

The Life of Christ

The Christmas Story

The Announcements

Already covered

Daniel 9:20-27 Messiah announced to Daniel by Gabriel

Luke 1:5-25 John the Baptist announced to father by Gabriel

Luke 1:26-38 Jesus Christ announced to Mary by Gabriel

Luke 1:39-56 Mary visits Elizabeth

Luke 1:57-80 Birth of John

Luke 2:1-7 Birth of Jesus Christ

Luke 2:8-20 The Shepherds

To Continue...

Luke 2:21-24 Keeping the Law, and the covenant of circumcision
Note: firstborn boys to be dedicated to Jehovah

Luke 2:25-35 Simon

- Vs. 25 Unusual work of the Holy Spirit?
- Vs 30 Recognized as the Redeemer
- Vs 31-32 For all people, Gentiles and Jews

Luke 2:36-38 Anna – Recognizes the Redeemer!

Luke 2:39-40 Summary, not contradiction – 3-4 months in Egypt not very significant.

The Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-3 Generally thought to be a large convoy, including escorting soldiers

Recent “discoveries” regarding Chinese evidence of the wise men, I have no information. A book was published regarding a Vatican held “Revelation of the Magi” mss, but descriptions make it sound (to me) like a medieval writing – so I haven’t bought it. It may be available at Robert’s Library, so I may find out more later.

Matthew 2:4-8 Interview with Herod

Vs 6 Read Micah 5:2-5

Matthew 2:9-12 Visit of the Wise Men

Date: Traditionally **January 6, 4 BC**, Must be quick, because Herod died in March/April, and his slaughter of male children happened after he perceived that the wise men had not returned to him.

Vs 9-10

The Star – known significant astrological events have pretty well been eliminated as a source for this “star”, but Eastern Orthodoxy regards the star as angelic guidance – as does the mss noted above – I see no reason to refute that interpretation, and in light of vs 9-10, the angelic version makes a lot more sense than an otherwise unidentified comet. For an angel to appear as or like a star is in keeping with God’s manner of meeting people where they are – these wise guys were star chasers.

Vs 11-12

“Child and Mary – Much ado about nothing regarding “child” instead of “baby” (consider, in the UK a kindergarten child is an “infant”) and missing Joseph (reappears in vs 21 and Luke 3:41-47 [age 12], no reference afterwards)

Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh – All three of these gifts were of high monetary value, symbolically, it is worth noting connotations of royalty in the Gold, of divinity in the Frankincense (used to make incense used in worship), and that Myrrh was use both in the anointing oil used for kings, and in preparation of the dead for entombment.

God and the Magi – notice that God revealed Christ to the Magi, and God sent them home safely, not necessarily for the benefit of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus – these wise men are among the non-Jewish nations, who will also be redeemed by Jesus on the cross.

Matthew 2:13-23 Avoiding the wrath of Herod, settling back in Nazareth

Slaughter from 2 years old? Much confusion has been based on the age of children to be slaughtered, but consider that the Wise Men would have been traveling for some time, and there would have been a time of debate, discussion, and preparation. Close to two years from their first indication until the birth of Christ is not much of a stretch, especially if Herod added a margin of time.

Herod Archelaus – Herod’s son, started by slaying 3,000 Pharisees, disposed in 6 AD.