



THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

WHAT THE CAROL TEACHES ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

CHRISTMAS 2024 BIBLE STUDY

THE SONG YOU (MOSTLY) KNOW

We've all heard the Christmas carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas" (at least once a year on the radio, right?). We try to remember which gift goes on which day and probably bat about 50/50 getting the answer right.

What not everyone knows that there is a Christian meaning behind each day of the twelve days. Let's recap the gifts according to the carol:

- ▶ *DAY ONE: A partridge in a pear tree*
- ▶ *DAY TWO: Two turtledoves*
- ▶ *DAY THREE: Three French hens*
- ▶ *DAY FOUR: Four calling birds*
- ▶ *DAY FIVE: Five gold rings*
- ▶ *DAY SIX: Six Geese a laying*
- ▶ *DAY SEVEN: Seven swans a swimming*
- ▶ *DAY EIGHT: Eight maids a milking*
- ▶ *DAY NINE: Nine ladies dancing*
- ▶ *DAY TEN: Ten lords a leaping*
- ▶ *DAY ELEVEN: Eleven pipers piping*
- ▶ *DAY TWELVE: Twelve drummers drumming*

WHY 12 DAYS?

Wasn't that fun? FYI, yes, I had to look up some of the days to make sure I had the gift right.

Of course, the real "gifts" in the song are something a little deeper: The gift of the birth of Christ and the gift of the Gospel message.

Here are the meanings of the 12 days that you may not know.

We're diving right into the heavy stuff. It's not a secret that Jesus Christ was not actually born on December 25th. This is the date chosen in Catholic and Protestant tradition to celebrate His birth. Orthodox Christians in countries like Russia, Greece, and Egypt celebrate on January 6 or 7. January 6 is a holiday known as the Epiphany, which commemorated the arrival of the Magi after Jesus' birth.

The Bible doesn't specify a date of Christ's birth. December 25 was originally a pagan holiday called Saturnalia (maybe you learned this already watching *The Big Bang Theory*), a feast to the false sun god Sol/Saturn. It is quite likely that church officials chose December 25 as part of the process of converting Roman pagans to accepting Christianity, especially as some Christians participated in the Saturnalia festival. The first official mention of December 25th appears on a Roman calendar from AD 336. Prior to that date, rather than Christians celebrated the Epiphany and Easter (which commemorates Christ's resurrection from the dead).

The twelve days in Christian tradition marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi (the three wise men), a period between December 25 and January 6. Even this has been controversial timing in Christian tradition. Scholars such as Eusebius and Epiphanius look to Matthew 2:1-16 as evidence that Jesus might have been as old as two when the wise men visited.

What is important is not whether Christ was born on December 25 or how old He was when the wise men visited. They brought gifts which represented all aspects of Christ on earth: Frankincense to represent that Christ was the ultimate High Priest of the church. Gold to represent that Christ is the King of all Kings. Myrrh to represent that Christ would be the perfect Lamb, the sacrifice for all mankind.

What matters is that Christ WAS born, the Magi DID visit, and these are the dates that Christianity marks those events. We have hope because of the reality of Christ's birth.

THE REAL GIFT OF THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS: THE SAVIOR JESUS

Jesus is the “reason for the season” as we often hear or read on seasonal t-shirts. Christmas is not about Black Friday shopping, Christmas light competitions, waiting for Santa Claus and his flying reindeer, or the gifts under the tree.

Jesus came to earth to die for the sins of man, that’s true. December 25, as we will see, is the day that the church has chosen to celebrate His birth as the fulfillment of Biblical prophecies going all the way back to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. His birth makes possible the forgiveness of our sins and our place in the Kingdom of Heaven. It was the day when God gave His peace and goodwill to mankind by personally making himself flesh to be the future perfect sacrifice to atone for our sins. Christmas reminds us to celebrate this gift, to share the message of Christ with others, and to live every day in the joy as people who have been saved. We’ll dive deeper into what that means later in this lesson.

THE REAL GIFT OF THE SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS: TWO BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

THE OLD TESTAMENT

- ▶ Chronicles biblical history from the creation of the heavens, earth, and man through the birth of the nation of Israel, its division into the two nations of Israel and Judah, the conquests of Israel and Judah and their exile to foreign nations, and the return of the Jewish people from exile (the Diaspora) to Israel.
- ▶ Grounded in the Law of Moses and obedience to Law
- ▶ Prophesizes the coming of the Messiah
- ▶ Primarily written for Israelites
- ▶ Primarily written in Hebrew and Aramaic
- ▶ Covers the Abrahamic, Mosaic, Sinai, and Davidic Covenants
- ▶ Contains the books of the Prophets

THE NEW TESTAMENT

- ▶ Chronicles the arrival of the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, and the acts of His apostles in founding the Christian church
- ▶ Grounded in grace rather than Law and salvation through faith. The Law is now written on the hearts of believers
- ▶ Opens the door for the Gentiles to join God's nation Israel
- ▶ Written in Greek
- ▶ Contains the New Covenant
- ▶ Contains the Gospels of Christ
- ▶ Introduces forgiveness through repentance and God's grace and the emphasis on love and salvation
- ▶ Focuses on the afterlife, heaven, hell, and the Day of Judgement

THE REAL GIFT OF DAY THREE—WELL, THERE'S TWO POSSIBLE ANSWERS

GIFT OF FAITH

The key to Christianity, for faith in Christ is the only means of salvation. Three things will last forever---faith, hope, and love (charity)" 1 Corinthians 13:13

GIFT OF HOPE

Hope in God, as the one who is merciful, powerful, and able to do all that He has promised...including gift us with forgiveness of our sins and including us in the eternal kingdom of Christ

GIFT OF LOVE

Jesus modeled God's sacrificial love, but God demonstrates His love in countless ways---from the moment He created us to establishing a means by which we could be redeemed from sin and brought back into relationship with him to the mercy He has promised us on the Day of Judgement and the gift of eternal fellowship with Him in the kingdom to come.

...but there's another way of looking at the gifts of Day Three

- ▶ THE FATHER
- ▶ THE SON
- ▶ THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Trinity is a sermon on it's own, but we know that the Father, Son, and Spirit are three in One. I know some people wrestle with this concept. An over simplification is to think of a piece of braided leather---it's made of three strands, but the strands interweave, build up, and support one another to make one piece. All things proceed from the Father, who sent the Son to become flesh and sacrifice for man's sins. The Son ascended so that the Father could send the Spirit to illuminate the believers so that we could understand all that God's Word teaches us and to reshape and soften our hearts towards the Lord. Jesus will return for the final victory over Satan to usher in His Kingdom, which will ultimately be given to the Father.

What we see is that the Holy Trinity exists in a relationship of mutual love and mutual submission, putting the needs of the other ahead of oneself. Three facets of One God. This is the kind of relationship God desires us to have with others, thinking of their needs and with them showing caring for us in kind. To love one another as we love ourselves.

THE REAL GIFT OF DAY FOUR: THE FOUR GOSPELS OF THE BIBLE

Did you know that each Gospel of the Bible---Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John---presents a different facet of Jesus Christ?

Matthew: Presents Jesus as the Jewish Messiah, the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy

Mark: Presents Jesus as the Son of God, who must suffer and die as the willing, perfect sacrifice to atone for the sins of man

Luke: Presents Jesus as the Savior for people of all nations

John: Presents Jesus as the eternal, self-revelation of God the Father, the Son who brings life to all who believe in Him

THE REAL GIFT OF DAY FIVE: THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES

Okay, at this point, if you know your Bible you are confused. Obviously, there are more than five books in the Bible...in fact, depending on your particular faith, there are anywhere from 39 to 53 books of the Old Testament. The Protestant Bible has the 39 books we know. The Catholic Old Testament has 46 books (or 45, sometimes Jeremiah and Lamentation are combined). The Orthodox Bible has 46 books. The King James Bible has 39 books with 14 separate books of the Apocrypha (books considered of value but not included as verified Christian canon).

Moses is credited with writing the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. We know that these books included the details of the creation of the heavens, earth, and mankind and the details of the fall of man and the emergence of sin with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. These books trace God's hand in guiding biblical history, beginning with His promise that a descendant of Eve would one day defeat the serpent Satan. To that end, the line of Eve is preserved even when the flood wipes out all mankind from earth (thanks to the preservation of Noah and his family). The line of Abraham is chosen as the one through which Christ will descend, and Abraham is patriarch of the family that will one day become the nation of Israel.

God delivers this nation Israel to a land that He has chosen for them, which Moses acting as God's prophet and the nation's leader until the time of his death. Upon accepting God (Yahweh, YHWH) as their one and only true God, Israel is presented with the Law of Moses, which is God's commands for how His people are to live as His children. This law has rituals for cleansing from sin, but these rituals cannot permanently erase the sins of man. Only the prophesized descendant of Eve can permanently defeat Satan and erase man's sins. Why? Simple: Because man has been infected by sin, there was no hope that any man could perfectly fulfill ALL the requirements of God's law. Only God is holy enough to live a perfect existence...and that's just what He did when the Son came to earth as Jesus Christ, born of both man (so that He knew suffering and temptation to sin) and God (so that He was holy enough to resist sin and endure suffering, including the cross, and still live a life that perfectly fulfilled all God's requirements). As we see in the Law, only a Lamb without blemish is an acceptable sacrifice to atone for sin; Jesus was without sin, the only sacrifice that could permanently atone for all man's sin.

THE REAL GIFT OF DAY FIVE: THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES

So, these books (collectively called the **Pentateuch**) are the foundations for Christianity as well as Judaism, for they give us the reassurance that the prophesized Savior will come and explain why mankind needs this Savior.

Now, you might be wondering why Christians aren't practicing the rituals as prescribed in the Law of Moses today? Short answer: We've seen that Satan infected man with sin that distorts our perceptions...including our perception of God's Law. Ancient Judaism became so wrapped up in observing every letter of God's Law that it lost sight of the Law's purpose. God gave the law as a sort of "guardian" over His people until the time that He appointed for Christ to come fulfill the law. Sects of Judaism like the Pharisees and Sadducees added their own interpretations (and requirements) to God's Law to the point that the Law became a burden to God's people. The Pharisees eventually had a system of 613 laws—365 negative commands (don'ts) and 248 positive commands (do). This is what is meant by **legalism**. Jesus has two commands: Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love others as yourself. As Jesus promised: His "yoke" is easy and His "burden" is light.

Part of this owes to the fact that sin turns us towards fleshly desires. This includes the desire for self-determination, the innate notion that our fate is the product of our own workings...including our salvation. Christ teaches us that there is NOTHING man can do to earn his own salvation EXCEPT to believe in Jesus as the Son of God and Savior. Yet, we still see Christian denominations today that are toeing the lines of legalism. I have a friend whose parents perished in a plane crash. She belonged to a church that taught bodies had to be intact to be resurrected (which directly contradicts the truth that with God all things are possible). Can you imagine? Other churches say you aren't saved if you can't speak in tongues. Rubbish. Everyone gets a different gift of the Spirit. The Bible says you can speak with the tongues of angels but it does you no good if you don't have God's love in your heart. We're all equipped differently to serve God. Bottom line is this: We can't say enough Hail Mary's, donate enough money to charities, or dish out enough meals at a food bank to earn our way into heaven. We can't behave nicely enough to earn our way into heaven. Jesus paid our way into heaven. IT IS DONE. Do what's right because you love God as your Father and want to please Him, not because you're seeking brownie points to buy your way into heaven without having to depend on Jesus. It's okay to admit that we can't do it without Christ.

THE REAL GIFT OF DAY SIX: THE SIX DAYS IN WHICH GOD CREATED ALL THINGS

What's in a day? I know that there are people who get wrapped up on the question of whether God literally created the earth in six days (and rested on the seventh), especially with scientific data telling them earth is billions of years old, that there were dinosaurs roaming the earth, meteors, Big Bang theories and all this. Our space here is not dedicated to debating science vs. creationism.

We have to keep a few facts in mind: The Bible is not a science book, it's a narrative. In the case of Genesis, the creation story is meant to show God's ultimate authority over all things of heaven and earth, His sovereignty over these things, His great understanding of all things, and His heart to create these things and place man as His image within this creation. Gifting us with existence was a great act of God's love. Creating these things shows that God has the ability to do all that He says He can do. Declaring these things "good" shows God's holiness, His worthiness and discernment to know what is righteous and what is evil. The number seven also has significance in the Bible. In the Old Testament, the number seven represents completeness.

THE REAL GIFT OF DAY SEVEN: THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The “gifts” of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2) are given to believers when they receive Jesus as their Savior and are intended to help them grow spiritually to better understand Jesus’ teachings, perceive the promptings of the Holy Spirit in their daily living, and mature to live a life that reflects Jesus’ holiness and teachings to others. Those Seven Spiritual gifts are:

Wisdom: The ability to exercise good judgment, distinguish right from wrong, seeking justice, balancing personal want and need with the greater good and needs of others

Understanding: The gift of intelligence and enlightenment (basically the insight to perceive, comprehend, and discern meaning and God’s purposes in whatever one encounters in daily living)

Counsel: When we have grown in our understanding of God, we are expected to teach, inform, guide, warn, admonish, direct, and encourage others, particularly in accepting Jesus as Savior, how to live as Jesus teaches, and how to grow in relationship with Jesus.

THE REAL GIFT OF DAY SEVEN: THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Fortitude: The unwavering faith in God and deliberately holding to this faith with moral strength, courage, determination, perseverance, resilience, and yes even long-suffering with a resolute spirit. We keep our eyes on Christ no matter what.

Knowledge: Ability (and willingness) to study and learn and put to use what we learn for good purposes, especially God's good purposes.

Fear of the Lord: Awe, reverence, and respect for God, humbly accepting our dependence on Him to provide for all we need, from daily food to our ultimate salvation from sin. We show this by praise, worship, and adoration of God.

Piety: The willingness to try to live a decent life. We show this by doing our best to live as He teaches, confessing and turning from sin, humbly receiving His forgiveness, and gratefully accepting the truth that He loves us and accepts us even when we aren't perfect. When we perceive God wants us to move in a direction we may not desire or understand (like a new job, a mission trip, forgiving a person who has wounded us, etc.) we submit to God's will and prioritize His purposes.

THE REAL GIFT OF DAY

8: THE EIGHT BEATITUDES

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount begins with His bestowing blessings (see Matthew 5:2-12). Those are:

- 1) Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- 2) Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted
- 3) Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth
- 4) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied
- 5) Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy
- 6) Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God
- 7) Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God
- 8) Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The real gift of Day 9: The Nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

These are not to be confused with the *gifts* of the Holy Spirit that we discussed back there on Day Seven. The “fruits” are character traits of Christians which manifest the presence of the Holy Spirit in their hearts and their deeds. The more we grow in our understanding of God’s Word, the more we open our hearts to Jesus’ teachings, and the more we attempt to live according to the Word and its teachings, the more our hearts begin to change. We begin to perceive the Holy Spirit’s guidance and movement in our hearts and in our lives. It changes how we relate to other people, how we respond to whatever comes our way, changes our words and our deeds.

We begin to transform into people who show the effect of the Holy Spirit’s in-dwelling in our hearts:

Love: The most important of the nine gifts...so important is love that the Bible teaches us that we cannot please God without love. This is love that is directed upwardly towards the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, inwardly in the form of forgiving ourselves and believing that God has accepted us “as is”, and outwardly in how we relate to others. We see others the same way that Jesus sees them: As souls just like ourselves, in need of forgiveness, salvation, and hope. Are there going to be people who drive us up a tree? Of course. Are we going to have times where we don’t feel very loving? Sure. Does that mean we have to allow hurtful people to remain in our lives? Absolutely not. Think of it as the love you would feel as a parent, child, or sibling---others don’t act perfectly, neither do we. But we still love them in that we forgive and desire what is best for them, teach them, rebuke them, open the door to love and forgiveness and hope for them regardless of whether they walk through that door. What do you do when you don’t feel loving? Pray, pray, pray...but also be willing to let the Spirit change your heart to open it to love rooted in Christ.

The real gift of Day 9: The Nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Joy in knowing that we are forgiven, accepted, beloved by God, transformed into the image of Christ, and joy in the anticipation of His return and our entry into His eternal kingdom.

Peace that comes with knowing we are received by Christ and that His Spirit dwells within us.

Patience with others, ourselves, and with God. Remember that God moves according to His timeline and His purposes--- we submit to His will, not demand His compliance with our wishes and personal ambitions. Jesus has warned us that this world will send trouble our way. This is especially true for Christians, who can expect that Satan will send troubles, illness, suffering, grief, and hardships of some form our way to try to shake us from our faith in Christ. Our confidence in God's way and in our identity as children of Christ and holding to the Word of God helps us to endure until we are finally freed from sin and comforted in the kingdom of Christ.

Kindness, goodness, and gentleness. We speak the truth with love and concern for the well-being of others, not with judgement (for God has appointed us to guide others, but not to sit in judgement of them). We are peacemakers, meant not to spread gossip, provoke or vex others but to share love and hope and joy, helping where we can and seeing others as greater than ourselves not because they *are* but because we value them as spiritual brothers and sisters and children of Christ and put the welfare of others before our own just as Christ did when He gave up His life for the greater good of all mankind.

Faithfulness and self-control go hand-in-hand in our daily walk with Christ. We resist the ways of the world which would entice us to pursue material things and focus on fleshly desires. The Bible tells us that we can have and do anything we want...but not everything is good for us. We can lose focus on God quite easily when we get wrapped up in the distractions and desires of daily living. Anything that is higher priority in our lives than God is what the Bible calls an "idol" (it can be money, a job, social media and games, etc.). Faithfully make time every day to spend quite time in the presence of God and in His Word and grow your relationship with Jesus.

THE REAL GIFT OF DAY 10: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Now, when Christ freed us from the Law, He was not releasing us from the requirement to obey God and try to live in a manner which reflects God's holiness. Rather, the Holy Spirit now places all the requirements of the Law into the hearts of believers. Instead of rituals to obey, we have the internal guidance of the Spirit which helps transform us to truly live in a manner which reflects God to the world. God also promised that when Christ came, our hearts would be changed so that we have the *desire* to obey God's ways. The Ten Commandments still reflect God's ways. As Christians, our hearts should still desire to obey and fulfill these commandments not out of obligation but as children desiring to bring joy to a parent.

What are those commandments: Have no gods other than the one true God. Don't worship any likeness or carved image of anything in heaven or on earth (false gods). Don't take the name of the Lord in vain. Keep the Sabbath day holy. Honor your father and mother. Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Do not covet.

There are at least ten other sermons in those commandments. We'll unpack those in a different lesson. I can give you some short bullet points here. What is taking the Lord's name in vain? There's lots of theories on that. It boils down to not referencing God or Jesus with evil or deceptive intention. That means don't use God's name for personal gain or to justify an action (especially a wrong action). Don't curse God's name. Don't misrepresent Christ to others (if you do so unintentionally, seek to correct your mistake as quickly as possible). What about the working on the Sabbath? The Sabbath is God's reminder that we need to take time to rest from our labors. It doesn't mean that you aren't going to heaven if you have the Sunday shift at work. That would be taking your salvation into your own hands instead of trusting Christ.

Again, if you aren't sure that you're doing God's will, go to Him first in prayer. Ask the teachers in your church for guidance or clarification on the meaning of a commandment. And have common sense: If you truly believe something is wrong, then don't do it. The Bible tells you that if you believe your actions are a sin, then it is a sin for you.

THE REAL GIFT OF DAY 11: THE ELEVEN FAITHFUL APOSTLES OF CHRIST

Those who know the Bible know that Christ was betrayed by His own apostle, Judas Iscariot, eventually leading to Christ's crucifixion. Judas later committed suicide. The Apostles chose Matthias to replace Judas as one of the Twelve Apostles. But who were the eleven apostles who followed Jesus and became the founders of the Christian church?

Simon (who Christ named Peter)

Andrew (a disciple of John the Baptist)

James (the greater) son of Zebedee

John (the author of the fourth Gospel and the Book of Revelation, and the one entrusted by Jesus to care for Mary after His death)

Philip (from Bethsaida)

Bartholomew (son of Tolmai)

Matthew (the tax collector formerly known as Levi, author of the first Gospel)

Thomas (the twin, also known as Doubting Thomas for initially questioning the resurrection of Christ until he touched the wounds of the Risen Lord)

James (son of Alphaeus)

Simon (the Zealot)

Judas (or Jude, son of James, also known as Thaddaeus or Lebbaeus, author of the Book of Jude)

THE REAL GIFT OF DAY 12: THE TWELVE POINTS OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

The number 12 actually has much significance in the Old and the New Testaments. God divided Israel into 12 tribes according to the sons (and grandsons) of Jacob. The New Jerusalem has 12 gates and foundations, which represent God's reign. Jesus chooses 12 disciples to represent His reign and His authority and carry His Gospel to the world. The Book of Revelation has multiple references to the number 12 (12 angels, 12 gates, etc.). The number 12 is symbolic in Hebrew of God's power and authority and also symbolizes perfect governmental foundation ("Shnem Asar") as created by God. There are 12 books of the Minor Prophets in the Old Testament.

Here, however, we are looking at 12 as part of the Creed. The Apostles Creed is a short summation of the core beliefs of Christianity. It goes like this:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; (He descended into hell). On the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father; from which he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

- Luke 2:4-21

References in this lesson

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