





# *The Wonder of It All*

*Part 1 - The Wonder of His Promise*

*Isaiah 7:14*





**400 SILENT YEARS**

The background of the image is a deep blue night sky filled with numerous small, distant stars. A prominent, bright starburst with a yellowish-white core and radiating blue and white light rays is positioned in the upper center. Below the sky, the dark, silhouetted outlines of rolling mountains or hills are visible against the horizon.

# **Virgin Birth Incarnation Advent**

**Isaiah 7:14**



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■ **Virgin Birth** – “*the Lord himself shall give you a sign, behold a virgin shall conceive*”

**Isaiah 7:14**



# **Theological Modernism rejected:**

- 1. Inspiration of the Bible**
- 2. Deity of Jesus**
- 3. Literal resurrection of Jesus**
- 4. Authenticity of miracles**
- 5. Virgin Birth**



**The belief in the Virgin Birth is very important.**

- Reliability & trustworthiness of the Bible**
- Jesus is fully God and fully man.**
- Jesus is the sinless Savior.**

- **Virgin Birth** – “*the Lord himself shall give you a sign, behold a virgin shall conceive*”
- **Incarnation** - “*and shall call his name Immanuel*”
- **Advent** - literally “*coming*” or “*arrival*”

**Isaiah 7:14**



# **Hope Killers in the 400 Silent Years**

- **DISAPPOINTMENT – when life doesn't look like God promised**



***Assyria.***

***Babylon.***

***Persia.***

***Greece.***

***Rome.***



# Hope Killers in the 400 Silent Years

- **DISAPPOINTMENT** – when life doesn't look like God promised
  - Disappointment kills hope by suggesting: *“Maybe you should stop expecting anything from God.”*
- **DELAY** – when God takes longer than we think He should
  - Delay kills hope by suggesting: *“Maybe you should stop expecting anything from God.”*



# **While Israel was on God's divine delay, God was setting the stage ...**

- **Pax Romana - Roman peace**
- **Rome built roads that would carry the gospel.**
- **A common language united the empire - *Greek*.**
- **Spiritual hunger was rising everywhere.**



# **Hope Killers in the 400 Silent Years**

- **DISAPPOINTMENT** – when life doesn't look like God promised
- **DELAY** – when God takes longer than we think He should
- **DARKNESS** – when the world around you makes faith feel impossible
  - **Corrupt priests. Political oppression. Religious division. Spiritual coldness. Moral compromise.**



# Hope Killers in the 400 Silent Years

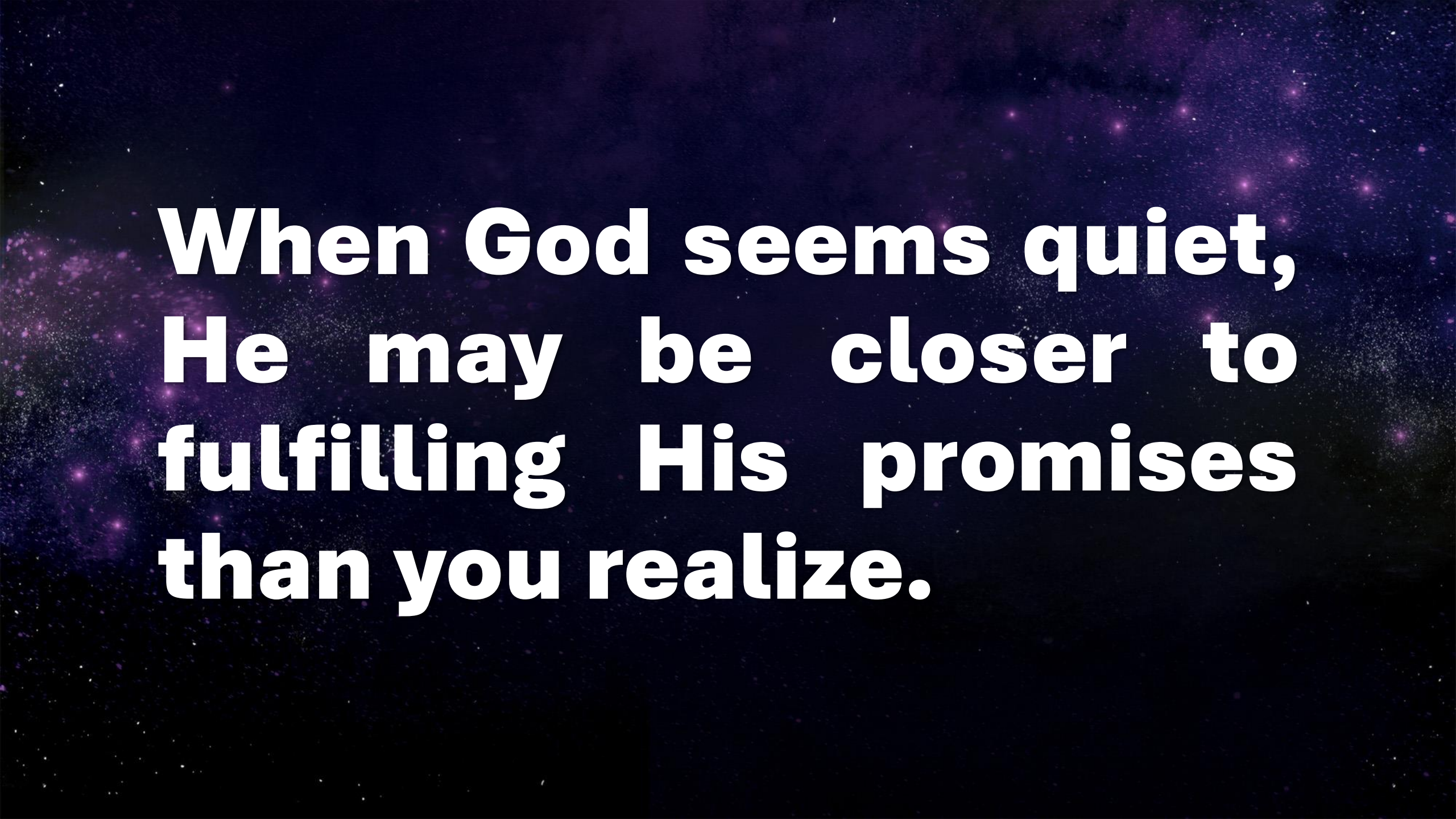
- **DISAPPOINTMENT** – when life doesn't look like God promised
- **DELAY** – when God takes longer than we think He should
- **DARKNESS** – when the world around you makes faith feel impossible
  - Darkness kills hope by insisting: *“Things are too far gone. The world is too dark for God to break through.”*





***God always keeps  
His promises!***





**When God seems quiet,  
He may be closer to  
fulfilling His promises  
than you realize.**



# **Take Home Truths:**

- 1. Hope dies when we believe the wrong story.**
- 2. Hope dies when we think God is done.**
- 3. Hope dies when we isolate.**
- 4. Hope dies when we forget God's past faithfulness.**