



Come Home



Have you
made room
for Jesus in
your heart?



What do I need to lay
down before God?



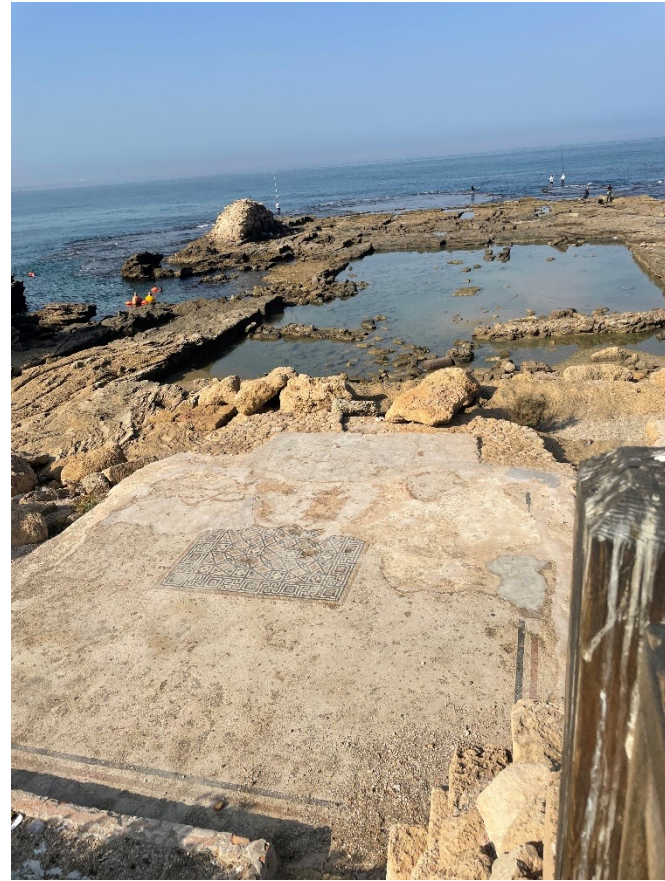
The Childhood of Jesus

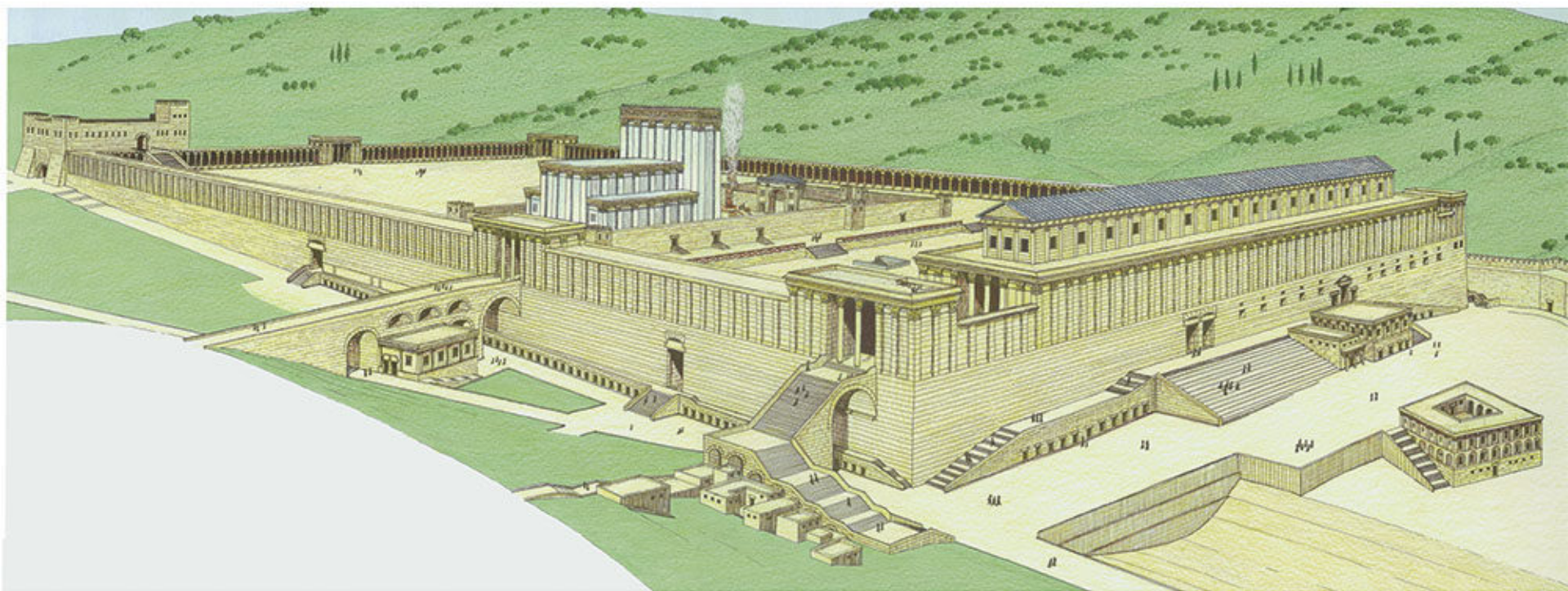
Herod the Great

- Appointed “King of the Jews” by Rome
- Half-Jewish
- Ruled over Judea 37-4 B.C.
- Great Builder











Herod the Great

- Appointed “King of the Jews” by Rome
- Half-Jewish
- Ruled over Judea 37-4 B.C.
- Great Builder
- Inflicted heavy taxes
- Suffered paranoia in last years
- Killed close associates, sons, wife
- Killed hundreds of Jewish leaders the day he died
- Caesar’s quote...



Desert Forts (= ○) in the Hasmonean and Herodian periods

Roads based on the research of Dr. Israel Roll, Tel Aviv University. About the roads...

Topography from a model by Dr. James Fleming of Biblical Resources (www.biblicalresources.net)





The Journey of the Magi



A Coming King

“I see him, but not now;

I behold him, but not near.

A star will come out of Jacob;

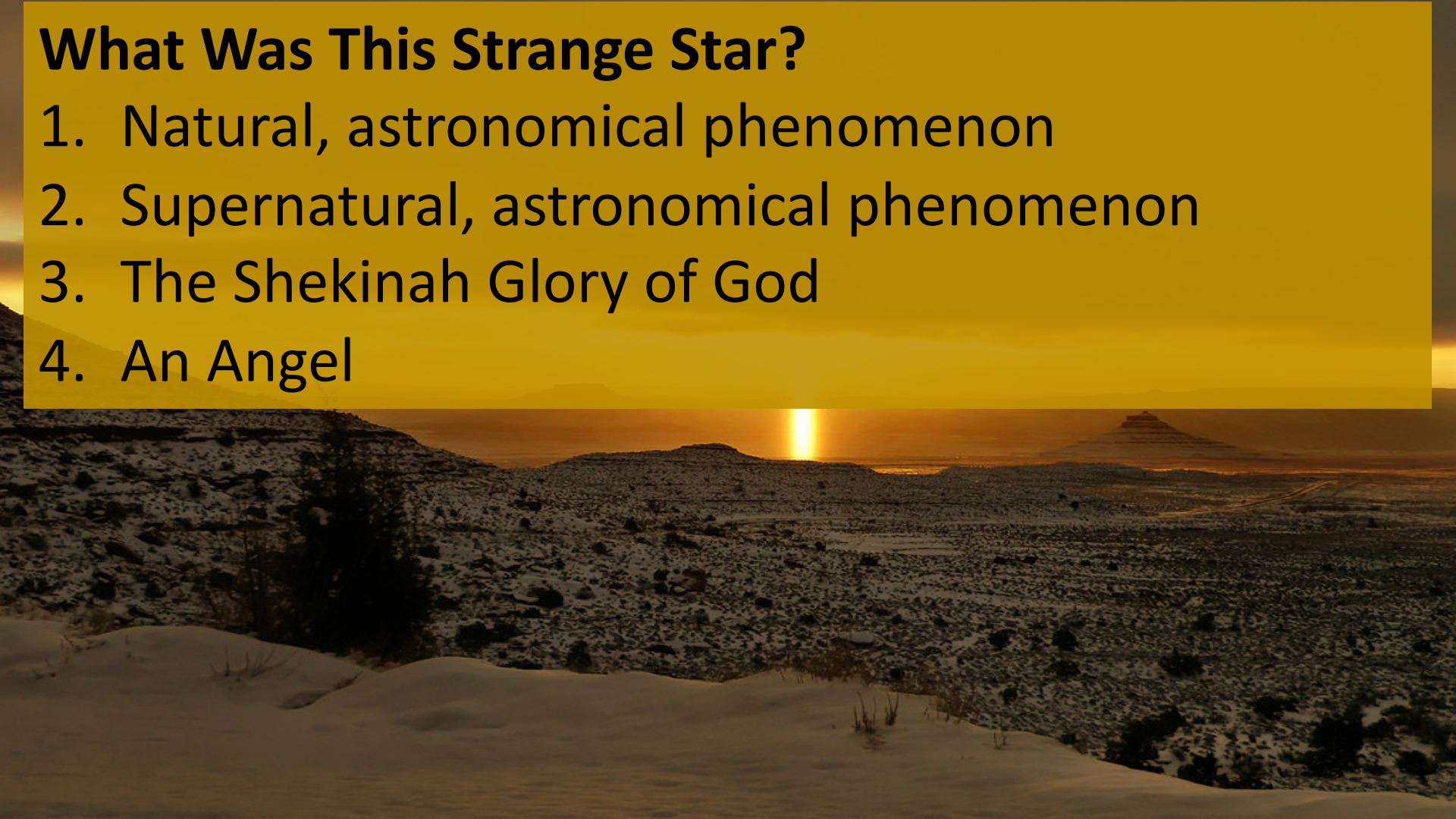
a scepter will rise out of Israel.

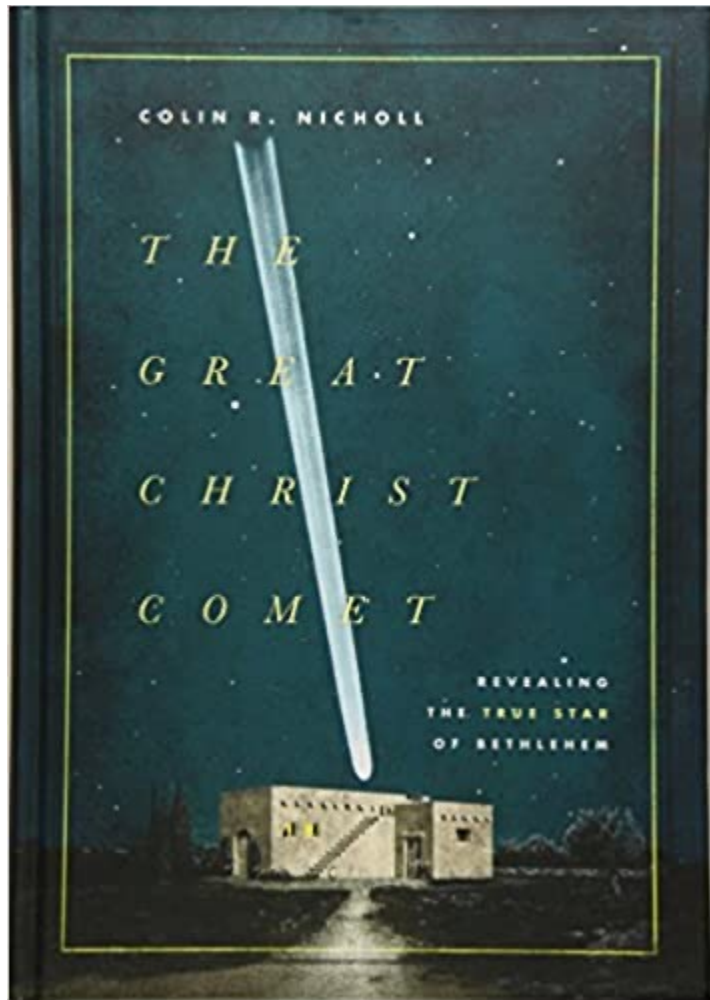
He will crush the foreheads of Moab,
the skulls of all the people of Sheth.”

Numbers 24:17

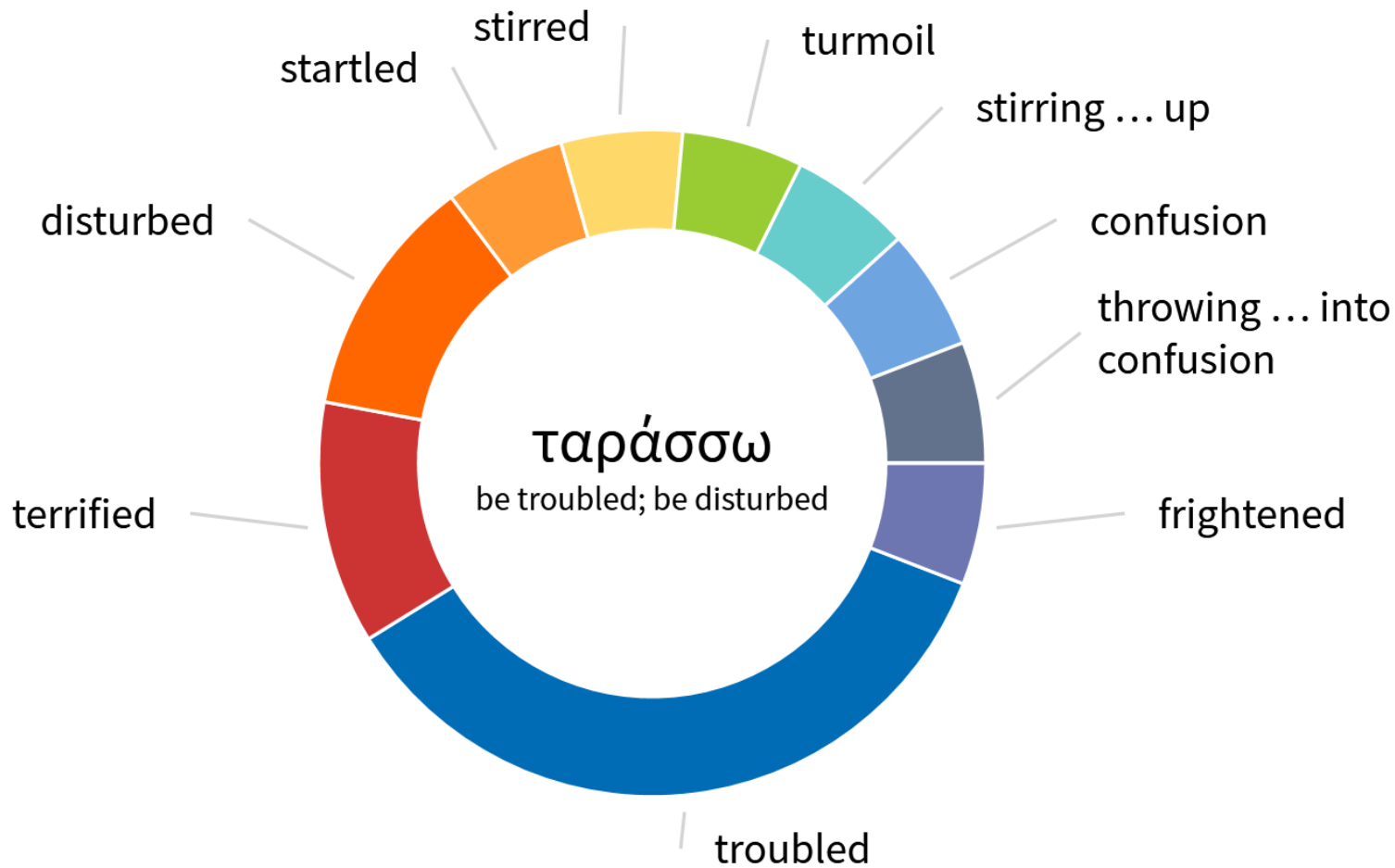
What Was This Strange Star?

1. Natural, astronomical phenomenon
2. Supernatural, astronomical phenomenon
3. The Shekinah Glory of God
4. An Angel





“The star appeared suddenly and was visible for over a year, something that makes sense only if it were a supernova or a great comet. That the star surprised the Magi with its impressive “rising” points strongly to it being a comet: Of all the celestial bodies, only comets behave in this manner...At the end of the Magi’s journey, the star stands over the place of Jesus’ birth, pinpointing a particular location. As New Testament scholar Craig Keener has pointed out, that’s something only a comet can do.”



Watch Out for Complacency

“Matthew may be suggesting that the line between taking Jesus for granted and crucifying Him is very thin.”

Craig Keener, IVP Bible Backgrounds Commentary: NT





“Who...me?!”

“There, there!”







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Lay Down Your...

1. Prejudices – God woos the most unlikely people.



Lay Down Your...

1. Prejudices – God woos the most unlikely people.
2. Fears – release them to God; faith!



Lay Down Your Fear

“So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 41:10



Lay Down Your...

1. Prejudices – God woos the most unlikely people.
2. Fears – release them to God; faith!
3. Self-ambitions – pursue God's glory, not your own

