

God's Eternal Gift

Almost everywhere in the world, on this day, December 25, people are celebrating the 'holiday' which is literally the 'holy-day' that has come to be called 'Christmas' which is literally 'Christ-Mass'. Whatever its pagan origin, it is now recognized as 'the BIRTH of Jesus Christ' by many Christians. Since Christmas has become so commercialized by Santa Clause which comes from 'Saint Nicholas' people say, "Keep CHRIST in Christmas!" Whatever you do with today, is your own persuasion:

Rom 14:5 One man esteemeth one day above another:
another esteemeth every day alike.
Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

We begin our study looking at the scriptures of when Jesus was born:

Matthew 1:18-25 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused (betrothed, similar to engaged, promised to be married, before physically coming together - breaking espousal required formal writing of divorcement; violation of it is adultery) to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. (secretly)

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS:
for he shall save his people from their sins.

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, (Isa 7:14)

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son:
and he called his name JESUS.

While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem of Judaea paying taxes, they had to stay in a **stable** because there was "No Vacancy" in the motel. There Mary delivered, snuggled her newborn up in a blanket like a burrito, and made-do in the barn by turning a feeding trough into a baby crib:

Luke 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

When Jesus was 8 days old (Lev 12:1-3, Luke 2:21) Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem for His circumcision to present Him to the Lord. The Holy Ghost revealed to Simeon, a just and devout man, who was waiting for the consolation of Israel, that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Christ. Simeon took the child Jesus up in his arms, blessed God, and said:

Luke 2:29-35 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

- 30 For mine eyes have seen **thy salvation,**
 31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of **all people;** (not exclusively Israel yet 'mid-Acts-ers' teach that the 'Gentile salvation' that Simeon 'PROPHESED' was in what-they-call 'Israel's program' and that it was a 'DIFFERENT' 'Gentile salvation' than what-they-call a 'MYSTERY' 'Gentile salvation' in a 'Body-of-Christ program' taught by Paul.)
 32 **A light to lighten the Gentiles,** (Rom 15:8-12; Isa 42:6, 60:1-3)
and the glory of thy people Israel.
 33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. ('Mid-Acts-ers' also fail to admit that Simeon's PROPHECY of the FALL of Israel and the RISE of a remnant was the same thing as Paul taught later (Rom 11:5,11-27):
 34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, **this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel;**
 and for a sign which shall be spoken against;
 35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

Jesus' STAR silently announced the birth of the King to wise men:

Matt 2:1-2 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,
 2 Saying, Where is **he that is born King of the Jews?** (Jer 23:5)
 for **we have seen his star in the east,** (Num 24:17, Rev 22:16,
 2 Pet 1:19) and are come to worship him.

The wise men were led by the moving star that God directed to the **house** where Jesus was located by the time they found Him. They gave Him expensive presents that were not 'baby toys' but prophetic symbols:

Matt 2:9-11 When they had heard the king, they departed;
 and, lo, **the star, which they saw 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 exceeding great joy.
 11 And when they were come into the **house,** (not the stable anymore) they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their **treasures,** **they presented unto him gifts; gold,** (rare precious metal - Psa 72:15) **and frankincense,** (perfume - Lev 6:15) **and myrrh.** (bitter - Psa 45:8)

Herod intended to kill King Jesus and slew all the children in Bethlehem from 2 years old and under (Matt 2:16-21, Jer 31:15):

Matt 2:13-15 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee 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 into Egypt:

15 And was there until the death of Herod: **that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,**
Out of Egypt have I called my son.

This prophecy shows that Jesus was the fulfillment of being the 'true Israel':

Hosea 11:1 **When Israel was a child, then I loved him,**
and called my son out of Egypt.

When "the child Jesus" was 12 years old He tarried behind in

Jerusalem after his parents left to return home after the custom of the feast of the passover. Jesus spoke that He was GOD's Son doing GOD's work:

Luke 2:46-47, 49 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors (**teachers**), both hearing them, and asking them questions.

47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

49 And he said unto them (**Joseph and Mary**), How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about **my Father's business?**

When Jesus was 30 years old He was water baptized and

annointed by the Holy Ghost as He began His public ministry:

Luke 3:21-23 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that **Jesus also being baptized**, and praying, the heaven was opened, 22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

23 And **Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age**, (**Num 4: 3-4**) being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,

Jesus lived to serve others not to be served:

Matt 20:26-28 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, **let him be your minister;**

27 And whosoever will be chief among you, **let him be your servant:**

28 Even as **the Son of man came** not to be ministered unto, but **to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**

Jesus came to save the lost not to judge them:

John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

When Jesus died He endured the cross (Heb 12:2)

He shed the blood of the new covenant (Heb 9:14-18):

Matt 26:28 For **this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**

We (not 'mid-Acts-ers') are able ministers of the new covenant (2 Cor 3:6):

1 Cor 11:25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, **This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye,** as oft as ye drink it, **in remembrance of me.**

When Jesus died it was for our sins:

1 Cor 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even **Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:**

When Jesus rose it was for our justification:

Rom 4:23-25 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;

24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

25 Who was **delivered for our offences,** and was **raised again for our justification.**

When Jesus ascended (Acts 1:8-11, Eph 4:8-10, Psa 68:18, Rev 12:5)

He took His thone at His Father's right hand. His work on earth was done:

Heb 10:9-14 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God.

He taketh away the first (old), that he may establish the second (new).

10 **By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.** (John 17:4, 19:30)

11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

12 But this man, after he had **offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;** (Acts 2:33-34, Rom 3:34, Col 3:1)

13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

