

COUNTRY BIBLE CHURCH

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

DECEMBER 21, 2025

Pastor Mike Smith

The birth of Jesus Christ was prophesized several times, here are a few of them:

Isaiah 7:14 *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.*

Matthew 1:23 *Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."*

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.*

Micah 5:2 *But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."*

Genesis 3:15 speaks of enmity between the serpent and the woman's Seed, with her seed bruising the serpent's head—understood as pointing toward Jesus' ultimate victory.

Genesis 3:15 And I (G.F.) will put enmity Between you (Satan) and the woman, And between your seed (anti-Christ) and her Seed (Jesus Christ); He shall bruise (crush) your head (Satan imprisoned for 1000 years) And you shall bruise His heel (on the cross).

Kari and I got a Christmas card from a friend which I want you to see what it said:

HE CAME NOT TO A THRONE, BUT TO A MANGER.

HE LIVED NOT AS A KING, BUT AS A SERVANT.

HE CHOSE NOT A KINGDOM, BUT A CROSS.

HE GAVE NOT JUST A LITTLE, BUT EVERYTHING.

Holley Gerth

My prayer this Christmas is that you will:

Hear the Word of God clearly taught;

Know that God has a perfect Plan for you;

**Have confidence that God wants to do
to bless you abundantly every day;
and He wants you to be happy!**

**Thanking God for His gift of a Savior...
and thanking Him for you !**

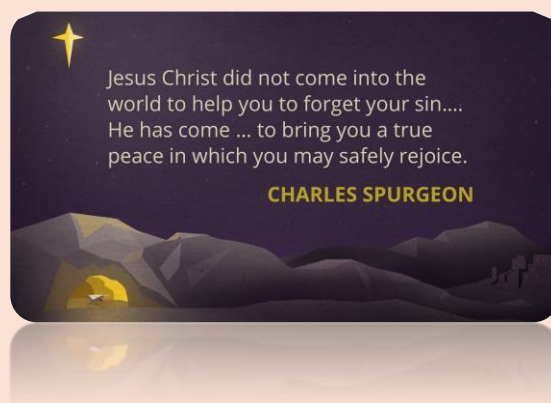
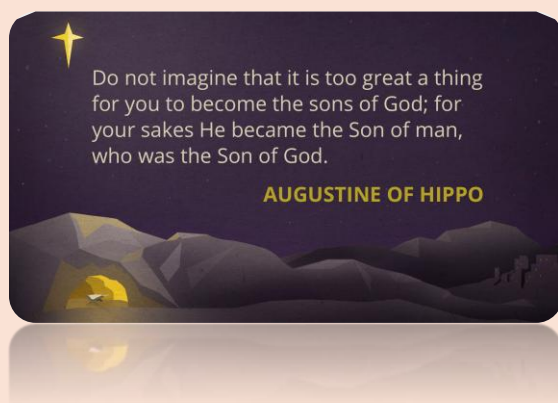
Imitate Jesus in His Humility

The Infant Jesus is silent. He does not extol Himself; He does not proclaim His own power and greatness, and behold, an angel announces His birth, a multitude of the heavenly host praise and glorify the newborn King. You that would follow Christ, in like manner imitate His example. Hide the gifts and graces you have received. Love to be unknown. Let the mouths of others praise you, but keep your own lips closed. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX (1090–1153)*, *ibid*

What about the town of Bethlehem?

Micah 5:2 *“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, 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.”*

John 7:42 *“Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?”*



Who Visited Baby Jesus in the Bible?

The biblical accounts identify two primary groups who visited the infant Jesus. Shepherds keeping watch over their flocks received an angelic announcement of Jesus's birth and traveled to Bethlehem, where they found the baby lying in a manger with Mary and Joseph. (*Luke 2:8–20*)

Luke 2:8-20 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. 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 clothes, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" 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. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 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.

Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem after observing a star, declaring they had come to worship the newborn king of the Jews.

Matthew 2:1-23 ***Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." 3 And when Herod the king heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he began to inquire of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 And they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet, 6 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; For out of you shall come***

forth a Ruler, Who will shepherd My people Israel.'" 7 Then Herod secretly called the magi, and ascertained from them the time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, "Go and make careful search for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, that I too may come and worship Him." 9 And having heard the king, they went their way; and lo, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them, until it came and stood over where the Child was. 10 And when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And they came into the house and saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell down and worshipped Him; and opening their treasures they presented to Him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their own country by another way. 13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise and take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." 14 And he arose and took the Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt; 15 and was there until the death of Herod, that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "Out of Egypt did I call My Son." 16 Then when Herod saw that he

had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its environs, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the magi. 17 Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying, 18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, Weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children; And she refused to be comforted, Because they were no more." 19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, 20 "Arise and take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead." 21 And he arose and took the Child and His mother and came into the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he departed for the regions of Galilee, 23 and came and resided in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

The symbolic significance of these two visits held greater importance than the historical details themselves.

The visits carried contrasting meanings: Luke's account of the shepherds emphasizes Jesus's concern for society's poorest members, with heavenly hosts announcing his birth to those at the bottom of the social hierarchy.

In Matthew, the magi's gifts—gold symbolizing Jesus's royal identity as Messiah, frankincense pointing to his priestly ministry, and myrrh foreshadowing the redemptive nature of his death—conveyed theological truths about Christ's future mission.

Additionally, the magi's identity as Gentiles rather than Jews underscored the universal scope of the Christian gospel.

The timing of these visits remains uncertain, though evidence suggests months may have passed between Jesus's birth and the magi's arrival.

Two other biblical visitors deserve mention: Simeon, a righteous man at the temple, held the infant Jesus and praised God, recognizing him as the Savior.

These two people, including Anna, who recognized Jesus as the Messiah, can be found in (Luke 2:25-39).

Luke 2:25-35 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man

was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, 28 then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 "Now Lord, Thou dost let Thy bond-servant depart In peace, according to Thy word; 30 For my eyes have seen Thy salvation, 31 Which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 A light of revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Thy people Israel." 33 And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him. 34 And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed-- 35 and a sword will pierce even your own soul-- to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

Anna, a prophetess who lived at the temple, also saw baby Jesus and proclaimed to all present that he was “God’s Son, the Savior of the world!”

Anna was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher. An elderly widow who had remained unmarried after her husband’s death, she devoted herself to temple life, spending her days in fasting and prayer.

Her age is uncertain—the Greek text allows for either 84 or 105 years old.

As a prophetess in the Jerusalem Temple, Anna recognized the infant Jesus as Israel’s promised Messiah alongside Simeon.

When she encountered the baby in the temple, she recognized Him as the fulfillment of God’s promises. She responded by giving thanks to God and speaking about Him to all who anticipated Israel’s redemption.

Anna represents a particular type of Jewish piety—a widow whose devotion was expressed through consistent temple presence and spiritual disciplines of fasting and prayer.

Her role in Luke’s narrative parallels Simeon’s, as both elderly, faithful believers serve as witnesses to Jesus’s

identity and significance. Through their recognition of the child, Luke emphasizes that Jesus's coming fulfilled the hopes and expectations embedded in Israel's religious tradition.

Luke 2:36-39 And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with a husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. And she never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. 38 And at that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. 39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.

Earthly gatherings after all have something about them that is sad and sorrowful. The happiest parties sometimes contain uncongenial members; the merriest meetings are only for a very short time. Moreover, as years roll on, the hand of death makes painful gaps in the family circle. Even in the midst of Christmas merriment we cannot help remembering those who have passed away.... People do not talk much of such things, but there are few that do not feel them. We need not intrude our

inmost thoughts on others, and especially when all around us are bright and happy. But there are not many, I suspect, who reach middle age, who would not admit, if they spoke the truth, that there are sorrowful things inseparably mixed up with a Christmas party. In short, there is no unmixed pleasure about any earthly gathering.

But is there no better gathering yet to come? Is there no bright prospect on our horizon of an assembly which shall far outshine the assemblies of Christmas and New Year—an assembly in which there shall be joy without sorrow, and mirth without tears? Elliot Ritzema, ed., 300 Quotations and Prayers for Christmas, (Lexham Press, 2013).

There would be no salvation without the virgin birth.