



God Speaks at Christmas

The Real Story of Christmas Series - Week 1

Four facts about our faith in Jesus - Luke 1:1-4

Fact #1 - Christianity is historical. (Luke 1:1)

Fact #2 - Christianity is verifiable. (Luke 1:2)

Fact #3 - Christianity is reliable. (Luke 1:3)

Fact #4 - Christianity is certain. (Luke 1:4)

The 400 years of silence - The 400 years of silence refers to the time between the Old Testament and New Testament, during which God gave no Scripture. The 400 years of silence began with the warning that closed the Old Testament in the book of Malachi and ended with the announcement of the birth of John the Baptist, who would prepare the way for the Messiah.

God speaks again - See Luke 1:11-13 and Luke 1:28.

A childless couple will have a child - Before Luke discusses the conception and birth of Jesus, he writes about the circumstances surrounding the conception and birth of John the Baptist. We immediately see a problem with the prophecy of Zechariah and Elizabeth having a child - Elizabeth was unable to have children (see Luke 1:5-7).

Today's takeaway truth - God ALWAYS knows what He is doing! That was true for Zechariah and Elizabeth and that was true for Joseph and Mary. And that is true for me and you. We can always turn to and trust in God for whatever is going on in our lives knowing that God always knows what He is doing!



The Baby Born in Bethlehem Changed Everything

The Real Story of Christmas Series - Week 2

A virgin named Mary is visited by an angel named Gabriel - Luke 1:26-38

- **Note this:** Luke 1:32, "He will be great ..." No one has influenced history more than Jesus Christ. There have been many great conquerors, but Jesus is the greatest conqueror of all, even conquering death! There have been many great deliverers, but Jesus is the greatest deliverer of all, delivering us from eternal death to eternal life!

Four Parts of the Christmas Story - Luke 2:1-15

Part I: The Census (Luke 2:1-3)

- **Note this:** Caesar's census was actually a part of God's providential plan to move Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to

Bethlehem so the prophecy of Micah would be fulfilled which said the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

Part II: The Journey (Luke 2:4-5)

- **Note this:** Bethlehem had one claim to fame. A thousand years earlier, King David had been born there. David - the greatest king Israel ever had - grew up in Bethlehem. If there had been a Chamber of Commerce, they would have put up a billboard: "Welcome to Bethlehem - Hometown of King David." But they didn't have to, because everyone already knew this was King David's hometown. Seven hundred years earlier, a prophet named Micah had even prophesied that the Messiah would one day be born in Bethlehem.

Part III: The Birth (Luke 2:6-7)

- **Note this:** Bible teacher William Barclay noted, "That there was no room in the inn was symbolic of what was to happen to Jesus. The only place where there was room for Him was on a cross." Sadly, and tragically, even to this day, people will respond to Jesus coming into their lives like the innkeeper, "No room."

Part IV: The Announcement (Luke 2:8-15)

- **Note this:** The message of the angels and shepherds is the message we are to continue to tell to others today. There is a Savior who can forgive us our sins, who can exchange our problems for His peace, and who can give us everlasting life. The Savior's name is Jesus. And what He has done for me, He can do for you.



The Story of the Wise Men
The Real Story of Christmas Series - Week 3

Meet the Magi (the wise men) - Matthew 2:1-23

Part I - The wise men seek a newborn king.

Matthew 2:1-6

Part II - Herod is still Herod no matter what he says.

Matthew 2:7-8

Part III - The wise men present gifts to baby Jesus but no info to Herod. Matthew 2:9-12

Part IV - Exiting to Egypt and fulfilling prophecy.

Matthew 2:13-15

Part V - The day evil visited Bethlehem.

Matthew 2:16-18

Part VI - I'll be home after Christmas.

Matthew 2:19-23

The story of the wise men shows us ...

- 1. God's provision.** Through the gifts of the wise men (verse 11), God provided for the needs of Joseph and Mary in traveling to Egypt.
- 2. God's providence.** God guided Joseph and Mary (v.13) and God guided the wise men (v.12) away from the wicked plans of King Herod.
- 3. God's promises.** God fulfilled exactly what He had promised (vv.5-6; 15; 17-18; 23).
- 4. God's plan.** Because Jesus wouldn't escape death in Jerusalem, He escaped death in Bethlehem (v.16), so we could escape death forever with Him in Heaven.