



# CHRISTMAS QUESTIONS

everyone should be  
able to answer



# **1. How important is the virgin birth?**

- **The reliability of Scripture is at state**

**Is 7:14** Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

**Mt 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

**Lk 1:27,34-35** Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ... <sup>34</sup> Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

- **The sinlessness of Jesus is at state**

**Rom 5:12** “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned”

**1 Cor 15:22** For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

**Rom 8:4** For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh,

**Phil 2:7-8** but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

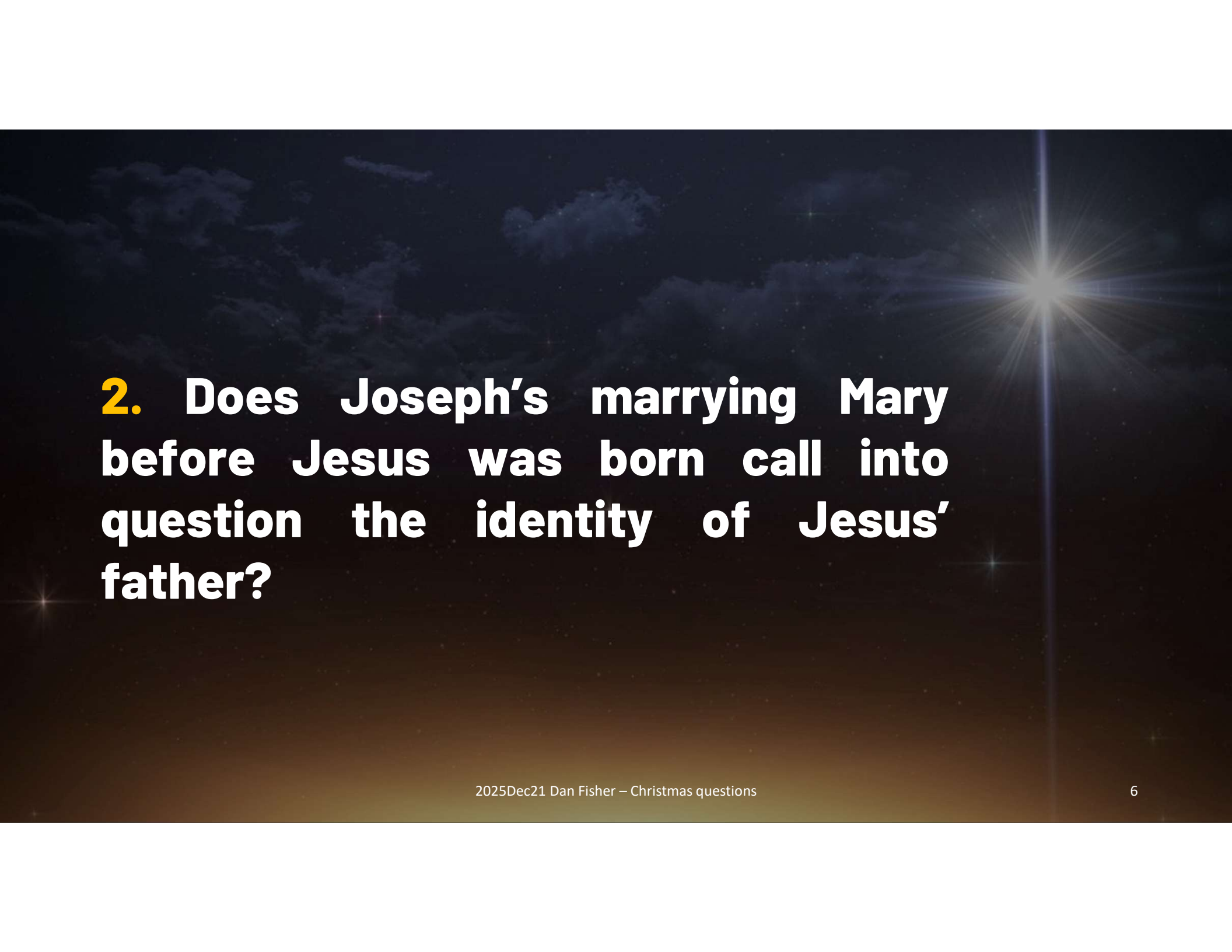
**Jn 14:30** “I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has **nothing in Me.**”

**2 Cor 5:21** For He made Him who **knew no sin** to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**Heb 4:15** For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, **yet without sin.**

**1 Pet 2:22** “Who **committed no sin, nor was deceit** found in His mouth”;

**1 Jn 3:5** And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him **there is no sin.**



**2. Does Joseph's marrying Mary before Jesus was born call into question the identity of Jesus' father?**

**Jn 8:41** You do the deeds of your father.” Then they said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father – God.”

**Mt 1:24-25** Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, <sup>25</sup>and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.



**3. With Mary giving birth to the Son of God is she the “Mother of God?”**

**Mt 3:17** And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

**Mt 17:5** While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!”

**Lk 8:28** When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!”

**Jn 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.



**Col 2:9** For **in Him** dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

**Heb 1:5** For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, today I have begotten You”? And again: “I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son”?

**Lk 1:38** Then Mary said, “Behold the **maidservant of the Lord!** Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**Mt 12:48-49** But He answered and said to the one who told Him, “**Who is My mother and who are My brothers?**” <sup>49</sup>And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “**Here are My mother and My brothers!**”

**Jn 19:26-27** When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, “**Woman, behold your son!**” <sup>27</sup>Then He said to the disciple, “**Behold your mother!**” And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.




## **4. Was Mary born by immaculate conception?**

- **The lineage of Jesus traced through Joseph, His stepfather is found in Mt 1:1-16**

**Mt 1:16** lists Joseph's father as Jacob

- **The lineage of Jesus traced through Mary is found in Lk 3:23-38**

**Lk 3:23** Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph [Mary], the son [daughter] of Heli,

A dark, starry night sky with a bright star on the right and a vertical light streak.

**5. Did Mary remain a virgin for the rest of her life (perpetual virginity of Mary)?**

**Mt 12:47** Then one said to Him, “Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.”

**Mt 13:55-56** Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? <sup>56</sup>And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?” <sup>57</sup>So they were offended at Him.



**6. Did Mary need a Savior, was she saved, & is she “Co-Redemptrix”?**

- **Did she need a Savior?**

**Lk 1:47** And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

**Lk 2:22** Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord

- **Was she saved?**

**Lk 1:47** And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

**Acts 1:14** These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

- Is she “Co-Redemptrix?”

1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

Jn 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Col 2:14-15 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.



## **7. Is the word “Christmas” Catholic?**

- **“mas” is Latin (missio) = sent**
- 
- **“mas” = celebration, festival**



## **8. Was Jesus really born on Dec 25?**

- The Romans celebrated Saturnalia, worship of Saturn the god of peace and plenty, on Dec 17-24. The celebration was a time of drunkenness and debauchery.
- In 274, Roman emperor Aurelian proclaimed Dec 25 as *Natalis Solis Invicti*, the Birth of the Invincible Sun.
- In 350 AD, Pope Julius I declared December 25 to be Christ's birth and the celebration of the "Birth of the Invincible Son."
- Augustine, early church father: "We hold this day holy, not like the pagans because of the birth of the sun, but because of him who made it."
- St. John Chrysostom preached the first known Christmas sermon entitled, "Homily on Christmas Morning," in Antioch on December 20, 386 AD



## 9. Was there really a Santa Claus?



- Saint Nickolas was born in the 270 AD in Patara, Lycia (modern Turkey) and served as a bishop in Myra until his death in 343 AD
- He was a committed Christian
- When his parents died, they left him a great deal of wealth which he freely shared with the needy – especially children



- He bought the freedom of the three daughters of a bankrupt businessman in Patara by throwing three bags of gold into the man's house through an open window each time one of the daughters was about to be sold into slavery
- Diocletian imprisoned him and had him tortured until Constantine allowed him to go free
- As a defender of the faith, he was seen as a great Christian & was venerated after his death.



- He was adopted as the patron saint of pawn brokers who help the needy by offering them loans (the three bags of gold are symbolized by the three golden balls that have adorned pawnshops for centuries)



2025Dec21 Dan Fisher – Christmas questions

- Those who knew of his life and story kept Nicholas's memory alive as an example of godliness and generosity
- The Dutch spelled St. Nicholas Sint Nikolaas which was corrupted to Sinterklaas, and finally, to Santa Claus in English



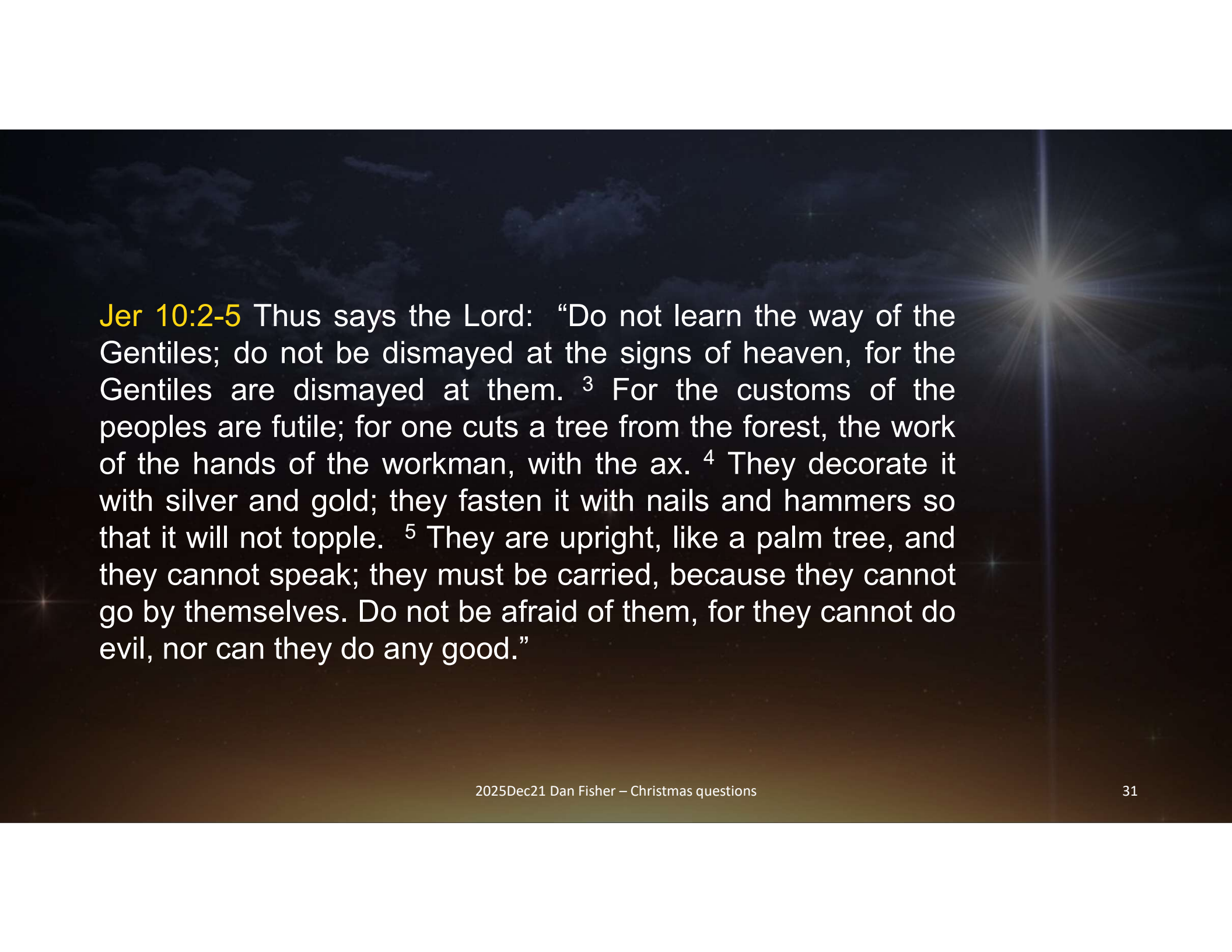
- Martin Luther wanted to refocus the German people from St. Nicholas to the Christ Child, pronounced in German as “Kris Kindl” and was later pronounced “Kris Kringle.” Luther taught that Christ was the giver of all gifts and our gift-giving should be performed in remembrance of the great gifts Christ gave us.



- In 1822, Clement C. Moore composed his famous poem, “A Visit from St. Nicholas,” which was later published as “The Night Before Christmas” and is credited with creating the modern image of Santa Claus as a jolly fat man in a red suit.

A night sky with dark, wispy clouds. A bright star is visible on the right side, with a vertical light streak extending from it. The overall color palette is dark blue and black, with a warm orange glow at the bottom.

## **10.** Are Christmas trees pagan?



**Jer 10:2-5** Thus says the Lord: “Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, for the Gentiles are dismayed at them. <sup>3</sup> For the customs of the peoples are futile; for one cuts a tree from the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. <sup>4</sup> They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and hammers so that it will not topple. <sup>5</sup> They are upright, like a palm tree, and they cannot speak; they must be carried, because they cannot go by themselves. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, nor can they do any good.”



- What we know as the Christmas tree originated in Germany as an oak tree and St. Boniface replaced the oak with a fir tree in the 716 AD
- It originated from two Christian symbols found in homes at Christmas time
  - the first was a “Paradise tree” – an evergreen hung with apples representing the tree of life in the Garden of Eden
  - the second symbol was a “Christmas pyramid” – a triangular shelf holding Christmas figurines & decorated with a star



- Around the 16th century AD, these two symbols had been combined into the Christian Christmas tree
- Martin Luther is credited with adding lights to the tree in the 1520
- The Christmas tree was not widely used in Britain until the 19th century AD
- it was brought to America by the Pennsylvania Germans in the 1820's

# Holly & mistletoe

- The word “holly” is actually a derivative of “holy”
- Evergreen was used because it represented eternal life
- Holly was incorporated into the Christmas celebration by the early European Christians because the prickly leaves represented the crown of thorns Jesus wore and the red berries represented His blood
- Wreaths came from victory laurels that were worn by the Romans and Persians
- The use of mistletoe from the Scandanavians who believed it had healing and relationship-mending properties