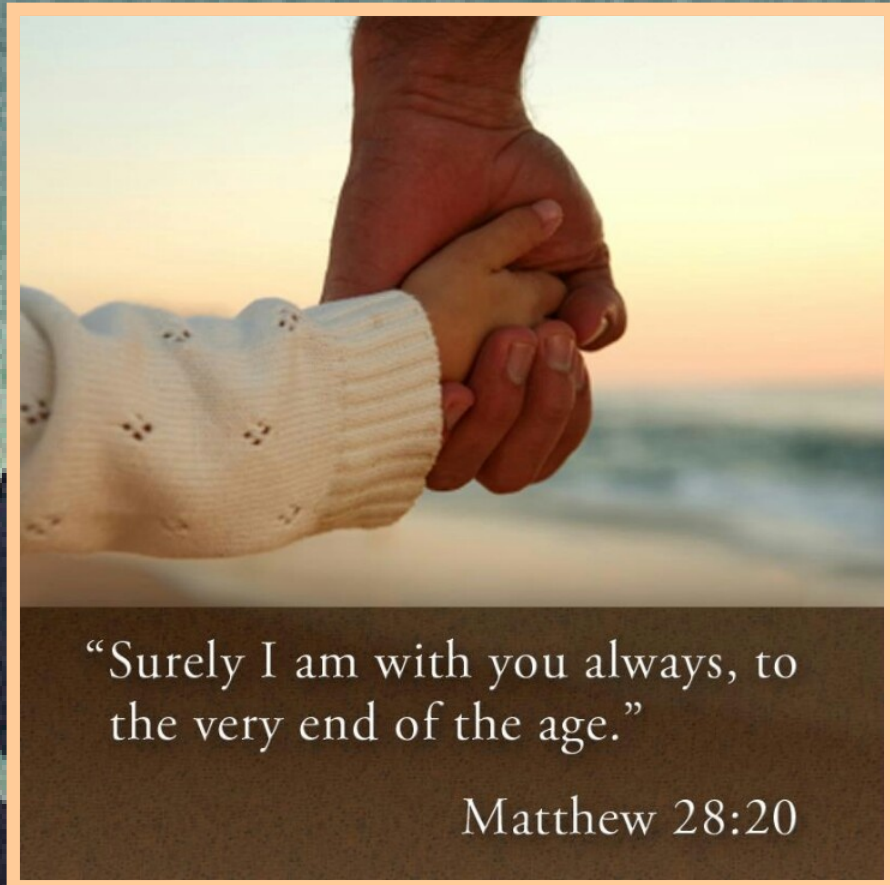
PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL

3. Embrace the sign of Immanuel as you begin new spiritual journey.

**For Christians
throughout the
ages...**

**Through the gift of
Jesus,**

**in the coming of
Jesus, the Messiah,
the presence of
God has made itself
felt in an
eschatological way.**



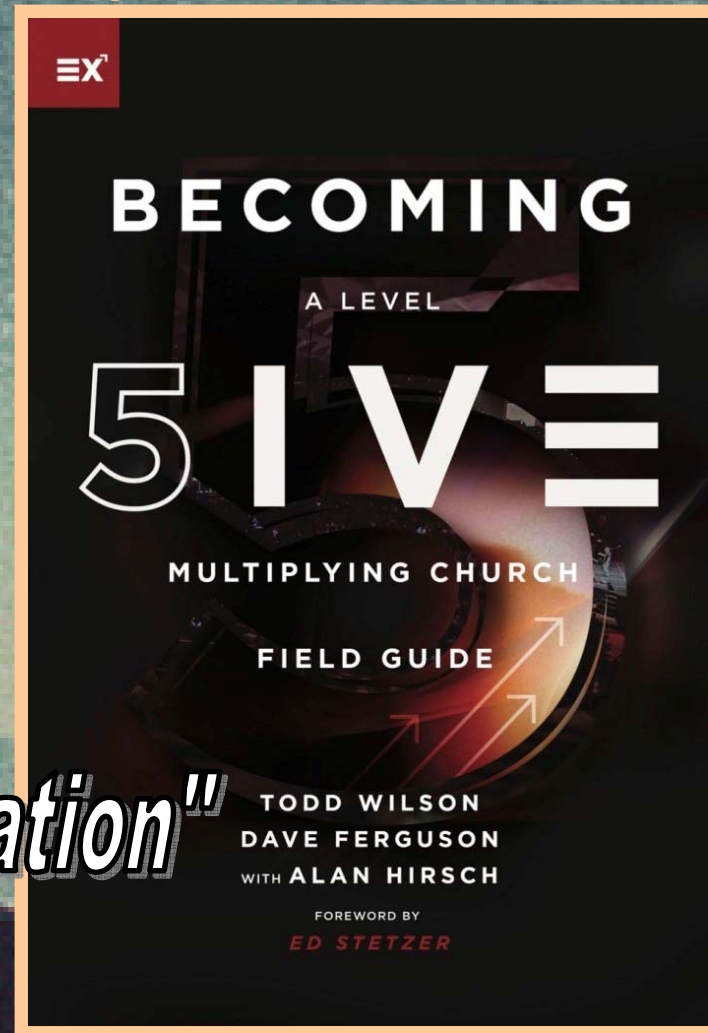
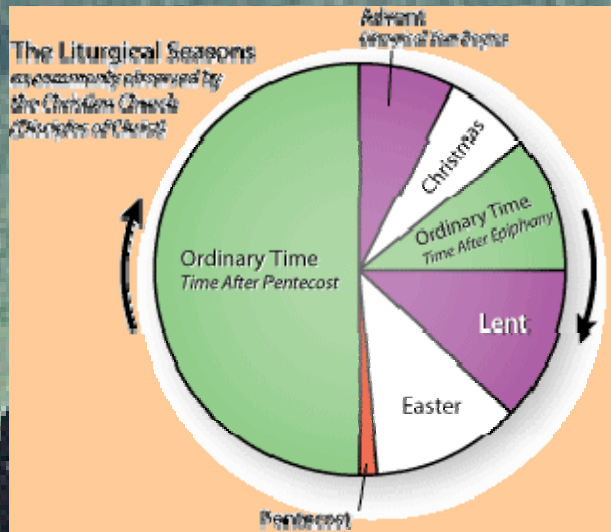
“Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:20

Journey from Afar

PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL

3. Embrace the sign of Immanuel as you begin new spiritual journey.



Our New Journey to
"The Year of Multiplication"
Journey from Afar
PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL

4. Prepare for the advent of light that expels darkness.

Journey from Afar

PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL

4. Prepare for the advent of light that expels darkness.

*... the gifts of gold,
frankincense,
and myrrh.*



Journey from Afar

PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL

4. Prepare for the advent of light that expels darkness.

Acknowledge and Honor -

*... the gifts of gold,
frankincense,
and myrrh.*

Journey from Afar

PART 1. TO THE HOPEFUL

