



DARK

Christmas

December 14 - A Different World

*The gritty reality of redemption's arrival*

1. All people can come to Jesus and are right to come to him

They came



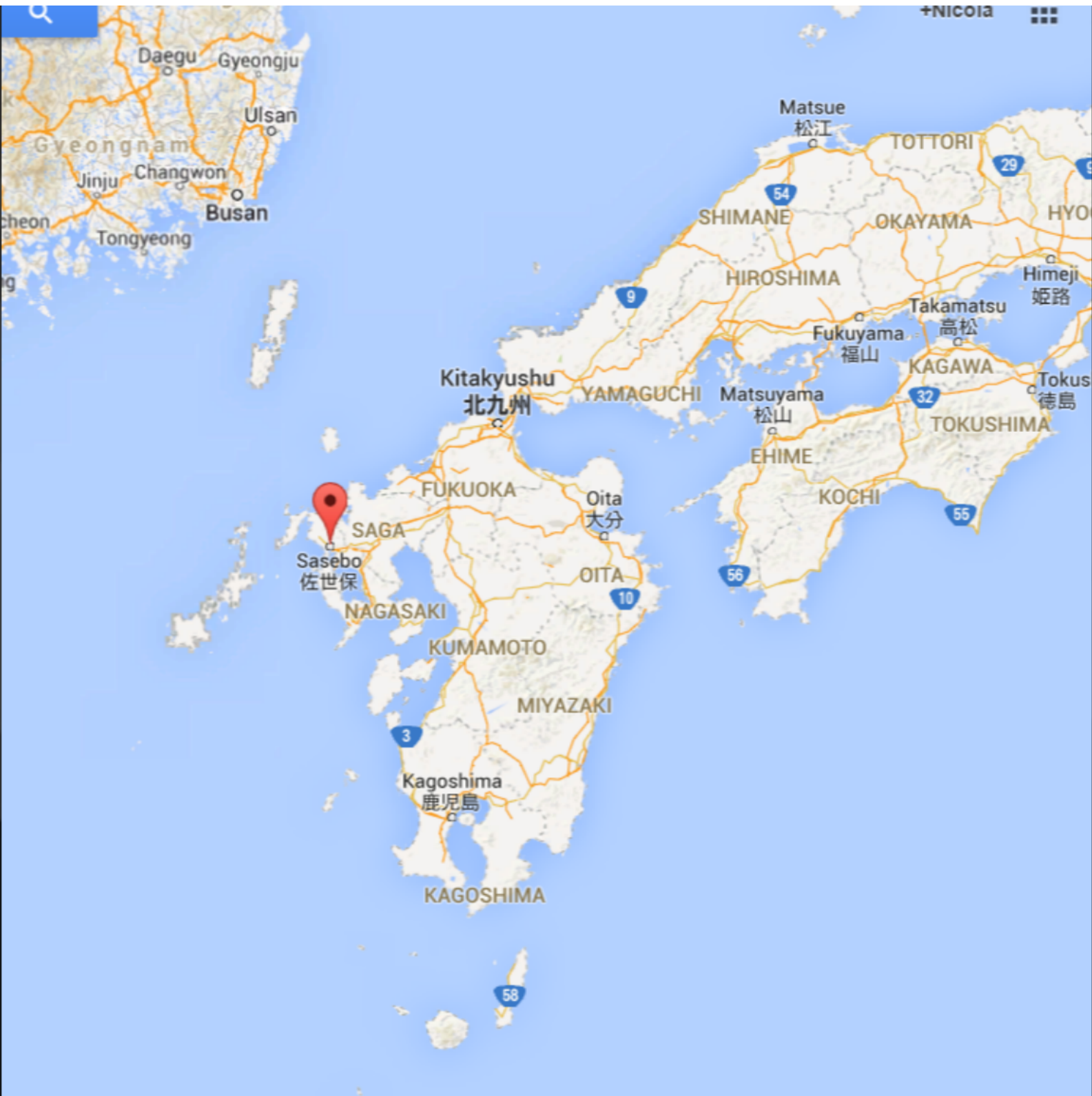
They were right to

Isaiah 49:6

he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles; that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

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# Not without witness to all peoples...

Psalm 19:1-4

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. 3 There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. 4 Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Romans 2:12-15

All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law...(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, 15 since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)

Acts 17:24-30

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone-- an image made by man's design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

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Creation

Providence



# "Scandal of Particularity"

*There is no generic human*

man, not woman

Used hammers, not computers

Jew, not gentile

Israel, not North America

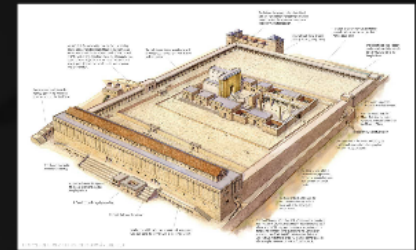
Spoke Aramaic, not English

Ancient, not modern

Rural, not urban



## 2. Jesus is a foreigner to those that claim him



Matthew 2:4-6

When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel." (Micah 5:2)

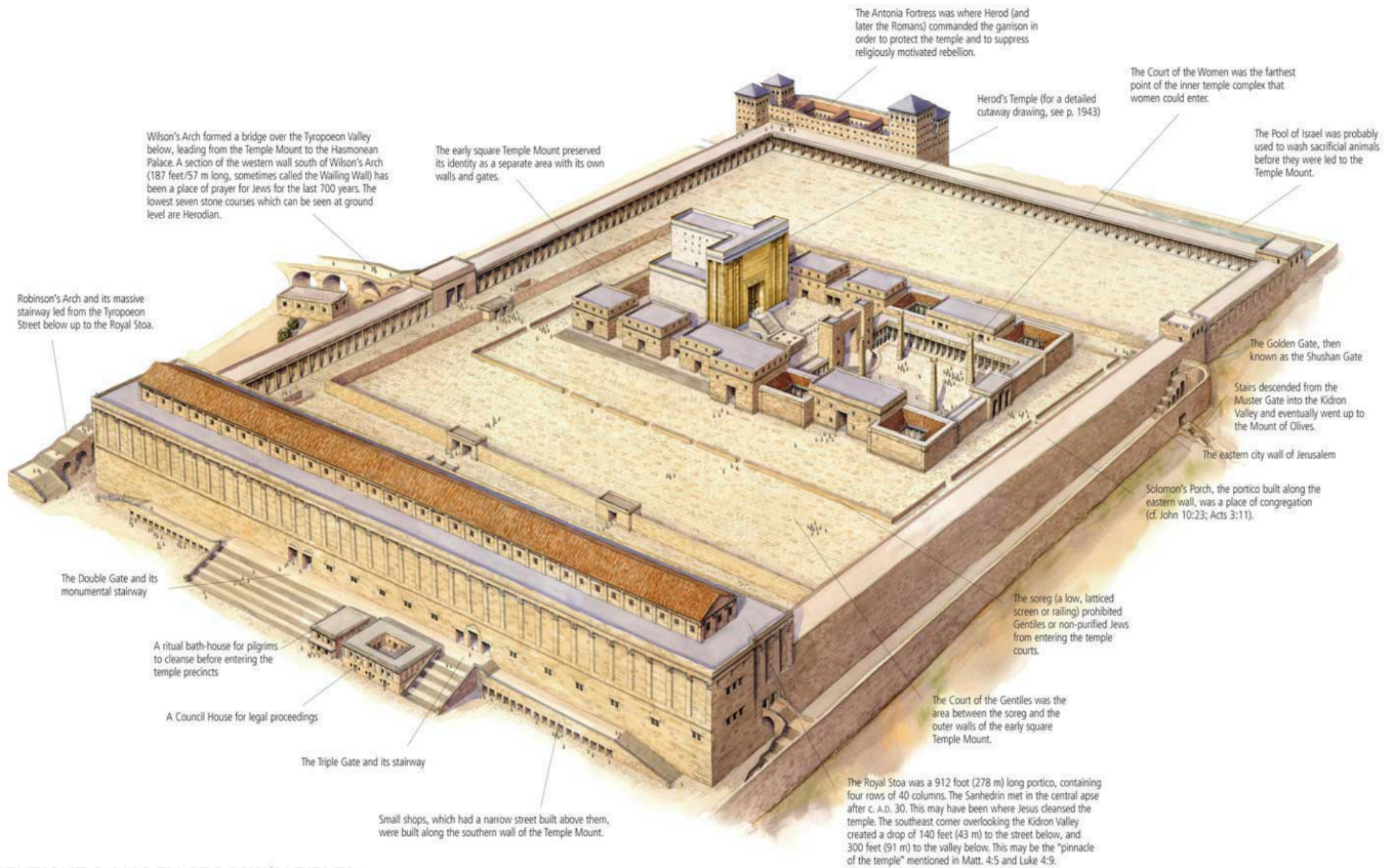


A painting of the Nativity scene. Mary is kneeling in the center, holding the infant Jesus. Joseph stands to the left, holding a staff. Three wise men are on the right, one kneeling in adoration. The scene is set in a stable with a manger. The text 'UH-OH!' is overlaid in large white letters with a black outline at the top center.

**UH-OH!**

**DID ANYONE THINK TO BRING DIAPERS?**





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{Micah 5:2}

# 3. Jesus always feels foreign, but isn't.

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



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You Tube

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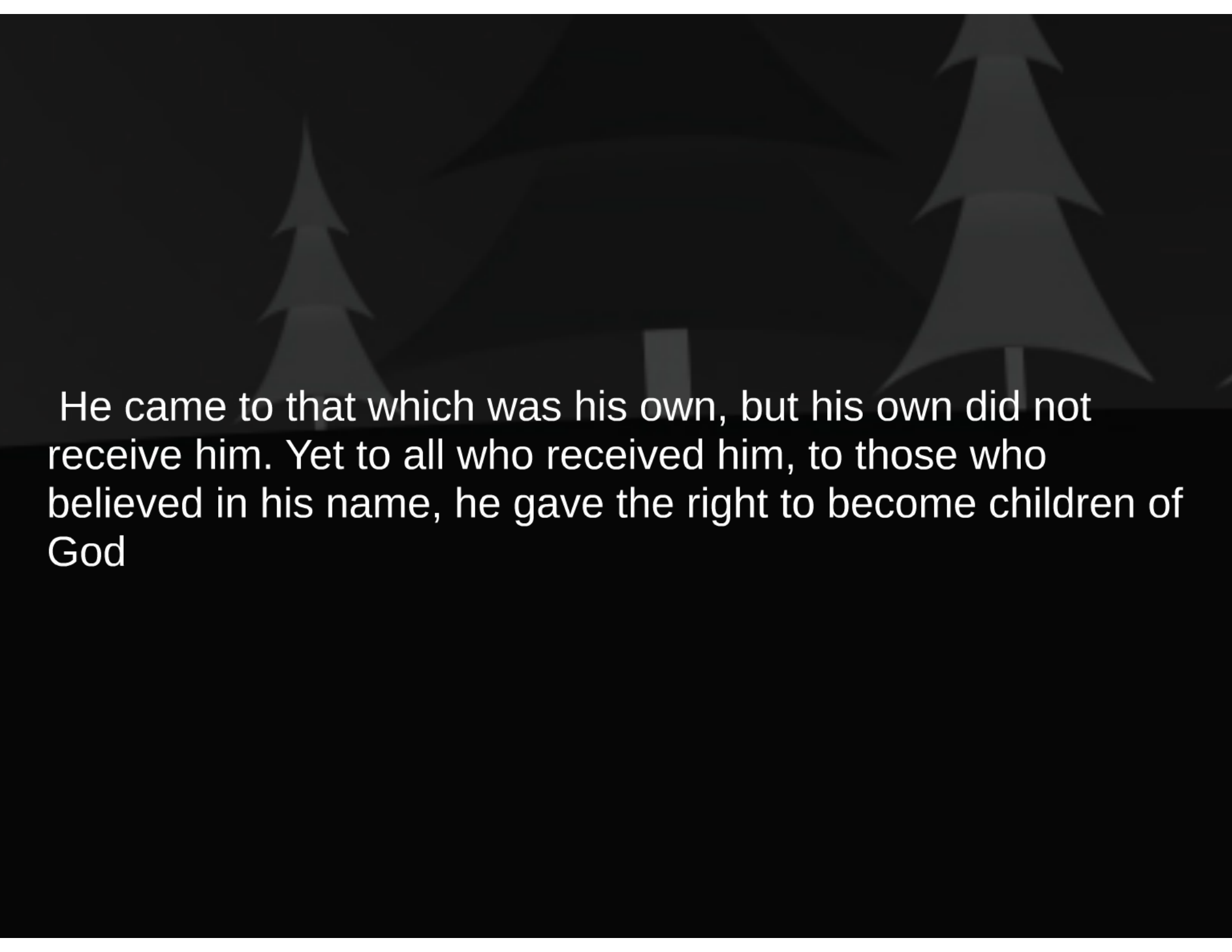
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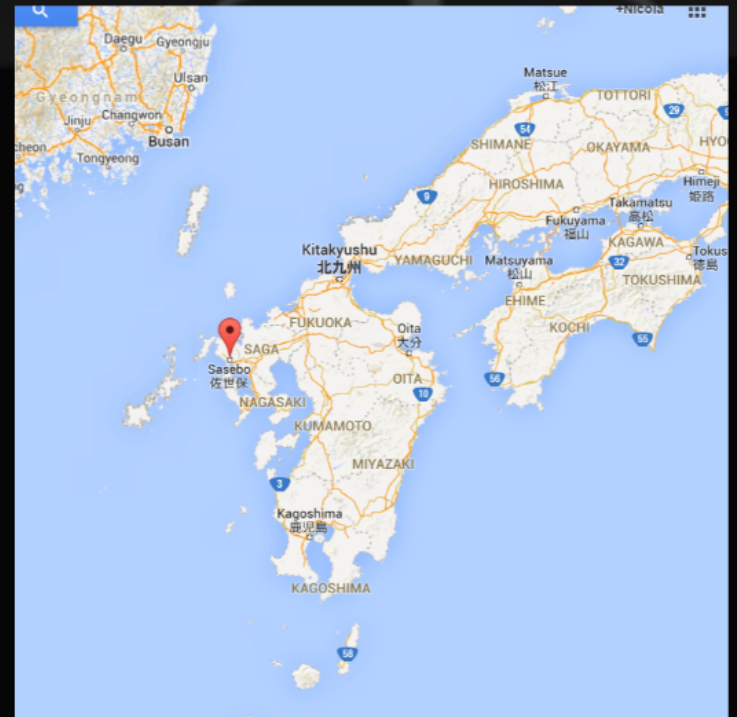
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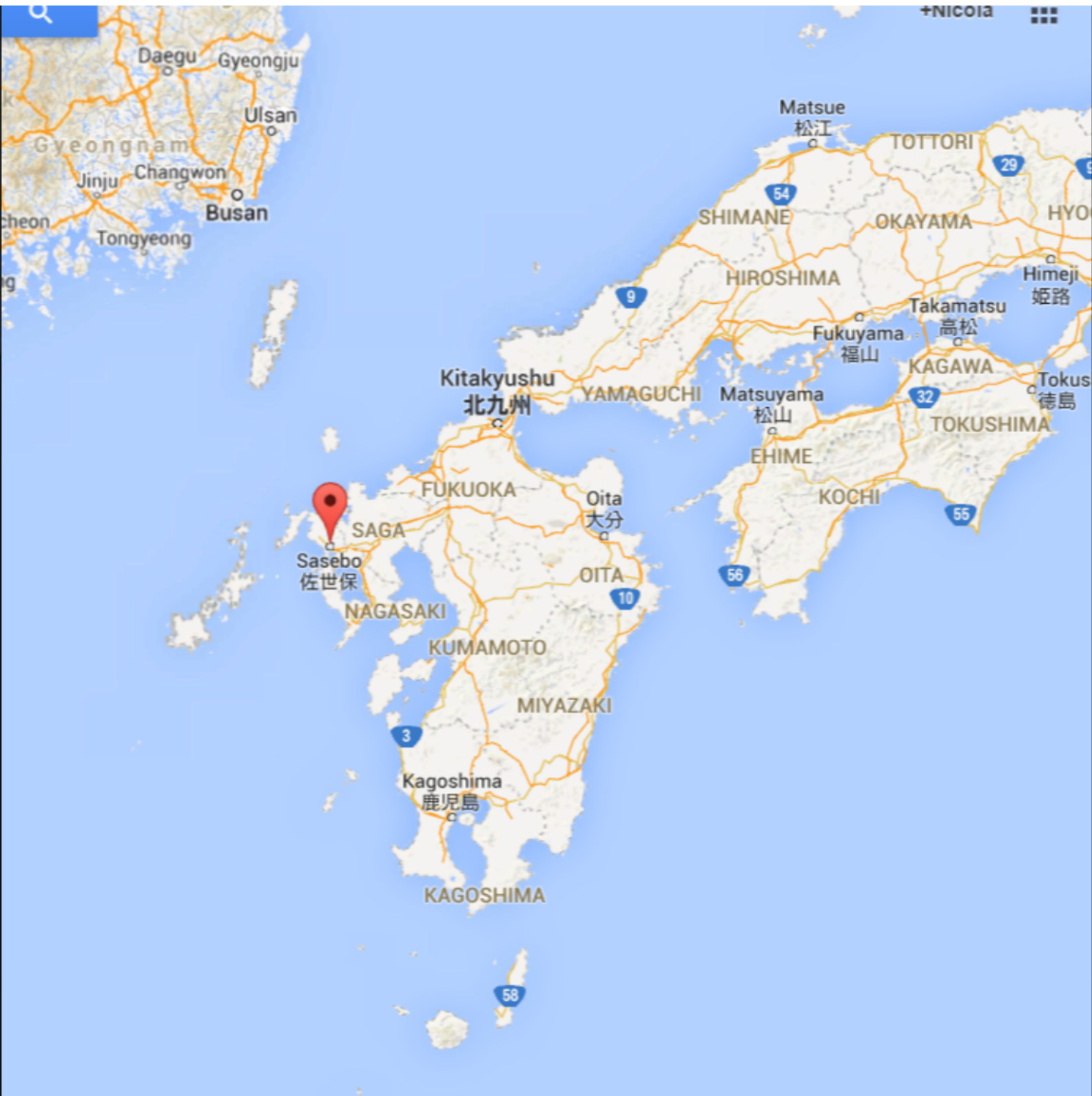


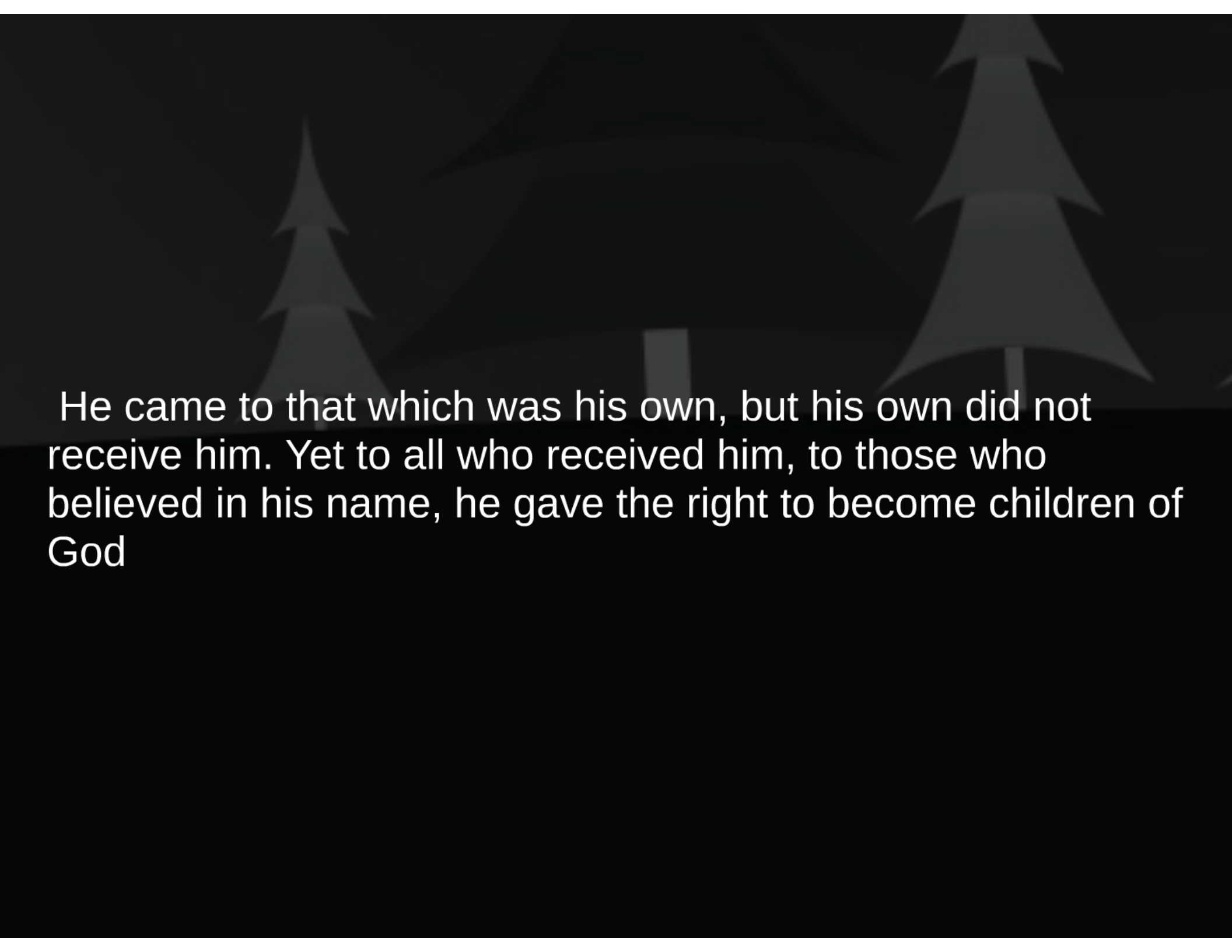
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They were miserable too





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