

# THE CHRISTMAS STORY

A silhouette illustration of a nativity scene. In the center, a manger with a baby is flanked by two figures. Above them is a stable structure with a thatched roof. The scene is set against a backdrop of rolling hills and several palm trees under a starry night sky.

A Devotional for the Christmas Season



# “THE CHRISTMAS STORY”

This devotional is provided to aid you in your desire to know, love and worship Jesus Christ more fully during this Christmas season.

Over the next six weeks we will study themes from Christmas.

We encourage you to complete the Bible studies for the six days following each sermon.

The preaching schedule for the next several weeks will be as follows:

**November 26:** “Prophecies Concerning the Messiah”

**December 3:** “Immanuel, God With Us”

**December 10:** “The Birth of Jesus”

**December 17:** “Heavenly Hosts, Praising God”

*(Adult & Children Choirs Singing)*

**December 24:** “Wise Men Still Seek Him”

**December 31:** “Christmas Exists for the Earth-wide Worship of God”

*\*All sermons will be available on LiveStream and will be available [www.hscaudio.org](http://www.hscaudio.org).*

We trust that this sermon series and this devotional tool will encourage you in your daily walk with Jesus Christ. May you have an especially blessed Christmas season!

## ***Merry Christmas!***

# **WEEK 1: TO FULFILL WHAT HAS BEEN SPOKEN BY THE PROPHETS**

**(NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 2)**

**MONDAY/** Read Matthew 1:20; 2:12-13, 19, 22 *Overseen by Heaven*

The movements of Joseph and Mary were overseen from Heaven.

- 1) What methods did God use to direct Joseph and Mary and the Wise Men?
- 2) Why does it seem that God oversaw these activities so directly?

**TUESDAY/** Read Matt. 2:1-18 *Herod's Concerns*

Herod also was concerned about the news of this child who was to be born.

- 1) Why would Herod have been concerned about the question of the Wise Men in 1:2?
- 2) What in this chapter would support your conclusions?

**WEDNESDAY/** Review Matthew 1-2 *To Fulfill What the Lord Had Spoken*

Five times in Matthew 1 & 2 we read that certain things were accomplished to fulfill God's prophecies.

List here the verses and what was promised:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4.

5.

**THURSDAY/** Read Matthew 1:21

***A Name with Purpose***

This child whose birth was described in Matthew 1-2 was stated in these chapters with two specific purposes.

In Matthew 1:21 we are told His name. What does this name tell us about one purpose of the child?

**FRIDAY/** Read Matthew 1:21

***Another Name with Purpose***

We have seen one purpose of the arrival of Jesus that was described in His name. But the Old Testament passage (Isaiah 7:14) that is quoted does not use the same name.

In Matthew 1:23, what is the name that is given and how does that point to the purpose of Jesus coming to earth?

**SATURDAY/** Read Matthew 1:21

***Another Name with Purpose***

Can you list several reasons that you have to be thankful as we remember the birth of Jesus, God's Son?



**SCRIPTURE MEMORY/** Matthew 1:22-23

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).*

# WEEK 2: IMMANUEL, GOD WITH US

## (DECEMBER 4-10)

**MONDAY/** Read John 1

*God is Eternal*

- 1) If God is eternal, then what does John 1:1 mean when it says, “In the beginning”?
- 2) Through the Word (Jesus – John 1:14) all things were made and in Him was life. What implications for my life do these facts have?

**TUESDAY/** Read Ephesians 2:11-22

*God Provided a Foundation*

- 1) According to this passage, to whom is Paul writing? Not the city...who are his readers?
- 2) Upon whom or what was the church established (v. 20)?

**WEDNESDAY/** Read 1 John 3:1-3

*God Seeks Us Because of Love*

- 1) How has God lavished his love on us?
- 2) What causes us to purify ourselves?

**THURSDAY/** Read Isaiah 7

*The Virgin with Child*

- 1) In this account of two kings fighting against Israel, God told King Ahaz why he needn't worry about the enemies Israel faced. In verses 7-9, what did God tell Ahaz about these two kings?

2) A child was promised as a sign to Israel. His name was Immanuel. What was special about him?

3) According to Matthew 1:23, what did the child's name mean?

**FRIDAY/** Read Isaiah 9

*The Child Ruler*

1) What are some of the blessings of the Kingdom mentioned in verses 1-5?

2) In verses 6-7, God gives the promise of His Son. How is Jesus described? (There are at least 7 descriptors)

**SATURDAY/** Read Matthew 1:18-23

*The Fulfillment*

Matthew identifies Jesus as the fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14.

What implications for our lives are there because Jesus is "God with us"?



**SCRIPTURE MEMORY/** *John 1:14*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.*

# WEEK 3: THE BIRTH OF JESUS

## (DECEMBER 12-16)

**MONDAY** / Read Matthew 1:1-17

*The Genealogy of Jesus*

- 1) Who are the four earliest men in this genealogy?
- 2) What four women are in this family listing?
- 3) What is unique about each of these women?
- 4) What is so wonderful about the inclusion of these women in the genealogy of Jesus?

**TUESDAY** / Read Luke 1:26-38

*The Birth Foretold*

- 1) What were some of the amazing things Gabriel told Mary?
- 2) What did Gabriel tell Mary in answer to her question, "How will this be?"
- 3) What can we learn from Mary's response to Gabriel?

**WEDNESDAY** / Read Luke 2:1-7

*The Birthplace of Jesus*

- 1) Why do you think that Luke included the details Caesar Augustus and Governor Quirinius?
- 2) Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but his family did not live there. What brought them to Bethlehem?
- 3) Why does it matter where Jesus was born?

**THURSDAY** / Read Luke 2:8-20

*The Birth Announcement*

- 1) What specific sign were the shepherds to look for and how do you think it helped them find baby Jesus?



- 2) How did the various people (shepherds, townspeople, Mary) respond to either the angelic announcement or the shepherds' report?
- 3) How do you think you might have responded to the shepherds' report?

**FRIDAY/** Read Matthew 1:18-25

**"The Birth of Jesus"**

- 1) What happened during Joseph and Mary's betrothal period?
- 2) Why did Joseph go ahead with his marriage to Mary?
- 3) Did Mary remain a perpetual virgin as taught by some religions?

**SATURDAY/** Read Luke 2:21-40

***The Affirmation of Jesus***

- 1) What does Luke record about the naming of the baby?
- 2) What events occurred at the temple that must have encouraged Joseph & Mary?
- 3) In what ways was Jesus young life typical as a Jewish boy in his day?



**SCRIPTURE MEMORY/** Luke 2:10-11

*And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*

# WEEK 4: HEAVENLY HOSTS, PRAISING GOD

(DECEMBER 18-23)

**MONDAY/** Read Hebrews 1:1-14

*Jesus is Superior!*

- 1) Why is Jesus superior to the angels? How is He described and explained in verses 2-4?
- 2) What are the angels to do? How are they to respond to the Son?
- 3) How do verses 8-12 help us see clearly that Jesus is God?
- 4) According to verse 14, what additional work do the angels accomplish?

**TUESDAY/** Read Psalm 89

*Worship & Praise God for Who He Is!*

- 1) What are some of the various things for which the Psalmist gives thanks and praises God?
- 2) Is there a main theme or particular attribute of God that you see emphasized in this Psalm?
- 3) How can/should this Psalm motivate you to praise and thanksgiving?

**WEDNESDAY/** Read Psalm 9

*Worship & Praise God Continually!*

- 1) In what ways are we to worship God? How is worship described in this Psalm?
- 2) What warnings do we see in this Psalm?
- 3) How do these warnings help to inform our thinking about worship?

**THURSDAY/** Read Psalm 98      *Worship & Praise God for What He Has Done!*

- 1) What has God done that should motivate us to praise, worship, and thanksgiving?
- 2) How is creation pictured in this Psalm?
- 3) How does this Psalm inform our thinking about worship and our response to God?

**FRIDAY/** Read Psalm 100      *Praise & Worship Must Include Thanksgiving!*

- 1) Why should we enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise?
- 2) How does this Psalm describe God and His relationship with His people?
- 3) How should we respond to the truth presented in verses 3 and 4?

**SATURDAY/** Read Psalm 150      *Let Everyone Praise the Lord!*

- 1) According to verse 2, why should we praise the Lord?
- 2) In what ways is your life marked by praise and worship?
- 3) How can you encourage those around you to continually worship the Lord?



**SCRIPTURE MEMORY/** Psalms 9:1-2

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;  
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you;  
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

# WEEK 5: WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

(DECEMBER 25-30)

**MONDAY/** Read Exodus 4:18-23

*Many Reject and Do Not Seek the Lord*

- 1) According to verse 22, what is Israel?
- 2) How is the final plague a direct response to Egypt's sin of enslaving Israel?
- 3) What is Moses supposed to do when he gets to Egypt?
- 4) Who is with Moses to empower Him?

**TUESDAY/** Read Hosea 11:1-5

*God Rescues & Israel Rebels*

- 1) What did God do for Israel? How did Israel respond?
- 2) What has God done for us? How should we respond?

**WEDNESDAY/** Numbers 24:15-19

*A Ruler Will Rise from Israel*

- 1) Balaam was a wicked man and yet God used him to reveal truth. What does this teach us about God?
- 2) What do we learn about this ruler that will come from Israel?

**THURSDAY/** Read Micah 5:1-5

*God Reveals the Birth Place of the Messiah*

- 1) What do we learn about this ruler? What is He like? What will He do?

2) We know from Matthew 2:1-12 that the Jews (and then Herod) came to understand the significance of Micah 5. Obviously, God is not afraid to let men and Satan know His plan. Was Herod able to alter or stop the plan of God?

**FRIDAY/** Read Daniel 2

***Daniel Knows the True Source of Wisdom***

- 1) What did the king ask of his “wise men” (verses 1-9)?
- 2) What is ironic about their answer to the king in verse 11?
- 3) From verses 20-23, where does wisdom come from?

**SATURDAY/** Read Matthew 2:1-12

***The Wise Men Come to Jesus***

- 1) Why was Herod troubled?
- 2) How did the wise men respond to Jesus? What did they do?
- 3) How can we learn from and follow their example?



**SCRIPTURE MEMORY/** Matthew 2:1-2

*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.”*







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