



Christmas Bible Study  
For Sermons 12.2.18 & 12.9.18

Read *Matthew 2:1-12* & *Luke 2:1-12*

Questions, Answers, and Review from Sunday's sermon: The star, in Matthew, is just one of many ways God has revealed Himself to man. It's also symbolic of the light of Biblical prophecy which told the "when" and "where" of the future Christmas story. In Luke, we see the intricate details of the people involved and God's perfect timing...one exact night with everyone in place.

Consider the following prophetic scriptures and find what detail they reveal about Christmas:

[Discuss the significance of each]

*Genesis 3:15*—The future Redeemer would come through Adam/Man

*Genesis 49:8-10*—The Royal line/future King would hail from Judah, not his three older brothers.

*Isaiah 7:14*—Jesus would be born of a Virgin and have the title/nature: "God with us"

*Isaiah 9:6*—The Redeemer would be both man and God

*Micah 5:2*—Jesus would be born in Bethlehem

*Hosea 11:1*—The Christ Child would end up in Egypt

What does the inviting and inclusion of Persian magi tell us? 1) God never operates based on human wisdom = He is sovereign. 2) outsiders are included—salvation through Jesus is not just for the Jews. 3) God was orchestrating Christmas all the way back in Daniel's day

How do Joseph and Mary end up in Bethlehem at the exact right time?

- God had returned Israel/Judah from exile more than 400 years earlier.
- God had made Rome the ruling empire more than 150 years earlier.
- God had raised up Caesar Augustus, 2500 miles away and 20-some years earlier, and then moved his heart to order the decree.
- That decree came from Rome/Caesar ordering the whole world to be counted.
- After possibly refusing to comply with Rome, Herod orders all Israeli citizens to go to ancestral home based on when Israel was established under David/Solomon.
- Joseph and Mary had to go to that specific town to be registered for the census

What was meant, on Sunday, when it was taught that Christmas was not God's Plan B? the Godhead was not scrabbling to come up with a redemption plan after Adam fell, thus ruining God's plan A. Jesus' coming was foreordained before the foundation of the world.

See also *1 Peter 1:20*, *1 Timothy 1:9*, & *Galatians 4:4-5*

How is the Christmas account and its details connected to the Cross? While the Christmas story is warm and sweet, the whole purpose of Jesus coming to was to go to Calvary on behalf of the elect. All the details of Christmas line up to have everything in place for His death—In Israel, ruled Romans, illegal for Jews to kill Him, birth timed to line up with Daniel's prophecy....

What amazes you most about the Christmas account and the circumstances surrounding it?  
Various personal answers

What things most often distract us from the true meaning of Christmas? Various personal answers