

CHRISTMAS DAY 2025

For four hundred years, heaven had been silent. No prophets. No vision. No thunder from God. Except for a small Miracle that gave Israel the hope that God was not done yet. In about 200 BC after recapturing Jerusalem, a small jar of oil was found to rededicate the temple that should have lasted for 1 day. But God in His approval by miracle held it for 8 days just enough time to allow them to consecrate and purify the oil needed. This is celebrated by the Jewish community as Hannukah.

It was not long before Jerusalem was reminded that they needed a Messiah and that he was yet to come!

Less than 100 years later, Jerusalem was still under political and spiritual bondage.

Israel waited. Humanity was held captive by darkness and sin. Darkness ruled both the palace and the pasture.

The world groaned in pain.

Garden – Eve – Serpent Sin – Promise of Redemption

Genesis 3:15 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.

God had not forgotten His promise.

And on one ordinary night, heaven tore the silence apart, and that which was promised was brought forth.

World – Mary – Spirit - Salvation

The Apostle Paul writes,

Galatians 4:3-5 Even so we, when we were children, were **in bondage under the elements of the world:**

(4) But **when the fulness of the time was come,**

God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, (5) **To redeem them that were under the law,** that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Outside Bethlehem, men sat who were barely noticed by society. Shepherds. Unclean. Uneducated. Unimportant. They guarded sheep... But on this night, God would entrust them with a message for the world.

Shepherds

Luke 2:10 -14 (10) And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, **I bring you good tidings of great joy,** which shall be to all people. (11) For unto you is born this day in the city of David **a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.** (12) And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. (13) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, (14) Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:15-20 ...Let **us now go** even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath

made known unto us. (16) And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. (17) And when they had seen it,

they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. (18) And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.(20) And the shepherds returned, **glorifying and praising God for all the things** that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Far from the fields of Bethlehem... Beyond Israel's borders... God was also stirring hearts. Wise men. Scholars. Gentiles. Outsiders. Men who studied the stars—but were truly searching for **truth**.

Magi

Matthew 2:1-2 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, (2) 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.**

Mat 2:11 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.

Herod

Matthew 2:7-8 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. (8) And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, **bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.**

Matthew 2:13 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.**

Everyone in the Christmas story had a response.

- The shepherds

Let us now go even unto Bethlehem

They made known abroad the saying which told them concerning this child.

Returned, **glorifying and praising God for all the things**

- The Magi

Are come to worship him.

Fell down, and worshipped him:

They presented unto him gifts

- Herod

Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

And today... so must we decide.

Will you believe in Christ, provide your presence and gifts.

Will you believe and turn and proclaim the message.

Will you allow the world to destroy the one who would bring life.