

CHRISTMAS 2025

Adult Sunday School

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Introduction

Christmas is when the world celebrates the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, which they do every year on December 25th, a tradition that started in the fourth century. In the United States Christmas was declared a federal holiday in 1870. Thank God the world celebrates the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, however for the most part, they get the real story of the birth of Jesus Christ all wrong because they don't believe, or know the facts of what the Bible teaches.

The Reason we need a Saviour

The reason we need a Saviour is explained in ROMANS 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.* We further read in ROMANS 5:12 *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.* Then the Apostle Paul records in 1 TIMOTHY 1:15 this fact as to why Christ Jesus was born: *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.*

The Prediction of Jesus Birth

There are several Old Testament scriptures that foretell of a coming Saviour. GENESIS 3:14 *And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it (He, Christ, the seed of the woman) shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.* GENESIS 3:15 is the first prophecy in scripture, and concerns our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The "woman's" seed speaks of Christ, as ISAIAH 7:14 explains: *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.* In DEUTERONOMY 18:15 Moses was doing the speaking here, and foretelling the coming of Jesus, and he says: *The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;... .* The Prophet Isaiah writes in ISAIAH 9:6 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.* Brother Hill here left this note: "How gentle the coming, who but God would have such daring and imagination, to conceive that almighty God would have appeared among men as a babe. ...Thus the great God emptied Himself, and let in the light as we were able to bear it. "Unto us a Son is given" -- this is the superlative gift -- and that love that bestowed such a gift, is all complete and gracious. And the Son was given that all could become sons." {End of quote from Brother Hill}.

Let's talk about Daniel for a moment. Because of his faith and trust in Almighty God, Daniel was promoted above all the wise men of Babylon. Furthermore Daniel is the only Old Testament writer to mention a Messiah, and he does so in DANIEL 9:25 & 26. No doubt Daniel revealed unto the wise men and astrologers in his day to be on the look out for the sign of the coming of the King of the Jews, Jesus the Messiah, and this sign would be a star that would appear at such and such a time, centuries beyond Daniel's life time. Since Daniel was a man of such high regard and respect, the wise men passed this information down to Daniel's predecessors, and at the time of Jesus birth His star appeared just as they had been taught.

The Conception and Birth of Jesus

There were relatively few people who were really looking for the soon coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ at His first advent. Today there are very few people really looking for the soon second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The date of Jesus birth isn't told us in scripture, but we have two accounts of Jesus birth recorded in the New Testament; one is found in MATTHEW 1 & 2, and the other in LUKE 1 & 2. Luke writes what he wrote by inspiration of the Holy Ghost from eyewitness accounts, and the eyewitness he interviewed concerning the birth of Jesus was Mary the mother of Jesus. Matthew, a publican, and a disciple of Christ, also wrote his gospel record by inspiration of the Holy Ghost, and by what he learned from, and witnessed of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In LUKE 1:5-25 we find the birth of John the Baptist foretold, and John the Baptist was sent by God to introduce *...unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus...* {ACTS 13:23 & ~~24~~}. The Prophet Isaiah prophesied of John the Baptist being sent to introduce Jesus to the world in ISAIAH 40:3 where he wrote: *The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.* {This verse is also quoted in MATTHEW 3:3, MARK 1:3, and LUKE 3:4.} The Prophet Malachi also wrote of John the Baptist in MALACHI 3:1 *Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.* John the Baptist's parents were Zacharias, and Elisabeth. John the Baptist was six months older than Jesus.

LUKE 1:26 *And in the sixth month {of the pregnancy of Elisabeth} the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.* Note where Mary and Joseph lived, they lived in Nazareth, not Bethlehem where Jesus was born.

LUKE 1:28 *And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.* These were heavenly words, words of greeting from an excited angel who spoke a heavenly language. The words "highly favoured" means: "exceedingly graced." "Highly favoured" comes from the Greek word charitoo {khar-ee-to'-o}, number 5487 in The Strong's Greek Concordance, meaning: to indue with special honor: -- make accepted, be highly favoured. Charitoo is used twice in scripture, once here in LUKE 1:28 where Mary is told how highly favoured she is, blessed among women. The Bride of Christ is also this very same "highly favoured," and we read this in EPHESIANS 1:6 *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted* (charitoo) *in the beloved.*

LUKE 1:29 *And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.* Here is the fulfillment of ISAIAH 7:14 *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: "God with us" or "with us is God."}

LUKE 1:32 *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. 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

1 JOHN 5:12 *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

LUKE 1:36 *And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. 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.* Mary believed the angel Gabriel, thus she believed God, and in the process became the mother of Jesus.

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. {A quote from ISAIAH 7:14 also noted twice above: Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.}*

Five things were revealed to Joseph in this dream by the angel: (1) It's okay to marry Mary; (2) her child is conceived of the Holy Ghost; (3) His name is Jesus; (4) He is the Saviour; and (5) He is God with us!

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.*

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.*

In LUKE 2 Joseph and Mary were husband and wife. LUKE 2:1 *And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. 2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.* The distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem is around 85 miles, and Joseph and Mary take this trip to Bethlehem to pay taxes even though we find Mary ...*being great with child.*

LUKE 2:6 *And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.* Had the world known who Jesus was there would have been room for him in the inn, or a number of other great places there in Bethlehem, but as we read in JOHN 1:11 *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

LUKE 2:8 *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.* The reason these shepherds were watching their flock by night was that it was lambing season, and the beasts of prey would be out in force at night during this time of year. No doubt it was during the spring when Jesus was born. Now consider these tender compassionate shepherds as they protected their new born lambs, and realize what was about to happen to them: God was going to see to it that they were the very first (besides Mary and Joseph) to see that most precious, and tender baby Jesus, **the Lamb of God**. Some thirty years later John the Baptist would

announce to the world “**Behold the Lamb of God,**” (JOHN 1:29 & 36), but on the night of our dear Saviour’s birth the shepherds of Bethlehem were among the first to **Behold the Lamb of God!**

LUKE 2:9 *And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born **this day** in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.* ISAIAH 9:6 tells us of this event and states: *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.* LUKE 2:12 *And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find **the babe** wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and **saying**, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.* This heavenly host were angels, and of these angels HEBREWS 1:6 states: *...when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.* Why were these angels so excited to see Jesus? Because they hadn’t seen him for nine months!

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. {However as we read on in scripture it seems that nobody believed them at that time.} 18 *And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 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.**

You will find in LUKE 2:39 that Joseph and Mary, after the birth of Jesus ...*they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.*

The Young Child Jesus

In MATTHEW 2 we do not find the baby Jesus in a manger, rather we find that Jesus is a “**young child.**” The Holy Ghost sees to it that we all are to know that Jesus wasn’t an infant baby in MATTHEW 2, so for emphasis He has Jesus noted as a “**young child**” nine times! {See MATTHEW 2:8; 2:9; 2:11; 2:13; 2:14; 2:20; and 2:21.} Furthermore in comparing MATTHEW 2:7 with MATTHEW 2:16 we find that “**young child**” as referenced in this chapter means a child of “two years old.” Simply put Jesus was two years old in MATTHEW 2.

Also in MATTHEW 2 we find reference to the “wise men from the east.” No specific “wise men from the east” are mentioned in LUKE 2, because it took these wise men two years to come from the east to Israel. We are not told how many wise men came to Jerusalem seeking Jesus. We do know from MATTHEW 2 that these wise men brought three gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

A careful reading of MATTHEW 2 tells us what took place two years after Jesus was born. MATTHEW 2:1 *Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.* {Herod thought he was king of the Jews, for that was the title the world had placed on him.} Let’s talk about these wise men for a moment. Who were they, and where did they come from? We find these wise men mentioned four times in MATTHEW 2, verse 1, 7, and twice in verse 16. The Greek word translated “wise men” is magos {mag'-os}, number 3097 in The Strong’s Greek Concordance. Magos is the name given by the Babylonians (Chaldeans), Medes, Persians, and others, to the wise men, teachers,

priests, physicians, astrologers, seers, interpreters of dreams, augers, soothsayers, sorcerers etc. Go back and study the book of DANIEL, and there you will find Daniel grouped in with the magicians, and astrologers. Because of his faith and trust in Almighty God, Daniel was promoted above all the wise men of Babylon. DANIEL 2:48 says: *Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.* DANIEL 5:11 & 12 goes on to state how Daniel was ...*made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers;...* . In DANIEL chapters 8 & 9 Daniel had a couple of visions, to whom God sent the angel Gabriel to give Daniel the understanding of. {Study DANIEL 8:16 and 9:21 & 22.} Though it is not stated in so many words in DANIEL, it is not hard to imagine where the wise men of MATTHEW 2 got the idea to be looking for a sign announcing the birth of the Messiah, who is Jesus the King of the Jews. Daniel is the only one to mention a Messiah, and he does so in DANIEL 9:25 & 26. No doubt Daniel revealed unto the wise men and astrologers in his day to be on the look out for the sign of the coming of the King of the Jews, Jesus the Messiah, and this sign would be a star that would appear at such and such a time, centuries beyond Daniel's life time. Since Daniel was a man of such high regard and respect, the wise men passed this information down to Daniel's predecessors, and at the time of Jesus birth His star appeared just as they had been taught. Thus we read in MATTHEW 2:1 *Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.* The wise men expected the King of the Jews to be reigning in Jerusalem the capital city of Israel.

Herod thought he was the king of the Jews, so he was very much troubled by the inquiring wise men, and so we read in MATTHEW 2:3 *When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. 5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.* {From MICAH 5:2 *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*} 7 *Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.*

Think about this logically for a moment. How long in Jesus day would it take to travel from Babylon to Jerusalem? We find the answer here in MATTHEW 2, which was two years. These wise men didn't exactly have their camels packed with their supplies and gifts for the King of the Jews just as soon as they saw His star, so they couldn't have left on a moments notice. And there was no way they were going to get to Bethlehem in the forty days or less that Jesus was there after His birth in LUKE 2. And we know from LUKE 2:39 that Jesus was living in Nazareth, which would be where the wise men would find him when they finally got to Israel. Notice that the wise men first went to Jerusalem inquiring "where is He that is born King of the Jews?" Since they had been taught about Jesus since the days of Daniel, and were looking for His appearing, they made the assumption that all Israel would know about Jesus too, but they didn't. Not too many were looking for Jesus at His first coming, and the same is true today concerning His second coming. So old cunning Herod privately called the wise men in, and made a **diligent** inquiry of the wise men as to when the star first appeared. We find the answer in MATTHEW 2:16 *Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had **diligently enquired of the wise men.*** So we see the wise men got to Jerusalem two years after the birth of Jesus.

MATTHEW 2:8 *And he (Herod) sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search **diligently for the young child**; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.* Herod had no intention of ever worshipping Jesus, he just wanted to kill Him,

wanting no successors. MATTHEW 2:9 *When they (the wise men) had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the **young child** was.* Did the wise men go to Bethlehem as Herod requested? Probably not for we are told they followed the star now knowing that they weren't going to get any help from the people in Israel. MATTHEW 2:10 *When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. 11 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.* Note here that Jesus was a **young child**, and as we noted in MATTHEW 2:16, Jesus was now about two years old. And they 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 (1 TIMOTHY 6:15); did these wise men know that Jesus was the great High Priest (HEBREWS 4:14); did these wise men know that Jesus was the Prophet of Nazareth of Galilee (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. They continued on their course until they found him, overcoming all obstacles until they did. In this sense they were Gentile racecourse runners. And it is obvious from MATTHEW 2:12 they followed the voice of God. MATTHEW 2:12 *And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. 13 And when they were departed, 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. 14 When he arose, he took the **young child** and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:* (How was such a trip financed? Money was provided Joseph and Mary by the valuable gold, frankincense, and myrrh that the wise men gave to Jesus. PHILIPPIANS 4:19 *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*) MATTHEW 2:15 *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.* {From HOSEA 11:1 *When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.*} MATTHEW 2:16 *Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, 18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.* {From JEREMIAH 31:15} 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. ...23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets. He shall be called a Nazarene.*

So to recap, Mary and Joseph were from Nazareth. They went to Bethlehem to pay taxes, and that is where Jesus was born, but He didn't live in Bethlehem, He lived in Nazareth with His parents. Nazareth was where the wise men found Him two years later. Joseph and Mary took Jesus and fled to Egypt after the wise men's visit, and they stayed there until after Herod's death. When told by the angel of the Lord that it was okay to once again return into Israel, Joseph and Mary took Jesus and returned to Nazareth, and it was at Nazareth where Jesus grew up. We read seventeen times in scripture the statement "Jesus of Nazareth" leaving no doubt that Jesus was from Nazareth, not Bethlehem.