

# The Seven Days of Christmas



## 7 Days of Discovery!!!

*Take a seven day journey and see how Jesus revealed himself to the shepherds, wise men, Joseph, Mary and the world!*

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Scriptures quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV)

## *Day 1 - A Savior Promised*

### *Isaiah 9:6-7*

*6 For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
7 Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

For thousands of years people had been waiting for their Messiah to come. He had been prophesied as far back as Adam and Eve and His appearance had been desperately awaited. Generation after generation had felt the burden of sin and had hoped with all hope that they would see their Savior come. Isaiah the prophet wrote the above promise that a Savior would come. He would be a “*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*” Peace was something that had rarely been experienced throughout history and the promise of peace was more than they could imagine. Jesus was born in a time of enforced peace; it was a peace that only produced a lack of war. The Romans ruled the world and no one was strong enough to challenge them, so there was peace. The peace they enforced was only an external appearance of peace, but on the inside, the Jewish people were in distress. The peace that Jesus came to bring was a peace that went far beyond external circumstance, the peace He came to bring was peace to the soul and spirit! He came to forgive the sin that creates division between God and man and to bring wholeness and rest to one’s mind and spirit. This peace is achieved only through salvation. The salvation Jesus came to bring was not from earthly governments, it was from the stronghold of sin and the judgment that un-forgiven sin would face. If you have ever been charged with a crime, whether you did it or not, you know the weight of judgment. The promise of this Savior was to bring a peace (true peace) that had no end!

## **Day 2 - A Savior Revealed to Shepherds**

### **Luke 2:8–20**

#### **The Shepherds and the Angels**

*<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,*

*<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest,*

*and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*

*<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

The first ones to see the Savior, after Joseph and Mary, were the shepherds. I think Jesus chose to reveal himself to the shepherds for several reasons. I think the first reason is because the shepherds were the ones that cared for the lambs. Jesus was the Lamb of God, The New Covenant Passover Lamb, who would be sacrificed for our sins. What a way to first reveal yourself, to those that were caring for the Old Covenant Passover lambs. The second reason is because the shepherds were the outcasts of society. They were dirty and looked down on, treated without respect or care. *In Luke 5:32 Jesus said ‘I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.’* It is no wonder that Jesus appeared to those that others looked down on. It is a reminder that Jesus loves the greatest and least, the richest and poorest. When the shepherds heard about Jesus, they jumped at the chance to see the Savior. I hope we all do the same!

## *Day 3 - A Savior Revealed to Wise Men*

### *Matthew 2:1–12*

#### **The Visit of the Wise Men**

**2** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, **2** saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” **3** When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; **4** and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. **5** They told him,

“In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

**6** “‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

**7** Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. **8** And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” **9** After listening to the king, they went on their way.

And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.

**10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

**11** And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

**12** And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Wise men from the east came to worship the new born king! These wise men were likely worshipers of other gods and with that being the case, make it known that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess Jesus as Lord and Savior! They came to the child and brought gifts. Although they probably didn't know what their gifts represented at the time, we see that they were perfectly fit for the Messiah. The gift of gold is a symbol of royalty; Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords! Frankincense was used as aroma with which God was worshiped so this declared Jesus' deity! And the gift of myrrh (an ingredient used for burial) showed that Jesus had come to give his life for mankind.

## **Day 4 - A Savior Revealed to Joseph**

### **Matthew 1:18–25 The Birth of Jesus Christ**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”  
(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

I can't imagine what it would have been like to be Joseph. He had found the woman he wanted to marry and then he found out that she was pregnant with someone else's child. Joseph could have demanded that she be put to death, but he did not want her to die or even be put to shame, so he had made up his mind to divorce her quietly. I don't know if Mary pleaded her case with Joseph to try to convince him that this child was from God and that she was still a virgin, but even if she did, there is no chance he would have bought it. An angel of the Lord had much better success with convincing Joseph when he appeared to Joseph in a dream and explained that the child was from God. Not only was Joseph's faith in Mary restored, but he was honored to be the stand-in, earthly father of the Son of God. Talk about some heavy shoes to fill! Despite it all, Joseph was honored to fill them and followed through with his commitment to Mary because God had assured him that the Savior was coming and He would be born to Mary!

## **Day 5 - A Savior Revealed to Mary**

**Luke 1:26–38**

### **Birth of Jesus Foretold**

<sup>26</sup> *In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."*

<sup>34</sup> *And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"*

<sup>35</sup> *And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.*

Teenage mothers are having children all the time now, but in Mary's day this was a huge disgrace. An angel appeared to Mary and explained that she was favored by God, that she would bear God's Son, and that He would reign forever! What did this mean for Mary? It meant that her world would be turned upside-down. She could be put to death for this act and most certainly Joseph would reject her. I love the faith that Mary had; it is no wonder that God chose her to bring Jesus into the world. She says, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." She had the faith to believe that if God would give her this child, she would be able to give birth to Him and raise Him. Because of her faith Mary was able to see Jesus come into this world, live a sinless life, die for the sins of mankind and rise from the grave! I love the words from the song "Mary Did You Know?" – "Mary did you know, that the child that you delivered would soon deliver you?" And that is just what Jesus did!

## **Day 6 - A Savior Is Born**

**Luke 2:1-7**

### **The Birth of Jesus Christ**

**2** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** And all went to be registered, each to his own town. **4** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to 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, who was with child. **6** And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Creator of the Universe and the Savior of the world was born. He was born in the humblest of places, a stable. Joseph and Mary had arrived in Bethlehem and were unable to find a place to stay. The inn was full and it was time for His birth, so the Savior was placed in the manger. As I read this and think about it, I wonder if we have room in our lives for Jesus. I can't imagine being the innkeeper that actually looked Joseph and Mary in the face and said, "I don't have room for you." Although he didn't know it at the time, he was saying, "I don't have room in my house for the Savior of the world." This is the Savior that would bring sight to the blind, open deaf ears, feed thousands with a boy's lunch, and give His life for the sins of mankind. He was the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Today we have a similar situation. The King of kings and the Lord of lords wants to take up residence in the hearts of mankind. Look at what he says in *Revelation 3:20* "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.*" Jesus' desire is to live in you, yet so many close the door to Him. 2000 years ago the innkeeper closed the door to Him and today millions of people are closing still closing that door. Today I pray that you will open the door to Jesus. The Savior of the world has come, and He wants to live with you and in you. Open up your heart and your life to Him, and you will begin to unwrap the greatest gift ever given!

## **Day 7 - A Savior Revealed to You**

### **Col 1:26–27 NLT**

*<sup>26</sup>This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people. <sup>27</sup>For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.*

The celebration of Christmas is amazing. We are filled with joy and delight on this day. We are moved inwardly as we sing classic Christmas hymns and fun cartoon tunes! We open gifts that we give in honor of the gifts that were given to Christ by the wise men and the gifts He gave to us. The greatest part of it all is that these gifts keep giving! The manger scene of Christmas is the entrance point, but the real celebration is CHRIST IN YOU! This is why we celebrate Christmas. Because of Christ, we experience the forgiveness of sins, true inner peace, and the joy of being children of God! We get to receive the gifts of love, joy, peace, grace, mercy, hope, and forgiveness daily! We are able to experience them because Jesus has not counted our sins against us. Since we owed a debt that we could not pay, God transferred the balance of our sins (past, present and future) to Christ's account, and then poured out His judgment on Christ. Because Christ was the recipient of the wrath of God that we are due, we do not have to pay the debt. We simply need to sign the agreement to let Christ pay the debt and be Lord of our affairs! We call this presenting ourselves as living sacrifices. We open the door of our hearts and invite Jesus to take the lead, and then we respond according to His intended design. He still leaves us with the freedom to make choices, but He sets the direction we are to walk in. Because of this amazing gift that He has given to us, we are able to praise Him with all that we have and are. We are no longer broken, feeble, and unable to stand before God in worship, because spiritually speaking, we are whole, renewed and right before His throne. If you have never asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, I encourage you to do that right now. The true mystery of Christmas is only revealed when you open your heart and experience CHRIST IN YOU!