



CHARNOCK

INSTITUTE OF THE BIBLE

Teaching from Original Texts

Christmas & Bible

Christmas can be a time when many forget the Bible Story in the fog of the holidays. But what better time to remember the real story.

1. "STAR" was the term used by the Jews 200 years before Jesus came to translate the Hebrew word "shekinah glory" into the Greek Bible called the Septuagint (LXX). When Matthew wrote his gospel and mentioned the "star" which guided the Magi (wise men) from the east, his readers would have read that the glory of God was like a "star" when in His Shekinah or dwelling. No need to align planets; just read the Bible that they read.

2. The "WISE MEN" were Parthians. They were Persian King Makers (like Military Generals). Their background with the Jews in Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah, Daniel etc. would have provided lots of Biblical information to guide them. Rome was at war at this time with the Parthians, who had earlier chased the Romans completely out of the land of Israel. Picture 10 or 12 of these guys showing up with full military escort deep into Roman territory, and you have the picture of why Herod, who had the title KING OF THE JEWS, was reluctant to claim the title. (continued below)

White Stone Missions

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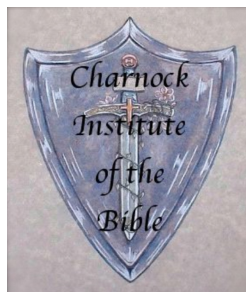
Materials have arrived in Kenya for their Bible College. They write, "We are fine in Africa and very excited as we look forward to next year. . . We are planning to launch the college in an all East African leaders conference covering delegates from Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda and Congo. Joining us as well is a team from Liberia and Ghana, both in West Africa. The conference starts on the 26th December and will run through to January 1st, official opening of the bible college. Pray for this conference with us as well. God bless you and your team abundantly. May the Lords star shine on you all during this festive season as we commemorate the birth of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. Have a Merry Christmas."



SECOND SEMESTER SESSION

Classes available for 2nd Semester

- Hebrew Reading II, IV
- Introduction to Missions
- The Attributes, Character and Eternal Plan of God.
- Early Church Fathers IV
- Foundations of Biblical Counseling



BEGIN IN JANUARY - JOIN US!

- Introduction to Christian Life & Growth
- Discipleship II
- Greek Syntax II
- Biographies of Great Christians
- Principles of Ministry
- Thesis II & Others

- continued -

3. Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a stable. His parents then go to Jerusalem and offer the sacrifice of two turtle-doves, legal only to the poor, and then went home to Nazareth. The Magi or wise men find him there; not in Bethlehem. Herod's slaughter in Bethlehem was pointless. Only the Shepherds saw Jesus in Bethlehem.

4. Jesus IS THE GIFT. "Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given . . ." "for God so loved the world that He gave His only Son . . ." Re-Gifting is in order here. Accept Him and pass Him along. He is the only gift you can pass along and keep at the same time.

5. "Holiday" means "holy-day," and indeed it is. The Holy One has come to man as man.

6. Shepherds see Him in Bethlehem. Jesus is the "Good-Shepherd." How fitting that shepherds who watch over sacrificial sheep, were told that the one Sheep who would give "peace on earth and good will to men," was in Bethlehem.

7. "Beth Lehem" means both "House of Bread" and "House of War." The idea is

that "war" devours, or eats men alive. The sword "devours" or "eats" men alive. In Bethlehem (as the House of Bread), Jesus who is "the Bread of Life," whose flesh we must "eat" is born. Then come the soldiers to Bethlehem (as the House of War) to kill innocent babies. Jesus does not escape, He simply is devoured at a later date.

8. At the Temple Joseph and Mary are met and told that this baby is "set for the rising and falling of many." This is a citation from Jeremiah, whose name means "Yahveh has raised up," where Jesus now replaces Jeremiah as the reality that the Prophet was only a shadow of.

9. Mary rode no donkey that we know of. I can't see a woman who is about to give birth riding such an animal. A cart? Walking? We are not told.

10. "Mary brought forth HER firstborn." So Jesus is born out of wedlock; an item the Jews reminded Jesus of regularly of in the gospels. Joseph and Mary were still "betrothed;" not married!

These and many other items are the actual Christmas story. Not as

pleasant as we present it. No room in the Inn may have been because of their not being married! That was not acceptable in that day.

Today is the day of Salvation, or lit. "to be made whole." Jesus came for this reason. Not just to forgive, but to restore. Those of who are crazy can be "clothed and in their right minds."

White Stone Missions is involved in training Pastors. Where the Church exists missionaries are not needed. In Acts & the Pastoral Epistles leaders were established locally to train their own people. The need is for mature native leadership.

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