

The Biblical Story of Christmas

It is extremely important that we believe that Jesus is our Savior and that He came to earth about 2,000 years ago. We believers will be raptured before the Tribulation and Jesus' second coming. But unbelievers who don't know about Jesus Christ are in danger of damnation and grave danger of being deceived by imposters.

John 5:43 (page 992)

I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: **if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.**

Matthew 24:24 (page 918)

For **there shall arise false Christs**, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, **if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**

God told everyone when to expect Jesus.

Daniel 9:25 (page 835)

25Know therefore and understand, that **from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks:** the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

The passage below tells about the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem.

Ezra 7:11-13 (page 486)

11Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, even a scribe of the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of his statutes to Israel.

12Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time.

13I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee.

Ezra 9:9 (page 489)

For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, **to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.**

There can be confusion about the definition of “weeks” in the passage in Daniel. For us, a week is always 7 days. Israel has a “week” of days but also a “week” of years. Guess how many years in a “week of years:” 7! So there would be 69 weeks (of years) or 483 years after Artaxerxes’ commandment until Christ—Messiah the Prince—would come.

Did you ever wonder how the chief priests and scribes of Israel knew where the newborn King of the Jews was? Now you know.

Matthew 2:1-6 (page 891)

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came **wise men from the east to Jerusalem,**

2Saying, 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.

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

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

5And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

6And thou Bethlehem, 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.

There has been a lot of debate about the nature of the star in these scriptures. In the Bible, many times, a reference to stars is a reference to angels. The Bible always defines itself. Sometimes it is with parallel passages. Start with this verse.

Jude 1:6 (page 1148)

And **the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation**, he hath reserved **in everlasting chains under darkness** unto the judgment of the great day.

Then look at this verse. It says the same thing but “angels” is changed to “stars.”

Jude 1:13 (page 1148)

Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; **wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.**

It took the wise men, Gentiles, coming to worship the baby Jesus for the religious leaders to even admit that His birth was taking place! We know they knew the Jewish leaders knew when Jesus would be born. They even knew where He would be born. Why were they not there to greet Him?

Micah 5:2 (page 863)

But thou, **Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.**

After the visit from the wise men, Joseph took his family to Egypt for safety.

Matthew 2:13-15 (page 892)

13And 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.**

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

15And 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. 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.**

This, also, was prophesied.

Hosea 11:1 (page 845)

When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

But, it still wasn't safe to go back to Bethlehem, so Joseph took Jesus and His mother Mary to Nazareth in Galilee.

Matthew 2:22-23 (page 892)

22But 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:**

23And 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.

This caused some confusion among the people who knew the scriptures.

John 1:45-46 (page 987)

Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, **Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.**

46And Nathanael said unto him, **Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?** Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

John 7:40-43 (page 995)

40 Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet.

41 Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee?

42 Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?

43 So there was a division among the people because of him.

But the scriptures told the people who and what to look for.

Isaiah 7:14 (page 655)

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; **Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**

Of course, they were exactly right.

Matthew 1:21-23 (page 891)

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.

Israel always looked back on the time when they had a kingdom under King David. God had promised them that they would have this kingdom for eternity. But Israel's disobedience caused God to split the nation and then to scatter them. But God always keeps His promises so they knew the eternal kingdom was coming.

Isaiah 9:6-7 (page 656)

6For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7Of the increase of **his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom**, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 (page 724)

5Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper**, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

6In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Jeremiah 33:15-18 (page 737)

In those days, and at that time, will **I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.**

16In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.

17For thus saith the LORD; **David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel;**

18Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do sacrifice continually.

Jesus was that Branch of righteousness, and from the line of David. In the book of Matthew, Joseph's (Jesus legal father) lineage from David is demonstrated. Everyone thought that Joseph was Jesus' biological father.

Matthew 1:1, 9, 16 (page 892)

1The book of the generation of **Jesus Christ, the son of David**, the son of Abraham.

...6And Jesse begat **David the king**; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias;

...16And **Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary**, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

...but in Luke, it says that Joseph's father was named Heli and shows his descent from king David's son Nathan. This is because Mary was also descended from David, and her right to the throne came from her father and then through her husband. Jesus got His right to the throne of David from His mother Mary!

Luke 3:23, 31 (page 953)

23And **Jesus** himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of **Joseph, which was the son of Heli**,

...31Which was the son of Melea, which was the son of Menan, which was the son of Mattatha, which was the son of **Nathan, which was the son of David**,