



Christmas Series 2024:

“Knowing Christmas Favor”

December 17, 2023



1. Know Jesus & His Favor:



“Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.



. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" 29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.



30 Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.



32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

Luke 1:26-33 (NKJV)



*“Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid,
Mary, for you have found favor with God.”*

Luke 1:30 (NKJV)



Why did she find favor with God?
Scripture is not clear.



1. Mary was of the right lineage, the priestly line, Levi.



1. Mary was of the right lineage, the priestly line, Levi.
2. She was from Nazareth.



“And he [Joseph] came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.” Matthew 2:23 (NKJV)



1. Mary was of the right lineage, the priestly line, Levi.
2. She was from Nazareth.
3. Joseph's Lineage was through David.
(Thus, trip to Bethlehem fulfilling Micah 5:2.)



*“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are little among the thousands
of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth
to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose
goings forth are from of old,
from everlasting.” Micah 5:2 (NKJV)*



1. Mary was of the right lineage, the priestly line, Levi.
2. She was from Nazareth.
3. Joseph's Lineage was through David.
(Thus, trip to Bethlehem fulfilling Micah 5:2.)
4. She was a Virgin, and of good Character.



Nazareth population approximately 400 people.
Thus, 200 were women.

If avg. life span 50 yrs old, 4 females per age.

Marital age 13-16 = 16 women.

How many of those were Levi?

How many were already engaged/married?

Fiancé from Bethlehem?

Why Mary? She was Chosen!





“28 Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” ... 30 Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.” Luke 1:28,30 (NKJV)



Do you know who also is favored by God?



Do you know who also is favored by God?

You.



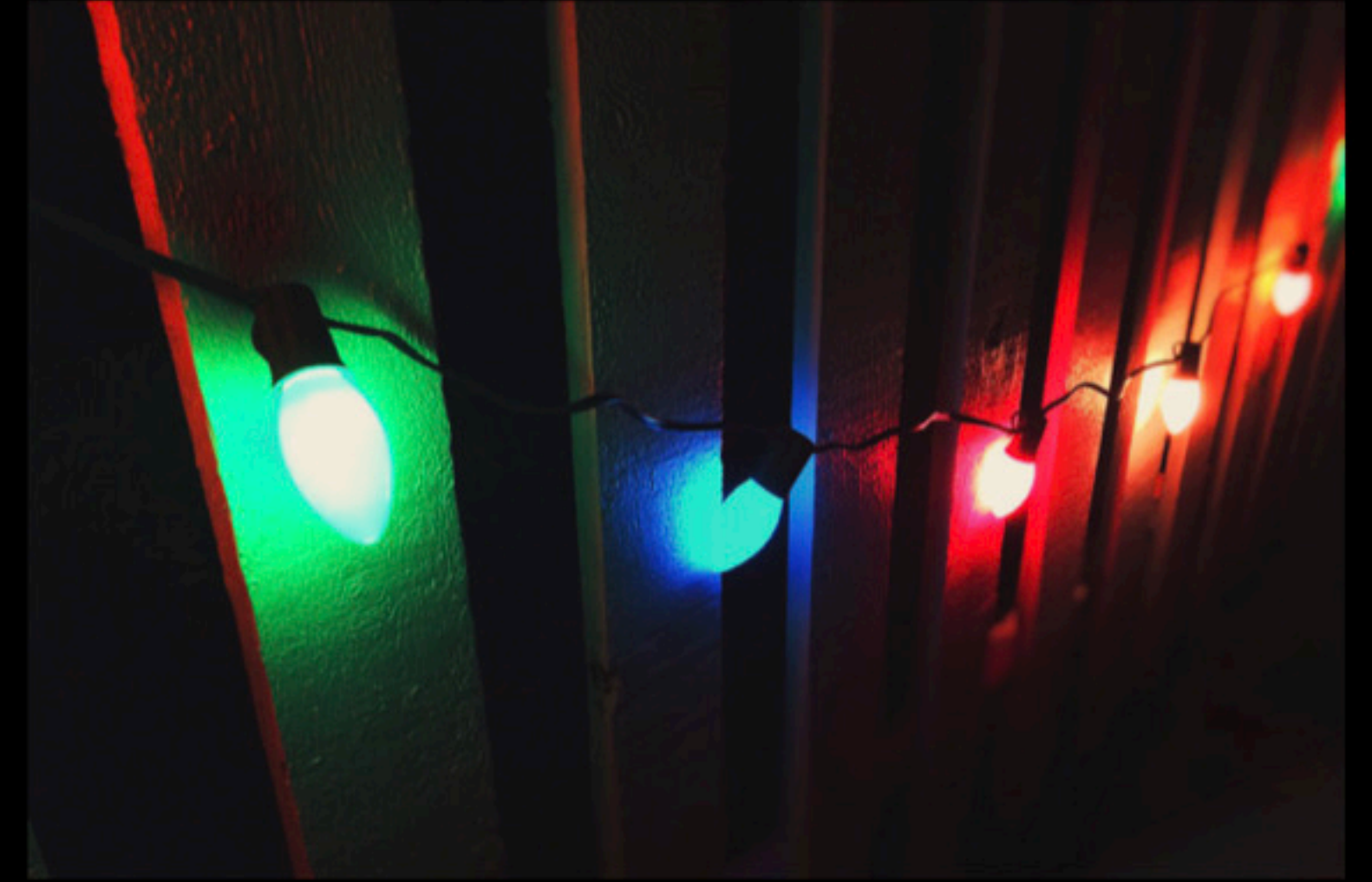
How does anyone find favor with God?



Clearly in the Bible, God Owes Nobody anything.

“The Holy Writings say, “Who knows the mind of the Lord? Who is able to tell Him what to do?”³⁵ “Who has given first to God, that God should pay him back?”

Romans 11:34,35 (NLV)



If we can't earn His favor, is there any work that we can do to please Him?



*“Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”
29 Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” John 6:28,29 (NKJV)*

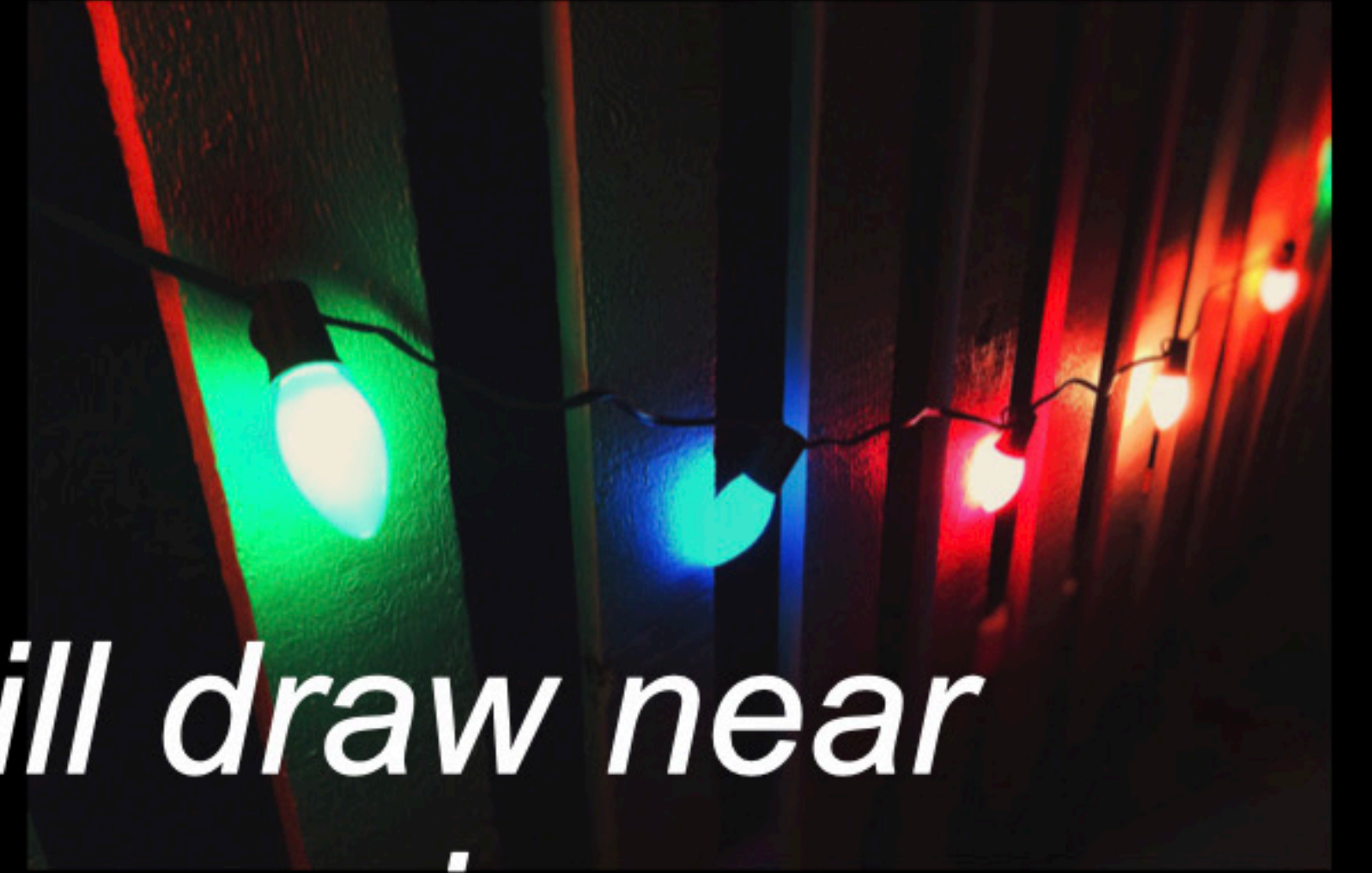


“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Luke 4:18,19 (NIV)



*“for the Son of Man has come to seek
and to save that which was lost.”*

Luke 19:10 (NKJV)



“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” James 4:8 (NKJV)

2. Believe in God's Plan for Your Life:



“Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”



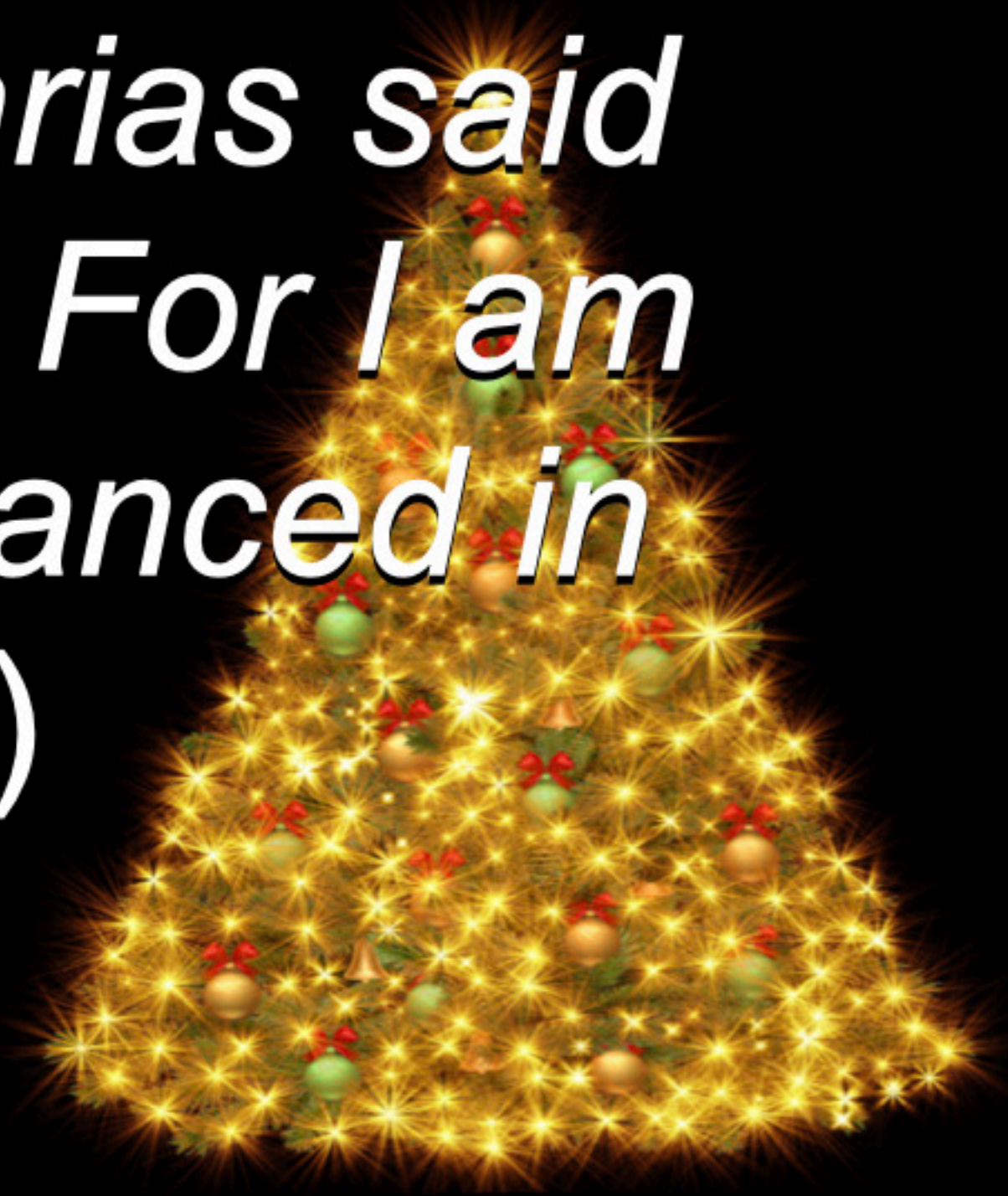
³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible.” ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.” Luke 1:34-38 (NKJV)



“But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. ¹⁵ For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, ...



17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ***18 And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years."*** Luke 1:13-18 (NKJV)



“And the angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. ²⁰ But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.” Luke 1:19,20 (NKJV)



What plans has God spoken over your life?




Has He promised that He will guide you.

“For His eyes are on the ways of man, and He sees all his steps.” Job 34:21 (NKJV)

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way.” Psalm 37:23 (NKJV)

“A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.” Proverbs 16:9 (NKJV)

Two lit red candles are positioned in the bottom left corner of the image. The candles are lit, with bright yellow and orange flames. The background is dark, making the glowing candles stand out.


“The Lord directs our steps, so why try to understand everything along the way?”

Proverbs 20:24 (NLT)



**How can we become pregnant with the
Christmas story of God's favor for
you and others?**



A scenic landscape featuring rolling mountains in the background, several tall evergreen trees in the foreground, and a flock of birds flying in a blue sky with soft, white clouds. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

There once was an animal
who had never seen Christmas

