



**Isaiah 9:6 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.*

We must reclaim the awe of Christmas!

1. **The might of Christmas** is not in its economic power but it's in its message about the greatest sacrifice, that a son was given.
2. **Christmas is about gifts!** It's the gift the Father gave to the world. It's about the gifts the Wisemen gave to Jesus revealing his three roles to humanity. **Matt. 2:11**
 - A. **Gold is** the gift for one who is King.
 - B. **Frankincense is** the gift for one who will be the High Priest or meditator for humanity.
 - C. **Myrrh is** the gift given to one who is about to die. It is used in the burial process.
3. **Christmas is about experiences.** There is no real peace without the Prince of Peace.

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

**Matthew 1:20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

**Reclaiming the connection of the miracles of the 1st advent and the 2nd.*

1. **The virgin birth is under attack.** Why, because it points to God's intervention into the lives of humans.
 - A. Christianity is experiencing a crucial sign of Jesus' second coming. The great falling away. ***2 Thess. 2:3 (NKJV)** Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.

- B. It was a miraculous commitment** from Mary and Joseph. This couple became the core witness to God's plan for salvation. (Adam & Eve hurled humanity into a sinful world. It took another couple's complete surrender to God to bring about salvation.)
- C. History** lost its focus! We no longer refer to the years before Jesus as B.C. and the years after him A. D. (Anno Domini) Year of our Lord. We now use B.C.E. and C.E.

**Matthew 2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."
 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:
 6 " "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."
 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."
 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.*

***The message came from the heavens.**

1. **Matthew 1 & 2 An angel and a star spoke** to prepare those God would use.
2. **Matt. 2:1-2 The Star held information.** A birth, a king, and the connection to the nation of Israel are what the Magi announced. (Daniel 2:48)
3. ***Matt. 2:2 (KJV)** Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.
 - A. A first** took place, a person is born King.
 - B. His star**, Jesus has his own star. It tells a message.
 - C. Non-Jews** were the first to seek him.
4. **Matt. 2:3-9 Those waiting** for the Messiah were the disturbed? why didn't they go to investigate?
5. **Matt. 2:10 Those that seek Him** will be overjoyed with the experience.