



**Epiphany:
No More Waiting
(Matthew 2:1-12)**

Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)

- **2** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star in the East and have come to worship him.”
- ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:
- ⁶ ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”” [Micah 5:2]

Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)

- ⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”
- ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)

- ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.
- ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

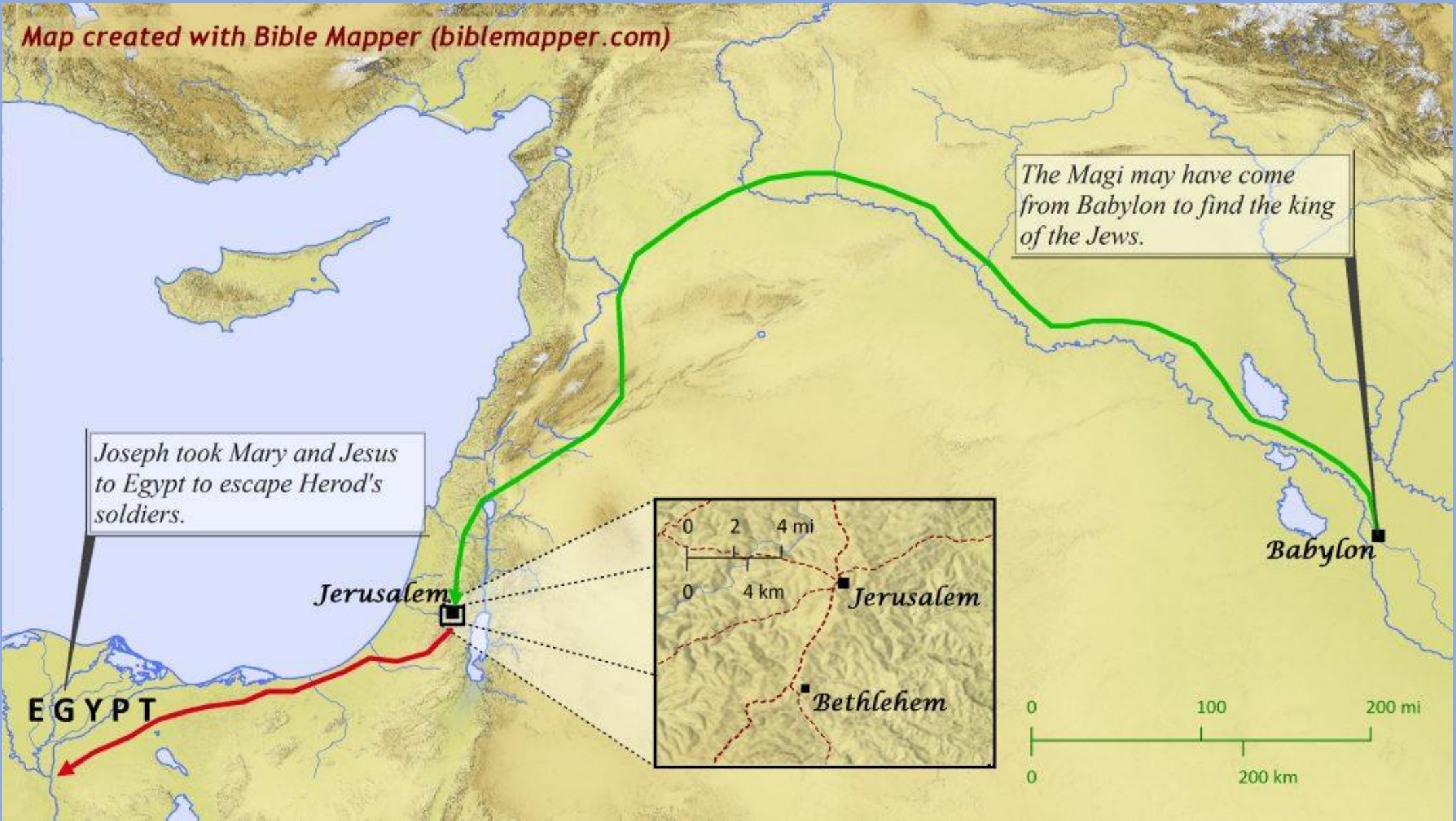
I. No More Waiting for God's Messiah

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Map created with Bible Mapper (biblemapper.com)



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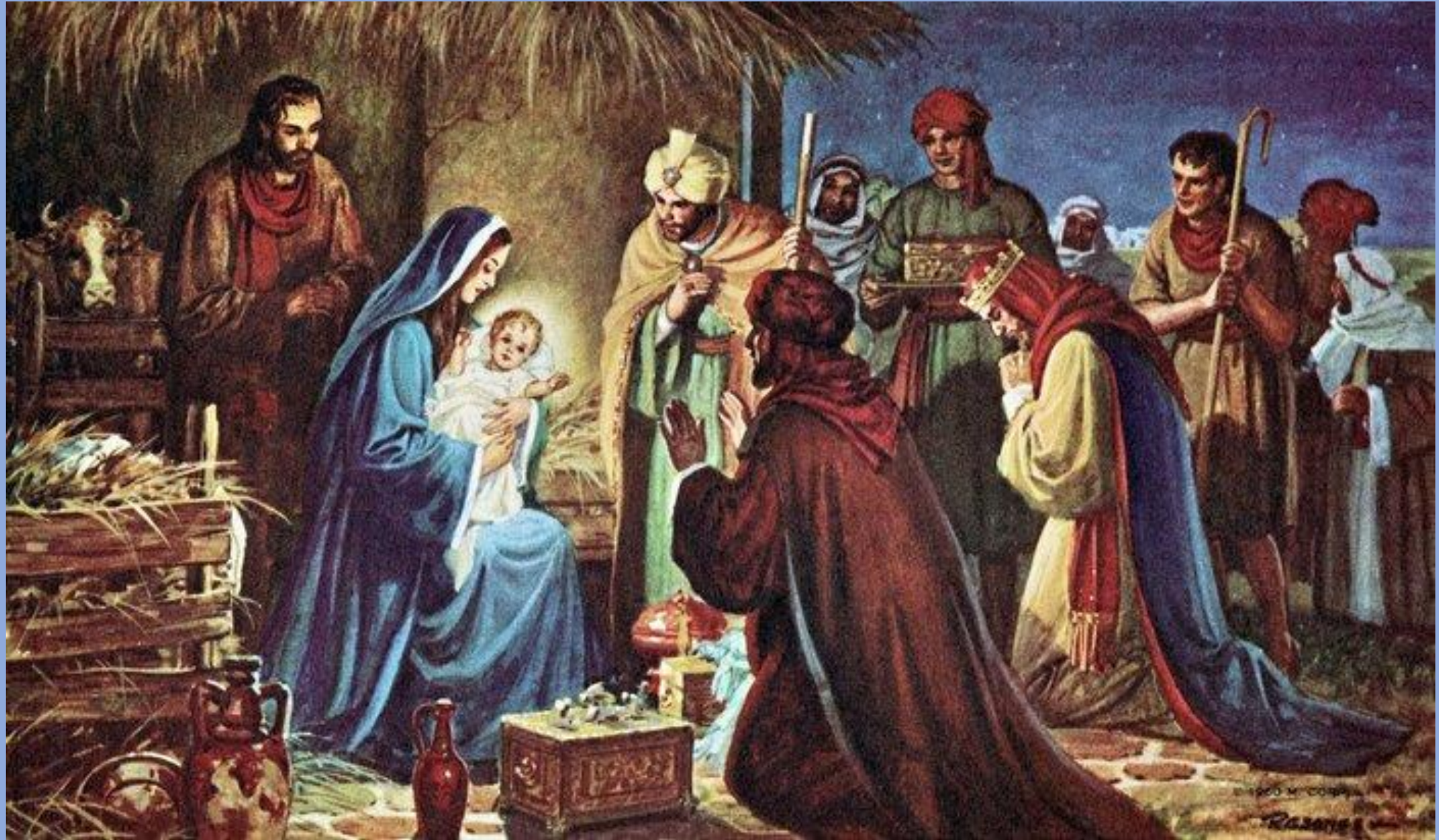
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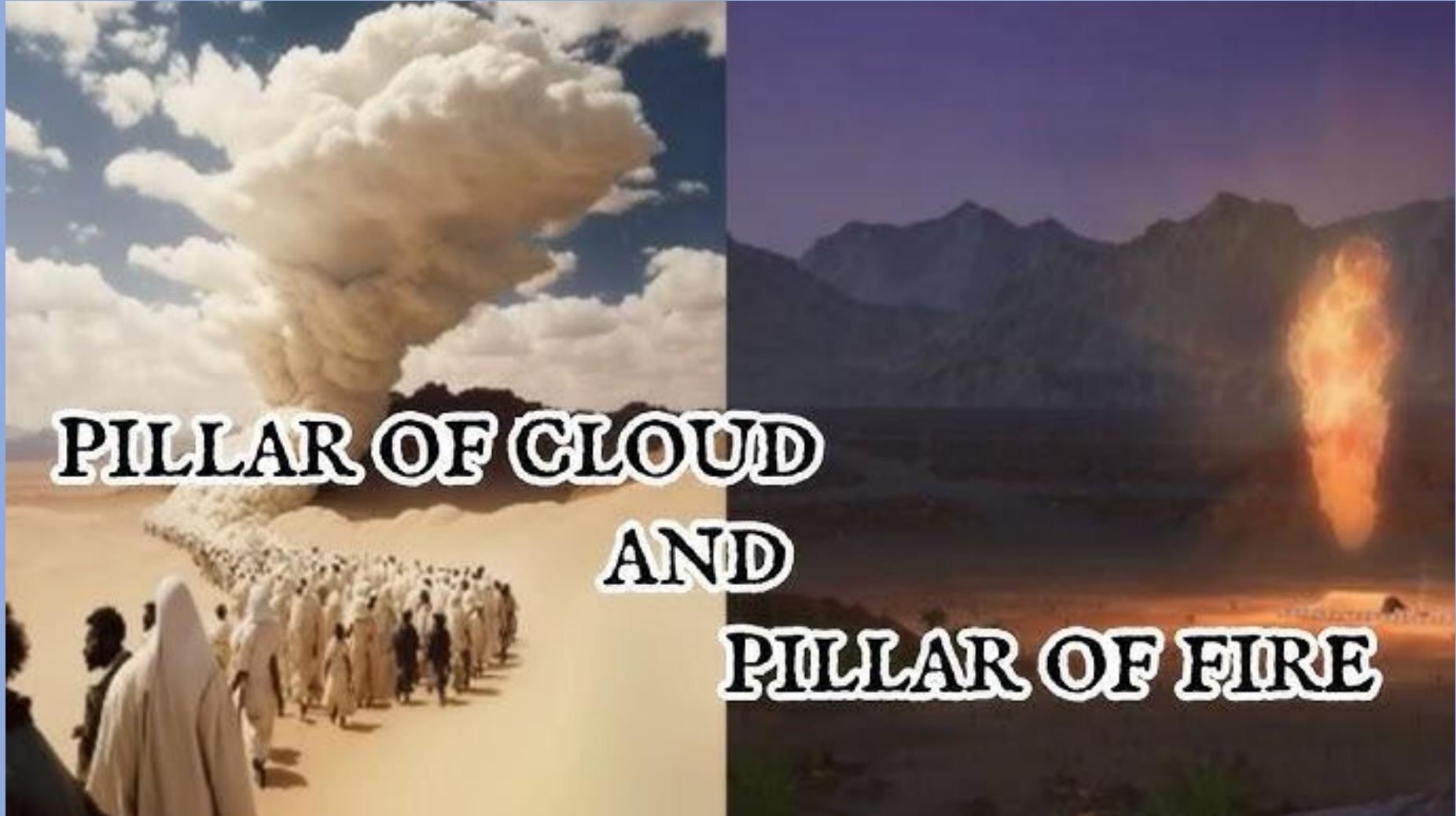
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II. No More Waiting for God's Instructions (Numbers 9:15-23 NLT)

- ¹⁵ On the day **the Tabernacle** was set up, **the cloud covered it**. But from evening until morning the cloud over the Tabernacle **looked like a pillar of fire**.
- ¹⁶ This was the regular pattern—at night the cloud that covered the Tabernacle had the appearance of fire.



PILLAR OF CLOUD

AND

PILLAR OF FIRE

II. No More Waiting for God's Instructions (Numbers 9:15-23 NLT)

- ¹⁷ **Whenever** the cloud lifted from over the sacred tent, the people of Israel would break camp and follow it. And **wherever** the cloud settled, the people of Israel would set up camp.
- ¹⁸ In this way, they traveled and camped at the LORD's command **wherever** he told them to go. Then they remained in their camp as long as the cloud stayed over the Tabernacle. ¹⁹ If the cloud remained over the Tabernacle for a long time, the Israelites stayed **and performed their duty to the LORD.**

II. No More Waiting for God's Instructions (Numbers 9:15-23 NLT)

- ²⁰ Sometimes the cloud would stay over the Tabernacle for **only a few days**, so the people would stay for only a few days, as the LORD commanded. Then at the LORD's command they would break camp and move on.
- ²¹ Sometimes the cloud stayed **only overnight** and lifted the next morning. But day or night, when the cloud lifted, the people broke camp and moved on.

II. No More Waiting for God's Instructions (Numbers 9:15-23 NLT)

- ²² Whether the cloud stayed above the Tabernacle for **two days, a month, or a year**, the people of Israel **stayed in camp** and did not move on. But **as soon as it lifted**, they broke camp and **moved on**.
- ²³ So they camped or traveled at the LORD's command, and **they did whatever the LORD told them** through Moses.

III. No More Waiting with Our Responses

A. Go *Whenever* God Directs You

B. Go *Wherever* God Directs You

C. Do *Whatever* God Directs You

A silhouette of two hands holding a glowing cross against a sunset background. The hands are positioned in the center-right of the frame, with the fingers spread and the palms facing each other. A bright, glowing cross is centered between the hands, emitting a strong light that creates a lens flare effect. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

Let Us Pray