

## THE REAL CHRISTMAS STORY

**Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-12**

**Introduction:** Today, we are going to take a journey through history and go back some 4,000 years in time. Let us see what the REAL Christmas story is all about.

### I. GOD HAD A PLAN FROM THE VERY BEGINNING

1. **Genesis 3:15** - God hinted to Eve of His plan.
2. **Genesis 12:3** - God made a covenant with Abraham (Abram)
3. **John 3:16** - God's love for mankind demanded action on His part.

### II. GOD REVEALED PARTS OF HIS PLAN THROUGH THE AGES

1. **Genesis 12:3** - Through Abraham, God was going to bless all nations (2,000 B.C.).
2. **Numbers 24:17** - Balaam predicted that a "star," a king would come from Jacob (1500 B.C.).
3. **Isaiah** spoke of a son being born of a virgin from Jesse and would be named "Immanuel" meaning "God with us" and that he would rule and be sought by the Gentiles (700 B.C.).
4. **Micah** told of one being born at Bethlehem (700 B.C.).
5. **Jeremiah** spoke of a "king" coming from David (600 B.C.).

### III. GOD MOVED IN HISTORY TO BRING ABOUT HIS PLAN

1. God called Abraham and led him.
2. God spoke to Abraham's children and led them.
3. God gathered Abraham's children into a nation, fed them, led them, clothed them, fought for them, etc.
4. God moved other nations to bring about His plan: allowed His nation to be put into bondage at times, then defeated the nations at times, etc.
5. God raised up men such as Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David and various Prophets to guide His people.

### IV. WHEN THE TIME WAS RIGHT, GOD FULFILLED HIS PLAN

1. **Galatians 4:4-5**
2. An angel made the announcement to Mary and Joseph before they were married, thus Mary was still a "virgin." Joseph being of the lineage of David and Jesse.
3. A decree from Augustus Caesar caused Mary and Joseph to journey to Bethlehem, which was the birthplace of Joseph (David, Jesse, Obed, Ruth, Naomi, Boaz) thus the "City of David."
4. Wise men who lived in the East had followed a star to where Jesus, Mary and Joseph were, thus Christ was sought by Gentiles at His birth, even before starting His ministry.
5. An announcement was made to shepherds by angels, thus announcing to the Jews also.
6. The baby was named "Jesus" - Savior - "who shall save His people."

**CONCLUSION:**

1. The Christmas idea originated with God over 4,000 years ago.
2. For 2,000 years God acted in the lives of men and nations to bring about Christmas.
3. For the past 2,000 years God has waited for man/people to accept the greatest gift ever - His Son.
4. Have YOU accept God's Christmas Gift to you?