



# Christmas Advent: 25 Days with Jesus – The Word Fulfilled!

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*Scriptures Compiled By: Shannon J. Sweeting*

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**Christmas Advent:**  
**25 Days with Jesus-**  
**The Word Fulfilled!**

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**Shannon J. Sweeting**

**2017**

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## **December 1<sup>st</sup>: The Messiah Shall be Born of a Virgin and His Name Shall Be Immanuel**

**Symbol of the Color Red:** The first color of Christmas is red, symbolizing the Savior's sacrifice for all.

*"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."* **Hebrews 9:22**

**Prophecy:** And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. ***Genesis 3:14-15***

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ***Isaiah 7:14***

And he shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach even to the neck; and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Immanuel. ***Isaiah 8:8***

**Fulfilled:** To a **virgin** espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the **virgin's** name was Mary...<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. ***Luke 1:27, 35***

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: ***Matthew 1:22-24***

<sup>15</sup> He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? <sup>16</sup> And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. ***Matthew 16:15-17***

**Second Coming:** And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: <sup>2</sup> And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. <sup>3</sup> And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. <sup>4</sup> And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. <sup>5</sup> And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. <sup>6</sup> And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. ***Revelation 6:1-6***

## **December 2<sup>nd</sup>: As Abraham's Seed, the Messiah Shall Bless all Nations**

**Symbol of the Color Green:** The "tree green," the second color of Christmas, comes from the evergreen tree, symbolizing the renewal of life, rebirth, and everlasting life in Jesus.

*"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5*

**Prophecy:** And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. **Genesis 12:3**

And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. **Genesis 17:19**

**Prophecy that All Nations Shall Be Blessed:** Thus saith the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: <sup>21</sup> And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also. <sup>22</sup> Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. <sup>23</sup> Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you. **Zechariah 8:20-23**

**Fulfilled:** Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. <sup>26</sup> Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities. ***Acts 3:25-26***

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations. ***Matthew 1:17*** (The entire genealogy of Jesus-Matthew 1:1-16)

**Second Coming:** After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, **of all nations**, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; <sup>10</sup> And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. ***Revelation 7:9-10***

***Blessed*** are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. ***Revelation 22:14***

## ***December 3<sup>rd</sup>: He Shall Be Born in Bethlehem, a Redeemer***

**Legend of the Drummer Boy:** After the wise men and the shepherds had left the stable a little drummer boy stood alone. A tear glistened in his eye for he was the only one who had not brought a gift. Without thinking he began to play his drum. Very softly at first, pa-rum-pum-pum-pum pa-rum-pum-pum... then louder and louder PA-RUM-PUM-PUM PA-RUM PUM-PUM... and in the humble manger the tiny Christ Child's head turned towards the sound and smiled. No longer sad the little drummer boy's heart sang for he knew that his was the greatest gift of all...the gift of Love."

*"...and a little child shall lead them" Isaiah 11:6b*

**Prophecy of a Redeemer:** And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.

<sup>10</sup>Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.

<sup>11</sup>And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, **We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem:** <sup>12</sup>And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the LORD shall give thee of this young woman. <sup>13</sup>So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.

<sup>14</sup>And the women said unto Naomi, **Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.** <sup>15</sup>And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee

than seven sons, hath born him. <sup>16</sup> And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it. <sup>17</sup> And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David. ***Ruth 4:9-17***

**Prophecy:** 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. <sup>3</sup> Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth. ***Micah 5:2-4***

**Fulfilled:** 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, ***Matthew 2:1***

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) <sup>5</sup> To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. <sup>6</sup> And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ***Luke 2:4-6***

**A Redeemer:** But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; <sup>16</sup>  
Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. <sup>17</sup> And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: <sup>18</sup>  
**Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; <sup>19</sup> But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: <sup>20</sup> Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, *1 Peter 1:15-20***

## **December 4<sup>th</sup>: Offering and Circumcision on the 8<sup>th</sup> Day**

**4th- Legend of the Nutcracker:** Erzgebirge Legend: Long ago there lived a hard-hearted and wealthy farmer. He promised a reward to anyone who could crack his walnuts. One day, a carver came from Seiffen and surprised the farmer with a wonderful wooden puppet. It was brightly painted and had strong jaws, powerful enough to crack walnuts. Grateful, the miserly farmer rewarded the entire village.

*Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them.*

*Are ye not much better than they? **Matthew 6:26***

**Seal of the Covenant:** This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. **Genesis 17:10**

**Law of the Firstborn:** Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, *both* of man and of beast: it *is* mine. **Exodus 13:2**

Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: **the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me.** <sup>30</sup> Likewise shalt thou do with thine oxen, and with thy sheep: **seven days it shall be with his dam; on the eighth day thou shalt give it me.** **Exodus 22:29-30**

**Firstborn Sons:** All that openeth the matrix is mine; and every firstling among thy cattle, whether ox or sheep, that is male. <sup>20</sup> But the firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb: and if thou redeem him not, then shalt thou break his neck. **All the firstborn of thy sons thou shalt redeem. And none shall appear before me empty. *Exodus 34:19-20***

**Firstborn Belong to God Because He Spared Them in Egypt:** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>12</sup> And I, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn that openeth the matrix among the children of Israel: therefore the Levites shall be mine; <sup>13</sup> Because all the firstborn are mine; for on the day that I smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I hallowed unto me all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast: mine shall they be: I am the LORD. ***Numbers 3:11-13***

Every thing that openeth the matrix in all flesh, which they bring unto the LORD, whether it be of men or beasts, shall be thine: nevertheless the firstborn of man shalt thou surely redeem, and the firstling of unclean beasts shalt thou redeem. ***Numbers 18:15***

**Law of Circumcision and Offering on 8<sup>th</sup> Day:** Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean. <sup>3</sup> And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. <sup>4</sup> And she shall then continue in the blood of her purifying three and thirty days; she shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled. <sup>5</sup> But if she bear a maid child, then she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her separation: and she shall continue in the blood of her purifying threescore and six days. <sup>6</sup> **And when the days of her purifying are fulfilled, for a son, or for a daughter, she shall bring a lamb of the first year for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon, or a turtledove, for a sin offering, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest:** <sup>7</sup> Who shall offer it before the LORD, and make an atonement for her; and she shall be cleansed from the issue of her blood. This is the law for her that hath born a male or a female. <sup>8</sup> **And if she be not able to bring a**

**lamb, then she shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons;** the one for the burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering: and the priest shall make an atonement for her, and she shall be clean. ***Leviticus 12:2-8***

Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein.<sup>37</sup> These are the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day: ***Leviticus 23:36-37***

**Fulfilled:** And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. <sup>22</sup> And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; <sup>23</sup> (As it is written in the law of the LORD, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) <sup>24</sup> And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. ***Luke 2:21-24***

**Application:** <sup>11</sup> And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: <sup>12</sup> And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised. <sup>13</sup> For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. ***Romans 4:11-13***

*Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

***1 John 4:10***

## **December 5<sup>th</sup>: He Shall Be Born in a Land Flowing with Milk and Honey**

**Legend of the Christmas Cookies:** Before Christ's birth, Roman soldiers were said to have handed out little cakes to the people. After Pope Julius declared December 25 as Christmas in 350 A.D., Christians adopted cookie baking as part of the Christmas celebration. There are many traditions inherited and adopted by Americans and the Christmas cookie is another one. The Christmas cookie actually came from the Dutch word *koekje*, which means "small cake." It was the Pennsylvania Dutch who first introduced holiday cookies to America. The rest of the Europeans continued to bake when they came to the U.S. introducing many treats that we enjoy today. We can thank Sweden for the spritz cookies topped with sugar crystals, Scotland for their shortbread, Greece for their Baklava and the Russians for their powdered sugar tea cakes. The German cookies, *lebkuchen* and *springerle* are favorites. Many of the Christmas cookie recipes we enjoy came from European countries; each carrying generations of folklore and legend.

*<sup>6</sup> And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth. <sup>7</sup> And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetcht a calf tender and good, and gave it unto a young man; and he hasted to dress it. <sup>8</sup> And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he [the Lord] stood by them under the tree, and they did eat. **Genesis 18:6-8***

**Prophecy:** If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. **Numbers 14:8**

But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, **and** I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with **milk and honey**: I *am* the LORD your God, which have separated you from *other* people.

**Leviticus 20:24**

**Evidence that Israel was a Land Flowing with Milk and Honey:** I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved. *Solomon 5:1*

And hast given them this land, which thou didst swear to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey; *Jeremiah 32:22*

In the day *that* I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which *is* the glory of all lands: *Ezekiel 20:6*

**Prophecy that the Messiah would be born in a Land Flowing with Milk and Honey:**

**Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.**<sup>16</sup> **For before the child shall know to refuse the evil,** and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings...<sup>18</sup> And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall hiss for the fly that is in the uttermost part of the rivers of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria.<sup>19</sup> And they shall come, and shall rest all of them in the desolate valleys, and in the holes of the rocks, and upon all thorns, and upon all bushes...<sup>21</sup> And it shall come to pass in that day, that a man shall nourish a young cow, and two sheep; <sup>22</sup>**And it shall come to pass, for the abundance of milk that they shall give he shall eat butter: for butter and honey shall every one eat that is left in the land.** <sup>23</sup> And it shall come to pass in that day, that every place shall be, where there were a thousand vines at a thousand silverlings, it shall even be for briers and thorns. <sup>24</sup> With arrows and with bows shall men come thither; because all the land shall become briers and thorns. <sup>25</sup> And on all hills that shall be digged with the mattock, there shall not come thither the fear of briers and thorns: but it shall be for the sending forth of oxen, and for the treading of lesser cattle. *Isaiah 7:15-16, 18-19, 21-25*

**Fulfilled:** And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. *Matthew 3:4*

And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, <sup>34</sup> Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. <sup>35</sup> And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread. <sup>36</sup> And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. <sup>37</sup> But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. <sup>38</sup> And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. <sup>40</sup> And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? <sup>42</sup> And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an **honeycomb**. <sup>43</sup> And he took it, and did eat before them. ***Luke 24:33-43***

**The Commandments—Words of Perfection, Purity, Holiness, and Righteousness that are Sweeter than Honey:** The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup> The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. <sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup> **More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.** ***Psalms 19:7-10***

I have fed you with **milk**, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. ***1 Corinthians 3:2***

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of **milk**, and not of strong meat. ***Hebrews 5:2***

As newborn babes, desire the sincere **milk** of the word, that ye may grow thereby: ***1 Peter 2:2***

**Second Coming:** And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. <sup>9</sup> And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as **honey**.<sup>10</sup> And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as **honey**: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. <sup>11</sup> And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings. ***Revelation 10:8-11***

## **December 6<sup>th</sup>: The Flight into Egypt to Preserve Life and the Call Out of Egypt**

**Legend of the Donkey:** God used a little donkey to carry Mary to Bethlehem, where Jesus would be born. Many years later a donkey would carry Jesus to Jerusalem, where he would die upon a cross. According to legend, the donkey turned away from the cross as Jesus was being crucified, and the shadow of the cross covered the donkey's back. Every burro donkey, the breed believed to have carried Jesus, is marked with a black cross on his back. It is a reminder of God's Son Jesus, who was born and died for all.

*And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his [donkey], and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.*

### **Genesis 22:3**

*The king [David] also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gibon: And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon. Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah. **I Kings 1:33-35***

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon a [donkey], and upon a colt the foal of a [donkey]. **Zechariah 9:9***

**Prophecy:** <sup>13</sup> And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; <sup>14</sup> And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. <sup>15</sup> And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. <sup>16</sup> **But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again:** for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full. *Genesis 15:13-16*

And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I. <sup>3</sup> **And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation: <sup>4</sup> I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again:** and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes. *Genesis 46:2-4*

And Joseph said unto his brothers, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, **God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence** *Genesis 50:24-25*

And Moses went and returned to Jethro his father in law, and said unto him, Let me go, I pray thee, and return unto my brethren which are in Egypt, and see whether they be yet alive. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace. <sup>19</sup> **And the LORD said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life. <sup>20</sup> And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt: and Moses took the rod of God in his hand. <sup>21</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go. <sup>22</sup> And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn: <sup>23</sup> And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn. Exodus 4:18-23**

And Moses said unto the people, **Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt**, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten. *Exodus 13:3*

And **Moses took the bones of Joseph with him**: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you. *Exodus 13:9*

**God brought him forth out of Egypt**; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows. *Num. 24:8*

**Prophecy:** When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt. *Hosea 11:1*

**Fulfilled:** And 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.<sup>14</sup> When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:<sup>15</sup> 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...**<sup>19</sup> But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,<sup>20</sup> Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.<sup>21</sup> And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. *Matthew 2:13-15, 19-21*

**Application:** By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones. *Hebrews 11:22*

## **December 7<sup>th</sup>: A Star Out of Jacob**

**Symbol of the Star:** A heavenly sign of the Balaam's prophecy fulfilled at Jesus' birth. The shining hope of mankind.

*That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; Genesis 22:17*

*I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Seth. Numbers 24:17*

*We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 2 Peter 1:19*

**Prophecy:** I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: **there shall come a Star out of Jacob**, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Seth. *Numbers 24:17*

**Fulfilled:** 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,<sup>2</sup> Saying, 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...<sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. *Matthew 2:1-2, 9-10*

**Second Coming:** And **there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars**; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;<sup>26</sup> Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.<sup>27</sup> And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.<sup>28</sup> And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. *Luke 21:25-28*

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and **the bright and morning star**. *Revelation 22:16*

**December 8<sup>th</sup>: An Everlasting Kingdom Shall be Established through the Seed  
of David (the Tribe of Judah) Who Shall Be God's Son**

**Symbol of the Bow:** It is tied as we should all be tied together in bonds of goodwill forever. It also symbolizes that as bondservants of Jesus Christ, we are no longer in bondage to sin, but we commit our lives to him.

*Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evildoer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. 2 Timothy 2:5*

**Prophecy:** Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. <sup>9</sup> Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? <sup>10</sup> The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. <sup>11</sup> Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: <sup>12</sup> His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk. **Genesis 49:8-12**

And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. <sup>14</sup> I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: <sup>15</sup> But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. <sup>16</sup> And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. <sup>17</sup> According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David. **2 Samuel 7:12-17**

**Fulfilled:** And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. <sup>2</sup> (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) <sup>5</sup> To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ***Luke 2:1-5***

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

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. <sup>32</sup> He 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: <sup>33</sup> And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. ***Luke 1:30-33***

**Application:** Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) <sup>3</sup> Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; <sup>4</sup> And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: ***Romans 1:1-4***

**Second Coming:** And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? <sup>3</sup> And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. <sup>4</sup> And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. <sup>5</sup> And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. ***Revelation 5:2-5***

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. <sup>16</sup> And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, <sup>17</sup> Saying, We give thee thanks, O LORD God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. ***Revelation 11:15-17***

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. <sup>16</sup> And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. ***Revelation 19:6, 16***

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. ***Revelation 22:16***

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. <sup>2</sup> In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: <sup>4</sup> And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. ***Revelation 22:1-5***

## **December 9<sup>th</sup>: He Shall Have a Special Anointing of the Holy Spirit**

**Legend/Symbol of Holly:** The legend is told of how the Holy Family was fleeing from the soldiers by night. The family hid behind a leafless Holly Bush for protection. That night the Holly Bush grew leaves and sharp thorns to hide the family. Ever since the Holly Bush has had leaves all year round. The sharp thorns symbolize the Crown of Thorns placed on Jesus' head, and the red berries symbolize his blood.

*And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; **Genesis 3:17-18***

*And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and look, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: **Genesis 22:13***

**Prophecy:** Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.<sup>7</sup> Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. <sup>8</sup> All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad. **Psalms 45:6-8**

And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and might, The spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; <sup>3</sup> And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: And he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, Neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: <sup>4</sup> But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, And reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: And he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, And with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. <sup>5</sup> And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, And faithfulness the girdle of his reins. **Isaiah 11:2-5**

**Fulfilled:** And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. *Luke 1:35*

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: <sup>17</sup> And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. *Matthew 3:16-17*

**Anointed with Incense, the Anointing of Priests:** And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. *Matthew 2:11*

And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.

*Mark 14:3*

**Second Coming:** And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. *Revelation 3:1*

And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. *Revelation 5:6*

## **December 10<sup>th</sup>: He Shall Be the Light of the Morning and the Light to the Gentiles**

**Symbol of the Candle:** A mirror of starlight, reflecting thanks for the Star of Bethlehem. Candles represent the light that Jesus brought to earth. Jesus is the Light of the World. Throughout medieval Europe, a very large candle, called the Christmas candle was burned until the Twelfth Night, in remembrance of the arrival of the Wise Men to Bethlehem. In Victorian times, candles represented good will for those less fortunate and were placed in windows December 25 to January 6 to indicate welcome to any passerby needing shelter and food.

*And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. **Genesis 1:3-4***

*And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. **Isaiah 60:3***

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. **Psalms 119:105***

**Prophecy:** The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. <sup>3</sup>The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. <sup>4</sup>And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain. *2 Samuel 2-4*

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. *Isaiah 9:2*

And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth. *Isaiah 49:6*

The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. <sup>20</sup> Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. <sup>21</sup> Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. *Isaiah 60:19-21*

**Fulfilled:** And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, <sup>28</sup> Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, <sup>29</sup> Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: <sup>30</sup> For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, <sup>31</sup> Which thou

hast prepared before the face of all people; <sup>32</sup> A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.  
***Luke 2:25-32***

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. ***Matthew 4:16, John 8:12***

**Application:** Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.  
***Matthew 5:1-16***

For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. ***Acts 13:47***

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: <sup>4</sup> In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. <sup>5</sup> For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ***II Cor. 4:3-6***

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. ***I John 1:5-7***

**Second Coming:** And the city had no need of the sun, neither the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. ***Revelation 21:23-25***

And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. ***Revelation 22:5***

## **December 11<sup>th</sup>: The Flocks and Rams Shall Minister to Him**

**Legend of the Lamb:** On a starry night many years ago, God's promise of a Savior was fulfilled. A star shone brightly in the night sky over the town of Bethlehem. In the fields nearby the shepherds watched over their flocks of sheep. Angels appeared and told the shepherds of the Savior's birth. As the shepherds hurried to see the newborn King, their little lambs followed them to the manger. They gazed upon baby Jesus. Perhaps they knew the importance of His coming, as they gathered around Him. He was the Lamb of God. The promised Messiah who would save the people from their sins. He was the Good Shepherd, who would tend His flock and gather the lambs in His arms. He would carry them close to His heart. He would gently lead them and protect them. He was the Good Shepherd who would lay down his life for his sheep.

*And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.”* **Genesis 22:7-8**

*And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.* **Genesis 22:13**

**Prophecy:** They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust. *Psalm 72:9*

All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory. *Isaiah 60:7*

**Fulfilled:** And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. <sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. *Luke 2:8-16*

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. *John 1:29*

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. *John 10:11*

**Second Coming:** And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup>And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? <sup>3</sup>And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. <sup>4</sup>And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

<sup>5</sup>And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. <sup>6</sup>And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. <sup>7</sup>And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

<sup>9</sup>And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; <sup>10</sup>And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. <sup>11</sup>And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

<sup>12</sup>Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. <sup>13</sup>And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. <sup>14</sup>And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever. ***Revelation 5***

## ***December 12<sup>th</sup>: He Shall Be Visited By Kings and Camels Who Will Bring Him Gifts***

**Legend of the First “Live Nativity” Creche:** In the year 1223, St. Francis, a deacon, was visiting the town of Greccio to celebrate Christmas. Greccio was a small town built on a mountainside overlooking a beautiful valley. The people had cultivated the fertile area with vineyards. St. Francis realized that the chapel of the Franciscan hermitage would be too small to hold the congregation for Midnight Mass. So he found a niche in the rock near the town square and set up the altar. However, this Midnight Mass would be very special, unlike any other Midnight Mass.

**St. Bonaventure (d. 1274) in his Life of St. Francis of Assisi tells the story the best:**

“It happened in the third year before his death, that in order to excite the inhabitants of Greccio to commemorate the nativity of the Infant Jesus with great devotion, [St. Francis] determined to keep it with all possible solemnity; and lest he should be accused of lightness or novelty, he asked and obtained the permission of the sovereign Pontiff. Then he prepared a manger, and brought hay, and an ox and an ass to the place appointed. The brethren were summoned, the people ran together, the forest resounded with their voices, and that venerable night was made glorious by many and brilliant lights and sonorous psalms of praise. The man of God [St. Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis, the Levite of Christ. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His name for the tenderness of His love, He called Him the Babe of Bethlehem. A certain valiant and veracious soldier, Master John of Greccio, who, for the love of Christ, had left the warfare of this world, and become a dear friend of this holy man, affirmed that he beheld an Infant marvelously beautiful, sleeping in the manger, Whom the blessed Father Francis embraced with both his arms, as if he would awake Him from sleep. This vision of the devout soldier is credible, not only by reason of the sanctity of him that saw it, but by reason of the miracles which afterwards confirmed its truth. For example of Francis, if it be considered by the world, is doubtless sufficient to excite all hearts which are negligent in the faith of Christ; and the hay of that manger, being preserved by the people, miraculously cured all diseases of cattle, and many other

pestilences; God thus in all things glorifying his servant, and witnessing to the great efficacy of his holy prayers by manifest prodigies and miracles.”

Although the story is long old, the message is clear for us. Our own Nativity scenes which rest under our Christmas trees are a visible reminder of that night when our Savior was born. May we never forget to see in our hearts the little Babe of Bethlehem, who came to save us from sin. We must never forget that the wood of the manger that held Him so securely would one day give way to the wood of the cross. May we too embrace Him with all of our love as did St. Francis.

*And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) <sup>5</sup>To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. <sup>6</sup> And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. **Luke 2:4-7***

**Prophecy:** And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. <sup>18</sup> And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. <sup>19</sup> And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: <sup>20</sup> And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all. **Genesis 14:17-20**

And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites **came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh**, going to carry it down to Egypt. **Genesis 37:25**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts. <sup>11</sup>  
Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him. <sup>15</sup> And he shall live, and to him shall be  
given of the gold of Sheba: prayer also shall be made for him continually; and daily shall he be praised. ***Psalm***  
***72:10-11, 15***

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. <sup>2</sup> For, behold, the darkness  
shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be  
seen upon thee. <sup>3</sup> And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. <sup>4</sup> Lift up  
thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come  
from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. <sup>5</sup> Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine  
heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of  
the Gentiles shall come unto thee. <sup>6</sup> **The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian**  
**and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew**  
**forth the praises of the LORD.** <sup>9</sup> Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring  
thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy  
One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee. ***Isaiah 60:1-6, 9***

**Fulfilled:** 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,** <sup>2</sup> **Saying, 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...** <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they  
departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the  
young child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. <sup>11</sup> And when they were  
come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him:  
and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.  
***Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11***

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ***Philippians 2:10***

**Second Coming:** And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; <sup>16</sup> And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: ***Revelation 6:15-16***

## **December 13<sup>th</sup>: He Shall Be Given Gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh**

**Meaning of the First Gifts:** Kings or Magi from the East followed the star to worship Baby Jesus. They presented him with gifts of Gold (a precious metal associated with the power of Kings) to honor Him as "King of Kings," Frankincense (a resin from a rare and sacred tree used as incense that was burned in Solomon's Temple) to honor Him as "Lord of Lords" and "Priests above all Priests," and Myrrh (a resin from a shrub used in making perfume that was used in embalming) to honor His sacrifice.

### **Use of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh in Tabernacle**

(As you read, try to make a visual comparison between the wooden altar and the wooden manger).

*And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: of shittim wood shalt thou make it. <sup>2</sup> A cubit shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof; foursquare shall it be: and two cubits shall be the height thereof: the horns thereof shall be of the same. <sup>3</sup> And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, the top thereof, and the sides thereof round about, and the horns thereof; and thou shalt make unto it a crown of gold round about. <sup>4</sup> And two golden rings shalt thou make to it under the crown of it, by the two corners thereof, upon the two sides of it shalt thou make it; and they shall be for places for the staves to bear it withal. <sup>5</sup> And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. <sup>6</sup> And thou shalt put it before the vail that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee. <sup>7</sup> And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. <sup>8</sup> And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations. Exodus 30:1-8*

<sup>22</sup> Moreover the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>23</sup> Take thou also unto thee principal spices, of pure myrrh five hundred shekels, and of sweet cinnamon half so much, even two hundred and fifty shekels, and of sweet calamus two hundred and fifty shekels, <sup>24</sup> And of cassia five hundred shekels, after the shekel of

*the sanctuary, and of oil olive an hin:*<sup>25</sup> *And thou shalt make it an oil of holy ointment, an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary: it shall be an holy anointing oil.*<sup>26</sup> *And thou shalt anoint the tabernacle of the congregation therewith, and the ark of the testimony,*<sup>27</sup> *And the table and all his vessels, and the candlestick and his vessels, and the altar of incense,*<sup>28</sup> *And the altar of burnt offering with all his vessels, and the laver and his foot.*<sup>29</sup> *And thou shalt sanctify them, that they may be most holy: whatsoever toucheth them shall be holy.*<sup>30</sup> *And thou shalt anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office.*<sup>31</sup> *And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, This shall be an holy anointing oil unto me throughout your generations.* **Exodus 30:22-31**

<sup>34</sup> *And the LORD said unto Moses, Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum; these sweet spices with pure frankincense: of each shall there be a like weight:*<sup>35</sup> *And thou shalt make it a perfume, a confection after the art of the apothecary, tempered together, pure and holy:*<sup>36</sup> *And thou shalt beat some of it very small, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee: it shall be unto you most holy.*<sup>37</sup> *And as for the perfume which thou shalt make, ye shall not make to yourselves according to the composition thereof: it shall be unto thee holy for the LORD.* **Exodus 30:34-37**

**Prophecy:** And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and **myrrh**, going to carry it down to Egypt. **Genesis 37:25**

And when any will offer a meat offering unto the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour; and he shall pour oil upon it, and put **frankincense** thereon: **Leviticus 2:1**

Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.<sup>7</sup> Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness

above thy fellows. <sup>8</sup> All thy garments smell of **myrrh**, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad. ***Psalm 45:6-8***

And he shall live, and to him shall be given of the **gold** of Sheba: ***Psalm 72:15a***

Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with **myrrh** and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant? ***Song of Solomon 3:6***

Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard, <sup>14</sup> Spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of **frankincense; myrrh** and aloes, with all the chief spices: <sup>15</sup>  
A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon. ***Song of Solomon 4:13-15***

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. <sup>2</sup> For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. <sup>3</sup> **And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.** <sup>6</sup> **The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the Lord.**

<sup>8</sup> Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows? <sup>9</sup> Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, **their silver and their gold with them**, unto the name of the Lord thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee. <sup>13</sup> **The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify**

the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious. <sup>17</sup> For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron:

Isaiah 60: 1-3, 6, 8-9, 13, 17

**Fulfilled:** And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; **gold**, and **frankincense**, and **myrrh**. *Matthew 2:11*

And they gave him to drink wine mingled with **myrrh**: but he received it not. *Mark 15:23*

And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of **myrrh** and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. *John 19:39-40*

**Second Coming:** The merchandise of **gold**, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, <sup>13</sup> And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and **frankincense**, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. *Revelation 18:12-13*

**December 14<sup>th</sup>: A Census Taken, a Sum of Money Given as a Ransom for the Soul, and the Innocent Will Die as a Result of the Census**

**Legend of the Gingerbread Man:** Many years ago, the first Queen of England started the tradition of making gingerbread shaped people to impress her visiting dignitaries. In Germany when you received a decorated gingerbread shape tied with a ribbon, it was considered a token of love. Today, we traditionally decorate gingerbread men with icing and candy and give them to the friends and family we love during the Christmas season.

*And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. <sup>20</sup> And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. **Matthew 14:19-20***

**Prophecy:** If there be laid on him a sum of money, then he shall give for the **ransom** of his life whatsoever is laid upon him. **Exodus 21:30**

When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a **ransom** for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them. **Exodus 30:12**

**David Takes an Unrighteous Census:** And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel. <sup>2</sup> And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, **Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know it.** <sup>3</sup> And Joab answered, The LORD make his people an hundred times so many more as they be: but, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? why then doth my lord require this thing? why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel? <sup>4</sup> Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Wherefore Joab departed, and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> And Joab gave the sum of the number of the people unto David. And all they of Israel were a thousand thousand and an hundred thousand men that drew sword: and Judah was four hundred threescore and ten thousand men that drew sword. <sup>6</sup> **But Levi and Benjamin counted he not among them: for the king's word was abominable to Joab.** <sup>7</sup> And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel. <sup>8</sup> And David said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly. <sup>9</sup> And the LORD spake unto Gad, David's seer, saying, <sup>10</sup> Go and tell David, saying, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things: choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee. <sup>11</sup> So Gad came to David, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Choose thee <sup>12</sup> Either three years' famine; or three months to be destroyed before thy foes, while that the sword of thine enemies overtaketh thee; or else three days the sword of the LORD, even the pestilence, in the land, and the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the coasts of Israel. Now therefore advise thyself what word I shall bring again to him that sent me. <sup>13</sup> And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let me fall now into the hand of the LORD; for very great are his mercies: but let me not fall into the hand of man. <sup>14</sup> So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men. <sup>15</sup> And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the LORD beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite. <sup>16</sup> And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces. <sup>17</sup> And David said unto God, Is it not I that commanded the people to be numbered? even I it is that have sinned and done evil indeed; but as for these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, O LORD my God, be on me, and on my father's house; but not on thy people, that they should be plagued. <sup>18</sup> Then the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up, and set up an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite. **1 Chronicles 21:1-18**

And the **ransomed** of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. *Isaiah 35:10*

I will **ransom** them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes. *Hosea 13:1*

**Fulfilled:** And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that **all the world should be taxed**. <sup>2</sup>(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) <sup>5</sup>To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. *Luke 2:1-5*

<sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. *Matthew 2:16a*

Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a **ransom** for many. *Matthew 20:28*

Who gave himself a **ransom** for all, to be testified in due time. *1 Timothy 2:6*

**Second Coming:** And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. <sup>2</sup> And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, <sup>3</sup> Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. <sup>4</sup> **And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel...** <sup>9</sup> After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; <sup>10</sup> And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. ***Revelation 7:1-4, 9-10***

## **December 15<sup>th</sup>: Massacre of Innocent Lambs and Rachel Weeps for Her Children**

**Legend of the Mistletoe:** At one time, mistletoe was placed over door ways for good luck. It was believed that only happiness could pass beneath the mistletoe, therefore, rivals would embrace and seal their peaceful intentions with a kiss of friendship.

*And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept. Genesis 33:4*

**Prophecy:** And it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. <sup>9</sup> And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? <sup>10</sup> And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. <sup>11</sup> And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; **Genesis 4:8-11**

And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die. <sup>2</sup> And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, Am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb? **Genesis 30:1-2**

And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour. <sup>17</sup> And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also. <sup>18</sup> And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni [“son of my sorrow”]: but his father called him Benjamin [“son at my right-hand”]. <sup>19</sup> And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem. ***Gen. 35:16-19***

<sup>31</sup> And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood; <sup>32</sup> And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no. <sup>33</sup> And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces. <sup>34</sup> And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days. <sup>35</sup> **And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted;** and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him. ***Genesis 37:29-35***

<sup>22</sup> And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, **Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.** <sup>1</sup> And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. <sup>2</sup> And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. <sup>3</sup> And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink. ***Exodus 1:22, 2:1-3***

<sup>6</sup> In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and **they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.** <sup>11</sup> In that day shall there be a great

**mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.** <sup>12</sup> **And the land shall mourn,** every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; ***Zechariah 12:6, 10-12***

Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. <sup>16</sup> Thus saith the LORD; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. ***Jeremiah 31:15-16***

**Fulfilled:** <sup>16</sup> Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men... In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. ***Matthew 2:16a, 18***

From the **blood** of **Abel** unto the **blood** of Zacharias which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation. ***Luke 11:51***

And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. <sup>28</sup> But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. <sup>29</sup> For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. ***Luke 23:27-29***

**Second Coming:** And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: <sup>10</sup> **And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?** <sup>11</sup> And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. ***Revelation 6:9-11***

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. ***Revelation 21:4***

## **December 16<sup>th</sup>: The Manger: Ark of the New Covenant**

**Legend of the Three Trees:** Once upon a time there were 3 little trees who all had a dream of what they wanted to be someday. Tree #1 hoped to be a beautiful treasure chest that would be filled with gold, silver, and precious gems. Tree #2 hoped to be a strong ship that would carry great kings and sail mighty waters. Tree #3 hoped to grow straight and be the tallest tree in the forest. When people looked up to the tree, they would raise their eyes to Heaven and think of God.

Time passed and one day 3 woodsmen came and cut down the 3 trees. They were each made into something that was far from their dreams. Tree #1 was made into a feed box for animals—not a beautiful treasure chest filled with treasures. Tree #2 was made into a small fishing boat—not a strong and mighty ship to carry great kings. Tree #3 was cut into long large beams and left alone in the dark. No longer a tall, straight tree in the forest. Many years passed by and the 3 trees had almost forgotten about each other and their dreams. But God had not forgotten.

One starry night in a Bethlehem stable, Tree #1 held the greatest treasure in the world—Baby Jesus! One evening a great storm arose, and Tree #2 didn't think he could keep his passengers safe. Then one man who had been asleep in the boat arose and calmed the storm; and the tree knew that he carried the King of Kings across the waters. Finally Tree #3 was made into a rugged cross, a man was nailed to it. High upon a hill, he died upon that cross. When Sunday morning came, the tree knew that it was Jesus that had died for everyone on the tree, and that when anyone looked up at the tree, they would raise their eyes to Heaven and think of God.

*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: <sup>14</sup> That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Galatians 3:13-14*

**Prophecy:** <sup>13</sup> And God said unto Noah, 'The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. <sup>14</sup> Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch...<sup>18</sup> But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. *Genesis 6:13-14, 18*

And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. <sup>3</sup> And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink. *Exodus 2:2-3*

<sup>31</sup> And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. <sup>32</sup> And Moses said, 'This is the thing which the LORD commandeth, Fill an omer of it to be kept for your generations; that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you forth from the land of Egypt. <sup>33</sup> And Moses said unto Aaron, 'Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations. <sup>34</sup> As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept. <sup>35</sup> And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan. *Exodus 16:31-35*

And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. <sup>11</sup> And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about... <sup>16</sup> **And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee.** <sup>17</sup> And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. <sup>18</sup> And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. <sup>19</sup> And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall

ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. <sup>20</sup> And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. <sup>21</sup> And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. <sup>22</sup> And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel. ***Exodus 25:10-11, 16-22***

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> Speak unto the children of Israel, and take of every one of them a rod according to the house of their fathers, of all their princes according to the house of their fathers twelve rods: write thou every man's name upon his rod. <sup>3</sup> And thou shalt write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi: for one rod shall be for the head of the house of their fathers. <sup>4</sup> And thou shalt lay them up in the tabernacle of the congregation before the testimony, where I will meet with you. <sup>5</sup> And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you. <sup>6</sup> And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, and every one of their princes gave him a rod apiece, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods. <sup>7</sup> And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness. <sup>8</sup> And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds. <sup>9</sup> And Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD unto all the children of Israel: and they looked, and took every man his rod. <sup>10</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not. ***Numbers 17:1-10***

That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying, <sup>26</sup> Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee. ***Deuteronomy 31:25-26***

**Fulfilled:** And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. ***Luke 2:7***

***The manger is the ark holding the New Covenant, which is Jesus Christ.***

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.** <sup>2</sup>The same was in the beginning with God. <sup>14</sup> And **the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,** (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. ***John 1:1-2, 14***

***Jesus is the Word, Law, and Commandments that were placed in the Ark of the Covenant.***

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. <sup>48</sup> **I am that bread of life.** <sup>49</sup> Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. ***John 6:47-51***

And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. ***Mark 14:22***

***Jesus is the manna that was placed in the Ark of the Covenant.***

**I am the vine**, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. *John 15:5*

*Jesus is the budding rod that was placed in the Ark of the Covenant.*

**Second Coming:** And he shall rule them with a **rod of iron**; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. *Revelation 2:27*

*Jesus' rod is also a rod of iron that is superior to the budding rod of Aaron that was placed in the Ark of the Covenant.*

### **Jesus' Burial in the Tomb is Parallel to His Birth and Being Laid in the Manger**

Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus. <sup>44</sup> And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. <sup>45</sup> And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup> And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and **wrapped him in the linen**, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre. *Mark 15:43-46*

*Jesus was wrapped in linen upon His death and swaddling clothes upon His birth.*

Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. <sup>11</sup> But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, <sup>12</sup> **And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. *John 20:10-12***

*Mary would have seen an image similar to the two angels facing each other covering the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant.*

Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. <sup>2</sup> For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. <sup>3</sup> And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; <sup>4</sup> Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; <sup>5</sup> And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercy seat; of which we cannot now speak particularly. ***Hebrews 9:1-5***

**Second Coming:** And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called **The Word of God. *Revelation 19:13***

<sup>22</sup> And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. <sup>23</sup> And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. ***Revelation 21:22-23***

## **December 17<sup>th</sup>: A Messenger Will Prepare the Way for His Coming**

**Legend of the Christmas Bell:** While traveling to Bethlehem to meet the newborn King, the shepherds met a little blind boy. He wandered aimlessly through the streets hoping someone would lead him to the Christ Child. After the crowd passed and the streets grew silent, the boy heard the faint tinkling of a cow's bell in the distance. He thought to himself, "Perhaps that cow is in the very stable where Christ lies," and followed the bell to the stable. There, the cow led the boy to the infant Jesus. Since that first Christmas, bells ring out the joy of the Birth, and call people to worship and prayer. The bell also rings out to guide lost sheep back to the fold, signifying that all are precious in His eyes.

*And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging: <sup>36</sup> And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. <sup>37</sup> And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. <sup>38</sup> And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. <sup>39</sup> And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou son of David, have mercy on me. <sup>40</sup> And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, <sup>41</sup> Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. <sup>42</sup> And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.*

**Luke**

**18:35-42**

**Prophecy:** The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him **that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation;** that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! <sup>8</sup> Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion. <sup>9</sup> Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. *Isaiah 52:7-10*

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. *Malachi 3:1*

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: *Malachi 4:5*

**Fulfilled:** But 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. <sup>14</sup> And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. <sup>15</sup> For 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. <sup>16</sup> And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> **And 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.** *Luke 1:13:17*

And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For with God nothing shall be impossible. <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. <sup>39</sup> And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; <sup>40</sup> And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. <sup>41</sup> And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: <sup>42</sup> And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. <sup>43</sup> And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. ***Luke 1:36-44***

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; <sup>77</sup> To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, <sup>78</sup> Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, <sup>79</sup> To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. <sup>80</sup> And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel. ***Luke 1:76-80***

And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. <sup>3</sup> For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, **The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.** <sup>4</sup> And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. ***Matthew 3:2-4***

And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? <sup>8</sup> But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft *clothing* are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup> But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> For this is *he*, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. <sup>11</sup> Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the

kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. <sup>14</sup>**And if ye will receive *it*, this is Elias, which was for to come.** <sup>15</sup>He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. ***Matthew 11:7-15***

Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? <sup>23</sup>**He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.** ***John 1:22-23***

**Application:** <sup>14</sup>How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup>And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! ***Romans 10:14-15***

**Second Coming:** And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. <sup>4</sup>These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. <sup>6</sup>These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. ***Revelation 11:3-6***

**December 18<sup>th</sup>: At His Coming, Israel Will Have Unfit Kings and Priests,  
for He is the One True King of Kings and Righteous Priest above All Priests**

**Symbol of the Wreath:** A symbol of the never-ending eternal value of love having no end. The Wreath is made with Holly which also represents the Crown of Thorns placed upon Jesus' head at the crucifixion, and His crowning as King of Kings. The berries symbolize Jesus' blood which is the only atonement for sin.

Nailing a wreath to your doorpost reminds us of Deuteronomy 6 and 11 where God told Israel to write on the posts of their house the Greatest Commandment. The wreath also represents the striking of the blood of the Passover Lamb on the Israelites' left and right side of doorpost and on the lintel to seal the house, so the death angel would pass over during the Plagues of Egypt (which signifies the Crown of Thorns on Jesus' head and his outstretched hands, scarred with nails). The wreath ties in with the Mezuzah as well, the Jewish tradition of nailing the scriptures from Deuteronomy 6 and 11 to the doorpost. Bondservants were to also have their ears nailed to the doorpost (Ex. 21:6 & Deut. 15:7). The nailing of the wreath and Mezuzah is to remind us that Jesus was nailed to the Cross. The Advent Wreath has four candles placed on a wreath. One candle is lit each Sunday before Christmas in anticipation of Christ's birthday.

*And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might....And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. Deuteronomy 6:5, 9*

*And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper doorpost of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. Exodus 12:7*

**Note:** Jesus Christ fulfills this sign. The Crown of Thorns placed on his head represents the blood on the lentil (top) of the doorpost. His nail-pierced hands represent the blood on the two sides of the doorpost. The Jews continue the practice today of nailing a Mezuzah to the side of their doorposts of their homes, a tradition that dates back thousands of years. The Mezuzah is specifically supposed to be nailed, a symbol for the nails in Jesus' hands.

*And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, John 19:2*

*And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Luke 23:38*

**Prophecy:** And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. <sup>19</sup> And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: **Genesis 14:18-19**

*Salem, modern day Jerusalem was not a city yet when Abram met King Melchizedek who was also the priest of the most high God. It is my belief, with others, that this could have actually been Jesus that appeared to Abram because Jesus Christ was and will always be the One True King of Jerusalem.*

Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, <sup>5</sup> And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. <sup>6</sup> But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. <sup>7</sup> **And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.** <sup>8</sup> According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.

<sup>9</sup>Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them. <sup>10</sup>And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. **1 Samuel 8:4-10**

Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. <sup>4</sup>The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. <sup>5</sup>The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath. **Psalms 110:3-5**

For I will no more pity the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD: but, lo, I will deliver the men every one into his neighbour's hand, and into the hand of his king: and they shall smite the land, and out of their hand I will not deliver them. **Zechariah 11:6**

**Fulfilled:** So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. <sup>6</sup>As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. <sup>7</sup>Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; <sup>8</sup>Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; <sup>9</sup>And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; <sup>10</sup>Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. **Hebrews 5:5-10**

Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. **Hebrews 6:20**

For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; <sup>2</sup>To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; <sup>3</sup>**Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually. Hebrews 7:1-3**

**Application:** *And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I Corinthians 9:25*

*And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. I Peter 5:4*

*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. James 1:12*

**Second Coming:** *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*  
**Revelation 2:10**

*Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Revelation 3:11*

*The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, <sup>11</sup>Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Revelation 4:10-11*

## **December 19<sup>th</sup>: He Will Be Called a Nazarene**

**Symbol and Legend of the Christmas Tree:** In the 14th and 15th centuries, people in Europe performed miracle or mystery plays in front of cathedrals during the advent season for those who did not understand Latin. This was a means to teach the Bible since few people could read the scriptures. The evergreen tree was often used as a prop. Its image lasted in the minds of those attending and influenced the German people to bring trees into their homes at Christmas. The fir tree in the plays represented the tree of life as well as sin, so the people first decorated trees with little religious figures on the branches. The Christmas tree spread to America when Hessian soldiers practiced the custom while fighting the Revolutionary War. Later, the German born Prince Albert and Queen Victoria popularized the custom when they erected the first Christmas tree in Windsor Castle. Some legends include that the tree symbolizes the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden as well as the Cross where Jesus was crucified, defeating death.

*And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. **Genesis 2:9***

*And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance. **Deuteronomy 21:22-23***

**Prophecy:** The trees went forth *on a time* to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, Reign thou over us. <sup>9</sup>But the olive tree said unto them, Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees? <sup>10</sup>And the trees said to the fig tree, Come thou, *and* reign over us. <sup>11</sup>But the fig tree said unto them, Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees? <sup>12</sup>Then said the trees unto the vine, Come thou, *and* reign over us. <sup>13</sup>And the vine

said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?  
<sup>14</sup>Then said all the trees unto the bramble, Come thou, *and* reign over us. <sup>15</sup>And the bramble said unto the trees, If in truth ye anoint me king over you, *then* come *and* put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon. ***Judges 9:8-15***

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and **a Branch shall grow out of his roots:** <sup>2</sup> And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; <sup>3</sup> And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: <sup>4</sup> But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup> And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. ***Isaiah 11:1-5***

<sup>5</sup> Behold, 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. <sup>6</sup> In 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 23:5-6***

Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, **I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.** ***Zechariah 3:8***

And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, **Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:** <sup>13</sup> Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both. ***Zechariah 6:12-13***

**Note:** “Nazarene” in Greek is *Nazōraios* [Ναζωραῖος] (Strong’s 3480) from the root *Nazara* [Ναζαρέτ] (Strong’s 3478) meaning an “inhabitant of Nazareth.” *Nazareth/Nazarene* had no previous root meaning in Greek, so the word was basically retained from the Hebrew when the Gospels were translated into the Greek as a name or title for Jesus. The name or word *Nazareth* or *Nazarene* is derived from the Hebrew word *Netser* [נֹצֵר] (Strong’s 5342) meaning “branch, sprout, shoot, or descendant.” *Netser* is taken from the Hebrew root word *Natsar* [נָצַר] (Strong’s 5341) meaning “<sup>1</sup>to observe, <sup>2</sup>to watch as in a Watchman, <sup>3</sup>to guard, protect, preserve or keep secret things or secret places.”

Thou *art* my hiding place; ***thou shalt preserve me*** (*tis·ṣā·rê·nî*) [נֹצַרְתִּי] (Strong’s 5341) from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah. ***Psalm 32:7***

**Fulfilled:** And 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. ***Matthew 2:23***

I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:  
for without me ye can do nothing. ***John 15:5***

**Second Coming:** *And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of all nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him. Revelation 22:1-3*

## **December 20<sup>th</sup>: Publications of Good Tidings and Peace**

**Legend of the Snowflake:** Long ago a gleaming star led the way to a Child born in a Manger. It is said today that snowflakes are little pieces of that Special Star that leads us to the Light of the World, Jesus.

*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, <sup>2</sup> Saying, 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. Matthew 2:1-2*

**Prophecy:** And Joab said unto him, Thou shalt not bear tidings this day, but thou shalt bear tidings another day: but this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because the king's son is dead. ***II Samuel 18:20***

For 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. Isaiah 9:6**

O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift *it* up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! **Isaiah 40:9**

Who hath declared from the beginning, that we may know? and before time, that we may say, He is righteous? yea, there is none that sheweth, yea, there is none that declareth, yea, there is none that heareth your words. <sup>27</sup>The first shall say to Zion, Behold, behold them: and **I will give to Jerusalem one that bringeth good tidings.** <sup>28</sup>For I beheld, and there was no man; even among them, and there was no counsellor, that, when I asked of them, could answer a word. *Isaiah 41:26-28*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that **bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good,** that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! *Isaiah 52:7*

The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to **preach good tidings unto the meek;** he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound; <sup>2</sup>To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; <sup>3</sup>To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified... <sup>7</sup>For your shame *ye shall have* double; and *for* confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them. *Isaiah 61:1-3, 7*

Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that **bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace!** O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off. *Nahum 1:15*

**Fulfilled:** And 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. *Luke 1:19*

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, **behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy**, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup>Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. **Luke 2:8-14**

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. <sup>17</sup>And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, <sup>18</sup>The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, <sup>19</sup>To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. <sup>20</sup>And he closed the book, and he gave *it* again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup>And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. **Luke 4:16-21**

**Second Coming:** And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war... <sup>13</sup>And his name is called The Word of God... <sup>16</sup>And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. **Revelation 19:11, 13, 16**

*And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. Revelation 21:4*

## ***December 21<sup>st</sup>: He Will Save an Ordinary Appearance***

**Legend of the Pickle:** This German tradition says that the pickle, a symbol of good luck, was the last ornament placed on the tree. The first child to find the pickle on Christmas morning was rewarded with an extra gift left by St. Nicholas. This tradition encourages children to appreciate all the beautiful ornaments on the tree, rather than rushing to see what gifts they received.

*Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. Matthew 19:21*

**Prophecy:** But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. ***I Samuel 16:7***

Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee. ***Isaiah 49:7***

For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: **he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.** <sup>3</sup> He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. <sup>4</sup> Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we

did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

***Isaiah 53:2-5***

**Fulfilled:** And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. ***Luke 2:7***

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. <sup>11</sup> He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ***John 1:10-11***

And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. <sup>16</sup> But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. ***Luke 24:15-16***

**Application:** Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; <sup>4</sup> But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. ***1 Peter 3:3-4***

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: <sup>7</sup> But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: <sup>8</sup> And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. ***Philippians 2:5-6***

**Second Coming:** His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup> And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. <sup>16</sup> And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. <sup>17</sup> And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: <sup>18</sup> I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. ***Revelation 1:14-18***

And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; <sup>19</sup> I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. ***Revelation 2:18-19***

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. <sup>13</sup> And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup> And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup> And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. ***Revelation 19:11-16***

*Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes within thy locks: thy hair is as a flock of goats, that appear from mount Gilead. <sup>2</sup> Thy teeth are like a flock of sheep that are even shorn, which came up from the washing; whereof every one bear twins, and none is barren among them. <sup>3</sup> Thy lips are like a thread of scarlet, and thy speech is comely: thy temples are like a piece of a pomegranate within thy locks. <sup>6</sup> Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, I will get me to the mountain of myrrh, and to the hill of frankincense. <sup>7</sup> Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee.*

**Song of Solomon 4:1-3, 6-7**

## **December 22<sup>nd</sup>: He Will Suddenly Appear in the Temple**

**Legend of the Poinsettia:** On Christmas Eve a small child had no gift to give the Baby Jesus. When she prayed an angel appeared and said, "Whatever you give from your heart will make Jesus happy." So the girl picked some weeds and as she took them to church they changed into a brilliant red bouquet of poinsettia flowers. This flower was brought to the U.S. by Dr. J.R. Poinsett in 1825. He was the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico. Because of its flame leaf, the poinsettia is sometimes called the Christmas Star or the "Flower of the Holy Night."

*Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Luke 12:27*

**Prophecy: The LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.** <sup>2</sup>But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: <sup>3</sup>And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years. <sup>5</sup>And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts. ***Malachi 3:1b-5***

**Fulfilled:** Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. <sup>43</sup> And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. <sup>44</sup> But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. <sup>45</sup> And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. <sup>46</sup> And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. <sup>48</sup> And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. <sup>49</sup> And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? <sup>50</sup> And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. <sup>51</sup> And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. ***Luke 2:41-52***

And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, <sup>13</sup> And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves. ***Matthew 21:12-13***

**Application:** Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. <sup>20</sup> Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? <sup>21</sup> But he spake of the temple of his body. ***John 2:19-21***

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. ***I Corinthians 6:19-20***

**Second Coming:** And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. <sup>23</sup> And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. <sup>24</sup> And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. <sup>25</sup> And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. <sup>26</sup> And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. <sup>27</sup> And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. ***Revelation 21:22-27***

## **December 23<sup>rd</sup>: He Will Be Called Jesus (Yehoshua or "Jehovah is Salvation")**

**Legend of the Candy Cane:** Many years ago, a candy maker wanted to make a candy that symbolized the true meaning of Christmas--Jesus. The hard candy was shaped like a "J" when turned upside down to represent Jesus' name and "Joy." It was also shaped like a shepherd's staff, to represent the angels appearing to the shepherds at Jesus' birth, and to symbolize that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. The lively peppermint flavor is the regal gift of spice, a gift for a King. The color white stands for the pureness of Jesus that we can receive when we accept Him and seek repentance of our sins. The color red represents the blood Jesus shed for us. When a child begins licking the candy cane, the red coloring goes away to represent that Jesus' blood washes away our sins and leaves us white as snow.

*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5*

**Prophecy:** Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. **Isaiah 7:14**

And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. <sup>2</sup> And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? <sup>3</sup> Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. <sup>4</sup> And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. <sup>5</sup> And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the

LORD stood by. <sup>6</sup> And the angel of the LORD protested unto Joshua, saying, <sup>7</sup> Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by. <sup>8</sup> Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: **for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.** <sup>9</sup> For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and **I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.** *Zechariah 3:1-9*

The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>10</sup> “Take silver and gold from the exiles Heldai, Tobijah and Jedaiah, who have arrived from Babylon. Go the same day to the house of Josiah son of Zephaniah. <sup>11</sup> Take the silver and gold and make a crown, and set it on the head of the high priest, Joshua son of Jehozadak. <sup>12</sup> Tell him this is what the **LORD Almighty says: ‘Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD.** <sup>13</sup> It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.’ <sup>14</sup> The crown will be given to Heldai, Tobijah, Jedaiah and Hen son of Zephaniah as a memorial in the temple of the LORD. <sup>15</sup> Those who are far away will come and help to build the temple of the LORD, and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you. This will happen if you diligently obey the LORD your God.” *Zechariah 6:9-15*

**Note:** The name “Joshua” is translated from the Hebrew “Yehoshua” — which is the same name that is translated “Iesous” in the Greek Septuagint. In our English New Testament Bibles, the name “Iesous” is translated “Jesus”. Joshua’s father — Jehozadek’s name literally means “Jehovah Righteousness” (furthermore, the translation of the name of Melchizedek is “King of Righteousness”).

**Joshua** (Hebrew יְהוֹשֻׁעַ) or **Yeshua** (Hebrew יֵשׁוּעַ) **the High Priest** was, according to the Bible, the first person chosen to be the High Priest for the reconstruction of the Jewish Temple after the return of the Jews from the Babylonian Captivity (See Zechariah 6:9-14 and Ezra 3). While the name *Yeshua* is used in Ezra–Nehemiah for the High Priest, he is called *Joshua* son of Jehozadak in the books of Haggai and Zechariah.

**Fulfilled:** And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. <sup>29</sup> And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> **And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.** <sup>32</sup> He 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: <sup>33</sup> And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. ***Luke 1:28-33***

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. <sup>21</sup> **And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.** <sup>22</sup> Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: <sup>25</sup> And knew her not till **she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.** ***Matthew 1:20-25***

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ***Luke 2:10-11***

And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, **his name was called JESUS,** which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ***Luke 2:21***

**Second Coming:** And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. <sup>13</sup> And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup> And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup> And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. ***Revelation 19:11-16***

## **December 24<sup>th</sup>: Angels Will Appear at His Coming**

**Legend of the Walnut:** The walnut holds a small nut, shaped like an angel's wings. It reminds us of Almighty God, the Creator of all things. One day a tall and fruitful tree from this small nut will grow. Just as God's grace will grow in us, and throughout creation flow.

*He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. <sup>2</sup> I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. <sup>3</sup> Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. <sup>4</sup> He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Psalm 91:1-4*

*The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field. <sup>32</sup> Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof. Matthew 13:31b-32*

**Prophecy: Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.** <sup>21</sup> Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him. <sup>22</sup> But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries. <sup>23</sup> For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off. **Exodus 23:20-23**

All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory. <sup>8</sup>**Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows?** *Isaiah 60:7-8*

**Fulfilled:** And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. <sup>29</sup>And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. <sup>30</sup>**And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. <sup>32</sup>He 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: <sup>33</sup>And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.** *Luke 1:26-33*

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And, lo, the **angel of the Lord** came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup>Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. *Luke 2:8-14*

And, behold, there was a great earthquake: **for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.** <sup>3</sup>His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: <sup>4</sup>And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. <sup>5</sup>And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. *Matthew 28:2-6*

And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: <sup>5</sup> And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. ***Luke 24:4-7***

But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, <sup>12</sup> **And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.** <sup>13</sup> **And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou?** She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my LORD, and I know not where they have laid him. <sup>14</sup> And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. <sup>16</sup> Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. <sup>17</sup> Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. ***John 20:11-17***

**Second Coming:** And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. <sup>2</sup> And I saw, and **behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow;** and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. <sup>3</sup> And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. <sup>4</sup> And there went out another **horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth,** and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword. <sup>5</sup> And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a **black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.** <sup>6</sup> And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine. <sup>7</sup> And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

<sup>8</sup> And I looked, and behold **a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death**, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth. *Revelation 6:1-8*

And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. *Revelation 8:2*

And I saw **another mighty angel come down from heaven**, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: <sup>2</sup> And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, <sup>3</sup> And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. <sup>4</sup> And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. *Revelation 10:1-4*

And I saw **another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth**, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, <sup>7</sup> Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. *Revelation 14:6-7*

And I saw **an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand**. <sup>2</sup> And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, <sup>3</sup> And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. *Revelation 20:1-3*

***December 25<sup>th</sup>: The Day Foreordained Before the Foundation of the World:  
Happy Birthday Lord Jesus! Thank You! We Love You and We Worship  
You on Your Birthday and Every Day!***

Happy Birthday Jesus! This is the day we celebrate Jesus' Birth into the world which was decided upon in Early Christianity based upon their belief that December 25<sup>th</sup> was the date that the Magi, or Wise Men, actually saw Jesus, worshipped Him, and presented Him with gifts. Our family chooses, however, to worship Jesus' Birth, Life, Death, and Resurrection every day in our homes and hearts. We love our Lord Jesus Christ and have committed to try to live in His Will every day, not just one day a week or to celebrate His birth one day a year and His Resurrection another day of the year. From our family to yours, Merry Christmas, and may the Love of Jesus shine within you every day of the year! God Bless You!

*Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name  
Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14*

*For 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. Isaiah 9:6*

### What Christmas is All About...

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. <sup>2</sup> (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) <sup>5</sup> To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

<sup>6</sup> And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

<sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. ***Luke 2:1-20***

“And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” ***Matthew 3:17***

Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall show judgment to the Gentiles. **Matthew 12:18**

Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, **I** say unto you, **Before Abraham** was, **I AM**. *John 8:58*

Who verily was **foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you, *1 Peter 1:20*

**Second Coming:** I am **Alpha** and **Omega**, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. *Revelation 1:8*

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, **the beginning of the creation of God**; *Revelation 3:14*

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. **I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star**. *Revelation 22:16*

## ***Appendix: At the Name of Jesus***

### **Consider these words:**

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; <sup>3</sup> Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high: <sup>4</sup> Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. <sup>5</sup> **For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?** <sup>6</sup> **And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.** <sup>7</sup> And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. <sup>8</sup> **But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.** <sup>9</sup> **Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.** <sup>10</sup> **And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:** <sup>11</sup> They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; <sup>12</sup> And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail. *Hebrews 1:1-12*

**Reflection:** Please look back at verse 5. What does it mean when God says, ***“Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee”***?

Let's look at Victor Alexander's translation of the Ancient Aramaic scriptures used by the Assyrian Catholic Church of the East (Chaldean/Assyrian/Malabar) for perhaps, a clearer insight to the meaning of “this day have I begotten thee.” The asterisks denote where the translator, who is a native Aramaic speaker and has

spent over 30 years studying ancient languages, further explained some of the literal Aramaic idiomatic expressions that were used during the life of Jesus.

“God spoke to our ancestors in every way, shape and form\* through the prophets of old,\* and in these last days,\* He spoke to us through His Son, <sup>2</sup> To Whom was consecrated the inheritance to everything, and by Whom He created the universes, <sup>3</sup> "So as they may be the yeast of His [Son's] glory ... and in the image of His existence, And that he may muster all of them ... by the power of His Manifestation, And it was with that Essence of His Trinity ... that He cleansed our sins, He Who sits from the right of the Supreme throne in the Highest." <sup>4</sup> And all this is greater than the angels, according to that greatness inherited in the name He received\* from them. <sup>5</sup> For when did God ever speak of any angels as: **‘You are my Son, ... My eternal genesis,’\*** And again: ‘I shall be a Father to Him ... and He shall be a Son to Me.’” *Hebrews 1:1-5 (Ancient Aramaic translation) from “Aramaic Bible Disciples New Testament” by Victor Alexander (available on Amazon, published 2010)*

\*1:1.1 Literal Aramaic (Lit. Ar.) expression: "By sample and example."

\*1:1.2 Lit. Ar. id.: Or: "Of the Old Testament."

\*1:1.3 Lit. Ar. idiomatic expression retained: "Recent times."

\*1:4 Lit. Ar. idiomatic figure of speech: "Inherited."

**\*1:5 Lit. Ar. idiomatic construction: "That my Son You Are, I daily beget You."**

Did you catch that? Jesus Christ is God’s Son, His Eternal Genesis, whom God begets **daily**! If, by understanding that the relationship between God and His Son, Jesus Christ, is a relationship that is renewed or “begotten daily,” then how much more should we, as frail humans, seek to renew our commitment, faith, and fellowship with Jesus Christ daily? We are not called to simply be “born again” into a relationship with Jesus through a one-time prayer of repentance and baptism, but we are called to be “born daily” into a new relationship with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, so that we honor God by worshipping Him through His Son every day, not just on Christmas Day! If you have not done so already, why not make it a New Year’s Resolution to commit to renew your relationship with Jesus Christ every day, just as Jesus renews his relationship with His Father daily?

Please consider some of the literal meanings of Jesus' name on this Blessed Christmas Day!

*Jesus* in Hebrew: **Yeshua** or **Yehoshua** "Jehovah is Salvation"

*Christ* in Greek: **Khristos** "Anointed" or "Oil"

*Jesus* in Ancient Aramaic: **Eashoa** (yeh-sheen-waw-ein) "The Life-Giving, Living Branch" or "The Life-Giver"

*Messiah* in Ancient Aramaic: **Msheekha** "the Anointed One"

*Hosannah* in Ancient Aramaic: **O'shanna** "Our Life-Giving Branch"

*Nazareth* in Ancient Aramaic: **Nass-rat** "The Victorious"

*Nazarene* in Greek: **Netzar** "The Branch, Flower, Offshoot"

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. <sup>3</sup> Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. **John 15:1-5***

# **Christmas Advent: 25 Days with Jesus-**

## **The Word Fulfilled!**

Scriptures Compiled By: Shannon J. Sweeting

2017

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For the Purposes of Spreading the Gospel of Christ

Unto All the World!

*But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And as ye go, preach, saying,  
The kingdom of heaven is at hand. <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils:  
freely ye have received, freely give.*

**Matthew 10:6-8**

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