

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

The Scarlet Thread

Craig Rees



Matthew 1

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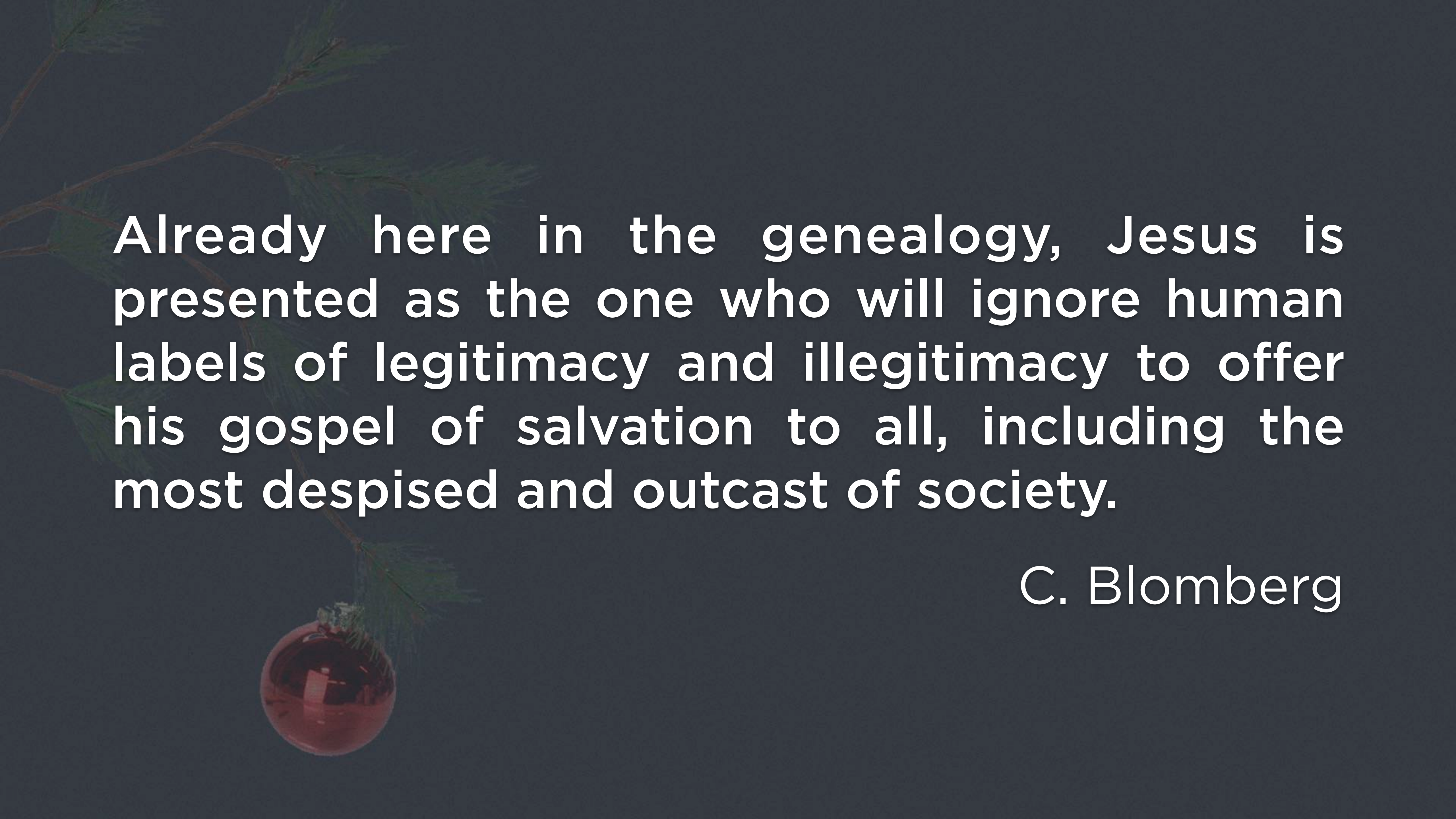
We don't need to be perfect to inspire others. Rather, we inspire people by how we deal with our imperfections.





Flawsome

(adj): A person who embraces their
“flaws” and knows that they’re
awesomely created nonetheless.

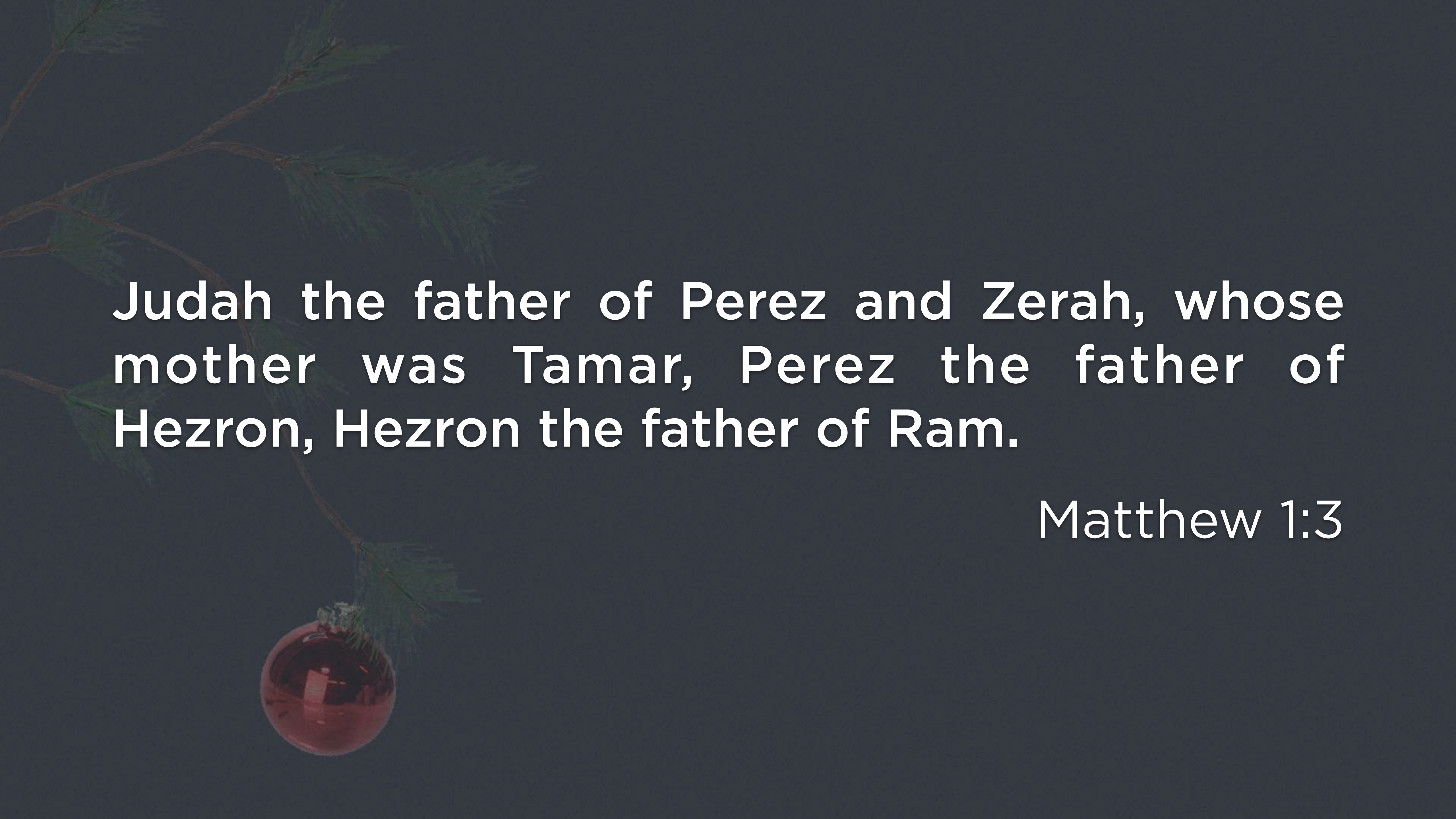


Already here in the genealogy, Jesus is presented as the one who will ignore human labels of legitimacy and illegitimacy to offer his gospel of salvation to all, including the most despised and outcast of society.

C. Blomberg

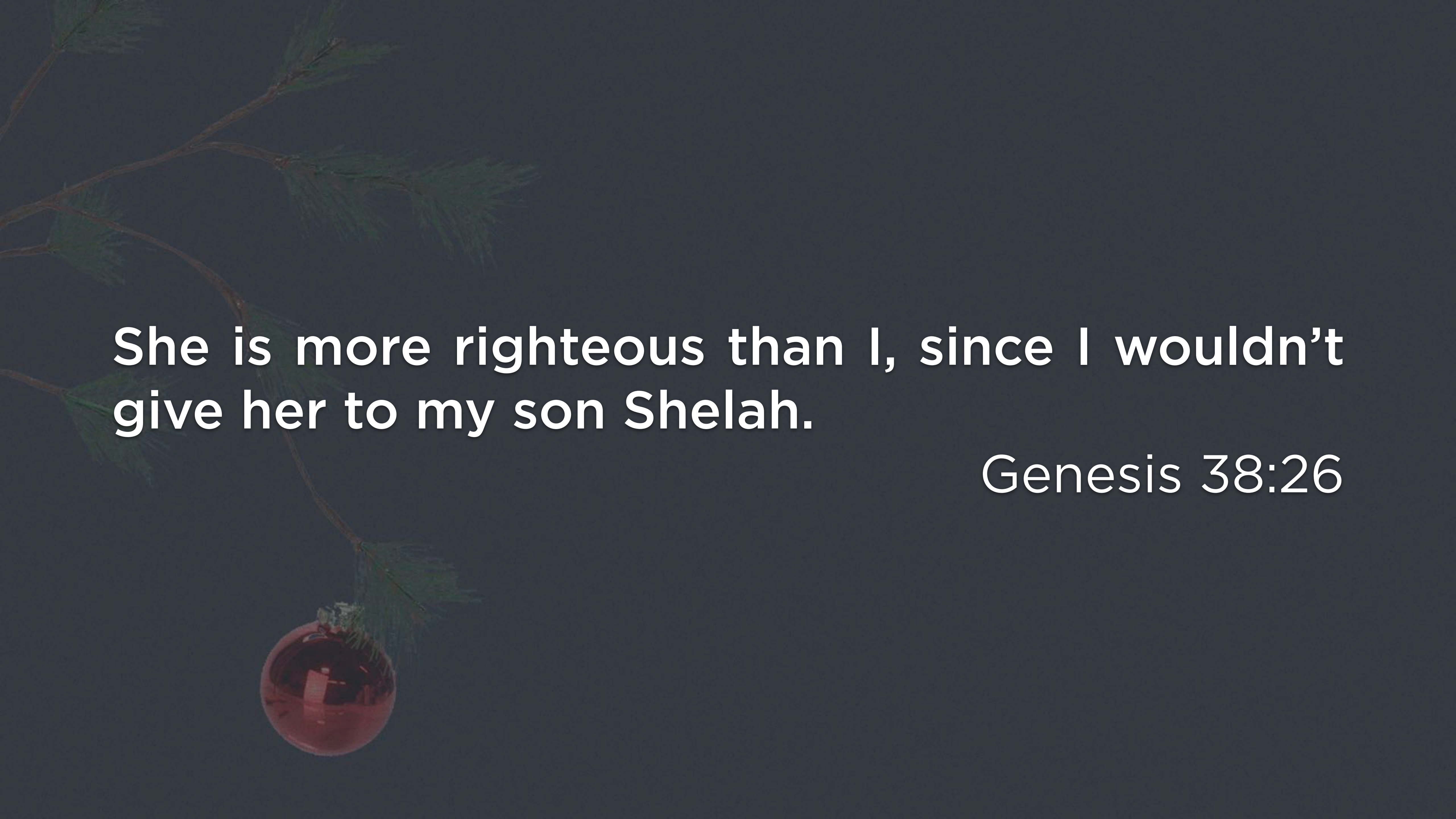
The genealogy of Matthew is the foundation for a scandalous story of how an awesome God of grace shows His love for a flawsome creation.





Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose
mother was Tamar, Perez the father of
Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram.

Matthew 1:3

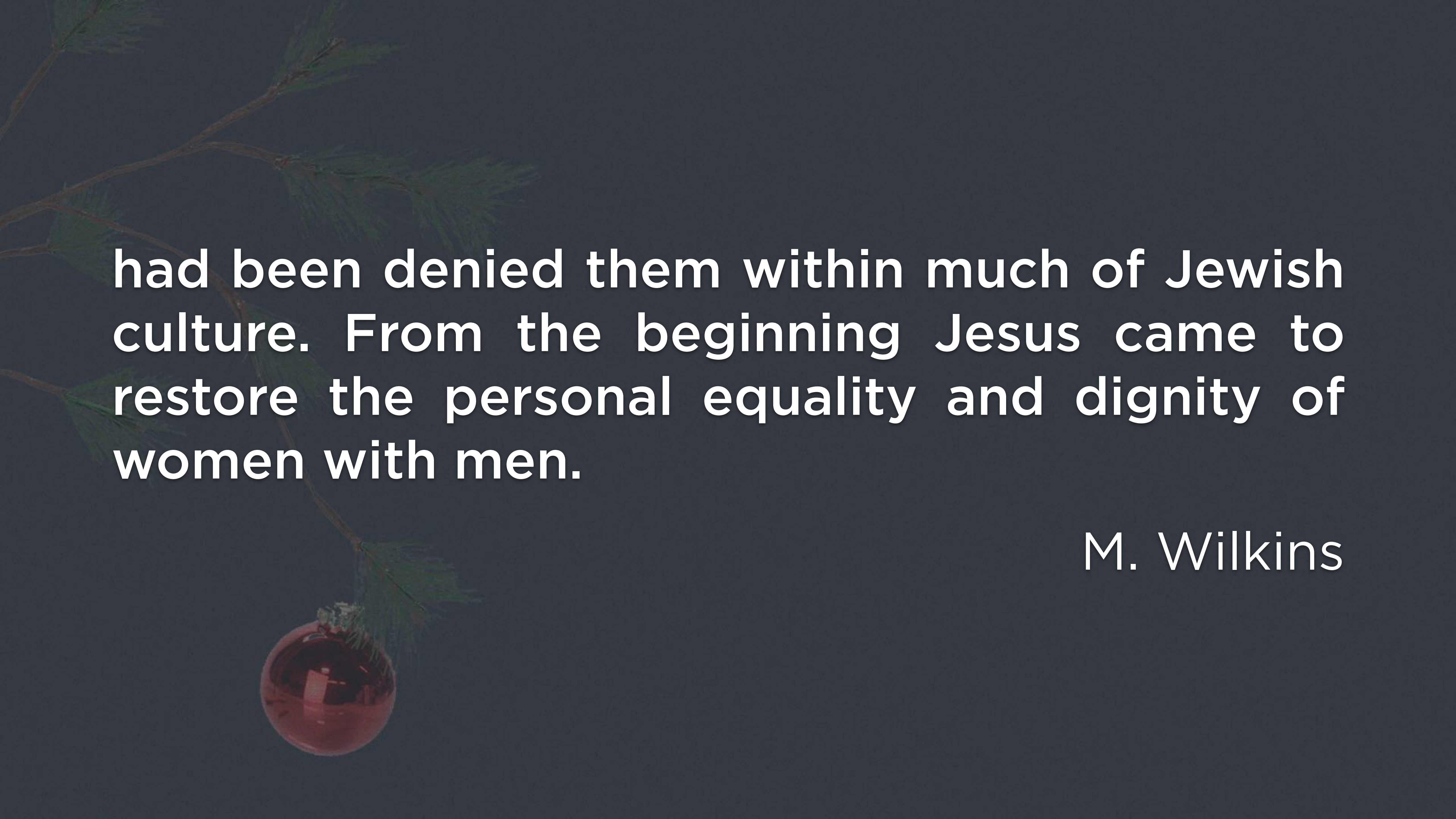


She is more righteous than I, since I wouldn't
give her to my son Shelah.

Genesis 38:26

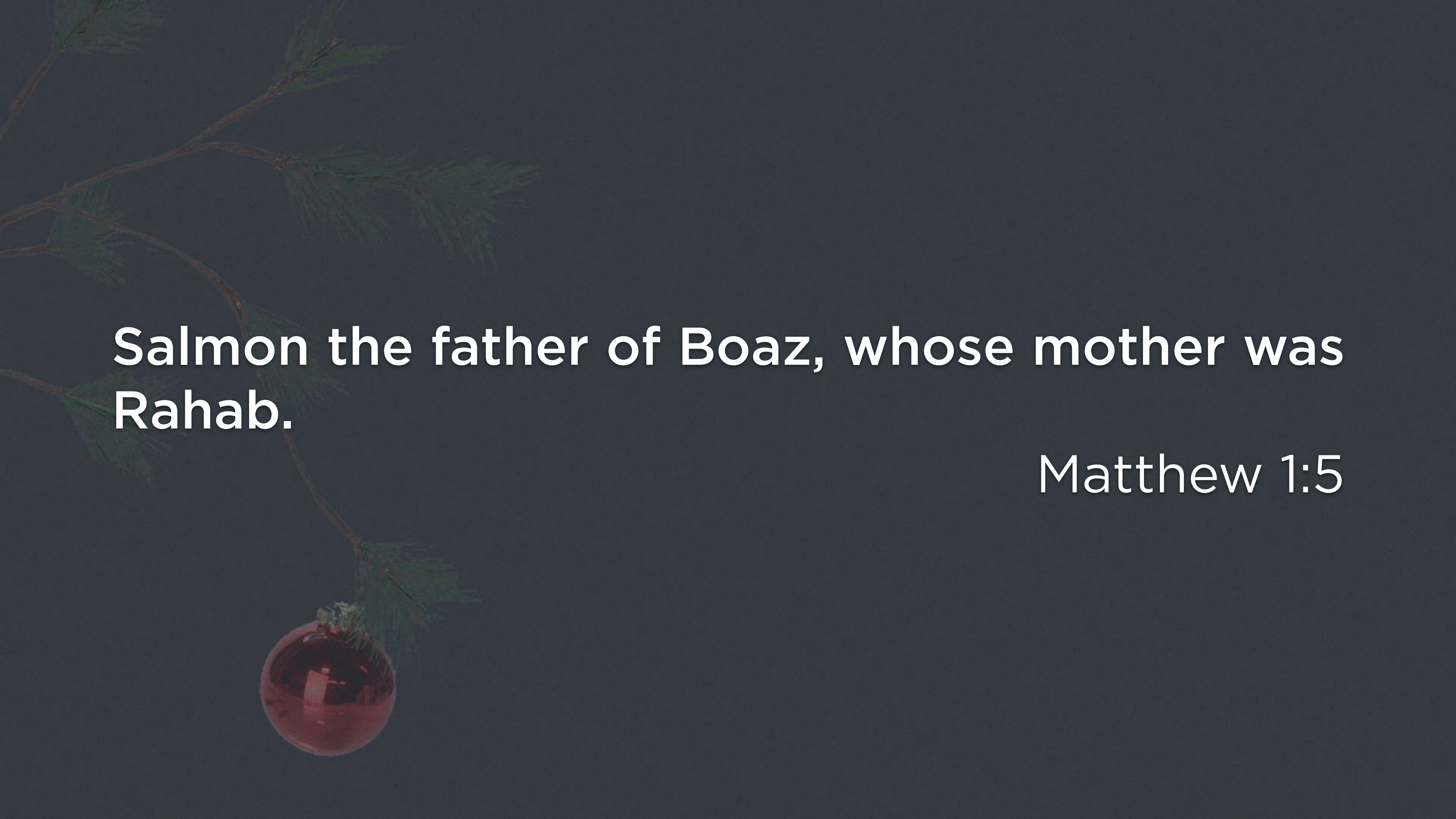
Women had experienced increasing marginalization and even abuse within Jewish society. Jesus' line includes Tamar, a woman wrongfully denied motherhood by the deceitfulness of men. The women in the genealogy represent the gender equality that





had been denied them within much of Jewish culture. From the beginning Jesus came to restore the personal equality and dignity of women with men.

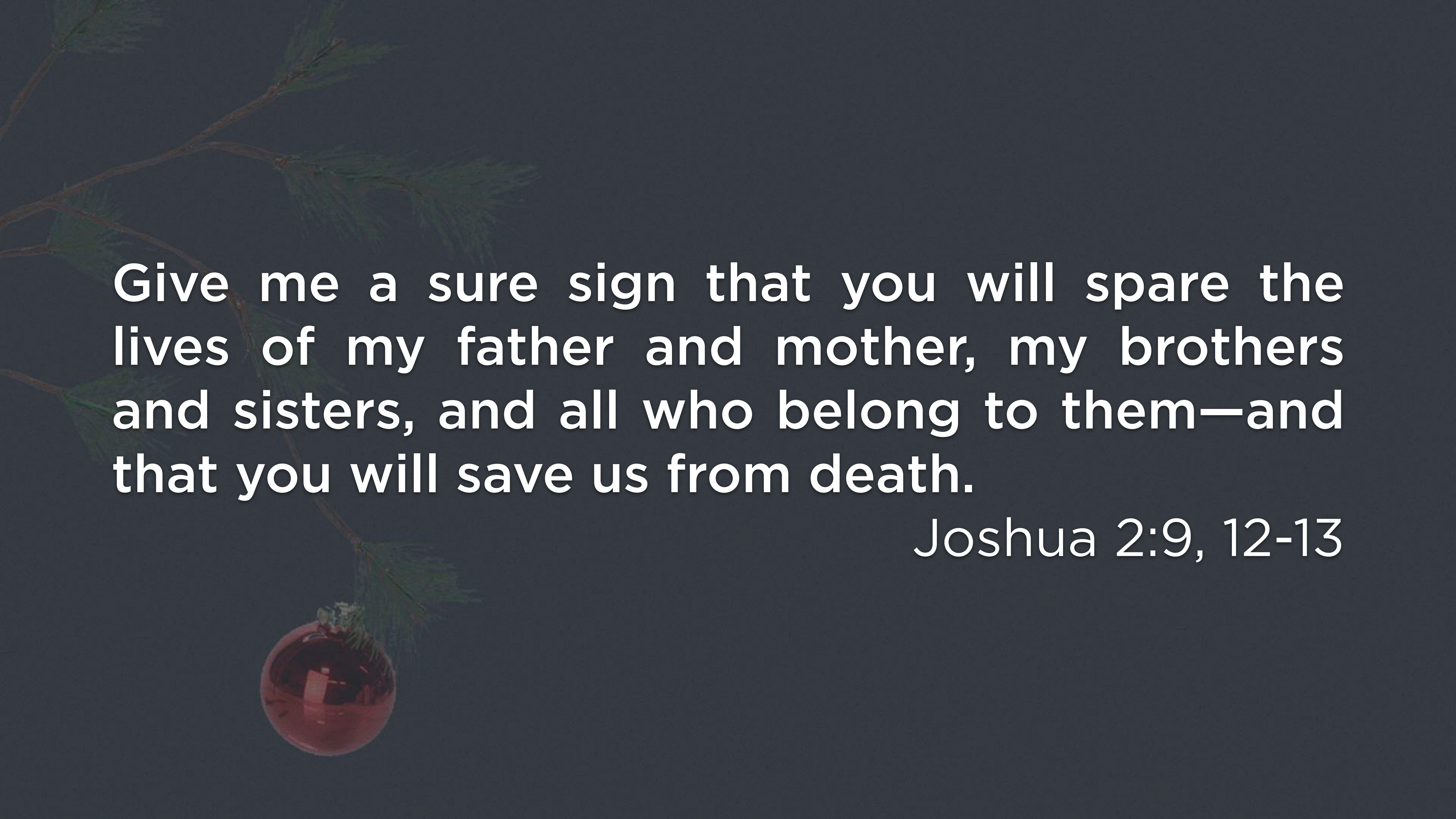
M. Wilkins



Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was
Rahab.

Matthew 1:5

I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. ...Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you.



Give me a sure sign that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.

Joshua 2:9, 12-13

Besides validating the legal rights of Christ Jesus as Messiah, the genealogy shows God embracing imperfect people in perfect grace.





**Important people
are omitted.**

Three Divisions

Abraham to David

v2-6

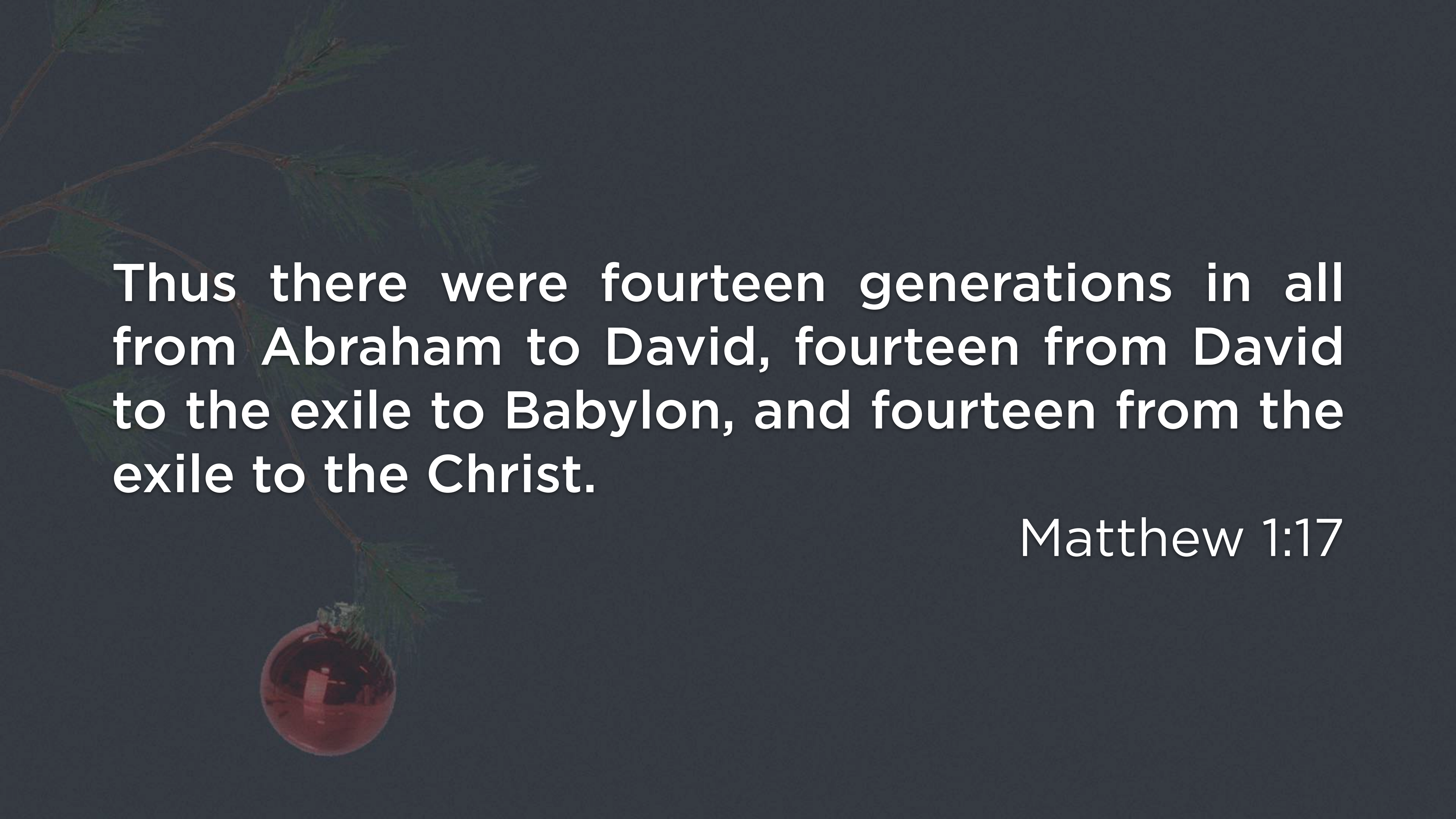
750 years

Three Divisions

**Solomon to Babylonian
Captivity
vv7-11
400 years**

Three Divisions

**Babylonian Captivity
to Joseph
vv 12-17
600 years**



Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.

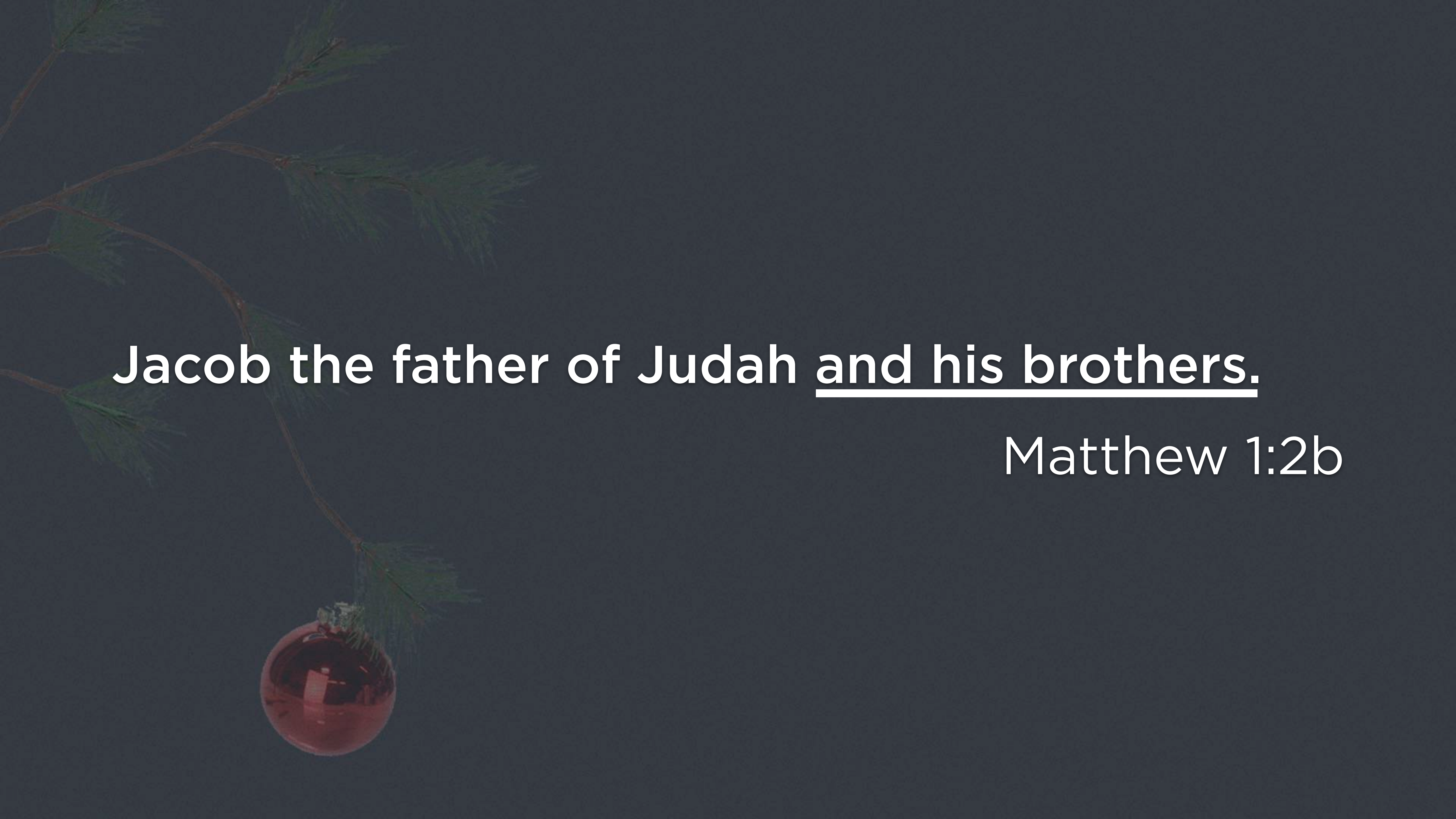
Matthew 1:17

If you are writing to a pattern of 14,
which demands you leave people
out (1 Chron. 3:10b-15) why do you
include the scandalous?



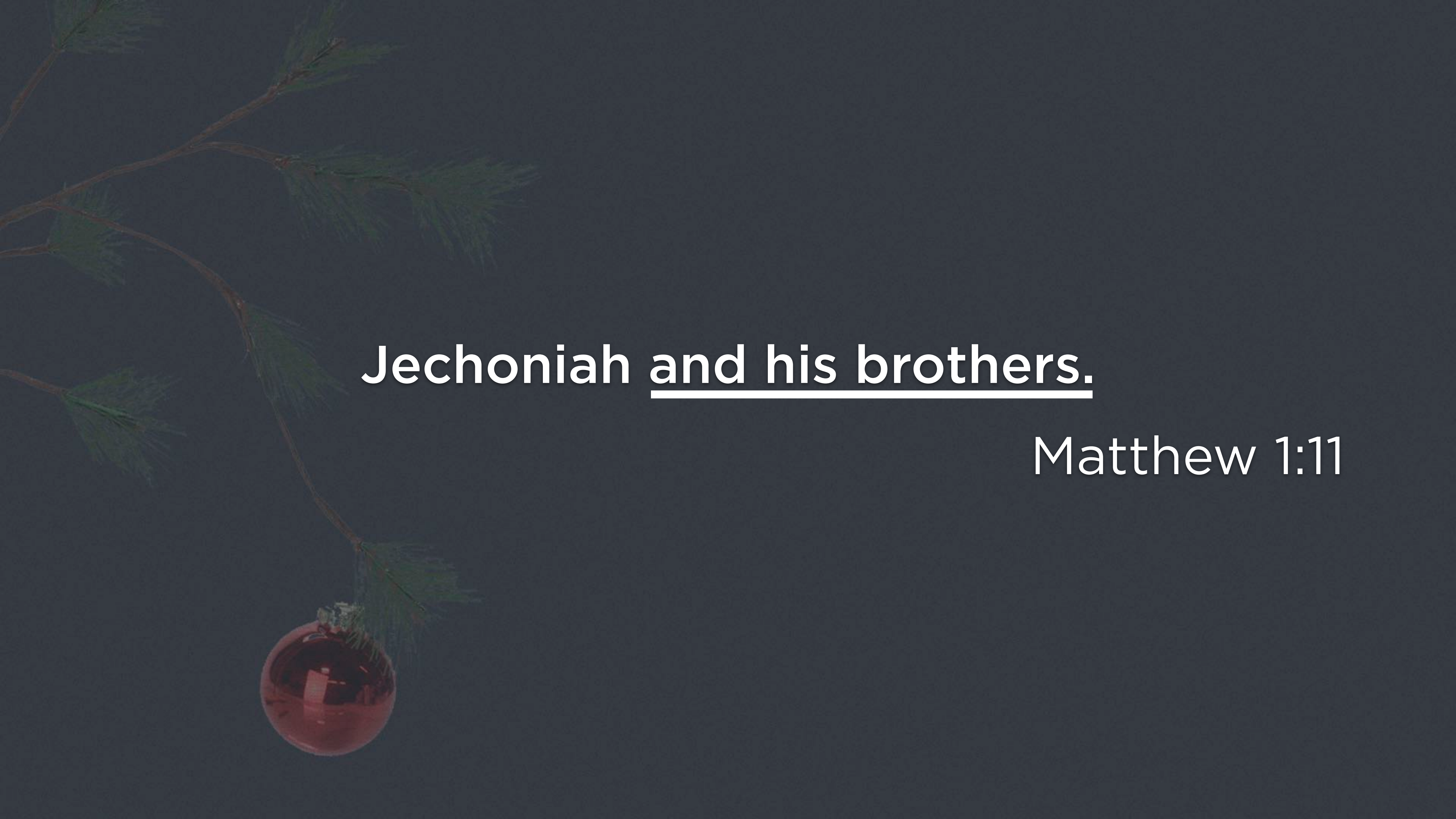
Patterns are
broken.





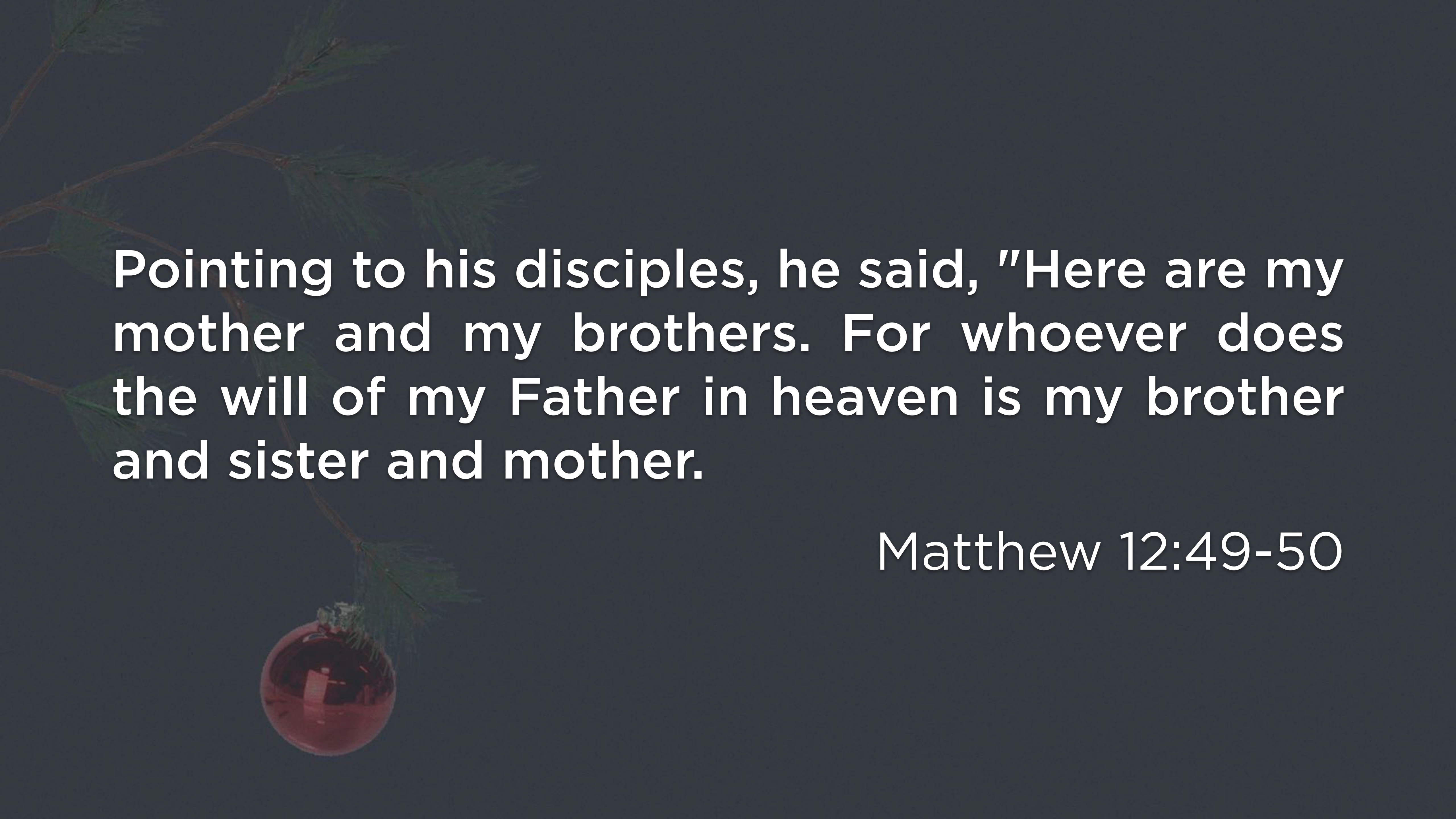
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.

Matthew 1:2b



Jechoniah and his brothers.

Matthew 1:11



Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.

Matthew 12:49-50

The flaws of the imperfect are
perfect to the God who loves them.





Question:
**What step of faith do
you need to take?**