

CHRISTMAS

Luke 2:1-18; Matthew 2:1-2; 9-12

Introduction: Christmas is an ageless story and it needs no "apology." It is the single most important event in human history and has turned the world around. Think for a moment - what if there had been no birth of Jesus? What would be missing? Hospitals, schools, libraries, churches, etc. Even in countries where there is no official recognition of God, there are thousands who worship Jesus Christ at Christmas. So, let's go down memory lane and once again remember "CHRISTMAS."

1. There was the official decree: Everyone was to go to their hometown and register. (*Luke 1:1-3*)
 - If you remember King David numbered the people of Israel and other governors and rulers also numbered the people more than once.
 - In this country of our own, there is a census, a numbering every 10 years or so.
 - In the text Caesar Augustus issued the order to go to one's hometown and register.

2. There was the journey: Joseph and expectant Mary traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem to register. (*Luke 2:4-5*)
 - There were only 4 people on earth who knew all the facts of about Mary's expectancy.
 - Mary of course knew.
 - Mary told her cousin Elizabeth and Zachariah (husband).
 - Joseph, of course knew.
 - The journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem was some 100 miles as they had to by-pass the land of Samaria as it was forbidden for a Jew to go into, and they were only able to travel some 8 to 10 miles per day due to Mary's condition and transportation method.

3. There was the birth: There were no rooms available in Bethlehem. (*Luke 2:6-7*)
 - All of Bethlehem was asleep and the world's greatest event was happening.
 - If there was no birth at Bethlehem, then there would be no cross, no resurrection, no ascension, no eternal life.
 - Our victory is tied up in this birth.
 - The Hymn - "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
 - The Hymn - "O Holy Night"
 - There are many places mentioned in the Bible that no one is sure about their location in the Holy Lands, but there is no doubt, it is well known the exact place of Jesus Christ's birth. There is the Church of the Nativity and Star that marks the exact place.
 - The Hymn - "Silent Night"
 - It is true! Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem.

4. There were angels who announced the birth of Jesus. (*Luke 2:8-14*)
 - The Hymn - "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"
 - Shepherds were the first people to seek Christ. Try to imagine their feelings and the questions they must have had. The Promised Messiah Had Come!"
 - What were your feelings when YOU first really met Jesus Christ, the Messiah?
 - Why did Jesus come as an infant, a baby? Why not fully grown and as a King?, etc.

5. There were some wise men who came to see the baby Jesus. (*Matthew 2:1-2; 9-12*)
 - The last evil thing wicked Herod was to kill all male babies, hoping to kill the Messiah who had just been born.
 - Three wise men found the baby Jesus and brought gifts.
 - Gold, which financed their trip and stay.
 - Frankincense - like prayers rising to heaven.
 - Myrrh - an embalming ointment, which pointed to the fact that Jesus was born to die.

6. The Hymn - "Away In A Manger"
 - Jesus was born in a manger - then.
 - Jesus is born in our hearts - today - is He in your heart?

CONCLUSION:

1. The Christmas story never grows old for the results of it continue to be renewed every day in our hearts.
2. Remember the real, the true Christmas story is not about Santa Claus, or any of the other stories added through the years.
3. The Christmas Story is God's plan for our redemption being brought into action.
4. So, what does the real Christmas Story mean to you?

SCRIPTURES RELATED TO CHRISTMAS

Galatians 4:4-5 - God's Plan

Genesis 3:15 - Eve's Seed

Genesis 12:3 - 2,000 B.C. - Abraham

Numbers 24:17 - 1500 B.C. - A Star, A King

Isaiah 7:14 - 700 B.C. - A Virgin

9:6 - A Son

11:1 - Of Jesse

11:10 - Gentiles to Look For Him

Micah 5:2 - 700 B.C. Born in City of Bethlehem

Jeremiah 23:5 - 600 B.C. - Of David

Luke 1:31 - 6 Months - To Be Called Jesus

Luke 2:1 - Birth of Jesus Christ