

“ I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder” ~ 2 Peter 1:13

“I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder” 2 Peter 3:1



**MESSIAH**

Part 3





*What kind of things do you like to make  
and what kind of projects do you like to  
do around the house?*





*If you knew it would fail and turn out very flawed,  
Would you still take the time to make it?*

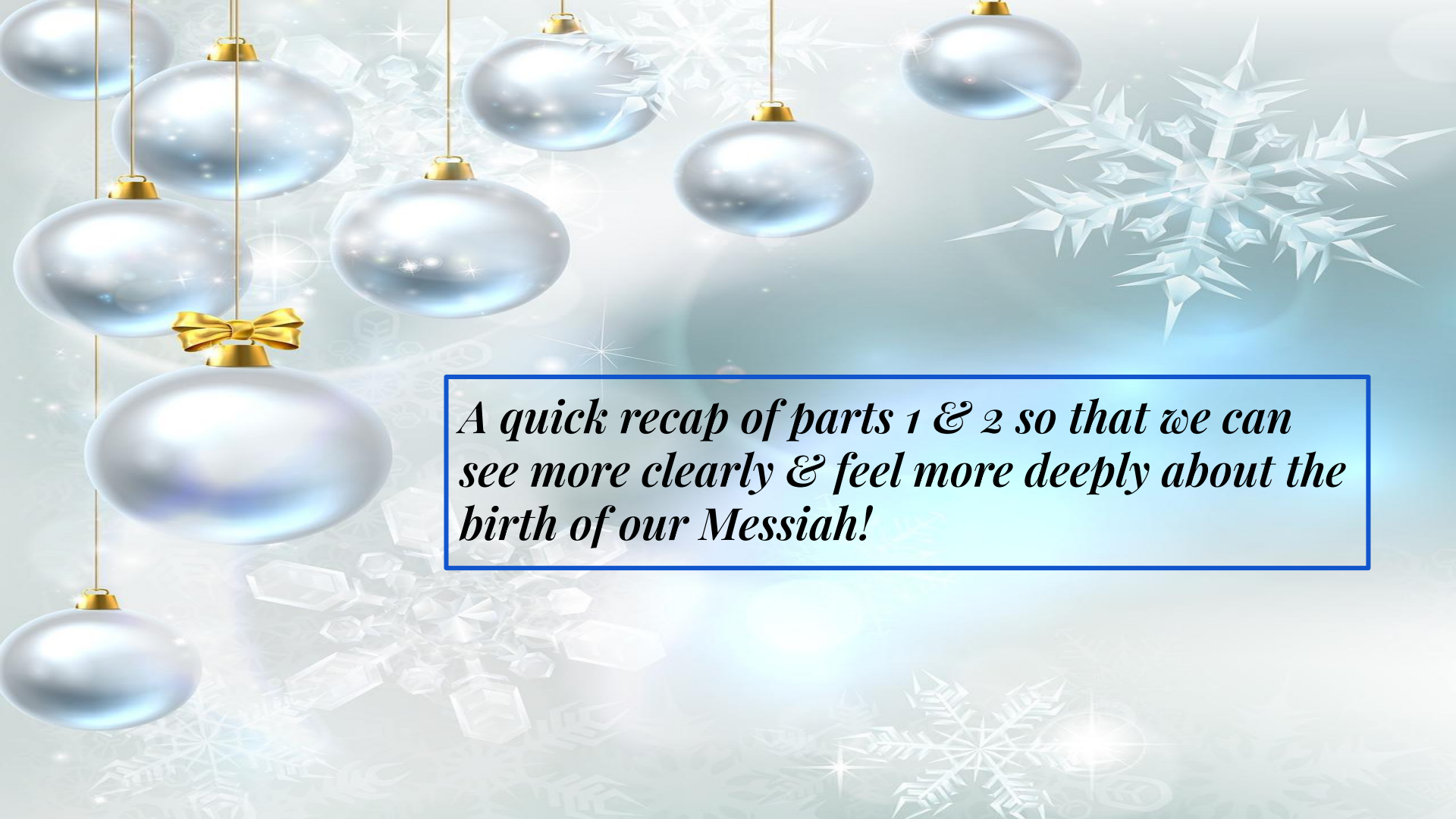




***God Did!***

**But HIS plan is still perfect & even though we are 'perfectly imperfect'**





*A quick recap of parts 1 & 2 so that we can  
see more clearly & feel more deeply about the  
birth of our Messiah!*

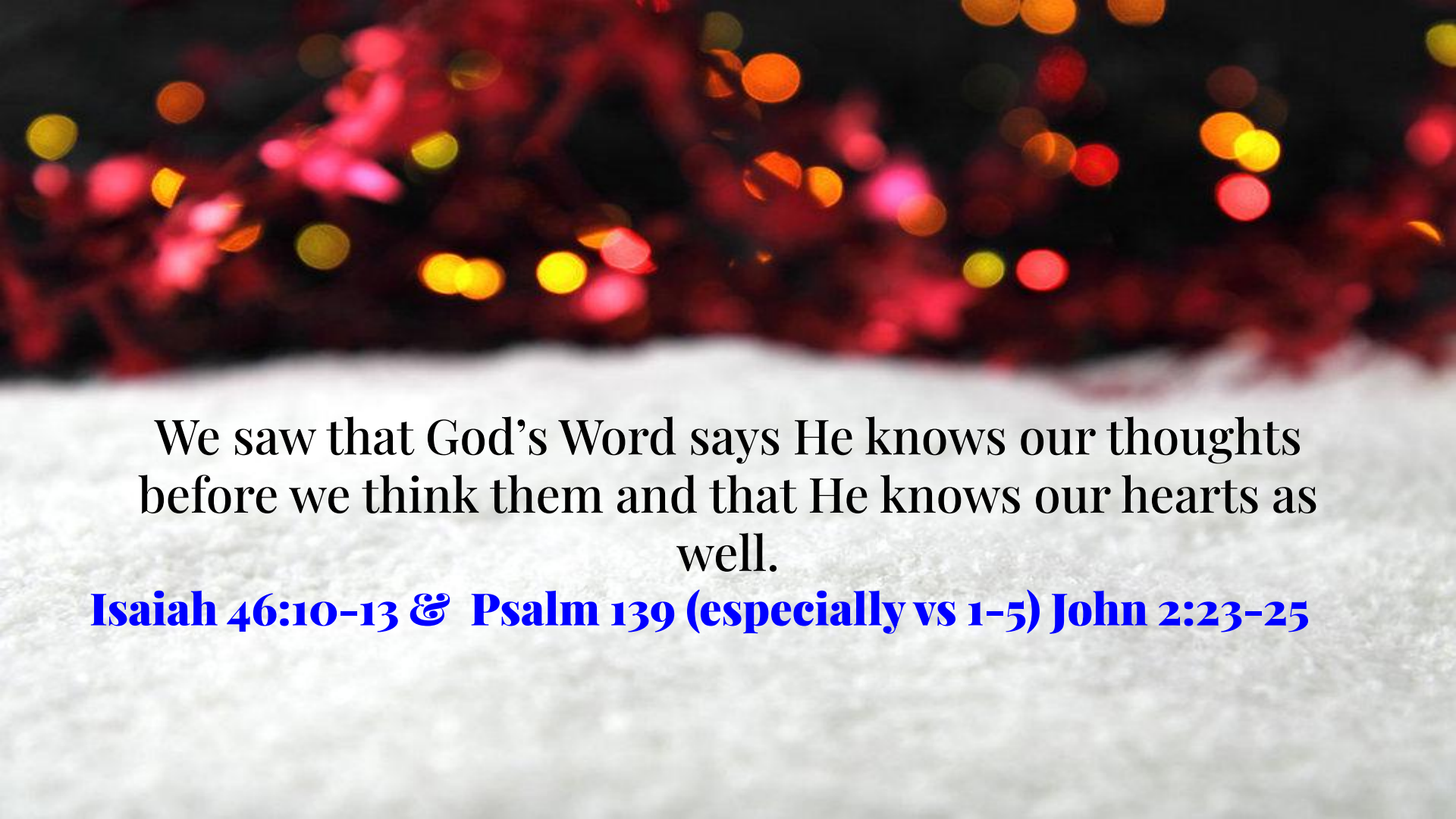




*God made all of this  
beautiful,  
magnificent  
creation as a home  
just for us! Selah!!*









We saw that God's Word says He knows our thoughts  
before we think them and that He knows our hearts as  
well.

**Isaiah 46:10-13 & Psalm 139 (especially vs 1-5) John 2:23-25**

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- God loves us so much and desires an intimate spiritual relationship  
With all of us ; so He gave us free will
  - Sin is disobedience to God's Word. When we choose to be disobedient, then we sin and evil is the consequence.
  - Yet knowing all of this before creation, He still chose to speak His creation into existence out of love for us. AND, not only did He still create us, He gave us a way back to Him from the beginning!!!

**HOW AMAZING IS THAT?**



# Jesus' birth was prophesied throughout the OT

***“Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”*** Isaiah 7:14

***“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*** Isaiah 9:6

***“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from His roots a Branch will bear fruit.”***  
Isaiah 11:1

***“The days are coming, declares the LORD, ‘When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.’”***  
Jeremiah 23:5

***Isaiah 53, and many more***

(see part 2 of the study where we dug into the prophecies throughout the Bible at [godstruthrevealed.org](http://godstruthrevealed.org))



The background of the slide is a deep blue night sky filled with numerous small white stars. On the left side, there is a prominent, bright white star with a four-pointed cross-like pattern, representing the Star of Bethlehem. Below the main title, there are black silhouettes of the Nativity scene: a manger with a baby, Mary, Joseph, and several animals on the left; and three camels with riders on the right.

# The Birth of JESUS

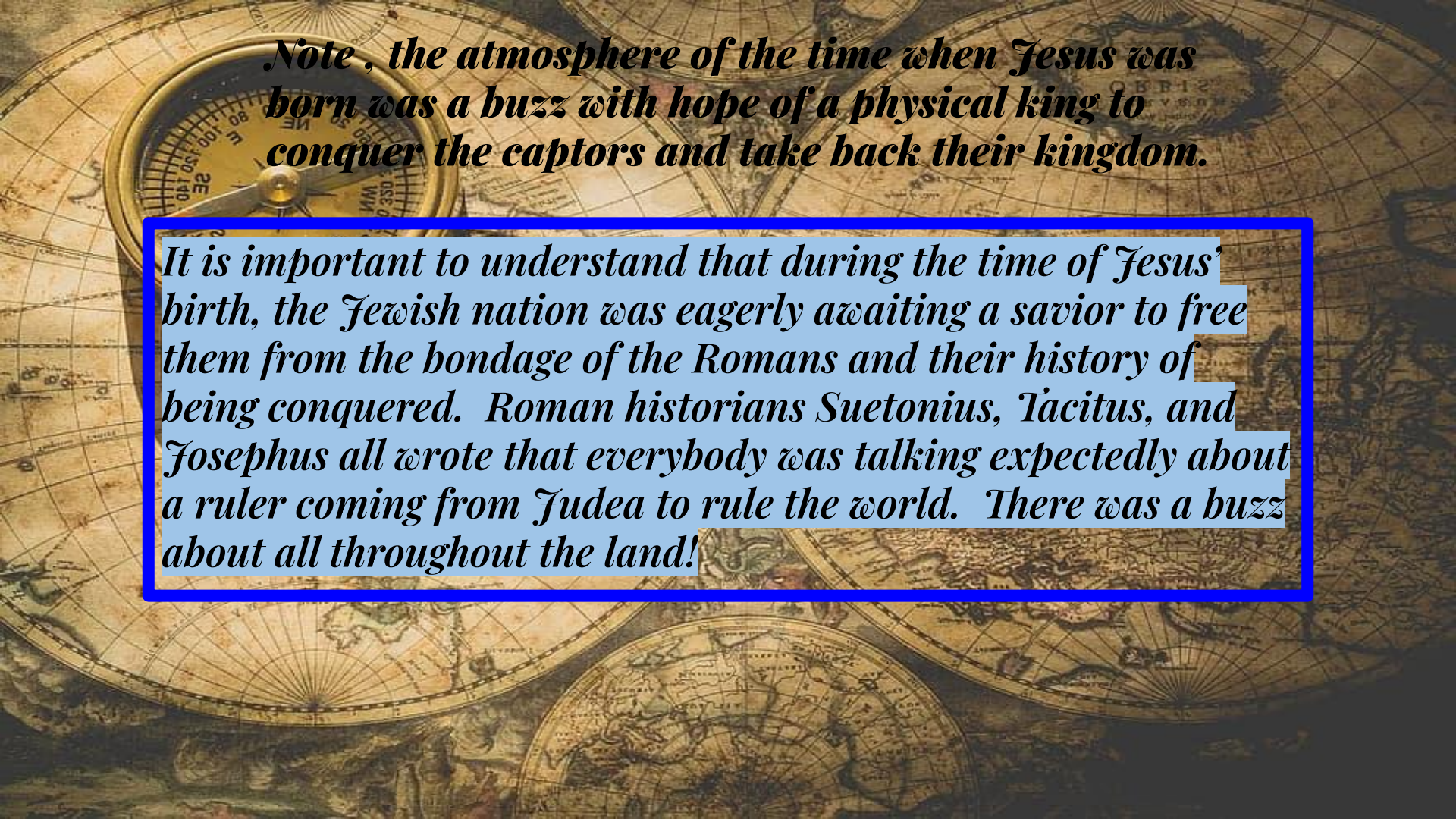
Part 3 of Messiah Study

**An in immersive study to experience the birth of Messiah!**



*The birth of Jesus is a wholly orchestrated event! All the pieces we looked at in parts 1 & 2 and the pieces in this lesson will come together and hopefully give you an impactful understanding of the fact that all of this is one amazing event and not just several different events not fully related!*



The background of the image is a detailed, aged map with a compass rose in the upper left corner. The map shows various geographical features, including coastlines, rivers, and islands, with a grid of latitude and longitude lines. The compass rose has a yellow face with black markings for degrees and cardinal directions. The overall tone is historical and scholarly.

*Note, the atmosphere of the time when Jesus was born was a buzz with hope of a physical king to conquer the captors and take back their kingdom.*

*It is important to understand that during the time of Jesus' birth, the Jewish nation was eagerly awaiting a savior to free them from the bondage of the Romans and their history of being conquered. Roman historians Suetonius, Tacitus, and Josephus all wrote that everybody was talking expectedly about a ruler coming from Judea to rule the world. There was a buzz about all throughout the land!*



# The PROPHESED Birth of the Son of God!



Luke 1:5-80 ~ we see the build up to the birth of Jesus; Zacharias is visited by an angel, Gabriel, who tells him he will have a son (even though he and his wife Elizabeth are old)- this son would be John the Baptist who would be full of the spirit and proclaim the way for Jesus! 6 months after Elizabeth becomes pregnant, Mary is visited by Gabriel and is told she will become pregnant with the Son of God. Elizabeth and Mary are cousins and rejoice together in the news! HOW AWESOME THAT MUST HAVE BEEN FOR THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES!

[Read Luke 1:5-17 & Luke 1:26-33](#)

[Read Matthew 1:18-25](#) ~ tells us about how God involves Joseph in this miraculous birth



**Read Luke 2:1-20** ~describes the birth of Jesus and the announcement spread throughout the land by the shepherds

❖ **Intersting notes:**

- ★ The Greek word for “inn” in Luke 2:7 is ‘kataluma’ which means a room in a guest house or inn. In Luke 22:11 the same word is used to describe a room in a residence.
- ★ Jesus was born and wrapped in swaddling cloths (protective cloths)and laid in a manger (trough,feed holder, open box).
- ★ Shepherds, lowly or highly regarded? Some insight will add some extra meaning and insight into the event!







## Shepherds: low class or high society?

Some theologians believe that the shepherds were considered the lowest of the low, only group below them are the lepers. OUCH! That is low for this time period. Lepers were considered unclean outcasts; they had to announce they were lepers as they walked near anybody and had to stay outside the city. They were looked down on and kind of the 'forgotten scum' of the time. *What might be one reason God would call on this lowly group to spread the news of the birth of Jesus?*

Some theologians argue that the shepherds were considered to be of some reverence, high in the class system. King David, Abraham, Moses, Amos were all shepherds. And Jesus was the 'Shepherd of His people.'

*So, which is correct?* This is one of those things we talked about before in translations of the Bible. THE PLAIN MESSAGE IS THE MAIN MESSAGE! AND That is, The Angel told the shepherds (who as we will see are humble people whether low class or high class), they worshipped the Lord, they were chosen by God to reveal the birth, AND they spread the good news!

BUT, let's study this part of the story with some historical background!



## **The Shepherds story and the symbolism that magnifies Jesus' birth:**

1) The Mishnah (collection of rabbinic sayings, traditions, and interpretations of the OT that were written down in this book) and Babylonian Talmud (book of Rabbi debates on contents of the Mishnah) states the regulation for shepherds that **“expressly forbids the keeping of flocks throughout the land of Israel except in the wilderness - and the only flocks otherwise kept would be those for the Temple services (Bab k. 7:7:80a).** Sooo, since these shepherds were not in the wilderness but outside the city of Bethlehem, they were likely priests watching over flocks used for temple sacrifices and services. These sheep had to be ‘unblemished lambs with no broken bones’ **(Read Exodus 12:3-14 The Passover; a representation of the blood covenant of Jesus)**

2) The Mishnah also states that the MESSIAH would be revealed from the Midgal Eder, which translates as ‘tower of the flock.’ These shepherds actually had towers built in the fields (as did farmers) to watch over their flock of unblemished lambs~ like a look out tower. Wow, pretty cool stuff!  
***Do you see how the Jewish customs make the birth that much more powerful?***



## **The Shepherds story and the symbolism that magnifies Jesus' birth (cont'd.):**

3) The priests would have known about the prophecy of Messiah. Now with His birth, there would not be a need for blood sacrifices of animals—they could leave their posts. Jesus was the perfect unblemished lamb

*See 1 Peter 1:19*

4) The baby Jesus was wrapped in swaddling cloths. Swaddling cloths were not ordinary cloths. They were used by shepherds to wrap around the unblemished lambs to protect them and keep them clean for sacrifice in the temple! Say What? Does that help you understand the magnitude of the birth of Jesus?

5) ***WHAT DO YOU THINK IT WAS LIKE WHEN THE HEAVENLY HOST APPEARED TO THE SHEPHERDS?*** DO you think they also joined in singing and praising? Do you think they were afraid or amazed or excited or bewildered? Can you imagine the beauty of the event?



*Whether the shepherds were lowly or highly is really of no consequence- Jesus was born and He is Messiah. (The main message is the plain message).*

*BUT if they were lowly, it adds to the humbleness and humanity of our Savior Jesus Christ.*

*If the shepherds were highly, then knowing the insight into the priestly shepherds adds to the impact of the event with little nuances like the watch tower or swaddling cloths.*

*My opinion is that the shepherds were both humble and lowly as well as highly and priestly~ take them together and the event is impacted greatly!*



This tapestry the work of William Morris was designed by Sir E. Burne-Jones Bart and made at Merton Abbey in the year 1894. It is given by a citizen of Manchester in loving memory of his mother.



# The Magi



## The role of the Wisemen in the birth of Jesus:

**Read Matthew 2:1-12** ~ the wise men (Magi) are lead to Jesus: we really don't know much about the Magi-only what is in these verses. The magi were typically priestly-political class of the Parthians who lived east of Palestine. Typically magi were students of science, agriculture, history, astronomy and astrology (which were often studied together at the time). And they often dabbled in the occult yet believed in only one God. Historians say that the magi's teachings were essential to one being crowned king in Persia. AND that the magi had to approve and crown the king. They are mentioned in the books of Daniel, Esther, Jeremiah.

Many traditions and legends have settled into that there were 3 named Casper, Balthazar, and Melchior. One is pictured as Ethiopian as well. But none of this is written in the Bible. May have been descendants of Noah's son Shem.



## The Magi cont'd. :

We do not know what star they followed. Maybe it was the North star, maybe it was a great star God put in the sky, maybe it was the light of God as mentioned often in the Bible. Whatever it was, it was unique and amazing! **Numbers 24:17** states the Messiah is “a star (that) shall come forth from Jacob” ` another WOW moment! {also in Revelation 22:16 Jesus refers to Himself as “the bright morning star”}

*But the plain message is that the Magi were lead by God to follow a star to find Jesus and to worship Him as King!*

The gifts the Magi brought:

GOLD~ symbol of material value and wealth AND of nobility/ royalty

FRANKINCENSE~ costly beautiful smelly incense used for important occasions (used in The Temple as symbol of people desiring to please God)

MYRRH~ costly perfume often used in preparing body for burial; thus symbol of being human/ mortal





*Do you see ALL of the intricate details that God has lined up and fulfilled in the birth of JESUS?*

- God, knowing our hearts and minds loves us so much that He gave us a savior, a Messiah, so that we could live in communion with Him!
- The ENTIRE Bible is all about Jesus!
- The birth of Jesus is an amazingly orchestrated event!



*Do you see it now! ALL of it goes together like a puzzle~ each piece can be looked at individually. BUT the full picture is seen when it is all fit together into one big picture.*

*God loves us and created us, but before He did all this, He knew our hearts and thoughts. He knew we would rebel and sin. Yet still, He created EVERYTHING as a home for us where He could commune with us. AND ALL ALONG he made a way for us to come back to Him and be forgiven of our sins. He gave us a Messiah, a Savior! He gave us Jesus and the birth event is a fully orchestrated set of events THAT ARE JUST ANOTHER PART OF THE BIG PICTURE OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US!!!!!! I pray you see it this Christmas!!!!!!!!!!!!*



JESUS is at the center of it all!

