

Advent

Children's Study of the Lord's Advent
Cornerstone Christian Fellowship



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Letter from the Writer

This five-part series entitled 'Advent' seeks to show that the very popular Christmastime Scriptures reveal so much more about the Son of God's Second Coming than is commonly thought or taught.

Jesus was born King of the Jews for the purpose of Rulership. The Only Begotten Son of God was born to Joseph and Mary - both physical descendants of King David - with a regal and legal right to the throne through them, and not just because He is the Son of God.

The Wise Men were expecting Him, and even Herod knew that the Scriptures foretold the Coming of the Christ.

The angels announced the birth of Christ to shepherds. The Scriptures reveal the Christ will return as the King of kings, and the angels will be with Him once again as He establishes His Kingdom.

Until Jesus Christ returns then it is always the season of Advent and with all diligence we need to be prepared for His Coming. That should be our focus not only during the Christmas period but every day, and that is the goal of this study for young and old alike. Let me encourage you to look beyond the familiar storyline this Christmastime and see the Scriptures in a new light.



Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And **the government will be upon His shoulder**. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 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.

Advent

Lesson 1

AIM: To demonstrate that Jesus Christ's 1st Coming was exactly as prophesied in the OT; and that His 2nd Coming will also be in the manner of, and at the appointed time, as laid out in the Scriptures. Our focus needs to be on being ready for Christ's 2nd Coming.

Christmas is coming, and this season before Christmas is called "Advent".

Qu: What does 'Advent' mean?

A:

Discussion:

Have you ever had an Advent calendar?

What is their purpose?

What do they prepare you for?

How do you feel about that?



Definition:

Advent = Arrival of important person or event; season before Christmas; coming of Christ

Every year at Christmas we celebrate what took place approximately 2,000 years ago - the birth of Jesus Christ. The Advent of Jesus Christ has already taken place - once!

However the Bible teaches He will come again. When He does this will be His 2nd Coming, or 2nd Advent. And just as we look forward throughout the month of December to celebrate and remember Jesus' 1st Coming, so we must even more so, look forward to His 2nd Advent.

Jesus's 1st Advent



Qu: What do we know about Jesus's birth?
Let's make a list of the key points:

A:

Qu: Could the people have known to expect Jesus? Did the Old Testament prophets talk of His coming?

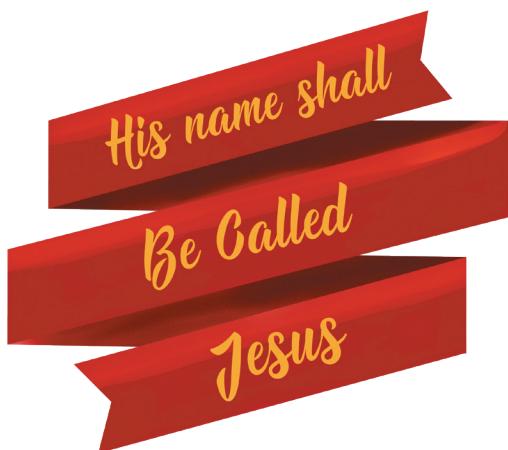
A:

Isaiah was one such prophet who talked specifically about this event.

Isa 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Qu: Does anyone know what 'Immanuel' means?

A:



Qu: Why did Mary and Joseph call Him Jesus instead?

A:

To find out why they called Him 'Jesus' read Luke 1:31 & Matthew 1:21 in your Bibles.

Qu: Does anyone know what 'Jesus' means?

A:

Again in Isaiah we see other references to names which describe Jesus:

Isa 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 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.

Another prophet - Micah - revealed exactly where Jesus would be born:

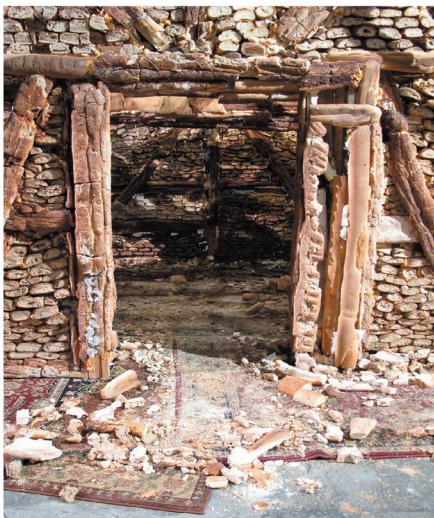
Mic 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be

Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

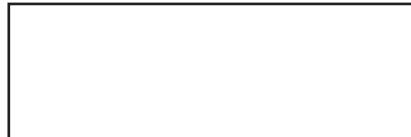
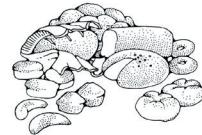
Q: Where was the future Ruler of Israel to be born?

A:

Q: Do you remember from our study of the Book of Ruth what 'Bethlehem' means?



BETHLEHEM MEANS
HOUSE
OF



The timing of Jesus's birth was by God's design:

Ga 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Those living under the law were the Jews, and the law they were living under was that which was given to Moses from God for them. The law was designed to teach them to be obedient to God's Word so that when Christ came He could establish His Kingdom with and through Israel.

Jesus's lineage (His ancestry) was also revealed in the OT to King David:

2Sa 7:12 "When your days are fulfilled and you [David] rest with your fathers, I [God] will set up your seed [a descendant of yours] after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.13 "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son.





Qu: Who is going to establish a kingdom for a descendant of David's, and how long will it last?
A:

Qu: Who does God say the seed of David will be in v.14?
A:

Jesus's 2nd Advent

Qu: What will Jesus Christ's 2nd Advent be like?
A:

Qu: Will it be the same as His 1st Advent? How will it be different?
A:

The following took place on the day Jesus ascended into heaven:

Acts 1:9 Now when He [Jesus] had spoken these things, while they [the disciples] watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."



So Jesus will come again in the same way as when He left, and just as the clouds received Jesus out of the disciples sight, so He will return with the clouds of heaven:

Mk 14:62 Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."



But those
'clouds' are
the angels who
will return
with Him:



Mt 16:27 "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

Qu: Why is Jesus returning in glory with His angels? What will He be setting up? What Day will that be?

Qu: What do you think the reward will be for those who have worked diligently according to the Word of God?



Not everyone believes Jesus will return:

2Pe 3:3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

Peter then writes a reminder not to forget 'one thing', that Jesus is coming again, but it will be at the appropriate time just as it was in Galatians 4:4 'when the fullness of the time' comes:

2Pe 3:8 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 us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Conclusion:

When the 'fullness of the time' comes once again, then Jesus will return. He is 'not slack concerning' the timing of His 2nd Coming. It will be at the appointed time at the end of 6 Days - 6,000 Years. When He came the 1st time, the angels announced His birth to the shepherds. When Christ returns to set up His Kingdom in the 7th Day, the angels will be with Him once again. (More on the angels and shepherds in an upcoming lesson.)

As you make your plans and look forward to celebrating Jesus's birth this Christmas, are you also making plans for His 2nd Advent? Are you reading and studying your Bibles so that you will receive a reward of rulership in the 7th Day with Christ? In our looking forward to Christmas, let's not forget to look forward to that future event. And because we don't know the exact day or time, but it could be very soon, we need to be prepared. In one sense it is always Advent - every day of the year, because we are expecting Jesus Christ to return very soon!

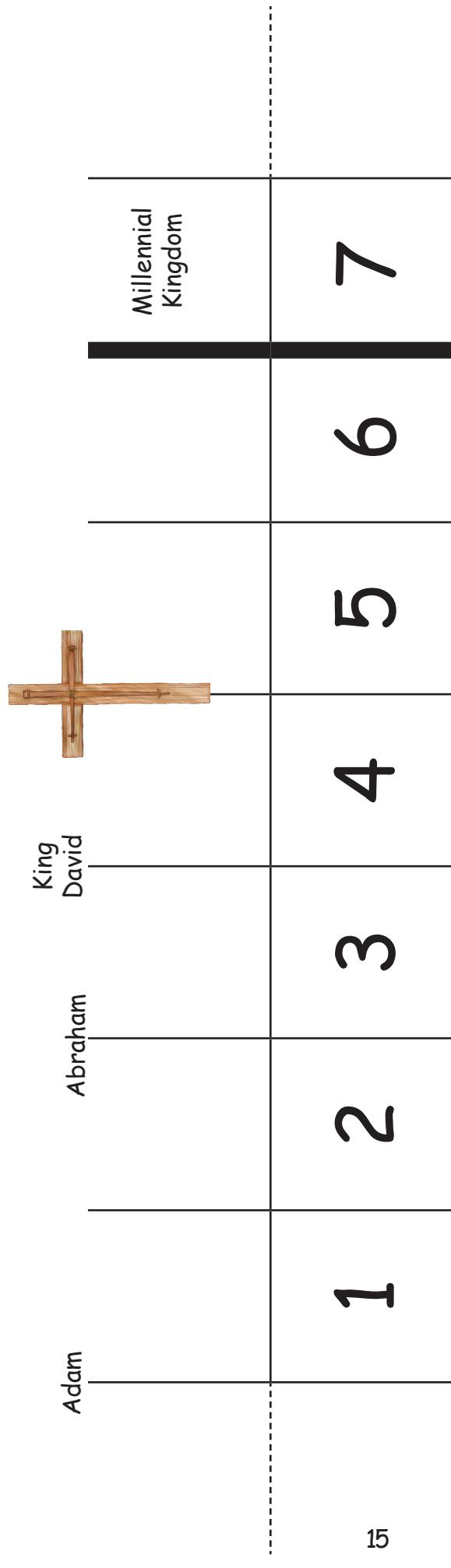


ARE YOU PREPARED FOR JESUS'S 2ND ADVENT?

Final activity on page 15

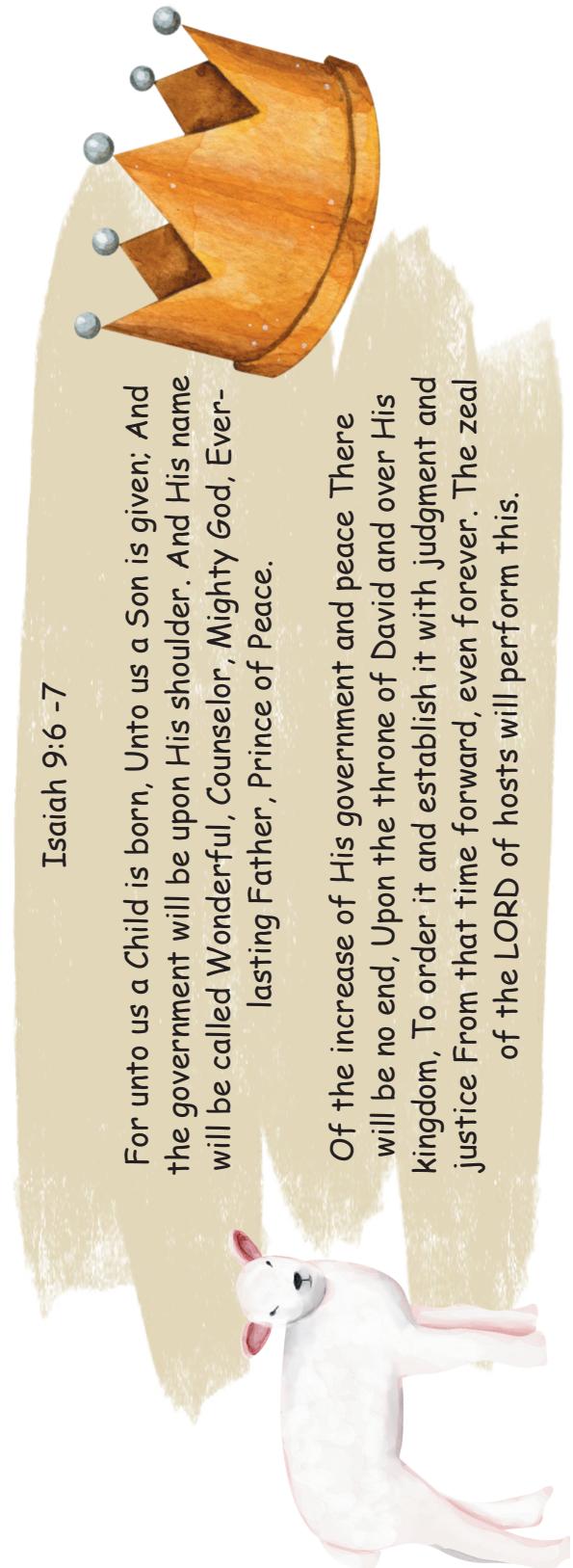
Final Activity:

On the timeline below, mark on Jesus's 1st Advent and then His 2nd Advent.



Isaiah 9:6 -7

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Ever-lasting Father, Prince of Peace.



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.

Wise Men Follow The Star

Lesson 2

AIM: To demonstrate the significance of Stars in Scripture and how they point to Rulership. The Wise Men followed the Star to worship the One born King of the Jews who is destined to rule in the 7th Day.

Today we are going to look at the account of the Wise Men who followed a Star which led them to the Baby Jesus.

Let's begin by asking a few questions to see what you know about this very special happening as we continue our studies surrounding the Christmas period.

Let's now turn to our Bibles to read the account and see how we did with our recall:
Matthew 2:1-12

Mt 2:1 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 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 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.



Qu: Where did the Wise Men come from (v.1)?

A:

Qu: What do the Wise Men ask Herod in v.2?

A:

Qu: What was the reason for their question (v.2)?

A:

Qu: How does Herod and the rest of Jerusalem feel about this question in v.3?

A:

Qu: Therefore what does King Herod do in v.4?

A:

Notice the Wise Men knew that Jesus was 'born King of the Jews'. Herod was also a king, and he had been put in that position by the Roman Empire which was ruling over Israel at that time. Herod was an Edomite and a practicing Jew (Edomites, although considered Arabs, were descendants of Jacob's brother Esau).

In v.4 Herod clearly knew that the Scriptures prophesied about the Christ, who would be the future ruler of Israel.

Qu: In v.5 where did the chief priests and scribes say the prophet said the Christ would be born?

A:

In their answer in v.6 they quote directly from the prophet Micah:

Mic 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."

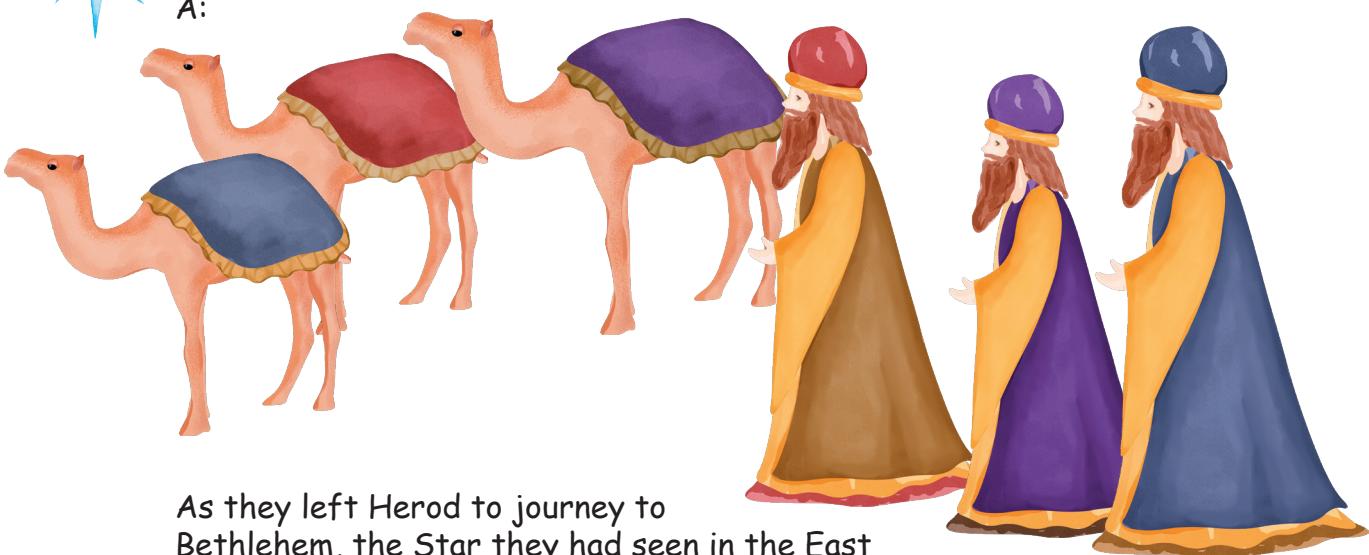
Qu: Why do you think in v.7 Herod 'secretly' asked the Wise Men when the Star belonging to the One 'born King of the Jews' appeared?

Qu: In v.8 what did Herod say he wanted to do?

A:

Qu: Do you think he was being truthful? Why, or why not?

A:



As they left Herod to journey to Bethlehem, the Star they had seen in the East went with them to guide them until they arrived at the place where the Baby Jesus was.

Significance of the Star(s)

Does anyone know when the first mention of 'stars' in the Bible is?

That's right, in the very first chapter of Genesis, on Day 4 of the restoration of the Creation (Gen.1:14-19). In Gen.1:14 it says the 'lights in the

heavens' (sun, moon, and stars), were 'for signs'.

Clearly in Matthew chapter 2, the Wise Men saw one particular star as a sign that they should follow. Have you ever wondered how they knew to follow a star?



I think we can assume they must have known the Old Testament Scriptures and God had shown them, through those Scriptures, what to expect.

In particular there is one Scripture - Numbers 24:17 - that talks about a star, rulership, and a descendant of Jacob.

Numbers 24:17 "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult.

Balaam was a prophet who was hired by Balak, the king of Moab, to curse the Children of Israel as they camped on the plains of Moab before entering the Promised Land. However, every time Balaam prophesied he spoke the Word of God with blessings for Israel, instead of curses.

In his final prophecy, Balaam speaks about what will happen in the future with Israel and Moab.

Let's read Num.24:17 again:

"I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near;
A Star shall come out of Jacob;
A Scepter shall rise out of Israel,
And batter the brow of Moab,
And destroy all the sons of tumult.

This verse says, 'a Star shall come out of Jacob', and 'a Scepter shall rise out of Israel'.

Q: Does anyone know what a scepter is? Or who is given a scepter?

A:

A scepter is a rod of rulership which is given to a king or queen, and symbolizes their duty and position as a ruler to execute justice, whilst being merciful. The scepter is a representation of how they are to provide protection for the just, and punishment for the wicked.



Psalm 45:6 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. 7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness;

Both the Star and the Scepter point to Rulership

The Bright & Morning Star



The angels are also referred to as 'stars' several places in Scripture which reveals that they are part of the rulership which God set up in the beginning.

Gen 1:16 Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also.

17 God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

Q: Why according to these verses did God make the 2 great lights and the stars?

A:

Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together,
And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Stars in the natural do not sing! The 'morning stars' and 'sons of God' are the angels who worship God.

Jesus also refers to Himself as a particular 'Morning Star'. Let's read:

Re 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

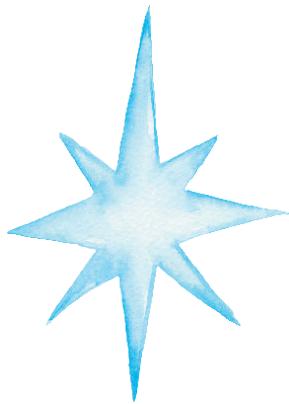


The morning star is one which is visible at the dawn of the day. It puts an end to the darkness of the night, and ushers in the day, the sun, and its brightness, which then gives light to the world.

John 8:12 tells us Jesus is the 'Light of the World', and when in Revelation 22:16 He says He is 'the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star', He is speaking of the brightness of His glory, and the dawning of the 7th Day, which is His Kingdom.

In the 7th Day, the One 'born King of the Jews' will sit on the throne of rulership with the 'scepter of righteousness' in His hand.





Conclusion:

The Wise Men followed the Star that they might worship Him who was 'born King of the Jews', in anticipation of that Day in the future when His Kingdom would be established upon the Earth, and in the Heavens.

We too can be wise like them. Instead of following a star we must follow the One who the Star represented - the Lord Jesus Christ. And if we are wise and do so, then we shall shine like the stars forever!

Daniel 12:3 Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament [heavens], And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.

Shepherds & Sheep

Lesson 3

AIM: To study the encounter between the shepherds and the angels on the night of Jesus's birth. And to investigate the responsibility Israel's religious leaders had as shepherds to the people who were being led astray by them.

Today we are going to look at another facet of the 'Christmas Story'. Our lesson title is "Shepherds & Sheep".

Does this remind anyone of an event that took place around the birth of Christ? What do you recall?



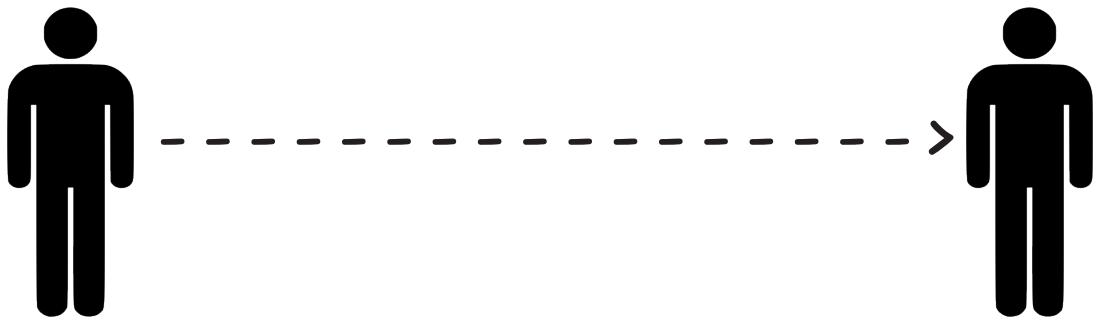
Now let's read the story in our Bibles and answer some questions:

Luke 2:1-20

- 1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
(Romans occupied Israel and large parts of the known world at this time)
- 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. *(A census is an official counting of the population)*
- 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 wife, who was with child.

Qu: Who remembers what the name 'Bethlehem' means?

A:



Qu: What does it mean Joseph 'was of the house and lineage of David'?

A:



King David

That's right - Joseph was a descendant of King David. In fact, Mary was also a descendant of King David (Luke 3:31). King David is very important in understanding who Jesus is, and why His lineage went back to David through Mary and Joseph. (We will look in more detail at this in Lesson 4: 'Born King of the Jews')

Luke 2:6 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 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 behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

'Swaddling clothes' are strips of cloth that would be wrapped around the Baby.

Qu: What do you think 'the glory of the Lord' is in v.9?

A:



It would have been an extremely bright light, brighter than the brightest of lights today, which would have been very frightening to the shepherds out in the field in the darkness of night.

Now let's read what the angel said to those frightened shepherds in vv.10-12:

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 manger."

In v.11 there are 4 things we want to particularly notice:

- **Who** He is born to: 'to you' - not just the shepherds, but the whole nation of Israel
- **Where** He is born: 'in the city of David' - which is Bethlehem
- **What** He is: 'a Savior' -of the nation of Israel
- **Who** He is: 'Christ the Lord', Israel's expected Messiah

The Shepherds are Given a Sign

In v.12 the angel told the shepherds the sign to look for. What was the sign? **Underline it.**

Luke 2:12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

Q: What is a manger?

A:

After the angel finished telling the shepherds what the sign would be - ('the Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger') - then a multitude of many angels appeared singing and praising God:



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

14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"



Once the angels departed, the shepherds decided to go to Bethlehem, to look at what the Lord, through the angel, had made known to them.

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. (The sign was just as the angel had told them!)

17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. (See v.11 again)

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.

Qu: How did the people feel about what the shepherds told them in v.18 and why might they have felt that way?

A:

Qu: How did the shepherds respond to what they saw that night (v.20)?

A:

The Wise Men & The Shepherds Both Given a Sign

In our previous lesson the Wise Men were given the Star as a sign of the birth to guide them to the Child born King of the Jews. The Shepherds were also given a sign to look for, that would confirm what the angel had said to them was true. This was not an ordinary baby born that day in the city of David, and the sign they were given would be the confirmation of that, along with the fact that they witnessed a multitude of angels praising God and then returning to heaven.

Why the Shepherds?

So why do you think the angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds tending their sheep that night? Any thoughts?

Jesus, during His ministry, referred to Himself as 'the Good Shepherd'. He also told the Pharisees (Israel's religious leaders) that He was sent to 'the lost sheep of the house of Israel'.

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

Matthew 15:24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Hebrews 13:20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,





Role of a Shepherd

What are some of the things that shepherds do to take care of their sheep?

Shepherds lead the sheep, making sure they have good pastures and fresh water. They take care of any injuries or sickness by checking them over and keeping a constant watch on them. They protect them from dangerous situations and wild animals that might kill or maim them. They keep watch over them to prevent them from going astray and getting lost.



The Shepherds of Israel

In the Bible, Israel's leaders are also described as shepherds, who had the duty of taking care of their flock - the nation of Israel. They were to feed the people spiritually from the Word of God, (this would have been the OT only at that time) and to lead them beside 'still waters' that they may also drink from the Word of God. They were to nurture and take care of them. Just as a shepherd in the natural takes care of his sheep.

However most of them did not do that, in fact they led them astray:

Jeremiah 23:1 "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the LORD.

2 Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and NOT attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the LORD.



Pieter Brueghel II
The Bad Shepherd
Oil on panel, c. 1616

Qu: What had the shepherds of Israel done?

A:

Qu: What had the shepherds NOT done?

A:

Qu: How does God describe the actions of Israel's shepherds in the last sentence?

A:

Jeremiah 50:6 "My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray;



So, Jesus was sent as the 'good Shepherd' to Israel, to rescue them because they were like 'lost sheep' who had been scattered; they had not been fed the truth of the Word of God by their shepherds (religious leaders). As a result, they were a disobedient people who were far from the 'good pastures' - they were 'lost', and they needed to return to Him. That is why Jesus's ministry began with the words: *"Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand"* (Mat.4:17) - literally:

"Repent for your King is here, and ready to establish His Kingdom"!

Conclusion:

On the night of Jesus's birth, when the angel declared to the shepherds that a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, was to be found in a manger, it revealed that He was the One who would bring a message of repentance and would save the lost sheep of Israel. The very 'food' they needed was lying in the manger where food was normally put. And when He was grown they would 'feed' on Him! (John 6:54-56) However, He will also punish the 'shepherds' - the religious leaders - for leading the 'sheep' astray.

Qu: One final piece of the story we need to put together. Where did the angel say the Christ was to be born (Lk.2:11)?

A:

Qu: What was David's job before he became King of Israel? (Hint: Read 1st Samuel 17:33-36)

A:

That's right, he was a shepherd! Jesus is a descendant of King David and when He came to Israel the first time, He was their Shepherd. The Wise Men knew that Jesus was born a King (Mat.2:2). When Christ returns to the earth a second time, it will be as King of kings. Israel will recognize their King, repent and be saved. Hallelujah!

BIBLE MEMORIZATION CHALLENGE:

Can you learn the following Psalm about Jesus as a Shepherd?

Psalm 23:1 «A Psalm of David.» The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

Cut out the verse to take with you so you can practice memorizing.

Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

3 He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

BORN



King of the Jews

Lesson 4

AIM: When Jesus was born He had a legal right to be called 'The King of the Jews' through His earthly parents lineage. Jesus could only be born within a certain tribe and family of Israel. The lesson includes an in depth look at both Joseph & Mary's family trees back to their common ancestor King David.

In our lesson today we will see that Jesus was born 'King of the Jews'; that He died 'King of the Jews', and that He will return, not just as 'King of the Jews', but as 'King of kings' and 'Lord of lords'.



In the natural, when a King is crowned, it is because an ancestor, normally his father, has died and so he is next in line to be king.

We learnt in lesson 2 that the Wise Men asked Herod "Where is He who was born King of the Jews?" (Mat.2:2). Herod was a king appointed by the Roman authorities, and not because his ancestors were the kings of Israel or Judah. That is why he was concerned that another king would arise to potentially take his place and be the ruler over the Jews.

Qu: Do you remember what Herod did to try and stop another future king from taking his place?

A:

Jesus was born in humble surroundings in a stable and laid in a feeding trough, a manger, as His bed. Jesus was born to poor, humble parents. Could He be a king?

We know that Mary was Jesus's mother, and Joseph was engaged to marry her. Mary was with Child by the Holy Spirit of God, therefore God the Father is Jesus's Father, and Jesus is the Son of God.

Joseph was Jesus's earthly adopted father.

So why was Jesus born to Mary, who was betrothed (engaged) to Joseph?



Jesus was 'born King of the Jews', and so for that to be true, it is important we discover who His ancestors were. He had to be a descendant of previous kings of the Jews. Or to say it another way: because of Old Testament prophecy, it was very important that Jesus should be born within a certain group of people only.

- He could only be born from the nation of Israel, and
- He could only come from one particular tribe of Israel, and
- Only from one particular family within that tribe!

So today we are going to look at Jesus' family tree and we shall see that He was indeed Born King of the Jews, and He did fulfill those OT prophecies with Mary and Joseph as His earthly parents.

When we looked at the Star in Lesson 2 ('Wise Men Follow The Star') we read this OT prophecy:

Numbers 24:17 "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel,

Qu: Does anyone remember what a scepter is?
A:



The Scripture from Numbers 24:17 shows us that the King would come from Israel, from a descendant of Jacob. Jacob was the grandson of **Abraham, the father of the Jews**. You might remember that Jacob had 12 sons, who became the 12 Tribes of Israel.

Here is another OT prophecy which foretells which particular tribe of Israel the King would come from:

Genesis 49:10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh [Messiah] comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

Qu: Which tribe does it say the one who will hold the scepter shall come from?

A:

The King of the Jews would come from the Tribe of Judah, one of Jacob's 12 sons.

Now we need to know which descendant of Judah became a king, from whom the future kings descended. The second king of Israel, who was anointed by Samuel, and appointed by God, was from the tribe of Judah. Who was he? Do you know?



That's right it was King David, and he ruled over Judah before becoming king over all Israel. When he was king, David was given a prophecy from God concerning a future descendant of his:

2Samuel 7:12 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers [after your death], I will set up your seed [a descendant of yours] after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

14 "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son....

This OT prophecy reveals that a future king of Israel would be in the lineage of King David, and His Kingdom will last forever. He would be the literal Son of God, whilst also being a descendant of David's. Wow!

18 Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: "Who am I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house [my family & lineage], that You have brought me this far?

19 "And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord GOD; and You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come. Is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?

As a result of what he was told, David went and sat before the LORD (v.18). From v.19 we can see David understood that the One spoken of would be in the distant future ('a great while to come').

Joseph and Mary's Family Trees

So now let's look at Joseph and Mary. Their family trees can be seen in the New Testament. There we shall see that both Joseph and Mary are from the Tribe of Judah, AND they are both descendants of King David. That's quite amazing!

King David to Joseph via Solomon

Mary's husband Joseph was a descendant of David's son, **Solomon**. Before David died he made Solomon king after him. Here is just a part of Joseph's family tree:

Matthew 1:1 The book of the genealogy 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.
3 Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar,
Perez begot Hezron,
and Hezron begot Ram...

5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab,
Boaz begot Obed by Ruth,
Obed begot Jesse,
6 and Jesse begot David the king.
David the king begot Solomon ...

16 And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary,
of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

From Joseph's family tree we can see that he is a direct descendant of both David, the 2nd king of Israel, and Solomon the 3rd king of Israel.

(From our study of the Book of Ruth we had looked at the genealogy of Ruth and Boaz's son Obed who was the grandfather of King David)

King David to Mary via Nathan

Mary is a descendant of another of David's sons - **Nathan** - and her family tree is in Luke chapter 3 but first let us look at how the angel Gabriel announced the impending birth.

Luke 1:26 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**....

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 [Highest = God]; 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."

(2nd Samuel 7:12-14)

Verses 32 & 33 clearly reveal that the One who was to be conceived in Mary's womb was the very One that God told King David would come from his body, and would be of his house and lineage, and whose Kingdom would be forever. Now let's look at a little part of Mary's genealogy:

Luke 3:23 Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) [lit. 'by law'] the son of Joseph [Mary's husband], the son of Heli,....

(Because of Joseph's lineage Jesus had the legal right to the throne 'by law')

31 the son of Nathan, the son of David,

32 the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon,

33 the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah,

34 the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham,....



Both Joseph and Mary 'found favor with God', and as such were chosen as the perfect earthly parents, both being descended from King David.

Therefore, Jesus was quite rightly, by law, born 'King of the Jews'!

However, the majority of the Jews, at His first Coming, did not accept Jesus as their King:

Jesus's Crucifixion

John 19:19 Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

20 Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

21 Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, 'I am the King of the Jews.''''

22 Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

Qu: In v.21 why did the chief priests want the title over the cross to read: 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews."?

A:

Jesus Christ's 2nd Advent

Conclusion:

When Christ returns the Jewish people will acknowledge Jesus Christ as their King, and they will worship and serve Him when He sets up His 'Kingdom on earth, as it will be in heaven'. The One born King of the Jews, from the house of David, will have returned as 'King of kings and Lord of lords', and He will sit on the throne of his father (ancestor) David forever. Let's read about it:

Revelation 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war....

16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:
KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Jeremiah 23:5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

Hallelujah! Come Lord Jesus, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS!



**Craft/Object Lesson Suggestions:
Jesus, Joseph & Mary's Family Tree**

Option 1: Cut out and paste the outline of a Christmas tree on green paper onto another colored, or white sheet of paper. (I have provided an outline you can use.)

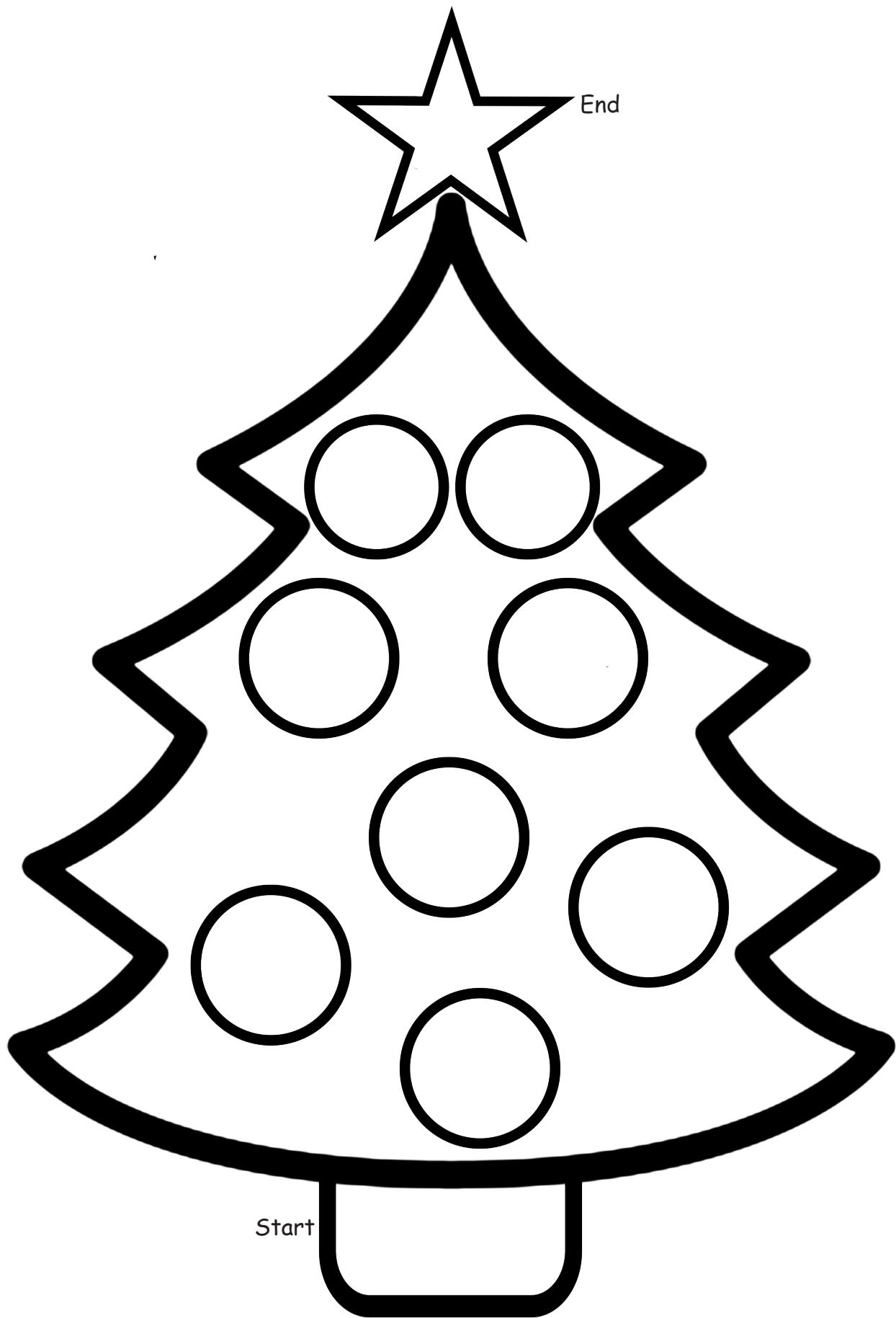
Then cut out a star and paste it onto the top of the tree.

In place of ornaments you will need boxes or ovals with the following names that will then be pasted onto the tree in the correct positions as shown on the completed tree on the last page of the lesson.

Adam
Abraham
Jacob
Judah
David
Solomon
Nathan
Joseph
Mary
Jesus

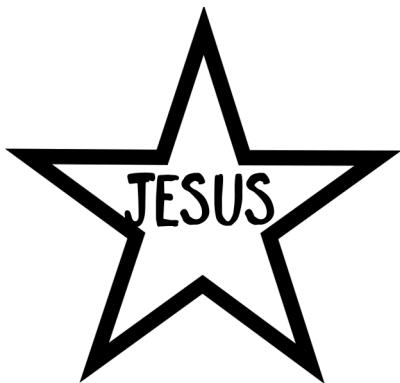
Having then pasted the names on as shown, draw arrows to show the lineage from Adam to Christ.

Option 2: Instead of cutting and pasting the tree and the names, have the children write them in themselves.



Adam
|
Abraham
|
Jacob
|
Judah
|
King David
|
Solomon Nathan
|
Joseph - Mary
|
Jesus

Cheat Sheet



A large, bold, black-outlined word "ADAM" with a thick, rounded, and slightly irregular font style.



Lesson 5

AIM: To show how the prophecy from Hosea 'Out of Egypt I called My son' has been fulfilled on 2 occasions thus far: the 1st generation of the Children of Israel led out of Egypt by Moses; and the Lord Jesus Christ as a Child after the death of Herod. The nation of Israel will be called out of 'Egypt' a 2nd time at the conclusion of the Tribulation. We as Christians are also called to keep ourselves unsullied by this world, of which Egypt is a type.

In lesson 2 entitled 'Wise Men Follow the Star', it was revealed to us that the Wise Men met with King Herod. Do you remember what they asked him on their arrival in Jerusalem?

Matthew 2:1 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 have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

Herod, after consulting with the chief priests and scribes where the Christ was to be born, they replied "in Bethlehem". Herod then called the Wise Men secretly, inquiring as to when they first saw the Star in the east which they had followed. Still in secret, Herod told the Wise Men to search carefully for the Child, and bring back word to him so that he could go and worship Him also. (Mat.2:7-8)

Qu: Did the Wise Men return and tell Herod where to find the Christ-Child?

Qu: Why not?

A:

Let's read what they did instead:

Matthew 2:12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Divinely = From God

Qu: Why do you think God warned them not to return to Herod with news of the whereabouts of Jesus?

A:

An Angel of the Lord warns Joseph

Let's continue reading in Matthew chapter 2:

Matthew 2:13 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."



We can now see from the Scriptures exactly what Herod's intentions were when he secretly told the Wise Men to tell him the whereabouts of the Child - he wanted to destroy Him. Did you notice that just like the Wise Men, Joseph was warned in a dream?

Qu: What did the angel of the Lord tell Joseph he was to do? (v.13)

A:

Qu: How would Joseph know when it would be safe to return to Israel?

A:

In v.15, after Herod's death, a prophecy was fulfilled saying: "Out of Egypt I called My Son.", which is the title of today's lesson.

The OT prophet Hosea gave the prophecy and said the following words:

Hosea 11:1 "When Israel was a child, I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son.

(The 'him' and 'son' both refer to Israel in this instance. Draw arrows from those 2 words to 'Israel'.)

We shall return to this topic, but first let's see what Herod did when the Wise Men did not return to him. Let's continue reading in Matthew chapter 2:

Matthew 2:16 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 [a picture of Israel] weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more."

Discuss Herod's actions in v.16. and who might he be a type of?

If we play detective for a moment we can deduce that the Star appeared to the Wise Men approximately 2 years prior to Herod's wicked actions.

We can also deduce that when the Wise Men came to see Jesus, He could have been almost 2 years old. The night that Jesus was born, the Shepherds visited Him in the stable, the place of His birth. But when the Wise Men came bearing their gifts to worship The King of the Jews, the family was no longer lodging in the stable but in a house.



Matthew 2:11 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.

Out of Egypt the 1st Time



Q: Can you recall another king in the OT who committed a similar action to Herod's killing of all the male babies born to the Jews?

A:

Yes, very good! It was the Egyptian pharaoh/king in Moses' day.

Exodus 1:22 So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."

Q: How are the events in Egypt, exactly the same in 2 instances as in Bethlehem?

A:

We know that Moses survived the massacre, in the same way as Jesus was able to survive Herod's massacre of the innocent boys. At that time Moses was an example of the future Baby Jesus.

Eventually, when Moses was grown and 80 years of age, he would lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt, after he had declared to Pharaoh that Israel was God's adopted firstborn son!

Ex 4:22 "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn."

That is why the prophet Hosea was able to say: "Out of Egypt I called My son." The 'son' in the prophecy is Israel, God's firstborn son.

God's Son, Jesus, Returns From Egypt

Let's return to the account of Jesus in Matthew chapter 2:

Matthew 2:19 But 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."

Joseph, Mary, and Jesus left Egypt once Herod was dead, as told to them by the angel in a dream. 'Out of Egypt God's Son was called'.

Joseph was warned by God, again in a dream, not to return to Bethlehem, which is in Judea, but instead they settled in Galilee, a province not under the control of Herod's son. So Jesus was raised in Nazareth and v.23 declares that this was also spoken of by the prophets.

The Third & Final Time Called Out of Egypt

We have now seen 2 examples of "Out of Egypt I called My son" -

- the adopted firstborn son Israel, led by Moses
- Jesus, the Son of God, as a Child.
- However, Hosea's prophecy has a future fulfillment also. There will be a 3rd time when 'out of Egypt' God will call 'His son'. For Israel it will be a 2nd time.

Q: Do you know when that event will be?

A:

Qu: Do you remember what 'Egypt' is a type of?

A:

That's right, the world. It is also a type of the Gentile nations of the world. That includes every nation except Israel.

Qu: When will God's son Israel find himself in 'Egypt' - the world, before being called out of it again?

A:

Conclusion:

There is coming a time in the future when the Jews, the nation of Israel, will experience great hardship and persecution, just as they did in Egypt, before Moses led them out of Egypt. In this future period of great tribulation, the Jews who are not killed will be scattered amongst the Gentile nations, living in fear of their lives as slaves or in hiding. Then when the One who was born their King returns to the earth at His 2nd Advent, He will destroy those who will have treated Israel so badly. He will, like Moses, lead them out of 'Egypt' back to their Promised Land.

The words of the prophet Hosea will come to pass once again - "Out of Egypt (the world) I called my son"! Then the One 'born King of the Jews' will establish His Kingdom, the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. A repentant and restored Israel during the Kingdom will be a blessing to the very Gentile nations out of which Israel will be called!

What about us?

James 4:4b ...Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

1John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

We, as Christians, have also been 'called out of 'Egypt', so to speak. Although we live in the world, in a Gentile nation ('Egypt'), we are to live our lives according to the Word of God, and if we do so we make ourselves an enemy of the world, rather than a friend of the world and an enemy of God. We are to see ourselves as pilgrims in a foreign land who are seeking a heavenly land, and if we have this mindset then we will be like Israel or Christ, a 'son of God' who is being called out of 'Egypt'!

Map Activity:

a) Use the maps in the back of your Bibles to find and label the following features on the outline map on the next page:

- Nazareth (Red dot)
- Jerusalem (Red square)
- Bethlehem (Red Dot)
- EGYPT
- GALILEE
- JUDEA

b) Using a colored pen or pencil, trace over the route (dotted lines) that Joseph, Mary, and Jesus took, as shown in our lesson today from Matthew chapter 2.

c) Optional other labels include: Mediterranean Sea, River Nile, River Jordan, Sea of Galilee, Dead Sea.

"OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON"



Special Thanks

We at Cornerstone hope and pray that this children's study has been a blessing to you whether young or old. And I am sure you will agree that the material contained within this study entitled 'Advent' is appropriate to teach at any time of the year and not just at Christmas.

The visually attractive layout and creative aspect of this study, along with the younger version, was produced by Alexis Molinaro. The same study aimed at children aged 5 has been co-written by Katie McHale.

I am indebted to both Katie & Alexis for their continued help in producing quality Kingdom-focused materials for our young Kingdom seekers.

Ann Herbert &
Cornerstone Curriculum Writing Team