

The shepherds understood the **midnight** revelation to be an invitation unto them to go unto the manger scene in Bethlehem, and witness what was told them. And how could they now not go there? LUKE 2:15 *And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.*

Note two things from these verses. First, the shepherds came with haste to witness on the same night Jesus was born, the baby Jesus. The Holy Ghost had it recorded in scripture that they were there! Secondly, note that these very same shepherds didn't keep their silence about what they were shown that **midnight**, or what they had indeed witnessed, for ...*they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.* The word "abroad" means: to make known abroad, to publish abroad, to make known thoroughly. Did these very same shepherds really make known abroad these things they were shown? Yes, and verse 18 confirms this, stating: *And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.* Note also that these shepherds could not testify of Jesus without first for themselves having Christ revealed unto them.

Pastors are sometimes referred to as shepherds, but more correctly they are overseers of the sheep, much like a shepherd. They are to feed their little flocks. True Pastors always point their "sheep" too ...*Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world...* JOHN 1:29. What did Jesus tell Peter in JOHN 21? Peter, who himself went on to become probably the greatest kingdom Apostle, was told three times by Jesus in JOHN 21 to "Feed my lambs," "Feed my sheep," and again to "Feed my sheep." {See JOHN 21:15-17.} In other words Peter was instructed to be concerned for the sheep, and the little lambs. Back here in LUKE 2, what were these shepherds names? And how many shepherds were there? And how many sheep did they have? Note that this information is not given us, because the focus is not to be upon the shepherd, who he was, what he was wearing, what kind of books he read, or what kind of books he wrote, or how big was his flock; no, the focus for these shepherds was to be upon Jesus, and then to spread the good tidings of great joy, which shall be preached to all people, that there is a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord! Jesus should always be the center of attention, the focal point of all Pastors! LUKE 2:20 records the concluding thoughts in scripture about these shepherds in this **midnight** Bible story. LUKE 2:20 *And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.* Our shepherds in this **midnight** Bible story are found ...*glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.* True God fearing Pastors, and teachers are to do the very same thing, that is to be found ...*glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.*

More Jesus, Mary and Joseph Midnight Bible Stories

This part of our **midnight** Bible stories study is an expansion of what we just studied about the shepherds and the Lamb of God. LUKE 2:19 and 20 reads: *But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.* In this section we will consider some of the things Mary, and Joseph too, were revealed in **midnight** settings about the most important personality who ever lived here upon the earth, and that being Jesus Christ the Lord, whom they were given the responsibility to raise in this world! Joseph and Mary knew from the shepherds that Jesus was "a Saviour," and also known as "Christ the Lord" as was noted in LUKE 2:11. Joseph and Mary also knew the following about Jesus.

Some nine months earlier in LUKE 1:31-33 the angel Gabriel told Mary: *And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there*

shall be no end. We are not told the time of day or night that Gabriel appeared unto Mary and told her these things. It could have been a **midnight** appearance, but we are not told that is was. Nevertheless Mary was told some things by the angel Gabriel that certainly would make her ponder in her heart the immensity of what she had just been told. Mary was told that she would ...*bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.* Mary was also told that Jesus ...*He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.* This future told Mary of Jesus reaches beyond our lifetime, thus this was an enormous amount of information to take in, and ponder all at once. The angel Gabriel added some more thoughts for Mary to ponder in verse 35 ...*therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.* Mary knew that Jesus would also be called the Son of God, for indeed He is the Son of God. You can read further on your own more details of what else the angel Gabriel told Mary in LUKE 1:26-38. The last words said by Gabriel unto Mary are found in LUKE 1:37, and Mary's parting words to him are found in LUKE 1:38. LUKE 1:37 *For with God nothing shall be impossible.* 38 *And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.*

One of the things the angel Gabriel made know unto Mary was the fact that her cousin Elisabeth would be giving birth to John the Baptist in about three months. After the angel Gabriel departed, Mary paid a visit to the house of Zacharias and Elisabeth, where she stayed probably until the birth of John the Baptist about three months later. Upon Mary's arrival she "saluted Elisabeth" according to LUKE 1:40. Next we read Elisabeth's words to Mary. LUKE 1:41 *And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: 42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. 43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.* Mary had now heard from the mouth of her Holy Ghost filled cousin Elisabeth that she (Mary) was going to be the mother of the Lord! This further reinforced the information she had already been told by the angel Gabriel.

Next we read in LUKE 1:46 – 55 Mary's grasp of who it was she was carrying in her womb. LUKE 1:46 *And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, 47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. 48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. 49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. 51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. 53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. 54 He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; 55 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.* In these verses are recorded the most words that are spoken by Mary in scripture where in is expressed her praise and adoration of God her Saviour. Brother Hawkins in his study book on LUKE here notes: "Such a paeon of praise is born of a deep experience with the Lord. Real praise comes from personal revelations from the Lord. ...Mary, like many others before her, declares the glories and power of God's grace. She does not claim any goodness of her own, nor any special righteousness or character as the reason for being God's chosen vessel. She admitted her "low estate," and gladly received His grace. This is the attitude of recipients of grace, who realize their deep need, and never draw back from receiving such grace because of their unworthiness." {End of Quoting Brother Hawkins.} Obviously Mary had already pondered much in her heart already concerning our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ before He was even born, and she would continue to ponder even more things after Jesus was born.

As is recorded in LUKE 1:46 Mary even magnified the Lord, and acknowledged her "low estate." People ignorant of scripture try, and do magnify Mary above our precious Lord and Saviour

Jesus Christ, whom she bore into this world. These very same people worship her, rather than worship God. Such people are categorized as being a part of the synagogue of Satan. In REVELATION 3:9 we read this statement made to the Philadelphia full overcoming church: *Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.* We know from ISAIAH 45:23, and ROMANS 14:11, and PHILIPPIANS 2:10 that *...As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.* As they do this, they are bowing also before Jesus, who sits on the right hand of God, and next to Him is His Bride, thus they are found worshipping before her feet also as is told in REVELATION 3:9!

One more quick thought here before considering the **midnight** revelations made unto Joseph, Mary's husband. We have in the above portion of this study been referencing many scriptures from LUKE. There are only two human births recorded in the New Testament. Both of these births are births of prophets! Both of these births are recorded in LUKE 1 and 2. The first birth recorded in LUKE 1 is really the last Old Testament prophet, John the Baptist. The second birth recorded in LUKE 2 is that of the first New Testament Prophet, Jesus Christ. Both of these birth's are announced by the angel Gabriel, whose underlying message really is: "Jesus is coming soon!" Mary knew this, and her cousin Elisabeth, and her husband Zacharias also knew this before Jesus was born.

We also noted above that unto Joseph was also revealed things concerning Mary, and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ before He was even born. Joseph, at the right time, was also told by the angel of the Lord that "Jesus is coming soon!" We find this in MATTHEW 1 where another **midnight** Bible story is revealed, and we call it a **midnight** Bible story because the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, that is the time when he was sleeping. MATTHEW 1:18 *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. 24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: 25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.*

Note from this story the following concerning Joseph. First of all consider that he truly loved Mary. He also knew she was pregnant with Jesus before their marriage was consummated. Mary had most likely told Joseph how the angel Gabriel visited her, and the facts we read above concerning Elisabeth and Mary found in LUKE 1. Joseph had been pondering these things, and was willing to take the steps required by Jewish law to put Mary away without specifying the cause because he did not want to make her a public example of shame and disgrace. As Joseph pondered these things concerning Mary and himself we find in verse 20 that he fell asleep, and the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, and revealed unto Joseph his next steps. The angel of the Lord said: *...Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.* This was all the angel of the Lord said unto Joseph. This angel of the Lord told Joseph the very same thing the angel Gabriel told Mary in LUKE 1:31 *...thou shalt call his name JESUS.* The angel of the Lord told Joseph why Jesus was to be called Jesus, *...for he shall save his people from their sins.* These words *...for he shall save his people from their sins...* define our Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. In LUKE 1:26-38 the angel Gabriel appeared unto Mary and told her she would become the Mother of Jesus. In MATTHEW 1:18-25 the angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph, and convincingly told him that Mary would be the Mother of Jesus, and

don't be afraid to wed Mary. One translation of MATTHEW 1:24 & 25 reads: *When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son.* Obviously both Mary and Joseph had great faith in God, and what He was doing in their lives!

Matthew also adds one more detail in the account we read above in MATTHEW 1 of a fact that Joseph was also familiar with concerning the first coming of Jesus. In ISAIAH 7:14 we read: *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.* Immanuel means: "with us is God," or "God with us." This scripture is quoted in MATTHEW 1:23 *Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.* The virgin of course was Mary, whom Joseph had now taken as his wife. This **midnight** dream reinforced in Joseph's mind ISAIAH 7:14 to be true, thus we read again in MATTHEW 1:24 *Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: 25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.*

The visit by the shepherds on the night of Jesus birth was certainly an event that not only did Mary ponder in her heart, but Joseph too must have marveled at the things told him and Mary by the shepherds concerning Jesus. A few days after the **midnight** shepherds visit, we read the following in LUKE 2. LUKE 2:25 *And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. 26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, 28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: 30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, 31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; 32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. 33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. 34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; 35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.*

Simeon means "hearkening," and he was hearkening unto the voice of the Lord. Verse 25 also tells us that Simeon was looking for the soon coming of Jesus, called "the consolation of Israel" in this verse. Simeon was in rare company, for few in his day were looking for the soon coming of the Messiah. This is really not that much different than it is in the world today is it? How many today are truly looking for the soon second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ? Only a few people that called Christians, and as we also know only a small rib portion company of just and devout Saints out of the body of Christ will be found ready to marry Jesus when He does return! But back to Simeon, certainly this just and devout man named Simeon was giving special attention unto the voice of the Lord manifest by the Holy Ghost, which was upon him, and the Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon who baby Jesus was. Mary and Joseph already knew who Jesus was, and so they marveled at the Holy Ghost inspired words of Simeon, which are a prophecy found in verses 29-35 above. Simeon, with eyes of faith, saw a time way beyond his own life time, and knew the infant Jesus he was holding was the Saviour, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles. Simeon also prophesied of Jesus death and resurrection in these verses, the facts of which you may study out further on your own.

There was another very devout person at this very same time, who also was looking for the coming of Jesus named Anna, whom we read about next in LUKE 2:36-38. LUKE 2:36 *And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; 37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. 38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.* Anna means "grace," and when you

think about it, how ageless is grace? God's grace is ageless, and endless, and reaches down to the lowest of the low, and to the most helpless of the helpless, and brings salvation. TITUS 2:11 expresses it like this: *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,...* . HEBREWS 7:25 states in part: *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him,...* . Anna saw this salvation in the infant Jesus, and *...gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.* It goes without saying that Mary and Joseph must have also pondered in their heart, and marveled at the things Anna spake concerning Jesus days after His birth!

Joseph, and Mary and baby Jesus then return to their home in Nazareth as is noted in LUKE 2:39 *And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.* Jesus grew up in Nazareth, and that is where the wise men of MATTHEW 2 find Him some two years later. The wise men of MATTHEW 2 are a whole other Bible study, which we have done before, and will not repeat here. But a careful study of MATTHEW 2:16 reveals that Jesus was a young child about two years of age by the time the wise men came to where He was. And Jesus is found where LUKE 2:39 left Him, in Nazareth of Galilee with Mary and Joseph. MATTHEW 2:11 records: *And when they were come into the house, (no manger scene here) they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.* The wise men came to worship Him. Their gifts were gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. Gold was a gift for a royal king, frankincense a gift for a priest, and myrrh a gift for a prophet. These gifts symbolically show that these wise men knew that Jesus was special. Did these wise men know that Jesus was King of Kings as is noted in 1 TIMOTHY 6:15? Did these wise men know that Jesus was the great High Priest spoken of in HEBREWS 4:14? Did these wise men know that Jesus was the Prophet of Nazareth of Galilee as is recorded in MATTHEW 21:11? I am going to say yes they knew who Jesus was, for they truly were wise men. Keep in mind these wise men had two years to change their mind and cease from following the star of the Lord, the star of the King of the Jews, who just also happens to be the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, the great High Priest, and the Prophet of Nazareth of Galilee, but they continued on their course until they found him, overcoming all obstacles until they did. No doubt Joseph, and Mary marveled, and pondered in their heart this exceptional display of the wise men from the east, and their gifts.

We then read our next **midnight Bible story**, which are actually two **midnight Bible stories** in one. After the wise men were departed we find starting in MATTHEW 2:13 *... behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.* There is really a lot of information found in this verse. The angel of the Lord, who previously appeared unto Joseph in MATTHEW 1 telling him it was okay to marry Mary, and to call the baby she was going to have Jesus, was now telling Joseph to *...take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word...* . This **midnight** revelation was not to be pondered very long, for the instructions were to flee, as in right now. How was such a trip to be financed by these poor parents raising Jesus? By the gold, frankincense, and myrrh that the wise men already gave to Jesus. Joseph's actions were quick, and decisive as told in MATTHEW 2:14 *When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: 15 And was there (in Egypt) until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.* This prophecy is found in HOSEA 11:1 *When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.*

Note also in MATTHEW 2:13 that the angel of the Lord told Joseph in this **midnight** dream that they were to remain in Egypt until such time *...until I bring thee word.* Joseph probably pondered upon this statement until the time came that he was told it was once again okay to return to Nazareth. This event came during another **midnight** dream that Joseph had, and is found in MATTHEW 2:19-21. MATTHEW 2:19 *But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother,*

and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. 21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.

So far we have read of three different **midnight** dreams of Joseph where the angel of the Lord appeared unto him giving specific instructions, which Joseph followed. There also was a fourth **midnight** dream told Joseph in MATTHEW 2:22. We will read MATTHEW 2:22 and 23 together, as they bring to conclusion Joseph's **midnight** dreams. MATTHEW 2:22 *But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth:...* . Nazareth means "the guarded one." Seventeen times in scripture we find the statement "Jesus of Nazareth" leaving no doubt that Jesus was from Nazareth, not Bethlehem. Seventeen is the number pointing to VICTORY IN CHRIST JESUS, and now we can also think of it as meaning VICTORY IN JESUS OF NAZARETH. One of the seventeen place where we find the statement "Jesus of Nazareth" is JOHN 19:19 *And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

Returning to LUKE 2 we find that Luke leaves out the details we just read about in MATTHEW 2, and records only the following: LUKE 2:39 *And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. 40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.* The phrase "the grace of God" is one of those statements that goes exceeding abundantly above all that we may ask or think. Brother Hill also pondered this statement writing: "what a wonder!" The phrase "the grace of God" is found in twenty (REDEMPTION) scriptures, six times in the writings by Luke, and fourteen verses in the epistles of Paul. Fourteen is the number for DELIVERANCE or SALVATION from sin, and six, among other things, is the number for MAN. SALVATION for MAN is what REDEMPTION (the forgiveness of sins) is all about. 1 TIMOTHY 1:15 tells us: *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;...* . Certainly the exceeding abundance of "the grace of God" was upon Jesus as He grew as a man, and once we accept Jesus as our personal Saviour, the exceeding abundance of "the grace of God" is upon us too! "The grace of God," truly what a wonder, and what a thought to forever appreciate, and ponder. Mary and Joseph pondered in their heart these things, and as our Apostle Paul also pondered in his heart the wonder of "the grace of God" the Holy Ghost inspired him to write in ROMANS 5:17 *For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.* What a wonder for us also to also ponder in our own heart "the grace of God."

Our main topic in this study is **midnight Bible stories** of which there are many. And in this section we have noted several **midnight** events concerning Mary and Joseph, and Jesus in His early years. We have also been considering many of the foreordained things that are recorded concerning baby Jesus, and the young child Jesus that gave Mary and Joseph so many more things to ponder concerning Jesus. We have noted that when the angel Gabriel appeared unto Mary and saluted her that she *...cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be...* LUKE 1:29. When Jesus was born and the shepherds came at a **midnight** hour and told Mary and Joseph what they had been told by angel of the Lord about Jesus, and what they had witnessed as a multitude of the heavenly host also appeared unto them giving the highest praise concerning Jesus, we found in LUKE 2:19 that *...Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.* In LUKE 2:25-35 when the prophet Simeon in the temple told Joseph and Mary things concerning Jesus, we read in verse 33 *And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.* A couple of years later the wise men gave Joseph and Mary more things to ponder over concerning Jesus. Now we find Jesus being raised in Nazareth, and no doubt Mary and Joseph ponder in their heart much as Jesus *...grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him...* as we read in LUKE 2:40. Then we come to another exclusive story that only Luke wrote about, and that being the time when Jesus was a twelve year old. This is not a **midnight Bible story** per say, yet it has two

midnights in it, and in a way it begins to tie together many **midnight** hours of pondering that Mary and Joseph had concerning Jesus.

Before we read about Jesus as a twelve year old in LUKE 2:41-52, MATTHEW 13:55 & 56, and MARK 6:3 record some facts that Luke leaves out, and note that Jesus had four brothers and more than one sister. How many of them were born by the time Jesus was twelve years old we are not told. Perhaps all of them were born by the time of this story we are about to read in LUKE 2:41-52. Luke does not mention these little half brothers, and sisters of Jesus, yet needless to say these younger siblings of Jesus demanded the full attention of Mary and Joseph, and perhaps that is where their focus was as we fill in a gap between our **midnight Bible stories**.

In LUKE 2:41-52 we read of Jesus as a twelve year old, which is also another of those exclusive stories of Luke. LUKE 2:41 *Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. 42 And when he (Jesus) was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. 43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. 44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. 45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.* Imagine the emotions of Mary, and Joseph too, realizing that they had lost track of Jesus.

There was no such thing as “Amber Alerts” back then, but imagine if there were what it would have said. “Lost a twelve year old boy named Jesus last seen in Jerusalem at the feast of the Passover. He has no distinguishing appearance, and no bling to attract attention to Himself. He was wearing common clothes, and also answers to the name of Emmanuel, Messiah, Christ, the Son of God, Saviour, and many other names. If you see Him contact the local authorities.”

We must ask, how could this have happened? How could Mary and Joseph loose track of the most important person ever born in this world? Those of you from large families probably had a similar experience when growing up, that is someone in the family got left behind somewhere along the line. Mary and Joseph got caught up with the cares of this life, the taking care of their younger children, and perhaps even babies, all of whom demanded their attention, and in the process they lost track of Mary's firstborn son Jesus. Jesus was the most important person who ever came into this world, and Mary and Joseph simply lost track of Him! They went a whole days journey before they even noticed Jesus wasn't with them! Our life is nothing without Jesus, and even the Apostle Paul noted in COLOSSIANS 3:4 that it is “*Christ, who is our life... .*” Think about it, but don't go too hard on Mary and Joseph without first examining yourself, and realizing that perhaps the cares of this life may have overtaken you too, and brought you to the point where you have lost track of Jesus Christ in your life at one time or another. Mary and Joseph will soon find that Jesus didn't go anywhere, but rather they had moved away from Him. Again, how could this have happened? Realize that Jesus doesn't demand our attention, and Jesus didn't demand the attention of Mary and Joseph either. Was He ever a problem child for them? No, if ever there was a perfect child it was Jesus. Mary had the only child “who knew no sin!” (See 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21.) But with her focus on the other cares of this life, and not putting firstborn Jesus first in everything, Mary, and Joseph too, lost track of Jesus. In essence, like the saints of Ephesus in REVELATION 2:4, they had left their first love.

LUKE 2:46 *And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.* Hidden in this verse is two **midnights**. It took Joseph and Mary three days to relocate Jesus, thus two **midnights** pass, probably **nights** with little or broken sleep if any, and a lot of time to reflect about Jesus. Joseph and Mary did a lot of pondering about Jesus within their hearts during this time wondering how they had lost track of Him. This truly was a **midnight** time in their lives. On day three they found Jesus *...in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.* LUKE 2:47 *And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.* Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the last place that they looked, which was the temple, the place that represents the temple of the Lord. No doubt Jesus had been there for three days. Notice who it was that was asking the questions. Twelve-year-old Jesus. And who was giving the answers? Twelve-year-old Jesus. Jesus wasn't just

asking the kind of questions that He as a twelve year old could answer, but rather He was asking the kind of questions that a Master scholar would ask to provoke learning in His students. Jesus was here, in fact, being about His Father's business. Jesus was educating the scholars, and yet He was doing this in a spirit of humility and gentleness. If you really study this, and think about it, Jesus' humble and meek character was on display here. Look, and behold the Lamb of God! Jesus was also about to give a scholarly lesson to His Mother, which she never forgot from that day forward. Remember Mary was the one who later in life told Luke about this day in time when Jesus was twelve years old, a day she never forgot! In all of our **midnight** Bible stories we find at the conclusion a positive outcome with numerous eternal benefits, and this **midnight** Bible story is no different, as we will now see.

LUKE 2:48 *And when they (Mary and Joseph) saw him, they were amazed:... . Add this to the growing list of things they pondered about Jesus. LUKE 2:48 ...and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.* Pause here for a moment and note that it was Mary who spoke, not Joseph. Certainly there must have been a tremendous amount of relief finding Jesus safe and sound, but the words Mary spoke did not express gladness in finding Jesus safe and sound. No her words reflect her frustration, and the fact that her focus was upon herself first, and not upon the Lord first as she asks: *...Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.* We read in 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18 the following encouragement from our Apostle Paul: *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.* Paul wrote these words to encourage all to become full overcomers. Being thankful, as Paul was, has no boundaries, no limits, and looks forward, as well as backwards; looks up, as well as down; and expresses where the focus of a full overcomer is, which is on the Lord, and the things above. Current circumstances, negative or positive, cannot prevent the overcomer from expressing thanks, and we find the full overcomers in the Bride of Christ expressing "glory and honour and thanks to Him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever" in REVELATION 4:9. Their giving thanks in everything didn't start once they got to heaven, no it began here on earth when they became race course runners seeking God's best, and followed Paul's gospel message that instructed them to be constantly "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of faith" as is written in HEBREWS 12:2. True heart felt thankfulness is really a statement of faith. The words Mary spoke in LUKE 2:48 (*...Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing...*) lack thankfulness. Mary's focus was in the wrong place. Mary and Joseph wouldn't have lost twelve-year-old Jesus if that had paid closer attention to Him in the first place, we know that, but once they located Him again we would have hoped to have first heard a quick "Thank you God that we found Jesus."

Before we go any further here remember also this about Jesus. *...He is before all things, and by him all things consist...* COLOSSIANS 1:17 tells us. 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 records this about Jesus stating that He *...was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.* 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21, which we also referenced earlier, tells us that Jesus *...knew no sin.* 1 PETER 2:22 states that He *...did no sin...* and 1 JOHN 3:5 reveals that *...in him is no sin.* Jesus was the only sinless man who ever walked on the face of this earth, and Mary and Joseph knew this to be true. And as we noted earlier in this portion of our study if ever there was a perfect child it was Jesus. So when His mother Mary asks Him in LUKE 2:48 *Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing...* don't you think these questions, and comments gave Him some concern? Obviously yes, but not in the same light that we would be concerned, for He also told us in ISAIAH 46:9 and 10 that He knows *...the end from the beginning...* and He knew the day would come when He would be able to begin to instruct His parents about who he was, and what they needed to know about Him. This is the day recorded in LUKE 2:46-50. It was Mary the mother of Jesus, who told Luke the positive results of this **midnight** Bible story recorded in LUKE 2:46-50. One more thing to take note of here before we read Jesus first words recorded in scripture, and that is a fact recorded in HEBREWS 4:15 concerning Jesus: *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our*

infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. When His mother Mary stated ...*Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing...* Jesus felt her anguish, realized her frustration, and was not the least bit disrespectful as He in a heavenly manner answered her in LUKE 2:49.

LUKE 2:49 *And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?* Again these are Jesus' first words recorded in scripture, and they still echo in our hearts today. For three days Jesus has been asking questions which no one could really answer, and then giving the answer. Now He asks His Mother two questions, which only she could answer in her heart. The first question Jesus asks his Mother: *How is it that ye sought me?* In other words Jesus was in a tender and gentle way, yet with firmness asking Mary to stop and think for a moment. Who was it that sent the angel Gabriel to you and told you that thou are highly favoured, the Lord is with thee? Who was it that let your cousin Elisabeth know that you were blessed among women? Who was it that sent angels to the shepherds, and the shepherds to you on the night of my birth, and made it known to you that I was indeed the Saviour? Did not Simeon in this very same temple prophecy of me when I was forty days old, and tell you that I was the Redeemer? Did not old gracious Anna tell you the same thing also? Did not the wise men acknowledge that I am the King of the Jews? *How is it that ye sought me?* I wasn't the one who was lost. *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost...* LUKE 19:10. Mother, Mary, you of all people know who I am. Lately the cares of this life have taken all of your attention. You have lost track of me. You have had no time for me. And I do not demand your time, but please pay closer attention to me. Put me, your first born Son, first in your life; it will pay eternal dividends: ...*wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?*

Recall again how Simeon also prophesied unto Mary in LUKE 2:35 ...*Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also.* We know from REVELATION 19:13 that Jesus is "The Word of God." And HEBREWS 4:12 tells us: *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* This sword gently pierced through Mary's own soul that day when Jesus asked His Mother: *How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?* There was a lesson to be learned here for Mary and Joseph, yet that lesson wasn't immediately grasped for LUKE 2:50 informs us: *And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.*

That was a hard **midnight** time in the life of Mary and Joseph, which we have just examined, and this was also a mountain peak time in their lives. How so? LUKE 2:51 & 52 probably explains it better than I ever could, saying: *And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.* 52 *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.* Mary pondered in her heart these words of Jesus, and Mary told Luke that she had kept these sayings in her heart. Another thing also happened to Mary because of this; from that day forward she never again lost track of Jesus. Eighteen more years would pass before Jesus public ministry would begin. For eighteen more years Jesus was willingly subject unto his parents, yet during those eighteen years as Jesus increased in wisdom, and stature as a man. Jesus also increased in favour with God, and man as is also summarized in LUKE 2:52. During these eighteen years before Jesus began His ministry He also got to minister unto His family the wonderful works of God, which also gave His mother many more things to ponder, and marvel at. Perhaps she did so during many **midnight ponderings**.

In this **midnight** Bible story we have spent much time focusing about both Mary and Joseph, and the many different events that happened unto them in **midnight** settings. The center of their life was Jesus. Without Jesus, Mary was nothing, Joseph was nothing, and we too are really nothing without Jesus. We know very little about Joseph after this. And we do know that Mary paid much closer attention to Jesus all the rest of His life here on earth, and the rest of her life. How do we know this? Part of the answer is found in JOHN 2. JOHN 2:1 *And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: 2 And both Jesus was called, and*

his disciples, to the marriage. 3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. 4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. 5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. Mary by this time had grown closely acquainted, and very familiar with Jesus, and knew that He could solve any problem, thus when there was no wine at the wedding she could tell the servant, ...*Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.*

Now some points for us to also ponder. Mary and Joseph had other children after Jesus, and MARK 6:3 (plus other scriptures) points this out: MARK 6:3 *Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us?* So Mary had five sons, Jesus being the oldest, and at least two daughters, for Jesus had more than one sister. What had Mary told these children of hers about their oldest brother Jesus? Did she know Him well enough to properly explain who He was to them? We would like to think so, but if she did JOHN 7:5 states: *For neither did his brethren believe in him.* (That word “brethren” here means children of the same mother.) In other words Jesus' own brothers and sisters didn't believe He was the Saviour while here on earth. Yet they grew up with Him, and heard His stories at the dinner table, and must have also marveled, and pondered in their own minds the things that He told them.

Now jump ahead to the time of the cross. Mary was there at the cross of Jesus, having paid close attention to Him the rest of His life. We read this in JOHN 19:25 *Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son. 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.* Again the reason Jesus gave the care of His Mother over to the Apostle John instead of one of His half brothers was because at this point in time His brothers were not yet believers! His final words here on earth that we have recorded for us spoken to His mother, gave her more thoughts to ponder. Did she recall those confusing words of Simeon spoken to her thirty-three years earlier ...*Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed...* ? I bet she did, for Luke recorded them for us, and the only reason Luke would have known these statements would have been by interviews with Mary or those she had related this story too. JOHN 19:27 *Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.* Of course that disciple whom Jesus loved standing by was none other than the Apostle John.

There were three **midnights** between Jesus death, and His resurrection. These children of the same mother as Jesus must have pondered in their own hearts their memories of their older half brother Jesus. They too had grown up with Him. During these three **midnights** between Jesus death, and His resurrection their thinking would have caused them to remember His life while here on earth. After Jesus died and rose again his brethren did become believers, and 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-7 and GALATIANS 1:19 help point this fact out. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3 *...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James...* Since the Apostle Paul wasn't himself a believer at the time of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, how is it that he knew all of this information about those who saw Jesus after His resurrection? This information came to the Apostle Paul first hand by an interview he had with James the Lord's brother, and Peter during a visit to Jerusalem years after the time of Jesus resurrection. GALATIANS 1:18 & 19: *Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. 19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.* So Jesus brothers and sisters became believers after His resurrection, and probably very shortly after his resurrection. ACTS 1:14 helps point this out. Also ACTS 1:14 gives us our last mention of Mary the mother of Jesus, who after more than thirty three years of wondering and pondering has come with what is left of her family to gather with the small group of

followers waiting for the day of Pentecost to come. ACTS 1 explains these facts to us a little plainer: ACTS 1:1 *The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: 3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. ...14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. ACTS 2:1 *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.* Thus we leave Mary the mother of Jesus, and her family being a part of that group on the day of Pentecost who were filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance, and with the power and leading and guiding and teaching of the Holy Ghost, Mary the mother of Jesus was no more pondering about who her Son Jesus was, and what He came into this world to do. Furthermore consider this promise that Jesus gave his disciples and how special this must have be to Mary... JOHN 14:26 *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.* Mary the mother of Jesus now filled with the Holy Ghost had years and years of all these special things with Jesus to remember, and thirty three years of whatsoever I have said unto you, at her newly enlightened recall. What a comforter the Holy Spirit was to her. He is no less to you and me. Who told Luke all of the wonderful things we have studied found in LUKE chapters 1 & 2? It had to have been Mary the pondering Mother of Jesus, who now was full of the Holy Ghost that aided her in remembering all of these events she had so long pondered.*

Before moving on to our next **midnight** Bible story, let's ponder some more things concerning a couple of Mary's other boys. MARK 6:3 again lists the names of Jesus half brothers as *...James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon...* . We just read how that Jesus brothers got saved after His resurrection. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3 *...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James...* . The James referenced here is James the Lord's brother as told in GALATIANS 1:18 & 19: *Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. 19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.* Note here that James the Lord's brother is referred as an Apostle.

So when did James the Lord's brother become an Apostle? This bit of information is not told us in scripture. Was he chosen as a replacement Apostle for James the brother of John who was killed in ACTS 12:2? (ACTS 12:1 *Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. 2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.*) Scripture doesn't so state. The only conclusion that we can draw is that somewhere along the line James the Lord's brother became an Apostle, for the Apostle Paul refers to him as an Apostle. And he was an Apostle to the Jews, ACTS 15 and 21 plainly point this out. Further the Apostle Paul refers to James as one *"...who seemed to be pillars..."* in GALATIANS 2:9 in the church at Jerusalem. Obviously this could not be James the brother of John for he was killed in ACTS 12:2, and the events of GALATIANS 2 refer to the same events which took place during the time frame of ACTS 15. Then in JAMES 1:1 we read: *James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.* Thus we see James the Lord's brother was an Apostle to the Jews, in other words a kingdom Apostle, and furthermore James the Lord's brother was the Pastor of the church at Jerusalem that we read about in ACTS 15 and 21. We also just noted that James the

brother of Jesus wrote an epistle, which in our King James Version of the Bible is called The General Epistle of JAMES. Also another younger brother to both Jesus and James wrote another epistle in our King James Version of the Bible is called The General Epistle of JUDE. Both of these epistles were inspired of the Holy Ghost as is all scripture. 2 TIMOTHY 3:16 & 17 tells us this, stating: *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

In his epistle James wrote about our Lord Jesus Christ, Abraham, Rahab, Job, and Elijah, all of whom are full overcomers, and commonly acknowledged as hero's of faith. So check that out next time you study the book of JAMES, and wonder how many times these people's names came up in James' conversations with his brother Jesus as they were growing up. Also one of the underlying themes presented in JAMES is **patience**. The word "**patience**" is found thirty-four times in scripture, all in New Testament scripture. The Apostle Paul writes "**patience**" sixteen times in his epistles; the Apostle John mentions it seven times in REVELATION, a book full of seven's; and James speaks of "**patience**" five times in the epistle of JAMES. Here is what James wrote in JAMES 1:2 *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.* This is a very important portion of scripture, and I hope you too have studied it out. The bottom line here is that if you want "**patience**" in your life, then you are going to have trials. If you read on in JAMES 1:5 he mentions "**wisdom**," which is something you should ask for before requesting "**patience**." The Apostle Paul makes this clear in ROMANS 5. ROMANS 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.* Paul didn't mention "**wisdom**" here, but rather wrote "**wisdom**" explaining that *...tribulation worketh patience*. Again ask for wisdom before you ask for "**patience**" in your life, because obtaining "**patience**" requires tests, and trials. "**Patience**" by definition requires a period of time to pass; a waiting period, or a time of endurance. Think of it as **midnight** testing times. James brings up the topic of "**patience**" again in his closing chapter. JAMES 5:7 *Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. 9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. 10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. 11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.* When James writes *...that the Lord is very pitiful...* in verse 11, he is expressing how very compassionate, and full of compassion the Lord Jesus Christ is. James had also experienced this first hand. A double emphasis of this point is stated by James when he adds that the Lord is also full *...of tender mercy*, a fact James had also witnessed, and experienced first hand, before, and after Jesus death and resurrection.

The advice found in JAMES 5:7 is very sound, Holy Ghost inspired advice: *Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord.* I think we all here look forward to the coming of the Lord, so *... Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord.* In a different sense than we normally think, Job too looked forward unto the coming of the Lord, who presented Himself out of the whirlwind unto Job in JOB chapters 38-41, and Job, as James puts it, saw *...the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.* At the end of this trial for Job we find in JOB 42:12 that *...the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning.* How much are we blessed with? Go look in the mirror and realize that it was God the Father *...who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the*

foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved... EPHESIANS 1:3-6.

Now look at JUDE 1:1 *Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James...* . This younger brother of Jesus, and James also wrote an epistle where some unique things are mentioned in this short book of 25 verses. Jude mentions in verse 9 of Michael the archangel contending with the devil as he disputed about the body of Moses. In verses 14 & 15 Jude writes: *And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.* Since we don't read these statements anywhere else in scripture, where do you suppose Jude came up with this information? Consider this as you ponder an answer to this question. We read above in JOHN 1:1 & 2 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God.* We also read in ISAIAH 46:9 & 10 -- *Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.* And back again in JOHN 1:14 we also read above that *...the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us... ...full of grace and truth.* Three verses earlier John wrote: JOHN 1:11 *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.* With these scriptures in mind we can easily see that He who was in the beginning with God, who also knew the end from the beginning, who was made flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth, He could have very easily revealed to His own brothers the words spoken by Enoch, and facts about Michael the archangel contending with the devil as he disputed about the body of Moses, even though at the time He made known these facts His brothers didn't believe in Him. However Jesus knowing the end from the beginning, also knew that after His resurrection His brothers would become believers, and the Holy Ghost would remind them of the words they heard from Jesus as He carried on conversations with them during His many years growing up with them. I believe that is where Jude came up with the information he wrote in his little epistle of JUDE. Thus we find a very happy ending to our story of Jesus brothers reaffirming what is said in ISAIAH 55:11 *So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*