

# "<u>The Greatest Love Story Ever Told!</u>" MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

## - This is not just a story, it's history, it is HIS-STORY!!!

## > RECEIVE THE GREATEST LOVE STORY EVER TOLD!

- The God of Christianity is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, and is overflowing with an abundance of love for all humanity, "*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*" (John 3:16).

- Sometimes people ask the question, "Why would God love me?" I'll let in on a secret, first, He made you; secondly, He knows you; thirdly, He watches you; and fourthly, He wants a relationship with you!

The Holy Scriptures declare in 1 John 4:10 – "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and <u>sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.</u>"

- Another question that people ponder is "What happens when we come to know God personally?" Once again, the Bible intimately explains, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him." (1 John 4:7-9)

- Do you know God? I pray you do and if you don't, I pray you will!

- Insight: Revelation 19:10 – "For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Mess	ianic Prophecies Concerning	His Lineage
Prophecy	Торіс	Fulfillment
Genesis 3:15	Born of the seed of woman	Galatians 4:4
Genesis 21:12	Descendant of Isaac	Matthew 1:1,2
Genesis 22:18, Genesis 12:2,3	Seed of Abraham	Matthew 1:1
Genesis 49:10	Of the tribe of Judah	Matthew 1:1,2
Numbers 24:17	Descendant of Jacob	Matthew 1:1,2
Isaiah 11:1, 10	Descendant of Jesse	Matthew 1:1,6
Jeremiah 23:5, Psalm 132:11	Descendant of David	Matthew 1:1,6, Revelation 22:16
Psalm 2:7, Proverbs 30:4	Son of God	Matthew 17:5, Luke 3:38, Luke 22:70
Mes	sianic Prophecies Concerning	g His Birth
Prophecy	Торіс	Fulfillment
Psalm 72:10	Kings will present gifts	Matthew 2:1-11
Isaiah 7:14	Born of a virgin	Matthew 1:23-25, Luke 2:7
Isaiah 7:14	Will be called Immanuel	Matthew 1:23
Jeremiah 31:15	Children will be killed	Matthew 2:16-18
Micah 5:2	Will be born in Bethlehem	Luke 2:4-7

#### > BELIEVE THE GREATEST LOVE STORY EVER TOLD!

(Turn to Luke Chapter 1) (v1-4) Theophilus means *"Lover of God"* (Great name!).

(v5-25) God loved Zacharias and his wife Elizabeth fulfilling their hopes and dreams. Elizabeth will give birth to a son and call him "John" which means "God is Gracious!" He will be known as John the Baptist. (Here's a joyful insight: Dr. Luke uses the word "REJOICE or REJOICING" some nineteen times throughout this great Gospel.)

(v26-56) God's love allowed Mary to <u>BELIEVE, RECEIVE AND CONCEIVE</u> through the power of the Holy Spirit!

- Joseph also believed and granted Mary a reprieve according to the words of an angel of the Lord - We are told in Matthew 1:18-21 - 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. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 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 conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

(v26-30) God loves Mary—God loves all of you ladies.

(v31) "And shall call His name JESUS" - What's in a name? JESUS name means "JEHOVAH IS SALVATION!"

- The Bible proclaims, "Nor is there <u>salvation</u> in any other, <u>for there is no other name under heaven</u> given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:10-12)

Also, "*Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every* <u>name</u>, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that <u>Jesus Christ is Lord</u>, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11)

(v32-33) Five "<u>HE WLLS</u>" of Jesus:

- 1- He will be GREAT!
- 2- He will be the SON OF THE HIGHEST!
- 3- He will receive the DAVIDIC THRONE!
- 4- He will REIGN OVER ISRAEL!
- 5- He will REIGN FOREVER!

(v34-38) He shall be called the "SON OF GOD!"

Further details are found in Matthew 1:22-25 - So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

> What does Immanuel mean? "GOD with us!" One author describes Jesus as:

The Word of God became flesh ... The Son of God became man ... The Lord of All became a servant ... The Righteous One was made sin ... The Eternal One tasted death ... The Risen One now lives in men ... The Seated One is coming again!

> Isaiah prophesied 700 years before the birth of Christ in Isaiah 9:6-7 -

For unto us a <u>Child is born</u>, Unto us a <u>Son is given</u>; And the <u>government will be upon His shoulder</u>. And His name will be called <u>Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God</u>, <u>Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace</u>. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

(v39-56) Mary's LOVE SONG! (Salvation insight: Mary was not sinless she needed a Savior, notice verse 47, "and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.")

(v57-80) Elizabeth gives birth to John the Baptist, Zechariah speaks prophesies!

#### > CONCEIVE THE GREATEST LOVE STORY EVER TOLD! (Luke Chapter 2) (v1-7) Christ is born in Bethlehem!

(v2) Rome took a *census* every fourteen years. Each Jewish male had to return to the city of his fathers to record his name, occupation, property, and family. This was done for military and tax purposes.

#### (v4) Bethlehem was an 80-mile journey from Nazareth.

The prophet Micah in 740 B.C. predicted that Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the Messiah - Micah 5:2 - "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."

It is significant that the King of kings, who was of the house of David, was born in David's ancestral home. Jesus was born in *"the city of David,"* Bethlehem. Christ, who is the Bread of Life, was cradled in a town whose name means *"house of bread."* 

(v8-20) Angels and shepherds REJOICE in the love of God, the SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD!

(v21-24) Baby Jesus is presented at the temple in Jerusalem.

(v25-35) Simeon loved God and spoke prophetically of Christ's sacrificial love.

(v36-38) Anna the prophetess proclaimed God's redeeming love through His Son, the precious baby Jesus. (After this came the wise men (magi) from the east bearing three gifts (Mt. Ch. 2.)

(v39-52) "And the Child grew and became strong in spirit filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. . . Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

> Let's grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Let the love of Christ abound in you day by day!

- Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

### LET'S "GO4GOD!"

#### JESUS SAID,

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

## "MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!"