**THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

R. Giglio Christmas 2019

The most celebrated time of year, especially on the Christian Calendar. There is so much significance to the birth of Jesus and the things that took place immediately before and fater it, that we wat to look at the scriptures for each one to get a full understading of why we celebrate Christmas so much.

The Story surrounding Jesus’ birth is contained in only two of the gospels, the first two chapters of Matthew and Luke.

*These are 12 significant “Days” or events surrounding the Birth of Jesus:*

1. **John the Baptist – Luke 1:11-15**

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. **12**When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.**13**But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. **14**He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, **15**for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.

* 1. Father Zacharias the Priest promised a son by Gabriel, stricken mute for unbelief.
	2. Elizabeth, Mary’s cousin becomes pregnant with John the Baptist*.” He will be filled with the Holy Spirit before he is born* [Elijah? - fulfills Mal 4:5-6)
	3. John Born – Luke 1:57-66 Zacharias speaks and praises God.
1. **“The Annunciation” – Luke 1:30-32**

But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. **31**You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32**He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

* 1. Gabriel is sent to Nazareth to reveal to Mary that she will give birth to Jesus.
	2. *“32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”* \*(fulfills Isa. 9:6-7a)
1. **Mary Visits Elizabeth – Luke 1:41-42**

**41**When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. **42**In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!

* 1. Goes to Judean Hillside (Ein Karem?)
	2. Elizabeth’s baby leaps in her womb*.* ***41****When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.****42****In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear*! (John filled with the Holy Spirit?)
1. **Angel to Joseph – Matt 1:18-21**

**18**This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matt+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23163d)]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. **19**Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matt+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23164e)] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

**20**But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21**She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matt+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23166f)] because he will save his people from their sins.”

* 1. He initially intended to divorce her quietly
	2. Angel says “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,… the Child is conceived of the Holy Spirit,.. Give Him the name “Jesus”, He will save his people from their sins. (i.e. (Yeshua = Salvation, Yehoshua = Lord Is Salvation) Fulfills Isa 7:14 “He shall be called…”
1. **Census – Luke 2:1-5**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. **2**(This was the first census that took place while[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24976a)]Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3**And everyone went to their own town to register.

**4**So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **5**He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

* 1. Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census while Quirinius was Governor of Syria
		1. Caesar Augustus 63BC-14AD)
		2. Quirinius – Syrian ruler given control over Judea during Archelaus’ banishment
	2. Joseph and Mary were from the line of David and were required to go to Bethlehem
	3. This is how God got them to go to Bethlehem so that Jesus could be born there to fulfill the prophecies concerning his birth.
1. **No Room in the Inn – Luke 2:7**

*Luke 2:7b – “there was no guest room available for them.”*

* 1. Upon reaching Bethlehem, they could not find lodging.
	2. Very little mentioned about Inn. No mention of Inn-Keeper
	3. Notice: Jesus was Born and Buried in borrowed spaces.
1. **\*\*\*BIRTH OF JESUS\*\*\* – Luke 2:7**

***Luke 2:a “and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger…”***

* 1. Not many scripture verses describing his actual birth, considering it is the most heralded event in the New Testament.
	2. Most likely an empty grotto (cave) with a manger (feeding trough)
	3. Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem (West Bank) now occupied by three very ornate churches. Grk. Orthodox, Armenian, and Roman Catholic – “*Jesus, Mary and Joseph…”*
1. **Angels to Shepherd – Luke 2:8-14**

**8**Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9**And [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+2&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24983c)]behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. **10**Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. **11**For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12**And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+2&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24986d)]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, goodwill[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+2&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24988e)] toward men!”

* 1. Living in the fields, watching their flocks at night.
	2. One Angel initially appeared and said:
		1. “Do not be afraid”!
		2. I bring good news that will cause great joy for all people.
		3. Today in the town of David a Savior is born

(City of David? Bethlehem? – Born in Bethlehem, lived in City of David.)

* + 1. This will be a sign, you’ll find the baby wrapped in cloths and laying in a manger.

“Multitude of Angels” followed them saying ““Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+2&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24988e)] toward men!”

* 1. \*They went to Bethlehem to see the baby, then went to spread the word “made widely known” (Evangelize).
1. **Jesus presented at the Temple on the Eighth Day – Luke 2:30-32**

**30**For my eyes have seen your salvation,**31**which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:**32**a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

* 1. Circumcised and named – Luke 2:21
	2. SIMEON recognizes Jesus as the Messiah. Luke 2:25-35
		1. He was promised by The Holy Spirit that he would not die until he sees the Messiah.
		2. Luke 2:29-32 Simeon’s Praise –

 “**29**“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismissyour servant in peace…

ALSO: (Anna the Prophet acknowledges Jesus as well) Luke 2:36-38

1. **Magi Visit the Messiah – Matt 2:1-2**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matt+2&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-23171a)]wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, **2**saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

* 1. A caravan of a certain number of Magi (Wise Men), probably NOT THREE, saw a Star and sought the King of the Jews in Jerusalem.
	2. Herod (The Great) inquires about the Prophecy of the Messiah and is given Micah 5:2

 “*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”*

* 1. Herod tells them to go to Bethlehem and report back to him.
	2. The Star stopped over the “House” where Jesus was. (probably “a while” after his birth)
	3. They gave him Three types of gifts: Gold, Frankincense, and *Myrrh.*
	4. Warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, went home another way.
1. **“The Holy Innocents” – Matthew 2:16**

**16**Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

* 1. An Angel warns Joseph about Herod and directs him to escape to Egypt.
	2. Herod furious about being outwitted orders the death of all male children 2 and under.
	3. Fulfills prophecy of Jeremiah31:15 (Rachel weeping for her children)
1. ***An Enormous, red, seven-headed dragon with ten horns was Hurled down to the Earth***

***MERRY CHRISTMAS !*** : )

**War in the Heavens**

**Rev 12:1-10**

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. **2**She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. **3**Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. **4**Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. **5**She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30897a)] And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne…

**7**Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. **8**But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. **9**The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

**10**Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

“**Now have come the salvation and the power
    and the kingdom of our God,
    and the authority of his Messiah.”**

This passage gives us a glimpse off what was really happening in the heavenlies, the moment Jesus was born on earth. We are never ffuklly aware oif the spiritual warfare that takes place around us, but the angels are. That’s why they were so excited to announce “Good tidings of great joy” “Glory to God in the Highest and peace to his people on earth”. They saw what the shepherd’s couldn’t.

The wise men gave Jesus gifts off Myrhh, Frankinscnece and gold,

We give each other giftfs oin Christmas to celebrate Jesus’ birthday.

The greatest thing to celebrate however is that because He was born, he not only destroyed the works of the Devil, but the defeated the devil himself.

“**Now have come the salvation and the power
    and the kingdom of our God,
    and the authority of his Messiah.”**

These are the gifts he gives us for Christmas:

* **Salvation** – Acts 4:12 “No other name by which men can be saved”
* **Power,** - Acts 1:8 “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you”
* **Kingdom of God** – Mk. 1:15 “The Kingdom of God is at hand”
* **Authority** – Matt 28:18 “All authority on heaven and earth has been given to me”
* **Messiah** – Rev 11:15 “"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever."

**When Jesus was born, everything changed.**

**It was the beginning of eternal damnation for the Devil,**

**and the beginning of eternal life for us.**

This is the real Joy of Christmas, It’s why we sing “**Joy to the World!”**

Joy to the World , the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And Heaven and nature sing,

And Heaven and nature sing,

And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!

Let men their songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,

Nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make His blessings flow

Far as the curse is found,

Far as the curse is found,

Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness,

And wonders of His love,

And wonders of His love,

And wonders, wonders, of His love.