

# Christmas Is Coming

Sunday, December 21, 2025

It never grows old, never wears out...

Peter calls this our living hope that is perfect, pure, **undefiled and DOES NOT FADE AWAY**

**Were last year's Christmas gifts enough? NOPE!**

If the point is to express love and care and to bring a little jolt of joy, give them.

If our joy is only in "GETTING" then you will be thirsty for the rest of your life.

It's not in the getting... it's in the having. – Once you HAVE Jesus, you may enjoy the getting, but you won't need it. And I'll do you one better, you may enjoy the getting but you will be content and ok, even in the losing. **JESUS IS ENOUGH**

## The Trepidation

**Matthew 1:18-21**

**Isaiah 7:14 (700 years before Bethlehem)**

The Scriptures foretold of an Immaculate conception and virgin birth, but I doubt that was in Joseph's daily devotions. – **Living in unrealized grace.**

Minded to put her away. *Finding out about Jesus was hard for Joseph to process*  
**Away Secretly – dismiss, cut free, divorce**

Character Matters – If he had developed a pattern of quick judgment and reactionary decisiveness toward people, he would have missed God's blessing.

*Can God interrupt your honorably wrong decision?*

God made sure Joseph was ministered to.

**Matthew 1:20-21**

**Trepidation - Afraid: to put to flight, to scare away, to be alarmed or seized with fear.**

God ministers to us in our weaknesses, what if's, and what abouts.

*The power of God will take you out of your own plans and put you into the plan of God. – Smith Wigglesworth.*

Something much bigger than Joseph or Mary was taking place. God would later work **IN AND THROUGH** them to bring world-changing salvation to all humanity.

**The Confidence we can have in God. – vs. 20 (is) 21 (will)**

**IS** conceived

**WILL** save Jobs change, health slips, friends leave, but God stays the same.

**You are already guilty; the sentence has already been given. The question is, who will pay for it?**

*Before we identify perhaps the most important part of Christ's coming, I want to point out a few things Dr. Luke wrote to us in his account of Christ's coming. (TRAVEL)*

## Trepidation

### Travel

#### Luke 2:1-7

#### The Travel - THE JOURNEY

Nazareth, a small village in Galilee, north of Judea. Sits in the hill country, modest and agricultural, with no major political or religious importance – Striking that God would pick a place like this.

Most scholars believe they would have taken the Jordan Valley Route

- Safer and more populated by Jewish travelers
- Not as volatile terrain – grades were more forgiving

#### Route overview:

1. Down toward **Scythopolis (Beth-shean)**
2. South along the **Jordan River**
3. Up through **Jericho**
4. Steep ascent (about **3,300 feet**) into **Jerusalem**
5. Final 6 miles south to **Bethlehem**
6. Distance: 90 miles
7. Time: 7-10 days of travel on foot or with a donkey (10-15 miles per day)
8. Terrain: Rolling hills, valleys, river crossings, and rugged stretches

#### Micah 5:2 Fulfillment of Bethlehem Ephratha (Luke 2:1-5)

*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.*

An oppressive political decree, issued by Caesar Augustus, overseen and used by GOD.

Baby Moon - Why would Joseph take his pregnant bride on such a long journey?

#### A Forced Journey

IN the journey

Showed up at the end

*Don't be surprised if God is "IN" the journey you didn't plan.*

## Trepidation

**Travel** *Don't be surprised if God is "IN" the journey you didn't plan.*

**Timelessness** - It never grows old, never wears out...

- HIS Star
- A King
- A Ruler
- A Shepherd
- A Savior

It's like Scripture winks at us...

**HIS Star** *Matthew 2:2 For we have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him.*

ITS – ALL – HIS (Even when he was an infant... He owned it all.)

**Isaiah 40:22 & 26** Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. 26. Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing.

*Worshippers from the east – 600 years earlier, a young man was taken captive out of the land and led back to Babylon. His three friends, SMA would stand firm with Daniel in their conviction and prove the faithfulness of God. Over time and through testing, Daniel would gain incredible favor and influence, even over the influencers (Magi)(Astrologers)*

**A King** *Matthew 2:2 Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?*

Leader, commander, Lord

(This is the phrase Pilot would eventually nailed upon the cross of Christ)(Begin to end and forever more, our Savior & King, our Jesus.

**A Ruler** *Matthew 2:6 (Bethlehem) For out of you shall come a Ruler*

One who leads with authority and has the deciding say, oversight of all.

**A Shepherd** *Matthew 2:6 a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel*

The one who finds pasture and feeds sheep, to watch over and keep safe.

**A Savior** *Matthew 1:21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.*

To rescue from danger or destruction

To save from suffering, or to restore to health

To deliver from the penalties of looming judgment

***Are you excited for what you are getting or what you have? (GIFT OF GOD)***

**In the end... what was the end result?**

**In some ways, reaching Bethlehem was the end of the journey, but in even more ways it was just the beginning.**

**The end of the trip would be the beginning of our Messiah's arrival.**

**Timeless eternity would step into humanity and the plan of Salvation was now in motion.**

**Timeless – unchanging**

- A King
- A Ruler
- A Shepherd
- A Savior

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**Started in with two people, no one but God notices**

**IN a city with little to no notoriety**

**And took them to a place where there was no room.**

**If you are someone of little to no fame – God knows you... even the hairs.**

**From a place of little notoriety**

***It's not about who you are and where you're from, it's about who He is and where He is from.***

**The only question is, is there room in your life?**

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**What journey are you on?**

**Jesus did not come through comfort or convenience but through endurance and humility.**

***For the joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross.***

***The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

***Don't be surprised if God is "IN" the journey you didn't plan.***