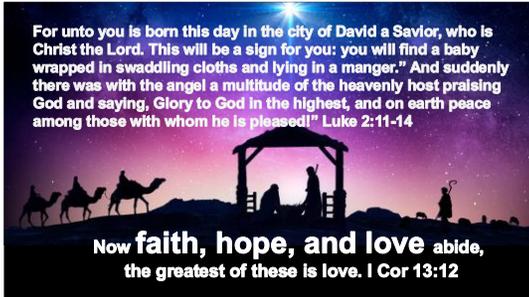


The Christmas story, the Wisemen and King Herod

I. Introduction-

Welcome-

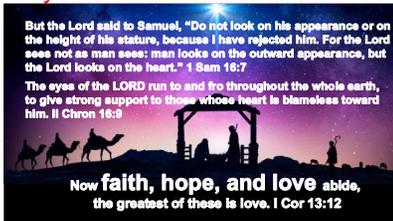


For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" Luke 2:11-14

Now faith, hope, and love abide, the greatest of these is love. I Cor 13:12

A. The focus of the story is the infant Jesus, Christ, the Messiah, God, savior

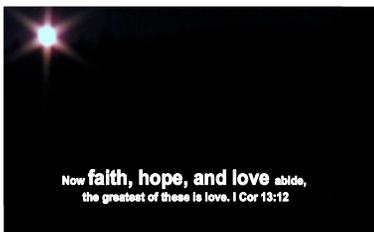
Why God choose them



But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 1 Sam 16:7

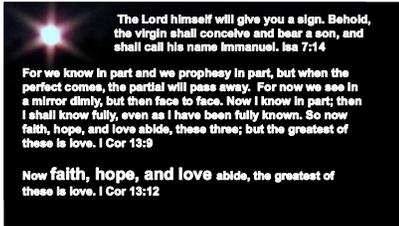
The eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. II Chron 16:9

B. The context of this love story- **stage go dark-**



II. Jesus was born into a time of spiritual darkness and confusion-

A. There were light shining in the darkness



2

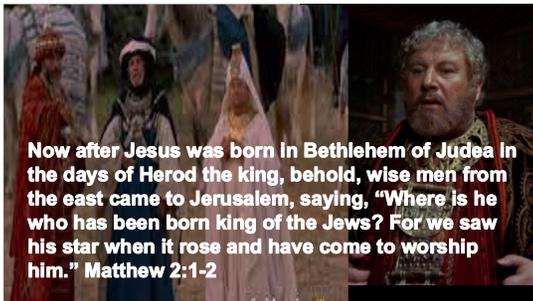
Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isa 7:14
For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. I Cor 13:9

B. The four thousand years are a story faith, hope and love in a world spiritual darkness -



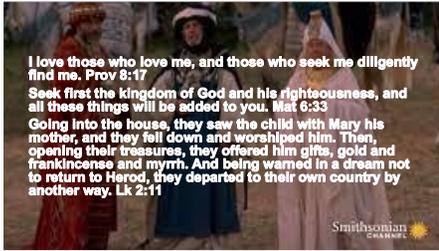
They desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though commended through their faith. Heb 11:16 & 35

C. The good and evil, between wisemen and evil men –



Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:1-2

1. The wisemen



I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. Prov 8:17

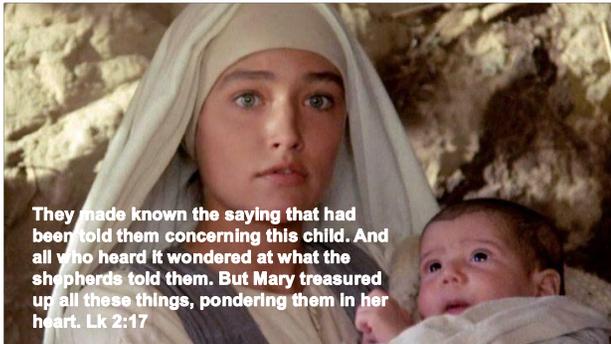
Seek first the kingdom

of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Mat 6:33

Going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. Mat 2:11

Show the video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50liF1rTTGQ>



They made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. Lk 2:17

What a moment in history

The angel visits

The trip to Bethlehem 9 months pregnant

No rooms available

The miracle of birth, and new life

Wow, even in a stable

Shepherds and wise men with gifts

Fleeing for their lives-

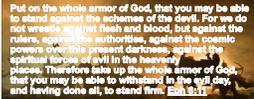
Absolutely Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart

Told them to Luke, to Mathew and all who would listen

<https://www.gotquestions.org/three-wise-men.html>

2. The spiritual battle between good and evil

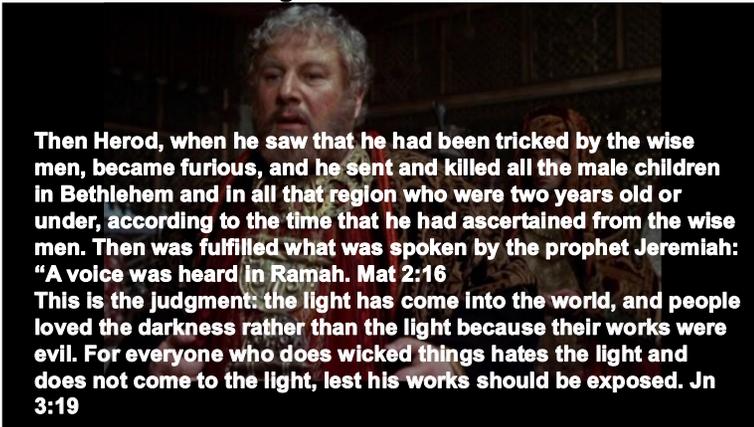
Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Eph 6:11



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4

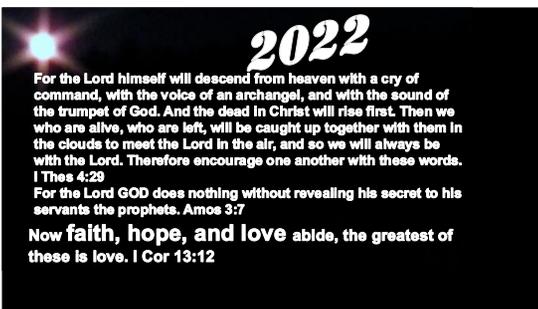
Show the video of King Herod when he learned that the wisemen did not come back to tell him where Jesus was



Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah. Mat 2:16

This is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. Jn 3:19

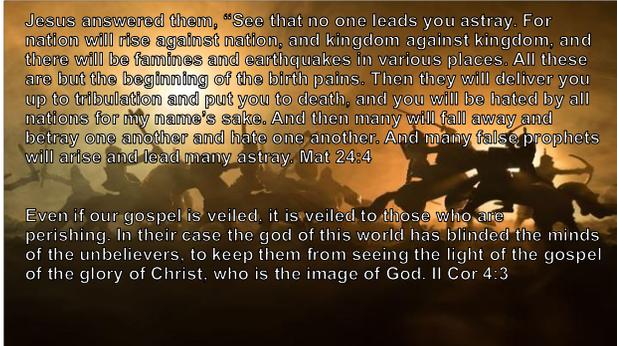
II The faith, hope and love in 2022-



For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words. I Thes 4:29

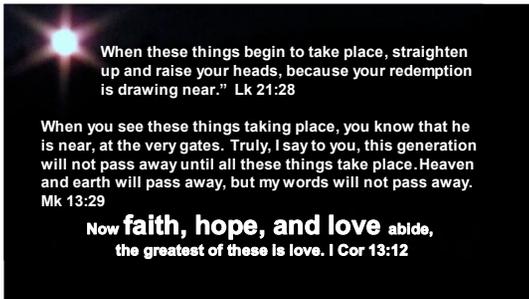
For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets. Amos 3:7

A. 2022 is time of spiritual darkness and warfare-



Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. Mat 24:4

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. II Cor 4:3

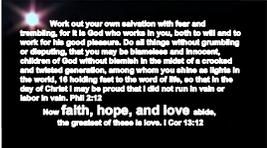


When these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Lk 21:28

When you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Mk 13:29

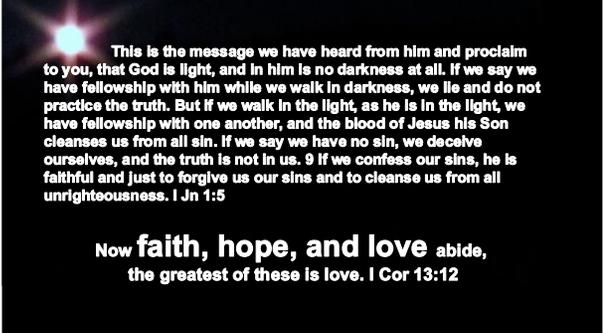
Now faith, hope, and love abide, the greatest of these is love. I Cor 13:12

B. Seek with faith, hope and love-

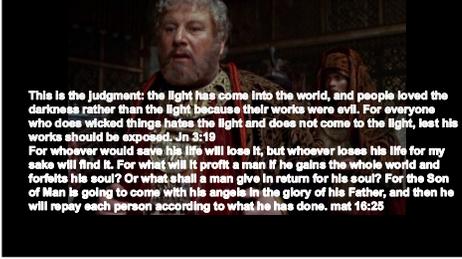


Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Phil 2:12

C. Walk in the light-



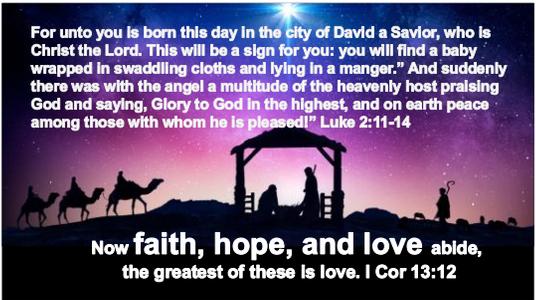
This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I Jn 1:5



Whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. Jn 3:18

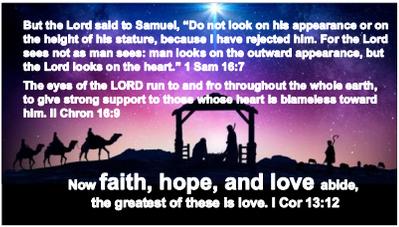
For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. mat 16:25

IV Summary and application

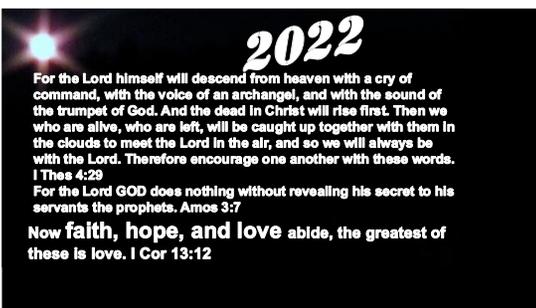


A. Christmas is more than a story-

B. God is still searching hearts for those willing to seek and follow Him-



C. Jesus is coming again-



D. Be seekers of truth and righteous-



