

The Myth of Christmas

(Sample Excerpt)

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Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture quotations in this book are from the King James Version of the Bible.

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Why I Wrote This Book

There is a lot of confusion and division among churches today with regards to the celebration of the birthday of our LORD Jesus Christ. There are arguments suggesting that Jesus could not have been born in December, therefore, celebrating Christmas in December is wrong. Some people have even suggested that the celebration of Christmas is a pagan tradition.

There are several topics of debate, including the “Christmas Tree,” the “Virgin Birth,” “Santa Claus” and the excessive commercialization of Christmas especially in the Western world. The true meaning of Christmas is often lost in the midst of all the confusion. Some groups of people have decided altogether to abandon the celebration of Christmas. Even for those who celebrate Christmas on December 25th, the Bible account of the birth of Jesus has been clouded by very deep tradition and conflicting interpretations by different churches. Several Christmas cards on the market today convey scripturally wrong messages.

As Christians, we need to be extra careful when we share the Christmas story with unbelievers. If they read the Bible later and find out that we told them something that was not true

about the birth of Jesus, then they might think that everything else we tell them about the Bible may be wrong.

It is my hope that God will help me through this book to clear some of the myths surrounding Christmas. Of course, I am not attempting to convince you that my views are the absolute truth. Please prayerfully study scripture along with me and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding about the truths of Christmas. After completing this book, I hope you will agree with the following statements:

1. Joseph and Mary were not poor. They did not stay in the inn because they could not afford a hotel.
2. The wise men did not come to the manger.
3. The Bible does not say there were three wise men.
4. The wise men brought great treasures, not just three little containers of gold, frankincense and myrrh.
5. Jesus attracted wealth when He was just a little boy and He still attracts wealth into every environment He dwells in today.

Chapter 1

The Biblical Account

In order to get an accurate understanding of the sequence of events, I suggest that we study the scripture in the following sequence:

1. Start from the book of Luke
2. Then, go back to Matthew
3. Then, return to Luke
4. Finally, go back to Matthew.

Please just follow along with me. The account of the birth of Jesus begins in Luke chapter 1 verse 26. But we first need to read about the other miraculous birth that is recorded in the same chapter before Jesus was born. That baby was John the Baptist who was to be the forerunner of Jesus Christ. John was sent ahead of Jesus to prepare the way and proclaim the coming of the Messiah.

Luke 1: 5-13

⁵THERE was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. ⁶And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. ⁷And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and

they both were now well stricken in years. ⁸And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, ⁹According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. ¹⁰And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. ¹¹And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. ¹³But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

We are going to see throughout this story that there were multiple appearances of angels. We will also notice that every time an angel appeared, the people were afraid and the angel told them not to fear. The angel told Zacharias not to fear.

Angels still exist in the world today. The Bible says in Hebrews 1:14 that angels are ministering spirits sent forth to minister for us

Hebrews 1:14

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

There are good angels of God and also fallen angels commonly known as demonic powers. Satan and his demonic powers can sometimes appear as angels of light. We need to learn to distinguish between the two types of angels.

As human beings, we will naturally be startled or afraid when an angel appears to us. Any time a good angel appears to us, he will dispel our fear. He will bring us comfort. On the other hand, if a fallen angel appears to us, the fear and tremor will remain in us. Fear is the opposite of faith. Faith is from God and fear is from the devil. If you remain in fear after the visitation of an angel, then that angel was most likely not from God.

Luke 1: 14-15

¹⁴And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. ¹⁵For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb

Please pay attention to two facts here because we shall discuss them later. The angel told Zacharias that his son should be called John. The angel also told him that the unborn baby John would be filled with the Holy Spirit while he was in his mother's womb.

Luke 1: 16-20

¹⁶And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. ¹⁷And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. ¹⁸And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. ¹⁹And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. ²⁰And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

Like many of us, Zacharias began to give excuses. He said he and his wife were too old to have babies. When God wants to perform a job through you, your excuses will not be justified. God is able to bypass and supersede any natural handicaps you might have. The angel said, “*I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God.*” Your success is not determined by what you can do in your own flesh. It is based upon what you allow the power of God to do through you.

Because of Zacharias’ unbelief, the angel told him he would be dumb and not be able to

speaking until his son was born. We need to be careful that we do not frustrate our angels who are sent to minister for us. I believe the reason the angel took away Zacharias' speech was to protect him from speaking unbelief. The words we speak with our mouth get us into trouble. Your words can prevent God from doing what He wants to do in your life. The birth of John the Baptist was so important to God in His plan that He did not want to allow Zecharias to mess things up by his negative confessions.

Luke 1: 21-25

²¹And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple. ²²And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless. ²³And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. ²⁴And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, ²⁵Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

The Jews in those days believed in having a house full of children. If a woman did not have any children, she was looked down upon. So Elisabeth was glad that God was taking away her shame of barrenness.

When you study the Bible carefully, you will understand that it was Satan who shut up Elizabeth's womb. You may remember that God had told the serpent (Satan) in the garden that the seed of the woman would bruise his head. Since that time, Satan was on the lookout for any woman who seemed to be receiving a special favor from God.

It was Satan who shut up Sarah's womb because he noticed that Abraham was being blessed by God. Satan might have thought that maybe it was Sarah's seed who was going to bruise his head. When God began to bless Isaac, Isaac's wife became barren.

All through the generations of the Jews, several of the men who seemed to enjoy any special favors from God were challenged with the problem of barren wives. Satan did not know which woman exactly the seed would come from, so he went on a rampage. God is able to break any curse that the enemy dares to bring into your life.

Luke 1: 26-27

²⁶And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, ²⁷To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

Please take special note of the fact that the Bible said Joseph was of the “house of David.” This is very significant as we will see later.

Luke 1: 28-34

²⁸And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. ²⁹And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. ³⁰And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. ³¹And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. ³²He 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: ³³And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. ³⁴Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

Mary was not saying literally that she did not know any man in terms of being acquainted. She was simply asking the angel how she could have a child since she had not had any sexual relationship with any man. Mary was already betrothed to Joseph. In today’s language, we would say she is engaged to be married to Joseph.

In those days, the marriage covenant vows were taken at the time of engagement but the