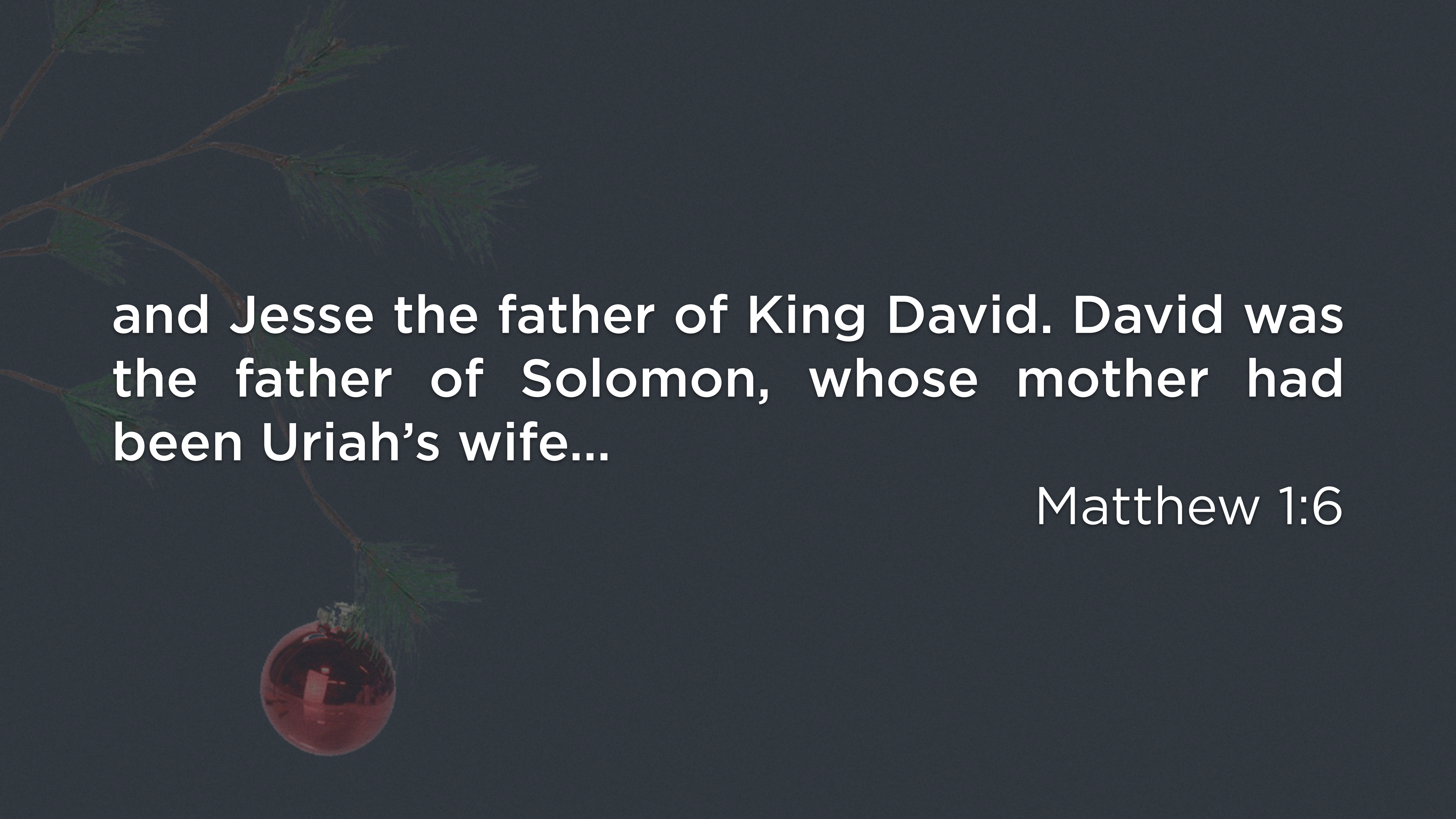


A pine branch with green needles and a single red, shiny Christmas ornament hangs from the top left corner of the image. The branch extends diagonally across the frame.

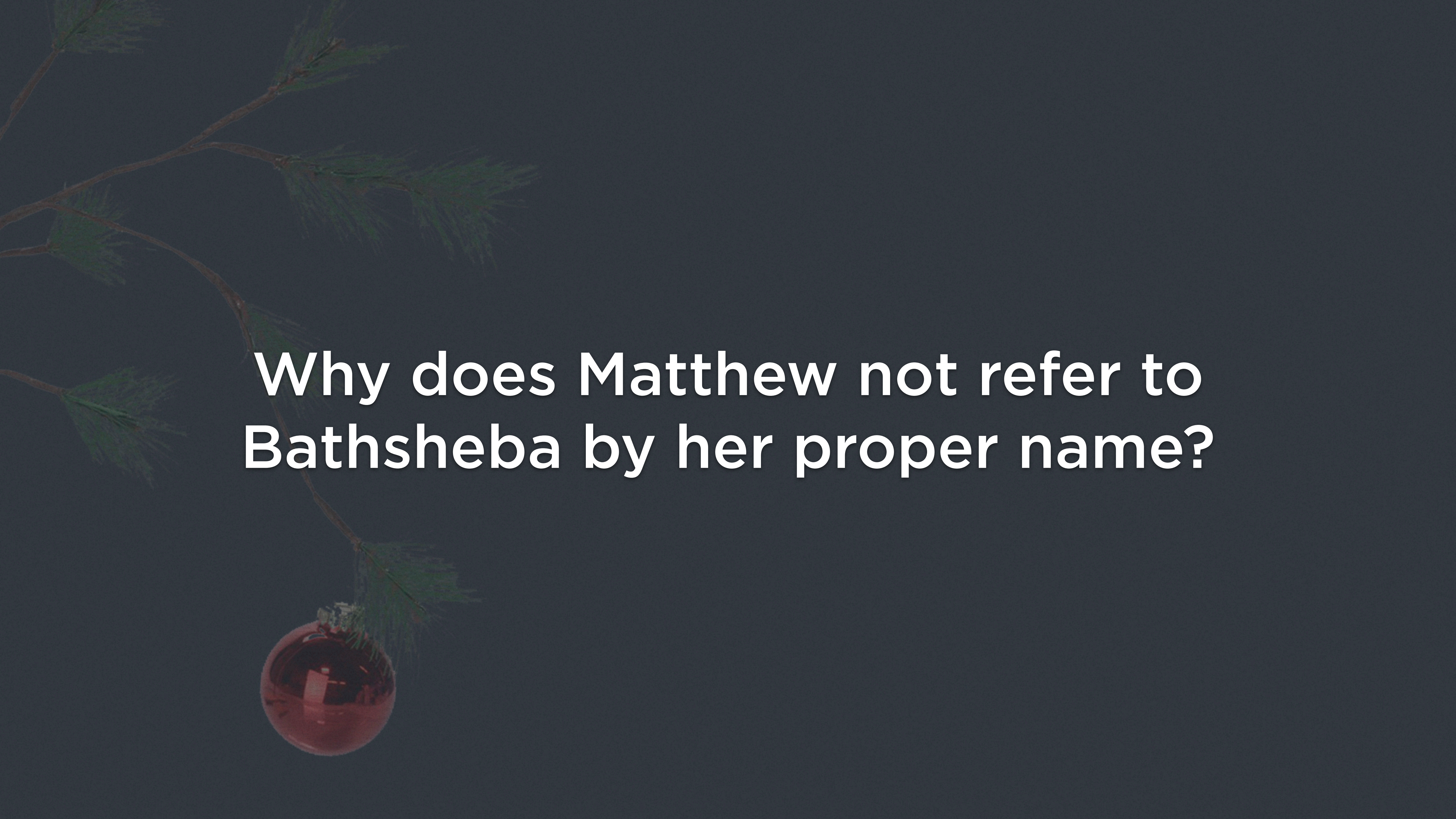
The Awkward Christmas Card

Craig Rees

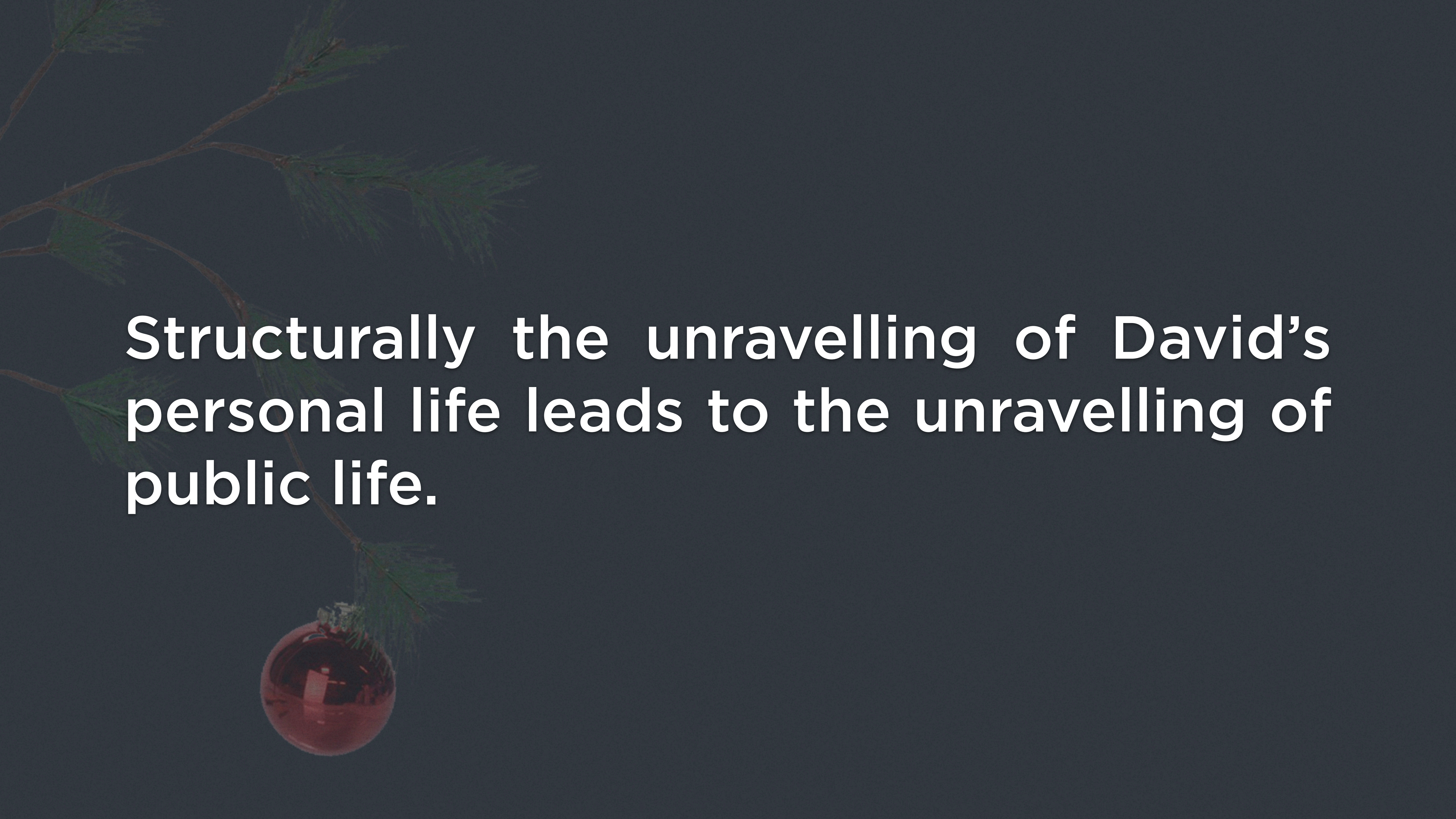


and Jesse the father of King David. David was
the father of Solomon, whose mother had
been Uriah's wife...

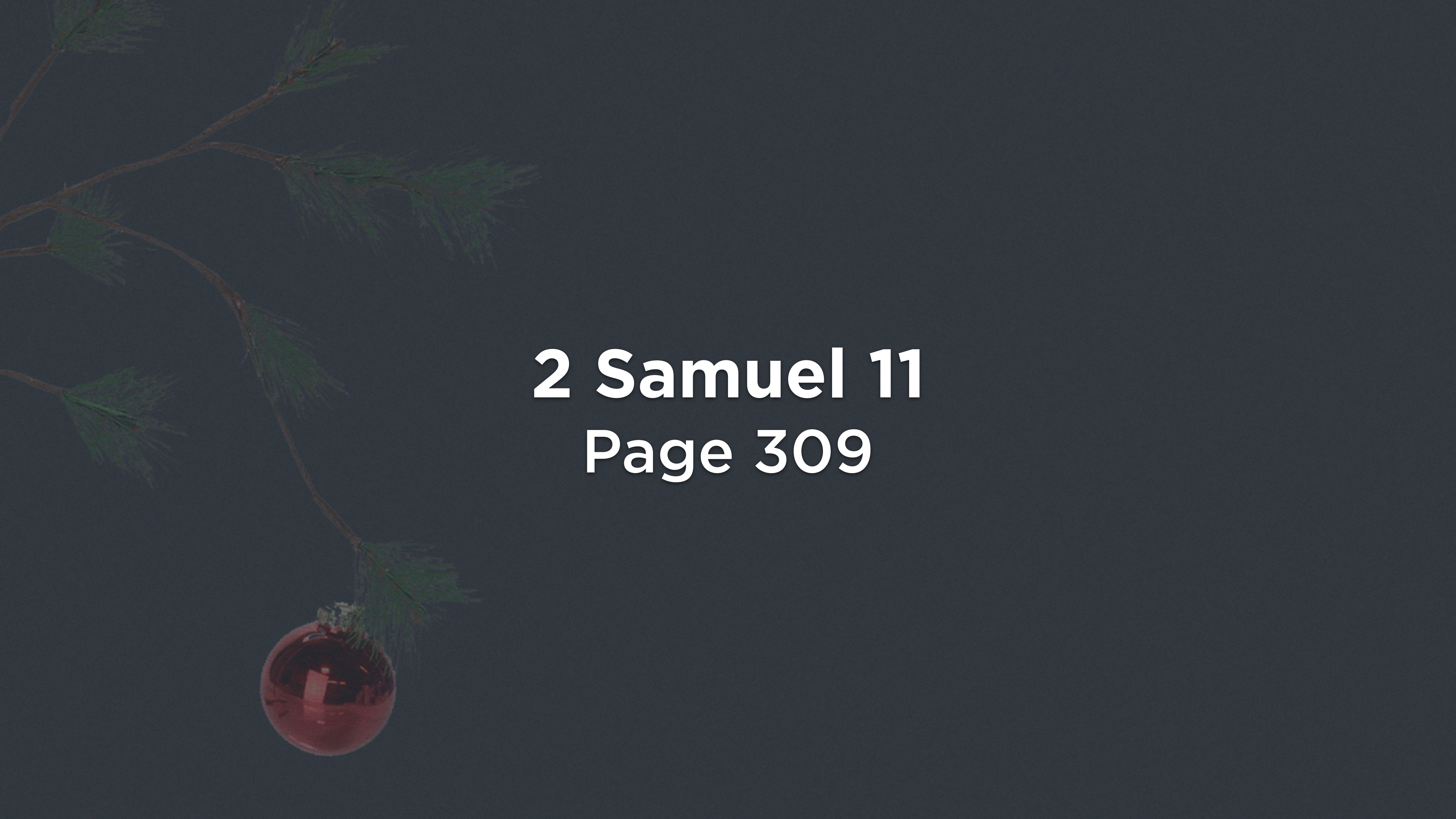
Matthew 1:6



Why does Matthew not refer to
Bathsheba by her proper name?

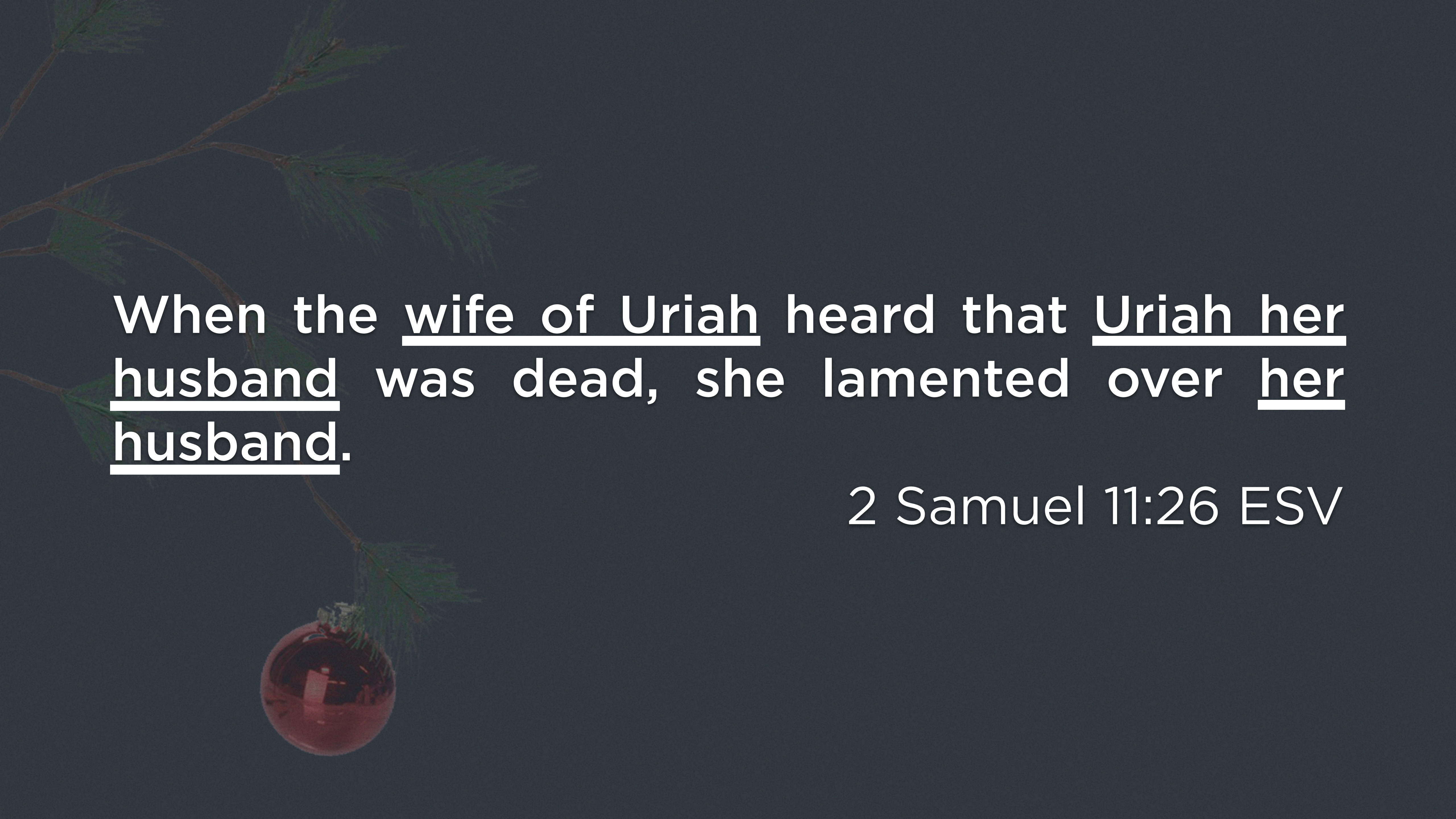


Structurally the unravelling of David's personal life leads to the unravelling of public life.



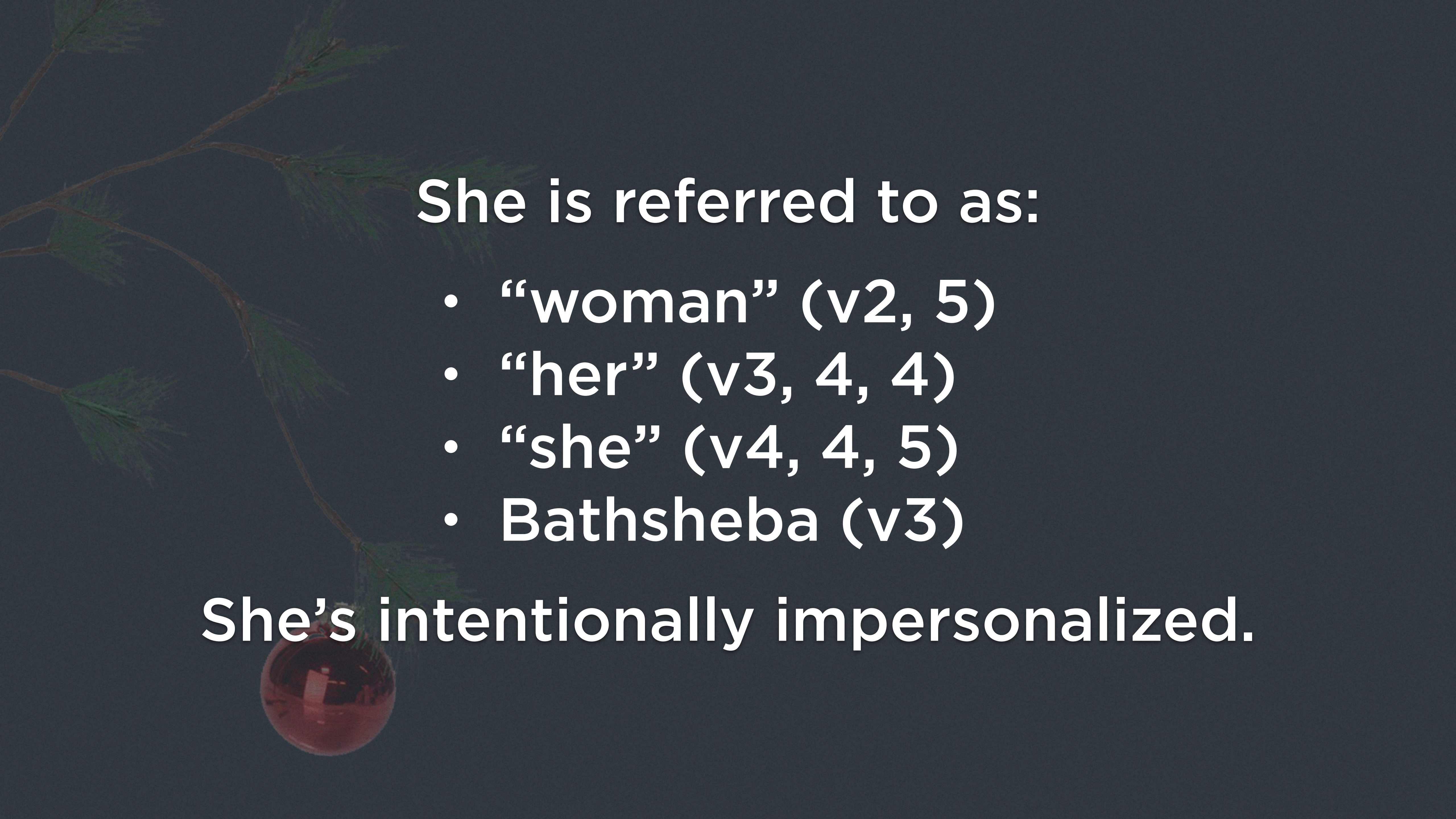
2 Samuel 11

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When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband.

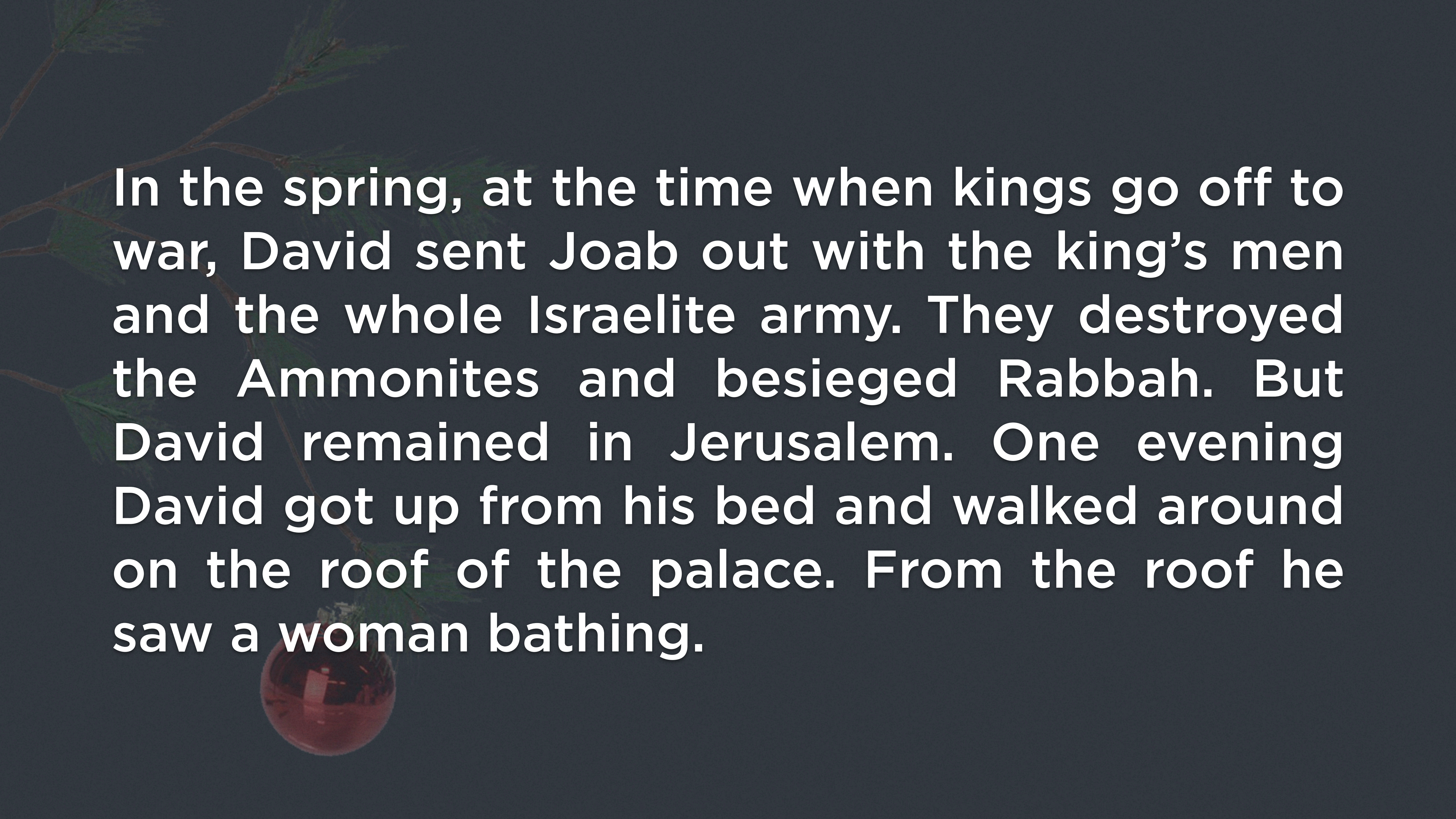
2 Samuel 11:26 ESV



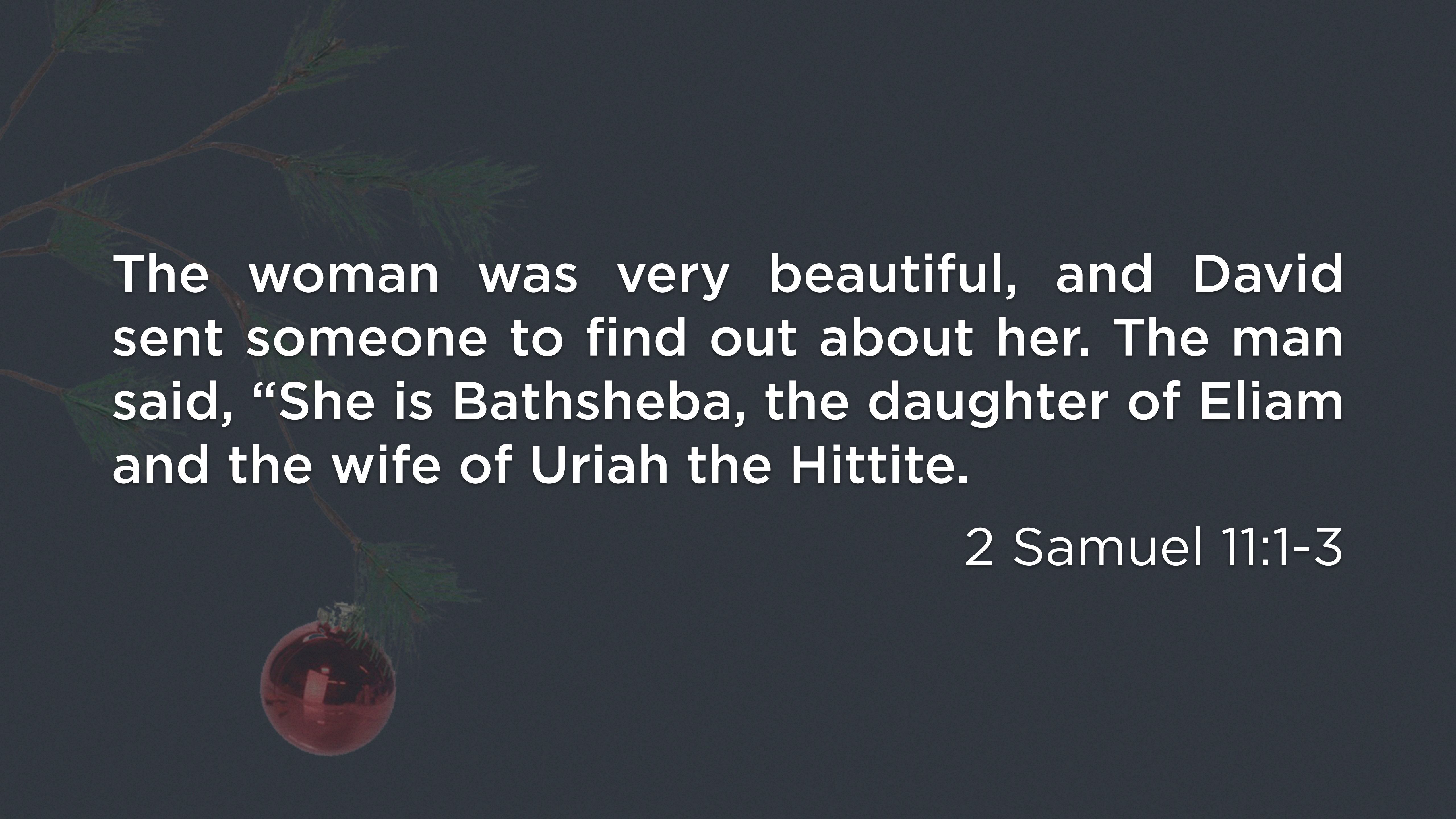
She is referred to as:

- “woman” (v2, 5)
- “her” (v3, 4, 4)
- “she” (v4, 4, 5)
- Bathsheba (v3)

She’s intentionally impersonalized.

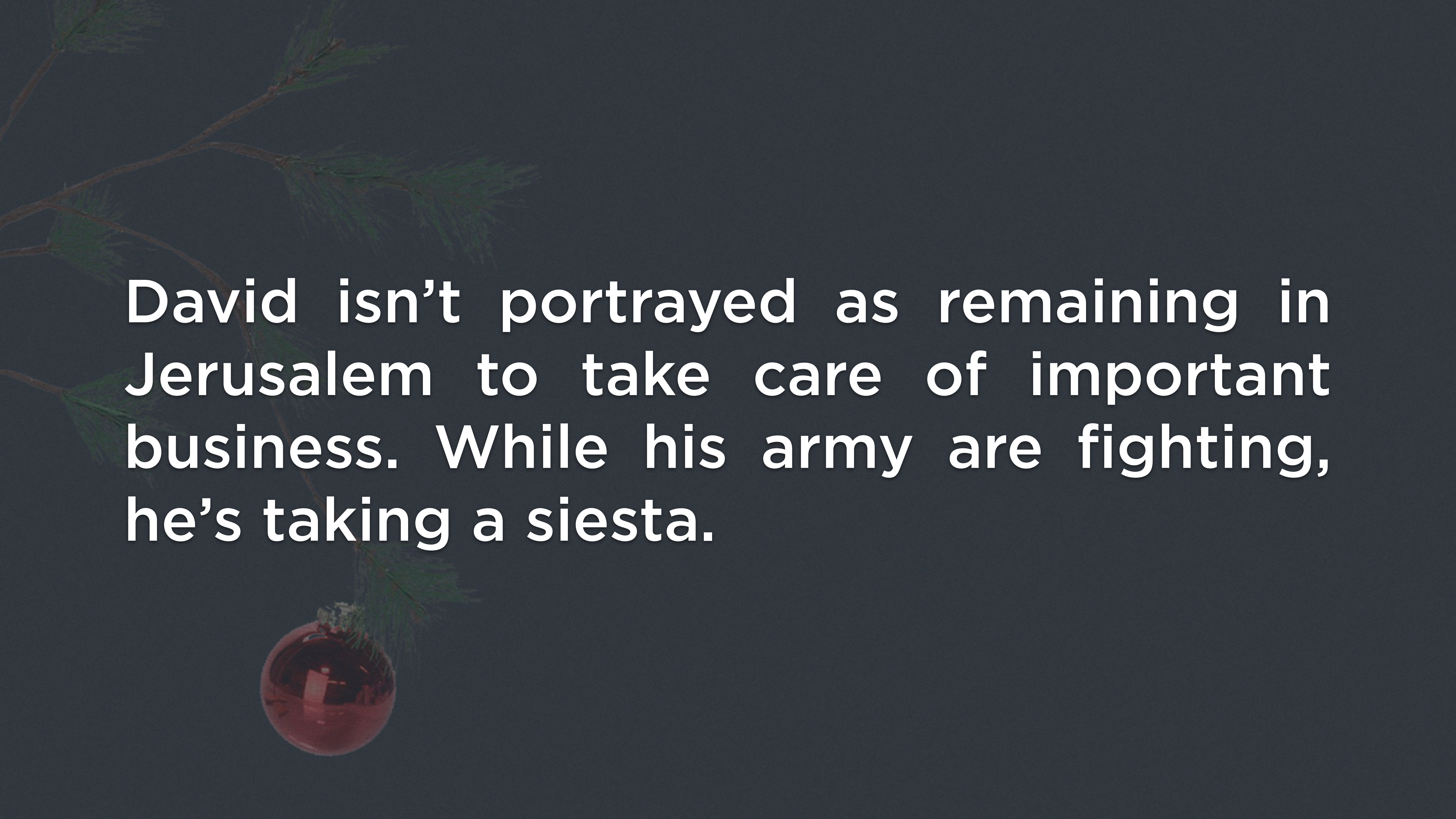


In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing.

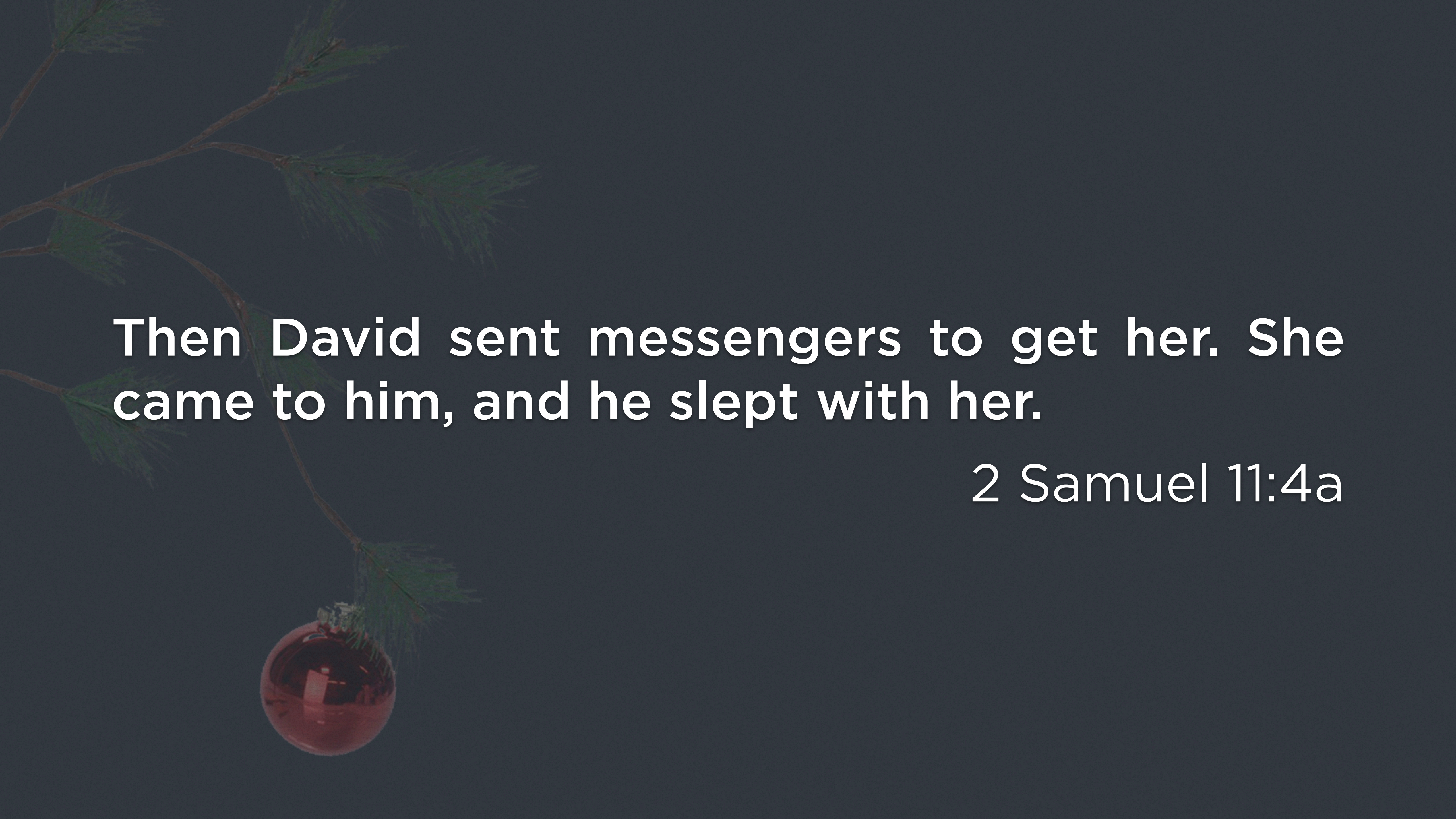


The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.

2 Samuel 11:1-3



David isn't portrayed as remaining in Jerusalem to take care of important business. While his army are fighting, he's taking a siesta.



Then David sent messengers to get her. She
came to him, and he slept with her.

2 Samuel 11:4a



Her Ancestry
(2 Sam. 11:3)

Her Beauty
(2 Sam. 11:2)

Her Pregnancy
(2 Sam. 11:5)

Her Mourning for Uriah
(2 Sam. 11:26)

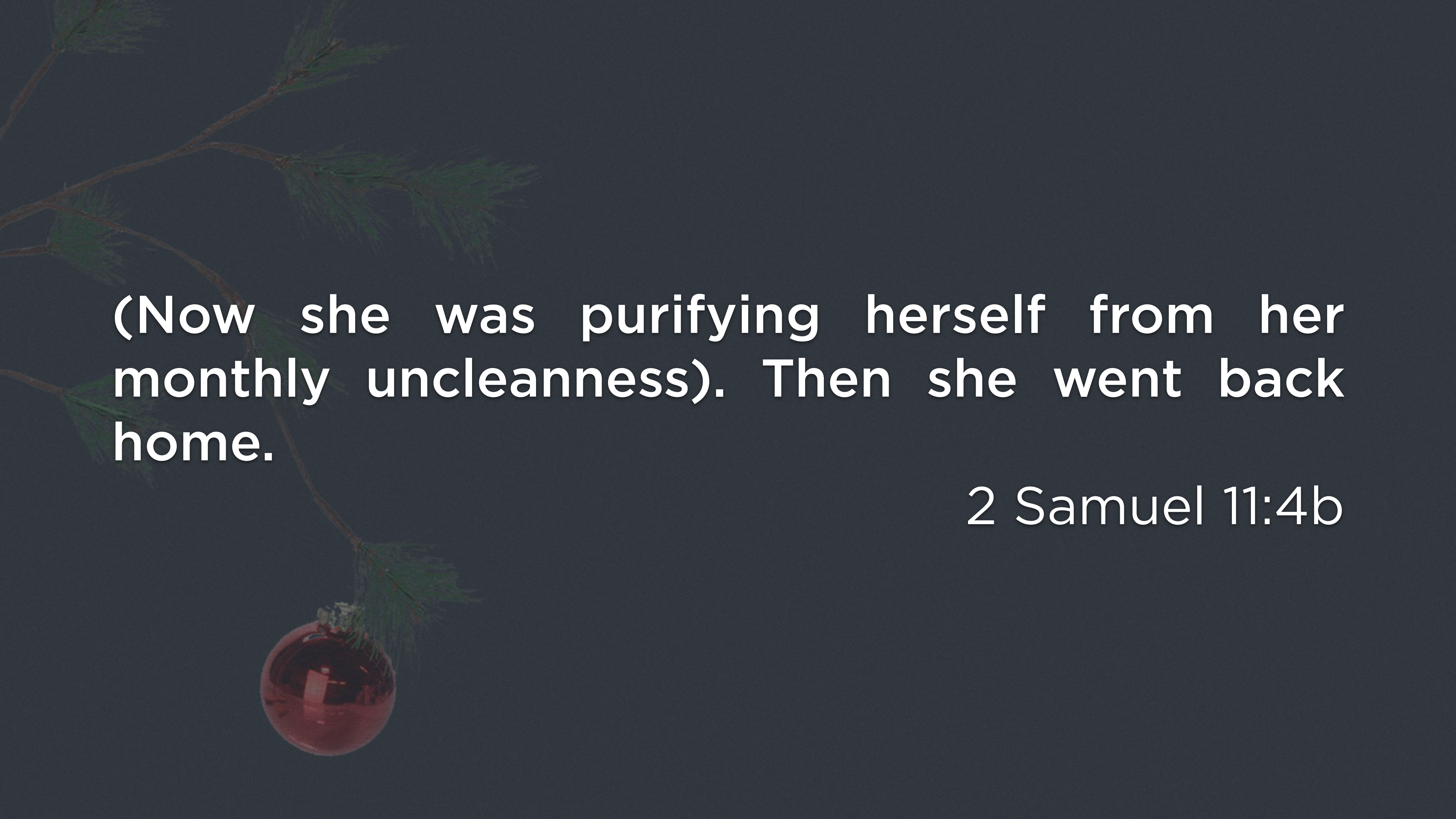
Her Mourning for Her Son by David
(2 Sam. 12:24)

If we want to offer the gift of perfect grace to imperfect people, it begins by stating the facts not by plugging the gaps.



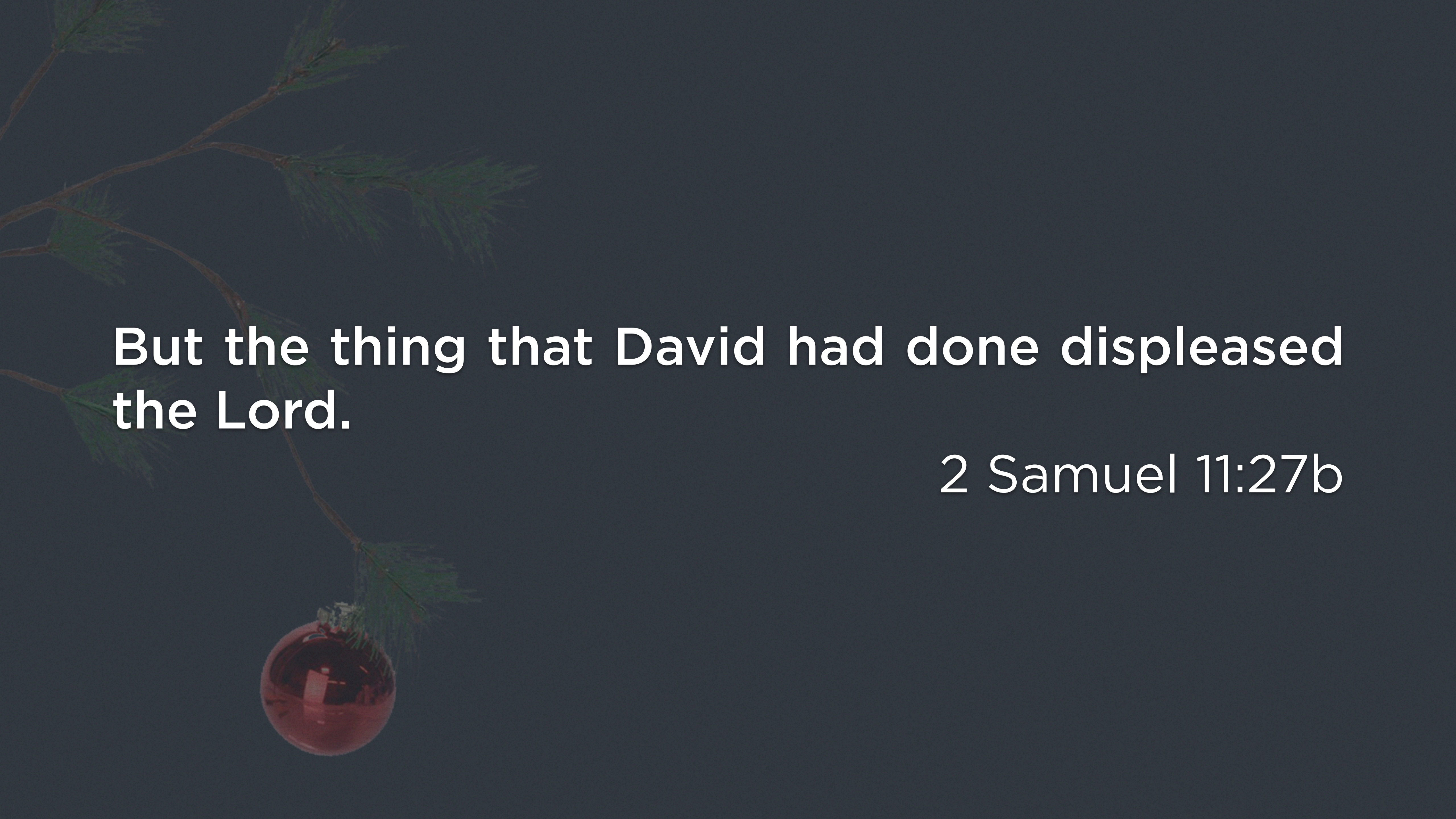
Just as Eve deceived Adam, and Tamar deceived Judah so Bathsheba seduced David. She's a woman who wanted position, power and prestige and used her looks and her body to get it.





(Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness). Then she went back home.

2 Samuel 11:4b

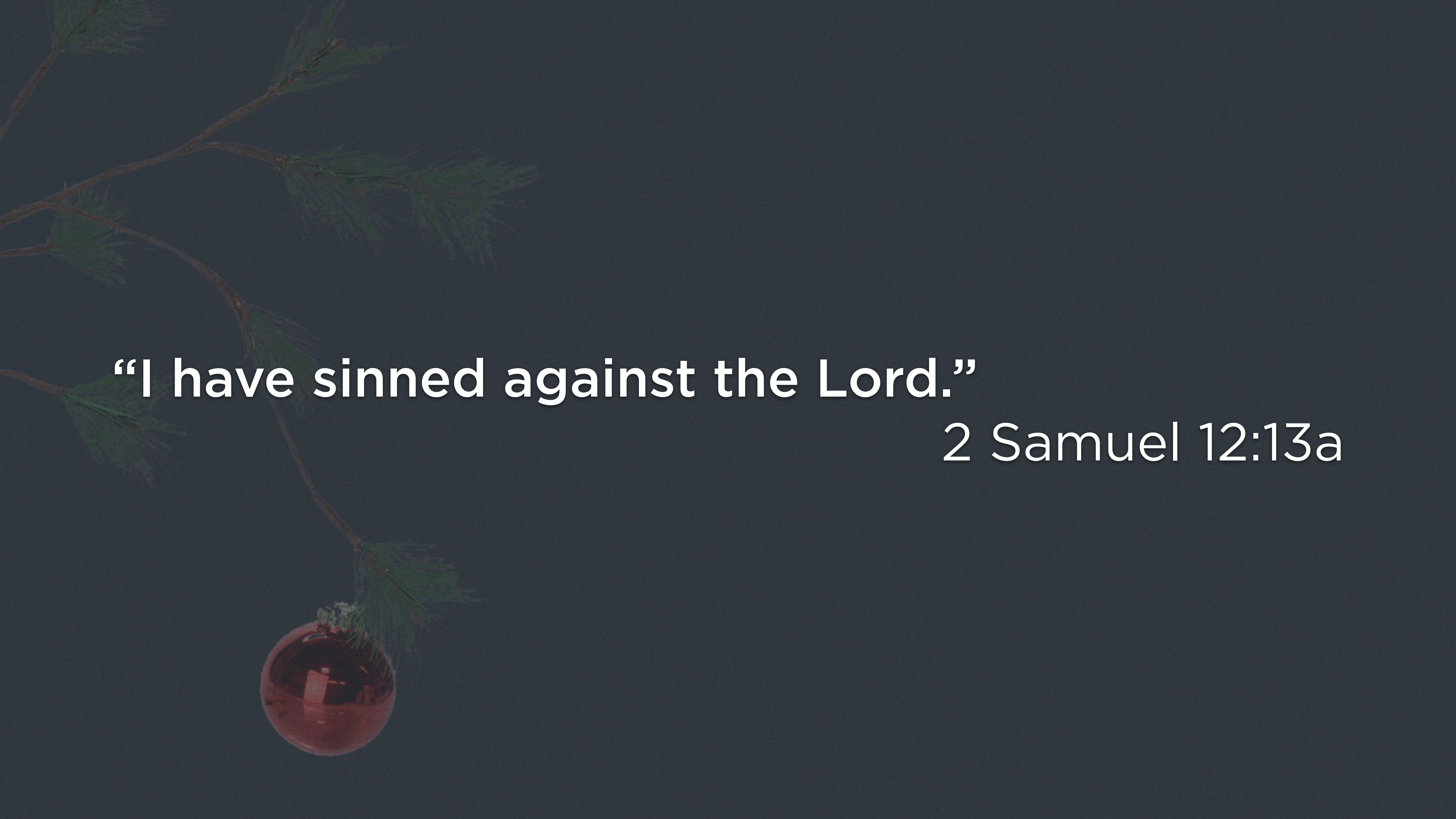


But the thing that David had done displeased
the Lord.

2 Samuel 11:27b

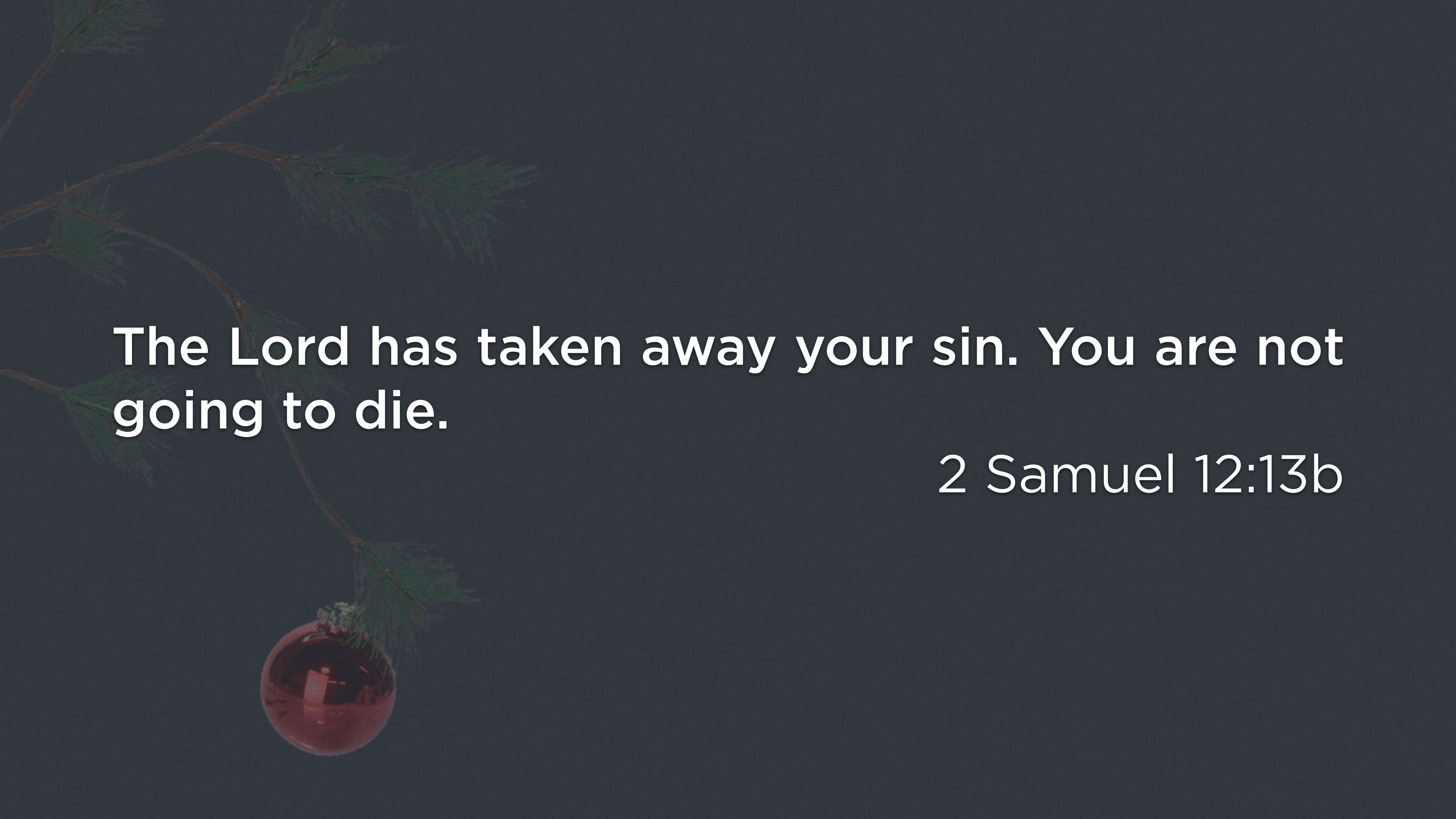
The good news of Jesus is not a reward
for the perfect but a gift to the
#flawsome.





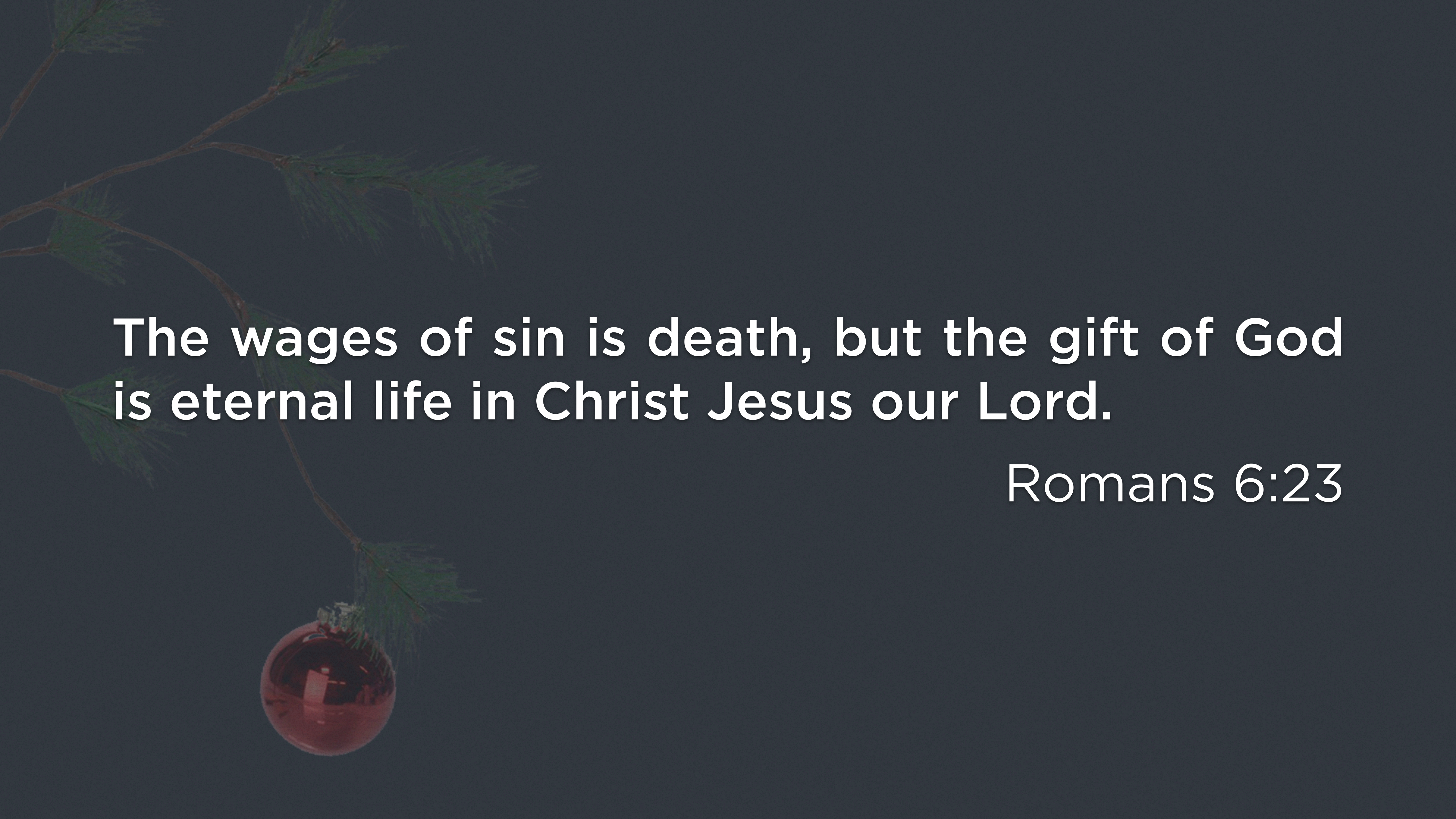
“I have sinned against the Lord.”

2 Samuel 12:13a



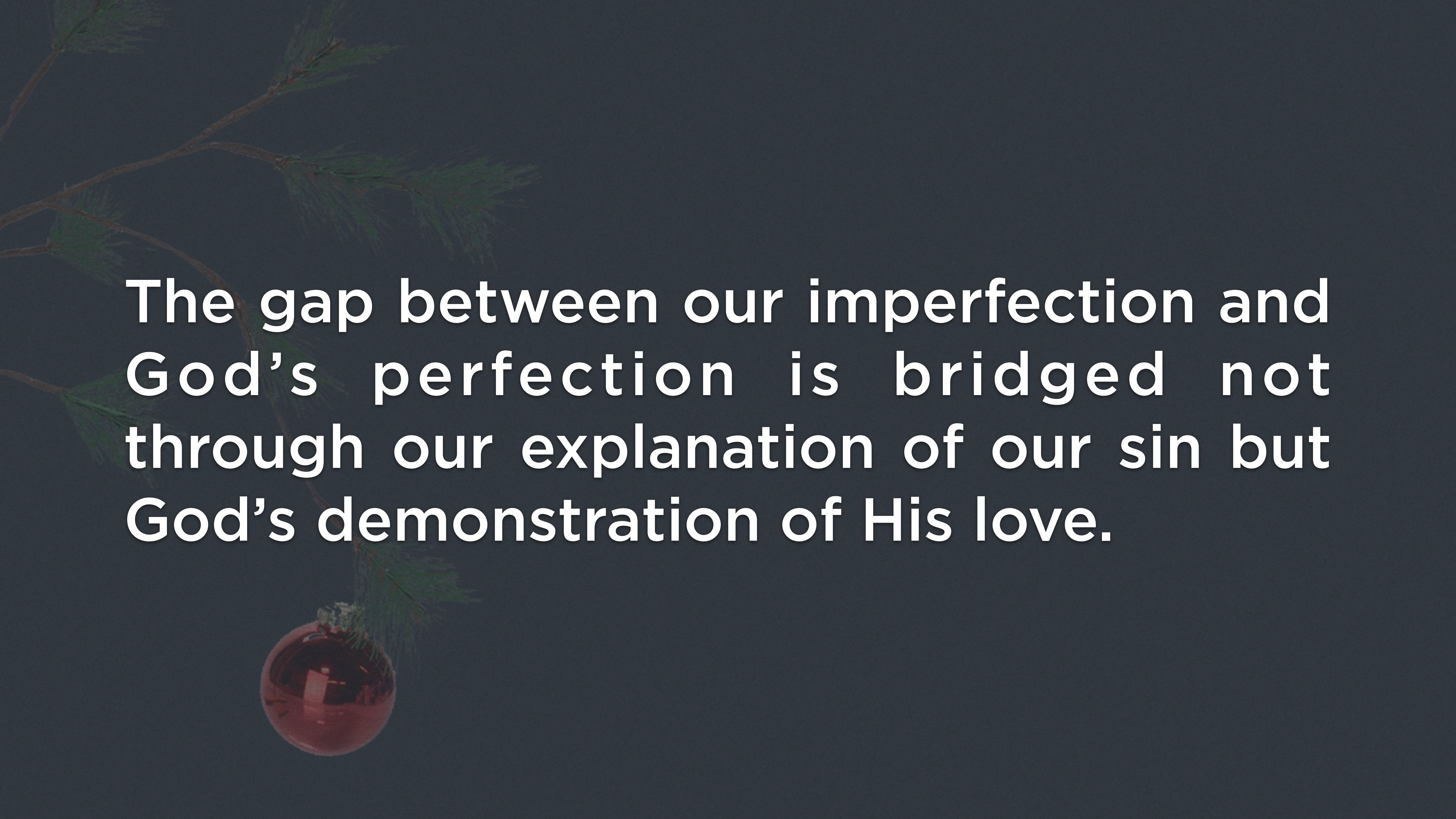
The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not
going to die.

2 Samuel 12:13b

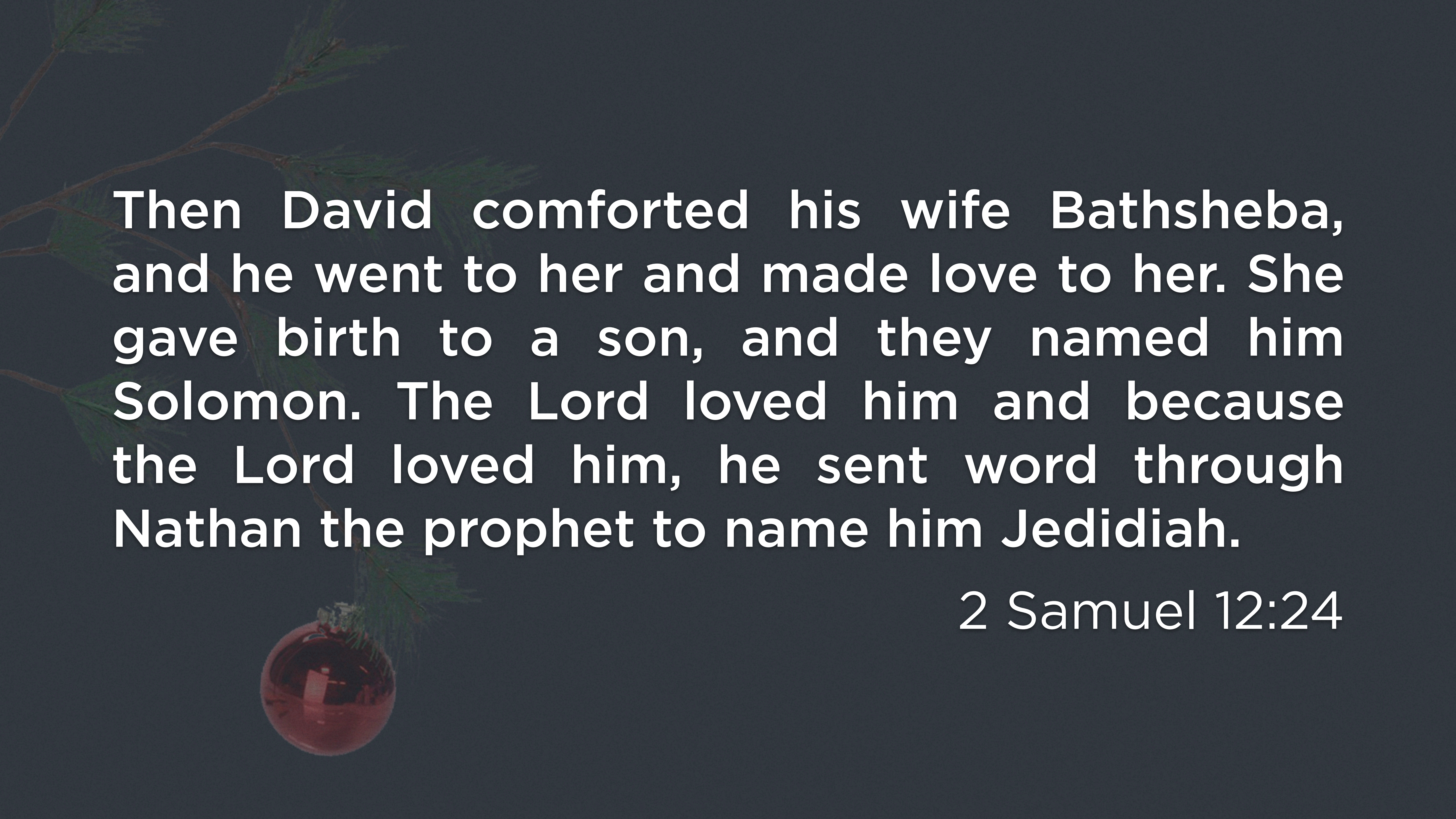


The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God
is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

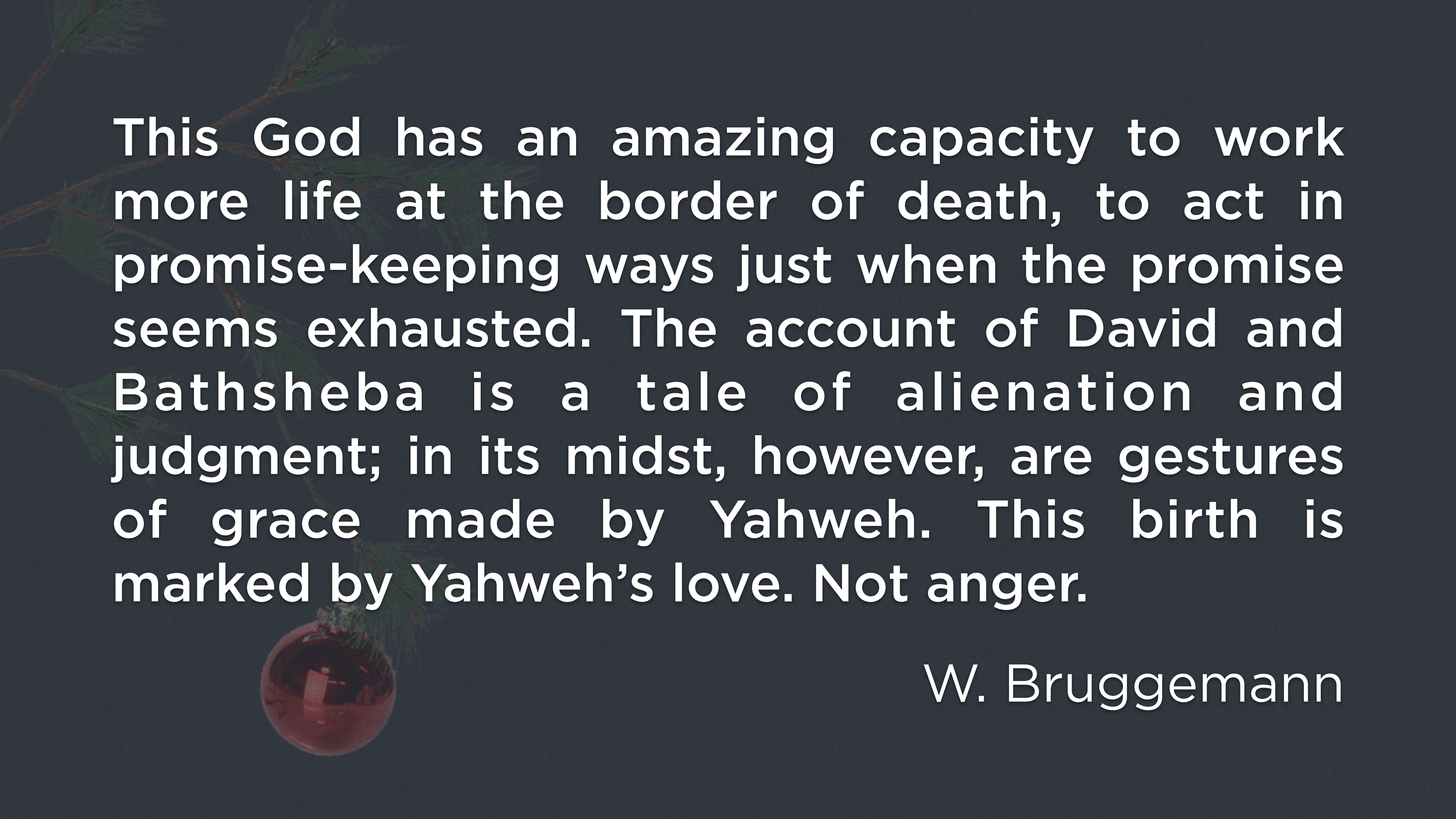


The gap between our imperfection and God's perfection is bridged not through our explanation of our sin but God's demonstration of His love.



Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and made love to her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The Lord loved him and because the Lord loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

2 Samuel 12:24



This God has an amazing capacity to work more life at the border of death, to act in promise-keeping ways just when the promise seems exhausted. The account of David and Bathsheba is a tale of alienation and judgment; in its midst, however, are gestures of grace made by Yahweh. This birth is marked by Yahweh's love. Not anger.

W. Bruggemann