

THE MIRACLE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

12-22-2019

Intro: Soon another year will have passed and we will be that much closer to the return of our Lord. The Bible says that as we get closer to the Lord's return we will see perilous times. I have never seen such wickedness being perpetuated in our nation. Our leaders are acting like a bunch of spoiled brats.

We have a congress who votes to impeach our president and then refuses to send the Articles of Impeachment to the senate. What is that? It is as if to say, if you don't play by my rules I am taking my ball and going home. Everyone wants their own way, and could care less about the big picture and the welfare of our nation. Could you imagine these politicians leaving this matter up in the air and going home thinking they are going to now celebrate Christmas? It is as if to say, I hope this wrecks your Christmas Donald Trump and Republicans and conservatives of the nation. How mischievous. It is something that a spoiled brat or a child would do and not responsible leaders.

We live in a society that doesn't know right from wrong, truth from lie, what defines life, what defines a marriage. God has become the environment and we are supposed to bow down to this Mother Earth god no matter who gets hurt.

I hear people saying, what can we do about it? Now the truth is we can't do much about it, but God can!

Sometimes when the world around you seems to be going insane I like to take my Bible out and read it and try to get God's mind. Reading the Word of God brings sanity back into my life in this insane world. There is no greater time of the year to get some peace and sanity in your life than this precious time of the year when we celebrate the birth of our Lord! Did not the angels proclaim:

Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

This week Randy and Evie LaCroix took us out to see The Miracle of Christmas at Sight and Sound. What a blessing it is to think back on the Miracle of the incarnation. When the confusion around us overwhelms us, and this world seems to make no sense, let us get away for a short time and meditate on just how great and marvelous it was that God sent His son into this world. He took on flesh to be our Saviour.

So let's forget about impeachment and the Demon-crats of this world. The Grinches who want to steal away our Christmas joy. The doomsday environmentalist who clamor about the 1 degree of global rise in temperature over the last 100 years on our planet. Let us for 1 hour just look into the blessed book and see just how great a miracle our God has performed when He sent His son into this world.

**THE MIRACLE STORY OF CHRISTMAS.
OVERVIEW OF KEY PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY.**

Scripture reading:

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.

Matthew 1:19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

Matthew 1:20 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.

Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

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.

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:

Matthew 1:25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus.

Matthew 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Beth-lehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Matthew 2:2 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.

Matthew 2:3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Matthew 2:4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

Matthew 2:5 And they said unto him, In Beth-lehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

Matthew 2:6 And thou Beth-lehem, 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.

Matthew 2:7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

Matthew 2:8 And he sent them to Beth-lehem, 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.

Matthew 2:9 When they 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.

Matthew 2:10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

Matthew 2:11 And when they were come into the house, 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.

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.

Matthew 2:13 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.

Matthew 2:14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

Matthew 2:15 And was there 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.

Matthew 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Beth-lehem, 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.

Matthew 2:17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,

Matthew 2:18 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.

Matthew 2:19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

Matthew 2:20 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.

Matthew 2:21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.

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:

Matthew 2:23 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.

When the kids were smaller, we used to gather around the Christmas tree to sing Christmas songs and read the Bible story about Christmas. This was one of the highlights of Christmas. I miss those days. But now, let's just do it as a church. This is the Sunday before Christmas and this morning I felt led of the Lord to just read the Christmas story and say a few things about the story, about the time when our Lord entered this world.

We find the Christmas story in Mathew 1:18 ff.

I have divided the story into three headings.

I want to look at:

The Miracle Child Jesus.
The Maniac King Herod.
The Model Family Joseph & Mary.

OVERVIEW OF KEY PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY

I. THE MIRACLE CHILD

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.

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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.

1. CONSIDER THIS MIRACLE CHILD.

The Miracle was that Jesus was born without an earthly father.

A virgin shall be with Child.

God sent His son into the world and He was born of a virgin.

Nothing is impossible with God. How is it that we underestimate the power of the God of the Bible? The world scoffs in disbelief concerning this doctrine. Even so called clergy and liberal theologians doubt this miracle. They conjecture that Jesus was the illegitimate child of a Roman soldier.

It was necessary that the Messiah come into this world sinless and what made that possible was the miracle of the virgin birth.

Without the virgin Birth Jesus would have inherited the sin nature of Adam.

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:

We are all sinners and we all deserve death. As sinners, given the opportunity we will commit sin and go astray and do wrong.

WHY ARE WE SURPRISED THAT ALL MEN SIN AND WILL SIN? WE SHOULD BE SURPRISED WHEN MEN DO RIGHT AND DO NOT SIN.

Birds Fly.
Cats Meow.
Dogs bark.
The children of Adam sin.

2. The Miracle Child Took On the Likeness of sinful flesh without being a sinner.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Here is the miracle, God took on the form of man.

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Jesus camouflaged his glory and majesty. This was a miracle.

Not only was it a miracle that Jesus was born without a human father, but the greater miracle was that He was God in the flesh.

3. THE NEXT MIRACLE WAS THE WORK THAT HE DID.

Jesus lived a sinless life. 33 years without sin. He walked amongst sinners but did not sin. Look all around us, there are temptations to sin. There are people to provoke us to anger, there are people who are nasty and unkind, tempting us to retaliate. The language alone is enough to cause you to sin. Jesus knows what it is like to be tempted to sin, yet He never sinned!

Hebrews 4:15 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.

He lived a sinless life and then died a sinners death.

This was a Miracle that a sinless person could die.

Consider the Maniac King.

II. THE MANIAC KING.

Matthew 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Beth-lehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Matthew 2:2 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.

Matthew 2:3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

At sight and sound they did a rendition of the wise men coming to worship the Lord. In the entourage you get an idea of the wealth and greatness of these men from the east. Their wealth and majesty was enough to impress a king Herod. It was not just three men that showed up. There were three gifts of wealth and cost that is maybe where we get the idea of three wise men. But if only three wise men showed up I don't think all Jerusalem would be troubled and stirred.

Consider, Joseph and Mary were so poor they had to stay in the stable, but were so important that a parade and entourage of important men from the east came marching into Bethlehem to worship our Jesus!

1. THE MANIAC KINGS OF THIS WORLD HAVE THEIR DAY.

Matthew 2:4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

Matthew 2:5 And they said unto him, In Beth-lehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

Matthew 2:6 And thou Beth-lehem, 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.

2. THE MANIAC KING WAS A TRUE POLITICIAN.

The rulers of this present world have learned to get ahead through lies and scheming and deceit.

Matthew 2:7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

Matthew 2:8 And he sent them to Beth-lehem, 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.

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Matthew 2:8 And he sent them to Beth-lehem, 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 was a true politician in that he was deceptive, and pretended to be nice and kind.

It's like Nancy Pelosi pretending to be solemn and somber about the impeachment of Trump. When her colleagues could not contain themselves and they applauded when the vote was cast, she gave them a dirty look, saying remember how to act! A politician needs to be an actor. Most times they dare not tell people what they are really thinking.

2. THE MANIAC KINGS OF THIS WORLD ARE BRUTAL AND WILL DO ALL THEY CAN TO GET AHEAD.

Matthew 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Beth-lehem, 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.

Matthew 2:17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,

Matthew 2:18 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.

So it is the higher up you are in this world it seems the more corrupt things are.

This goes in the religious circles also. Where ever there is politics, there the devil is, and prospers. Imagine he was the first community organizer who stirred up the very angels of heaven against God the father. He knows how to do it!

This is one of the reasons I have stayed out where I am for 36 years. No politicking here in our church, we do not cater to the rich everything is what it is. We can preach the truth and not fear the consequences. I do not have to rub shoulders with the Herods of this world.

III THE MODEL FAMILY.

1. Joseph and Mary were unique people. Just Godly and virtuous.

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Matthew 1:20 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.

It took faith for Mary to be willing to be the mother of Jesus.

It took faith for Joseph to believe that Mary was pure.

Joseph thought he would put Mary away privately.

Some things are best kept private. Even things that are not necessarily sin. Sinful men will read wickedness into everything.

I Corinthians 13:5 (LOVE) Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Joseph did not expect others to believe that Mary had not committed immorality. So he took her as his wife and let everyone believe that Jesus was his son.

Mary was willing to take the chance that God would cause Joseph to believe her.

Joseph and Mary were role models of faith. They both did what God told them to do and trusted God by faith that everything would work out.

WHENEVER GOD CALLS US TO WALK BY FAITH THERE IS ALWAYS A RISK INVOLVED.

We don't know how God is going to work everything out but He will if we only trust Him!

2. JOSEPH WAS OBEDIENT TO GOD'S LEADING.

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:

Matthew 1:25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus.

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.

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No doubt, the treasure that the wise men brought to Joseph and Mary was used to support them all the years they were in Egypt. God knows all things and provides for His people.

After this Herod kills all the children in Bethlehem and the surrounding areas 2 years old and under. What people will do to protect their positions in this world.

Then when Herod is dead, Joseph returns to Israel.

Matthew 2:19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

Matthew 2:20 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.

Matthew 2:21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.

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:

Matthew 2:23 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.

Most people move for jobs, money, opportunities.
Joseph moved because he was led of the Lord.

The number one reason that families are destroyed is because husbands do not know how to be led of God.

So many move for finances. God rarely leads on the bases of finances alone.

So many move on the basis of whim. God does not lead on the basis of human whim.

Joseph was clearly led of the Lord. and was obedient to God's leading.

Just like Abraham who sought a city whose builder and maker was God so Joseph discovered safety is of the Lord.

So here we have the story of Christmas with all its miracles.

I. WE READ OF THE Miracle Child.

II. WE READ OF THE Maniac King and God's miraculous deliverance of Jesus.

III. THEN WE SEE THE ROLE Model Family and their faith and obedience to God!

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.

Key People Involved in the Christmas Story.

A MIRACLE CHILD.
A MANIAC KING.
A MODEL FAMILY.

Invitation:

The Miracle Child still needs to be worshipped.
The Maniac King Avoided.
The Model Family Emulated and Praised.

Interesting, more is said about Joseph in this account than any other place in the Scriptures.

If you have not trusted the Lord as your Savior receive Him into your heart today!