

# The Real Christmas Story

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.** 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, 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. 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 Beth-lehem of Judaea:** for thus it is written by the prophet, 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. 7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. 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. **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. **10** When they saw the star, **they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.** **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 Beth-lehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) **5 To be taxed with Mary** his espoused wife, being great with child. **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.** **8** And there were in the same country

**shepherds abiding in the field,** keeping watch over their flock by night. **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.** **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.** **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. **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. 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.

- What is the spirit of Christmas?
  - Giving present
  - Is it fun and fellowship
  - Is it partying and drinking
  - Is it family
  - Is it love
  - What is the spirit we see surrounding His birth in the Bible
- This is one of our favorite holidays but honestly the birth of Christ gets lost in the shuffle
- We gripe that they do not say Merry Christmas but we might not really understand nor practice what we see in the Bible story of His birth

- The real story is that Christmas is about getting lost sinners saved
- The real Christmas story is about God sacrificing Himself on the cross to save us
- The Christmas story is a time to worship the God of glory
- The real Christmas story is a story of hope to the nations

I. It is a story of salvation for sinners [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.***

A. Sin has separated man from God [Isaiah 59:2](#) *But your iniquities **have separated between you and your God,** And your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.*

B. The wrath of God abides on lost men [John 3:36](#) *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and **he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.***

- C. The purpose of His coming was to call sinners to salvation  
**Luke 5:31** And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. **32**  
**I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**
- D. Man is condemned already and needs a Saviour  
**John 3:18** He that believeth on him is not condemned: but **he that believeth not is condemned already**, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
- E. He came to rescue men who die because of sin  
**Romans 5:8** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us. **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:**
1. Jesus is the only way to God **John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is **none other name under heaven** given among men, whereby we must be saved.

## II. It is a story of sacrifice

### A. He was rich and became poor for our sakes

II Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, **yet for your sakes he became poor,** that ye through his poverty might be rich.

### B. He laid down His kingly robes and put on human flesh and became obedient even to the death of the cross

Philippians 2:6 Who, **being in the form of God,** thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of **no reputation,** and took upon him the form of a **servant,** and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he **humbled himself,** and became obedient unto death, **even the death of the cross.**



- C. He came to give His life a ransom [Matthew 20:28](#) Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to **give his life a ransom for many.**
- D. He came to take the penalty of sin for us [I John 2:2](#) And he is the **propitiation for our sins:** and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.
- E. He came to lay down His life [John 10:18](#) No man taketh it from me, but **I lay it down of myself.** I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

### III. Is a story of worship

- A. Amazingly when Mary enters Elizabeth's presence being with child the baby, John, leaps in the womb and Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit [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:**

- B. When Mary heard she was going to be the mother of Jesus she worshipped
1. Her soul magnified the Lord not herself **1:46** And Mary said, **My soul doth magnify the Lord,**
  2. She recognized that she needed a Saviour **Luke 1:47** And my spirit hath **rejoiced in God my Saviour.**
  3. She realized that God had done great things to her **Luke 1:49** For he that is mighty **hath done to me great things;** And holy *is* his name.
  4. She recognized that His name was holy **Luke 1:49** For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; And **holy is his name.**
- C. The angels praised God **Luke 2:13** 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.
- D. The shepherds worshipped glorifying and praising God **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.
- E. Simeon blessed God when he took and held Jesus in his arms [Luke 2:28](#) 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.
- F. Anna gave thanks and spake to others of Him [Luke 2:38](#) 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.
- G. The wise men came to worship [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.**

1. They came seeking Him as the King of the Jews  
**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.**
2. Herod claimed that he wanted to worship **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.
3. The wise men rejoiced with exceeding great joy when they saw His star **Matthew 2:10** When they saw the star, they **rejoiced with exceeding great joy.**
4. In their worship they
  - a) Fell on their knees or really fell down **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.
  - b) They presented Him gifts-giving is a part of worship

## H. Worship that took place in the story

1. Being filled with the Spirit of God
2. Praising God
3. Recognizing your need of a Saviour
4. Talking to others about Him
5. Bowing before Him
6. Giving gifts or offerings to Him

## IV. It is a story of hope

- A. We can have the relationship with God that He intended-  
Emmanuel-God with us
- B. Death is defeated by the One who overcame death and  
hell
- C. Satan is defeated and will be crushed under our feet

**Romans 16:20** And **the God of peace shall  
bruise Satan under your feet shortly.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

- D. Peace and good will toward men **Luke 2:14** Glory to God  
in the highest, And on earth **peace, Good will  
toward men.**

1. Peace with God [Romans 5:1](#) Therefore being justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ:
  2. Peace of God [Philippians 4:7](#) And the **peace of God**, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
- E. The shepherds made known everywhere what they had heard about the child [Luke 2:17](#) And when they had seen *it*, they **made known abroad** the saying which was told them concerning this child.