

The Birth of Christ

Over two thousand years ago, a young man and his betrothed spouse traveled to the small town of Bethlehem just south of Jerusalem. They went there because Caesar Augustus had ordered a census, thus requiring everyone to return to their ancestral home to be counted. As they entered Bethlehem, all the inns were full and the only place they could find to stay was in a stable. While there, Mary gave birth to her son, Jesus, and laid Him in a manger surrounded by hay and animals.

The birth was heralded by angels. To shepherds watching their flocks nearby, the angel declared: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10–11, ESV). The shepherds hurried to see the child, becoming the first witnesses of the Messiah. Their presence highlights that God's message of salvation was first revealed to ordinary, working people, not kings or rulers.

Later, wise men from the East followed a star that led them to Bethlehem. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, each symbolizing aspects of Christ's mission: Gold for kingship, frankincense for divinity and worship, and myrrh foreshadowing His sacrificial death. Their journey shows that Christ's birth was not only for Israel but for the whole world, fulfilling prophecies that nations would come to worship the Messiah.

The birth of Jesus also fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies written centuries earlier. The prophet Isaiah declared: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). Micah foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). These prophecies remind us that Christ's coming was part of God's eternal plan, woven into the fabric of Scripture.

The birth of Christ was more than a historical event—it is a living message of hope. It shows that God is with us (Emmanuel). It reminds us that true peace is not found in worldly power but in Christ's presence. It calls us to humility, compassion, and faith, following the example of shepherds and wise men who sought and worshiped Him.

The nativity is not simply a story of a baby born long ago; it is the beginning of redemption's story, the dawn of salvation, and the ultimate sign of God's love for humanity. In the manger at Bethlehem, heaven touched earth, and the world was forever changed. Now, will you let Christ change you?

Gary



A Child Is Born

Isaiah 7.14

- 1) Have you ever met anyone whose name did not seem to fit them?
- 2) Did you know that several names for Jesus were prophesied in the Old Testament scriptures?
- 3) How did Christ enter the world?

It Was Prophesied That...

I) To _____ A Child Would Be Born.

- A) Jesus was not born for kings or scholars or the elite; Jesus was born *“to us.”*
- 1) The prophetic message was _____—to all people (Luke 2.8-14).
 - 2) All people means the weary, the broken, the hopeful.
- B) God sent a _____ (Luke 2.16).
- C) God often shows up in unexpected, humble places.

II) The _____ Would Be On His Shoulders.

- A) What kind of governments do we have in the world today?
- 1) How do they rule?
 - 2) Jesus would not rule by _____ but by _____.
- B) When life feels chaotic, we need to remember who carries the weight.
- 1) Jesus appeared bringing _____ into _____ (Isaiah 9.2; John 8.12; I John 1.7).
 - 2) Whatever darkness we face...the birth of Jesus declares God’s light to be stronger.

III) His _____ Would Be Called....

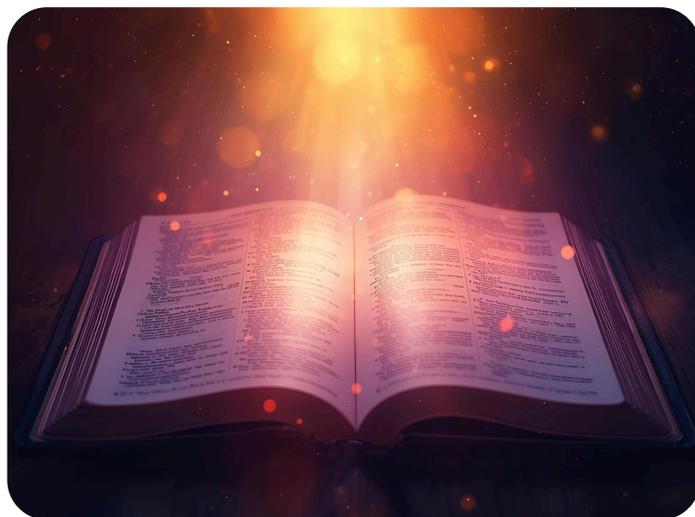
- A) _____
- 1) The title could be translated *“Wonder of a Counselor.”*
 - 2) The word *“wonderful”* is frequently used in the Old Testament to describe those things associated with God that are _____ and _____.
- B) _____
- 1) This title points to the _____ of God.
 - 2) Jeremiah said, *“He shall be called _____ our righteousness” (Jeremiah 23.6).*
- C) _____
- 1) The Hebrew literally says, “The Father of eternity.”
 - 2) The Father of eternity; by whom the _____ and every member of it, shall have _____.
- D) _____ of _____
- 1) Jesus establishes and maintains true peace, not the peace of the world (John 14.27).
 - 2) This peace comes when _____, the cause of strife, is banished from a person’s life.

Conclusion: Do you need the Prince of Peace in your life today?

CONNECTION

C Good morning WH family! Just a reminder to please make plans to be with us on our next two midweek services (12/23 and 12/30) on **TUESDAY** nights instead of on Wednesdays. Those services will be special times of worship, prayer and listening to God speak to us through scripture.

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E
R I was asked by some to print the Bible study method we discussed last Sunday evening, So here it is. I hope it will help enhance your Bible study time.



Many Christians desire to read the Bible more deeply but are not always sure how to approach it in a meaningful way. One simple and helpful tool for personal Bible study is the SPECK method. The name itself reminds us to examine our hearts carefully as we read God’s Word—just as Jesus warned us not to ignore the “speck” in our own eye (Matthew 7:3–5).

The SPECK method encourages reflection, humility, and personal application by asking five important questions while reading Scripture:

S — Sin to Confess

As you read, ask whether the passage reveals any sin to avoid or confess. God’s Word often exposes attitudes, motives, or actions that need repentance (Psalm 51).

P — Promise to Claim

Does the passage contain a promise from God—either directly stated or implied? These promises strengthen faith and remind us of God’s faithfulness (2 Peter 1:10-11).

E — Example to Follow

Look for examples—both positive and negative—found in people or situations within the text. Scripture provides real-life illustrations to guide our choices today (1 Corinthians 10:11).

C — Command to Obey

Ask if there is a command God expects His people to follow. Obedience flows from love and trust in the Lord (John 13:34-35).

K — Knowledge About God

What does this passage teach about God’s character, His will, or His ways? Growing in knowledge of God draws us closer to Him (Hosea 6:3).

Whether used individually, in families, or in small groups, this simple approach helps God’s Word move from the page into our hearts—and into our daily lives. “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” — Psalm 119:105

We hope to see you for our holiday midweek services-- You’ll be blessed!

--Les Keele

SHEPERDS

Greg Ball	214-801-7375
Russ Bartee	817-938-5825
Dan Kille	817-793-7493
Chuck Meyer	682-553-5444
*Ross Tomlinson	682-429-1983
John Walton	817-441-0000
*Shepherd of the month	

MINISTERS

Gary Williams: Pulpit Minister	662-321-3208
Les Keele: Associate Minister	817-808-0566
James Bowie: Youth Minister	817-944-4492

THAI-LAOTIAN MINISTERS

Jeffery Lertboonpadong	206-819-9109
John Boudtaroth	817-891-2132

DEACONS

Jonathan Bartee	817-889-2686
David Birdow	972-310-1143
James Bowie	817-944-4492
Zach Brookshire	817-296-9918
Brandon Duncan	903-603-1059
Jay Garner	817-205-2070
Ben Meyer	817-673-8557
Robert Scott	817-246-0911
Matt Sloan	405-471-3404
Steve Taylor	817-291-2065
Buck Thomas	817-733-2620
Arthur Torrez	817-721-2726

MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

Welcome - Layton Garner

Song Leader - Jonathan Bartee

Song - O Come, All Ye Faithful

Song - Joy To The World

Song - The First Noel

Song - Silent Night, Holy Night

Opening Prayer - Robert Scott

Scripture - Isaiah 7:14

Song - What Child Is This?

Lord's Supper - James Bowie

Prayer for Contribution - James Bowie

Song - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

A Child Is Born - Gary Williams

Song - Softly And Tenderly

Announcements - Les Keele

Shepherd's Prayer & Dismissal - Ross Tomlinson

Our Code for Tithe.ly



QR Code for



Giving

Attendance

Attended Nursery: After communion, we have an attended nursery available for age birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, December 22

Isaiah 36-38; Revelation 13

Tuesday, December 23

Isaiah. 39-41; Revelation 14

Wednesday, December 24

Isaiah 42-44; Revelation 15

Thursday, December 25

Isaiah 45-48; Revelation 16

Friday, December 26

Isaiah 49-52; Revelation 17

Saturday, December 27

Isaiah 53-55; Psalm 65; Revelation 18

Sunday, December 21

Isaiah 56; Revelation 19

Last Week

Bible Class	114	Wednesday	105
Worship	170	Contribution	\$ 7,686.50
Thai - Lao	30	Budget	\$ 14,216.88
Worship PM	38		

Times of Assemblies

Bible Class:	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening:	7:00 PM