**THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS AND BEYOND**

R. Giglio Christmas 2020

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 after it, that we wat to look at the scriptures for each one to get a full understanding 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 and beyond...*

1. **Gabriel breaks the silence**

 **Luke 1:13 “**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.

* 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’s visit to Elizabeth**

**Luke 1:41-42“**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. Elizabeth’s baby leaps in her womb*.* ***41****When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and*
	2. *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*! (Both John and Elizabeth are filled with the Holy Spirit)
1. **Angel speaks to Joseph in a dream**

**Matt 1:20-21**

“…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, 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.
	3. (Yeshua = Salvation, Yehoshua = Lord Is Salvation)
1. **John the Baptist is Born**

**Luke 1:57**“When the time came for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a son.”

John’s birth was one of the most significant moments that ushered in the Messiah.

His life and purpose was prophesied about by Isaiah 700 before his birth.

 **Mark 1:1-3**The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, **2**as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
    who will prepare your way”
**3**“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’

The Jews were waiting for the sign of Elijah, because the Old Testament ends with a prophecy that he would come just before the Day of the Lord.

**Luke 1:17** “And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah”

1. **The 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 whileQuirinius 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 fulfill both prophecies of being “A Nazarene” (Matt 2:23)
	4. …AND also “born in Bethlehem” (Matt 2:6)

**Bethlehem** - *(****Please read Shawn Blythe’s wonderful blog about Bethlehem on our website; northshorenj.org/blog***

1. **\*\*\*BIRTH OF JESUS\*\*\***

 **Luke 2:7 *“and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger…”***

* 1. *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us* (John 1:14)
	2. Not many scripture verses describing his actual birth, *considering it is the most important event in the history of mankind.*
	3. Most likely an empty grotto (cave) with a manger (feeding trough)
	4. 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 “**Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9**And 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 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, goodwilltoward 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.)

*“A SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD”*

**CHRIST – MESSIAH**

**THE LORD - ADONAI**

* + 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, good will toward men!”

* 1. \*They went to Bethlehem to see the baby, then went to spread the word “made widely known” (Evangelize, went back to their field Worshipping).
1. **Jesus presented at the Temple on the Eighth Day**

**Luke 2:21 “**On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

* 1. **SIMEON** recognizes Jesus as the Messiah. Luke 2:25-3
	2. **ANNA** the Prophet acknowledges Jesus as well) Luke 2:36-38
	3. HE WAS GIVEN THE NAME **“JESUS”**

What was He called before he was formerly named? Probably ***“Emmanuel”***

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, 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 tells them to go to Bethlehem and report back to him.
	3. The Star stopped over the “House” where Jesus was. (probably “a while” after his birth)
	4. They gave him Three types of gifts: Gold, Frankincense, and *Myrrh.*
	5. Warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, went home another way.
	6. God used their expensive gifts to provide for the Holy Family in their immediate move to Egypt to prevent…
1. **“The Holy Innocents”**

**Matthew 2:16 “**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 was 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)

**#12 ???**

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.” 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 of what was really happening in the heavenlies, the moment Jesus was born on earth, lying in a humble manger on a *silent, holy, midnight clear…*

We are never fully aware of 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.

While in the natural, Joseph, Mary and Jesus seemed forced into humble accommodations, enduring difficult circumstances and oppressed by powerful worldly forces,

What was going on in the spiritual was quite the opposite,

We just read…

“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 is why it is so important for us to have the eyes of our spirit open at all times.

Especially in the dark times that we are living in now.

In the natural we may seem oppressed, manipulated, tricked and even persecuted,

But in the spirit,

* We are more than conquerors (Rom 8:37),
* We are “chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession” (1 Peter 2:9)
* We are those of who the Lord says;

 **1 John 4:4** “greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

In this new year, we are about to start a series called ***“Soul or the Spirit”***

It’s based upon the Book of Ephesians, but is about how to live and see things through the Spirit, when the world tries to keep us bound and deceived in the flesh.

We will learn how to see things as God sees them, through our spiritual eyes, not just though the eyes of flesh, which are easily deceived.

Will meditate on many scriptures to help us fully embrace this truth;

Including

**Eph. 1:18-21“**I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, **19**and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

My prayer is that you begin to see things this way now more than ever before in your;

View of Family, Ministry, Politics, Finances, Relationships, Your Future and even your **health**…

**As you see the world get darker, scarier, and more deceived every day.**

**Ask God to open the eyes of your heart so that you can see things,**

**as He sees them…**