



Logos Class – Christmas 2025 – *The Redeemer Comes*

Class for Dec 21, 2025

Rooms 123/124 Adult Ed Building

Class Schedule for the next few weeks

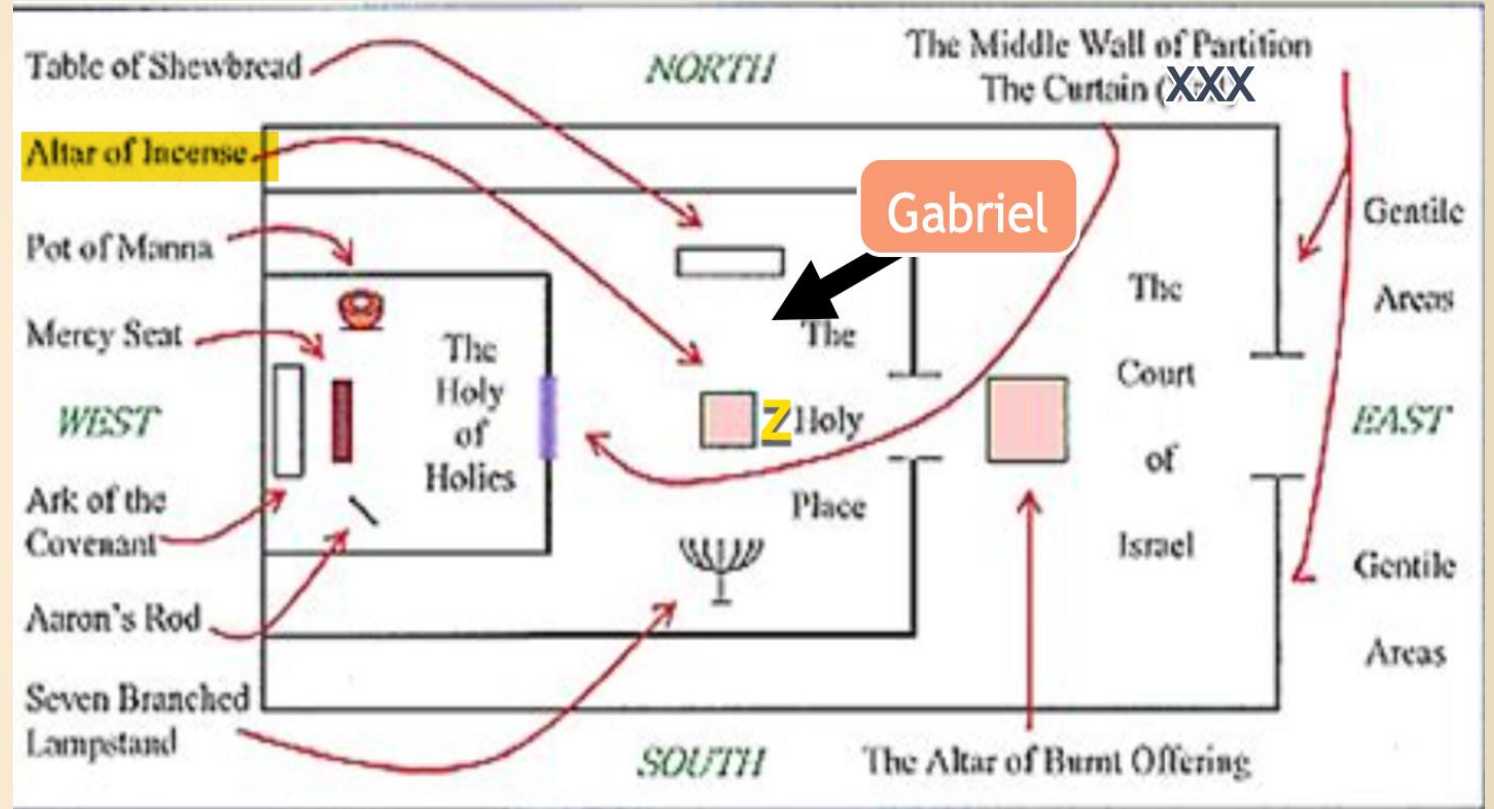
- ✓ *Dec 14, 2025 – Christmas Story 2025 - Pt 1 – A New Day Dawns*
- ✓ *Dec 21, 2025 – Christmas Story 2025 - Pt 2 – The Redeemer Comes*
- *Dec 28, 2024 – Christmas Story Summary & Deeper Study III*
- *Jan 4, 2026 – New Study*
- *Jan 11, 2026 – New Study*
- *Jan 18, 2026 – New Study*

My plan is to continue both In-Person and Zoom in 2026

Before we start...

- *I want to make 2 points that came up after last week's lesson*
 - *Malachi 4:5 is a prediction of the coming of John the Baptist, who came in the spirit of Elijah.*
 - *It also is a foreshadowing of the coming of the Messiah, who comes after John the Baptist arrives on the scene*
- *One other point regarding Zechariah at the Altar of Incense*
- *It is separate from the Holy of Holies where only the High Priest enters on the **Day of Atonement**, and he has a rope tied on him.*
- *Not the case with the Altar of Incense.*

Graphic of Temple Area



*The Nave contains the Table of Shewbread and
The Altar of incense*

Gabriel – What do we know?

- One of **only two** angels named in the Bible (other Angels are mentioned in the books of Tobit, and Enoch in the Apocrypha)
- **Angel of the Annunciation** (was sent by God to deliver important messages from Him)
- Appears to Daniel in Chapters 8 and 10 to explain vision
- Appeared to Zechariah in Luke Ch 1
- Appeared to Mary in Luke Ch 1
- Stands **in the Presence of God, a high honor of position**
- Resists the Devil along with Michael, the Angel who protects Israel...Spiritual Warfare
- Fearful Appearance but can come in the appearance of a man
- Comes to Daniel in “swift flight” which many interpret as wings, but the Bible never says angels have wings
- Comes to deliver God’s answers to specific prayers in God’s own timing
- Michael is the only named archangel in the Bible (Jude 1:9) but it means “Chief Angel” or “Chief Prince”.
- Some see Gabriel as also an Archangel based on Daniel Ch 10 mentioning multiple “Chief Princes”
- Archangels seem to be the leaders in Spiritual Warfare for God, and also higher in the Angel hierarchy, which is murky at best.
- Gabriel means “Mighty Man of God”
 - Gabar=mighty, El = God
- Has some delegated authority by God to go beyond just telling what God has sent him to do

Gabriel Images from artists



Luke 1:22-25

...Prophecy coming true

***22** When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.*

***23** When his time of service was completed, he returned home.*

***24** After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.*

***25** “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”*

Final thoughts Lesson 1

God has been silent for 450 years, but preparing for the time to come

Dawn of an era of Redemption

- *SUN of Righteousness*
- *SON of Righteousness*

At a time of God's choosing

- *Chooses the parents of the Forerunner*
- *The miraculous birth of a son*
- *This Son is special in God's eyes*
- *Fulfillment of Prophecy in Malachi*
- *Beginning of a New Age of Redemption*

In our dark times...remember...Joy comes in the Morning
Our Prayers will be answered in God's timing and in His will

Luke Ch 1:26-28

*²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel **Gabriel** to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,*

²⁷ to a virgin pledged/betrothed to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ The angel went to her and said,

“Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

*30 **But** the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.*

*31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him **Jesus. (Yeshua)***

*32 He will be great and will be called the **Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,***

33 and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Prophecy Truck just backs up and drops a huge load...

Prophetic Announcement by Angel to Mary

- *She is a virgin, yet she will conceive and bear a son*
- *He is to be called “Yeshua”, or Joshua, or Jesus ...which means He will save his people*
- *He will be great in God’s eyes and will be called “the Son of the Most High;”*
- *God will give him the Throne of his ancestor David, He will rule over the Jews forever and His Kingdom will Never End.*
- *Mary hears all this and has a question for Gabriel. She is about 15 years old and has watched children being born, and animals being born. Unlike Zechariah, she does not question the prophecy or its truth.*
- *Her question is a human question about process and nature...*

Luke 1:34-38 *Mary Responds...*

34 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

*35 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the holy one to be born will be called the **Son of God.**”*

*36 **Even** Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.*

*37 **For no word from God will ever fail.”***

*38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “**May your word to me be fulfilled.**”*

...Then the angel left her.

(Gospel of Matthew records the Angel visitation to Joseph and the Magi)

Luke Ch1: 39-45 *Mary visits Elizabeth...*

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, (next chart)

40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

*41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the **Holy Spirit**.*

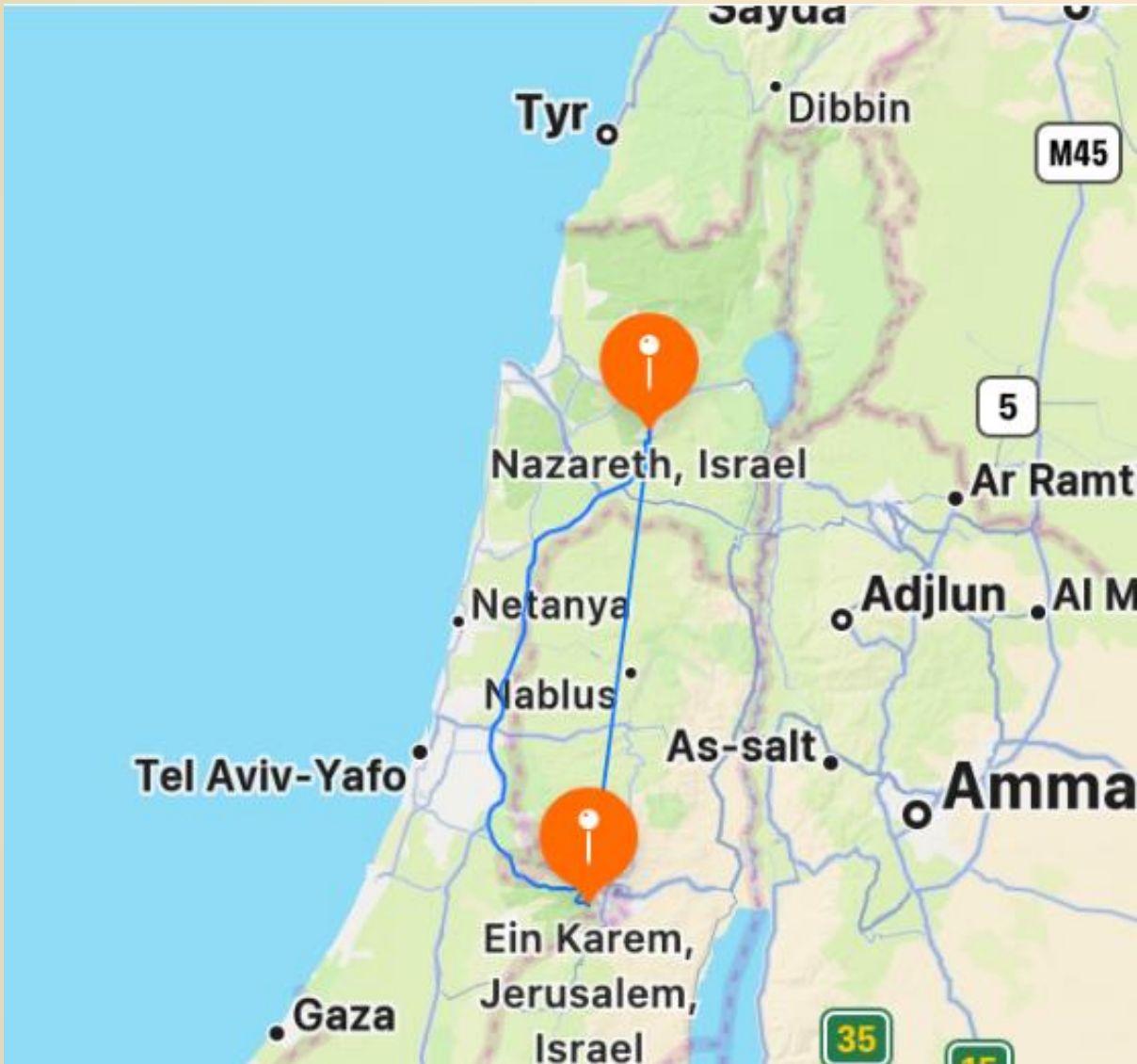
*42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child **you will bear!**"*

*43 But why am I so favored, that the **mother of my Lord** should come to me?*

*44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, **the baby in my womb leaped for joy.***

*45 **Blessed is she who has believed** that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"*

The Trip from Nazareth to Ein Karem



- *Distance: between 70-100 miles depending on the route. A trip she would make again to Bethlehem*
- *Dangerous Country for a woman alone, yet alone a 15-year-old*
- *She probably had escort(s). Most likely Joseph, and had a Donkey to carry her supplies perhaps in a Caravan*
- *She was unmarried and in early pregnancy. It was a grave sin in their culture, and she was going into the house of a Priest*
- *A Priest who is blameless before God and righteous*

Ein Karem



Traditional Site of the Birth of John the Baptist

*Ein Karem is a historic mountain village southwest of Jerusalem, presently a neighborhood in the outskirts of the modern city, within the Jerusalem District in Israel. It is the site of the **Hadassah Medical Center**.*

*Ein Karem was an important Jewish village during the late Second Temple period, during which it became important to Christianity. Christian tradition holds that John the Baptist was born in Ein Karem, following the biblical verse in Luke saying John's family lived in a "**town in the hill country of Judea**".*

Probably because of its location between Bethlehem and Jerusalem, this location was a very comfortable one for a pilgrimage, and this led to the establishment of many churches and monasteries in the area.

Luke 1:46-55 (ESV). Mary's Song – *The Magnificat*

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

55 as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

Luke Ch 1:56-66 The Birth of John the Baptist...

*⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about **three months** and then returned home.*

⁵⁷ When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son.

*⁵⁸ **Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.***

*⁵⁹ On the eighth day **they came** to circumcise the child, and **they** were going to name him after his father Zechariah,*

*⁶⁰ but his mother spoke up and said, **“No! He is to be called John.” (God is gracious)***

*⁶¹ They said to her, **“There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”***

*⁶² Then **they** made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child.*

*⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment, he wrote, **“His name is John.”***

*⁶⁴ **Immediately** his mouth was opened, and his tongue set free, and **he began to speak, praising God.***

*⁶⁵ All the neighbors were **filled with awe**, and throughout the hill country of Judea, **people were talking about all these things.***

*⁶⁶ Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, **“What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.***

Zechariah's song

I'm just going to read and comment due to time limitations

Luke 1:67-79

⁶⁷ His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

.....

⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

Remember: John the Baptist was of the priestly class, and he was living a Nazarite life much as a monk, and traditionally lived among the Essenes, a religiously strict group of Jews who did not like the trappings of the Pharisees and Sadducees and lived in the wilderness.

Zechariah's Song

⁶⁷ His father Zechariah was **filled with the Holy Spirit** and prophesied:

⁶⁸ “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and **redeemed them.**

⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn[king] of salvation for us in the house of his servant David

⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

⁷¹ salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—

⁷² to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant,

⁷³ the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a **prophet** of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,

⁷⁷ to give his people the **knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,**

⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the **rising sun will come to us from heaven**

⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

Birth of Jesus – tradition and Bible

- *Much of what we “know” about His birth comes from songs, paintings, oral history, our natural tendency to simplify things, and sermons and writings*
- *We put the various Gospel accounts together to present a “picture of the Nativity”*
- *That is OK, but we need to understand what the Bible actually says to make the most of the meaning of His Birth*
- *A few OT prophecies will help*

Micah 5:2 The Prophet tells us where the Messiah will be born

² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

This is the prophetic verse the Priests used to guide the Magi to the City of David

Messiah would be born in Bethlehem

Micah 4:8 *a little less known prophecy...*

*“And thou, O **tower of the flock**, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto **thee** shall **it** come, even the **first dominion**; the **kingdom** shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.*

This prophecy is murkier, but it is vitally important to understand the terms.

- ***Tower of the Flock**– will answer this in a minute*
- ***Stronghold** of the daughter of Zion (Original purpose – guard)*
- *Unto **THEE**, it shall come...*
 - ***First Dominion** (earlier Kingdom, when David ruled, not temporary)*
 - ***Kingdom shall come to...**not be “of” her but come to her*

But what is this “tower of the flock” or Migdal Edar?

Let's go back earlier in the OT

Genesis Ch 35:16-21

¹⁶ Then they moved on from Bethel. While they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty.

¹⁷ And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, "Don't despair, for you have another son."

*¹⁸ As she breathed her last—for she was dying—she named her son **Ben-Oni** (son of my trouble) But his father named him **Ben-jamin** (son of my right hand).*

*¹⁹ **So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).***

²⁰ Over her tomb Jacob set up a pillar, and to this day that pillar marks Rachel's tomb.

²¹ Israel (Jacob) moved on again and pitched his tent beyond Miqdal Eder.

Rachels Tomb

- *Very close to Bethlehem*
- *Only see with Arab Guide and not on most tours*
- *Close to Shepherds Field in Bethlehem, near Migdal Eder*
- *Migdal Eder is the Tower of the Flock thought to be in the Shepherds Field. (No longer there)*



City of Migdal



Tower of a cliff

- *Bottom of the slope, the town of **Magdala**, where Mary of Magdala was born*
- *The town was called **Tower***
- *Migdal -Common Hebrew word*
- *Word is spelled slightly differently*

Looking West from Sea of Galilee

Typical Tower of the Flock



Originally created as guard houses, elevated watchtowers that provided an early view of coming danger

- **Migdal** – Tower;
- **Edar/Eder** – means “Flock”
 - Made of Rock at the bottom
 - Wood and hay for top
- Senior Shepherd watches out over the flock from the top (outside stairs) against predators or thieves.
- The bottom is the **birthing room for Sheep**. Kept to rabbinical standards for Shepherd's Field since it was Temple Sheep.



Manger from time of Christ

Manger - "box or trough in a stable or cow-shed from which horses and cattle eat food other than hay" (which generally is placed in a rack above the manger), early 14c., maunger, from Old French mangeoire "crib, manger," from mangier "to eat" (Modern French manger) "to eat," etc.

- Not wooden as we might believe from all our history and nativity scenes, but carved stone
- Rough place to lay a newborn lamb or infant
- Just there to rest, not like a crib

What does it all mean?

- *I will explain as we go through the verses where the Birth of Jesus is told*
- *Why is it important?*
 - *Links OT prophecy to NT fulfillment*
 - *A better understanding of His Birth with all the threads of God intertwining to deepen it.*

Now lets. Move to Luke Chapter 2...

Luke Ch 2:1-7

The Birth of Jesus...

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

*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.** (about 90 miles)*

5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged (betrothed) 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 (swaddling) cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was **no guest room available for them.** (No room for them in the Inn)*

Luke Ch 2:8-12. *Angel appears to 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 (swaddling) cloths and lying in a manger.”*

Note: It was a long time before I understood this reference to a sign and what it meant.

Luke Ch 2: 13-15

The Heavenly Host...

*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.**”*

A Deeper Understanding of the Context

These were NOT ordinary Shepherds, and the sheep were NOT ordinary sheep

- *Temple Shepherds who raised Sheep for the Passover Sacrifice. Perfect Sheep and Lambs for sacrifice*
- *They slept in the fields with the sheep to guard them, and a senior shepherd watched from the Tower of the Flock for Predators.*
- *Suddenly an Angel appears and tells them that there is good news, and the long-awaited messiah, has been born this day in Bethlehem.*
- ***Then** a Heavenly Host appears, and they sing and praise God. In Jewish tradition when a first-born son is born, musicians and cantors came and praised God for this blessing. The Angels did this for the Son of God.*
- *The Shepherds were told what they would find in the village when they located the child. **Q**: A sign was given, but what did it point to?*

Luke Ch 2:16-20 Confirmation...

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***

***Side note:** This is the middle of the night. Did they go door to door and tell everyone the anointed one had just been born? This is what the angels told them, but the sign was the key to identifying the one. What was it, and why did it make them understand who He was and why He came?*

What does it mean?

- *When any animal with long legs is born, it thrashes around (Horses) so to protect them from injury, they wrap the Legs in cloth. It is swaddled around them like a cocoon to let them rest until they are stronger.*
- *They had seen perfect lambs born and protected this way in the birthing room in the bottom of the Migdal Eder. This told them that this child was the Perfect Lamb of God, the Anointed one. They understood the sign.*
- *In the birthing room, they would lay the sheep (or horse) in a feeding trough, not as a crib, but just a place to rest. When they went to Bethlehem, they found this as exactly as they were told.*
- *How did they find the place? **Perhaps** they looked in the Migdal Eder. It was clean and kept to Rabbinical Standards with clean straw. Perhaps it was a cave with a tower over it, with clean straw.*
- *So, what was the important news? The Son of God, the Lamb of God has just been born, and the angels testified and told the shepherds what they would find. **Indeed, Good News for all people. The sign validated what the Angels told them***

Luke Ch 2:21-26 Child presented in the Temple

*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.*

*22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to **Jerusalem to present him to the Lord**.*

*23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every **firstborn male** is to be consecrated to the Lord”),*

*24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “**a pair of doves or two young pigeons.**”*

*25 Now there was a **man in Jerusalem called Simeon**, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the **consolation of Israel**, **and the Holy Spirit was on him.***

*26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the **Lord’s Messiah**. (The Lords Anointed One)*

Luke Ch 2:27-35 Confirmation and Prophecy

27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

33 The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “**This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,**

35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. **And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”**

Luke Ch 2:36-40

*36 There was also a prophet(ess), **Anna**, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. **She was very old**; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,*

*37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. **She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.***

*38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and **spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.***

*39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, **they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.***

40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

I will stop here for this week

- *Next week I will finish and summarize the Christmas Lessons and then*
- *We will talk about the coming of the Holy spirit at Pentecost, as another deep dive into key things we need to understand.*

On December 24th

- *3 Candlelight worship services with communion. Watch online if you cannot come. I will send you a note this week about the importance of this time*
- *Vicki and I hope that you will take these small pearls of truth you have heard, and link them to the Necklace of God's redeeming history*
- *Have the Merriest of Christmases, and please think about the wonder of His Birth. He is coming again...soon*

God Bless each of you

I leave you with this...

<https://youtu.be/qjOMoZe9wg4>

Josh Groban - O Holy Night