

The Reason For Christmas



John 6:35-40

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

*The Reason
For Christmas*

For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

The Reason For Christmas



*The Reason
For Christmas*

Jesus is:

*The Reason
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Jesus is:

The Bread of Life



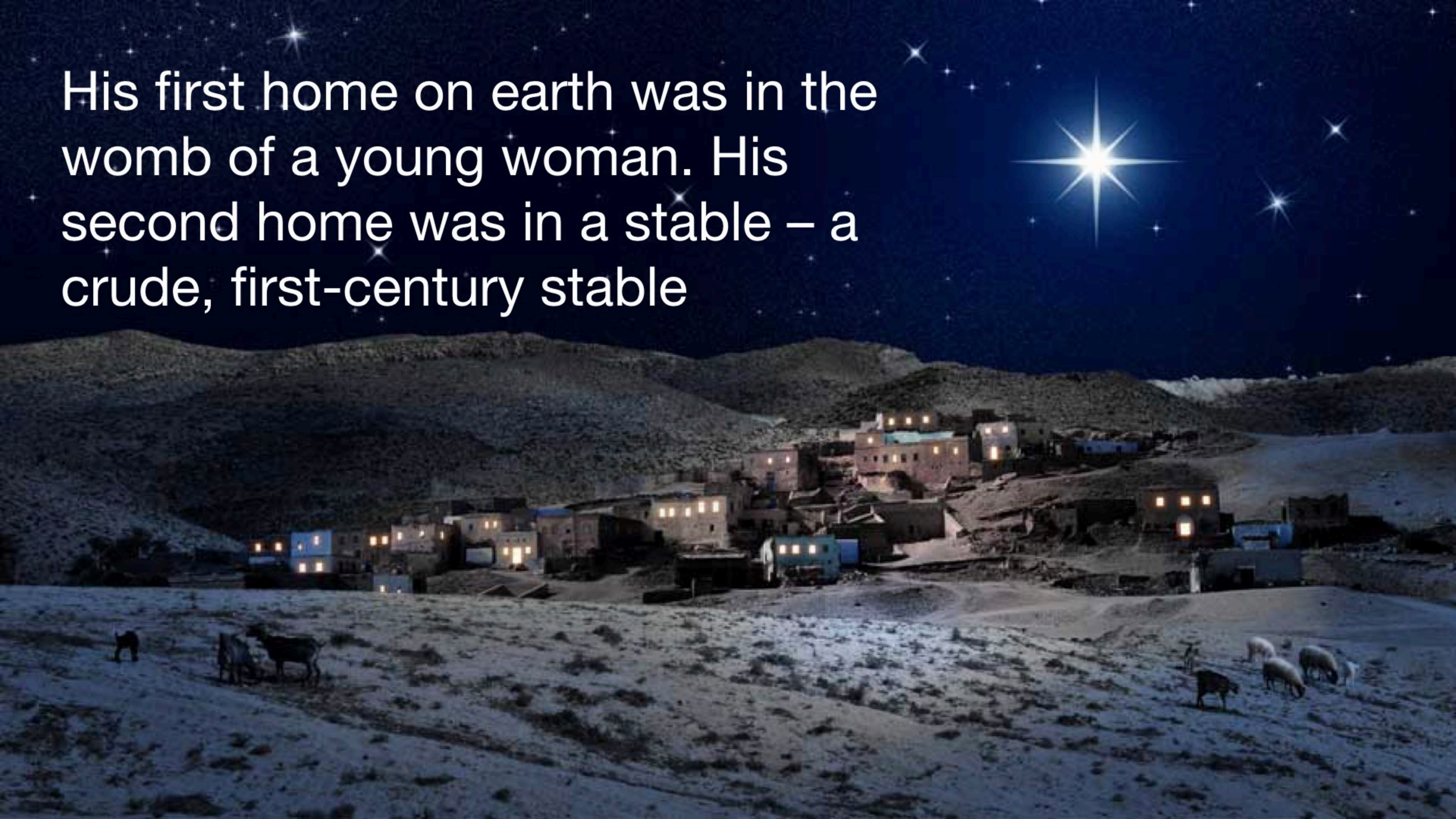
Bethlehem – House of Bread



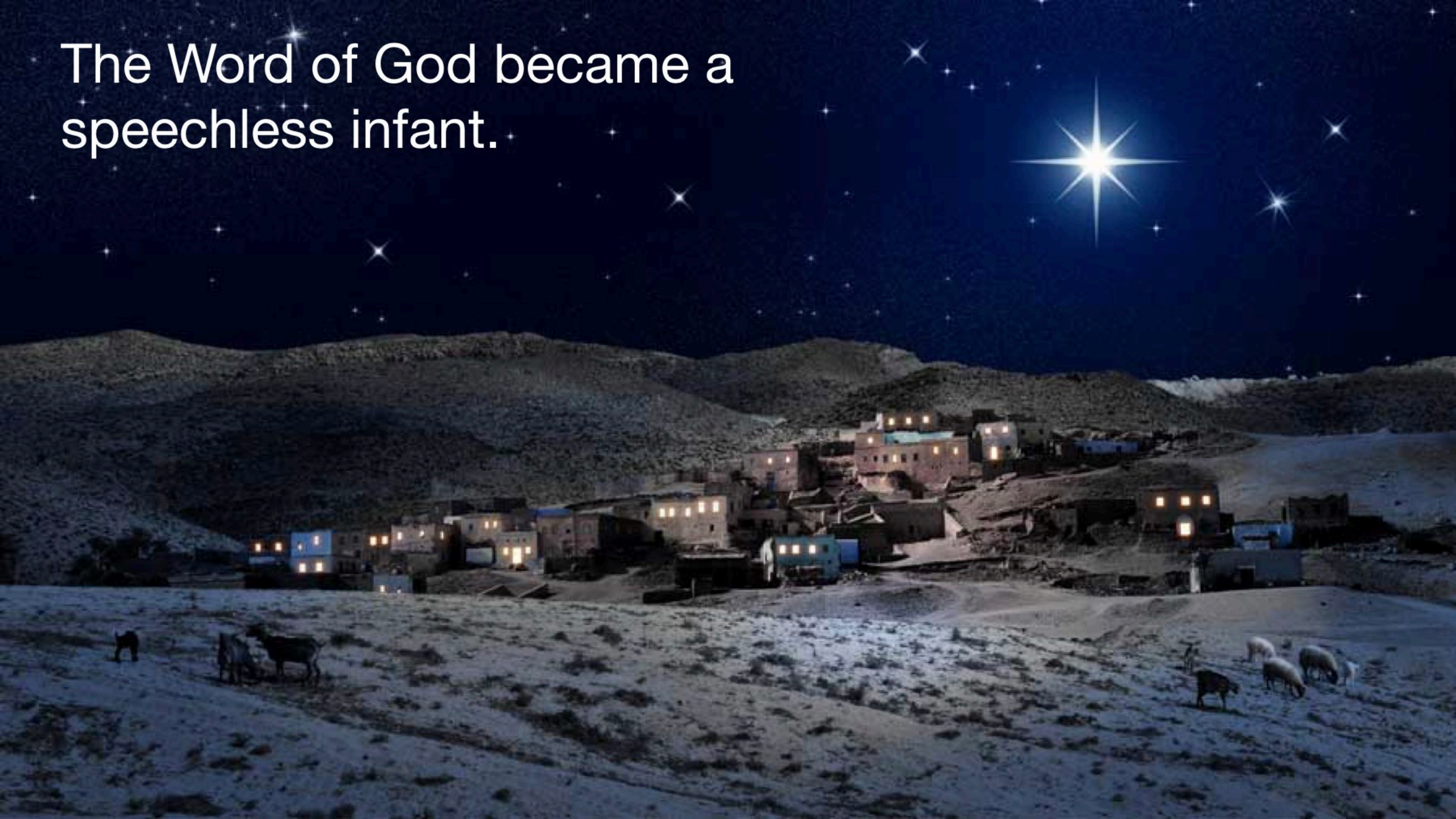
The Light of the world entered
Bethlehem in the dark of night



His first home on earth was in the womb of a young woman. His second home was in a stable – a crude, first-century stable



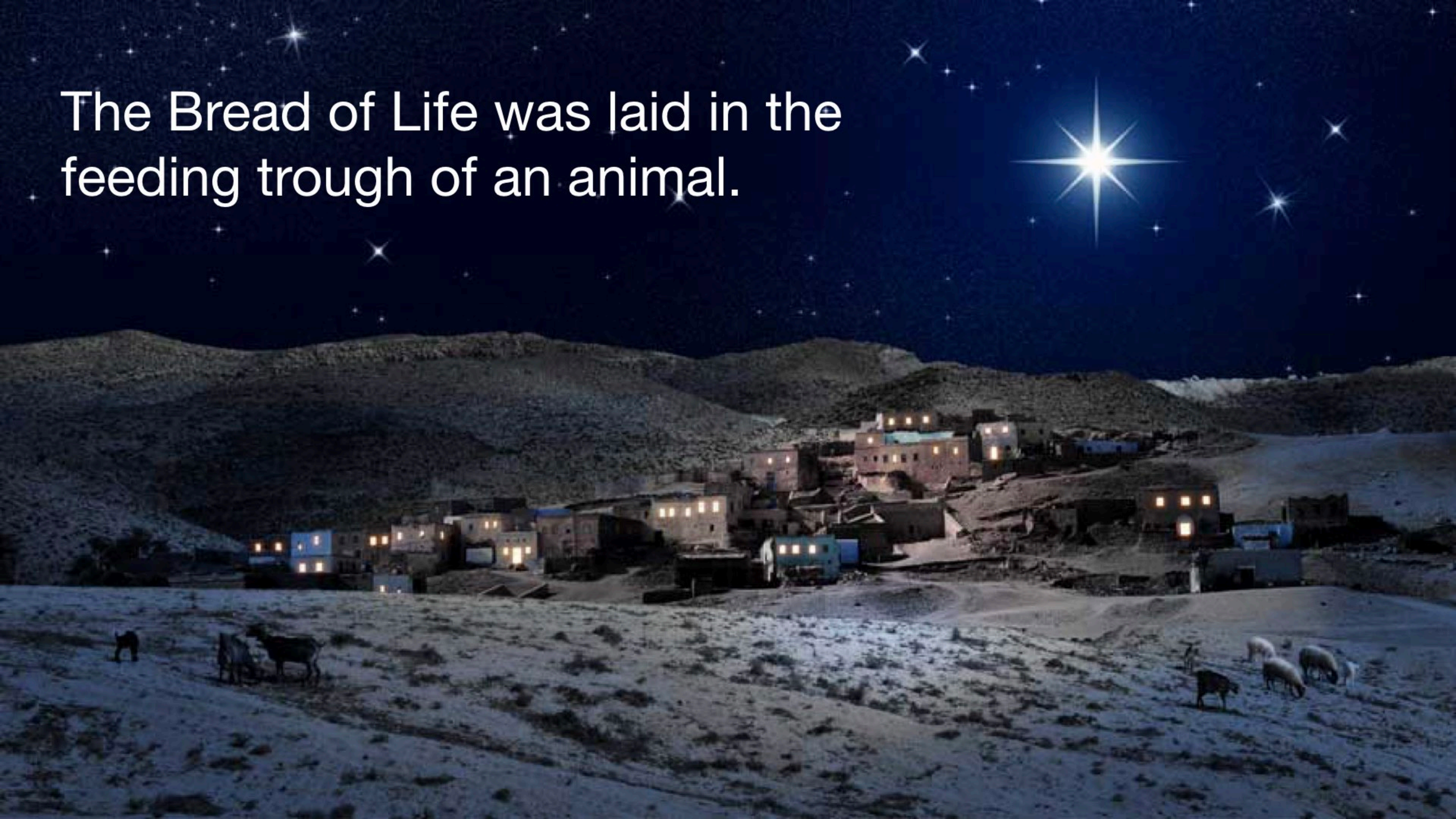
The Word of God became a
speechless infant.



The One destined to clothe a heavenly army was wrapped in coarse strips of cloth.



The Bread of Life was laid in the feeding trough of an animal.



*The Reason
For Christmas*

Jesus is:

Unrelenting to give us this Life

THE HOUND
OF
HEAVEN

The Story of Francis Thompson



Francis
Thompson
(1859–1907)

*The Reason
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**I fled Him, down the nights and down the
days;**

I fled Him, down the arches of the years;

**I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways of
my own mind; and in the mist of tears.**

I hid from Him, and under running laughter.

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**Up vistaed hopes I sped; and shot, precipitated,
down Titanic glooms of chasmèd fears, from
those strong Feet that followed, followed after.**

**But with unhurrying chase, and unperturbèd
pace, deliberate speed, majestic instancy, they
beat—and a Voice beat, more instant than the
Feet— 'All things betray thee, who betrayest
Me.'**

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**Now of that long pursuit comes on at
hand the bruit; that Voice is round me like
a bursting sea: 'and is thy earth so
marred, shattered in shard on shard?**

Lo, all things fly thee, for thou fliest Me!

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**Strange, piteous, futile thing! Wherefore should
any set thee love apart? Seeing none but I
makes much of naught' (He said), 'And human
love needs human meriting: how hast thou
merited— of all man's clotted clay the dingiest
clot? Alack, thou knowest not how little worthy
of any love thou art!**

**Whom wilt thou find to love ignoble thee, Save
Me, save only Me?**

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All which I took from thee I did but take, not for thy harms, but just that thou might'st seek it in My arms. All which thy child's mistake fancies as lost, I have stored for thee at home: rise, clasp My hand, and come!' Halts by me that footfall: is my gloom, after all, shade of His hand, outstretched caressingly? 'Ah, fondest, blindest, weakest, I am He Whom thou seekest!

Thou dravest love from thee, who dravest Me.'

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Jesus is:

Eternal Life

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Eternal Life

1 John 1:2

The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

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