

## Why Do We Celebrate Christmas?

### A. Why Did Joseph and Mary Celebrate the Birth of Jesus?

1. Mary, a virgin had a miraculous conception of Jesus, the Son of God. Luke 1:26-38, Matt 1:18
  - a. Luke 1:26-38 <sup>26</sup> Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"  
<sup>29</sup> But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup> Then 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 bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> 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. <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> Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.  
<sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> For with God nothing will be impossible." <sup>38</sup> **Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."** And the angel departed from her.
  - b. Matt 1:18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about : His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.
2. Mary stayed with Elizabeth. Luke 1:39-45
  - a. Luke 1:39-45 <sup>39</sup> Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, <sup>40</sup> and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.  
<sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. <sup>45</sup> Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."
  - b. Elderly Elizabeth had miraculously conceived John the Baptist, Luke 1:5-25 (1:57-80)  
Luke 1: 5-25 <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. <sup>7</sup> But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years. <sup>8</sup> So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, <sup>9</sup> according to the custom of the priesthood, [c]his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. <sup>10</sup> And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. <sup>11</sup> Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> 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.”

<sup>18</sup> 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.” <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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.”

<sup>21</sup> And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple.

<sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. <sup>24</sup> Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, <sup>25</sup> “Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

3. Joseph, had a dream from God confirming Jesus was conceived                      Matt 1:19-23  
Miraculously and not to divorce Mary.

Matt 1:19-23 <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, **an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).**

3. Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem and was able to find a stable      Luke 2:1-7  
to birth Jesus.

Luke 2:1-7 <sup>1</sup>And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup> So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. <sup>4</sup> 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, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed [a]wife, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

4. God had many celebrate the birth of baby Jesus.                                      Luke 2:8-38
- a. An angel appeared to shepherds announcing that Jesus                      Luke 2:8-12,15-20  
was recently born that same day.
  - b. A multitude of angels appeared praising God after Jesus’ birth.              Luke 2:13-14  
and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”
  - c. Simeon, saw Jesus at his eighth day circumcision because                      Luke 2:21-35  
he was told by God he would see the Lord’s Christ before he died.
  - d. Anna Bears Witness to the Redeemer.    Luke 2:36-38

## **B. Why Did Wise Men Celebrate Finding Baby Jesus?**

Matt 2:1-12 (13-22)

1. They journeyed from afar to worship the newborn King of the Jews. Matt 2:1-2
  - a. Matt 2:1-2 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.”
  - b. The Greek word for the wise men is Magi. It is from this word that we get our word magician. At that time, this term was used for magicians, legitimate scientists, astronomers, or wise, educated and revered men.
  - c. Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the Matt 2:1-2  
days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.
2. The chief priests and scribes confirmed to Herod of the prophecy of Matt 2:3-6  
the Christ’s birth.
  - a. Matt 2:3-6 <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> ‘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.’
3. When the Wise Men (Magi) arrived they found Jesus in a house, Matt 2:11  
not a stable. That means that after the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary decided to stay in Bethlehem for a while, as it was noted that Simeon saw Jesus after his circumcision.
4. That special star they saw appeared at the moment of Jesus’ birth; Matt 2:7, 2:16  
and the Wise Men followed it to meet the new King of the Jews to worship him.

## **C. Why Do Christians Celebrate Christmas?**

1. Christians celebrate Christmas because it is the advent of the miraculous virgin birth of our Messiah, who became man as the Son of God to redeem us, Jesus Christ: our Prophet, Priest and King!
2. However, the Babe in the manger in Bethlehem is just the beginning of the story. Jesus grew up in Nazareth and ministered to many people that area performing many miracles there. Jesus gave up his life to redeem us from sin, sickness and death and eternal damnation. (John 19:30).
3. The Holy of Holies be found in a building made of mortar and stone; but is found in the heart of every human being who says, “I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-10).”
4. We must not prioritize all joyous events of this season to take away from the true meaning of Christmas for Jesus Christ is the Real Reason for the Season!
5. As we celebrate Jesus’ birth, let us remember that He lived and died for one purpose—to redeem men and women, boys and girls, from the devil’s destruction. As we remember our Savior’s birth, let us also celebrate His life, death, and resurrection; and thanking Jesus for setting us free!
6. Some Christians celebrate the lights, the Christmas carols, and the wrapped gifts.
7. The Wise Men brought special treasures of gifts of Gold, Matt 2:11  
Frankincense and Myrrh to worship the newborn king, Jesus.
  - a. Gold is a worthy gift for a king – In those days, because of its scarcity, immense value, gold was a valued commodity in the ancient world. gold was particularly associated with royalty and nobility. It was customary for royal visits, to bear treasured gifts intended to honor the newborn king. By bringing a gift of gold, the wise men showed that they did indeed consider

Jesus a king. (Genesis 13:2, Ecclesiastes 2:8, as is seen in 1 Kings 10 ) Not only at Christmas, but every day of our lives, we should celebrate Jesus as our King!

- 1) The walls of the Most Holy Place and the altar in the Temple 1 Kings 6:20-22 were completely overlaid with gold. This act may have been a foreshadowing of the ministry of Jesus becoming the most valuable sacrifice of atonement as our King on behalf of His people when He went to the cross on Calvary as Jesus gave us the Gift of Eternal Life.
- b. Frankincense is an incense, the burning of a strong and beautiful aroma which represents holy prayer.
  - 1) It was very costly and not used as a common household Ex 30:34-35 air freshener. Consecrated Pure and Holy Frankincense was closely used as ceremonial worship of a deity. It was the only incense permitted at the Altar in the Temple. Just as the Wise Men understood that the prophecy of the newborn king carried with it a claim of deity, we should celebrate every day, not just as Christmas, by worshipping Jesus as our God and Savior, the only Pure and Holy Offering Consecrated to the Lord as the unblemished sacrificial lamb and our High Priest.
- c. Myrrh is a fragrant perfume, used in embalming bodies.
  - 1) This gift can be seen as prophetic death of the Messiah. John 19:39-40, Is 53:5
  - 2) Myrrh was used as incense, but in the ancient world, it was also used as a perfume, anointing oil, and was a key ingredient in the mixture of spices that were used to prepare bodies for burial. Perhaps the wise men intended this gift as an indication of Jesus' humanity.
  - 3) Liquid myrrh was a main ingredient in the anointing oil Ex 30 used to ceremonially prepare the priests, the instruments, the altar, and the Temple itself before sacrifices could be made.
  - 4) We can celebrate Christmas and every day, remembering Matt 21:11, Deut 18:15 that Jesus lived a consecrated life and sacrificial death; and that we should die to self and live a consecrated life unto God, thanking the Lord for Jesus as our Prophet who fulfilled all the prophecies and died for us so we could be set free. It was a prophetic foreshadowing that Jesus would die to save us!
- d. The three gifts symbolize the Messiah's offices as prophet, priest and king.
- e. These valuable gifts financed their flight to Egypt. Matt 2:13  
As soon as the wise men departed, an angel of the Lord came to warn Joseph of Herod's rage and wanted to kill baby Jesus; so Joseph was instructed to take refuge in Egypt, a journey of over 100 miles. For a family of humble means since Joseph was a carpenter, a trip of this magnitude would be difficult to take without God's intervention.
- f. The wealth of the nations come to God's people through Jesus. Is 60:6  
The wealthy gifts from the Magi from another nation was used for Joseph, Mary and Jesus to take refuge in another nation. We should celebrate Christmas thanking God the wealth of nations come to God's people through Jesus.
- g. Peter Daniels, a world-renown evangelist and Christian billionaire researched and found out That the Wise Men left Jesus gifts valued at \$400 million in modern standards!
- h. We can also celebrate Christmas by humbling ourselves to give ourselves to Jesus to serve Him forever and ever as our Prophet, Priest and King!