

Isaiah 40:9-11 (NRSV)

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

THE BOOK OF  
ISAIAH

1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzzi'ah, Jotham, Ahal, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.  
2 He said, Hear ye, and give ear, O earth, for the Lord has spoken.  
3 The ox knows its owner, and the ass its master's crib; but Israel does not know, my people does not understand.

your cities are burned  
in your land, and  
it is desolate, as overgrown  
with  
like a booth in a vineyard,  
like a lodge in a  
9 If the LORD of hosts  
had not left us a few  
we should have been  
and become like  
10 Hear ye



***Advent Series: Matthew's Telling of Jesus' Story***  
**Sermon: What Child is This?**

**Matthew 2:13-23 (NRSV)**

**Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.**

Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.










HOLDING A GRUDGE  
IS LETTING  
SOMEONE LIVE  
RENT-FREE IN  
YOUR HEAD.

# HOSEA 11

**Hosea 11:1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.**

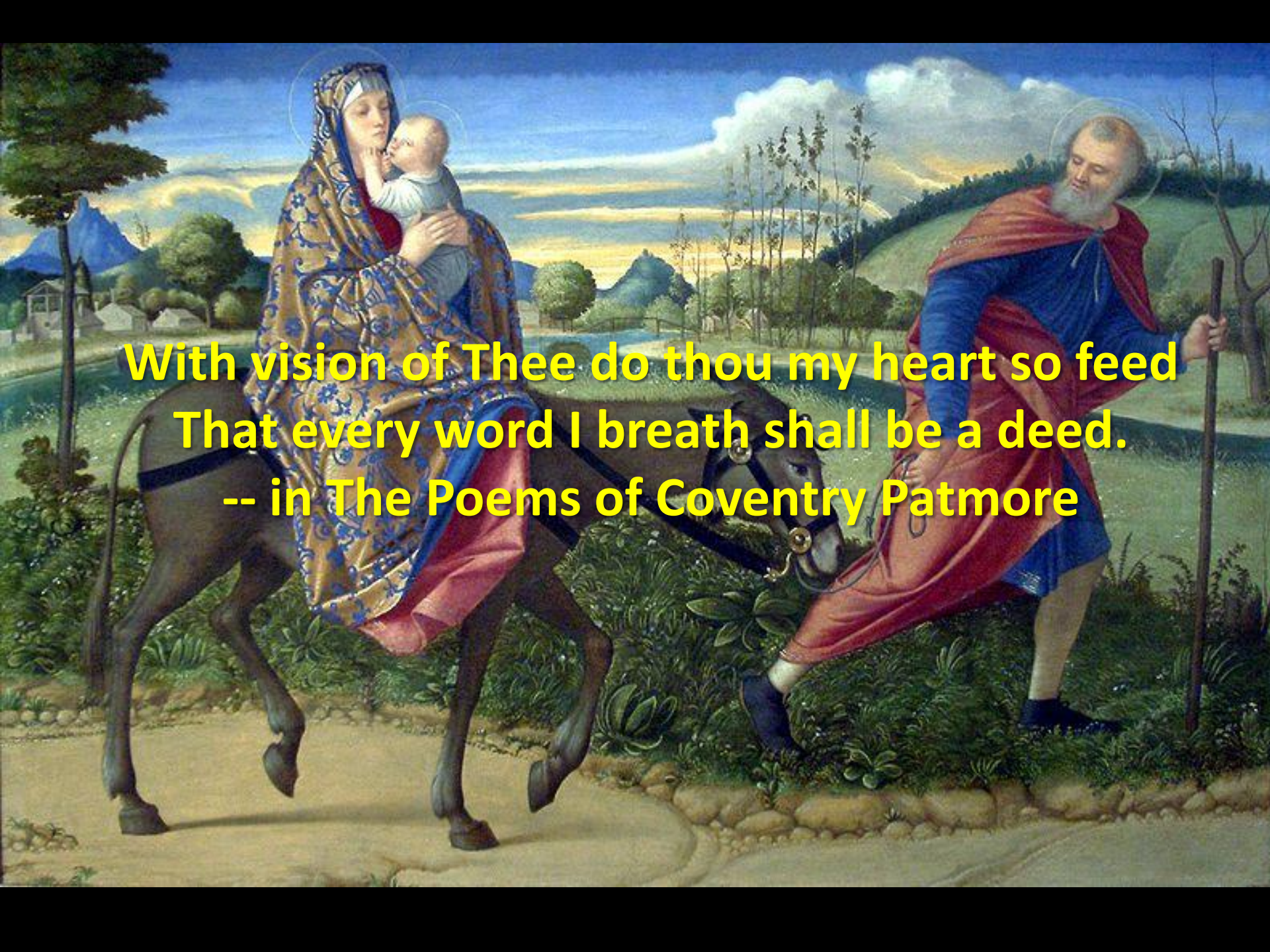
**Hosea 11:2 The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols**






**Jeremiah 31:31-33** The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

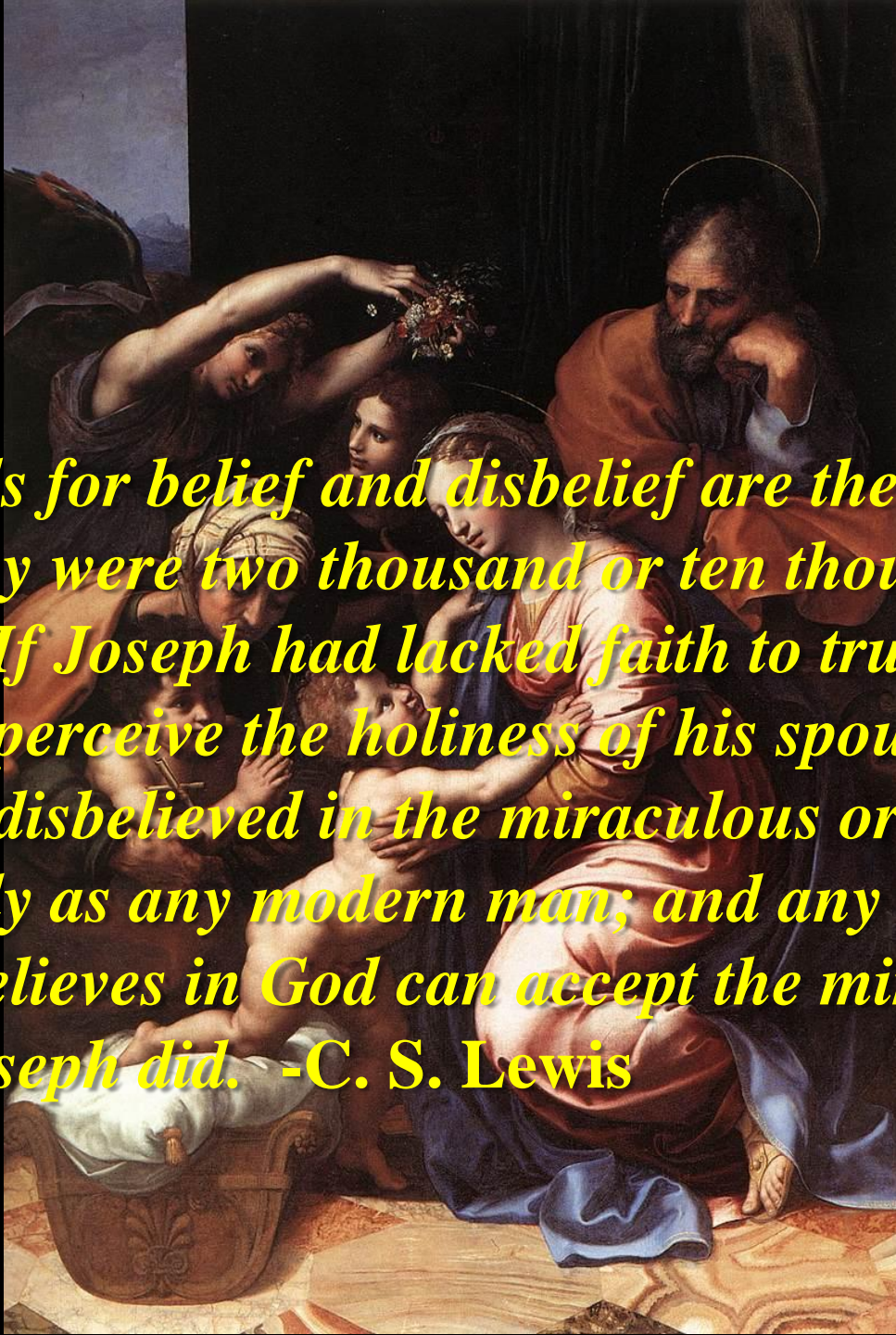
**Jeremiah 31:15** Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more



**With vision of Thee do thou my heart so feed  
That every word I breath shall be a deed.  
-- in The Poems of Coventry Patmore**

A small white airplane with blue stripes is flying in a clear blue sky. The sun is visible in the upper left corner, creating a lens flare effect. The airplane is viewed from a low angle, showing its wings and tail.

**Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,  
as though you were working for the Lord, and  
not for men" (Colossians 3:23TEV).**



*The grounds for belief and disbelief are the same today as they were two thousand or ten thousand -- years ago. If Joseph had lacked faith to trust God or humility to perceive the holiness of his spouse, he could have disbelieved in the miraculous origin of her Son as easily as any modern man; and any modern man who believes in God can accept the miracle as easily as Joseph did. -C. S. Lewis*





Merry Christmas

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