

CHRIST WAS BORN IN THE SPRING!

God IS NOT Honored by a Lie!

A GOD GUIDED STUDY IN 4 PARTS



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DEDICATION

Through Isaiah 55:11 God says this to HIS People...

“¹¹ So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” (KJV)

So, what did God’s word through the Prophets say about the birth of the Messiah?

Isaiah 11: 1-5 English Standard Version

**“¹¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.” (ESV)**

DEDICATION CONTINUED

Jeremiah 33:14-16 English Standard Version

“¹⁴ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’” (ESV)

God’s prophecies of the birth of the coming Messiah WERE FULFILLED! THE TIMING WAS LINKED TO GOD’S NATURAL WORLD AND WE CAN PROVE THAT THIS OCCURRED IN THE SPRING. WE DEDICATE THIS TEACHING IN TRUTH TO OUR FATHER GOD, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, WITH A DEEP RESPECT AND LOVE FOR GOD! WE DISPEL THE LIES AND REVEAL THE TRUTH!

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Christ came from important Family lines:

The most important of all - Christ's immediate and direct family line was to GOD Himself. Christ was made a High Priest in the order of God's priestly line – Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7: 2 – 3 New International Version

**“...First, the name Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.”³ Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.”
(NIV)**

CHRIST'S BLOODLINE IS THE PURIST BLOODLINE THAT EVER EXISTED, BECAUSE THE ONLY ONE HE WAS ACTUALLY RELATED TO WAS FATHER GOD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. Christ was CONCEIVED by the Holy Spirit. Neither Mary's Egg, nor Joseph's sperm produced the Christ. Mary just served as a SURROGATE mother.

Proverbs 8: 1 - 36 tells about when Christ was born in the Spiritual!

Christ's BIRTH in the SPIRITUAL

Proverbs 8 : 1 - 11 New International Version

**“8 Does not wisdom call out?
Does not understanding raise her voice?
2 At the highest point along the way,
where the paths meet, she takes her stand;
3 beside the gate leading into the city,
at the entrance, she cries aloud:
4 “To you, O people, I call out;
I raise my voice to all mankind.
5 You who are simple, gain prudence;
you who are foolish, set your hearts on it.^[a]
6 Listen, for I have trustworthy things to say;
I open my lips to speak what is right.
7 My mouth speaks what is true,
for my lips detest wickedness.
8 All the words of my mouth are just;
none of them is crooked or perverse.
9 To the discerning all of them are right;
they are upright to those who have found knowledge.
10 Choose my instruction instead of silver,
knowledge rather than choice gold,
11 for wisdom is more precious than rubies,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.” (NIV)**

Proverbs 8 : 12 - 21 New International Version

¹² “I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence;
I possess knowledge and discretion.
¹³ To fear the LORD is to hate evil;
I hate pride and arrogance,
evil behavior and perverse speech.
¹⁴ Counsel and sound judgment are mine;
I have insight, I have power.
¹⁵ By me kings reign
and rulers issue decrees that are just;
¹⁶ by me princes govern,
and nobles—all who rule on earth. [b]
¹⁷ I love those who love me,
and those who seek me find me.
¹⁸ With me are riches and honor,
enduring wealth and prosperity.
¹⁹ My fruit is better than fine gold;
what I yield surpasses choice silver.
²⁰ I walk in the way of righteousness,
along the paths of justice,
²¹ bestowing a rich inheritance on those who love me
and making their treasuries full.” (NIV)

Proverbs 8 : 22 - 27 New International Version

²² “The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, ^[c]^[d]
before his deeds of old;

²³ I was formed long ages ago,

at the very beginning, when the world came to be.

²⁴ When there were no watery depths, I was given birth,
when there were no springs overflowing with water;

²⁵ before the mountains were settled in place,
before the hills, I was given birth,

²⁶ before he made the world or its fields
or any of the dust of the earth.

²⁷ I was there when he set the heavens in place,
when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,” (NIV)

Proverbs 8 : 28 - 36 New International Version

²⁸ when he established the clouds above
and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,
²⁹ when he gave the sea its boundary
so the waters would not overstep his command,
and when he marked out the foundations of the earth.
³⁰ Then I was constantly^[e] at his side.
I was filled with delight day after day,
rejoicing always in his presence,
³¹ rejoicing in his whole world
and delighting in mankind.

³² “Now then, my children, listen to me;
blessed are those who keep my ways.

³³ Listen to my instruction and be wise;
do not disregard it.

³⁴ Blessed are those who listen to me,
watching daily at my doors,
waiting at my doorway.

³⁵ For those who find me find life
and receive favor from the LORD.

³⁶ But those who fail to find me harm themselves;
all who hate me love death.”” (NIV)

John 1:1-14 New Living Translation

“1 In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He existed in the beginning with God.

**3 God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.**

4 The Word gave life to everything that was created,[\[a\]](#) and his life brought light to everyone.

**5 The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.[\[b\]](#)**

6 God sent a man, John the Baptist,[\[c\]](#) 7 to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. 8 John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. 9 The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. 11 He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. 12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. 13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

14 So the Word became human[\[d\]](#) and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.[\[e\]](#) And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.” (NLT)

John 1:15-18 New Living Translation

“¹⁵ John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, “This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.’”

¹⁶ From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.^[a] ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, but God’s unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God,^[b] is near to the Father’s heart. He has revealed God to us.”(NLT)

Hebrews 7: 1-10 New International Version

“7 This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, ² and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.” ³ Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

⁴ Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! ⁵ Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people—that is, from their fellow Israelites—even though they also are descended from Abraham. ⁶ This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷ And without doubt the lesser is blessed by the greater. ⁸ In the one case, the tenth is collected by people who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. ⁹ One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, ¹⁰ because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.”(NIV)

Hebrews 7:11-19 New International Version

“¹¹ If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? ¹² For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also. ¹³ He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴ For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. ¹⁵ And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, ¹⁶ one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷ For it is declared:

**“You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek.”^[a]**

¹⁸ The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless ¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.” (NIV)

Hebrews 7:20-28 New International Version

“²⁰ And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, ²¹ but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him:

**“The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind:
‘You are a priest forever.’”^[b]**

²² Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.

²³ Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; ²⁴ but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely^[c] those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

²⁶ Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.” (NIV)

CHRIST IS THE MOST HIGH PRIEST - FOREVER!

John 3: 5 – 21 New International Version

“⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^[b] gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You^[c] must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”^[d]

⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.^[e] ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,^[f] ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”^[g]

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.” (NIV)

In the Old and New Testament, when people would speak about their relatives, a person could be an immediate descendant or a distant descendant and that person could still be referred to as a son or daughter, but then the genealogies ALSO give more specific information about the ACTUAL parents of an individual. **Every HUMAN BEING** has two genealogies – their mother's side and their father's side, but GOD'S Son was DIFFERENT! God's Son had the adoptive genealogy of His adoptive parents, and the ACTUAL genealogy of GOD Himself, because Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit! He came from neither Mary's egg nor Joseph's sperm.

Luke 1: 5 – 14 New King James Version

⁵ There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife *was* of the daughters of Aaron, and her name *was* Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

⁸ So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, ¹⁰ his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. ¹¹ And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹² Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹³ And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

¹⁴ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁵ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.” (NKJV)

Christ was a distant descendant of Aaron through adoption.

Both Elizabeth and Zechariah were from the lines of Aaron. The line of Aaron was God's priestly line in the Old Testament – the Levitical priesthood. Mary was related to Elizabeth in some way – the scriptures are not specific.

Luke 1: 5 – 7 New International Version

“⁵ In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷ But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.” (NIV)

This is a statement that the angel Gabriel made to Mary when he also told Mary that the Holy Spirit would conceive the Messiah within her. It proves that Elizabeth and Mary were related.

Luke 1:36-37 New International Version

“³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”” (NIV)

Luke 1: 15 – 22 New King James Version

“¹⁵ For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

¹⁸ And Zacharias said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.”

¹⁹ And the angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you [\[d\]](#)these glad tidings. ²⁰ But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.”

²¹ And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. ²² But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless.” (NKJV)

Luke 1: 23 – 33 New King James Version

²³ So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. ²⁴ Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, ²⁵ “Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on *me*, to take away my reproach among people.”

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name *was* Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; ^[e]blessed *are* you among women!”

²⁹ But ^[f]when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” (NKJV)

The Holy Spirit created a wonderful safety net for Mary, because the Holy Spirit communicated to Elizabeth that Mary was indeed carrying God's Son in her womb without any advanced communication from the other.

Luke 1: 34 – 45 New King James Version

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I ^[g]do not know a man?"

³⁵ 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. ³⁶ **Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative** has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible."

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.

³⁹ Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ **And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ But why *is* this *granted* to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed *is* she who ^[h]believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."**" (NKJV)

Each of the URL's here are where the original scripture interpretations appear in the Greek from the Westminster Leningrad Codex. **John the Baptist was conceived in the month Abib in order for Elizabeth to be in her 6th month of pregnancy - in the 6th month** which the ORIGINAL text says. It lines up with the Book of Luke PERFECTLY. LOOK AT THESE SCRIPTURES IN THE INTERLINEAR BIBLE!

<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/luke/1-26.htm>

The fact that it is the 6th month of the year when the angel came to Mary IS ESTABLISHED HERE. THIS IS ALSO THE MONTH CHRIST WAS CONCEIVED!

<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/luke/1-27.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/luke/1-28.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/luke/1-29.htm>

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The fact that it is the 6th month of Elizabeth's pregnancy is established here.



Notice Luke 1: 39 New King James Version says,

“³⁹ Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah,” (NKJV)

Luke 1:39 New International Version says,

“³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea,” (NIV)

The definition for the word “Judea” (KJV) in Ezra 5:8 explains that “Judea” (NIV) and “Judah” (NKJV) are the SAME PLACE. (Strong’s H3061, BLB, 2023)

From Nazareth to Judah/Judea is a distance of approximately 99 miles. (distcalculator.com, 2023)

When Mary left to go to Elizabeth's home, she would have traveled by a caravan and by camel. Why? Because her likely route was along the flat area of the Jordan River and west over the hills surrounding Jerusalem and on to Judea. The valley of the Jordan River was filled with intense woodlands that had, bears, lions, and wild boars. There was ANOTHER risk though, robbers were common along trade routes and she would have needed a caravan for protection. Remember the parable of the Good Samaritan(Luke 10:25 – 37).

Camels have been proven to have been used throughout biblical history and WOMEN have ridden them too. Abraham had camels (Genesis 12:16) and sent his servant on camel to look for a wife for Isaac. Rebekah rode back with him on camel back to meet her newly betrothed husband. (Genesis chapter 24) Jacob had camels and his wives rode on camels (Genesis 30: 41 – 43, Genesis 31:17) There are MANY additional accounts of the use of camels, as well as donkeys, mules, and horses. The fat on the back of a camel enables them to go for months without having been fed and without water for a week. They can travel at a speed of about 40 miles per hour for short distances and 30 miles per day on longer treks, because of their long stride. (Herbison & Frame, Brittanica, 2023)

This means Mary could have arrived at Elizabeth's house within approximately 3 or 4 days time.

An explanation of God's betrothal and marriage systems are required here. In the book of Genesis, God says:

Genesis 2:23-24 New International Version

²³ The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman,'
for she was taken out of man."

²⁴ That is why **a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife**, and they become one flesh." (NIV)

Notice, God's word DID NOT say anything about living with your in-laws or relatives. God knows BETTER than anyone else and He knows that living with in-laws and relatives has many problems. When you live with your in-laws or relatives:

1. The REAL husband of the bride IS NOT the head of the household – the OWNER of the house IS - depending on which in-law or relative you're living with. It's that person's house and you have to play by that person's rules.
2. This means the REAL husband IS NOT able to take his Godly role of head of the household, if he knows God at all. God MUST be FIRST!
3. He is also NOT taking RESPONSIBILITY for being the head of the household by CONTINUING TO LIVE with his in-laws or relatives whether male or female.
4. Conflicts are created between all parties concerned even if they are not displayed openly.
5. The SAME situation is REVERSED when the in-laws or relatives live with the bride and groom, unless some type of LIVING AND FINANCIAL arrangements are made, agreed upon by both parties, and put in writing.

A perfectly good example of things going wrong within relationships is between Jacob and Laban! (Genesis Chapters 29 – 31)

Mary was already betrothed to Joseph - that means she was essentially ALREADY married to Joseph, but the sexual consummation of marriage had not yet taken place. In ancient Judaism, a legal divorce would have been necessary to break even this betrothal agreement, even though it had not been consummated yet. Mary would also STILL be living in some type of family member's home although we do not see any mention of family member's other than Elizabeth during this process. BEFORE the Jewish betrothal period began, there were agreements made between the father/relative of the prospective bride and groom. The father/relative of the bride received a dowry from the father/relative of the groom. Essentially, the father/relative of the bride is losing a household worker and the father/relative was being financially compensated for this loss.

These were God's laws in the Old Testament concerning sexual sins between a man and a woman and they would have been in effect until Christ's resurrection.

Deuteronomy 22: 13 – 30 English Standard Version

“¹³ If any man takes a wife and goes in to her and then hates her ¹⁴ and accuses her of misconduct and brings a bad name upon her, saying, ‘I took this woman, and when I came near her, I did not find in her evidence of virginity,’ ¹⁵ then the father of the young woman and her mother shall take and bring out the evidence of her virginity to the elders of the city in the gate. ¹⁶ And the father of the young woman shall say to the elders, ‘I gave my daughter to this man to marry, and he hates her; ¹⁷ and behold, he has accused her of misconduct, saying, “I did not find in your daughter evidence of virginity.” And yet this is the evidence of my daughter's virginity.’ And they shall spread the cloak before the elders of the city. ¹⁸ Then the elders of that city shall take the man and whip ^[b] him, ¹⁹ and they shall fine him a hundred shekels ^[c] of silver and give them to the father of the young woman, because he has brought a bad name upon a virgin ^[d] of Israel. And she shall be his wife. He may not divorce her all his days. ²⁰ But if the thing is true, that evidence of virginity was not found in the young woman, ²¹ then they shall bring out the young woman to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death with stones, because she has done an outrageous thing in Israel by whoring in her father's house. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

²² “If a man is found lying with the wife of another man, both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman. So you shall purge the evil from Israel.

²³ “If there is a betrothed virgin, and a man meets her in the city and lies with her, ²⁴ then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry for help though she was in the city, and the man because he violated his neighbor's wife. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

²⁵ “But if in the open country a man meets a young woman who is betrothed, and the man seizes her and lies with her, then only the man who lay with her shall die. ²⁶ But you shall do nothing to the young woman; she has committed no offense punishable by death. For this case is like that of a man attacking and murdering his neighbor, ²⁷ because he met her in the open country, and though the betrothed young woman cried for help there was no one to rescue her.

²⁸ “If a man meets a virgin who is not betrothed, and seizes her and lies with her, and they are found, ²⁹ then the man who lay with her shall give to the father of the young woman fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife, because he has violated her. He may not divorce her all his days.

³⁰ ^[e] “A man shall not take his father's wife, so that he does not uncover his father's nakedness. ^[f]” (ESV)

On a woman's first sexual encounter with her husband after marrying, when she and her husband had intercourse - her hymen (a thin flap of tissue blocking the entrance to a woman's vagina) would be broken or stretched and could cause bleeding. There is no feeling in this tissue, so if only part of the hymen were left attached it had to be clipped to prevent it from just hanging out from her vagina and this was done without her experiencing any pain. Her parents would be given the usually 2 parts to her hymen as "evidence of her virginity" (Deuteronomy 22: 15 ESV) and they would KEEP THEM in order to PROVE that their daughter was indeed a virgin before the couple married. (Deuteronomy 22: 13 – 22.) Mary DID NOT have a broken hymen. Her parents/relatives WOULD NOT have had her hymen. It would never have been broken for the conception of Christ, because Mary conceived miraculously through the Holy Spirit. So, in THAT WAY Mary COULD INDEED PROVE that it WAS an immaculate conception.

It is interesting to note there is no mention of relatives on either side, at any time, during Christ's circumcision or His consecration (including Zechariah and Elizabeth) and these were typical family times of celebration within the Jewish culture.

Remember, the Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He came from neither Joseph's sperm or Mary's egg. It WAS a sin and STILL is a sin to have sex outside the bonds of marriage. We don't know from scripture how many people knew that the conception was from GOD HIMSELF. Before receiving word from an angel in a dream, even Joseph didn't KNOW IT. Yet, he didn't want Mary to suffer public disgrace. Joseph was willing to "put her away secretly" which meant to divorce her, BUT an angel appeared to him in a dream and told him that the child was conceived by the Holy Spirit NOT ANOTHER MAN (Matthew 1: 19 - 20 NKJV) This was something that was kept a SECRET to PROTECT Mary's reputation, because people WOULD THINK she was lying. It also protected Joseph's reputation, because if people were to think that Mary was unfaithful to Joseph, he would have been viewed as a man with poor judgment for having selected her as his bride in the first place.

Matthew 1:18 - 25 New King James Version

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. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being ^[f]a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is ^[g]conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name ^[h]JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and ^[i]did not know her till she had brought forth her ^[j]firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS." NKJV)

Notice this scripture:

Matthew 1:24 – 25 New King James Version

“²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and **did not know her till** she had brought forth her ¹ firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.” (NKJV)

Those words, **“did not know her till”** (NKJV) means that Joseph did not have sex with her **UNTIL** after Christ’s birth **and notice it does say “till”** (NKJV) Mary **COULD NOT** have been a PERPETUAL virgin as some people say, because SHE DID give birth to OTHER children who were ACTUALLY conceived through Joseph.

The New International Version makes it MORE CLEAR.

Matthew 1:24-25 New International Version

“²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not **consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son**. And he gave him the name Jesus.” (NIV)

The word “consummate” means he DID NOT have sex with her **UNTIL AFTER** she gave birth to the Lord Jesus. (NIV)

Luke 1: 46- 56 New King James Version

“⁴⁶ And Mary said:

“My soul ^[i]magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

**⁴⁸ For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.**

**⁴⁹ For He who is mighty has done great things for me,
And holy *is* His name.**

**⁵⁰ And His mercy *is* on those who fear Him
From generation to generation.**

**⁵¹ He has shown strength with His arm;
He has scattered *the* proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

**⁵² He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones,
And exalted *the* lowly.**

**⁵³ He has filled *the* hungry with good things,
And *the* rich He has sent away empty.**

**⁵⁴ He has helped His servant Israel,
In remembrance of *His* mercy,**

**⁵⁵ As He spoke to our fathers,
To Abraham and to his seed forever.”**

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.” (NKJV)

Luke 1: 57 – 73 New King James Version

⁵⁷ **Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son.** ⁵⁸ When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹ So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. ⁶⁰ His mother answered and said, "No; he shall be called John."

⁶¹ But they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name." ⁶² So they made signs to his father—what he would have him called.

⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, "His name is John." So they all marveled. ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue *loosed*, and he spoke, praising God. ⁶⁵ Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶ And all those who heard *them* kept *them* in their hearts, saying, "What kind of child will this be?" And the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷ Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

⁶⁸ "Blessed *is* the Lord God of Israel,
For He has visited and redeemed His people,
⁶⁹ And has raised up a horn of salvation for us
In the house of His servant David,
⁷⁰ As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets,
Who *have been* since the world began,
⁷¹ That we should be saved from our enemies
And from the hand of all who hate us,
⁷² To perform the mercy *promised* to our fathers
And to remember His holy covenant,
⁷³ The oath which He swore to our father Abraham:" (NKJV)

Note: In the NIV Bible the name is spelled: Zechariah, while as in the NKJV it's spelled Zacharias. They ARE the same person.)

Luke 1: 74 – 80 New King James Version

**“74 To grant us that we,
Being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
Might serve Him without fear,
75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.**

**76 “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest;
For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,
77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people
By the remission of their sins,
78 Through the tender mercy of our God,
With which the ^[i]Dayspring from on high ^[k]has visited us;
79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,
To guide our feet into the way of peace.”**

**80 So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the
deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.” (NKJV)**

Christ is an adopted Son of His GOD ASSIGNED adoptive parents Joseph and Mary. Neither Mary's egg nor Joseph's sperm produced the Christ. Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and Mary served as a GOD ASSIGNED SURROGATE MOTHER. Every person who is adopted also adopts a blood line, because they take the last name of that family and are raised and loved by that family. Christ HAD to be adopted into a human genealogical line, so that WE could be adopted into the Kingdom of God as sons and daughters.

Galatians 4:3-5 New King James Version

³ Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.

⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born^[a] of a woman, born under the law,

⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." (NKJV)

Luke 2: 1 - 5 New King James Version

“2 And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed [a] wife, who was with child.” (NKJV)

December is the rainy season in Israel. A census would NOT have been taken at a time when people would have to travel on foot or by animal to register in the cold rain and remember Mary is heavily pregnant traveling either on foot or by riding on an animal. **WAIT! I CAN SCRIPTURALLY PROVE that the weather in Israel during the winter is COLD and WET and the PEOPLE of ISRAEL DID NOT TRAVEL DURING THE WINTER IN ANCIENT TIMES!**

The people of Israel WERE called for an emergency meeting once in the middle of the winter rainy season and the people WERE NOT HAPPY. Remember, the beginning of the year is in the month Abib and is in about March or April, so the ninth month in the scripture shown below is in about November or December:

Ezra 10:7-14 English Standard Version

⁷ And a proclamation was made throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the returned exiles that they should assemble at Jerusalem, ⁸ and that if anyone did not come within three days, by order of the officials and the elders all his property should be forfeited, and he himself banned from the congregation of the exiles.

⁹ Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin assembled at Jerusalem within the three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month. And all the people sat in the open square before the house of God, trembling because of this matter and because of the heavy rain. ¹⁰ And Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, “You have broken faith and married foreign women, and so increased the guilt of Israel. ¹¹ Now then make confession to the LORD, the God of your fathers and do his will. Separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives.” ¹² Then all the assembly answered with a loud voice, “It is so; we must do as you have said.

¹³ But the people are many, and it is a time of heavy rain; we cannot stand in the open. Nor is this a task for one day or for two, for we have greatly transgressed in this matter. ¹⁴ Let our officials stand for the whole assembly. Let all in our cities who have taken foreign wives come at appointed times, and with them the elders and judges of every city, until the fierce wrath of our God over this matter is turned away from us.” (ESV)

Christ was a distant descendant of David through Christ's human adoption by Joseph and Mary.

Matthew 1: 6 New King James Version

“⁶ and Jesse begot David the king.

David the king begot Solomon by her [b] *who had been the wife of Uriah.*” (NKJV)

That scripture is taken from the genealogies.

Joseph and Mary were actually a VERY important part of the fulfillment of prophecy. The genealogies in Matthew 1: 1-17 and Luke 3: 23 - 38 show Christ, through adoption, was descended from the lines of King David. Those two genealogies share a genealogy from Abraham to King David. The Christ was born in the city of David – BETHLEHEM.

Bethlehem is included in another Old Testament Prophecy:

Micah 5:2 New King James Version

“² “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.”” (NKJV)

The only ruler whose ““...goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”” Are those of GOD Himself of whom Christ is a part. (Micah 5: 2 NKJV)

On the next 2 slides, you will be seeing Old Testament scriptures. God is speaking to King David through the prophet Nathan. He tells David that He has already set up his seed to establish God's Kingdom. Now, remember Christ did not come through human seed. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He was of GOD'S seed. The only reason David's seed was involved is because we KNOW Joseph was a descendant of the line of David, because he went to register his family in Bethlehem the town of David. We also know that, because of the genealogies that we've already read in Matthew 1:6.

Matthew 1: 6 New King James Version

"⁶ and Jesse begot David the king.

David the king begot Solomon by her ^[b]*who had been the wife of Uriah.*" (NKJV)

Luke 2:4 New International Version

"⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David."
(NIV)

The Prophet Nathan delivers a Prophetic Message to King David in 2 Samuel 7: 1 – 13 it is shown over 2 slides.

2 Samuel 7:1-7 New International Version

“7 After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.”

³ Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you.”

⁴ But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

⁵ “Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷ Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”” (NIV)

2 Samuel 7:8 - 13 New International Version

“⁸ “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders^[a] over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

““The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.” (NIV)

One would THINK God was only speaking to David about the immediate future - about David’s son Solomon, who WOULD succeed him as king and who WOULD be assigned the job of building a house for God, but God was also speaking prophetically about HIS OWN SON – CHRIST. Solomon DID build a house for God, but then he became an idolater, because of the beliefs of his foreign wives. The Kingdom of Christ is the ONLY Kingdom established forever. It is an eternal Kingdom extending to heaven. Christ was from the flesh and blood of David through adoption. David had been a shepherd boy and Christ is the good shepherd.

Again, when King David had been a boy, he was a shepherd. The Lord Jesus Christ is the “good shepherd.” (John 10:11 NKJV)

John 10: 11 - 21 New King James Version

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ¹² But a hireling, *he who is* not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own. ¹⁵ As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd.

¹⁷ “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

¹⁹ Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. ²⁰ And many of them said, “He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?”

²¹ Others said, “These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”” (NKJV)

“Bēthleem” pronounced [beth-la-em] in the Greek. (Strong’s, G965, BLB, 2019) and it means:

“Bethlehem = house of bread”

“a village about six miles (10 km) south of Jerusalem” (Strong’s, G965, BLB, 2019)

“a little town, named from the fertility of its soil, six Roman miles south of Jerusalem;” (Strong’s, G965, BLB, 2019)

Christ is referred to as the “bread of life” (John 6:35 NIV)

John 6: 32 – 40 New International Version

“³² Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴ “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷ All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”” (NIV)

Luke 2: 6 – 20 New King James Version

⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a [b]manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And [c]behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a [d]manger.”

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill[e] toward men!”

¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ Now when they had seen *Him*, they made [f]widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart. ²⁰ Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.” (NKJV)

The word “star” in the Bible can mean literally a star – a celestial body in the universe, or it can also have a figurative meaning and be symbolic for an angel. (Revelation 1:20)

Revelation 1:19-20 New International Version

“¹⁹ Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels^[a] of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.” (NIV)

This so-called “star” that these Magi see – is bright, it moves from place to place, and it takes them directly to the Christ child. What kind of a “star” does THAT? It’s NOT a star at all – at first it’s only one Holy angel of GOD! A brightness, the shepherds were afraid of! One Holy angel of God is suddenly joined by MORE angels that are just as bright as the first one! A “multitude of the heavenly host” (Luke 2:13, NKJV) means: “stratia” (pronounced stra – tee- ah) in the Greek - “an army” of angels (Strong’s, G4756, BLB 2023) They were all praising God. They must have been loud! The Magi see the light from this at a distance and head out in that direction – directly west from where they were!

Luke 2: 8 New King James Version

“⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.” (NKJV)

Shepherds WOULD NOT have been living out in the fields watching their flocks at night during the cold rainy season of winter. It is not the sheep that are the concern – it is the shepherds.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, even CURRENT day Bedouin Shepherds who live in tents migrate into desert regions during the rainy season. This means shepherds would NOT have been in that area of Israel during the rainy season. ([The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica](#), 2019)

Notice how in Luke 2 verse 17 the shepherds leave to tell everyone else about what they had seen:

“¹⁷ Now when they had seen *Him*, they made [f] widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.” (NKJV)

This was NOT occurring during the cold rainy season in Israel.
What probably happened when they told other people?

More people came to see Him!

When God had a Son who was born THAT DAY who would be the Savior of the world, He wanted EVERYONE to know about it and HE WOULD PROVIDE PROTECTION – NO MATTER WHAT!

In Luke 2: 3 shown previously, the people were being taxed and there were MANY people coming to the cities, not just Mary and Joseph. This is why there was no room in the inn.

A “manger” (Luke 2:7, NKJV) can be defined as:

“Phatnē” [pronounced fot-nay] “1. a crib (for fodder), a manger, stall” (Strong’s, G5336, BLB, 2023) The word “fodder” means feed for livestock. The word “manger” means a trough that would hold animal feed. (Strong’s, G5336, BLB, 2023)

The word “inn” in (Luke 2:7, NKJV) means: “katalyō” [pronounced ka-tal-oo-oh] (Strong’s, G2647, BLB, 2023)

“C. of travellers, to halt on a journey, to put up, lodge (the figurative expression originating in the circumstance that, to put up for the night, the straps and packs of the beasts of burden are unbound and taken off; or, more correctly from the fact that the traveler's garments, tied up when he is on the journey, are unloosed at its end)” (Strong’s, G2647, BLB, 2023)

Some have incorrectly thought that Matthew 2:11 when the Magi or wise men arrive, implied that there was no stable.

Matthew 2:11 New King James Version

“¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (NKJV)

Actually, an inn COULD be a house with an upper room for lodging and a lower area for the pack animals that one would ride and travel with. This was a common occurrence for this time in ancient history. (Nazareth Village, 2023)

The Lord Jesus Christ held the Last Supper in such a room:

Mark 14:12-16 English Standard Version

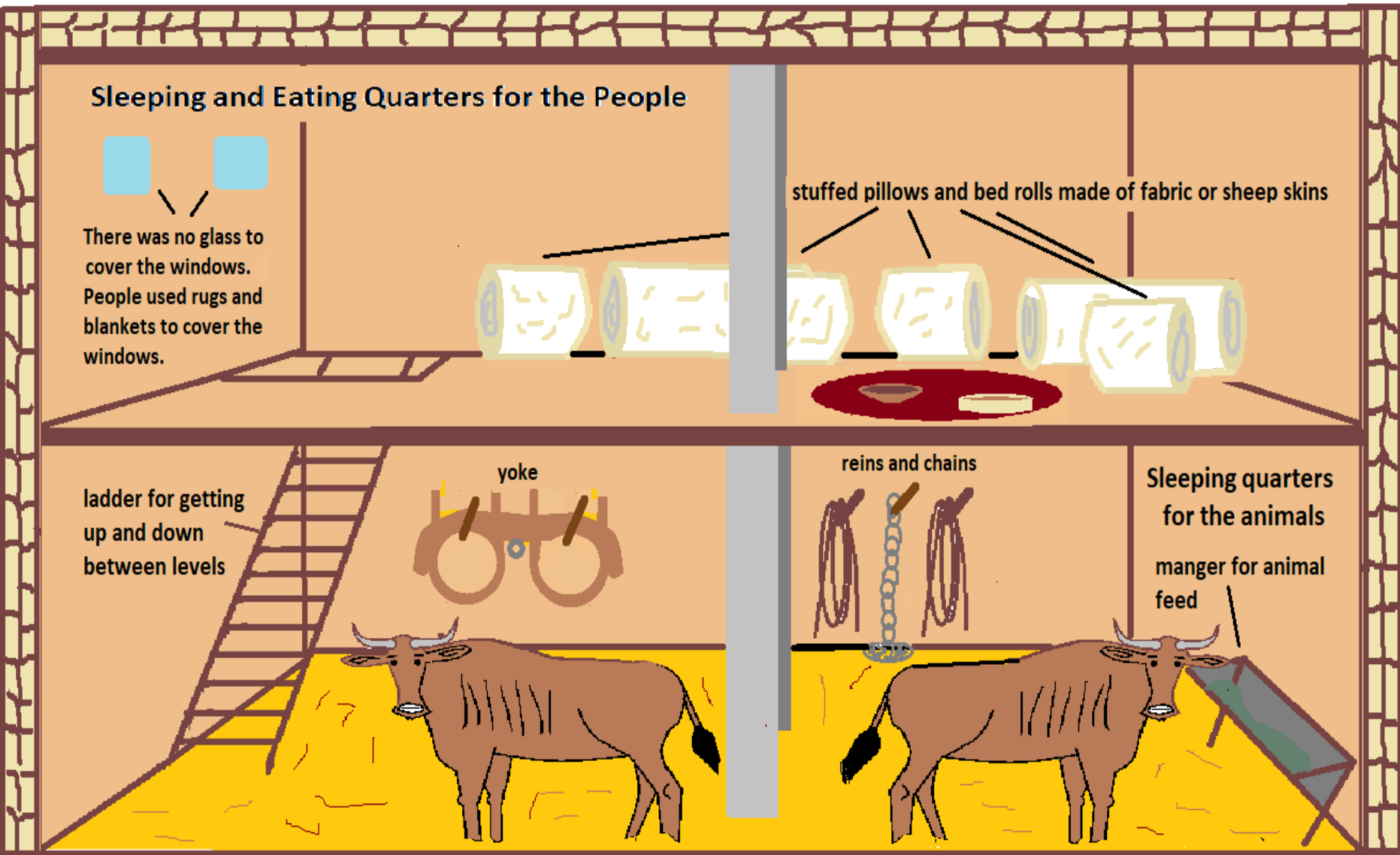
“¹² And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, “Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” ¹³ And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, ¹⁴ and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹⁵ And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.” ¹⁶ And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.” (ESV)

The Apostles also met in an upper room in the Book of Acts:

Acts 1:12-14 English Standard Version

“¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.^[a]” (ESV)

Interior cutaway of an ancient home or inn during Christ's time.



← Rooves were walled in for safety.

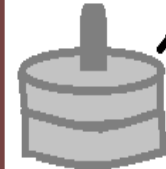
A partially covered courtyard provided shade on a hot day and also light while people completed daily tasks like: grinding, eating, weaving, cooking, repairing, or making tools, and making pottery.



Containers for water.



People reclined while eating by leaning on pillows around a large circular fabric or woven mat.



A person who was grinding flour into grain would use a stone stake and 2 stones with a hole in the center. The stake would be put in the ground. One stone would be put on the stake. Grain would be put on the surface of the first stone. Then the 2nd stone would be put on. Then the top stone would be turned. The grain would be ground into flour.

Most homes had 4 rooms: one for sleeping, another for livestock, a partially covered courtyard for grinding, weaving, cooking, eating, and making pottery, and a dugout room (not shown here) which was used for storage. The flat rooves were also used for relaxing and socializing.

THIS AREA IS NOT TO SCALE WITH THE AREA ON THE LEFT. IT IS ENLARGED.

In Luke 2:21– 24, we learn that Mary and Joseph at the time of Christ’s circumcision, Mary’s purification, and Christ’s consecration were actually poor. How do we know? We know because of the sacrifice that Mary gave for her purification.

Luke 2:21– 24 New International Version

“²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”^[b]), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”^[c]”^(NIV)

So, at this point in time, the Magi HAVE NOT come yet, because Mary and Joseph must be honest before God and give the correct amount. When the Magi come, the CHRIST is given “gold, frankincense and myrrh” (Matthew 2:11 NKJV) These were all things of wealth and used as currency at that time.

These are what the Old Testament regulations said:

Leviticus 12: 1-8 New International Version

“12 The LORD said to Moses, ²“Say to the Israelites: ‘A woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son will be ceremonially unclean for seven days, just as she is unclean during her monthly period. ³On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised. ⁴Then the woman must wait thirty-three days to be purified from her bleeding. She must not touch anything sacred or go to the sanctuary until the days of her purification are over. ⁵If she gives birth to a daughter, for two weeks the woman will be unclean, as during her period. Then she must wait sixty-six days to be purified from her bleeding. ⁶“When the days of her purification for a son or daughter are over, she is to bring to the priest at the entrance to the tent of meeting a year-old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a dove for a sin offering.^[a] ⁷He shall offer them before the LORD to make atonement for her, and then she will be ceremonially clean from her flow of blood.

““These are the regulations for the woman who gives birth to a boy or a girl. ⁸But if she cannot afford a lamb, she is to bring two doves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her, and she will be clean.”” (NIV)

Numbers 18:15-16 New International Version

“¹⁵ The first offspring of every womb, both human and animal, that is offered to the LORD is yours. But you must redeem every firstborn son and every firstborn male of unclean animals. ¹⁶When they are a month old, you must redeem them at the redemption price set at five shekels^[a] of silver, according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs.” (NIV)

These sacrifices were only being offered up by BELIEVERS in Christ, until Christ’s Crucifixion, Resurrection, and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit were given, because CHRIST fulfilled ALL of the sacrifices.

Mary and Joseph travel with a brand-new infant to dedicate Christ to His Father. This was during what some people claim would have been January 2 in the middle of a cold and rainy season from Bethlehem to Jerusalem.

No one in Jerusalem knows yet that they bring the Messiah, except a few key people.

Luke 2: 25 – 38 New International Version

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss^[d] your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel."

³³ The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.^[e] She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem."
(NIV)

Mary and Joseph bring an offering based on POVERTY at Christ's consecration, yet ironically, they ALSO bring the Lamb of God who "takes away the sin of the world" to be consecrated back to the Father who actually sent Him. (John 1:29 NIV) The Magi bring prophetic gifts – they bring very expensive gifts which were used as currency at that time – making the family wealthy. Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh were gifts given to kings. Gold is of course even valuable today. Frankincense and myrrh are both mentioned in the book of Exodus as being used in ministry to God. They are scented resins that come from 2 different types of gum trees. (Britannica, 2022) Myrrh is first mentioned in the book of Genesis when "...a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead" on their way to Egypt with their camels laden "with spices, balm and myrrh," (Genesis 37: 25 (NIV) are met with Joseph's brothers who sold Joseph to them "for 20 shekels of silver." (Genesis 37: 28 (NIV)

Exodus 30: 22 – 29 New International Version

²² Then the LORD said to Moses, ²³ "Take the following fine spices: 500 shekels^[d] of liquid myrrh, half as much (that is, 250 shekels) of fragrant cinnamon, 250 shekels^[e] of fragrant calamus, ²⁴ 500 shekels of cassia—all according to the sanctuary shekel—and a hin^[f] of olive oil. ²⁵ Make these into a sacred anointing oil, a fragrant blend, the work of a perfumer. It will be the sacred anointing oil. ²⁶ Then use it to anoint the tent of meeting, the ark of the covenant law, ²⁷ the table and all its articles, the lampstand and its accessories, the altar of incense, ²⁸ the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the basin with its stand. ²⁹ You shall consecrate them so they will be most holy, and whatever touches them will be holy." (NIV)

Exodus 30: 34 – 37 New International Version

³⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Take fragrant spices—gum resin, onycha and galbanum—and pure frankincense, all in equal amounts, ³⁵ and make a fragrant blend of incense, the work of a perfumer. It is to be salted and pure and sacred. ³⁶ Grind some of it to powder and place it in front of the ark of the covenant law in the tent of meeting, where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you. ³⁷ Do not make any incense with this formula for yourselves; consider it holy to the LORD." (NIV)

Christ IS the KING of kings. (1 Timothy 6:15) Christ is the Anointed One. (Acts 4:26)

GOD WAS REALLY CONSECRATING HIS OWN SON FOR HIS SERVICE.

The Old Testament Offerings and What They Reveal About the Timing of the Magi

7 days - after giving birth, Mary was ceremonially unclean.

The 8th day they had Christ circumcised

33 days were required for Mary's purification from bleeding.

40 day TOTAL (Leviticus 12: 1 - 8)

The Magi must have come sometime just after this 40 day period, because Mary couldn't "touch anything sacred or go to the sanctuary until the days of her purification are over." (Leviticus 12: 4 NIV) Then she has to give an offering AFTER that period of time is over. Mary and Joseph give an offering based on poverty at Christ's consecration. This means the Magi had not come yet, because the Magi bring Christ gifts of great wealth. Mary and Joseph would have to be honest about their offering. Since Mary and Joseph were IN Bethlehem during this period of time and the Magi ONLY were SENT TO Bethlehem and ARRIVE IN Bethlehem – this is the ONLY period of time it COULD BE. REMEMBER, Mary and Joseph WERE NOT from Bethlehem. They were from Nazareth in Galilee. (Luke 2:4) They were just VISITING Bethlehem in Judea (Luke 2:4) and the baby started coming and was born there in a stable provided by the inn (Luke 2:7).

Matthew 2:1-12 New King James Version

“2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, ^[a]wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵ So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah,
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;
For out of you shall come a Ruler
Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the ^[b]wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”

⁹ When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, **the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.** ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. ¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.” (NKJV)

The INTERLINEAR BIBLE begins this same scripture with: “Now Jesus having been born...” (Matthew 2:1 INT, Biblehub.org) NOTE: in some versions the men are called “wise men” (NKJV) and in some “Magi” which means wise men. (NIV).

When the Magi get to Jerusalem, they start asking Herod questions as to where the King of the Jews has been born. How did they know about the King of the Jews? How do they KNOW who the so-called “star” or rather the Holy angel was for? We do not know at this time. Then when the Magi leave Herod, and they are headed for Bethlehem, notice, the so-called “star” appears to them again and “**they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.**” (Matthew 2: 10 NKJV) It leads them straight to the place where Christ is – IT IS AN ANGEL.

Matthew 2:9-12 New King James Version

⁹ When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, **they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.** ¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.” (NKJV)

People have made assumptions regarding this scripture, saying that the Magi show up 2 years AFTER the birth of CHRIST. This can't be, because Mary and Joseph are in Bethlehem when Christ is born and they are only there temporarily because of the census. The goal of the Magi is to find the Christ and to give Him their financial gifts. IT IS A GOD GUIDED ASSIGNMENT. The Magi have given Herod too much information that will put the Christ, as well as Mary and Joseph at risk. After the Magi leave, we know that Mary and Joseph are told by an angel of God in a dream that they must immediately flee from Herod's wrath and go to Egypt. Mary and Joseph desperately needed the funds that the Magi brought to make their escape to Egypt to protect their child. It was God's advanced provision that this was done.

Matthew 2:13-18 New King James Version

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵ and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and **put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts**, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping *for* her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more." (NKJV)

Questions arise:

1. What conclusions did Herod come to and was it based on facts?
2. Did he even hear the Magi correctly?
3. Seeing Herod and hearing his sneaky intent through his tone of voice - were the Magi trying to protect the Messiah by naming a 2-year period of time, while all the time knowing it would be an infant? They may not have thought that he would go to the extent of murdering children 2 years old and under.
4. Were the babies killed?

That verse in the New Testament Matthew 2: 17-18 was prophesied in the Old Testament book of Jeremiah 31: 15.

Jeremiah 31: 15 English Standard Version

**“15 Thus says the LORD:
“A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.”” (ESV)**

Matthew 2: 17 - 18 New King James Version

“17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

**18 “A voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping *for* her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more.”” (NKJV)**

Remember, in the Old and New Testament, when people would speak about their relatives, a person could be an immediate descendant or a distant descendant and that person could still be referred to as a son or daughter, but then the genealogies ALSO give more specific information about the ACTUAL parents of an individual. The prophecy in Jeremiah was speaking about Rachel’s FUTURE people or children that would be born and die in Bethlehem at the hands of Herod the NOT SO GREAT.

“Rāmâ” [Pronounced With a rolled Rr - rah-mah] “Ramah = "hill” (Strong’s, H7414, BLB, 2023)

“1. a town in Benjamin on the border of Ephraim about 5 miles (8 km) from Jerusalem and near to Gibeah”

(Strong’s, H7414, BLB, 2023)

In the Old Testament, Rachel died in childbirth while having her son Benjamin and she was buried in “Ephrath (that is Bethlehem)” Genesis 35: 19 ESV)

Genesis 35: 16 - 21 English Standard Version

“¹⁶ Then they journeyed from Bethel. When they were still some distance^[f] from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor. ¹⁷ And when her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, “Do not fear, for you have another son.” ¹⁸ And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Ben-oni;^[g] but his father called him Benjamin.^[h] ¹⁹ So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem),²⁰ and Jacob set up a pillar over her tomb. It is the pillar of Rachel's tomb, which is there to this day. ²¹ Israel journeyed on and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder.” (ESV)

Genesis 48: 7 English Standard Version

“⁷ As for me, when I came from Paddan, to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was still some distance^[b] to go to Ephrath, and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).” (ESV)

“eṗrāṭ” [Pronounced ef- rahth and as seen below ef-rahth-tha in the Hebrew] (Strong’s, H672, BLB, 2023)

“Ephrath or Ephratah = "ash-heap: place of fruitfulness”(Strong’s, H672, BLB, 2023)

“proper locative noun

1. a place near Bethel where Rachel died and was buried

2. another name for Bethlehem” (Strong’s, H672, BLB, 2023)

That Old Testament prophecy in Jeremiah DOES go on to be a POSITIVE word for Rachel's people:

Jeremiah 31: 16 – 17 English Standard Version

“¹⁶ Thus says the LORD:

**“Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears,**

**for there is a reward for your work,
declares the LORD,**

and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

**¹⁷ There is hope for your future,
declares the LORD,**

and your children shall come back to their own country.” (ESV)

I would suggest that you read the WHOLE chapter.

The NIV text for Matthew 2:13-18 IS NOT a good translation here, because it doesn't specifically state that the babies were killed. It says Herod gave the order – “he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem” (Matthew 2:16 NIV)

The Interlinear Bible a word for word translation says:

“... he put to death all the boys that were in Bethlehem and in all the vicinity of it from 2 years old and under...” (Matthew 2: 16 INT.,Biblehub.org)

The NKJV says, “he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under...” (Matthew 2:16, NKJV)

The Young’s Literal Translation says, “...he slew all the male children in Beth-Lehem, and in all its borders, from two years and under...” (Matthew 2: 16, YLT)

The word “anaireō” [pronounced an-ī-rey-ō with a rolled Rr] (Strongs, G337, BLB, 2023)

means: “II. to take away, abolish”

“A. to do away with...”

“B. to put out of the way, kill slay a man” (Strong’s, G337, BLB, 2023)

The translations shown above ARE accurate.

The word “vicinity” shown for the Interlinear Bible is translated as:

“horion” (Strongs, G3725, BLB, 2023) [Pronounced ha-ree-on with a rolled Rr] meaning:

“1. boundaries

A. for a region, district, land, territory” (Strongs, G3725, BLB, 2023)

God is not a respecter of persons. (Acts 10:34) Just like God protected Mary, Joseph, and the Christ child – God ALSO sent a message to the parents of the OTHER children – to leave that area and to take their children with them in order to save their lives. HE NEVER WOULD HAVE NEGLECTED THIS. God is also NOT A LIAR, if the risk had not been REAL, he would NEVER have issued the warning in the first place, BUT

people have to listen to God's warnings! Imagine the heartache that would result if you were given a warning, didn't heed it, and your child was murdered. There would be no one to blame except yourself. Imagine the heart wrenching guilt that would result – one that could not be quenched. These are the emotions expressed in this scripture.

Matthew 2: 18 New King James Version

**“¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping *for* her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more.”” (NKJV)**

God would have ALSO issued a warning to HEROD, just like He did to ALL the Old Testament kings. Josephus, the historian, describes the TORTURE THROUGH SICKNESS AND DISEASE that he even agrees, God put upon Herod as judgment to make him change his mind! Unfortunately, he DID NOT heed the warning!

“Herod the Great” had a not so “great” reputation. Most people during his lifetime knew that He was a ruthless killer. He had a reputation for being evil. He even killed at least one of his own wives (supposedly his favorite and her mother too) and even killed some of his OWN children. By the time the Magi come to Herod he is nearing the end of his life. He had arteriosclerosis and other diseases as well and was in a lot of pain physically. Just for advanced knowledge, the statement: “for a fire glowed in him slowly” must have meant that he had a fever which also meant infection. (Josephus 17.6.5) (Maier, P., 2015) (Perowne S.,2023) This is what Herod looked like AFTER he murdered the children:

“5. But now Herod's distemper greatly increased upon him after a severe manner, and this by God's judgment upon him for his sins; for a fire glowed in him slowly, which did not so much appear to the touch outwardly, as it augmented his pains inwardly; for it brought upon him a vehement appetite to eating, which he could not avoid to supply with one sort of food or other. His entrails were also ex-ulcerated, and the chief violence of his pain lay on his colon; an aqueous and transparent liquor also had settled itself about his feet, and a like matter afflicted him at the bottom of his belly. Nay, further, his privy-member was putrefied, and produced worms; and when he sat upright, he had a difficulty of breathing, which was very loathsome, on account of the stench of his breath, and the quickness of its returns; he had also convulsions in all parts of his body, which increased his strength to an insufferable degree.” (Josephus, 17.6.5)

All of his ruthlessness as a killer also affected his mental state, so whether he would have been able to pay much attention to what the Magi were saying, we don't know, but what we DO know is - he was paranoid about DOING ANYTHING to prevent someone from usurping his throne, even if the threat WAS NOT real. The edict to kill the young children in Bethlehem and the surrounding vicinity WAS ISSUED by Herod just before He unsuccessfully attempted suicide and then died. Yet, there is no record within the accounts of Josephus that the edict was ever actually carried out. As you will see, his sister Salome, withdrew another one of Herod's sick edicts once he had died, and one would think she would have had enough common sense to do the same for this one, BUT the scriptures tell the TRUTH. She DID NOT.

Herod was a demon possessed, sick, and perverted individual and even just before he died he planned to murder others after his death was announced. (Maier, P., 2015) (Josephus, 17.6.5)

Herod knows that he is hated by others and everyone will CELEBRATE his death rather than MOURNING it and he thinks he deserves mourning. He plots to FORCE THEM to mourn in a different way to get revenge. “He commanded that all the principal men of the entire Jewish nation, wheresoever they lived, should be called to him.” (Josephus 17.6.5) and they were to be shut up in the Hippodrome. To bring this into perspective - Herod’s Hippodrome could hold approximately 12,000 people. It was where gladiator combat, chariot and horse races, and athletic games took place. (hmdb.org, 2023) To continue, Herod’s plan was as soon as he would die - he wanted the captives inside to be shot with darts and killed – thus creating Herod’s mourning.

BUT THIS WAS NOT CARRIED OUT! Thank God, Salome (Herod’s sister) and Alexas (her husband,) set the people free and sent them home instead!

“2. But then Salome and Alexas, before the king's death was made known, dismissed those that were shut up in the hippodrome, and told them that the king ordered them to go away to their own lands, and take care of their own affairs, which was esteemed by the nation a great benefit.” (Josephus 17.8.2)

The Magi who traveled to see Christ as a baby and to bring Him gifts were traveling on the back of camels in what some people say is the middle of the cold and rainy winter season. They travel from the East to Jerusalem and then travel from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. IT WAS NOT IN WINTER! IT WAS IN THE SPRING!

CHRIST WAS NOT BORN ON DECEMBER 25th!

Isn't it wonderful how God sent the Magi to give valuable gifts to help support and care for the financial welfare of Mary, Joseph, and the baby Lord Jesus the Christ?

It was prophesied that Christ would be a Nazarene which as you can see in Luke 1: 26 - it exactly corresponds with the place Christ's adoptive parents were from – Nazareth.

Luke 1:26 - 28 New International Version

“²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”” (NIV)

After Christ’s birth, when Mary and Joseph return from their having escaped to Egypt – they return to live in Nazareth.

Matthew 2:19-23 New King James Version

“¹⁹ Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. ²³ And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”” (NKJV)

Again, MORE TRAVELING in what SOME people say would occur during the winter rainy season!

The scriptures CLEARLY PROVE that Mary had OTHER children by Joseph AFTER she gave birth to her FIRST BORN SON – the Lord Jesus Christ who was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Matthew 12 also indicates that LATER Christ's family members were not in God's will, because they were dealing with the separation that Christ was making from them. Upon His crucifixion and resurrection HE would soon become THEIR LORD.

Matthew 12:46-50 New International Version

⁴⁶ While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. ⁴⁷ Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you."

⁴⁸ He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" ⁴⁹ Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." (NIV)

The people of His town DID NOT want to believe that He was the Messiah. They name his brother's and even say that He has sisters.

Matthew 13:54-56 New International Version

⁵⁴ Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked. ⁵⁵ "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" (NIV)

These prophetic warnings given by Christ HIMSELF indicate that winter weather would play a part in hardship when traveling.

Matthew 24:19-21 King James Version

“¹⁹ And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

²⁰ But pray ye that your flight **be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:**

²¹ For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.” (KJV)

Mark 13:17-19 King James Version

“¹⁷ But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

¹⁸ And pray ye that your flight **be not in the winter.**

¹⁹ For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.” (KJV)

We also know that usually the kings went out to war when the weather was good, because there would be many losses due to the winter weather. A perfect example of those losses in America was at Valley Forge, when General George Washington's men were suffering from exposure to the elements and from starvation. **The Kings of Ancient time WOULD NOT even USUALLY fight in winter!**

2 Samuel 11: 1 New International Version

"11 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem." (NIV)

1 Kings 20:21-22 New International Version

“²¹ The king of Israel advanced and overpowered the horses and chariots and inflicted heavy losses on the Arameans.

²² Afterward, the prophet came to the king of Israel and said, “Strengthen your position and see what must be done, because next spring the king of Aram will attack you again.”” (NIV)

1 Kings 20:25-26 New International Version

“²⁵ You must also raise an army like the one you lost—horse for horse and chariot for chariot—so we can fight Israel on the plains. Then surely we will be stronger than they.” He agreed with them and acted accordingly.

²⁶ The next spring Ben-Hadad mustered the Arameans and went up to Aphek to fight against Israel.” (NIV)

2 Kings 13:20 New International Version

²⁰ Elisha died and was buried.

Now Moabite raiders used to enter the country every spring. (NIV)

1 Chronicles 20:1-2 New International Version

20 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, Joab led out the armed forces. He laid waste the land of the Ammonites and went to Rabbah and besieged it, but David remained in Jerusalem. Joab attacked Rabbah and left it in ruins. ² David took the crown from the head of their king^[a]—its weight was found to be a talent^[b] of gold, and it was set with precious stones—and it was placed on David's head." (NIV)

One exception to that previous scripture in the Bible that the Lord made me aware of, is when Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem which took place in the 9th month in the middle of winter. THE WEATHER WAS USED AS A WEAPON! What preceded it?

2 Kings 24: 1 – 12 New International Version

“24 During Jehoiakim’s reign, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon invaded the land, and Jehoiakim became his vassal for three years. But then he turned against Nebuchadnezzar and rebelled. ²The LORD sent Babylonian,^[a] Aramean, Moabite and Ammonite raiders against him to destroy Judah, in accordance with the word of the LORD proclaimed by his servants the prophets. ³Surely these things happened to Judah according to the LORD’s command, in order to remove them from his presence because of the sins of Manasseh and all he had done, ⁴including the shedding of innocent blood. For he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the LORD was not willing to forgive.

⁵As for the other events of Jehoiakim’s reign, and all he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? ⁶Jehoiakim rested with his ancestors. And Jehoiachin his son succeeded him as king.

⁷The king of Egypt did not march out from his own country again, because the king of Babylon had taken all his territory, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Euphrates River.

⁸Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother’s name was Nehushta daughter of Elnathan; she was from Jerusalem. ⁹He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father had done.

¹⁰At that time the officers of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon advanced on Jerusalem and laid siege to it, ¹¹and Nebuchadnezzar himself came up to the city while his officers were besieging it. ¹²Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his attendants, his nobles and his officials all surrendered to him.” In the eighth year of the reign of the king of Babylon, he took Jehoiachin prisoner.” (NIV)

2 Kings 24: 13– 20 New International Version

“¹³ As the LORD had declared, Nebuchadnezzar removed the treasures from the temple of the LORD and from the royal palace, and cut up the gold articles that Solomon king of Israel had made for the temple of the LORD. ¹⁴ He carried all Jerusalem into exile: all the officers and fighting men, and all the skilled workers and artisans—a total of ten thousand. Only the poorest people of the land were left.

¹⁵ Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin captive to Babylon. He also took from Jerusalem to Babylon the king’s mother, his wives, his officials and the prominent people of the land. ¹⁶ The king of Babylon also deported to Babylon the entire force of seven thousand fighting men, strong and fit for war, and a thousand skilled workers and artisans. ¹⁷ He made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin’s uncle, king in his place and changed his name to Zedekiah.

¹⁸ Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. His mother’s name was Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah. ¹⁹ He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as Jehoiakim had done. ²⁰ It was because of the LORD’s anger that all this happened to Jerusalem and Judah, and in the end he thrust them from his presence.

Now Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.” (NIV)

READ MORE IN 2 KINGS 25

BABYLON HAD ENCAMPED AROUND THE CITY FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME TO STARVE THE PEOPLE INTO CAPTIVITY. SO, THEY WERE UNDER SOME KIND OF PROTECTION FROM THE WEATHER! IT WAS A SIEGE AND CAPTURE! THE WHOLE ARMY OF ISRAEL FLED!
(Jeremiah 52:7 (NIV))

Jeremiah 52: 1- 4 New International Version

“52 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. His mother’s name was Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah. ²He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, just as Jehoiakim had done. ³It was because of the Lord’s anger that all this happened to Jerusalem and Judah, and in the end he thrust them from his presence.

Now Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

⁴So in the ninth year of Zedekiah’s reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army. They encamped outside the city and built siege works all around it.” (NIV)

SEIGE BY BABYLON AGAINST ISRAEL AND HOW LONG IT LASTED

9th YEAR - 10th day - 10th month 11th Month, 12th Month, 10th YEAR - 1st Month 2nd Month, 3rd Month, 4th Month, 5th Month, 6th Month, 7th Month, 8th Month, 9th Month,



10th Month, 11th Month, 12th Month, 11th YEAR - First Month, 2nd Month, 3rd Month, 4th Month



Jeremiah 52: 5 - 9 New International Version

⁵The city was kept under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.

⁶By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine in the city had become so severe that there was no food for the people to eat. ⁷Then the city wall was broken through, and the whole army fled. They left the city at night through the gate between the two walls near the king’s garden, though the Babylonians^[a] were surrounding the city. They fled toward the Arabah,^[b] ⁸but the Babylonian^[c] army pursued King Zedekiah and overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his soldiers were separated from him and scattered, ⁹and he was captured. He was taken to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, where he pronounced sentence on him.” (NIV)

Jeremiah 52: 10 - 23 New International Version

“¹⁰ There at Riblah the king of Babylon killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes; he also killed all the officials of Judah. ¹¹ Then he put out Zedekiah’s eyes, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon, where he put him in prison till the day of his death.

¹² On the tenth day of the fifth month, in the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard, who served the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. ¹³ He set fire to the temple of the LORD, the royal palace and all the houses of Jerusalem. Every important building he burned down. ¹⁴ The whole Babylonian army, under the commander of the imperial guard, broke down all the walls around Jerusalem. ¹⁵ Nebuzaradan the commander of the guard carried into exile some of the poorest people and those who remained in the city, along with the rest of the craftsmen^[d] and those who had deserted to the king of Babylon. ¹⁶ But Nebuzaradan left behind the rest of the poorest people of the land to work the vineyards and fields.

¹⁷ The Babylonians broke up the bronze pillars, the movable stands and the bronze Sea that were at the temple of the LORD and they carried all the bronze to Babylon. ¹⁸ They also took away the pots, shovels, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, dishes and all the bronze articles used in the temple service. ¹⁹ The commander of the imperial guard took away the basins, censers, sprinkling bowls, pots, lampstands, dishes and bowls used for drink offerings—all that were made of pure gold or silver.

²⁰ The bronze from the two pillars, the Sea and the twelve bronze bulls under it, and the movable stands, which King Solomon had made for the temple of the LORD, was more than could be weighed. ²¹ Each pillar was eighteen cubits high and twelve cubits in circumference^[e]; each was four fingers thick, and hollow. ²² The bronze capital on top of one pillar was five cubits^[f] high and was decorated with a network and pomegranates of bronze all around. The other pillar, with its pomegranates, was similar. ²³ There were ninety-six pomegranates on the sides; the total number of pomegranates above the surrounding network was a hundred.” (NIV)

Jeremiah 52: 24 - 30 New International Version

“²⁴ The commander of the guard took as prisoners Seraiah the chief priest, Zephaniah the priest next in rank and the three doorkeepers. ²⁵ Of those still in the city, he took the officer in charge of the fighting men, and seven royal advisers. He also took the secretary who was chief officer in charge of conscripting the people of the land, sixty of whom were found in the city. ²⁶ Nebuzaradan the commander took them all and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. ²⁷ There at Riblah, in the land of Hamath, the king had them executed.

So Judah went into captivity, away from her land. ²⁸ This is the number of the people Nebuchadnezzar carried into exile:

in the seventh year, 3,023 Jews;

²⁹ in Nebuchadnezzar’s eighteenth year,

832 people from Jerusalem;

³⁰ in his twenty-third year,

745 Jews taken into exile by Nebuzaradan the commander of the imperial guard.

There were 4,600 people in all.” (NIV)

What WERE the sins of Manasseh that caused this to happen?

The answer: The shedding of innocent blood and idolatry!

2 Kings 24: 3 - 4 (New International Version)

“³ Surely these things happened to Judah according to the LORD’s command, in order to remove them from his presence because of the sins of Manasseh and all he had done, ⁴ including the shedding of innocent blood. For he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the LORD was not willing to forgive.” (NIV)

Judges 18:30 King James Version

“³⁰ And the children of Dan set up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.” (KJV)

2 Kings 21:1 - 18 New International Version

“21 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. His mother’s name was Hephzibah. ² He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites. ³ He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he also erected altars to Baal and made an Asherah pole, as Ahab king of Israel had done. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them. ⁴ He built altars in the temple of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, “In Jerusalem I will put my Name.” ⁵ In the two courts of the temple of the LORD, he built altars to all the starry hosts. ⁶ He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced divination, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, arousing his anger.

⁷ He took the carved Asherah pole he had made and put it in the temple, of which the LORD had said to David and to his son Solomon, “In this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my Name forever. ⁸ I will not again make the feet of the Israelites wander from the land I gave their ancestors, if only they will be careful to do everything I commanded them and will keep the whole Law that my servant Moses gave them.” ⁹ But the people did not listen. Manasseh led them astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites.

¹⁰ The LORD said through his servants the prophets: ¹¹ “Manasseh king of Judah has committed these detestable sins. He has done more evil than the Amorites who preceded him and has led Judah into sin with his idols. ¹² Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I am going to bring such disaster on Jerusalem and Judah that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle. ¹³ I will stretch out over Jerusalem the measuring line used against Samaria and the plumb line used against the house of Ahab. I will wipe out Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down. ¹⁴ I will forsake the remnant of my inheritance and give them into the hands of enemies. They will be looted and plundered by all their enemies; ¹⁵ they have done evil in my eyes and have aroused my anger from the day their ancestors came out of Egypt until this day.”

¹⁶ Moreover, Manasseh also shed so much innocent blood that he filled Jerusalem from end to end—besides the sin that he had caused Judah to commit, so that they did evil in the eyes of the LORD.

¹⁷ As for the other events of Manasseh’s reign, and all he did, including the sin he committed, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? ¹⁸ Manasseh rested with his ancestors and was buried in his palace garden, the garden of Uzza. And Amon his son succeeded him as king.” (NIV)

Israel is in the Northern hemisphere just as the United States is. Spring arrives at the same time in the Northern Hemisphere no matter where you are in the world. It is approximately March 20 or 21st.

I've seen explanations comparing Israel to the State of Texas trying to use it as an explanation as to WHY a winter birth for Christ was still possible. It IS NOT possible because, – the topography of Israel is DIFFERENT from Texas. Topography meaning the elevations of the land. Texas is almost completely a flat state. Israel IS NOT FLAT. It has HIGH mountains, hills, and lowlands. This justifies the Bible's explanation of winter weather being cold in Israel. The prophecies do not put Christ's birth in the Winter.

Go to this link to see an explanation of the topography of Israel.

[Virtual Israel Touring - Topography - Bing video](#)

Paul in these scriptures speaks of wintering in one place NOT traveling.

1 Corinthians 16:5-7 New International Version

“⁵ After I go through Macedonia, I will come to you—for I will be going through Macedonia. ⁶ Perhaps I will stay with you for a while, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go. ⁷ For I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.” (NIV)

2 Timothy 4:20-22 New International Version

²⁰ Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus. ²¹ **Do your best to get here before winter.** Eubulus greets you, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers and sisters. [\[a\]](#)

²² The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you all.” (NIV)

Titus 3:12-13 New International Version

¹² As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, **because I have decided to winter there.** ¹³ Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need.” (NIV)

The scriptures shown below PROVE that winter was the rainy season and that people usually stayed in one place during the winter.

It is colder requiring a stove to provide warmth:

Jeremiah 36:22 Young's Literal Translation

“²² and the king is sitting in the winter-house, in the ninth month, and the stove before him is burning,” (YLT)

Remember, the beginning of the year in the month Abib is in about March or April, so the ninth month in the preceding scripture is in about November or December.

The scripture below makes reference to the rains of winter having passed.

Song of Solomon 2:10-11 King James Version

“¹⁰ My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.

¹¹ For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;” (KJV)

The Apostle Paul makes several references to seeking refuge and staying in one place in winter. He was in Greece when these statements were made, but the temperatures and climate are very similar. The temperatures in Jerusalem, Israel and Corinth, Greece during the month of November have a range of about 54 – 68 degrees, in December about 43 – 54 degrees, in January about 42 – 53 degrees, in February about 42 – 54 degrees. In Crete, Greece it is slightly warmer with lows and highs about 10 degrees higher than Jerusalem. Precipitation in Corinth and Crete, Greece is slightly higher than that of Jerusalem, Israel. (Weatherspark.com, 2021)

During this voyage by ship, Paul and the whole crew were put at risk during the winter months.

Acts 27:7-12 English Standard Version

“⁷ We sailed slowly for a number of days and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, and as the wind did not allow us to go farther, we sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone. ⁸ Coasting along it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea.

⁹ Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast^[a] was already over, Paul advised them, ¹⁰ saying, “Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.” ¹¹ But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said. ¹² And because the harbor was not suitable to spend the winter in, the majority decided to put out to sea from there, on the chance that somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing both southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there.” (ESV)

The “Fast” (ESV) that Paul is making reference to is for the Day of Atonement which was on the 10th day of the 7th month. (Lev. 16:29) This would have been approximately in Sept. or October in our present day time. Notice, he says that the time has “passed” (ESV) meaning it has already occurred, so it is LATER THAN September or October at the time of these events taking place.

Acts 27:13-32 English Standard Version

¹³ Now when the south wind blew gently, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to the shore. ¹⁴ But soon a tempestuous wind, called the northeaster, struck down from the land. ¹⁵ And when the ship was caught and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and were driven along. ¹⁶ Running under the lee of a small island called Cauda,^[a] we managed with difficulty to secure the ship's boat. ¹⁷ After hoisting it up, they used supports to undergird the ship. Then, fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis, they lowered the gear,^[b] and thus they were driven along. ¹⁸ Since we were violently storm-tossed, they began the next day to jettison the cargo. ¹⁹ And on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. ²⁰ When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.

²¹ Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. ²² Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. ²³ For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, ²⁴ and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' ²⁵ So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. ²⁶ But we must run aground on some island."

²⁷ When the fourteenth night had come, as we were being driven across the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors suspected that they were nearing land. ²⁸ So they took a sounding and found twenty fathoms.^[c] A little farther on they took a sounding again and found fifteen fathoms.^[d] ²⁹ And fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come. ³⁰ And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, and had lowered the ship's boat into the sea under pretense of laying out anchors from the bow, ³¹ Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." ³² Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat and let it go." (ESV)

Acts 27: 33 – 44 English Standard Version

“³³ As day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day that you have continued in suspense and without food, having taken nothing. ³⁴ Therefore I urge you to take some food. For it will give you strength,^[f] for not a hair is to perish from the head of any of you.” ³⁵ And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat. ³⁶ Then they all were encouraged and ate some food themselves. ³⁷ (We were in all 276^[g] persons in the ship.) ³⁸ And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, throwing out the wheat into the sea.

³⁹ Now when it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned if possible to run the ship ashore. ⁴⁰ So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea, at the same time loosening the ropes that tied the rudders. Then hoisting the foresail to the wind they made for the beach. ⁴¹ But striking a reef,^[h] they ran the vessel aground. The bow stuck and remained immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf. ⁴² The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any should swim away and escape. ⁴³ But the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land, ⁴⁴ and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.” (ESV)

Acts 28: 1-2 English Standard Version

“28 After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta. ² The native people^[a] showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold.” (ESV)

Through adoption Christ is a relative of Jesse (David's father)

Matthew 1: 6 New International Version

“⁶ and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,” (NIV)

That scripture is taken from the genealogies.

In the Old Testament, the book of Isaiah chapter 11 prophesied of the connection to Jesse too. It shows just how important it is that we stick to the TRUTH concerning how God's natural world is linked to God's prophecies of Christ's birth. When we do, it gives us a scriptural way to PROVE the prophecies are REAL and that GOD IS REAL too. This should be done rather than leaning on our OWN understanding of what is acceptable to God and honoring lying traditions, instead of the TRUTH!

Isaiah 11: 1 - 5 New King James Version

**"11 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.**

**² The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.**

**³ His delight is in the fear of the LORD,
And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,
Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;
⁴ But with righteousness He shall judge the poor,
And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.**

**⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins,
And faithfulness the belt of His waist." (NKJV)**

This prophecy could not be fulfilled in winter. The tree can be both SPIRITUAL AND NATURAL. The NATURAL TREE IN THIS CASE, IS AN OLIVE TREE. (Romans 11: 11 – 24) God put it in a NATURAL CONTEXT, SO THAT WE WOULD KNOW WHAT TIME OF YEAR THE CHRIST WOULD BE BORN. An Olive tree is a tree that is DORMANT IN WINTER.

Isaiah 11: 6 - 11 New King James Version

**“6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;
And a little child shall lead them.**

**7 The cow and the bear shall graze;
Their young ones shall lie down together;
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.**

**8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole,
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den.**

**9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
As the waters cover the sea.**

**10 “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse,
Who shall stand as a banner to the people;
For the Gentiles shall seek Him,
And His resting place shall be glorious.”**

**11 It shall come to pass in that day
That the Lord shall set His hand again the second time
To recover the remnant of His people who are left,
From Assyria and Egypt,
From Pathros and Cush,
From Elam and Shinar,
From Hamath and the [\[d\]](#)islands of the sea.” (NKJV)**

Isaiah 11: 12 - 16 New King James Version

**“¹² He will set up a banner for the nations,
And will ^[e]assemble the outcasts of Israel,
And gather together the dispersed of Judah
From the four ^[f]corners of the earth.**

**¹³ Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart,
And the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off;
Ephraim shall not envy Judah,
And Judah shall not harass Ephraim.**

**¹⁴ But they shall fly down upon the shoulder of the Philistines toward the west;
Together they shall plunder the ^[g]people of the East;
They shall lay their hand on Edom and Moab;
And the people of Ammon shall obey them.**

**¹⁵ The LORD will utterly ^[h]destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt;
With His mighty wind He will shake His fist over ^[i]the River,
And strike it in the seven streams,
And make *men* cross over ^[j]dry-shod.**

**¹⁶ There will be a highway for the remnant of His people
Who will be left from Assyria,
As it was for Israel
In the day that he came up from the land of Egypt.” (NKJV)**

That scripture is fulfilled in the New Testament through Christ. Christ IS the Branch. Christ comes from the stem and root of Jesse and King David. This is PROVEN in the adoptive genealogies shown in Matthew and Luke. This is where HIS ADOPTIVE FAMILY LINE CAME FROM. A Family Tree has branches, roots, and stems also. Remember though, Christ HAD A SPIRITUAL FAMILY LINE BECAUSE HE was conceived by the Holy Spirit! Christ comes from and IS A MEMBER OF – the purest family line anyone could come from – Father God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament this is a prophecy that was given by Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 23:1-6 New International Version

“23 “Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. ² Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the LORD. ³ “I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. ⁴ I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the LORD.

**⁵ “The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will raise up for David^[a] a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land.**

**⁶ In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.**

**This is the name by which he will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.” (NIV)**

Jeremiah 33:14-16 New International Version

“¹⁴ “‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

**¹⁵ “‘In those days and at that time
I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line;
he will do what is just and right in the land.**

**¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved
and Jerusalem will live in safety.**

**This is the name by which it^[a] will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.’” (NIV)**

This prophecy could not be fulfilled in winter. The tree can be both SPIRITUAL AND NATURAL. The NATURAL TREE IN THIS CASE, IS AN OLIVE TREE . (Romans 11: 11 – 24) God put it in a NATURAL CONTEXT, SO THAT WE WOULD KNOW WHAT TIME OF YEAR THE CHRIST WOULD BE BORN. An Olive tree is a tree that is DORMANT IN WINTER.

The tree being represented through Christ's SPIRITUAL family tree is the Olive Tree – a symbol of PEACE!

Christ is the PRINCE OF PEACE!

CHRIST'S SPIRITUAL FAMILY TREE – THE FAMILY OF GOD (Father God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit) IS THE SPIRITUAL TREE ALL BELIEVERS IN CHRIST WERE GRAFTED INTO. CHRIST'S FAMILY TREE IN THE SPIRITUAL, BEARS FRUIT FOREVER AND LIVES FOREVER!

The prophecy is also FULFILLED in these New Testament scriptures showing on this slide and the next one:

Romans 11:1 - 10 New International Version

“11 I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin.² God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don’t you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel: ³ “Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me”^[a]?⁴ And what was God’s answer to him? “I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”^[b] ⁵ So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. ⁶ And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

⁷ What then? What the people of Israel sought so earnestly they did not obtain. The elect among them did, but the others were hardened, ⁸ as it is written:

**“God gave them a spirit of stupor,
eyes that could not see
and ears that could not hear,
to this very day.”^[c]**

⁹ And David says:

**“May their table become a snare and a trap,
a stumbling block and a retribution for them.**

**¹⁰ May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see,
and their backs be bent forever.”^[d](NIV)**

Romans 11:11 - 24 New International Version

“¹¹ Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. ¹² But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring!

¹³ I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry ¹⁴ in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ¹⁶ If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

¹⁷ If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, ¹⁸ do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. ¹⁹ You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” ²⁰ Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.

²² Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. ²³ And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.²⁴ After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!” (NIV)

You see, Christ was grafted into the genealogy of man, so that we could be grafted into the Kingdom of God. What kind of tree is this scripture talking about? An OLIVE TREE! The Olive Tree is a NATURAL allegory, meaning representational for Christ, but CHRIST’S FAMILY TREE IN THE SPIRITUAL, BEARS FRUIT FOREVER AND LIVES FOREVER! THE ONLY WAY WE CAN GET THAT SAME BENEFIT IS TO REPENT AND ACCEPT CHRIST AS OUR SAVIOR AND TO OBEY HIM.

Again, Olive trees are dormant in WINTER!

New shoots and branches do not come out of roots or the limbs of olive trees in the winter.

They come out in the SPRING when it's WARM!

<https://www.oliveoiltimes.com/production/annual-olive-tree-cycle/23061>



Put this information in your search engine and you'll read about Olive trees.

THAT'S WHY THE PROPHECY FROM ISAIAH SHOWN BELOW COULD NOT OCCUR IN THE WINTER AND CHRIST'S BIRTH DID NOT TAKE PLACE IN WINTER!

Isaiah 11: 1 New King James Version

“11 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,

And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.” NKJV)

“Olive Orchards

Olive trees were even more abundant in biblical times than they are in Israel today. Olive trees can grow on the plain and in the hills. They grow in Galilee, Samaria, and Judah. The Garden of Gethsemane, located at the base of the [Mount of Olives](#) in Jerusalem, was likely an orchard of olive trees since gethsemane means oil press.” (Bolen, 2023, From Olive Tree section, Olive Orchards, quoted with permission)

“Olive Shoot

While wild olives are propagated from seeds, cultivated olives are planted using shoots that grow at the base of another olive tree.

Psalm 128:3 uses this imagery in comparing children to olive shoots around the table. An olive shoot is also seen in the messianic prophecy of Isaiah 11:1.” (Bolen, 2023 From Olive Tree section, Olive Shoot, quoted with permission)



**Photograph of Olive Shoots springing up from the roots of an Olive Tree permission given by Bolen, 2023,
BiblePlaces.com**

**The next 4 pages show Old Testament prophecies of Christ's
Crucifixion. There ARE MANY MORE.**

Psalm 22: 1 – 15 English Standard Version

“To the choirmaster: according to The Doe of the Dawn. A Psalm of David.

22 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

**² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.**

**³ Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises^[a] of Israel.**

**⁴ In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.**

**⁵ To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.**

**⁶ But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.**

**⁷ All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;**

**⁸ “He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”**

**⁹ Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.**

**¹⁰ On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.**

**¹¹ Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.**

**¹² Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;**

**¹³ they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.**

**¹⁴ I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;**

it is melted within my breast;

**¹⁵ my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.” (ESV)**

Psalm 22: 16 – 31 English Standard Version

¹⁶ For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet^[b]—

¹⁷ I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;
¹⁸ they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.

¹⁹ But you, O LORD, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!

²¹ Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued^[c] me from the horns of the wild oxen!

²² I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴ For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

²⁶ The afflicted^[d] shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.

²⁸ For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

²⁹ All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.

³⁰ Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

³¹ they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,
that he has done it.” (ESV)

Isaiah 53: 1 – 7 English Standard Version

**“53 Who has believed what he has heard from us?^[a]
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.
3 He was despised and rejected^[b] by men,
a man of sorrows^[c] and acquainted with^[d] grief;^[e]
and as one from whom men hide their faces^[f]
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
4 Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.
7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.” (ESV)**

Isaiah 53: 8 – 12 English Standard Version

**“⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?**

**⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.**

**¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;^[g]
when his soul makes^[h] an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.**

**¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see^[i] and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.**

**¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,^[j]
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,^[k]
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.” (ESV)**

Christ was adopted/grafted into the family of man at HIS BIRTH in the Spring, so that WE would be adopted/grafted into the family of GOD through HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION which also took place IN THE SPRING!

Ephesians 1: 3 - 14 New King James Version

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both^[a] which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

¹³ In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who^[a] is the ^[b]guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” (NKJV)

Now let me explain the “predestined” part, (Ephesians 1:5 NKJV) because it IS NOT like that found in other false religions.

God has offered the open door for EVERYONE to come into His Kingdom and to be saved, but YOU, through repentance must ask Him to come into your heart and into your life as your Lord and Savior. God wants no one to perish!

2 Peter 3:8-9 New King James Version

“⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward ^[a]us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (NKJV)

Ephesians 1: 15 – 23 New King James Version

“¹⁵ Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding^[c] being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

¹⁹ and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,

²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

²² And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church,

²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” (NKJV)

Also appearing in the genealogies is the tribe of Judah.

Matthew 1: 2 – 3 New International Version

² Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,
³ Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,” (NIV)

Again those are from the genealogies.

This was prophesied in the Old Testament book of Genesis:

Genesis 49:10-12 New International Version

¹⁰ The scepter will not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet,^[a]
until he to whom it belongs^[b] shall come
and the obedience of the nations shall be his.

¹¹ He will tether his donkey to a vine,
his colt to the choicest branch;
he will wash his garments in wine,
his robes in the blood of grapes.

¹² His eyes will be darker than wine,
his teeth whiter than milk.^[c]” (NIV)

Now, let me explain, Christ WAS NOT drinking wine at His crucifixion. The soldiers tried to offer him “sour wine mingled with gall” from a sponge (Matthew 27:34 NKJV), which Christ refused. You can imagine them trying to smash the sponge into His face, which of course squeezed the sponge to release the liquid it contained. This of course would have dirtied His garments. So, that is what those scriptures are referring to.

The following scripture is prophesied in Zechariah 9:9-10 another Old Testament scripture.

Zechariah 9:9-10 New International Version

**“⁹ Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim
and the warhorses from Jerusalem,
and the battle bow will be broken.
He will proclaim peace to the nations.
His rule will extend from sea to sea
and from the River^[a] to the ends of the earth.” (NIV)**

Christ is the one that NOW holds the scepter as King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ had the donkey’s colt untied and road through Jerusalem as King in Matthew 21: 1 - 11. He washed His garments in wine and blood at His crucifixion.

This is the partial fulfillment of that scripture in the New Testament:

Matthew 21:1-11 New International Version

“21 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Say to Daughter Zion,

**‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”^[a]**

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna^[b] to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”^[c]

“Hosanna^[d] in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

¹¹ The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”” (NIV)

Christ is also a direct descendant of Solomon.

Matthew 1: 6 New International Version

**“⁶ and Jesse the father of King David.
David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah’s wife,” (NIV)**

That is taken from the genealogies.

The Old Testament book - The Song of Solomon is supposed to be a conversation between Christ and His bride, meaning believers, but it is also a lesson for husbands and their wives. This New Testament scripture (shown below) also confirms how Christ loves the church and His expectations for His bride.

Ephesians 5:25 - 27 New King James Version (NKJV)

“²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might [\[a\]](#)sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.” (NKJV)

CHRIST IS THE FULFILLMENT OF REST

Matthew 11:27-29 New King James Version

“²⁷ All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*. ²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and find rest for your souls.” (NKJV)

CHRIST IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE ARK AND MERCY SEAT

In the Old Testament God ordered that the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy seat be created. This was prophetic for what Christ would do in the New Testament.

Exodus 25: 17 – 22 New King James Version

¹⁷ “You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits *shall be* its length and a cubit and a half its width. ¹⁸ And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. ¹⁹ Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it *of one piece* with the mercy seat. ²⁰ And the cherubim shall stretch out *their* wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim *shall be* toward the mercy seat. ²¹ You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. ²² And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which *are* on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.” (NKJV)

In the New Testament, Christ set up a temporary tabernacle in His tomb. The angels remained after His resurrection to demonstrate that Christ WAS and IS the mercy seat.

John 20:11-13 New King James Version

“¹¹ But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down *and looked* into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. ¹³ Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”” (NKJV)

CHRIST IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

These New Testament scriptures confirm this:

Hebrews 8: 1 – 13 New King James Version

“8 Now *this is* the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

² a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

³ For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore *it is* necessary that this One also have something to offer.

⁴ For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;

⁵ who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See *that* you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”^[a]

⁶ But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

⁷ For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

⁸ Because finding fault with them, He says: “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—

⁹ not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.

¹⁰ For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

¹¹ None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

¹² For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds^[b] I will remember no more.”^[c]

¹³ In that He says, “A new *covenant*,” He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.” (NKJV)

Luke 17:20-21 New King James Version

“²⁰ Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation;

²¹ nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’^[a] For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.” (NKJV)

Revelation 5:4-6 New King James Version

“⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read^[a] the scroll, or to look at it.

⁵ But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose^[b] its seven seals.”

⁶ And I looked, and behold,^[c] in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.” (NKJV)

Christ was also a descendant of the line of Jacob.

Luke 3: 34 New International Version

³⁴ the son of Jacob,
the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham,
the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,” (NIV)

That scripture was from the genealogies.

This is an Old Testament prophecy.

Genesis 28:10-14 New King James Version

¹⁰ Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran.

¹¹ So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.

¹² Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder *was* set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

¹³ And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: “*I am* the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

¹⁴ Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (NKJV)

The preceding scripture was fulfilled in the New Testament here...

John 1:50-51 New King James Version

“⁵⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”

⁵¹ And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you,

hereafter^[a] you shall see heaven open, and the angels of

God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”” (NKJV)

Through adoption Christ is descended from Abraham.

Matthew 1: 1 – 2 New King James Version

“1 The book of the genealogy^[a] of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

² Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.” (NKJV)

This is an Old Testament prophecy.

Genesis 12:1-3 New King James Version

“12 Now the LORD had said to Abram:

**“Get out of your country,
From your family**

**And from your father’s house,
To a land that I will show you.**

² I will make you a great nation;

I will bless you

And make your name great;

And you shall be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you,

And I will curse him who curses you;

And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”” (NKJV)

That scripture is fulfilled through Christ in the New Testament.

Acts 3:25-26 New King James Version

“²⁵ You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’^[a]

²⁶ To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one *of you* from your iniquities.”” (NKJV)

Christ is in the line of Noah through adoption.

Luke 3: 36 New King James Version

“³⁶ *the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,*” (NKJV)

That is from the genealogies.

This is an Old Testament scripture.

Genesis 6: 13 – 22 New King James Version

“¹³ And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴ Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. ¹⁵ And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark *shall be* three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. ¹⁶ You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it *with* lower, second, and third *decks*. ¹⁷ And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which *is* the breath of life; everything that *is* on the earth shall die. ¹⁸ But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁹ And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every *sort* into the ark, to keep *them* alive with you; they shall be male and female. ²⁰ Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every *kind* will come to you to keep *them* alive. ²¹ And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather *it* to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.”

²² Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.” (NKJV)

That scripture was fulfilled for all mankind here in the next New Testament scripture, because Christ's obedience to His Father in heaven, saves all mankind just as Noah's obedience to God saves Noah and His family as well as all of the animals from the flood...

1 Peter 3:18-22 New American Standard Bible

¹⁸ For Christ also [a]suffered for sins once for all *time, the just for the unjust*, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the [b]spirit; ¹⁹ in [c]which He also went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who once were disobedient when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through *the water*. ²¹ Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God [d]for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.” (NASB)

Christ is in the line of Adam through adoption.

Luke 3: 38 New International Version

**“³⁸ the son of Enosh,
the son of Seth, the son of Adam,
the son of God.” (NIV)**

That is from the genealogies.

Christ has a direct genealogical line back to Adam. In the book of Genesis, God created the first man - Adam and in 1 Corinthians 15: 45 it also refers to Christ as the “last Adam.**” (1 Corinthians 15:45 NKJV)**

1 Corinthians 15:44-46 New King James Version

“⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.**” **The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.****

⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.” (NKJV)

This is another Old Testament prophecy.

Genesis 3:12 - 15 New King James Version

“¹² Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”

¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, “What *is* this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent:

“Because you have done this,

You *are* cursed more than all cattle,

And more than every beast of the field;

On your belly you shall go,

And you shall eat dust

All the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity

Between you and the woman,

And between your seed and her Seed;

He shall bruise your head,

And you shall bruise His heel.”” (NKJV)

That preceding scripture is fulfilled in these New Testament scriptures:

Luke 10:19 New King James Version

“¹⁹ Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” (NKJV)

Hebrews 2: 14 – 18 New King James Version

“¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

¹⁶ For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.

¹⁷ Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

¹⁸ For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.” (NKJV)

Those scriptures will be fulfilled even further at Christ's second coming.

Romans 16:19-20 New King James Version

“¹⁹ For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

²⁰ And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.” (NKJV)

Part 2:

- How Christ's Birthday CAN NEVER be Determined by the Courses of the Priests Formed by King David. Why?
 1. The NUMBER of the Courses of the Priests DID NOT REMAIN AT 24. They WERE NOT Based on a Certain Assigned Number.
 2. They were BASED ON THE NUMBER OF DESCENDANTS OF ELEAZAR AND ITHAMAR – A NUMBER WHICH COULD CHANGE OVER TIME - AND DID. (1 Chronicles 24: 1-5)
 3. IN FACT, LATER GOD SAID, He only Wanted the sons of Zadok to Minister to Him in the Temple. Zadok was a Descendant of ELEAZAR. (Ezekiel 44: 14- 16)

1 Chronicles 24:1-5 New International Version

“24 These were the divisions of the descendants of Aaron:

The sons of Aaron were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. ² But Nadab and Abihu died before their father did, and they had no sons; so Eleazar and Ithamar served as the priests. ³ With the help of Zadok a descendant of Eleazar and Ahimelek a descendant of Ithamar, David separated them into divisions for their appointed order of ministering.

⁴ A larger number of leaders were found among Eleazar’s descendants than among Ithamar’s, and they were divided accordingly:

sixteen heads of families from Eleazar’s descendants

and eight heads of families from Ithamar’s descendants.

⁵ They divided them impartially by casting lots, for there were officials of the sanctuary and officials of God among the descendants of both Eleazar and Ithamar.” (NIV)

Notice in 1 Chronicles 24: verse 3, it says that Zadok is a descendant of Eleazar. This becomes VERY IMPORTANT FOR LATER.

1 Chronicles 24:1-3 New International Version

“24 These were the divisions of the descendants of Aaron:

The sons of Aaron were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. ² But Nadab and Abihu died before their father did, and they had no sons; so Eleazar and Ithamar served as the priests. ³ With the help of Zadok a descendant of Eleazar and Ahimelek a descendant of Ithamar, David separated them into divisions for their appointed order of ministering.” (NIV)

Now you can read the list of the courses in a NEW LIGHT!

1 Chronicles 24:7-18 English Standard Version

“⁷ The first lot fell to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah, ⁸ the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim, ⁹ the fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin, ¹⁰ the seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah, ¹¹ the ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah, ¹² the eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim, ¹³ the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab, ¹⁴ the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer, ¹⁵ the seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizez, ¹⁶ the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkel, ¹⁷ the twenty-first to Jachin, the twenty-second to Gamul, ¹⁸ the twenty-third to Delaiah, the twenty-fourth to Maaziah.” (ESV)

SO WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT TIME?

The book of Ezekiel includes the captivity of Israel in Babylon and when they are released.

Ezekiel 1: 1 - 3 New King James Version

“1 Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth *month*, on the fifth *day* of the month, as I **was among the captives** by the River Chebar, *that* the heavens were opened and I saw visions^[a] of God. ² **On the fifth *day* of the month, which *was* in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin’s captivity,** ³ the word of the LORD came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the ^[b]Chaldeans by the River Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was upon him there.” (NKJV)

Ezekiel 40:1 New King James Version

“40 **In the twenty-fifth year of our captivity,** at the beginning of the year, on the tenth *day* of the month, in the fourteenth year after the city was ^[a]captured, on the very same day the hand of the LORD was upon me; and He took me there.” (NKJV)

Remember, how I told you that **Zadok - a descendant of Eleazar** would become important for later?

In Ezekiel 44 the descendants of Ithamar ARE NO LONGER INCLUDED AS PRIESTS BECAUSE OF THEIR DETESTABLE PRACTICES. THEY WERE TAKEN OUT OF THEIR PRIESTLY POSITIONS AND DEMOTED BECAUSE THEY WERE IDOLATERS!

Ezekiel 44: 10 – 16 New International Version

“¹⁰ “The Levites who went far from me when Israel went astray and who wandered from me after their idols must bear the consequences of their sin. ¹¹ They may serve in my sanctuary, having charge of the gates of the temple and serving in it; they may slaughter the burnt offerings and sacrifices for the people and stand before the people and serve them. ¹² But because they served them in the presence of their idols and made the people of Israel fall into sin, therefore I have sworn with uplifted hand that they must bear the consequences of their sin, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹³ They are not to come near to serve me as priests or come near any of my holy things or my most holy offerings; they must bear the shame of their detestable practices. ¹⁴ And I will appoint them to guard the temple for all the work that is to be done in it.

¹⁵ ““But the Levitical priests, who are descendants of Zadok and who guarded my sanctuary when the Israelites went astray from me, are to come near to minister before me; they are to stand before me to offer sacrifices of fat and blood, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁶ They alone are to enter my sanctuary; they alone are to come near my table to minister before me and serve me as guards.” (NIV)

As is true for EVERY FAMILY LINE – the number of descendants can become LESS OR MORE over time!

When the Israelites came back from Babylon there were problems:

- 1. Older priests died in the captivity in Babylon.**
- 2. People came back gradually.**
- 3. I did a computer search for each of the actual names of the original 24 priests listed in the courses within 1 Chronicles 24:7-18. I wanted to find out what happened to them AFTER the exile to Babylon. Did they continue or did a descendant of theirs take their place? So, I also looked for references made to children **who were related** to the original Priests, because they too could qualify as a priest.**

There were 11 Priests that were no longer Priests which decreased the list to 13.

Some of the original 11 changed jobs, some have no further references after Babylon, some were rejected for the priesthood because they could not prove that they came from one of the original priests. Ezra 2:58 - 62 says if they couldn't present their family records, they were considered unclean and excluded from the priesthood.

Ezra 2:58-62 English Standard Version

“⁵⁸ All the temple servants and the sons of Solomon's servants were 392.

⁵⁹ The following were those who came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer, though they could not prove their fathers' houses or their descent, whether they belonged to Israel: ⁶⁰ the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, and the sons of Nekoda, 652. ⁶¹ Also, of the sons of the priests: the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, and the sons of Barzillai (who had taken a wife from the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called by their name). ⁶² These sought their registration among those enrolled in the genealogies, but they were not found there, and so they were excluded from the priesthood as unclean.” (ESV)

Note: “Immer” (ESV) in v.59 in this case is a place that the people were coming from. It is not the name of a Priest.

THESE ARE THE 11 WHO DID NOT RETURN AS PRIESTS

- 1. ORIGINALLY THE 4th Course SEORIM (KJV)- No other records.**
- 2. ORIGINALLY THE 7th Course HAKKOZ (KJV)- Listed in Ezra 2:61 as not being able to prove his family records and was excluded from the priesthood as unclean.**
- 3. ORIGINALLY THE 12th Course JAKIM (KJV)- No further record.**
- 4. ORIGINALLY THE 13th Course HUPPAH (KJV) - No further record.**
- 5. ORIGINALLY THE 14th Course JESHEBEAB (KJV) - No further record**
- 6. ORIGINALLY THE 17TH Course HEZIR (KJV) - Not shown again as a priest – only shown as a leader of the people.**
- 7. ORIGINALLY THE 18th Course “HAPPIZZEZ” (NIV) - No further record.**
- 8. ORIGINALLY THE 19th Course PETHAHIAH (KJV) – Nehemiah 10:23 He committed sin by marrying foreign wives. Nehemiah 11:24 He served the King – not mentioned as a priest anymore.**
- 9. ORIGINALLY THE 20th Course “JEHEZKEL” (NIV) - No further record.**
- 10. ORIGINALLY 22nd Course GAMUL (KJV) - Jeremiah 48:23 Only other record is that judgment has come to Beth Gamul which means the house of Gamul.**
- 11. ORIGINALLY 23rd Course DELAIAH (KJV) - Explanation given in Ezra 2:60 - 62 as not being able to prove his family records and was excluded from the priesthood as unclean.**

In Ezra 2: 36 – 39 only 4 family names are listed as priests coming back from the captivity in Babylon that were related to the original list: “Jedaiah of the house of Jeshua,” Immer, Harim, and “Pashhur” (ESV) - (1 Chronicles 9: 12 says “Pashur” is the son of Malchijah who was on the original list (ESV). Note: in this scripture “Immer” (ESV) v. 36 IS a Priest.

Ezra 2: 1 – 2 English Standard Version

“2 Now these were the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of those exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried captive to Babylonia. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own town. ²They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah.” (ESV)

In Ezra 2: 3 – 35 a great big list of all the names and the numbers are listed which I am not going to read for you here.

But, in Ezra 2: 36 – 39 the priests and their families are listed specifically. Now, there are also 4 Jedaiah’s, that I could find through a computer search, listed in scripture and they each come from different family lines. You ARE going to see which one is specified here, but in scriptures that will follow the specific family line IS NOT specified. So, each time that name appears, it IS NOT a duplication of the name, but instead it is a Jedaiah from a different family line. The 4 different Jedaiah’s are: “son of Jedaiah, son of Shimri,” (1 Chronicles 4:37 ESV), “Jedaiah the son of Harumaph” (Nehemiah 3:10 ESV) “the sons of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, 973.” (Ezra 2:36 ESV), and “Of the priests: Jedaiah the son of Joiarib,” (Nehemiah 11:10 ESV)

“³⁶ The priests: the sons of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, 973. ³⁷ The sons of Immer, 1,052. ³⁸ The sons of Pashhur, 1,247. ³⁹ The sons of Harim, 1,017.” (Ezra 2: 36 – 39 ESV)

In the scripture shown below, there are only 23 priests. Zerubbabel WAS NOT a priest and should not be counted. As I said before, the priests came back gradually from Babylon, but we do not see in scripture that they ever return to 24, that's because it was NEVER based on a set 24 number. It was originally based on the number of descendants of Eleazar and Ithamar, (1 Chronicles 24: 1 – 5) a number which could increase or decrease over time and as you will see on the next slide – they DO decrease.

“1. Zerubbabel = "sown in Babylon" (Strong's H2216, BLB 2021)

“A. the grandson of king Jehoiachin and leader of the first group of returning exiles from Babylon” (Strong's H2216, BLB 2021)

Jeshua IS a priest and should be counted.

“high priest after the restoration, son of Jehozadak ” (Strong's H3442, BLB, 2022)

The name “Jedaiah” (ESV) appears twice in the list, but it IS NOT a duplication and SHOULD be counted twice. Which family each of these men are from is not specified in Numbers 12: 1 – 7 or in the next scripture - Nehemiah 12:12-21.

Nehemiah 12:1-7 English Standard Version

“12 These are the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra,² Amariah, Malluch, Hattush,³ Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth,⁴ Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah,⁵ Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah,⁶ Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah,⁷ Sallu, Amok, Hilkiah, Jedaiah. These were the chiefs of the priests and of their brothers in the days of Jeshua.” (ESV)

In this list, which in time follows Nehemiah 1:7 (the prior slide)- there are only 21 family line names listed as priests, which means their numbers DECREASED again. This also means NEW LOTS would need to have been taken. When you see at least 2 names listed on each line, it means the position of priest is being passed from one person in the family to another, so each line counts as 1. In the case of "...of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai" (ESV) we read Piltai is replacing 2 individuals. (Nehemiah 12: 17 ESV) and just as a note the Jedaiah that you see in Verse 19 and then the second Jedaiah that you see in Verse 21 are not the same person. You can see that the position of priest is being passed to separate individuals, so it's an entirely different family line.

Nehemiah 12:12-21 English Standard Version

¹² And in the days of Joiakim were priests, heads of fathers' houses:

of Seraiah, Meraiah;

of Jeremiah, Hananiah;

¹³ of Ezra, Meshullam;

of Amariah, Jehohanan;

¹⁴ of Malluchi, Jonathan;

of Shebaniah, Joseph;

¹⁵ of Harim, Adna;

of Meraioth, Helkai;

¹⁶ of Iddo, Zechariah;

of Ginnethon, Meshullam;

¹⁷ of Abijah, Zichri;

of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai;

¹⁸ of Bilgah, Shammua;

of Shemaiah, Jehonathan;

¹⁹ of Joiarib, Mattenai;

of Jedaiah, Uzzi;

²⁰ of Sallai, Kallai;

of Amok, Eber;

²¹ of Hilkiah, Hashabiah;

of Jedaiah, Nethanel." (ESV)

The book of Nehemiah is close to the New Testament chronologically and no further records are given in the Bible as to the count of the priests beyond what we have already mentioned.

The prophet Malachi's book which occurs just before the coming of Christ, contains REBUKES for the Priests (Malachi 2: 1 – 17) (Malachi 3: 6 – 18) and also foretells of Christ's coming as the MOST HIGH PERFECT PRIEST to take their place! (Malachi 3: 1 – 5)

Malachi 2: 1 – 17 English Standard Version

“2 “And now, O priests, this command is for you. 2 If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart. 3 Behold, I will rebuke your offspring,^[a] and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it.^[b] 4 So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the LORD of hosts. 5 My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name. 6 True instruction^[c] was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. 7 For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people^[d] should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. 8 But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, 9 and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.”

10 Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers? 11 Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god. 12 May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant^[e] of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!

13 And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. 14 But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. 15 Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union?^[f] And what was the one God^[g] seeking?^[h] Godly offspring. So guard yourselves^[i] in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. 16 “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her,^[i] says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers^[k] his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”

17 You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, “How have we wearied him?” By saying, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them.” Or by asking, “Where is the God of justice?”” (ESV)

Malachi 3: 6 – 18 English Standard Version

“⁶ For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷ From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’ ⁸ Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. ¹⁰ Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. ¹¹ I will rebuke the devourer^[b] for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. ¹² Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

¹³ “Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ ¹⁴ You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? ¹⁵ And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.”

¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. ¹⁷ “They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸ Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.”(ESV)

Malachi 3: 1 - 5 English Standard Version

“3 “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD.^[a] ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵ “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.”(ESV)

God's word says the beginning of the sacred New Year begins in the month Abib [pronounced Aveeve in the Hebrew] in the SPRING - NOT in the Fall as has been taught incorrectly. On the 14th day of the month Abib [Aveeve] the Lord took the Hebrew people out of bondage to Pharaoh. Christ also takes all mankind who will believe in Him out of bondage to Satan through Christ's death at Passover, His Entombment, His Resurrection, and through the baptism of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Passover is the 14th Abib [pronounced Aveeve in the Hebrew] and the New Year begins on the first day of Abib [Aveeve] ALSO in the Spring. This is important to know so that Christ's approximate time of birth can be established.

Leviticus 23:4-5 King James Version

“4

These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.

5

In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD's passover.” (KJV)

In the Hebrew, the word “even” (KJV) is translated as the word “ereb” pronounced [“eh’rev”] which means “evening” or “night.” (Strong’s H6153, BLB, 2019)

Passover was the 14th Abib

Exodus 12:1-11 New International Version

“12 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ² “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb^[a] for his family, one for each household. ⁴ If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵ The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶ Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸ That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹ Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. ¹⁰ Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD’s Passover.” (NIV)

Deuteronomy 16: 1 - 6 New King James Version

“16 “Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night. ² Therefore you shall sacrifice the Passover to the LORD your God, from the flock and the herd, in the place where the LORD chooses to put His name. ³ You shall eat no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, *that is*, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), that you may remember the day in which you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life. ⁴ And no leaven shall be seen among you in all your territory for seven days, nor shall *any* of the meat which you sacrifice the first day at twilight remain overnight until morning.

**⁵ “You may not sacrifice the Passover within any of your gates which the LORD your God gives you; ⁶ but at the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide, there you shall sacrifice the Passover at twilight, at the going down of the sun, at the time you came out of Egypt. ”
(NKJV)**

Some people believe the lie that this calendar was changed when the Israelites were taken into captivity. This is NOT true and I can prove it to you. In Ezekiel 40:1 it states:

Ezekiel 40:1 New King James Version

“40 In the twenty-fifth year of our captivity, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth *day* of the month, in the fourteenth year after the city was ^[a]captured, on the very same day the hand of the LORD was upon me; and He took me there.” (NKJV)

You see, the Israelites WERE in captivity and it was the beginning of the year in the Spring NOT in the Fall of the year. How do we know it was in the Spring?

Later, in Ezekiel 45: 21 it still says the beginning of the Biblical year is in the **SPRING NOT** in the Fall (as has been taught incorrectly) and the Israelites **WERE** in captivity. What are they celebrating? **Passover**, which I've already proven in Exodus 12: 1 – 11 and Deuteronomy 16: 1 – 5 occurs in the Spring in the first month of the year "Abib" pronounced [Aveeve]. (NKJV)

Ezekiel 45: 21 New King James Version

"²¹ "In the first *month*, on the fourteenth day of the month, you shall observe the Passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten." (NKJV)

The celebration of "Rosh Hashanah" the so-called "Jewish New Year" in the Fall is a FALSE teaching.

There is also a problem with the interpretation in that scripture OR the word that Ezekiel is delivering, because Passover IS NOT a Feast of seven days. Passover lasts one day and the Feast of Unleavened Bread lasts 7 Days. The combination of the 2 Feasts is a total of 8 days according to the ORIGINAL instructions in the book of Leviticus. It is supposed to be God speaking in that scripture and GOD KNOWS what His original instructions were!

Feast of Passover

Leviticus 23:4-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

“⁴ These *are* the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. ⁵ On the fourteenth *day* of the first month at twilight *is* the LORD’s Passover.” (NKJV)

Exodus 12: 8 New King James Version

“⁸ Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it.” (NKJV)

This is also referred to in scripture as the “Preparation Day.” (John 19:31 NKJV) Why? Because on this day work could be done, but on the next day the Feast of Unleavened Bread – no work could be done.

One Day

Feast of Unleavened Bread

Leviticus 23:6-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

“⁶ And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. ⁷ On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no ^[a]customary work on it. ⁸ But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days. The seventh day *shall be* a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work *on it.*’ ” (NKJV)

This day is also referred to in scripture as a “high day” Sabbath (John 19:31 NKJV) or a special Sabbath – because the people could not work.

Seven Days

Numeric Month	Name of the Month	Recordings for pronunciation
“first month” (Exodus 12: 2 NKJV) - occurs in the Spring	“Abib” [pronounced Aveeve] (Deut. 16:1 NKJV) (God Named it) and later also called “Nisan” [Nee-san] (Nehemiah 2:1 NKJV) (Probably of Foreign Origin)	H24 - 'abiyb - Strong's Hebrew Lexicon (KJV). Retrieved on 5/21/18 from: https://www.blueletterbible.org//lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H24&t=KJV
“second month” (Genesis 7:11 NKJV)	“Ziv” (1 Kings 6:1 NKJV) “Zif”(KJV)	H2099 - Ziv - Strong's Hebrew Lexicon (KJV). Retrieved on 5/21/18 from: https://www.blueletterbible.org//lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H2099&t=KJV
“third month” (2 Chronicles 15:10 NKJV)	“Sivan” [See-von] (Esther 8:9 NKJV)	H5510 - Ciyvan - Strong's Hebrew Lexicon (KJV). Retrieved on 5/21/18 from: https://www.blueletterbible.org//lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H5510&t=KJV
“fourth month” (Jeremiah 52:6 NKJV)	4 th Month	
“fifth month” (Jeremiah 52:12 NKJV)	5 th Month	
“sixth month” (Haggai 1:15 NKJV)	“Elul” [El-lul] (Nehemiah 6:15 NKJV) - This month can be identified based on it’s relation in time to the 7 th month in Nehemiah 8:2	H435 - 'Eluwl - Strong's Hebrew Lexicon (KJV). Retrieved on 5/21/18 from: https://www.blueletterbible.org//lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H435&t=KJV
“seventh month” (Leviticus 16:29 NKJV)	“Ethanim” [A-thon] (1 Kings 8:2 NKJV)	H388 'Eythanim- Strong’s Hebrew Lexicon (KJV). Retrieved on May 21, 2018 from: https://www.blueletterbible.org//lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H388&t=KJV
“eighth month” (1 Kings 12:32 NKJV)	“Bul” [Bool] (1 Kings 6:38 NKJV)	H945 - Buwl - Strong's Hebrew Lexicon (KJV). Retrieved on 5/21/18 from ; https://www.blueletterbible.org//lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H945&t=KJV
“ninth month” (Haggai 2:10 NKJV)	“Chislev” [Kiss-lave] (Nehemiah 1:1 NKJV) “Chisleu” KJV)	H3691 - Kiclev - Strong's Hebrew Lexicon (KJV). Retrieved on 5/21/18 from: https://www.blueletterbible.org//lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H3691&t=KJV
“tenth month” (2 Kings 25:1 NKJV)	“Tebeth” [Tay- vayth] (Esther 2:16 NKJV)	H2887 - Tebeth - Strong's Hebrew Lexicon (KJV). Retrieved on 5/21/18 from https://www.blueletterbible.org//lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H2887&t=KJV
“eleventh month” (Deuteronomy 1:3 NKJV)	“Shebat” [Shev – ott] (Zechariah 1:7 NKJV) (“Sebat” KJV)	H7627 - Shēbat - Strong's Hebrew Lexicon (KJV). Retrieved on 5/21/18 from https://www.blueletterbible.org//lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H7627&t=KJV
“twelfth month” (Esther 9:1 NKJV)	“Adar” [Ad-darr] (Esther 3:13 NKJV)	H146 - 'Addar - Strong's Hebrew Lexicon (KJV). Retrieved on 5/21/18 from https://www.blueletterbible.org//lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H146&t=KJV

The NEXT issue: Did the courses of the priests always begin at the start of the New Year – in the month Abib – the month in which Passover occurs? The answer is: No, they did not! How do we know?

When the second temple was dedicated it was dedicated in the month Adar and the courses of the priests, (however many there were at the time), were reinstated then.

Ezra 6: 13 – 18 New International Version

“¹³ Then, because of the decree King Darius had sent, Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and their associates carried it out with diligence. ¹⁴ So the elders of the Jews continued to build and prosper under the preaching of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah, a descendant of Iddo. They finished building the temple according to the command of the God of Israel and the decrees of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia. ¹⁵ The temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

¹⁶ Then the people of Israel—the priests, the Levites and the rest of the exiles—celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy. ¹⁷ For the dedication of this house of God they offered a hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred male lambs and, as a sin offering^[b] for all Israel, twelve male goats, one for each of the tribes of Israel. ¹⁸ And they installed the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their groups for the service of God at Jerusalem, according to what is written in the Book of Moses.” (NIV)

For all of you “Moslems” out there, who will soon be converted to Christianity - notice that even YOUR OWN KINGS TURNED AND BELIEVED in the one TRUE LIVING GOD - the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and THEY HELPED TO BUILD THE 2ND TEMPLE TO HIM!

**What is another reason the ORIGINAL courses of the priests can be ruled out?
Let's look at the first day of creation first!**

Genesis 1: 1 - 5 King James Version

“1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

**2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.
And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.**

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.” (KJV)

So the days ran from DARKNESS TO DARKNESS.

The Days of the Week

The days of the week began at darkness.

Genesis 1: 1 - 5 English Standard Version

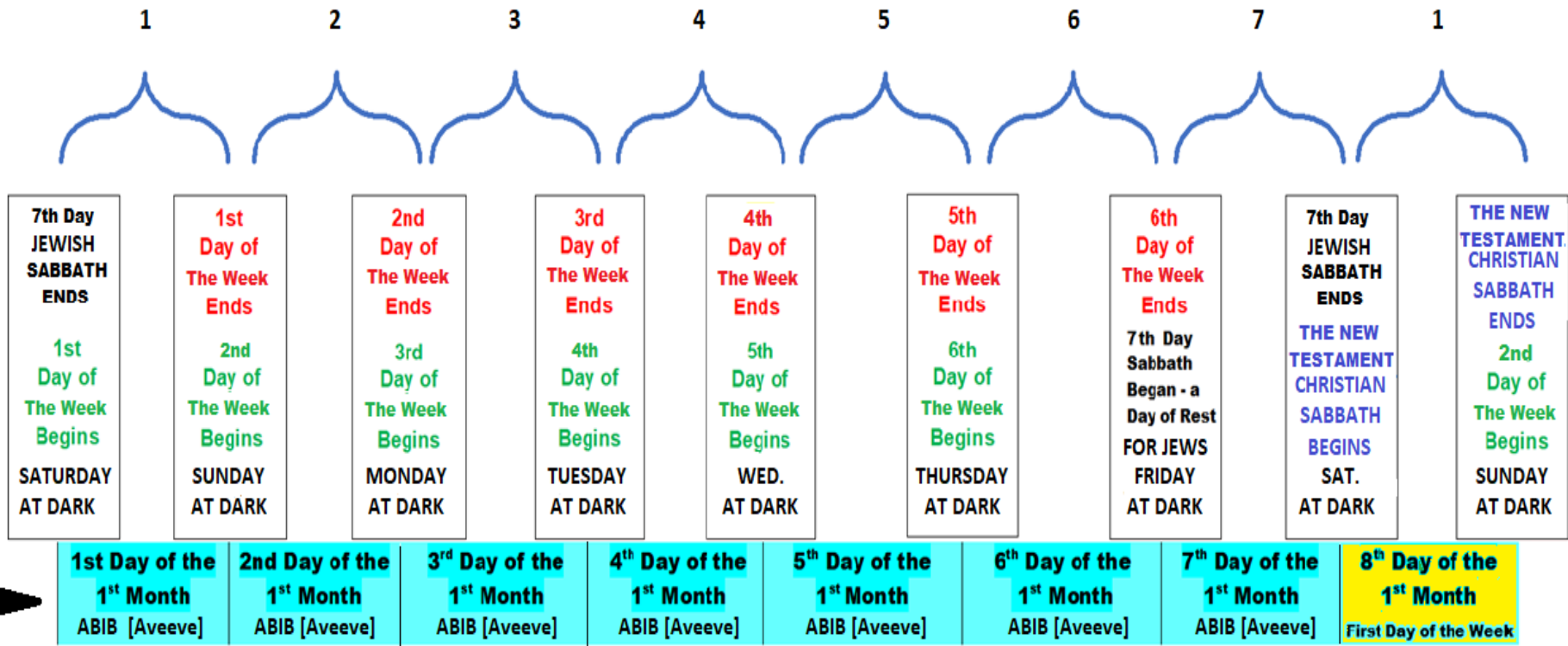
"1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day." (ESV)

This Bible concept of days continues through to the present day. How do we know? We know, because the Bible says in this NEW TESTAMENT scripture that any offense should be resolved BEFORE the sun goes down, because a new day would begin at darkness. IF NOT RESOLVED ON THE SAME DAY, the person would be in sin.

Ephesians 4:26-27 English Standard Version

"26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil."(ESV)

In the Old Testament, at first the months and the days of the week were not named, they were numbered. Then in Exodus 12: 1 - 3 God changed that plan and named the first month of the Year Abib-"Aveeve" in the Hebrew. (Strong's H24, BLB.org)



At first in the Old Testament, the days of the week and months of the year were numbered. Then GOD named the first month Abib pronounced "Aveeve" in the Hebrew. (Strong's H24, BLB.org)

The first day of the week, became the Christian Sabbath, because it was the day of the week that Christ was resurrected. He is "the Alpha and Omega" (Revelation 1:8 (NKJV) and "the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life" (Revelation 2:8 NKJV)

Remember, the days ran from darkness to darkness. The priests served on the Old Testament Sabbaths from Friday darkness to Friday at darkness right up through Christ's time.

This would mean that the first and last days overlapped like this:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7



1 2 3 4 5 6 7

On the 7th Day at DARK the O.T. Sabbath Ended and the First Day of the Week Began. One priest went OFF duty and another priest came ON duty.

Friday dark to Sat. dark. - 1 day (SABBATH BEGINS - A PRIEST COMES ON DUTY AND ANOTHER GOES HOME.)

Sat. dark to Sun. dark - 1 day

Sun. dark - Mon. dark - 1 day

Mon dark - Tues. dark - 1 day

Tues. dark - Weds. dark - 1 day

Weds. dark - Thurs. dark - 1 day

Thurs. dark - Friday dark - 1 day FRIDAY AT DARK SABBATH BEGINS AGAIN AND ONE PRIEST GOES HOME AND

ANOTHER COMES ON SHIFT (2 Kings 11: 4 - 12)

Total Number of days: 7 days

HOW THE COURSES WOULD HAVE RUN IF SOME OF THE ORIGINAL NAMES WERE USED FROM 1 CHRONICLES 24: 7-18

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

1st Course Jehoiarib (KJV)
(pronounced yeh-ho-ya-reeve)



8 9 10 11 12 13 14

2nd Course Jedajah (KJV)
(pronounced yed ah ya)



15 16 17 18 19 20 21

3rd Course Harim (KJV)
(pronounced kha - rim)



22 23 24 25 26 27 28

4th Course Seorim (KJV)
(pronounced seh-o-ream)

29/30

5th Course "Malkijah" (NIV)
pronounced mal key ya



This chart is only shown beginning with the first day of the month as an EXAMPLE of how the months WERE continuous. The courses of the priests DID NOT always begin on the 1st day of the first month. The 1st Temple was dedicated in the 7th month. (1 Kings 8:2) The 2nd Temple was completed and dedicated on the 3rd day of the month Adar (the twelfth month) and the priests WERE installed in their divisions. We know this because of Ezra 6: 13 - 18 - specifically verse 18:

"18 And they installed the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their groups for the service of God at Jerusalem, according to what is written in the Book of Moses." (Ezra 6: 18 NIV)

Here I've used some of the names from the courses shown in 1 Chronicles 24:7-18, but some of the names changed after the exile in Babylon as you have already seen. This proves that the courses were continuous because individual courses overlapped into new months.

Each priest served 7 days. $7 \times 4 = 28$ The 28th Day would be in Seorim's course, but remember the Moon months had approximately 29 - 30 days, so the month COULD NOT be finished with Seorim.

"Malkijah" (NIV) would FINISH OUT one month with part of his course, and BEGIN a NEW MONTH with the rest of it.

The courses were running on a continuous Lunar calendar.

SO WHAT DO WE KNOW NOW?

1. 1 Chronicles 24: 1 - 5 says the priests were NEVER based on a set number of priests. They were based on the number of descendants of Eleazar and Ithamar.
2. Later, in Ezekiel 44:14-16, God instructed that only the sons of Zadok could be priests. Zadok was a descendant of Eleazar.
3. The last Biblical record shows a starting date for the courses of the priests as the third day in the month Adar (Ezra 6: 13 – 18) and we have no way of knowing whether this was adjusted over time.
4. Since I have already proven that the number of priests actually DECREASED to 21 (Nehemiah 1:12-21) - new lots would need to have been taken which would completely change the FREQUENCY of each course and WHEN each individual course occurred.
5. Since NEW lots had to be taken, we have no way of knowing when the Course of Abijah WAS, so Christ's birth CANNOT be determined through the courses of the priests.
6. The courses of the priests were continuous – overlapping months and years. Luke 1: 1-38 has been used IN ERROR in the past to determine when John the Baptist was conceived and also to determine the conception of Christ, but we have no way to prove WHEN the course of Abijah was.

We KNOW we can NEVER prove Christ's birth through the Courses of the Priests. WE DON'T NEED THEM! We only need the words that were spoken out of God's mouth – those that do not return void – those that accomplish what HE desires and achieves the purposes for which HE sent them! (Isaiah 55:11) HIS OWN PROPHETIC WORDS THAT PROVE THAT THE BIRTHDAY OF CHRIST WOULD FIT INTO GOD'S NATURAL CALENDAR!

Part 3:

**How Christ's Approximate Time of Birth CAN be PROVEN
Through the NEW TESTAMENT!**

Luke 1:26-38 New King James Version

“²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name *was* Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; ^[a]blessed *are* you among women!”

²⁹ But ^[b]when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I ^[c]do not know a man?”

³⁵ 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.* ³⁶ Now indeed, **Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.** ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible.”

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.” (NKJV)

John the Baptist’s conception MUST be in the month Abib (Aveeve) for Elizabeth’s 6 Month of pregnancy to also be in the 6th month of the year according to the scriptures. Christ’s conception MUST be in the 6th month of the year for the prophecies of a Spring birth to be fulfilled in the month Ziv.

Each of the URL's here are where the original scripture interpretations appear in the Greek from the Westminster Leningrad Codex. **John the Baptist was conceived in the month Abib in order for Elizabeth to be in her 6th month of pregnancy - in the 6th month** which the ORIGINAL text says. It lines up with the Book of Luke PERFECTLY. LOOK AT THESE SCRIPTURES IN THE INTERLINEAR BIBLE!

<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/luke/1-26.htm>

The fact that it is the 6th month of the year when the angel came to Mary IS ESTABLISHED HERE. THIS IS ALSO THE MONTH CHRIST WAS CONCEIVED!

<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/luke/1-27.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/luke/1-28.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/luke/1-29.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/luke/1-30.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/luke/1-31.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/luke/1-32.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/luke/1-33.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/luke/1-34.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/luke/1-35.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/luke/1-36.htm>

The fact that it is the 6th month of Elizabeth's pregnancy is established here.



CHRIST WAS BORN IN THE SPRING, FULFILLING THE SPOKEN PROPHECIES OF GOD HIMSELF THAT HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LINKED TO HIS NATURAL WORLD!

Jeremiah 33:14-16 New International Version

"14 "The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

15 "In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line;

he will do what is just and right in the land.

16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety.

This is the name by which it[a] will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.'" (NIV)

Elizabeth is in seclusion for 5 Months including the first one. Luke 1: 24 "24 After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion." NIV

We use scriptural references and God's prophetic words to determine approximate time references and base them on estimated conceptions that are made at the beginning of the month.

Elizabeth Conceives

Luke 1: 24 - 25

"24 After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. 25 "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.'" (NIV)

In Luke 1: 26-38 It is the 6th month of the year. The angel Gabriel visits the virgin Mary and tells her she will conceive a Son through the Holy Spirit.

His name will be Jesus - Son of God. He tells her that Elizabeth is bearing a son as well, and that she is in the 6th month of her pregnancy.

This is the 7th Month of Elizabeth's pregnancy & the 2nd Month of Mary's pregnancy.

This is the 8th Month of Elizabeth's pregnancy & the 3rd Month of Mary's pregnancy.

Luke 1:56 "56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home." (NIV)

In Luke 1: 57- 79 John the Baptist is born. He is circumcised, named, and prophesied over.

This is the 4th Month of Mary's Pregnancy.

Isaiah 11 : 1 - 5 New International Version

"11 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord— 3 and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; 4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist." (NIV)

Pronunciations thanks to recordings on www.blueletterbible.org

In Luke 2: 1-20

Caesar Augustus commands a census be taken and the people would be taxed. Everyone must register in their native city. Joseph takes Mary to the City of David, because he belongs to the lineage of David. An inn has no rooms, so they are given a stable to sleep in. Mary gives birth to the Christ.

CHRIST IS BORN!

Abib	Ziv	Sivan	4th Month	5th Month	Elul	Ethanim	Bul	Chislev	Tebeth	Shebat	Adar	Abib	Ziv
[ah-veeve]	[ziv]	[see-von]	4th Month	5th Month	[el-lul]	[ay-thon]	[bool]	[kiss-lave]	[tay-vayth]	[shev-ot]	[ah-dar]	[ah-veeve]	[ziv]
1st Month	2nd Month	3rd Month	4th Month	5th Month	6th Month	7th Month	8th Month	9th Month	10th Month	11th Month	12th Month	1st Month	2nd Month

When the angel Gabriel, spoke to Mary, His spoken words from GOD created the Christ within Mary's womb and **notice she came into agreement with God.** Once the angel leaves, Mary prepares and leaves to visit her relative Elizabeth. Luke 1:39 says, she "hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea," (Luke 1:39, NIV) This would be a trek of approximately 99 miles which Mary would have made on a camel with a caravan and probably arrived within 3 or 4 days-time. Once Mary arrives at Elizabeth's home, Elizabeth knows immediately that Mary is carrying the Savior of the world without having had any advanced contact with one another. **The 6th month is about Sept.** It was still warm and dry enough for Mary to come to see Elizabeth and she stays - the scriptures say: "about 3 months." (Luke 1:56 NIV) This means Mary would be with Elizabeth up until just before Elizabeth gives birth, because winter will be coming. Remember, Elizabeth is an older person and may have needed assistance in the home.

Mary is able to leave to go home before winter sets in. **The ninth month will be winter and the 10th, 11th, and 12th months will also be winter. It will be cold and rainy.** We've already read scriptures in Ezra 10: verses 7 -14 where the people were called to a meeting in the pouring down rain and they were cold and didn't like it. We read in the book of Jeremiah 36:22, how the king was sitting in his "winter-house" in front of a fire. (YLT) Remember, there were no glass windows. The people would hang a rug or blanket over the windows to provide warmth. **We read numerous other scriptures that PROVE that people stayed inside during the winter months. Mary is ALSO home during those winter months during part of her pregnancy.** Remember, she is betrothed to Joseph when this baby is conceived by the Holy Spirit. God reveals to Elizabeth that Mary is carrying the Messiah, but there is no evidence in scripture, that this has been divulged to Mary's or Joseph's family members, other than Elizabeth and Zachariah. So, during part of her pregnancy where she will be showing at a greater rate - Mary will be inside for winter, she will have layers of heavier clothes on that will probably hide the fact that she's pregnant to everyone else, and she will not suffer persecution and gossip from other people, because she has been given this Godly assignment. It was God's divine protection!

Just as Spring arrives, God steps in to protect them again when they are called to go from Nazareth to Bethlehem, Judea for a census. Would they have traveled on a donkey? Probably not, donkeys are great pack animals, but are too unpredictable for riding for 99 miles. A camel could get them where they needed to go within approximately 3 or 4 days, provide milk, and even fur for bedding. (Herbison, L. & Frame, G. W. 2022,) We've already discussed the advantages of going by a camel caravan to this region. (Luke 10:25 – 37).

Everyone thinks staying in that stable under the main inn was a terrible thing but actually, when so many people would be in town for events like the census event, people would be sleeping in courtyards or even in the streets, so in comparison Mary and Joseph's accommodations don't seem so bad. One would think that maybe Zachariah and Elizabeth would have been involved in helping them, but no mention is made of them or any other family member even attending the circumcision or consecration of the Christ. God ALWAYS makes a way though doesn't He?

Maybe the inn keeper gave them a free stay?

Maybe Mary and Joseph had advanced knowledge from the Lord about His provision from the Magi and were able to make a deal to put off paying until the Magi show up - just in time - at the end of Mary's cleansing period and provide the money?

We may never know exactly – but THIS we DO KNOW – God is faithful!

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1st Month	2nd Month	3rd Month	4th Month	5th Month	6th Month	7th Month	8th Month	9th Month	10th Month	11th Month	12th Month	1st Month	2nd Month

CHRIST HAD TO BE BORN IN THE MONTH ZIV TO FULFILL HIS OWN PROPHECIES AND TO MEET THE NEEDS OF EVERYONE INCLUDED IN THE PROPHECIES!

The word “Ziv” (NIV) or “zif” (NKJV) (pronounced “ziv”) means:

“1.Zif = "brightness"

**1. name of the 2nd month of the year, corresponding to Apr-May”
(Strong’s, H2099, BLB 2023)**

God brings this FULL CIRCLE through the Hebrew definition of the Olive tree!

“zavit” [pronounced “zay-yith”] Strong’s, H2132, BLB, 2023

“probably from an unused root (akin to H2099); an olive (as yielding illuminating oil), the tree, the branch or the berry:—olive (tree, -yard), Olivet.” (Strong’s, H2132, BLB, 2023)

and

H2099 means:

“1.Zif = "brightness"”

**1. name of the 2nd month of the year, corresponding to Apr-May”
(Strong’s, H2099, BLB 2023)**

Solomon ordered that the first temple's foundation was to begin being laid in the month Ziv – the second month.

1 Kings 6:1 New International Version

“6 In the four hundred and eightieth^[a] year after the Israelites came out of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, the second month, he began to build the temple of the LORD.” (NIV)

1 Kings 6:37 New International Version

“³⁷ The foundation of the temple of the LORD was laid in the fourth year, in the month of Ziv.” (NIV)

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE SECOND TEMPLE was begun to be laid in the second month – the month Ziv.

Ezra 3:8 New International Version

“⁸ In the second month of the second year after their arrival at the house of God in Jerusalem, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak and the rest of the people (the priests and the Levites and all who had returned from the captivity to Jerusalem) began the work. They appointed Levites twenty years old and older to supervise the building of the house of the LORD.” (NIV)

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE THIRD TEMPLE – THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST – WAS ALSO LAID AT HIS BIRTH – IN THE MONTH ZIV! THEN IT WAS DESTROYED AT HIS CRUCIFIXION AND REBUILT AT HIS RESURRECTION JUST LIKE HE SAID IT WOULD BE!

John 2: 13 - 20 New International Version

“¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”^[c]

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

²⁰ They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.” (NIV)

Part 4:

Scriptural Evidence as to WHY God DOES NOT Want a Holiday called “Christmas” – a Holiday that Includes Idolatry and That DOES NOT Bring Honor to HIM.

Witchcraft was punishable by death in the Old Testament.

Deuteronomy 18: 10 – 13 New International Version

“¹⁰ Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, ¹¹ or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. ¹² Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD; because of these same detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. ¹³ You must be blameless before the LORD your God.” (NIV)

Exodus 22:18 New International Version

“¹⁸ “Do not allow a sorceress to live.” (NIV)

...and remember those ARE in the Old Testament.

In 1 Samuel 28: 3 it says Saul had obeyed the Lord by casting all of the “mediums and spiritists from the land”, but once Samuel dies, and Saul cannot hear the Lord, He disobeys and asks for a medium to consult Samuel who is dead. (NIV) As a result of this disobedience, He was rejected as king and replaced by David.

This is why consulting the dead and praying to the dead is such a sin today!

1 Samuel 28: 1 - 4 New International Version

“28 In those days the Philistines gathered their forces to fight against Israel. Achish said to David, “You must understand that you and your men will accompany me in the army.”

2 David said, “Then you will see for yourself what your servant can do.”

Achish replied, “Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life.”

3 Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in his own town of Ramah. Saul had expelled the mediums and spiritists from the land.

4 The Philistines assembled and came and set up camp at Shunem, while Saul gathered all Israel and set up camp at Gilboa. 5 When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart. 6 He inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets. 7 Saul then said to his attendants, “Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her.”

“There is one in Endor,” they said.” (NIV)

1 Samuel 28: 8 – 14 New International Version

“⁸ So Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes, and at night he and two men went to the woman. “Consult a spirit for me,” he said, “and bring up for me the one I name.”

⁹ But the woman said to him, “Surely you know what Saul has done. He has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why have you set a trap for my life to bring about my death?”

¹⁰ Saul swore to her by the LORD, “As surely as the LORD lives, you will not be punished for this.”

¹¹ Then the woman asked, “Whom shall I bring up for you?”

“Bring up Samuel,” he said.

¹² When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice and said to Saul, “Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!”

¹³ The king said to her, “Don’t be afraid. What do you see?”

The woman said, “I see a ghostly figure^[a] coming up out of the earth.”

¹⁴ “What does he look like?” he asked.

“An old man wearing a robe is coming up,” she said.

Then Saul knew it was Samuel, and he bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.” (NIV)

1 Samuel 28: 15 - 19 New International Version

“¹⁵ Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?”

“I am in great distress,” Saul said. “The Philistines are fighting against me, and God has departed from me. He no longer answers me, either by prophets or by dreams. So I have called on you to tell me what to do.”

¹⁶ Samuel said, “Why do you consult me, now that the LORD has departed from you and become your enemy? ¹⁷ The LORD has done what he predicted through me. The LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hands and given it to one of your neighbors—to David. ¹⁸ Because you did not obey the LORD or carry out his fierce wrath against the Amalekites, the LORD has done this to you today. ¹⁹ The LORD will deliver both Israel and you into the hands of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also give the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines.”” (NIV)

Ezekiel 13:17-19 New Living Translation

“¹⁷ “Now, son of man, speak out against the women who prophesy from their own imaginations. ¹⁸ This is what the Sovereign LORD says: What sorrow awaits you women who are ensnaring the souls of my people, young and old alike. You tie magic charms on their wrists and furnish them with magic veils. Do you think you can trap others without bringing destruction on yourselves? ¹⁹ You bring shame on me among my people for a few handfuls of barley or a piece of bread. By lying to my people who love to listen to lies, you kill those who should not die, and you promise life to those who should not live.”(NLT)

You've already read that magic was a sin in the Old Testament, and magic, idolatry, and sorcery/witchcraft are STILL sins in the NEW Testament:

Galatians 5:19-21 New King James Version

“¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: [a]adultery, [b]fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, [c]murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” (NKJV)

Also, in the New Testament, those who had previously practiced such things burned their books to get out of sin.

Acts 19:19-20 New King James Version

“¹⁹ Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned *them* in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and *it* totaled fifty thousand *pieces* of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.” (NKJV)

This is why Harry Potter books and similar genres are an abomination to God.

This is why Paganism within the church is offensive to God. God is NOT honored through lies. The TRUTH is Christ was born in the month Ziv in the Spring. Everyone should celebrate the nativity of Christ at the CORRECT time of year, but without paganism involved. PRAISE HIM! GLORIFY HIM! EXEMPLIFY HIM IN YOUR BEHAVIORS! Christ spoke in:

John 14:6 New King James Version

“6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (NKJV)

Christ is not honored by a so-called holiday that adds to His name in a word called “Christmas.” The word CHRIST is not even heard in the word “Christmas.”

Christ is not honored by trees that follow Pagan practices. You ARE NOT denying Christ when you don't participate in "Christmas." In fact, you are doing the exact opposite. You will be obeying Him and respecting Him.

Anything that contributes to a lie is additional idolatry. It just piles on more and more lies. When I first came to Christ, the Lord even told me to get rid of my "Christmas" tree and He gave me a scripture to go along with it - Jeremiah 10: 1-16. The Lord said that the practice of setting up a tree and decorating it with balls just continues an Old Testament practice of idolatry and He said NOT to do it. I obeyed. Later, I found out MANY people have been instructed to do the same thing.

Jeremiah 10:1-5 New King James Version

“10 Hear the word which the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel.

2 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.**

**3 For the customs of the peoples *are* [a]futile;
For *one* cuts a tree from the forest,
The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax.**

**4 They decorate it with silver and gold;
They fasten it with nails and hammers
So that it will not topple.**

**5 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.” (NKJV)**

Jeremiah 10:6 – 9 New King James Version

⁶ Inasmuch as *there is* none like You, O LORD
(You *are* great, and Your name *is* great in might),
⁷ Who would not fear You, O King of the nations?
For this is Your rightful due.
For among all the wise *men* of the nations,
And in all their kingdoms,
⁷ Who would not fear You, O King of the nations?
For this is Your rightful due.
For among all the wise *men* of the nations,
And in all their kingdoms,
There is none like You.
⁸ But they are altogether dull-hearted and foolish;
A wooden idol *is* a [b](#)worthless doctrine.
⁹ Silver is beaten into plates;
It is brought from Tarshish,
And gold from Uphaz,
The work of the craftsman
And of the hands of the metalsmith;
Blue and purple *are* their clothing;
They *are* all the work of skillful *men*.” (NKJV)

Pronunciations “Uphaz” NKJV = oo-faz, “Tarshish” (NKJV) = Tair- sheesh]

Jeremiah 10: 10 – 15 New King James Version

**“¹⁰ But the LORD *is* the true God;
He *is* the living God and the everlasting King.
At His wrath the earth will tremble,
And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.**

¹¹ Thus you shall say to them: “The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens.”

**¹² He has made the earth by His power,
He has established the world by His wisdom,
And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.**

**¹³ When He utters His voice,
There is a [\[c\]](#)multitude of waters in the heavens:
“And He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth.
He makes lightning for the rain,
He brings the wind out of His treasures.”**

**¹⁴ Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge;
Every metalsmith is put to shame by an image;
For his molded image *is* falsehood,
And *there is* no breath in them.**

**¹⁵ They *are* futile, a work of errors;
In the time of their punishment they shall perish.” (NKJV)**

Jeremiah 10: 16 New King James Version

**“¹⁶ The Portion of Jacob *is* not like them,
For He *is* the Maker of all *things*,
And Israel *is* the tribe of His inheritance;
The LORD of hosts *is* His name.” (NKJV)**

Verse 5 of that preceding scripture which reads...

“5

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.”” (Jeremiah 10:5 NKJV)

...is speaking about the trees themselves being upright NOT the people who put them up. In verse 8 it says that the tree is a “wooden idol.” (NKJV)

John 4:23-24 English Standard Version

“²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and **truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and **truth**.””**

There are OTHER lies associated with December 25th!

DOES “SANTA” KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT WHETHER A CHILD HAS DONE RIGHT OR WRONG?

NO.

IS THERE AN “ELF” THAT SITS ON A SHELF WATCHING EVERYTHING YOUR CHILDREN DO AND REPORTING BACK TO THE IDOL CALLED “SANTA?” NO.

DOES GOD TEACH YOU TO LIE TO YOUR CHILDREN? NO.

DOES GOD WANT YOUR CHILDREN TO LIE TO ONE ANOTHER? NO.

Then why would a Christian ever believe the lie that it was

O.K. to do so?

WHY WOULD ANY CHRISTIAN BELIEVE THE LIE THAT THIS PLEASURES GOD?

IT DOESN'T, HE NEVER WANTED IT IN THE FIRST PLACE, BUT NO ONE EVER ASKED HIM!

God is NOT honored by a man called “St. Nicholas,” “Santa,” or “Kris Kringle” who claims to have God-like characteristics – supposedly knowing everything that a child has done that is inappropriate and appropriate. There is only one ALL-KNOWING GOD and that is Father God, the Lord Jesus Christ - His Son, and the Holy Spirit – the Blessed Trinity.

God says we are NOT to lie to one another.

Colossians 3:9 - 10 New International Version

“9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.” (NIV)

God is not honored by lying threats made to children like “Santa is watching and sees what you are doing wrong. He’ll bring you coal instead of presents.”

God is NOT honored by a “magic” sleigh and “magic” reindeer. He is NOT honored by lies that say that “St. Nicholas” or “Santa” brought the gifts to children when it really was their parents/others.

God is not honored by telling children lies about hearing “Santa” on the roof and his coming down the chimney.

Can God give a gift to someone? ABSOLUTELY! He gave His children manna in the desert! He also instructs people to give gifts to others, but His gifts are good NOT evil.

God IS a miracle working God, but He DOESN'T use “magic wands” He uses MIRACLES! The Apostles NEVER attributed miracles to themselves

– they gave God ALL of the glory!

God is NOT honored by gifts that contain “witchcraft,” “magic,” “sorcery,” foul language, violence, and adult content that is totally inappropriate for children either. If you purchase good things for your children, then God gets the glory. If not, then you are following the devil NOT God. God is NOT honored by a lie that says His Son was born on December 25th when instead He was born in the Spring.

Does a giant rabbit come every year and deliver baskets to your children?

Does he leave eggs in your yard for the children?

God is not honored by the so-called “Easter Bunny” who brings baskets of unhealthy candy. God is not honored by “fairies,” “elves,” “fairy godmothers,” “gnomes,” “leprechauns,” and other characters who with their so-called “magical” powers take glory away from God and what HE REALLY gives to His children and instead attributes them to fantasy creatures. THAT IS CALLED IDOLATRY. God is NOT honored by false teachings. GOD DOES NOT LIE, NOR ACCEPT LIES AS TRUTH!

Even the Virgin Mary and dead saints have been set up as idols. Mary was highly favored by God, but HE DID NOT make her a member of the God Head. Did the Virgin Mary give you your Salvation? Will she save you from the pit of hell? Will dead saints save you from the pit of hell? NO. ONLY CHRIST WILL SAVE YOU! GET RID OF YOUR IDOLS AND YOUR PRAYERS TO IDOLS.

John 14:12-14 English Standard Version

“¹² Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me^[a] anything in my name, I will do it.” (ESV)

John 15:15-17 English Standard Version

“¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants,^[a] for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.” (ESV)

John 16: 23– 24 English Standard Version

“...Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” (ESV)

Numbers 23:19 English Standard Version

**“¹⁹ God is not man, that he should lie,
or a son of man, that he should change his mind.
Has he said, and will he not do it?
Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?” (ESV)**

Christian churches have been believing a lie that God WANTED the so-called “holy day” of December 25th celebrated, when instead He wanted the TRUTH TOLD and the Spring celebration of Birth, Crucifixion, and Resurrection to be celebrated to HONOR HIM.

I asked the Lord what He would prefer as a celebration.

He said this:

“I would expect worship and praise, and an obedient church with no idolatry associated with it.”

God is not honored when His children become idolaters in using “Christmas” decorations, and also manufacture, buy, and sell them.

The Lord said, “The manufacturing of these idolatrous items come mostly from foreign countries who need Him and the churches have been standing in the way of these people coming to the Lord through the false teachings associated with His birthday and through buying these idolatrous items that they unknowingly manufacture and sell.”

The Lord used these words in the Old Testament and He said to use them now:

Amos 5:21 New Living Translation

**“21 “I hate all your show and pretense—
the hypocrisy of your religious festivals and solemn assemblies.”
(NLT)**

Christ's name, the words - "Christian" (Acts 26:28 KJV) and "Christians" (Acts 11:26 KJV) cannot be added to, it says so in scripture:

Revelation 22:18-19 New King James Version

"¹⁸ ^[a]For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, ^[b]God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God^[c] shall take away his part from the ^[d]Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book." (NKJV)

Christ addressed this issue with the Jewish people of creating traditions based on lies:

Mark 7:6-9 New International Version

"⁶ He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

**"These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.**

**⁷ They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.'^[a]**

⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."

⁹ And he continued, "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe^[b] your own traditions!" (NIV)

THE SAME HOLDS TRUE FOR SOME CHRISTIANS TODAY.

John 14:6 New King James Version

“6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (NKJV)

Christ doesn't tell lies nor teach lies to others.

God does not want His children lying nor teaching lies either.

Every time you lie to your children about this, you create an entry point into your own life and into your children's lives who believe it. Children then learn from you, as a parent, that it is okay to lie. That is not true.

Ephesians 4:25-26 English Standard Version

“²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,” (ESV)

Christ is coming for His bride – the church - and He expects it to be without spot or wrinkle. Christians can no longer participate in the lie of a December 25th birthday nor the idolatry associated with it.

Ephesians 5:25-27 New King James Version

“²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might [a]sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.” (NKJV)

Christ cannot come again until ALL idolatry is removed from His church OR He will come for those who ARE clean and God only knows what will happen to the others.

Luke 13:23-30 New King James Version

**“²³ Then one said to Him, “Lord, are there few who are saved?”
And He said to them, ²⁴“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.²⁵ When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open for us,’ and He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know you, where you are from,’ ²⁶ then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.’ ²⁷ But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.’ ²⁸ There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. ²⁹ They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last.”” (NKJV)**

When Christ came to this earth to die for our sins and brought His Resurrection life and Resurrection power to each of us to give us NEW LIFE – He gave everything He could give us – ETERNAL SALVATION – THE HOPE OF EVERLASTING LIFE!

FATHER GOD GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON – THE LORD JESUS CHRIST - AS THE MOST GLORIOUS GIFT TO MANKIND – THE BEST GIFT THAT THEY COULD EVER GET, BECAUSE WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE! WHAT ELSE COULD MANKIND WANT?

GOD GETS ALL OF THE GLORY, NOT OTHER PEOPLE NOR IDOLS CREATED BY MAN.

John 3:16-20 New King James Version

“¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.” (NKJV)

On the next slide, there is a prayer of confession. In order for you to be truly free, you will need to stop participating in these practices and you will need to destroy everything associated with these pagan practices. You can't keep them, you can't give them away, and you can't sell them, because if you do you will only be passing on idolatry to someone else.

Let us repent for believing and teaching lies about this. Pray this prayer with someone else:

Lord Jesus Christ,

We confess all the times we believed the lie that celebrating “Christmas” as Christ’s nativity and using the pagan decorations that we’ve used and pagan traditions that we’ve used were pleasing in your sight. We confess all the times we’ve added to your name by using the word “Christmas.” We confess all the times we’ve lied to children about “Santa Claus,” “Saint Nicholas,” and “Kris Kringle” and have set him up as an idol attributing God like characteristics to him. We confess all the times we have not honored the TRUTH instead of lies. We confess all the times and ways we have allowed and insisted that this idolatry be included in our homes/schools/work/churches/and government settings and condemned those who didn’t participate in it. We confess all of the times we have believed and followed false belief systems. We confess all the times we’ve used our spirit, soul, and bodies, mind, will, and emotions in opposition to you - your kingdom, your word, and your will, either

knowingly or unknowingly. We repent, and we renounce, all evil forces that have attached themselves to those sins. We ask that you tear down all evil strongholds, break every evil yoke, tie, and curse, and cleanse us of all unrighteousness. Lord Jesus Christ, we believe that you are the Son of God and that you died on the cross to save us from our sins. We believe in your resurrection, and your resurrection life for ourselves. We ask that you come into our hearts, into relationship with us as our Lord and Savior. We ask for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the baptism by Holy fire. We ask that you guide and direct us, protect us all the days of our lives, and help us to fulfill YOUR plans for our lives in Christ Jesus. We ask that you destroy what needs to be destroyed, keep what needs to be kept, change what needs to be changed, and create what needs to be created and that nothing would ever be added to or taken away from your plans for our lives in Christ Jesus. We thank you Lord Jesus, we believe that we have already received the answers to our prayers. In the MIGHTY name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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Isaiah 61:11

"11 For as the soil makes the
sprout come up and a
garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign LORD will make
righteousness and praise spring up
before all nations." (NIV)

