

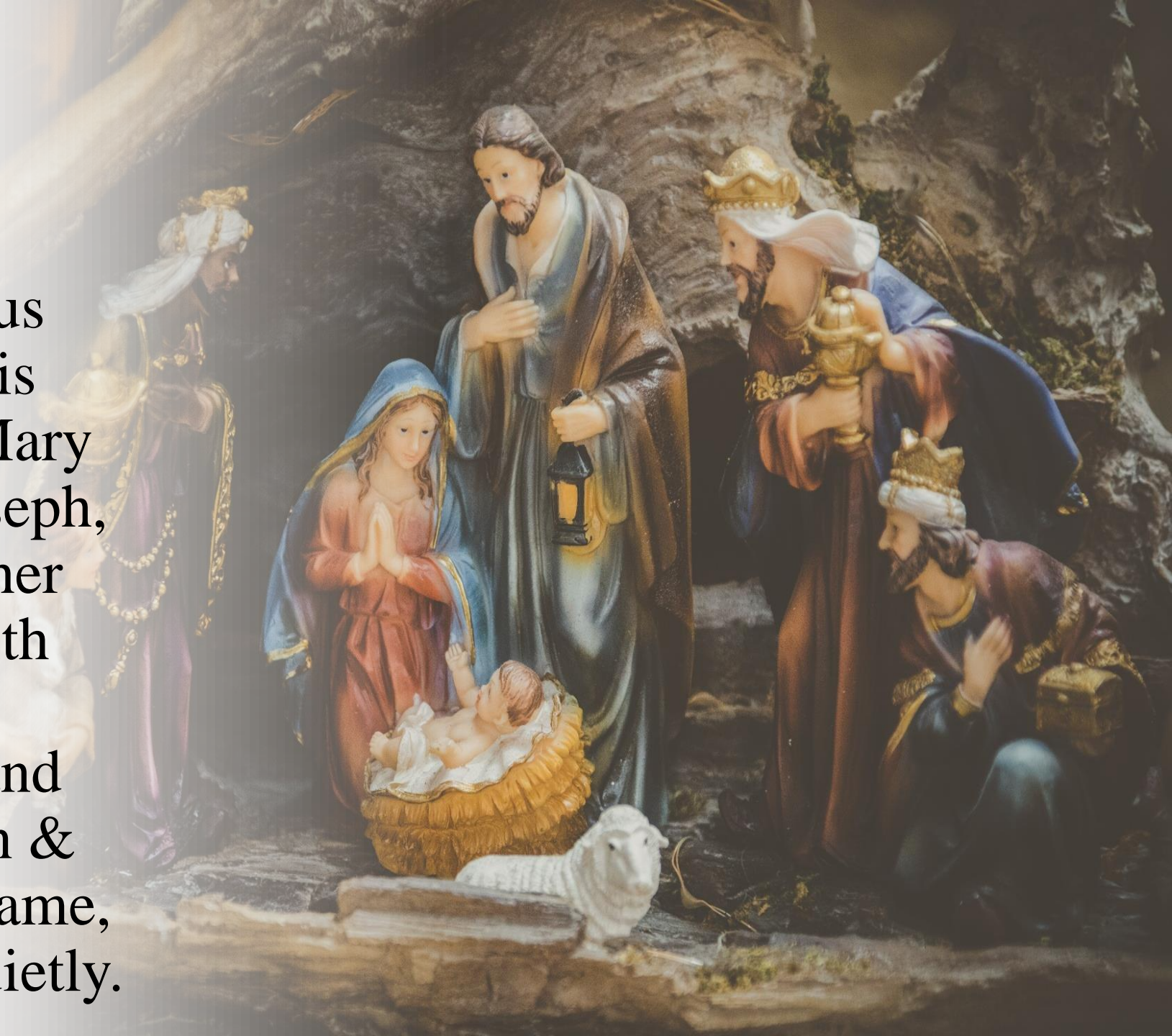


God Works Through Real People
with Real Problems

Matthew 1:18-25

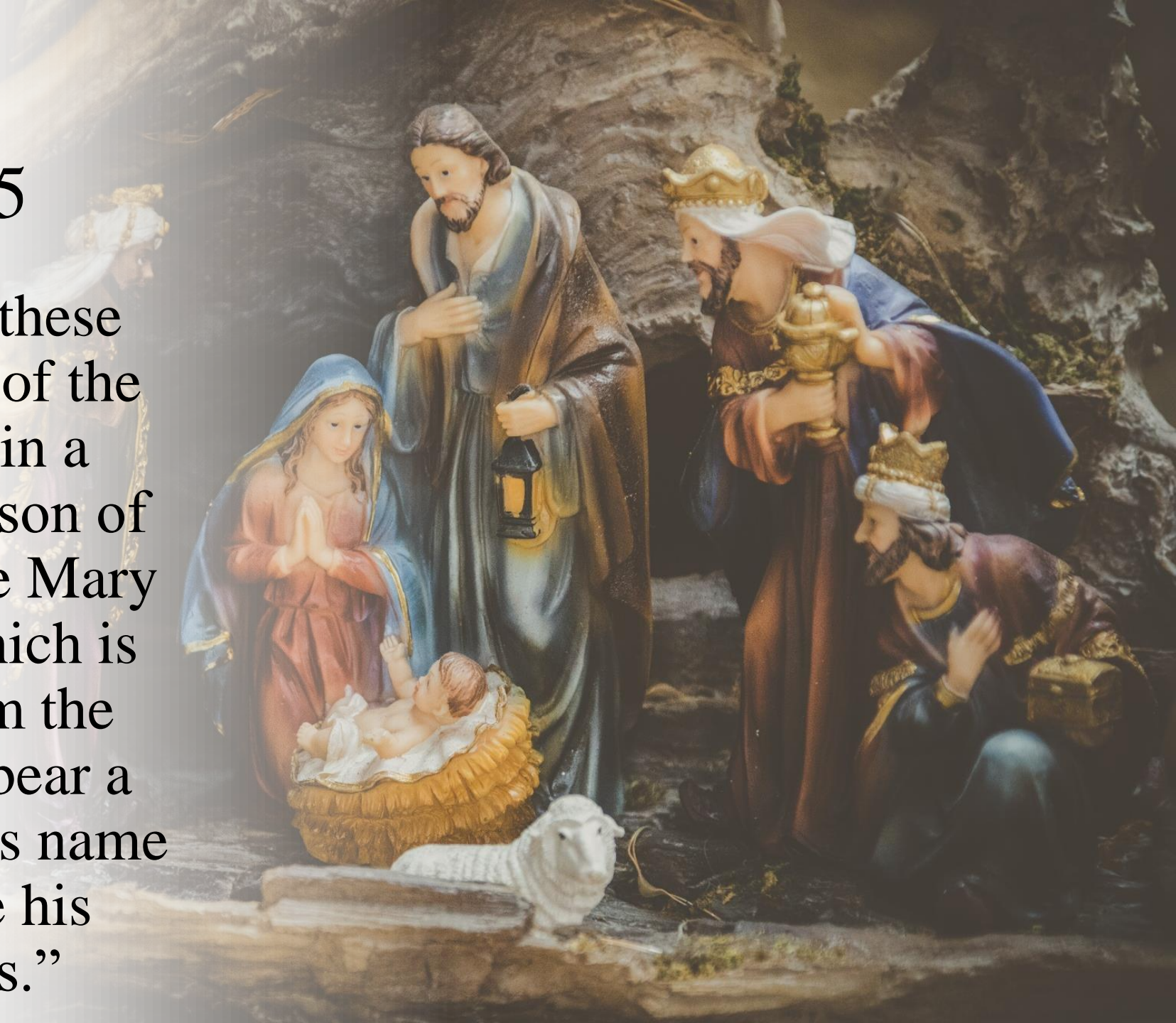
Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** And her husband Joseph, being a just man & unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.



Matthew 1:18-25

²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins.”



A detailed figurine set of a nativity scene. In the center, the Virgin Mary is seated, holding the infant Jesus in a manger. To her right, Joseph stands, holding a lantern. Three kings are kneeling in adoration, offering gifts. A white ox and a donkey are also present. The scene is set in a cave with a wooden manger.

Matthew 1:18-25

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).



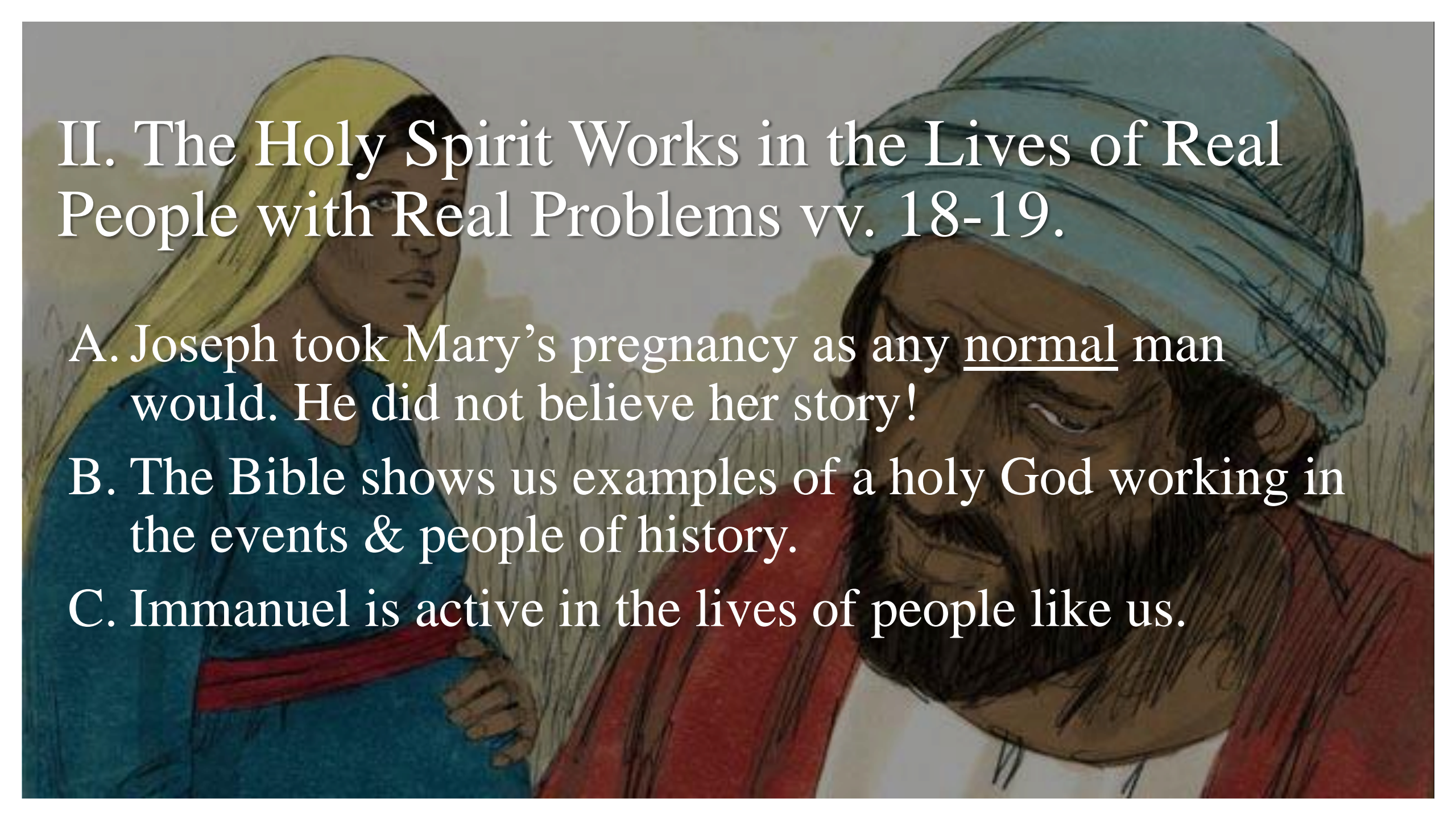
I. The Holy Spirit is at Work Among us Today

- A. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would convict the world about sin, righteousness & salvation (John 14-17)
- B. Jesus explained that the Holy Spirit empowers the Church to bear witness to Him (Acts 1:8).
- C. The Holy Spirit gives us Spiritual gifts so that we can serve God & people (1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:7-16).
- D. The Holy Spirit enables us to be transformed by producing the fruit of the Spirit in us (Gal. 5:22-23).

I. The Holy Spirit is at Work Among us Today

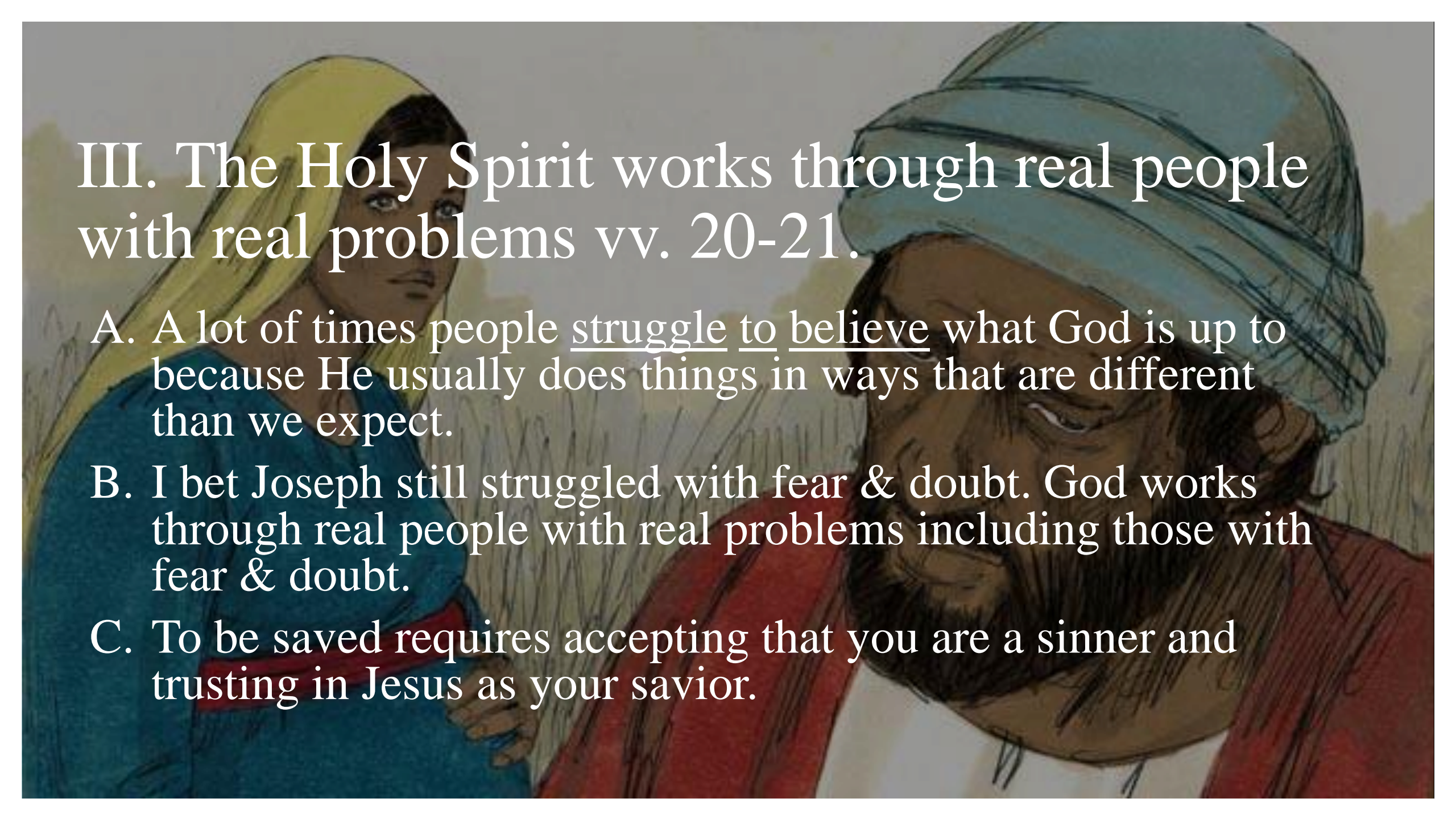
Rom. 8:9-11 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ dwelling in every believer.
- By the Holy Spirit dwelling in us we know Immanuel personally!



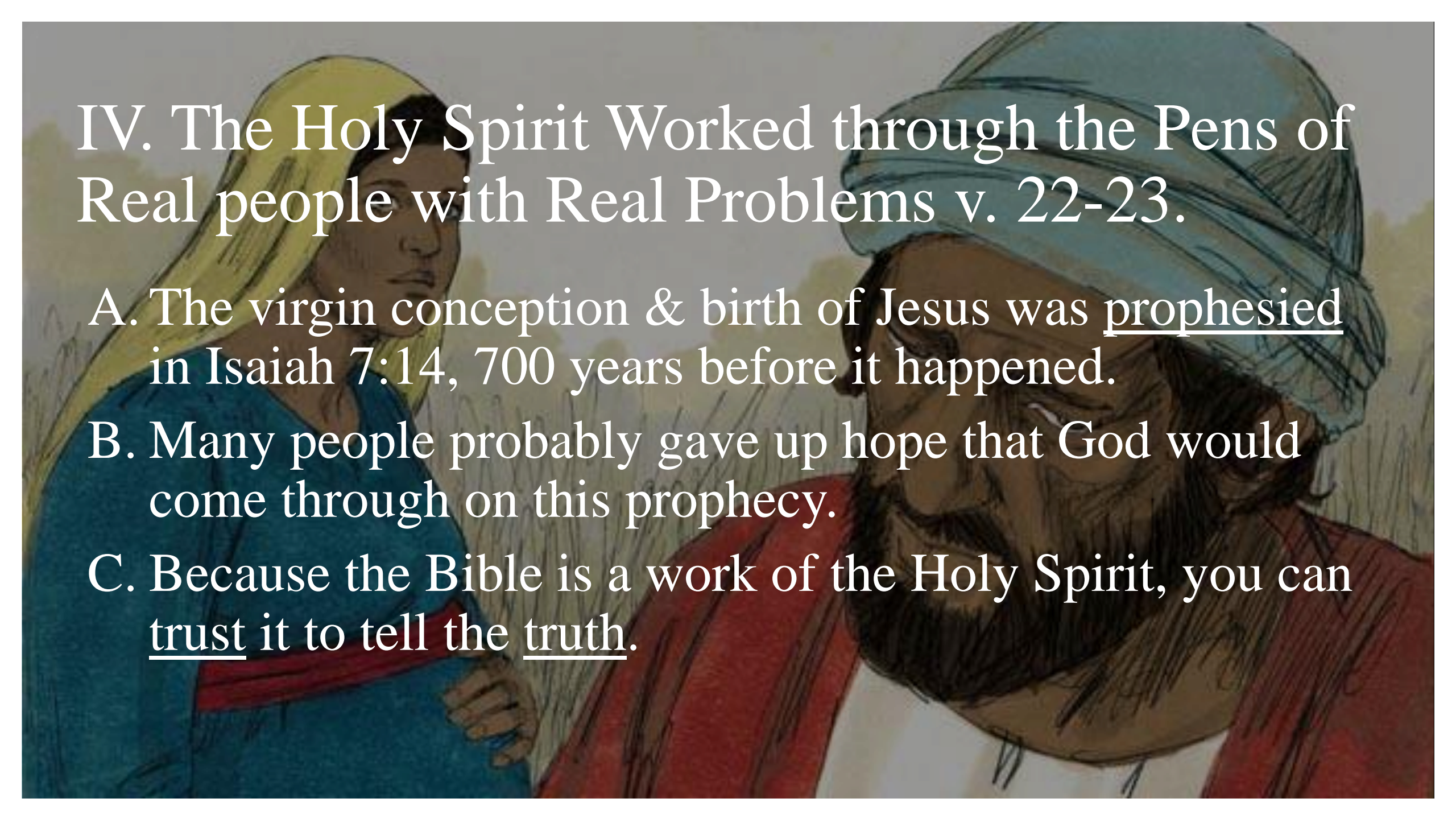
II. The Holy Spirit Works in the Lives of Real People with Real Problems vv. 18-19.

- A. Joseph took Mary's pregnancy as any normal man would. He did not believe her story!
- B. The Bible shows us examples of a holy God working in the events & people of history.
- C. Immanuel is active in the lives of people like us.



III. The Holy Spirit works through real people with real problems vv. 20-21.

- A. A lot of times people struggle to believe what God is up to because He usually does things in ways that are different than we expect.
- B. I bet Joseph still struggled with fear & doubt. God works through real people with real problems including those with fear & doubt.
- C. To be saved requires accepting that you are a sinner and trusting in Jesus as your savior.



IV. The Holy Spirit Worked through the Pens of Real people with Real Problems v. 22-23.

- A. The virgin conception & birth of Jesus was propheesied in Isaiah 7:14, 700 years before it happened.
- B. Many people probably gave up hope that God would come through on this prophecy.
- C. Because the Bible is a work of the Holy Spirit, you can trust it to tell the truth.

A high-angle, wide shot of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, featuring the Christ the Redeemer statue on Corcovado Mountain. The city's dense urban landscape is visible in the foreground and middle ground, with the bay and distant hills in the background. The lighting is soft, suggesting dawn or dusk.

V. The Holy Spirit Leads Real People with Real Problems to Do God's Will v. 24-25.

God accomplishes His glorious purposes through ordinary people.