

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY 12/9/2018

Years ago, when my kids were small, we would all sit around the Christmas tree and I would tell my kids a Bible story. I love the Christmas story. There is no greater story in all the world than the Christmas story. Even the angels were excited to tell the story of our Lord's birth.

The Christmas story is all about God sending His eternal son into this world to save us from our sins. The Christmas story is a joyous story, when the angel appeared to the shepherds that night he said:

Luke 2:10 Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

The Christmas story is a story that brings good will to all men.

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

I. THE FIRST MENTION OF THAT STORY WAS TOLD IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN:

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The story started with the prediction of a child who would be born of a woman who would come and destroy Satan.

A woman would have a child without a human father.

This is where it starts:

II. THAT WOMAN WAS MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS.

An angel spoke to Mary and told her she would have a son, even though she was a virgin.

Luke 1:30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

Luke 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.

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:

Luke 1:33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Luke 1:34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

Luke 1:35 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.

75 generations passed from the prediction of Christ's coming in Genesis 3:15. 75 patriarchs come and went and died before Jesus was born.

II. THE CHRISTMAS STORY INVOLVES JOSEPH THE HUSBAND OF MARY.

He had to believe that God performed a miracle and he took Mary to be his wife.

Back in the day he could have made a public example of her and had her stoned for committing what seemed to be adultery. Instead he believed God performed this miracle.

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.

III. THIS STORY INVOLVES AN INNKEEPER WHO ALLOWED MARY AND JOSEPH TO USE HIS STABLE.

Jesus was laid in a manger.

There is something warm and fuzzy about seeing the manger scene under the Christmas tree. To us it is warm and fuzzy but I will guarantee you that it was not the ideal place to have to give birth to a baby.

He who was rich became poor so you and I could celebrate this beautiful holiday.

The world had no room for this king. This was a foretaste of things to come where the princes of this world would reject Christ as their saviour.

He who was rich became poor for us. Even to this day people have no time and no room for Jesus in their lives.

When you see the little manger under the Christmas tree let that be a reminder that Jesus came into this world and was rejected and suffered for you and for me. **THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR HIM!**

Mary had Jesus in a stable, not the cleanest place to have a baby.

Luke 2:7 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.

WHAT WERE SWADDLING CLOTHES? It was a way of wrapping a baby snugly to protect it and make it feel secure and keep it from scratching or harming itself.

III. THE CHRISTMAS STORY INVOLVED SOME LOWLEY SHEPHERDS.

The mayor of Bethlehem didn't come to greet Jesus.
The governors and rulers didn't show up.
The religious leaders could have cared less.

The ones who came were the lowly shepherds.

Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

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.

Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Luke 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

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

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 Beth-lehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

Luke 2:16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Luke 2:17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

Luke 2:18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

God will always have some who will come to him.

The leaders didn't have time for Jesus.

The rulers couldn't be bothered.

The religious big shots didn't come.

Jesus made sure there was a welcoming for the Lord.

Only the meek, only the humble, only the lowly people of the world will come to Him.

IV. THIS STORY INVOLVES A GROUP OF WISE MEN FROM THE EAST.

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.

These were scholars, well read. Men who would have read the prophecies of Daniel the prophet. In the book of Daniel a prediction is given in years as to when the Christ Child would come. They would have read these

prophecies and had been looking for the Messiah to come. When God gave a sign in heaven it sent them searching for the Christ Child.

If we will be wise we should be wise in our study of the Bible.

The Bible says that wisdom comes from reading the word of God.

The Bible says not many wise will come. But some will come and they did.

II Timothy 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

II Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

You children can be like the wise men of old if you continue in learning the Bible and study it!

So the Story involves:

- I. A PROPHECY.
- II. MARY.
- III. JOSEPH.
- IV. INNKEEPER.
- V. LOWLY SHEPHERDS.
- VI. WISE MEN.

VII. THE STORY ALSO INVOLVES WICKED HEROD. WHO SOUGHT TO KILL BABY JESUS.

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:

Herod sought to kill Jesus.

There are many who hate God and hate Jesus and if they could they would do away with any remembrance of Him.

These are Satan's puppet leaders.

Those who seek to greatness in this world by doing wrong.

Those who will do anything to get their way.

Those who hate God and are the enemies of Christ.

They will deceive you and try to make you think they worship God.

Herod said. “go find this baby Jesus and bring me word so I can come and worship Him”. HE WAS A LIAR.

So the story involves:

PROPHECY OF HIS COMING.

MARY. THE WOMAN GOD USED TO FULFILL THE PROPHECY.

JOSEPH. (BELIEVE GOD A JUST MAN).

INNKEEPER. (HAD NO ROOM FOR CHRIST).

SHEPHERDS. (CAME AND WORSHIPPED HIM).

THE WISE MEN. (THEY CAME DILIGENTLY SEEKING HIM)

HEROD. (SOUGHT TO KILL HIM)

VIII. FINALLY THIS STORY INVOLVES YOU.

He came for you.

He wants you to be like the lowly shepherds.

He wants you to be like the wise men.

DON'T BE LIKE THE INN KEEPER WHO HAD NO ROOM FOR JESUS.

DON'T BE LIKE HEROD WHO PLOTTED TO GET HIS WAY.

WILL YOU RECEIVE HIM?