

“Christmas Meaning to Our Life”

Matthew 2:11

12/24/17

Today, we'd like to see the title of “Christmas Meaning to Our Life” in Matthew 2:11

To Online Word's people on the earth, we'd like to suggest 3 Questions.

Q1. In Matthew 2:11, “And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh,” who visited whom and where? What are symbols of 3 gifts? Who visited on babe Jesus in the manger of Bethlehem? How many visitors? Were there Jesus' parents? And what do you think about the illustration of “Wise Men before Jesus,” compared to the Bethlehem shepherds?

Q2. Matthew 1:21 says “His name Jesus.” And why is “His name Immanuel” given in Matthew 1:23? And what verses can we find the function of Christ or anointed one?

Q3. What does the Christmas mean to us? And what would be our life without the birth of Jesus?

(Background for Daily Bible Reading & Studying Weekly Book Basis)

Topical teaching vs. Inductive Teaching

Topical teaching – often uses a testimony in order to know the word of God selected toward a topic. (e.g., preaching – a topical teaching – to know the gospel of salvation the topic)

Inductive teaching – often uses a reason in context with verse by verse, chapter by chapter, and book by book in order to know the word of God,.

For the Word of Christmas (Q3), Christ is combined with Mass, which is in old English meaning “Worship.” So, Christmas means a memorable worship service for Christ's birth, that is, Christ's birthday. Christmas is also called as Noel in old French language. Christmas is not a holiday for a party, for Santa Clause, for Super Sale, or for any other commercial activity. Santa Clause culture developed from Germany gives a gift to a good child in Christmas Eve (night) while Infant Jesus culture was developed from Spain. Santa Clause culture spread to Western Europe, while Infant Jesus spread to Latin America. While I was a Buddhist in my childhood, I liked Christmas because I thought that Santa Clause left a gift in Christmas Eve when I slept. But the Bible doesn't say this culture. Jesus says in *Mark 8:38*, “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” So, we'd like to see

biblically what Christmas or Jesus birthday means to our life.

Jesus Christ the Lord as Savior: (1) Jesus, the English word rooted from IEZOUS the Greek word (Joshua the English Word rooted from YESHUA Hebrew word) means “The Lord is salvation” (i.e., Jesus’ mission or calling); (2) Christ, the English Word rooted from KRISTOS the Greek word (Messiah, the English word rooted from MESSIA the Hebrew Word) means “anointed one by God”; (3) the Lord (KURIOS the Greek Word; ADNOI the Hebrew Word) means “our Master”);(4) Savior means deliverer from eternal death.

(Matthew 2:11) “And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

Wise Men Before Jesus



I. Babe Jesus (BABE or BABY : BREPOS)

Text (Matthew 1:18-25)

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰But while he thought about these

18= the birth of Jesus Christ; betrothed [espoused] (more than mere engagement between fiancé & fiancée.)

<p>things, behold, <u>an angel of the Lord appeared to him</u> in a dream, saying, “<u>Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.</u></p> <p>²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call <u>His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.</u>”</p> <p>²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was <u>spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:</u></p> <p>²³ “Behold, <u>the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,</u>” which is translated, “<u>God with us.</u>”</p> <p>²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called <u>His name JESUS.</u></p>	<p>21=Q2 His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins (Jesus is ordained/anointed – CHRIST - to save His people from their sins – SAVIOR: the function of Christ; Also Jesus name’s meaning.)</p> <p>22= spoken by the Lord (shows -- anointed by the Lord, i.e., Christ); the prophet (Isaiah the prophet prophesied Jesus’ birth about 700 years before the Christmas ¹ <i>Isaiah 7:14</i>)</p> <p>THEREFORE, Jesus + Savior + Christ + the Lord = Jesus Christ the Lord as Savior</p> <p>23=Q2 the virgin (Mary + conceived by the Holy Spirit, i.e. Jesus is a man + Jesus is God; a Son = the Son of God); Immanuel “God with us.” (reality/ outcome of Jesus’ coming on earth by birth, through crucifixion + resurrection + ascension + Pentecost: Holy Spirit is with us, i.e. God is with us. Now in every Christian the Spirit dwells)</p>
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Text (Luke 1:26-35) (Luke 2:8-16)

<p>(<i>Luke 1:26-35</i>)</p> <p>²⁶ Now in the sixth month <u>the angel Gabriel</u> was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ <u>to a virgin</u> betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.</p> <p>²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, “<u>Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!</u>”</p>	<p>26= the angel Gabriel</p> <p>28= Rejoice [Hail] (its source is Jesus)</p>
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¹ *Isaiah 7:14* Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

<p>²⁹ But when she saw <i>him</i>, <u>she was troubled at his saying</u>, and considered <u>what manner of greeting</u> this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall <u>call His name JESUS</u>.”</p>	<p>29= greeting [salutation]</p>
<p>³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and <u>the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David</u>. ³³ And He <u>will reign over the house of Jacob forever</u>, and of <u>His kingdom there will be no end</u>.”</p>	<p>32= Q2 the Lord God will give Him (anoint Him, i.e., Christ, for what?) the throne of His father David; 33= will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom no end – the function of Christ <i>1 Chronicles 17:12²</i>)</p>
<p>³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”</p>	<p>34= I do not know a man? (no physical sexual relationship)</p>
<p>³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, “<u>The Holy Spirit will come upon you</u>, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called <u>the Son of God</u>.” ³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.</p>	<p>35= The Holy Spirit will come up you... the Son of God (incarnation ³ <i>John 1:1, 14</i>)</p>
<p>(<i>Luke 2:8-16</i>)</p>	
<p>⁸ Now there were <u>in the same country shepherds</u> living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.</p>	<p>8= Q1 in the same country (of Bethlehem); shepherds (2 or more shepherds)</p>
<p>¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of <u>great joy which will be to all people</u>.”</p>	<p>10= great joy which will be to all people (its root is Jesus)</p>

² *1 Chronicles 17:12* He shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever.

³ *John 1:1, 14* ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

<p>¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a <u>Savior, who is Christ the Lord.</u></p> <p>¹² And this <i>will be</i> the sign to you: You will <u>find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.</u>”</p> <p>¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:</p> <p>¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth <u>peace, goodwill</u> toward men!”</p> <p>¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to <u>Bethlehem</u> and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”</p> <p>¹⁶ And <u>they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.</u></p>	<p>11=Q3 Savior, who is Christ the Lord (Christ is our hope and our life ⁴1 Tim 1:1; Col 3:4, Christ is our Lord of our life)</p> <p>12= find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger (Babe Jesus BREPOS)</p> <p>14= peace, good will (their root is Jesus)</p> <p>16=Q1 they came....found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger (So, Bethlehem country shepherds, two or more, visited on Babe Jesus lying in a manger as well as on Mary His natural mother and Joseph His adopting father. BREPOS)</p>
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II. Child Jesus (CHILD: PLIDION)

Text (Matthew 2:1-2, 8-11)

<p>¹Now after Jesus was <u>born in Bethlehem</u> of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, <u>wise men</u> from the East came to Jerusalem,</p> <p>² saying, “Where is He who has been born <u>King of the Jews</u>? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to <u>worship Him.</u>”</p> <p>⁸ And <u>he sent them to Bethlehem</u> and said, “Go and <u>search carefully for the young Child</u>, and when you have found <u>Him</u>, bring back word to me, that I may come and <u>worship Him</u> also.”</p>	<p>1= born in Bethlehem... wise men (2 or more – 3, 4, 5...??) from east to Jerusalem (not directly go to Bethlehem but to Jerusalem: It took time to see Jesus)</p> <p>2= King of the Jews(provokes Jealousy of Heord the King of Israel); worship Him (worship=MASS)</p> <p>8= he sent them to Bethlehem (Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem); search carefully for the young child (Jesus, not the babe any more; PLIDION); worship Him (worship= MASS)</p>
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⁴ 1 Tim 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope; Col 3:4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

<p>⁹When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till <u>it came and stood over where the young Child was.</u></p> <p>¹⁰When they saw the star, they <u>rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.</u></p> <p>¹¹And when <u>they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him.</u> And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: <u>gold, frankincense, and myrrh.</u></p>	<p>9= it came and stood over where the young child was (the guiding star came and stood over where the young child PLIDION Jesus was)</p> <p>10= rejoiced with exceedingly great joy (its root is Jesus)</p> <p>11=Q1 they (the wise men) had come into the house (not in the manger), they saw the young child (not the babe lying in the manger) with Mary His mother (not indicating His adopting father Joseph); worshipped (MASS); gold, frankincense, and myrrh (heavenly kingdom; prayer; death ⁵ <i>Revelation 21:18; Revelation 5:8; John 19:39</i>)</p>
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Q: Today especially in North America (1) why many local churches reduce the frequency of assembling during Christmas season and (2) why even many Christians call "Happy Holiday" rather than "Merry Christmas" are asked.

There are likely many valid reasons from sights of people. Since the head over church is Christ in *Ephesians 5:23*, "For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body," Church is theocratic rather than democratic. So, we should see the reason from the Bible rather than from people. Christmas is the combined word between Christ and Mass (Worship), focusing on worshipping Christ. The Merry Christmas focusing on Christ is proper, compared with the Happy Holiday focusing on people's leisure or vacation. It is a memorable worship service for Christ's birth, i.e. Christ's birthday. But at any moment when Jesus is coming again, we could not find any reason to reduce the frequency of assembling from the Bible, rather than in *Hebrews 10:25*, "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." Further, we would be better to preach the gospel of Christ in *Romans 1:16-17*, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'"

⁵ *Revelation 21:18* (Gold is a symbol of heavenly kingdom) And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass; *Revelation 5:8* (Frankincense is a symbol of prayer) Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints; *John 19:39* (Myrrh is a symbol of Jesus' death) And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.

Here are Answers of the stated Questions.

A1. The wise men, 2 or more, visited on child Jesus and on Mary, His mother alone, in the house of Bethlehem with 3 gifts (*Matthew 2:11*). Gold is a symbol of heavenly kingdom, frankincense is a symbol of prayer, and myrrh is a symbol of Jesus' death. However, the Bethlehem country shepherds, 2 or more, visited on babe Jesus, lying in a manger, and His parents (*Luke 2:16*). And we think about the illustration of "Wise Men before Jesus," that the wise men, whose numbers are not necessary of three (3) men in the house, according to the Bible, traditionally confused with the Bethlehem shepherds because of babe Jesus, manger, and His parents.

A2. Jesus is a name meaning the Lord is salvation, Christ means anointed one by God and the Lord means our Master. After the Lord Jesus Christ came on earth, was dead on cross with bloodshed, and rose again third day, the Spirit of God dwells in us, i.e., God with us. Therefore, Immanuel means "God with us" as the outcome of the Lord Jesus Christ coming on earth. We can find the function of Christ in *Mathew 1:21* God anointed Him to save His people from their sins and in *Luke 1:32-33* God anointed Him with the throne of His father David to reign over the house Jacob forever and His kingdom without end.

A3. The last question of Christmas' meaning to us is an open question in the view of the Bible. Christmas means a memorable worship service for Christ's birth, that is, Christ's birthday. Christmas is not a holiday for a party, for Santa Clause, for Super Sale, or for any other commercial activity. Christmas is Jesus' birthday. Jesus is the master of our life, the Savior from eternal death, the root of exceeding joy, peace, & good will, and Jesus is our hope and our life, i.e., Jesus is all for our life. Without the birth of Jesus, our life would be in vanity.

Thank you everybody. Come to Jesus!

*Whoever believes in Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior, **have a daily fellowship with our Lord.** Here is an opportunity to lay up your treasure in heaven (*Mat 6:20*) through **your cheerful donation (2 Cor 9:7) to CCAH (Calvary Chapel Anaheim Hills).***

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Thanks and God bless!!

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