

Be Inspired By the Journey to Bethlehem

- ✘ Romans 15:4 – This was written to bring you patience, comfort & hope!
- ✘ God's Holy Spirit is with you on your journey of life!
- ✘ Faith + Anticipation = Joy Unspeakable & Full of Glory!



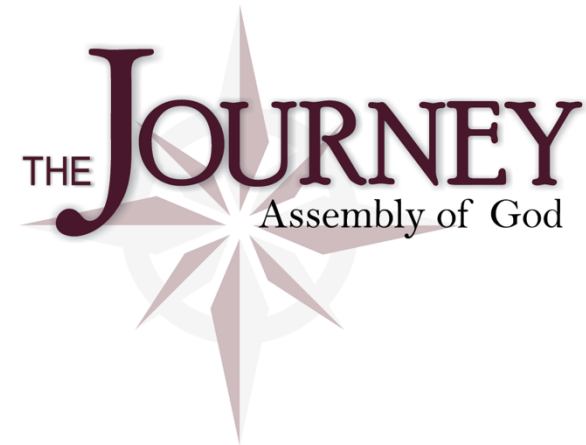
✘ MY NEXT STEPS TODAY...

- ☐ **Express Faith** ~ In the plans God has for me on this journey of life.
- ☐ **Grow in Holy Anticipation** ~ Knowing that God is at work and His activity is nothing but glorious, miraculous, and faith inspiring.
- ☐ **Be Filled With The Holy Spirit** ~ Receive the fullness of God into my life with accompanying power, joy and gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- ☐ **Celebrate With Joy** ~ The Christmas story, the grace of God, the peace of Christ, and the joy of the Holy Spirit poured out upon mankind!
- ☐ **Make a Faith Decision** ~ Prayerfully place my **faith** in Jesus Christ, God's Son, by **recognizing Him** as my personal **Lord** and **Savior** and by asking and receiving the forgiveness of my sins.

Endnotes:

¹ Vine, W. E., & Bruce, F. F. (1981). In [Vine's Expository dictionary of Old and New Testament words](#) (Vol. 2, p. 51). Revell.

² Henry, M. (1994). [Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume](#) (p. 1614). Hendrickson.



MESSAGE GUIDE

*Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer
Sunday: December 14, 2025*



Message Guide

Date: December 14, 2025

Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer

Today's Message:

CHRISTMAS SERIES:

THE ARRIVAL

Advent Anticipation

#2 "The Journey to Bethlehem"

Text: Matthew 2:1-2 / Luke 1:39-56; 2:1-7



THE ARRIVAL *"The Journey to Bethlehem"*

Christmas Message Series Review

- ✧ Advent – "The Arrival" of Jesus Christ. We're going on a Journey...
 - ↳ The Journey of Faith – Faith + Obedience = Abundant Blessings!
 - ↳ The Journey to Bethlehem – Faith + Anticipation = Great Joy!
 - ↳ The Journey to the Manger

The Build-Up of Anticipation

- ✧ The true anticipation that Advent should build in us is the **JOY** we can share in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ!

The Journey To The Hill Country of Judea: Luke 1:39-56

- ✧ Mary Visits Elizabeth – Two pregnant women sharing the joy of their experiences (including John the Baptist!) (vv.49-45)
- ✧ Mary's Magnificat – a prophecy & praise to God for His favor! (vv.46-55)



The Journey to Bethlehem (Joseph & Mary): Luke 2:1-7

- ✧ The Journey to Bethlehem was overflowing with anticipation!
- ✧ The Trip: 70 miles (as the crow flies) / 4 days minimum, averaging 20 miles a day by foot or donkey. For Joseph & Mary: More like 7 – 10 days minimum, and maybe even longer!
 - ↳ Imagine their preparation... questions... consolation...
 - ↳ Faith + Anticipation = Great Joy!



The Journey to Bethlehem (The Magi): Matthew 2:1-2

- ✧ The Journey to Bethlehem was teeming with anticipation for the Magi!
- ✧ Who were they?
 - ↳ Greek: magos (μάγος), Magi... (a) one of Median caste, a magician, one with wisdom; (b) a wizard, sorcerer, a pretender to magic powers, a professor of the arts of witchcraft. ¹
 - ↳ In the best sense: Persian philosophers & priests!
 - ↳ On the darker side: Sorcerers, Soothsayers, Fortunetellers!
- ✧ Matthew Henry Observes:
 - ↳ The Magi were Gentiles (enquiring about the Christ).
 - ↳ The Magi were Scholars (students of knowledge; astrologers).
 - ↳ The Magi were Men of the East (Arabia - soothsayers). ²

- ✧ They had seen **the Star** of the New King of the Jews in the East! (vv.1-2)
 - ↳ The Trip: About 900 miles / A four-month journey minimum!
 - ↳ Faith + Anticipation = Exceedingly Great Joy!

