

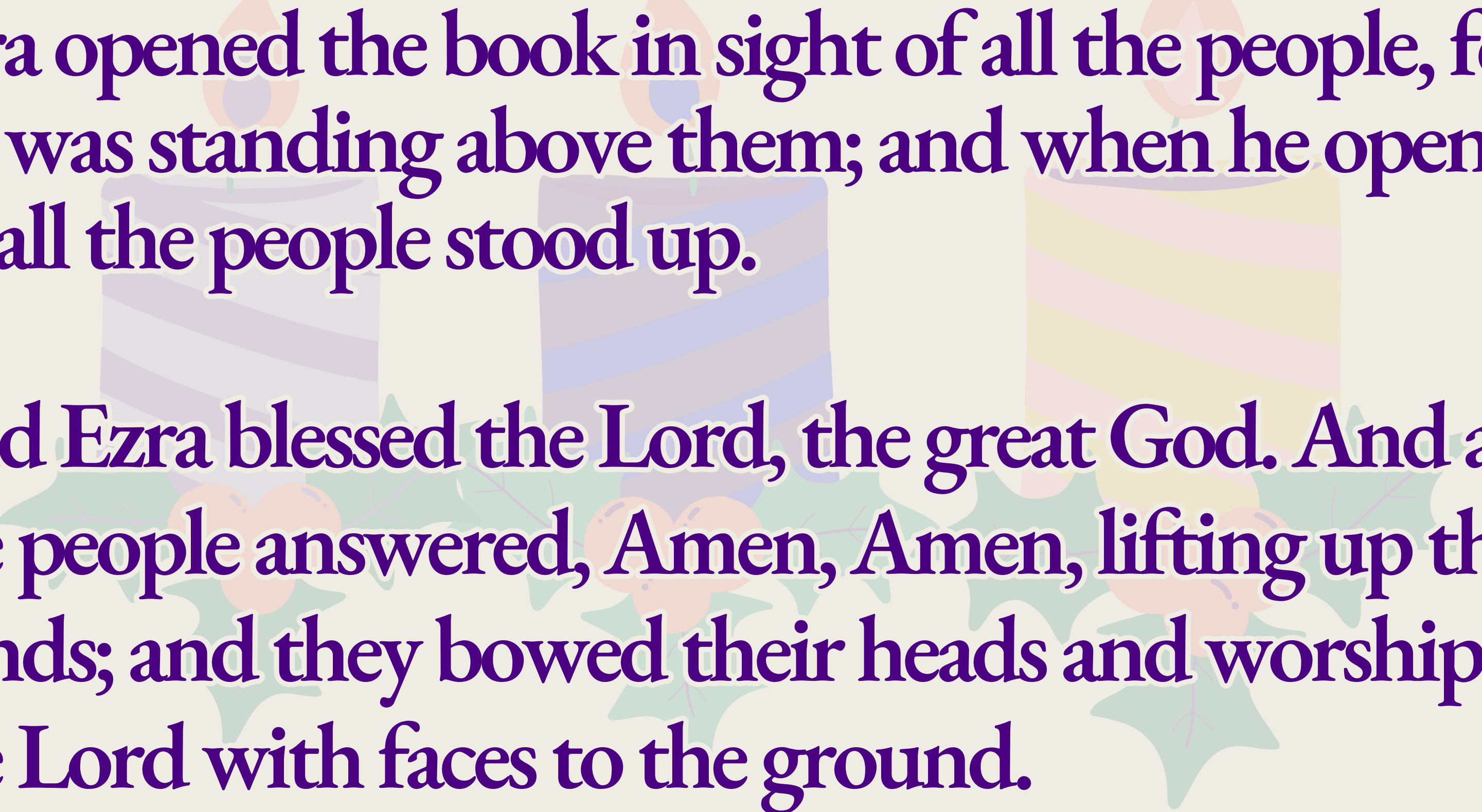


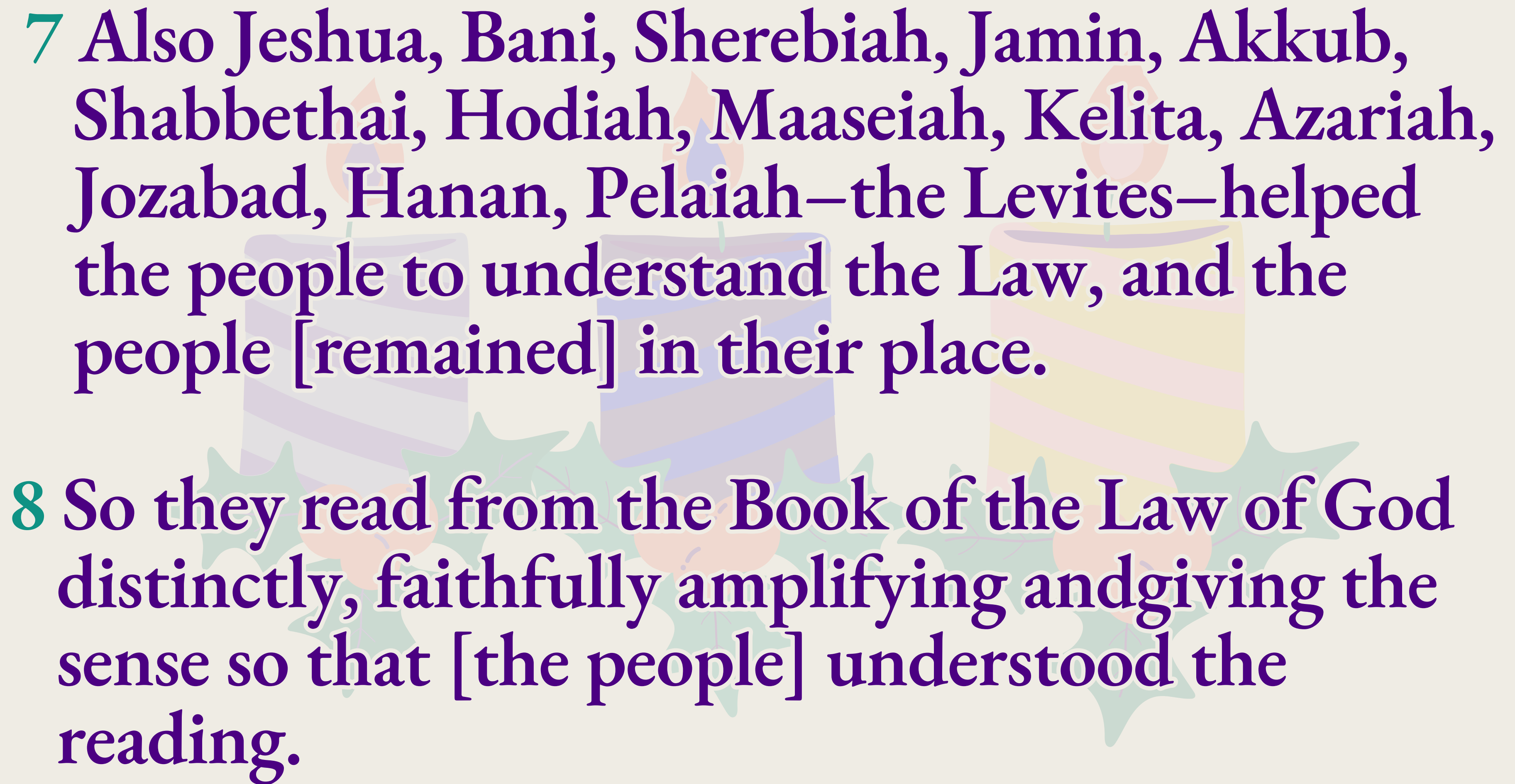
# *The Candle of Joy*

*Nehemiah 8:5-12 (AMPC)*

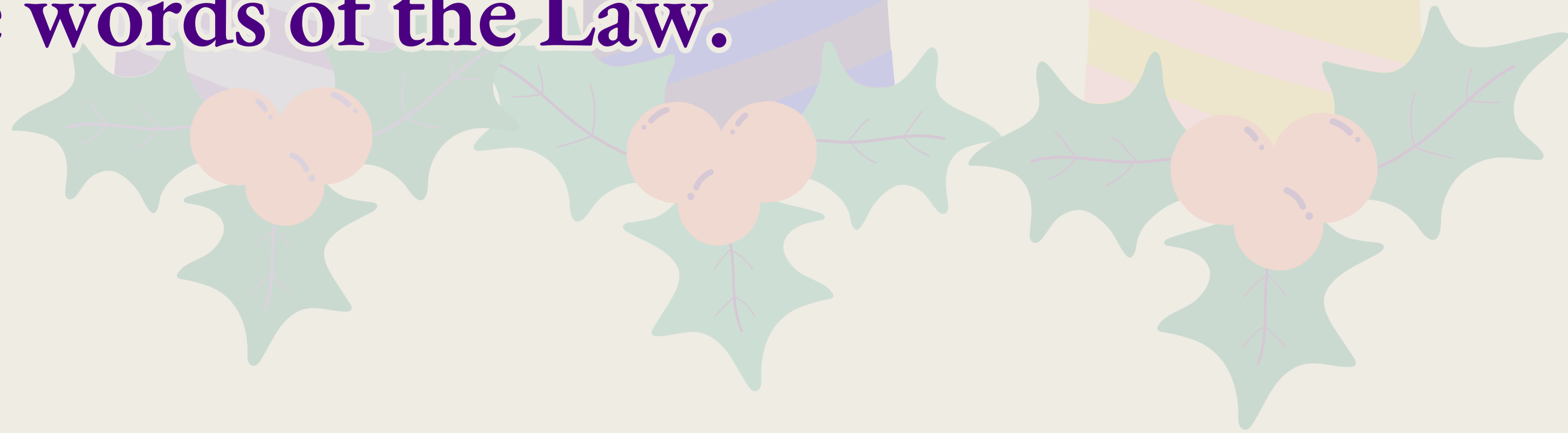
*Luke 2:7-20 (AMPC)*

# *Nehemiah 8:5-12 (AMPC)*

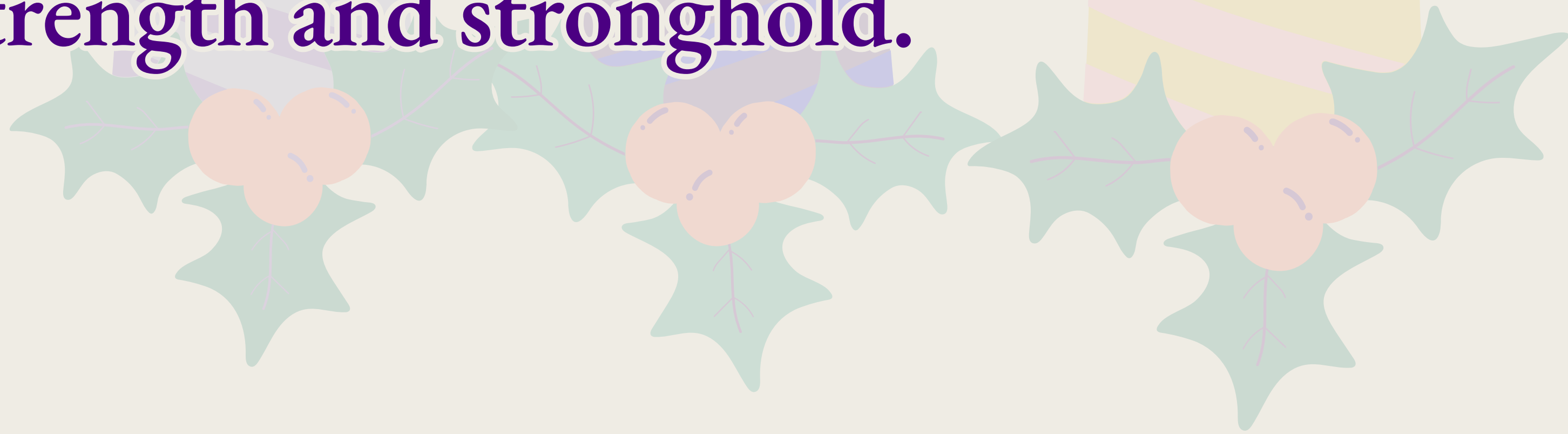
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- 5 Ezra opened the book in sight of all the people, for he was standing above them; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.
- 6 And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, lifting up their hands; and they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with faces to the ground.

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- 7 Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah—the Levites—helped the people to understand the Law, and the people [remained] in their place.
- 8 So they read from the Book of the Law of God distinctly, faithfully amplifying and giving the sense so that [the people] understood the reading.

9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all of them, This day is holy to the Lord your God; mourn not nor weep. For all the people wept when they heard the words of the Law.



**10** Then [Ezra] told them, Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet drink, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. And be not grieved and depressed, for the joy of the Lord is your strength and stronghold.

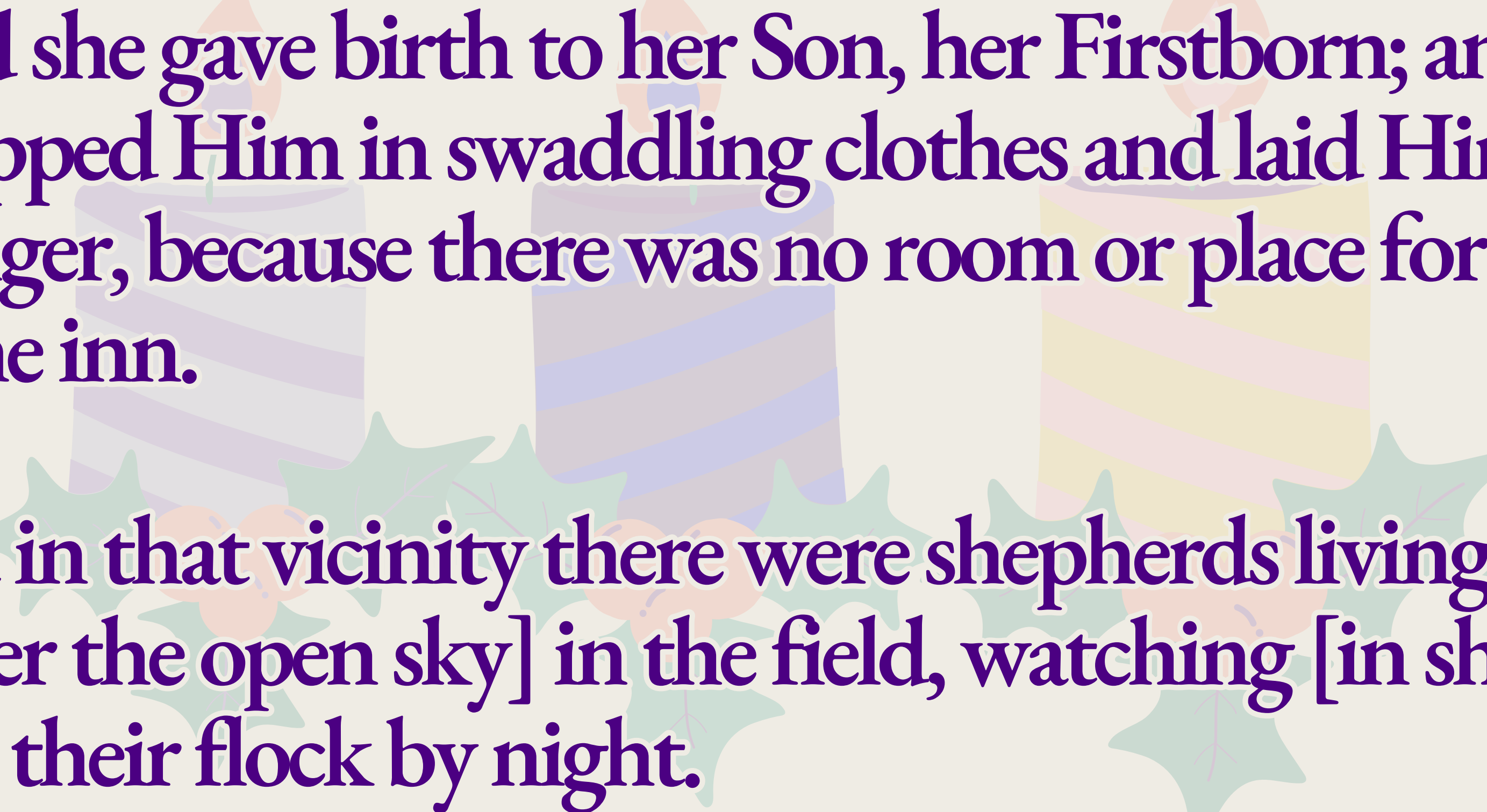


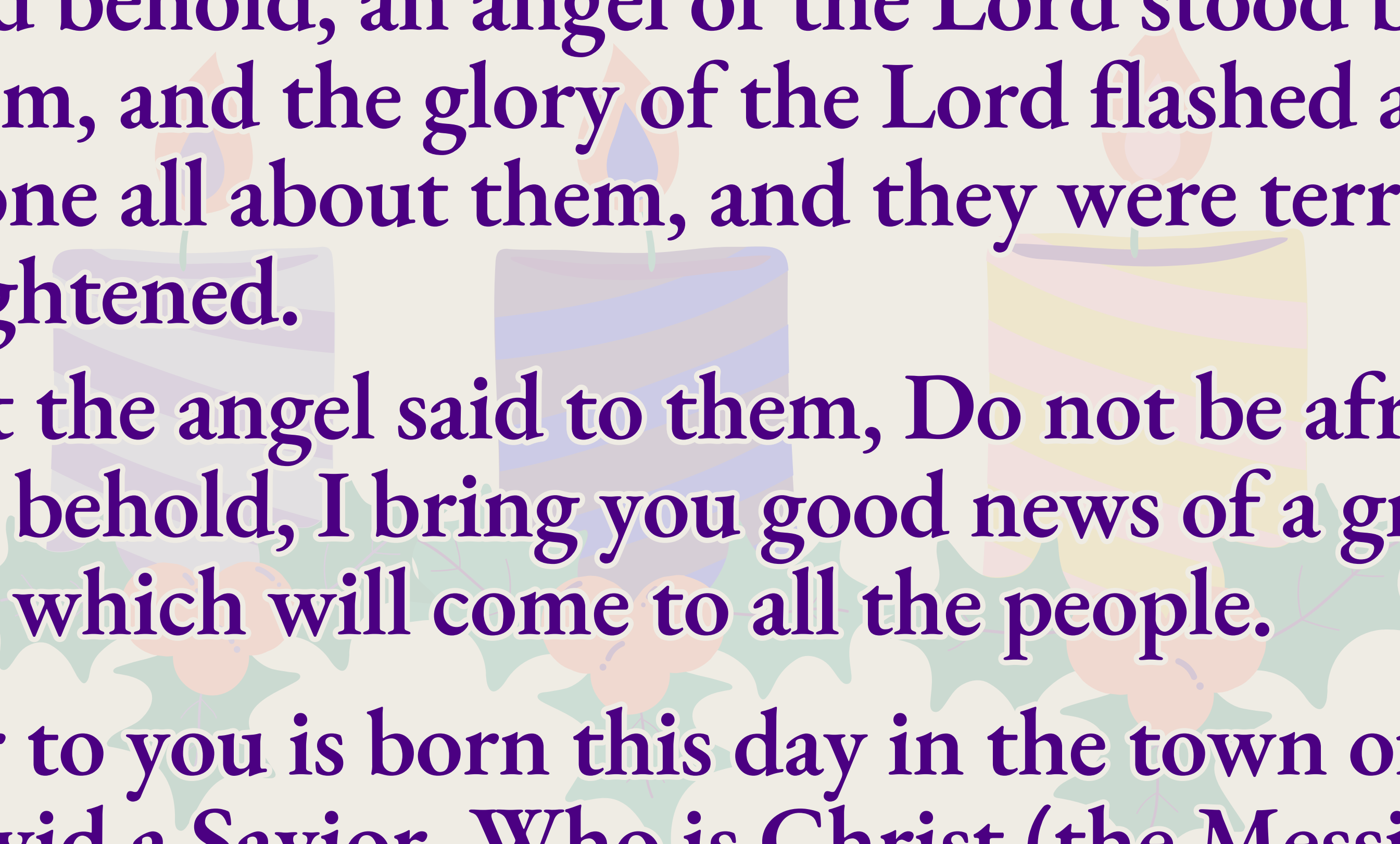


**11** So the Levites quieted all the people, saying,  
Be still, for the day is holy. And do not be  
grieved and sad.

**12** And all the people went their way to eat,  
drink, send portions, and make great rejoicing,  
for they had understood the words that were  
declared to them.

# *Luke 2:7-14;16-20*

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- 7 And she gave birth to her Son, her Firstborn; and she wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room or place for them in the inn.
- 8 And in that vicinity there were shepherds living [out under the open sky] in the field, watching [in shifts] over their flock by night.

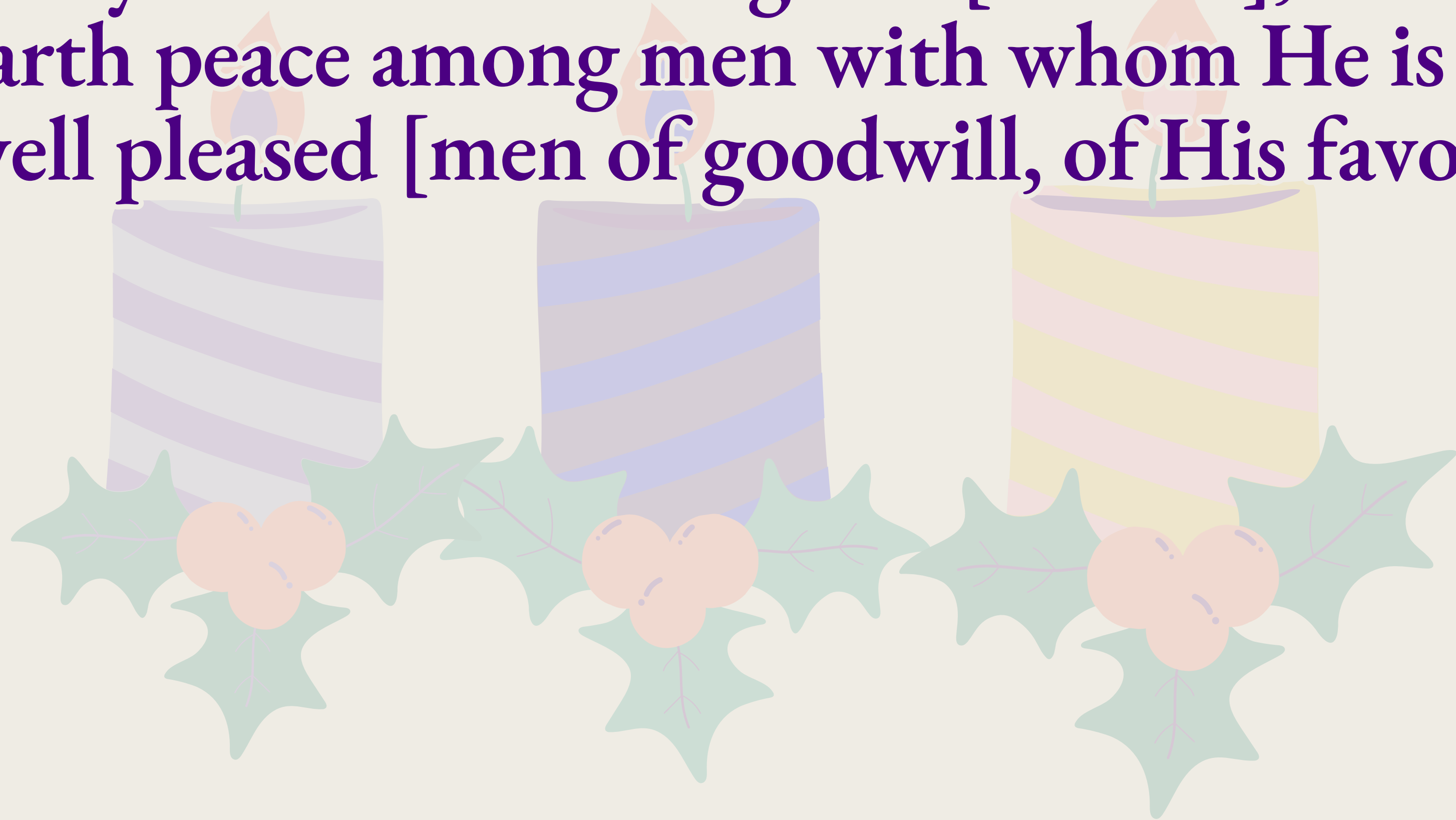
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- 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord flashed and shone all about them, and they were terribly frightened.
- 10 But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people.
- 11 For to you is born this day in the town of David a Savior, Who is Christ (the Messiah) the Lord!





**12** And this will be a sign for you [by which you will recognize Him]: you will find [after searching] a Baby wrapped in swaddling

**14** Glory to God in the highest [heaven], and on earth peace among men with whom He is well pleased [men of goodwill, of His favor].



**19** But Mary was keeping within herself all these things (sayings), weighing and pondering them in her heart.

**20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

1. PRESENCE

(Nehemiah 8:14/Luke 2:16)

2. PROCLAMATION

(Nehemiah 8:10 /Luke 2:10)

3. PORTIONS

(Nehemiah 8:10 / Matthew 2:11)

4. POSTURE

(Nehemiah 8:6 / Matthew 2:11)

5. PROMISE

(Nehemiah 8:12 / Luke 2:20)

# 1. *PRESENCE*

Neh 8:14

And they found written in the law, which the Lord had commanded through Moses, that the Israelites should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month

Luke 2:16

16 So they went with haste and [by searching] found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger.



## 2. PROCLAMATION

Neh. 8:10

Then [Ezra] told them, Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet drink, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. And be not grieved and depressed, for the joy of the Lord is your strength and stronghold.

## 2. PROCLAMATION

Luke 2:10-11

But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people.

For to you is born this day in the town of David a **Savior, Who is Christ (the Messiah) the Lord!**

# 3. *PORTIONS*

Neh. 8:10

Then [Ezra] told them, Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet drink, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. And be not grieved and depressed, for the joy of the Lord is your strength and stronghold.

# 3. *PORTIONS*

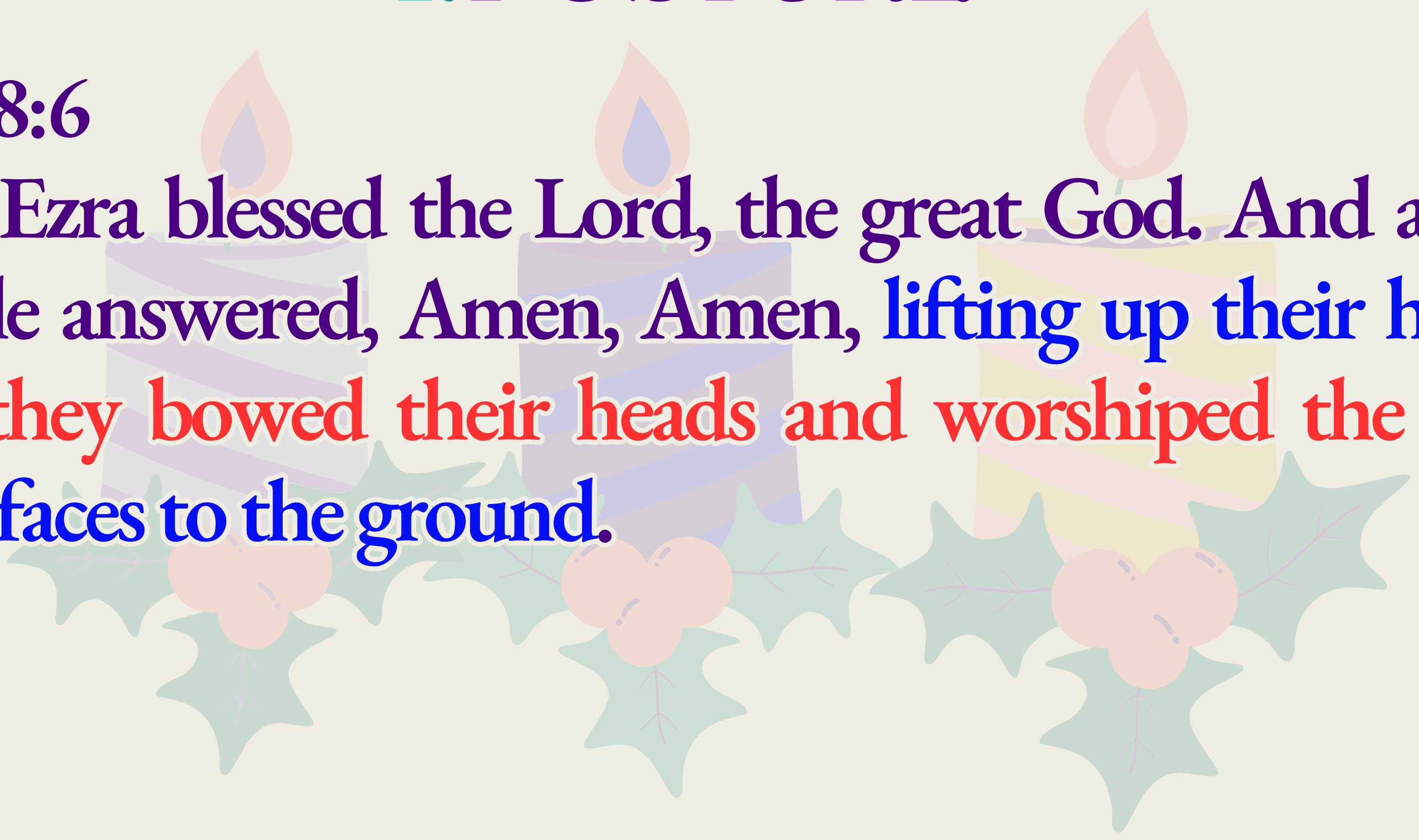
Matthew 2:11

And on going into the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then opening their treasure bags, they presented to Him gifts—gold and frankincense and myrrh.

# 4. *POSTURE*

Neh 8:6

And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, **lifting up their hands;** and **they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord** with **faces to the ground.**

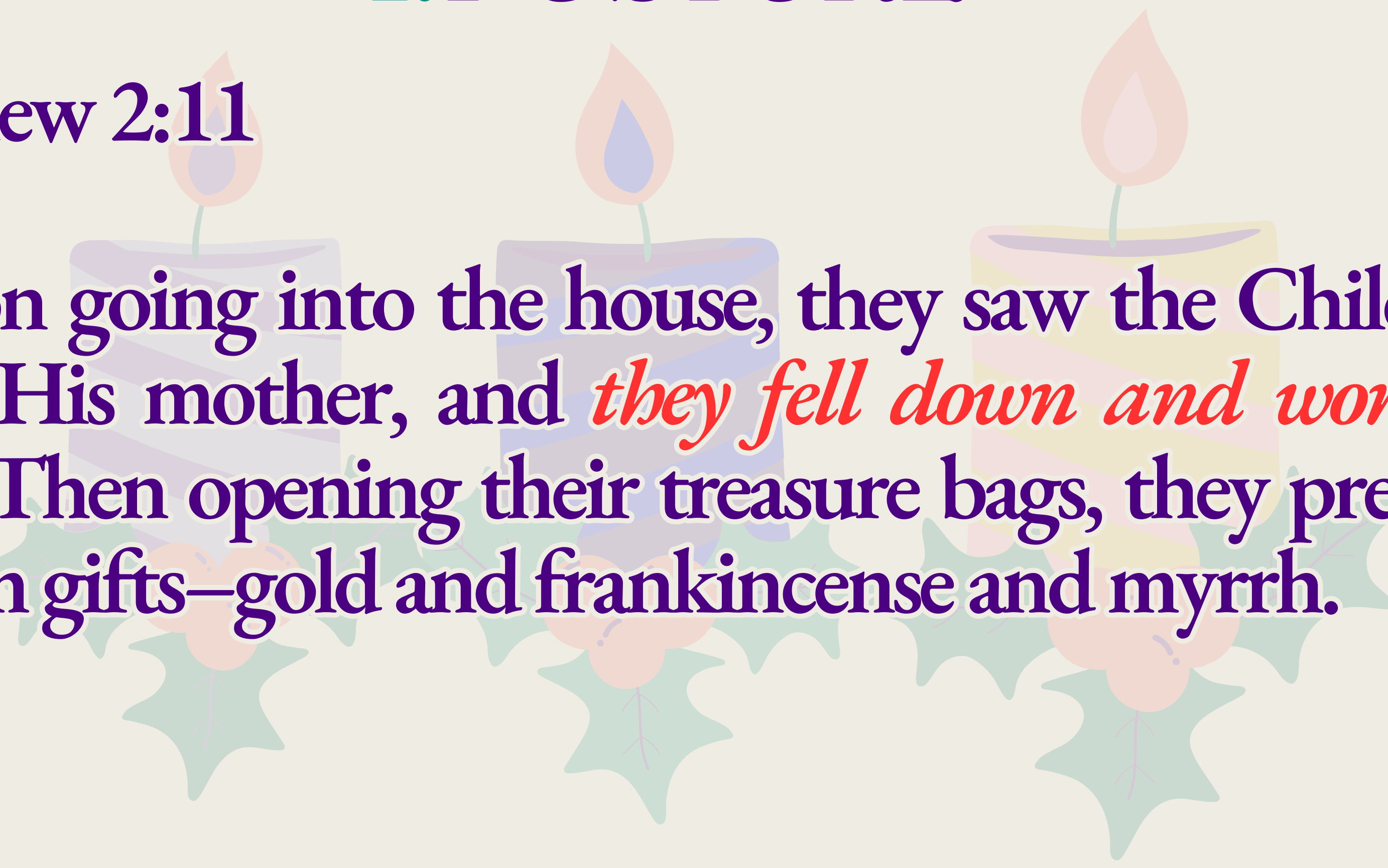
The background features three lit candles in shades of purple, blue, and yellow, with stylized holly leaves and berries in green and orange at the bottom.



# 4. *POSTURE*

Matthew 2:11

And on going into the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and *they fell down and worshiped Him*. Then opening their treasure bags, they presented to Him gifts—gold and frankincense and myrrh.

The background features three lit candles in shades of purple, blue, and yellow, with holly leaves and berries scattered around them.

# 5. *PROMISE*

Neh 8:12

And all the people went their way to eat, drink, send portions, and make great rejoicing, for they had understood the words that were declared to them.

Lk2:20

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.