

# Celebrating HIS First Coming

## *Remembering what the Prophets said... Pt. 5*

### **Luke 2:1 KJV**

*2 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.*

This is beginning to tell of the birth of Jesus. The time is when this tax was begun (in the time of Caesar Augustus).

**“Caesar Augustus”:** Caius Octavius. Grandnephew, adopted son, and primary heir to Julius Caesar. Before and after Julius’ death in 44 B.C., the Roman government was constantly torn by many power struggles.

Octavius ascended to undisputed supremacy (in 31 B.C.), by defeating his last remaining rival, Antony, in a military battle at Actium. (In 29 B.C.), the Roman senate declared Octavius Rome’s first emperor. Two years later they honored him with the title “Augustus” (Exalted one”, a term signifying religious veneration).

Rome’s republican government was effectively abolished, and Augustus was given supreme military power. He reigned until his death at age 76 (A.D. 14). Under his rule, the Roman Empire dominated the Mediterranean region, ushering in a period of great prosperity and relative peace (the Pax Romana).

He ordered “all the inhabited earth” (i.e., the world of the Roman Empire), to be counted. This was not merely a one-time census; the decree established a cycle of enrollments that were to occur every 14 years. In the prior Roman census Jews were exempt from serving in the Roman army, and the census was designed primarily to register young men for military service (as well as account for all Roman citizens).

This new, universal census was ostensibly to number each nation by family and tribe (hence Joseph, a Judean, had to return to his ancestral home to register. Property and income values were not recorded in this registration. But soon the names and population statistics that was gathered in this census were used for the levying of poll taxes, and the Jews came to regard the census itself as a distasteful symbol of Roman oppression.

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**Luke 2:2-3 KJV**

*2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)*

*3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.*

**“His own city”:** The place of tribal/descendants origin.

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**Luke 2:4 KJV**

*4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)*

**“Nazareth ... Bethlehem”:** Both Joseph and Mary were descendants of David and therefore went to their tribal home in Judea to be registered. This was a difficult trek of more than 70 miles through mountainous terrain, a particularly grueling journey for Mary, on the verge of delivery.

Perhaps she and Joseph were conscious that a birth in Bethlehem would fulfill the prophecy (in Micah 5:2). Each family returned to their place of birth where they were registered and were taxed from where they were born and not from where they lived now.

God’s Word says the reason they had to go to Bethlehem was to fulfill prophecy. It had been prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.

**Micah 5:2 AMPC**

*2 But you, Bethlehem Ephratah, you are little to be among the clans of Judah; [yet] out of you shall One come forth for Me Who is to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth have been from of old, from ancient days (eternity).*

God's prophecy must be fulfilled in every detail. **“Bethlehem”:** means house of bread. Jesus is the Bread of Life.

**John 6:35 AMPC**

*35 Jesus replied, I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me will never be hungry, and he who believes in and cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Me will never thirst any more (at any time).*

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**Luke 2:5 KJV**

*5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.*

**“Espoused”:** Matthew 1:24 indicates that when the angel told Joseph about Mary’s pregnancy, he “took her as his wife”, i.e., he took her into his home. But they did not consummate their marriage until after the birth of Jesus (Matt. 1:25). Therefore, technically they were still betrothed.

**Matthew 1:25 AMPC**

*25 But he had no union with her as her husband until she had borne her firstborn Son; and he called His name Jesus.*

Mary was living with Joseph, but had never slept with him. She is pregnant by the Holy Ghost of God.

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**Luke 2:6-7 KJV**

*6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.*

*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.*

**Luke 2:7 AMPC**

*7 And she gave birth to her Son, her Firstborn; and she wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room or place for them in the inn.*

**“Swaddling clothes”:** Strips of cloth were used to bind a baby tightly. It kept the baby from injuring sensitive facial skin and eyes with its own (often sharp) fingernails, and was believed to strengthen the limbs.

**“Manger”:** A feeding trough for animals. This is the source of the notion that Christ was born in a stable something that is nowhere stated in Scripture. Ancient tradition held that He was born in a cave (possible one used as a shelter for animals). But no actual description of the location is given.

**“No room for them in the inn”:** As to the inn being full, there were so many people in town to pay their taxes that all of the rooms were full.

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### **Luke 2:8 KJV**

*8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

### **Luke 2:8 AMPC**

*8 And in that vicinity there were shepherds living [out under the open sky] in the field, watching [in shifts] over their flock by night.*

**“Shepherds”:** Bethlehem was nearby Jerusalem, and many of the sheep used in the temple sacrifices were coming from there. The surrounding hills were prime grazing land, and shepherds worked in the area day and night, all year round.

The "*same country*": just means in the area around Bethlehem. This is an area that would be perfect for grazing sheep. These shepherds had to watch for wild animals attacking the sheep at night. Jesus is the Great Shepherd and Christians are spoken of as sheep. So what would be more appropriate to tell first than the humble shepherd?

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**Luke 2:9 KJV**

*9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.*

**Luke 2:9 AMPC**

*9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord flashed and shone all about them, and they were terribly frightened.*

Many times the presence of the Lord of Glory of God is shown by a very bright Light in scripture. Moses was in the presence of this Light on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 34). This same bright Light led the children of Israel, and this was the same bright Light seen on the Mount of Transfiguration. We see that they feared the Lord as man fears his shortcomings being known of God.

**Exodus 34:29-35 AMPC**

*29 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tables of the Testimony in his hand, he did not know that the skin of his face shone and sent forth beams by reason of his speaking with the Lord.*

30 When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they feared to come near him.

31 But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and [he] talked with them.

32 Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all the Lord had said to him in Mount Sinai.

33 And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face.

34 But when Moses went in before the Lord to speak with Him, he took the veil off until he came out. And he came out and told the Israelites what he was commanded.

35 The Israelites saw the face of Moses, how the skin of it shone; and Moses put the veil on his face again until he went in to speak with God.

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### **Luke 2:10 KJV**

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

### **Luke 2:10 AMPC**

10 But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people.

God's message to mankind, then and now, is "**fear not**". This good news is for everyone ("all people"). The gospel of Jesus Christ is good news of great joy and Our Hope.

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**Luke 2:11 KJV**

*11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

**Luke 2:11 AMPC**

*11 For to you is born this day in the town of David a Savior, Who is Christ (the Messiah) the Lord!*

**“City of David”:** I.e., Bethlehem, the town where David was born, not the City of David, which was on the southern slope of Mt. Zion.

**“A Savior”:** See John 4 below **“Christ”:** is the Greek equivalent of “Messiah”. **“Lord”:** The Greek word can mean “master”, but it is also the word used to translate the covenant name of God. This Christ child is the Savior of the whole world. This is Messiah, the Anointed One, who has come to save whosoever will...Jesus Christ was born of a woman for the people.

**John 4:1-43 AMPC**

*1 Now when the Lord knew (learned, became aware) that the Pharisees had been told that Jesus was winning and baptizing more disciples than John—*

*2 Though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples—*

*3 He left Judea and returned to Galilee.*

*4 It was necessary for Him to go through Samaria.*

*5 And in doing so, He arrived at a Samaritan town called Sychar, near the tract of land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.*



6 And Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, tired as He was from His journey, sat down [to rest] by the well. It was then about the sixth hour (about noon).

7 Presently, when a woman of Samaria came along to draw water, Jesus said to her, Give Me a drink—

8 For His disciples had gone off into the town to buy food—

9 The Samaritan woman said to Him, How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan [and a] woman, for a drink?—For the Jews have nothing to do with the Samaritans—

10 **Jesus answered her, If you had only known and had recognized God's gift and Who this is that is saying to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him [instead] and He would have given you living water.**

11 She said to Him, Sir, You have nothing to draw with [no drawing bucket] and the well is deep; how then can You provide living water? [Where do You get Your living water?]

12 **Are You greater than and superior to our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well and who used to drink from it himself, and his sons and his cattle also?**

13 Jesus answered her, All who drink of this water will be thirsty again.

14 But whoever takes a drink of the water that I will give him shall never, no never, be thirsty any more. But the water that I will give him shall become a spring of water welling up (flowing, bubbling) [continually] within him unto (into, for) eternal life.

15 The woman said to Him, Sir, give me this water, so that I may never get thirsty nor have to come [continually all the way] here to draw.

16 At this, Jesus said to her, Go, call your husband and come back here.

17 The woman answered, I have no husband. Jesus said to her, You have spoken truly in saying, I have no husband.

18 For you have had five husbands, and the man you are now living with is not your husband. In this you have spoken truly.

19 **The woman said to Him, Sir, I see and understand that You are a prophet.**

20 Our forefathers worshiped on this mountain, but you [Jews] say that Jerusalem is the place where it is necessary and proper to worship.

**21 Jesus said to her, Woman, believe Me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither [merely] in this mountain nor [merely] in Jerusalem.**

**22 You [Samaritans] do not know what you are worshiping [you worship what you do not comprehend]. We do know what we are worshiping [we worship what we have knowledge of and understand], for [after all] salvation comes from [among] the Jews.**

**23 A time will come, however, indeed it is already here, when the true (genuine) worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth (reality); for the Father is seeking just such people as these as His worshipers.**

**24 God is a Spirit (a spiritual Being) and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (reality).**

**25 The woman said to Him, I know that Messiah is coming, He Who is called the Christ (the Anointed One); and when He arrives, He will tell us everything we need to know and make it clear to us.**

26 Jesus said to her, I Who now speak with you am He.

27 Just then His disciples came and they wondered (were surprised, astonished) to find Him talking with a woman [a married woman]. However, not one of them asked Him, What are You inquiring about? or What do You want? or, Why do You speak with her?

28 Then the woman left her water jar and went away to the town. And she began telling the people,

29 **Come, see a Man Who has told me everything that I ever did! Can this be [is not this] the Christ? [Must not this be the Messiah, the Anointed One?]**

30 So the people left the town and set out to go to Him.

31 Meanwhile, the disciples urged Him saying, Rabbi, eat something.

32 But He assured them, I have food (nourishment) to eat of which you know nothing and have no idea.

33 So the disciples said one to another, Has someone brought Him something to eat?

34 Jesus said to them, My food (nourishment) is to do the will (pleasure) of Him Who sent Me and to accomplish and completely finish His work.

35 Do you not say, It is still four months until harvest time comes? Look! I tell you, raise your eyes and observe the fields and see how they are already white for harvesting.

36 Already the reaper is getting his wages [he who does the cutting now has his reward], for he is gathering fruit (crop) unto life eternal, so that he who does the planting and he who does the reaping may rejoice together.

37 For in this the saying holds true, One sows and another reaps.

38 I sent you to reap a crop for which you have not toiled. Other men have labored and you have stepped in to reap the results of their work.

39 Now numerous Samaritans from that town believed in and trusted in Him because of what the woman said when she declared and testified, He told me everything that I ever did.

40 So when the Samaritans arrived, they asked Him to remain with them, and He did stay there two days.

41 Then many more believed in and adhered to and relied on Him because of His personal message [what He Himself said].

42 And they told the woman, Now we no longer believe (trust, have faith) just because of what you said; for we have heard Him ourselves [personally], and we know that He truly is the Savior of the world, the Christ.

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### Luke 2:12 KJV

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

### Luke 2:12 AMPC

12 And this will be a sign for you [by which you will recognize Him]: you will find [after searching] a Baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

This tells the shepherds that Jesus will be in the cave where the live stock are held because it was in the manger.

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**Luke 2:13 KJV**

*13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,*

**Luke 2:13 AMPC**

*13 Then suddenly there appeared with the angel an army of the troops of heaven (a heavenly knighthood), praising God and saying,*

**“Host”:** A term used to describe an army encampment. Christ also used military imagery to describe the angels (in Matt. 26:53). (Revelation 5:11), suggests that the number of the angelic host may be too large for the human mind to fathom.

Note that here the heavenly army brought a message of peace. This "heavenly host" is a band of angels and one of the jobs of the angels is to continually praise God. Jesus is the King of peace and now that peace has come to the earth in the form of a babe in a manger.

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**Luke 2:14 KJV**

*14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

**Luke 2:14 AMPC**

*14 Glory to God in the highest [heaven], and on earth peace among men with whom He is well pleased [men of goodwill, of His favor].*

***“The highest”***: heaven. ***“Peace”***: This is not to be taken as a universal declaration of peace toward all humanity. Rather, peace with God is a direct consequence or result of justification. ***“Good will toward men”***: God’s peace is a gracious gift to those who are the objects of His pleasure.

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**Luke 2:15 KJV**

*15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, **Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.***

**Luke 2:15 AMPC**

*15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, **Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing (saying) that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.***

The shepherds immediately want to go into Bethlehem to see this wonderful thing that the angel has told them. The angels have now done what they were sent to do and have gone back to heaven.

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**Luke 2:16 KJV**

*16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.*

**Luke 2:16 AMPC**

*16 So they went with haste and [by searching] found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger.*

They had no difficulty finding them because they were told what to look for and where to find HIM. The Bible says the went with ***haste***: excessive speed or urgency of movement or action.

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**Luke 2:17 KJV**

*17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.*

**Luke 2:17 AMPC**

*17 And when they saw it, they made known what had been told them concerning this Child,*

They gave an eyewitness account of the birth of the Christ child. There was no way that they could keep from telling about the angels and the Light and the message which was brought. When anyone receives a message directly from God, it is difficult not to tell. What made it even more important to tell, would be the fact that they saw with their own eyes the fulfillment of what they were told.

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**Luke 2:18 KJV**

*18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.*

**Luke 2:18 AMPC**

*18 And all who heard it were astounded and marveled at what the shepherds told them.*

**“All they that heard it wondered”:** Wonderment at the mysteries of Christ’s words and works is one of the threads that runs through Luke’s gospel (19:33, 47-48; 1:21, 63; 4:22, 36; 5:9; 8:25; 9:43-45; 11:14; 20:26; 24:12, 41).

These shepherds, giving their testimony, were an amazement to those they told this to. Most people would not have believed they had this experience with these angels. Most believed that only priests and high priests had this type of experience with God because the shepherds were common people.

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**Luke 2:19 KJV**

*19 But Mary kept **all these things**, and pondered them in her heart.*

**Luke 2:19 AMPC**

*19 But Mary was keeping within herself **all these things** (sayings), **weighing and pondering them in her heart**.*

Mary knew that Jesus was special, she knew that He was the Son of God and she remembered all these events.

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**Luke 2:20 KJV**

*20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.*



### **Luke 2:20 AMPC**

*20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.*

**“Praising God”:** Luke often reports this response (verses 28; 1:64; 5:25-26; 7:16; 13:13; 17:15-18; 18:43; 19:37- 40; 23:47; 24:52-53). Their praising of God was because of the promise of a Savior had been fulfilled in their very own eyes.

Matthew tells us what is happening inside the Roman Government regarding the birth of Christ. Luke and Matthew are speaking about the same event, Luke tells us about the shepherds, where Jesus was born etc and Matthew gives us the “at the same time” ...

### **Matthew 2:1**

*1 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,*

### **Matthew 2:1 AMPC**

*2 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men [astrologers] from the east came to Jerusalem, asking,*

**Note:** Caesar Augustus was the powerful first Roman Emperor, ruling the vast empire, while Herod the Great was the Roman-appointed, often tyrannical, King of Judea, responsible for the region where Jesus was born

To win the favor of both Romans and Jews he carried out lavish building projects, including the cities of Caesarea and Samaria, and the new temple at Jerusalem. Herod had 10 wives and the deserved reputation of being a cruel, unscrupulous despot.

Because of hatred and ambitions for power among families, and because of Herod's consuming suspicion that someone might usurp his throne, he even executed one of his wives and his three oldest sons.

The act of murdering all of the young male children in the region of Bethlehem, was in an effort to eliminate the One whom the Magi had called King of the Jews, fits Herod's character (see the verses 1-16).

Bethlehem is known as the city of David and Jerusalem is also referred to as the City of David.. This is the city of the birth of David's greater descendant or Savior, Jesus Christ (Luke 2:4-7), as predicted by Micah the prophet (5:2; Matt. 2:5-6).

**Both Jerusalem and Bethlehem** are called the "City of David" in the Bible, but for different reasons: Jerusalem because David conquered it and made it his capital, and Bethlehem because it was his birthplace and hometown. Bethlehem is the original "City of David" by birth, while Jerusalem became the "City of David" through conquest and kingship, the center of his kingdom.

In A.D. 325 Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine built several churches at Biblical sites to mark them historically.

One of those churches was over a cave traditionally regarded as the birth site. In the sixth century Emperor Justinian I, built on the same site a larger church which is now called the “Church of the Nativity.”

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**Matthew 2:2 KJV**

*2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.*

**Matthew 2:2 AMPC**

*2 Where is He Who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east at its rising and have come to worship Him.*

"Bethlehem" (Ephratah), means house of bread, and it is appropriate for the Bread of Life (Jesus) to be born there.

**John 6:35 AMPC**

*35 Jesus replied, I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me will never be hungry, and he who believes in and cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Me will never thirst any more (at any time).*

**John 6:41 AMPC**

*41 Now the Jews murmured and found fault with and grumbled about Jesus because He said, I am [Myself] the Bread that came down from heaven.*

Contrary to the belief of many as a result of 3 gifts - there must have been just 3 wise men or Magi, , however, there were not a specific number given. The wise men (called Magi), typically traveled in groups of 12 with the responsibilities of: interpret dreams and understand prophecy, as well as being able to discern the heavens.

They knew the Messiah was prophesied... They knew that His star would appear in the east... They did know this star proclaimed the promised Messiah, and being wise, they had come to worship Him. (Numbers and Daniel 9)

**Numbers 24:17 AMPC**

*17 I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but He is not near. A star (Star) shall come forth out of Jacob, and a scepter (Scepter) shall rise out of Israel...*

**Daniel 9:24-26 AMPC**

*24 Seventy weeks [of years, or 490 years] are decreed upon your people and upon your holy city [Jerusalem], to finish and put an end to transgression, to seal up and make full the measure of sin, to purge away and make expiation and reconciliation for sin, to bring in everlasting righteousness (permanent moral and spiritual rectitude in every area and relation) to seal up vision and prophecy and prophet, and to anoint a Holy of Holies.*

*25 Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem until [the coming of] the Anointed One, a Prince, shall be seven weeks [of years] and sixty-two weeks [of years]; it shall be built again with [city] square and moat, but in troublous times.*

*26 And after the sixty-two weeks [of years] shall the Anointed One be cut off or killed and shall have nothing [and no one] belonging to [and defending] Him.*

The Promised Messiah would be killed 483 years after the command to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem - this goes back to the time of Ezra and Nehemiah... the Maji knew to look for someone by a star before that time that would fulfill all of the Old Testament Prophecies.

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***Matthew 2:3 KJV***

*3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.*

***Matthew 2:3 AMPC***

*3 When Herod the king heard this, he was disturbed and troubled, and the whole of Jerusalem with him.*

Herod was troubled, because he believed this person (born King of the Jews), had come to dethrone him. When it speaks of "all Jerusalem", it means people who might lose their standing, if a new king were enthroned.

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***Matthew 2:4 KJV***

*4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.*

### **Matthew 2:4 AMPC**

*4 So he called together all the chief priests and learned men (scribes) of the people and anxiously asked them where the Christ was to be born.*

These men that he gathered were the rabbis, the religious leaders of that day; the men who knew the law and knew of the promise of Messiah. In the Old Testament, it was prophesied that Christ would be born in Bethlehem Ephratah (Micah 5:2).

### **Micah 5:2 AMPC**

*2 But you, Bethlehem Ephratah, you are little to be among the clans of Judah; [yet] out of you shall One come forth for Me Who is to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth have been from of old, from ancient days (eternity).*

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### **Matthew 2:5-6 KJV**

*5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,*

*6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.*

### **Matthew 2:5-6 AMPC**

*5 They replied to him, In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:*

*6 And you Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are not in any way least or insignificant among the chief cities of Judah; for from you shall come a Ruler (Leader) Who will govern and shepherd My people Israel.*

This ancient prophecy from (Micah 5:2), was written in the eighth century B.C. The original prophecy, not quoted in full by Matthew, declared the deity of Israel's Messiah: ***“From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago from the days of eternity.”*** (KJV ***“A Governor, that shall rule my people Israel”***): This portion of Matthew's quote actually seems to be a reference to God's words to David when Israel's kingdom was originally established (2 Sam. 5:2; 1 Chron. 11:2). The Greek word for ***“ruler”*** evokes the image of strong, even stern, leadership. “Shepherd” emphasizes tender care.

These religious people knew where He was to be born. They just did not want to give up their literal way of looking at the law. They were expecting a mighty king, who would rule them and overthrow the Romans.

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### **Matthew 2:7-8 KJV**

*7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.*

*8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.*

### **Matthew 2:7-8 AMPC**

*7 Then Herod sent for the wise men [astrologers] secretly, and accurately to the last point ascertained from them the time of the appearing of the star [that is, how long the star had made itself visible since its rising in the east].*

*8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, Go and search for the Child carefully and diligently, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.*

Herod was a liar, he had no intention of worshipping Him...He wanted to kill Him. He was afraid of Him whom he saw as a potential threat to his throne. The wise men did go and find Him. Bethlehem is only about 6 miles from Jerusalem. It is a short journey... Herod thought he had tricked the wise men.

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**Matthew 2:9 KJV**

*9 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.*

**Matthew 2:9 AMPC**

*9 When they had listened to the king, they went their way, and behold, the star which had been seen in the east in its rising went before them until it came and stood over the place where the young Child was.*

These wise men of old followed the star in the east and they were led to Him.

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**Matthew 2:10-11 KJV**

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



*11 And when they were come into the house, 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, and frankincense and myrrh.*

**Matthew 2:10-11 AMPC**

*10 When they saw the star, they were thrilled with ecstatic joy.*

*11 And on going into the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then opening their treasure bags, they presented to Him gifts—gold and frankincense and myrrh.*

***“Into the house”***: By the time the wise men arrived, Mary and Joseph were situated in a house, not a stable (see Luke 2:7).

***“The young child with Mary his mother”***: Whenever Matthew mentions Mary in connection with her Child, Christ is always given first place (verses 13-14, 20-21).

There were three types of gifts mentioned, not three wise men... The three gifts brought were spiritual meanings of who Jesus is, was, and always will be.

The "gold" recognized Jesus as God. The "frankincense" recognized Jesus as the perfect Lamb sacrifice. The "myrrh" recognized Jesus as the groom of the bride of Christ.

"Gold" spiritually means purity of God. "Frankincense" accompanied the lamb offering in the temple sacrifice, and "myrrh" was the sweet aloe for the wedding bed.

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**Matthew 2:12 KJV**

*12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.*

**Matthew 2:12 AMPC**

*12 And receiving an answer to their asking, they were divinely instructed and warned in a dream not to go back to Herod; so they departed to their own country by a different way.*

These wise men not only heard the warning of God but were obedient to HIS warning.

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**Matthew 2:13 KJV**

*13 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.*

**Matthew 2:13 AMPC**

*13 Now after they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, Get up! [Tenderly] take unto you the young Child and His mother and flee to Egypt; and remain there till I tell you [otherwise], for Herod intends to search for the Child in order to destroy Him.*

God sent a message to Joseph by this "angel of the Lord". God knows everything even before it happens. This is called foreknowledge, and not predestination.

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**Matthew 2:14 KJV**

*14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:*

**Matthew 2:14 AMPC**

*14 And having risen, he took the Child and His mother by night and withdrew to Egypt*

Joseph did what God told him to do. They left in the darkness, so that no one would be aware of which direction they went. Most people did not travel by night, and Herod would not expect them to travel at night either.

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**Matthew 2:15 KJV**

*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.*

**Matthew 2:15 AMPC**

*15 And remained there until Herod's death. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, Out of Egypt have I called My Son.*

In the context of Matthew 2:15, Jesus's flight to Egypt with Mary and Joseph to escape King Herod is fulfilled, foretold by the Never Wrong Prophet Hosea.

Matthew applies this same prophetic language to Jesus, casting Him as the true and obedient "son" who retraces Israel's steps. By fleeing to Egypt, Jesus fulfills a prophetic pattern. The original exodus was a historical event where God delivered His people from slavery, and Matthew uses this to show that Jesus is leading a greater "new exodus" from the bondage of sin and death.

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**Matthew 2:16-18 KJV**

*16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.*

*17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying,*

*18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.*

**Matthew 2:16-18 AMPC**

*16 Then Herod, when he realized that he had been misled by the wise men, was furiously enraged, and he sent and put to death all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that territory who were two years old and under, reckoning according to the date which he had investigated diligently and had learned exactly from the wise men.*

**17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:**

**18 A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they were no more.**

**Matthew 2:17 fulfills the prophecy in Jeremiah 31:15...**

**Jeremiah 31:15 AMPC**

*15 Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.*

Matthew is bringing forth that which was spoken by the Never Wrong Prophet Jeremiah to the grief of the mothers in Bethlehem after King Herod ordered the slaughter of young boys in the area in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus. Matthew draws a parallel between the ancient mourning for the children taken into Babylonian exile and the modern grief in Bethlehem caused by Herod's massacre. By connecting these events, Matthew highlights the deep sorrow over the death of innocents, but also points to Jesus as the ultimate hope for Israel, fulfilling the promise of comfort and restoration that follows the weeping in the original prophecy.

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**Matthew 2:19-22 KJV**

*19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,*

20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. 21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, **being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:**

### **Matthew 2:19-22 AMPC**

19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt

20 And said, Rise, [tenderly] take unto you the Child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead.

21 Then he awoke and arose and [tenderly] took the Child and His mother and came into the land of Israel.

22 But because he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in the place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. **And being divinely warned in a dream, he withdrew to the region of Galilee.**

God gave Joseph a dream and told him to go to an area away from Jerusalem and then, "into the parts of Galilee".

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### **Matthew 2:23 KJV**

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.

### **Matthew 2:23 AMPC**

*23 He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled: He shall be called a Nazarene [Branch, Separated One].*

Matthew is associating the word Nazarene which means Branch and also with the Hebrew word netser (“branch or sprout”) and the “Branch” was a common term for the Messiah...

### **Isaiah 11:1 AMPC**

*11 And there shall come forth a Shoot **out of the stock of Jesse [David's father]**, and a **Branch** out of his roots shall grow and bear fruit.*

Jesus was “sprouting up” from an obscure village in Galilee and He was the Branch predicted by the prophets, and the name of the town He grew up also just happens to sound just like the prophets’ word for “branch.” Jesus identified Himself as “Jesus of Nazareth” with Saul on the road to Damascus.

### **Acts 22:7-8 KJV**

*7 And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?*

*8 And I answered, **Who art thou, Lord?** And he said unto me, **I am Jesus of Nazareth**, whom thou persecutest.*

### **Acts 22:7-8 AMPC**

*7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me [harass and trouble and molest Me]?*

8 And I replied, **Who are You, Lord? And He said to me, I am Jesus the Nazarene,** Whom you are persecuting.

Who is Jesus? He is the Word (John 1:1) He is the Way, the Truth and Life (John 14:6) That is who Saul was persecuting.

After his conversion, Paul mentioned Jesus of Nazareth (Acts 26:9). One of the names of the early Christians was “Nazarenes” (Acts 24:5), and the term Nasara, meaning “Nazarene,” is still used today by Muslims to identify a Christian.

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