

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:

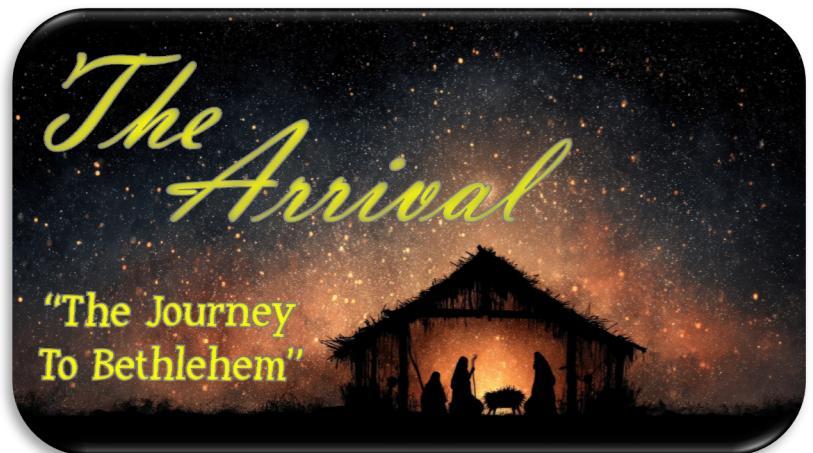
¹ Vine, W. E., & Bruce, F. F. (1981). In [Vine's Expository dictionary of Old and New Testament words](#) (Vol. 2, p. 51). Revell.

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!

