

# LOOKING THROUGH “JEWISH EYES”

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY...

### *REVISITED*



OAKWOOD CHURCH  
William Colin Marris  
CIRCUIT RIDER MINISTRIES, INC.  
December 11, 2018

# DISCLAIMER



# SOLA SCRIPTURA!

# Looking Through Jewish Eyes...



# BEN HUR

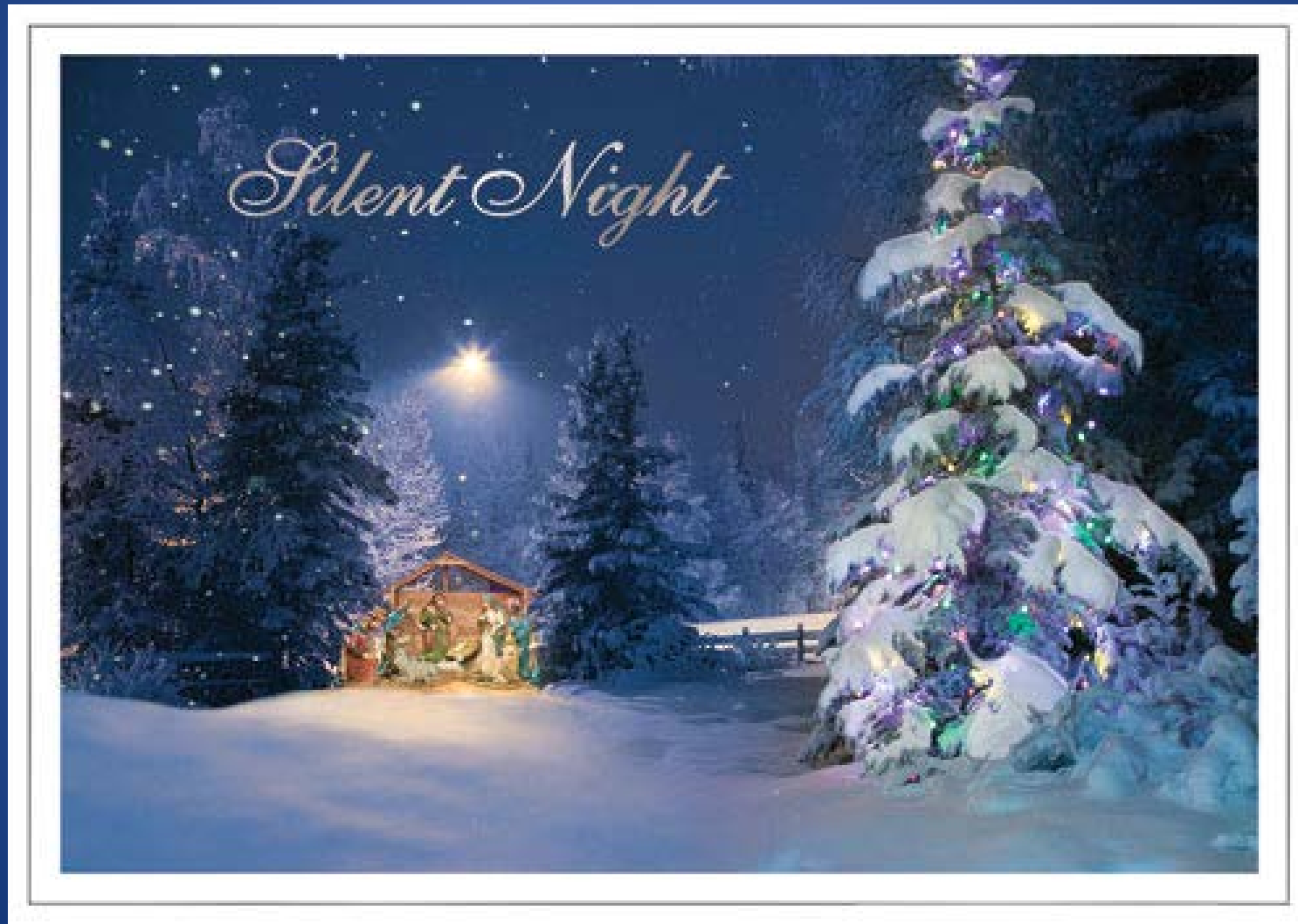
WAS THE VIDEO CLIP THAT WE JUST VIEWED  
CONSISTENT WITH YOUR VISION OF THAT  
FIRST CHRISTMAS EVE???



# INTERESTINGLY...

EACH YEAR WE ARE PRESENTED  
WITH A MULTITUDE OF VERY  
SIMILAR RELIGIOUS IMAGES,  
FROM NUMEROUS DIFFERENT  
SOURCES, ALL DEPICTING...

# THE “TRADITIONAL” CHRISTMAS



# Christmas Films

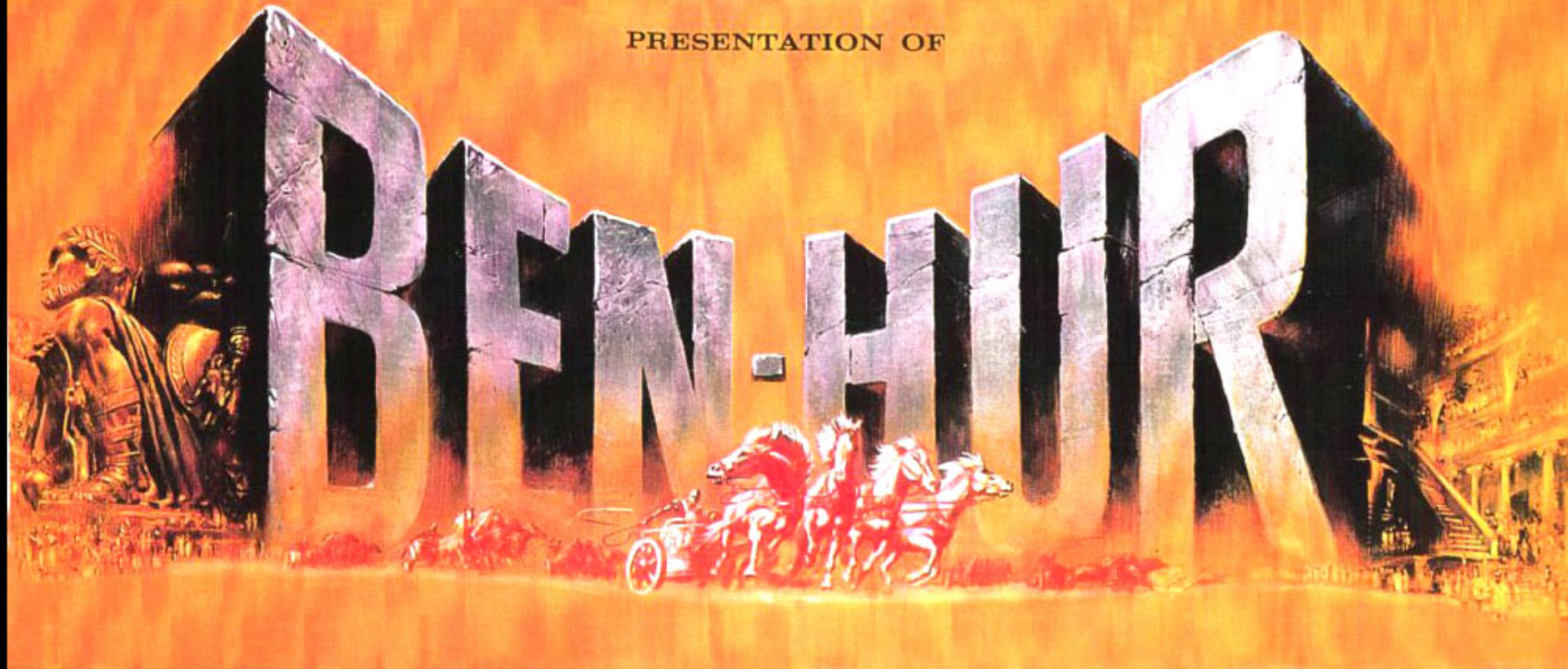




METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

# WILLIAM WYLER'S

PRESENTATION OF



# Christmas Music

## Carol 28.

### Silent night! Holy night!

(FOR CHRISTMAS.)

mf pp mf pp

Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright: Round yon Vir - gin Mother and Child,

The first system of musical notation for the song. It consists of a treble and a bass staff in 6/8 time. The melody is written in the treble staff with dynamic markings *mf* and *pp*. The lyrics are written below the notes.

pp

Ho - ly In - fant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody from the first system. The treble staff has a *pp* dynamic marking. The lyrics are written below the notes.

2  
Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

3  
Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy Holy Face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth!  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth!

Parish Choir, No. 74-4.



# Christmas Religious Art





# The Christmas Crèche



# Christmas Yard Decorations





# “Live” Nativity Scenes



# Children's Christmas Pageants





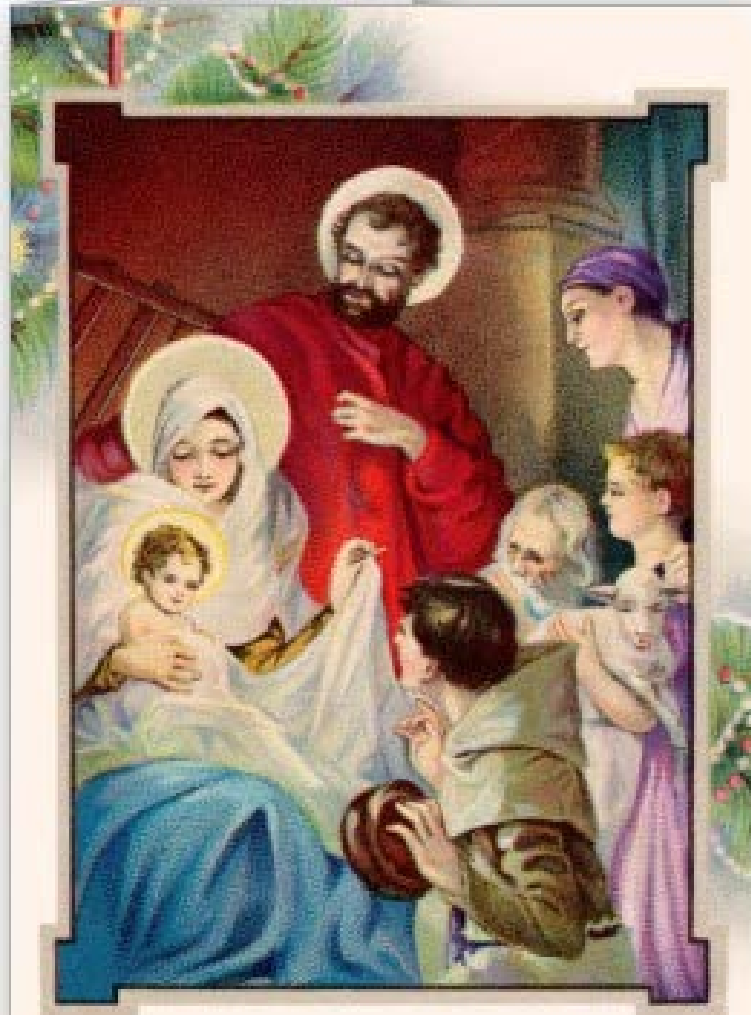
# Christmas Parades



**AND ABOVE ALL...**



# Christmas Cards



**And Even The Postage Stamps**

**To Mail Them!**



**“DECK THE HALL[MARK]S”**

# THE TRADITIONAL “HALLMARK CARD” CHRISTMAS STORY...



# “THE CHRISTMAS STORY”





It is a cold  
winter's  
night...







on  
December 24...

in what would later be known as the year 1 AD...



# The Christ family, Joseph and his wife Mary...



have just completed the long and arduous  
journey from Nazareth in Galilee down to  
Bethlehem of Judea...



in order to comply with the census decree of  
Caesar Augustus.



Mary, riding upon a donkey had been  
led by Joseph...



*Christmas Blessings*





**in the urgent hope that they would find  
lodging as Mary is about to deliver a  
baby at any moment!**

The little town is quite crowded...





**and the Inn is without any vacancies.**

**Joseph pleads for a room but the innkeeper cannot help and turns them away.**





**Mary and Joseph are in near desperation...**



when a kindly woman overhears their  
prayers and offers them shelter...





in a nearby  
stable.



The sheep and cows willingly give up  
their warm straw...

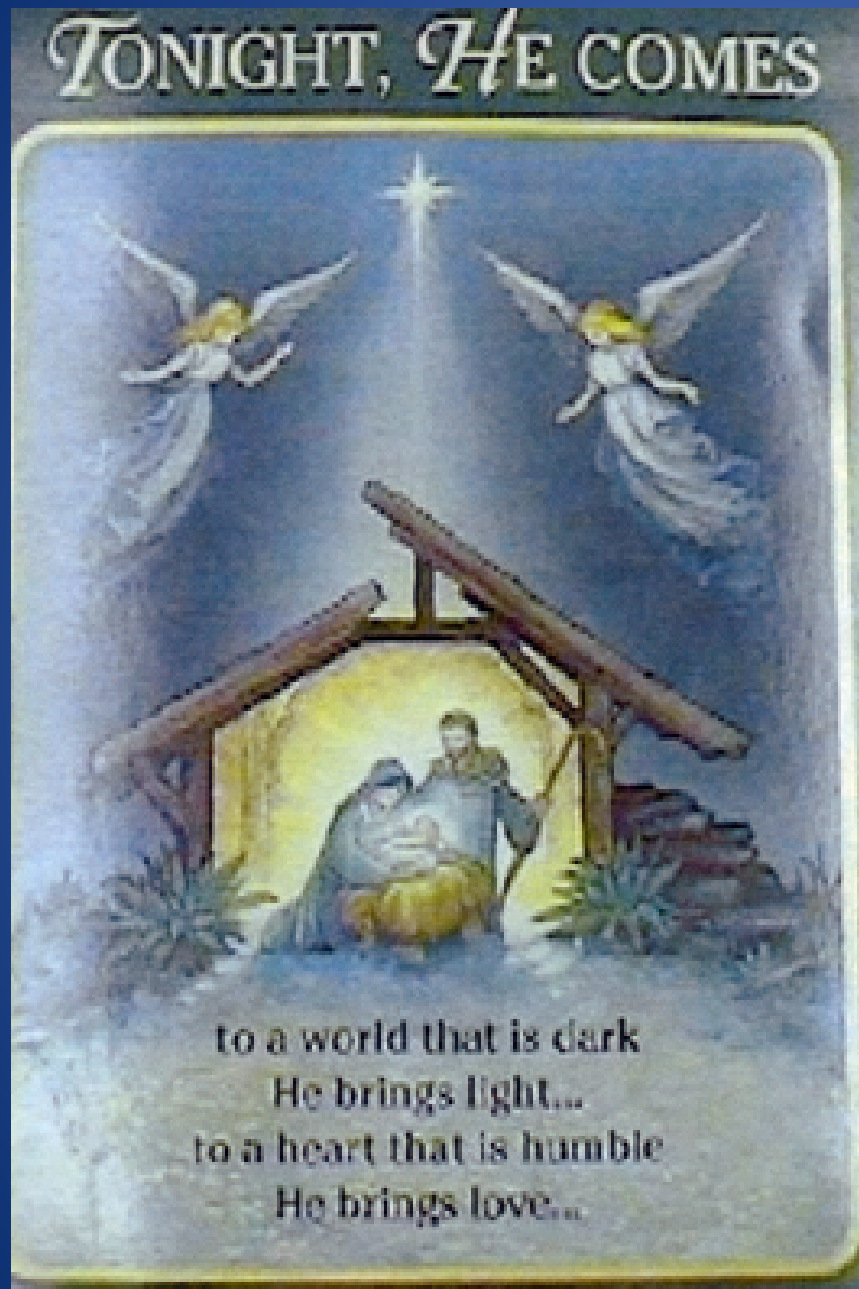


Christmas is remembering Jesus' birthday ...



and soon a suitable space is cleared...





At the stroke  
of midnight...



on this first Christmas Day...



Mary gave  
birth to  
a son...





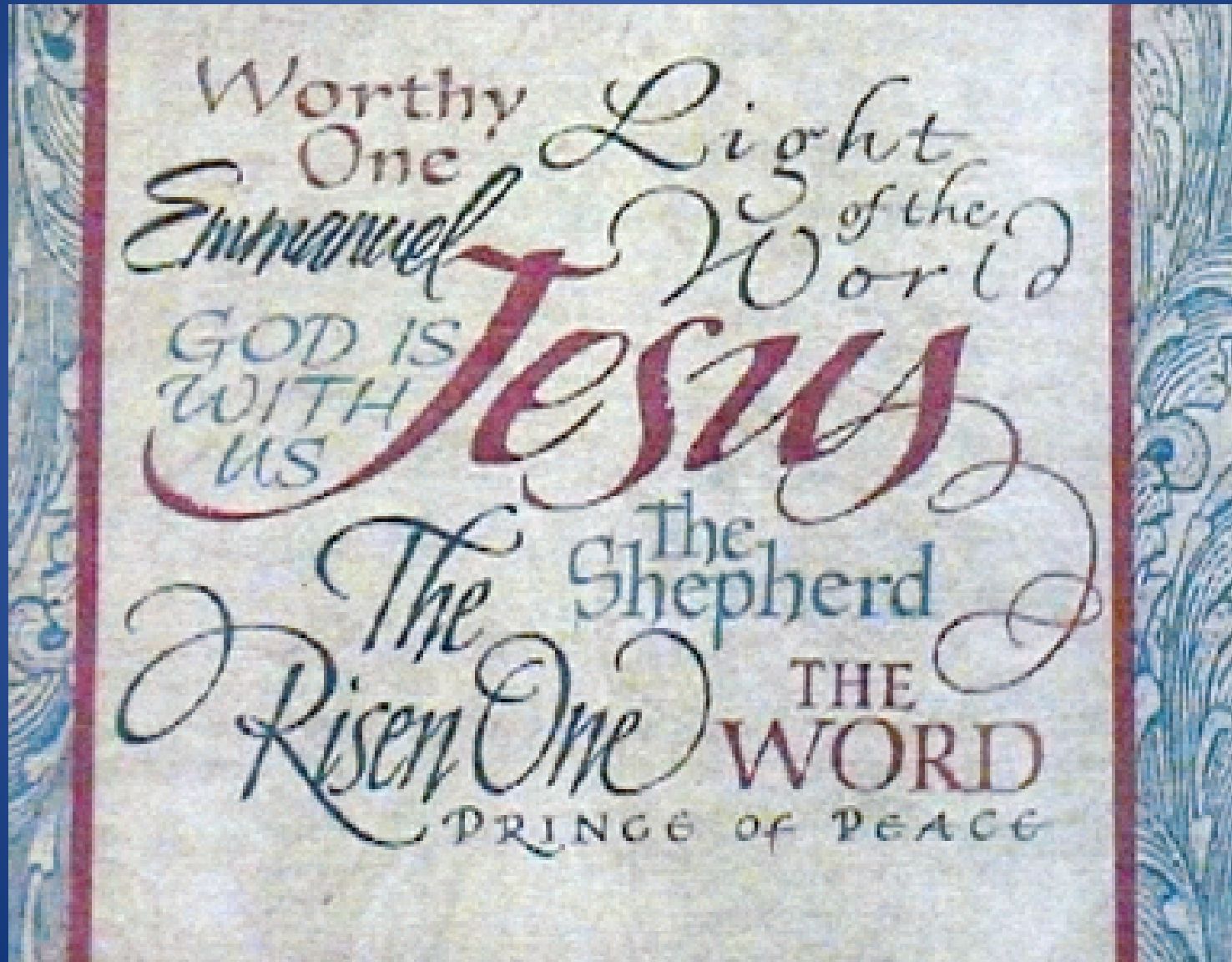
**And wrapped  
him in  
swaddling  
clothes...**

and laid him in a manger  
(or eating trough) for a crib.





The new baby is named Jesus...





And it is  
remarkable  
that no crying  
or fussing  
comes from  
him.

**Within a short while, Mary and Joseph are surprised by visitors...**





Shepherds from the countryside...





**who had  
been abiding  
with their  
flocks.**

They told of  
an amazing  
experience...



**While tending their sheep, an angel  
appeared to them...**



and told them  
of the birth of  
the Messiah.





They were then surrounded by  
numerous Angelic visitors...





**Singing "Joy To The World,"**



**And all were  
bathed in the  
bright glow of  
a magnificent  
star.**



**Told to go to  
Bethlehem in  
search of the  
child...**



They now arrived in breathless  
expectation.



*They came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph  
and the babe lying in a manger.*

No sooner had  
they conveyed  
their amazing  
story...

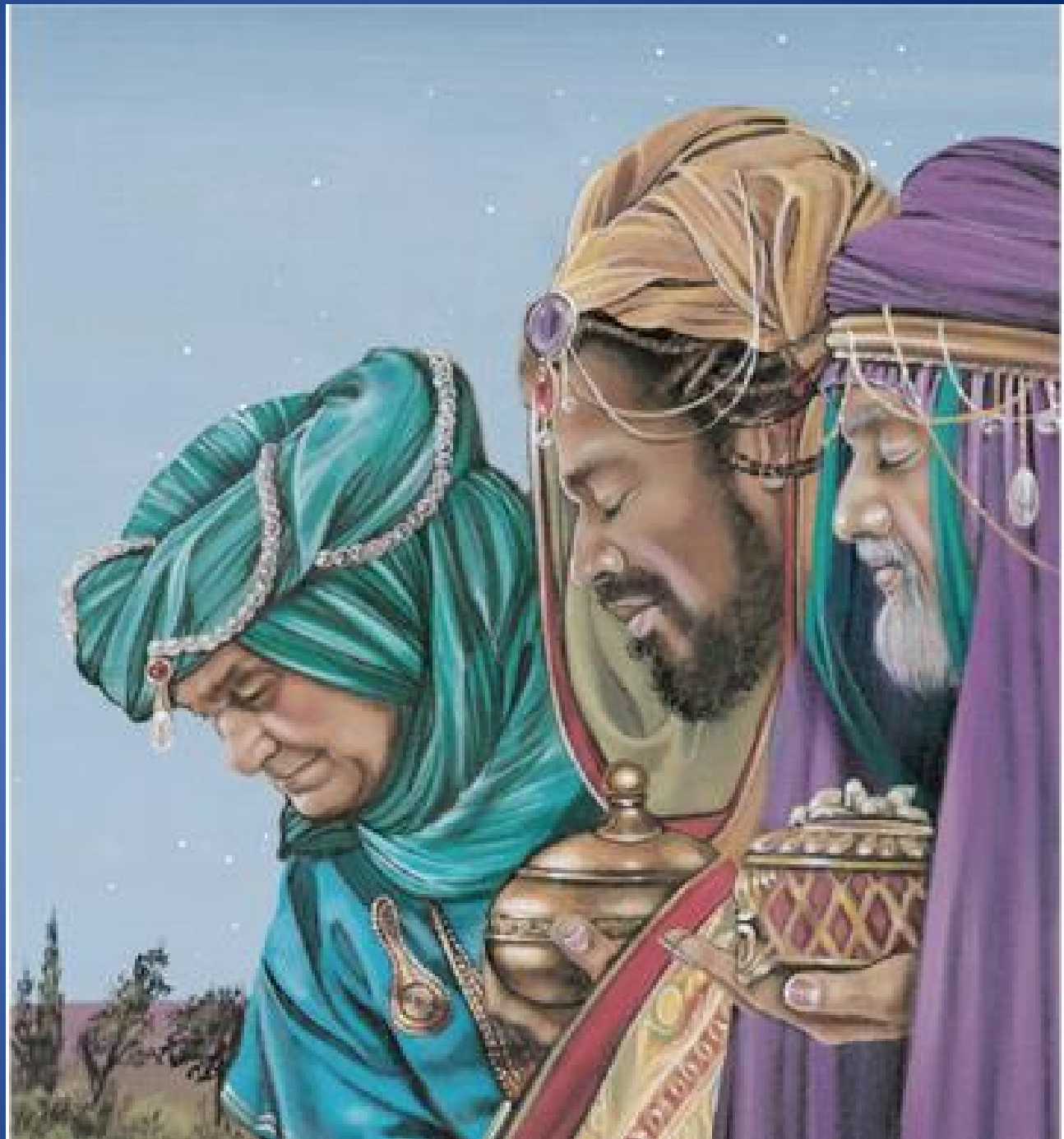




Than three more visitors arrived  
on camels...



# Three Kings...





one white-skinned, one black, and one yellow...





had come from  
afar...



to pay homage...



and give gifts to the newborn king.





Melchior,  
the first,  
offered a gift  
of gold from  
his Persian  
homeland...



Gaspar of India presented incense...



**While Balthazar provided myrrh from  
the land of Ethiopia.**





**They told  
how a  
beautiful  
star...**



had directed them to this very spot...



And they seemed a bit surprised...



that their journey led...







to a stable.



**IS ANYTHING WRONG WITH THIS  
PICTURE?**



**HERE'S A FEW OBVIOUS "ERRORS"...**

- **THE "CHRIST FAMILY"?!**
- **"JOY TO THE WORLD"?!?**
- **"NO CRYING OR FUSSING"?!?!?**
- **ARE THERE ANY MORE?????**

# WHAT DO THE GOSPELS SAY?!?!



# Luke 2

<sup>1</sup>And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

<sup>2</sup>(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

<sup>3</sup>And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

<sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

<sup>5</sup>To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.



**<sup>6</sup>And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.**

**<sup>7</sup>And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.**

**<sup>8</sup>And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.**

**<sup>9</sup>And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.**

**<sup>10</sup>And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.**

**<sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.**

**<sup>12</sup>And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.**

**<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,**

**<sup>14</sup>Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**<sup>15</sup>And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.**

**<sup>16</sup>And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.**

**<sup>17</sup>And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.**



**18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.**

**19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.**

**20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.**

**<sup>21</sup>And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.**

**<sup>22</sup>And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;**

**<sup>23</sup>(As it is written in the law of the LORD, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)**

**<sup>24</sup>And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.**

# Matthew 2

<sup>1</sup>Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

<sup>4</sup>And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

<sup>5</sup>And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

<sup>6</sup>And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.



**<sup>7</sup>Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.**

**<sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found Him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship Him also.**

**<sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.**

**<sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.**

**<sup>11</sup>And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.**

**<sup>12</sup>And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.**

**<sup>13</sup>And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.**

**<sup>14</sup>When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:**

**<sup>15</sup>And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.**

**<sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.**

**<sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying,**

**<sup>18</sup>In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.**



**<sup>19</sup>But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,**

**<sup>20</sup>Saying, Arise, and take the young child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.**

**<sup>21</sup>And he arose, and took the young child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.**

**<sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:**

**<sup>23</sup>And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.**

**ANYTHING DIFFERENT?**

**MORE THAN FORTY POSSIBLE ERRORS!**

# REMEMBER...



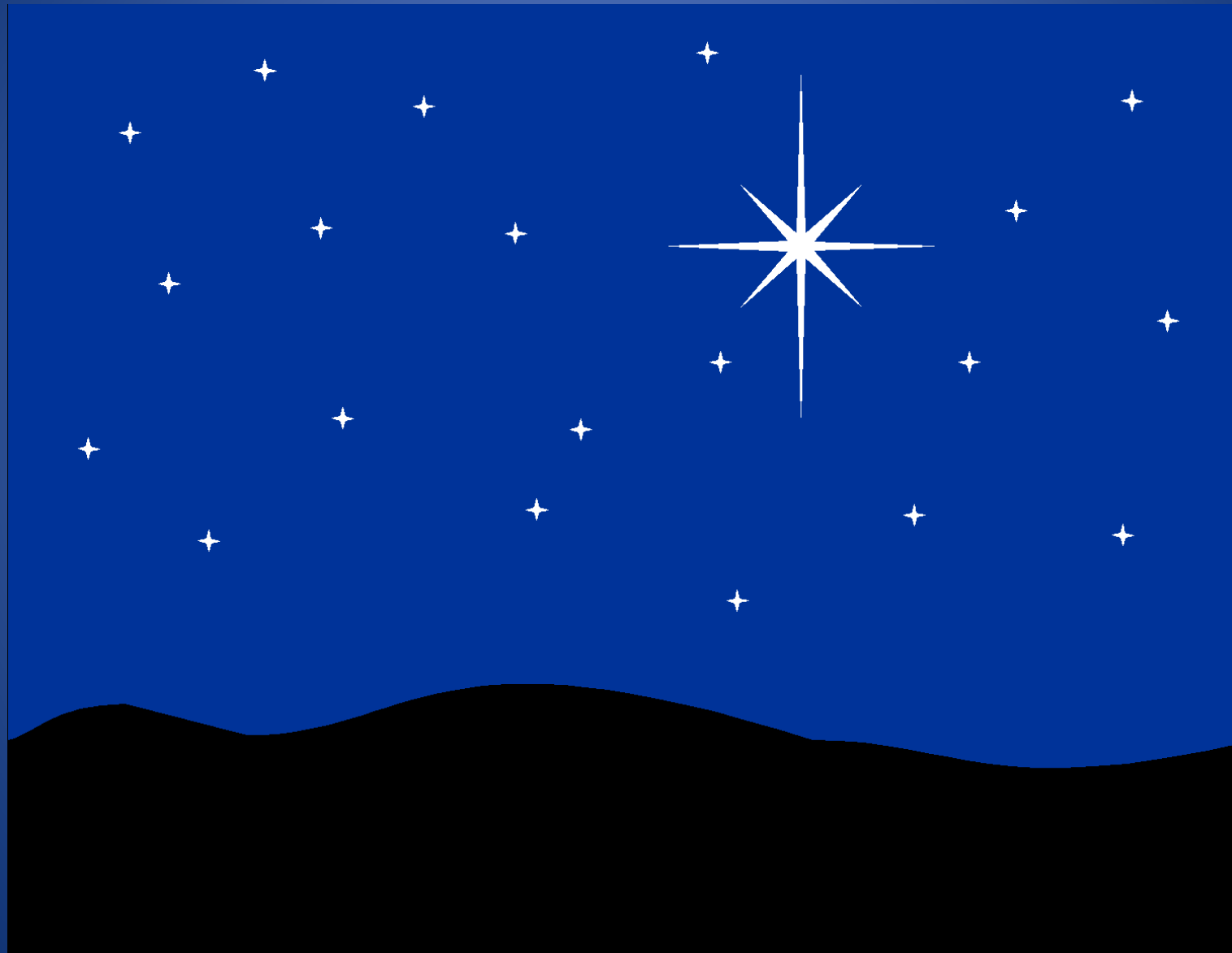
# SOLA SCRIPTURA!

# THE CHRISTMAS STORY *REVISITED...*





# THE YEAR...*ANNO DOMINI?*



# WAS JESUS BORN IN THE YEAR 1 AD?

- DIONYSIUS EXIGUUS ESTABLISHES THE *ANNO DOMINI* (6<sup>TH</sup> CENT.)...UNFORTUNATELY HE ERRED IN HIS CALCULATIONS!
- HEROD THE GREAT DIED IN 4 BC
- ROMAN DATING BEGAN WITH “THE FOUNDING OF THE CITY,” *AB URBE CONDITA* (APRIL 22, 753 BC)
- THE YEAR 1 AD = 754 AUC
- THE ROMAN CENSUS (EVERY FOURTEEN YEARS)
- CYRENIUS’ CENSUS OF 7 AD
- CYRENIUS’ “FIRST” CENSUS IN 7 BC (*HEGEMENEO*)

# WAS JESUS BORN IN THE YEAR 1 AD?

- USING “REGNAL DATING,” JESUS AND JOHN BEGIN THEIR PUBLIC MINISTRIES IN THE 15<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF TIBERIUS CAESAR (JOHN 3:1)
- THE EMPEROR TIBERIUS ACTED AS “CO-REGENT” WITH CAESAR AUGUSTUS FOR UP TO THREE YEARS... A POSSIBLE 2-3 YEAR ERROR
- AUGUSTUS REIGNED FOR FOUR YEARS AS OCTAVIAN... AN ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL MISCALCULATION
- HEROD DILIGENTLY INQUIRES ABOUT THE STAR’S FIRST APPEARANCE...THEN SLAUGHTERS CHILDREN UP TO 2 YEARS OLD

**DIONYSIUS MAY BE “OFF” BY 4-7 YEARS...**





**THE DAY...DECEMBER 25?**



# WAS JESUS BORN ON DECEMBER 25?

- SCRIPTURE DOES NOT REVEAL THE DATE
- FIRST OFFICIALLY MENTIONED IN JOHN CHRYSOSTOM'S CHRISTMAS SERMON OF 386
- SHEPHERDS DID NOT ABIDE WITH THEIR FLOCKS DURING THE DECEMBER RAINY SEASON
- THEY TYPICALLY STAYED OUT AT NIGHT ONLY DURING THE SPRING LAMBING SEASON

***WHY THEN, WAS THAT DATE CHOSEN?***

# THE SATURNALIA

- PAGAN HOLIDAY CELEBRATING THE WINTER SOLSTICE
- FEAST OF THE “BIRTH OF THE UNCONQUERED SUN”  
(*NATALIS SOL INVICTI*) ON DECEMBER 25
- CELEBRATED WITH DRINKING AND FEASTING
- MUSICAL EVENTS
- LIGHTING OF CEREMONIAL CANDLES/YULE LOGS
- GIFT-GIVING
- HOMES DECORATED WITH EVERGREENS
- EVEN SLAVES GIVEN WEEK TO “CELEBRATE”



# WHY THE SATURNALIA?

- EARLY CHRISTIANS COULD MEET WITHOUT DRAWING SUSPICION
- MANY EARLY CHRISTIANS WERE SLAVES
- EARLY PAGAN/CHRISTIAN SYNCRETISM  
(EITHER ERADICATE PAGAN HOLIDAYS OR INCORPORATE THEM TO AID CONVERSION)
- CHRIST THE TRUE “UNCONQUERED SUN/SON!”



# CAN WE CALCULATE THE DAY OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY?

PERHAPS LOOKING AT SCRIPTURE THROUGH “JEWISH” EYES...



# SEVEN SACRED CONVOCATIONS

(LEVITICUS 23)



# THE SEVEN CONVOCATIONS (*MIKRAH*) OF LEVITICUS 23

- THE PASSOVER
- THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD
- THE FEAST OF FIRST FRUITS
- THE FEAST OF WEEKS
- THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS
- THE DAY OF ATONEMENT
- THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

## Why Did God Give the Seven Holy Convocations/Feasts (*Mikrah*) to the Jews?

- 1) Worship and Fellowship
- 2) To Get Their Attention
- 3) To Maintain Their “Jewishness”
- 4) Messianic Fulfillment

The Hebrew Word for “Convocation,” MIKRAH  
Has a Second Meaning:

# REHEARSAL!!!



# THE FOUR SPRING CONVOCATIONS:

- PASSOVER...CHRIST, "THE PASSOVER LAMB,"  
IS SACRIFICED!
- UNLEAVENED BREAD...CHRIST, "THE BREAD OF  
LIFE," IN THE TOMB AS OUR SIN OFFERING!
- FIRST FRUITS...CHRIST, "THE FIRST FRUITS"  
OF THE RESURRECTION!
- PENTECOST/SPRING HARVEST...  
THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH...  
"THE FIRST HARVEST OF SOULS!"

# THE FALL CONVOCATIONS:

- FEAST OF TRUMPETS...THE RAPTURE?
- DAY OF ATONEMENT...CHRIST'S RETURN/THE JEWS MOURNING FOR HIM WHOM THEY PIERCED?
- FEAST OF TABERNACLES... BEGINNING OF CHRIST'S THOUSAND YEAR REIGN?

## ***MIKRAH:***

- The Spring Convocations: “Rehearsals” for Christ’s FIRST Coming as The Sacrificial Lamb of God
- The Fall Convocations: “Rehearsals” for Christ’s SECOND Coming as The Conquering Lion of Judah







**IT APPEARS THAT THE MAIN EVENTS  
OF CHRIST'S MINISTRY CORRESPOND  
TO JEWISH CONVOCATIONS!**

# SO...CAN WE CALCULATE THE DAY OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY?!?!

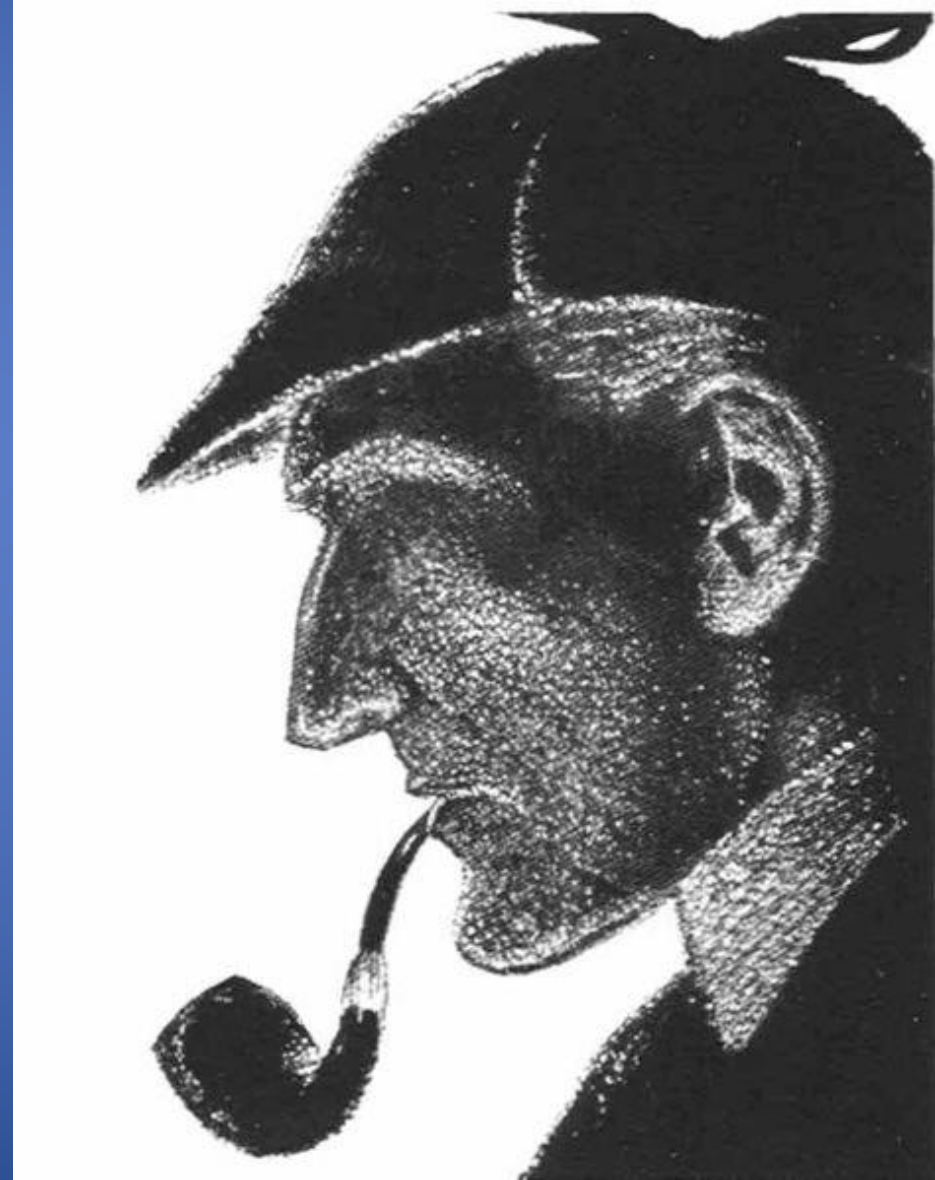


# Looking Through Jewish Eyes...



**A BIBLICAL DETECTIVE STORY...**

**The Mystery of  
The Feast of  
Tabernacles and  
The Festival of  
Lights**





# “The Word became flesh and Tabernacled among us.” (John 1:14)

- Zechariah, Father of John the Baptist, was of the Priestly Division of *Abijah*. (Luke 1:5)
- *Abijah* was the Eighth Course (out of twenty-four) in the Priestly Rotation. (I Chronicles 24:10)
- All Priestly Courses served during the weeks of *Pesach*, *Shavuot*, and *Succoth*.
- The Religious Year began at Passover...counting the weeks of service, Zechariah's duty was in Week Ten. (Course/week #8 plus the two weeks that all priests served...*Pesach* and *Shavuot*.)
- All Priests had a Ritual Two-Week Purification following their service and refrained from marital relations, therefore...
- John's “miraculous” conception occurs no sooner than Week Thirteen (Late June).

# JEWISH FESTIVALS...

- Jews expect Elijah to return at a future Passover...
- John, a “type” of Elijah, is born nine months later... on Passover!
- Jesus “The Light of the World” conceived six months after John...on “The Festival Of Lights,” Hanukkah!
- Jesus born nine months later...The Feast of Tabernacles!

DURING THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM ONLY ONE HEBREW CONVOCATION IS STILL CELEBRATED...

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES...  
THE KING’S BIRTHDAY!

(Zechariah 14:16)

**It Gets Even BETTER!!!!**

**If the LORD Jesus was born on the start of  
the Feast of Tabernacles...**

**The Festival Lasted EIGHT DAYS.**

**The Eighth Day was called “The Last and  
Greatest Day of the Feast...” (John 7:37)**

**“On the last and greatest day of the feast...”**

**---John 7:37-38**





# The Water Drawing Ceremony



## The Water Drawing Ceremony...



**“With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” (Isaiah 12:3)**





# The Water Drawing Ceremony...

**“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.**

**Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” (John 7:37-38)**

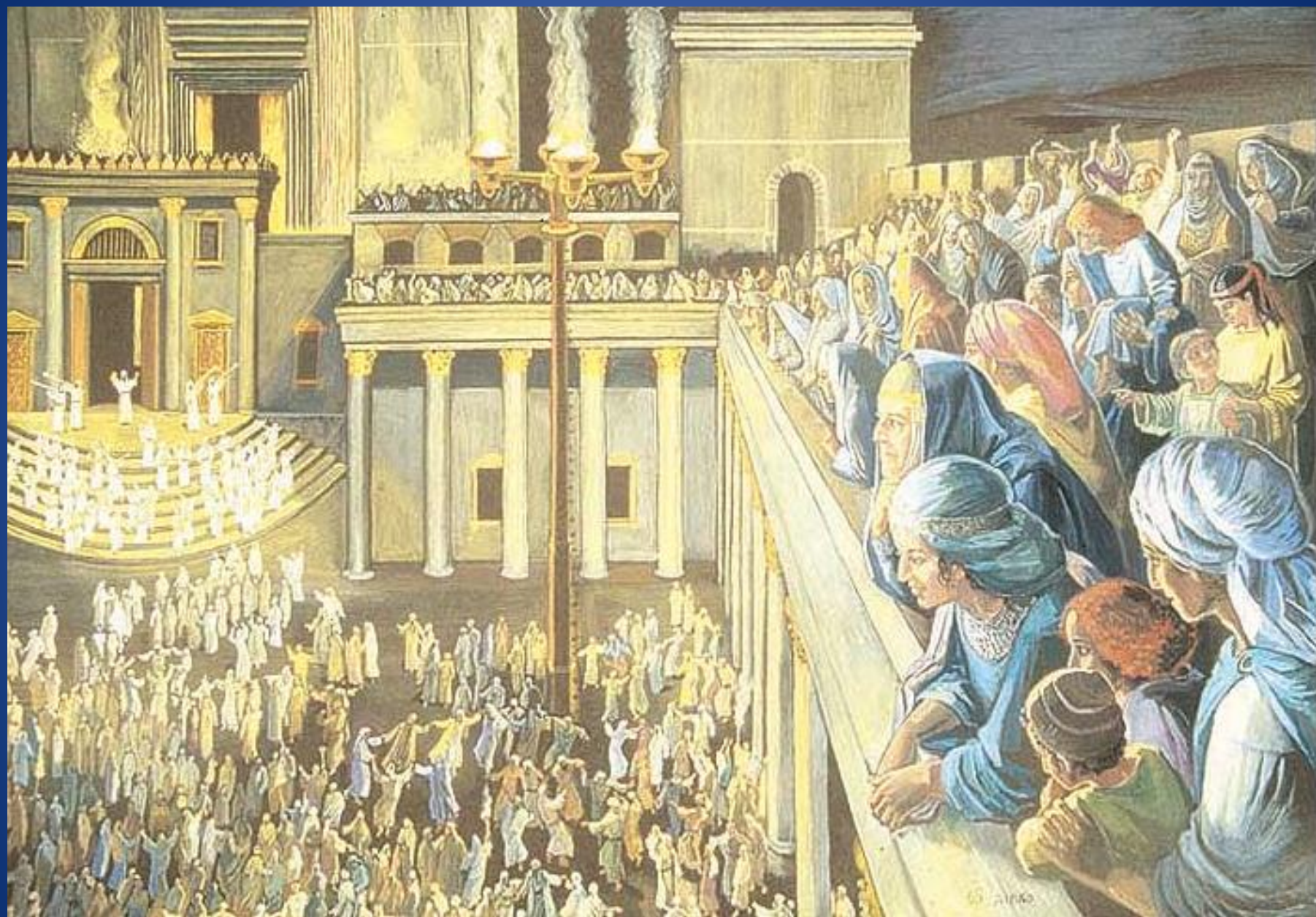
**“Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.” (Revelation 22:17)**



# The *LIVING WATER*!







# The Eternal Grand Illumination...

- “I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the Glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.”  
(Revelation 21:22-23)
- “There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light.”  
(Revelation 22:5)







**WAS CHRIST CONCEIVED  
ON HANUKKAH ...  
THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS?!?**



# ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES (168 BC)





# PERSECUTION!



# THE ALTAR...





# THE MACCABEES









# PURIFYING THE TEMPLE



# THE MIRACLE OF LIGHTS





# Christ, The Light of the World...

- Conceived on the Festival Of Lights!
- Born (“Tabernacled”) With Men on the Feast of Tabernacles!
- The “Living Water!”
- The Grand Illumination/“Light of the World!”
- The “Last and Greatest” Day of the Feast of Tabernacles...

**THE DAY THAT JESUS  
WAS CIRCUMCISED!!!**



# Looking Through Jewish Eyes...





# LOOKING THROUGH “JEWISH” EYES...

## TESTING THE DATE



# THE SCEPTER OF JUDAH (Genesis 49:10)



# Jacob's Blessing and Prophecy

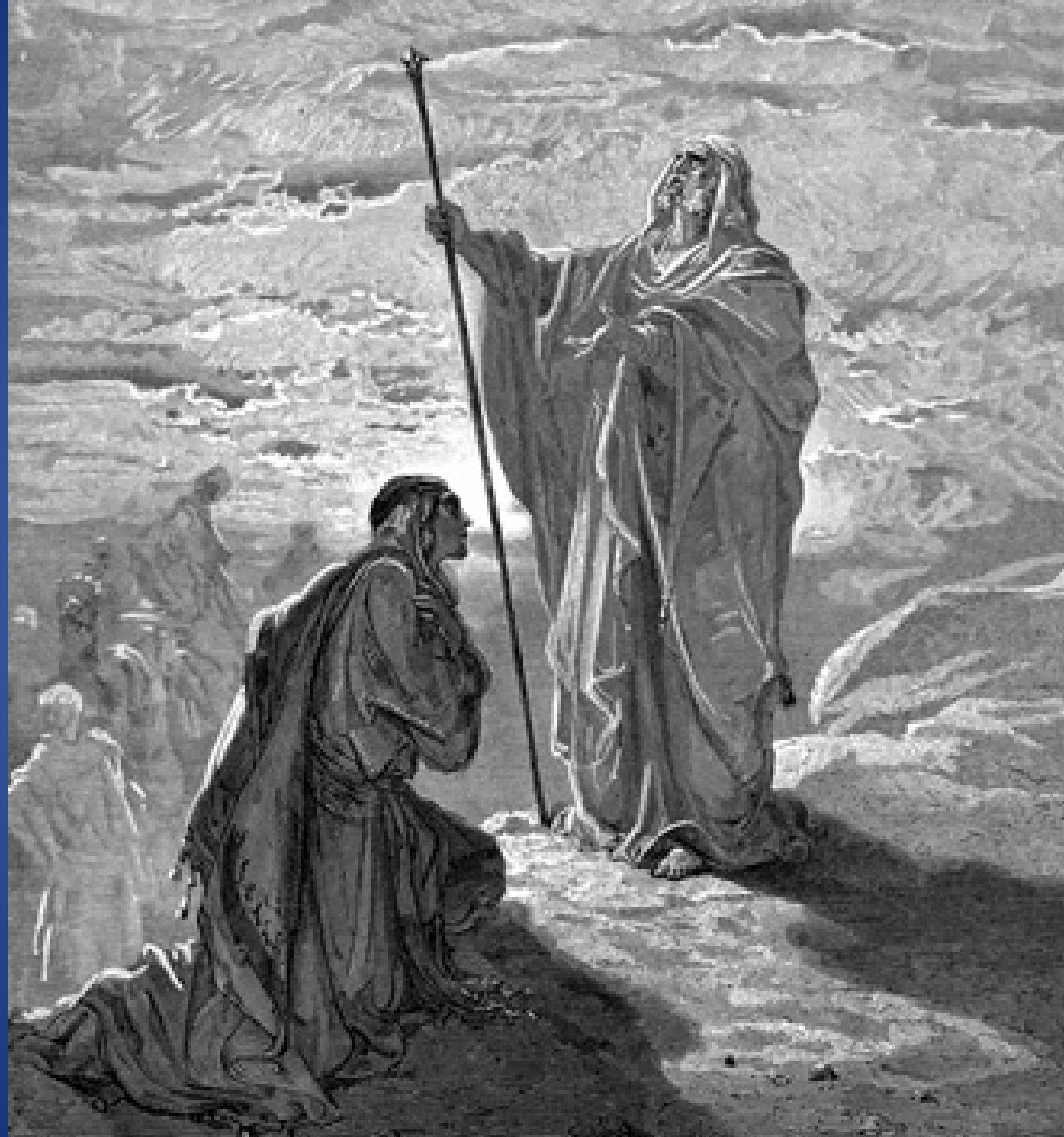
**“The scepter will not depart from  
Judah, nor the ruler's staff from  
between his feet, until He [Messiah]  
comes to whom it belongs and the  
obedience of the nations is His.”**

**(Genesis 49:10)**

**“...shall not depart from Judah until Messiah comes...”**







# THE SCEPTER

- MOSES NEAR “NERVOUS BREAKDOWN”
- THE STAFFS/SCEPTERS OF THE JUDGES OVER THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL
- THE POWER TO JUDGE CAPITAL OFFENSES
- NEVER REMOVED FROM JUDAH, EVEN DURING THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY
- AUTHORITY WOULD NOT BE TAKEN FROM JUDAH UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF THE MESSIAH “TO WHOM IT BELONGED.”

# THE “SCEPTER” DEPARTS (6AD)



***JUS GLADII***

**THE LAW OF THE  
SWORD**





# The Scepter Departs...

With the accession of Caponius as the first Roman Procurator in 6 A.D., and the commensurate imposition of the *Jus Gladii*, the scepter had now departed from Judah.

That the Jews themselves viewed the *Jus Gladii* as a prophetic termination of their rights is evidenced by the Talmud entry, “A little more than forty years before the destruction of the Temple, the power of pronouncing capital sentences was taken away from the Jews.”

---*Jerusalem Talmud, Sanhedrin 3:7*

The most sorrowful witness is the Talmudist Rabbi Rachmon who lamented, “When the members of the Sanhedrin found themselves deprived of their right over life and death, a general consternation took possession of them; they covered their heads with ashes, and their bodies with sackcloth, exclaiming: ‘woe unto us, for the scepter has departed from Judah, and the Messiah has not come!’”

*---Babylonian Talmud, 4:37.*



“UNTIL MESSIAH COMES...”





# “UNTIL MESSIAH COMES...”

- IF YESHUA WAS BORN IN AUTUMN 6 BC...
- AT AGE TWELVE, HE WOULD HAVE ATTENDED THE VERY NEXT PASSOVER IMMEDIATELY AFTER 6 AD ...
- THE SAME YEAR THAT “THE SCEPTER DEPARTED” FROM JUDAH!
- PERHAPS THAT IS WHY THE VISIT DESCRIBED IN THE TEMPLE IS THE ONLY MENTION OF CHRIST’S CHILDHOOD, FOLLOWING HIS FAMILY’S RETURN FROM EGYPT!
- WE DO NOT READ OF HIM AGAIN UNTIL THE AGE OF THIRTY!

# Looking Through Jewish Eyes...



SO WHEN WAS JESUS BORN?!?!

**MY PERSONAL PREFERENCE...**

**CONCEPTION IN LATE  
DECEMBER 7 BC?**

**BIRTH IN AUTUMN 6 BC?**



**BUT WAIT!!!**

**HOLD ON JUST ONE MINUTE!!!**

**YOU SAID EARLIER THAT TYPICALLY THE SHEPHERDS  
WERE “ABIDING WITH THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT” ONLY  
DURING THE SPRING LAMBING SEASON...**

**BUT THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES IS CELEBRATED IN THE  
FALL OF THE YEAR!**

***MIGDAL EDER***

**THE TOWER OF THE FLOCK**



**THE SACRED TEMPLE FLOCKS, USED FOR  
THE DAILY SACRIFICE, WERE KEPT AND  
PROTECTED AT MIGDAL EDER...**

**A GUARD TOWER WAS ERECTED TO  
PROTECT THE FLOCKS FROM THIEVES AND  
WILD BEASTS...**

**THE TEMPLE SHEPHERDS GUARDED THE  
FLOCKS TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY;  
SEVEN DAYS A WEEK; TWELVE MONTHS A  
YEAR...**



AN ANCIENT ARAMAIC  
INTERPRETATION (*TARGUM*)  
SUGGESTED THAT WHEN THE  
MESSIAH CAME, HIS ARRIVAL  
WOULD FIRST BE ANNOUNCED  
*AT MIGDAL EDER*  
(THE TOWER OF THE FLOCK)

## ***MIGDAL EDER***

### **THE TOWER OF THE FLOCK**

**“As for you, O tower of the flock,  
O stronghold [hill] of the Daughter of  
Zion, to you shall it come, the former  
dominion will be restored to you;  
kingship will come to the Daughter of  
Jerusalem.”---Micah 4:8**

**“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...He will stand and shepherd his flock...And he will be their peace.”---Micah 5:2&4**

***MIGDAL EDER***

**THE TOWER OF THE FLOCK**





*MIGDAL EDER*, THE TOWER OF THE FLOCK, WAS LOCATED IN  
THE HILLS NEAR...

**BETHLEHEM!!!**



**HOW POIGNANT THAT THE BIRTH OF THE  
MESSIAH, THE SACRIFICIAL “LAMB OF GOD,”  
WAS FIRST ANNOUNCED TO THE SHEPHERDS  
GUARDING THE SACRED TEMPLE LAMBS THAT  
NO LONGER NEEDED TO BE SACRIFICED!**

**WOW!!!**



**The Shepherds Visit The Lamb**



**BEFORE THE BREAK...**

**A FEW QUICK  
MESSAGES**

# CIRCUIT RIDER MINISTRIES

## ISRAEL PILGRIMAGE 2019





# CLASSICAL EUROPE



# OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY

## SEPTEMBER 15-25, 2020





**FINALLY...**

**PLEASE CONSIDER A “FREE WILL”  
OFFERING TO OAKWOOD’S  
MUSIC MINISTRY.**

**THANK YOU!!!**

**INTERMISSION**

# LOOKING THROUGH “JEWISH EYES”

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY...

### *REVISITED*



OAKWOOD CHURCH  
William Colin Marris  
CIRCUIT RIDER MINISTRIES, INC.  
December 11, 2018

# Looking Through Jewish Eyes...





# AN ARDUOUS, SOLITARY JOURNEY?



# RIDING UPON A DONKEY?





# Looking Through Jewish Eyes...







# FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM...

- DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY EIGHTY MILES
- FOUR TO FIVE DAYS JOURNEY
- TRAVELLED BY CARAVAN (LUKE 2:43-45)
- ALONG VERY GOOD ROMAN ROADS

# *Viae*

## The Roads of Rome

- To em
- roa
- The
- peo
- cor
- Eve



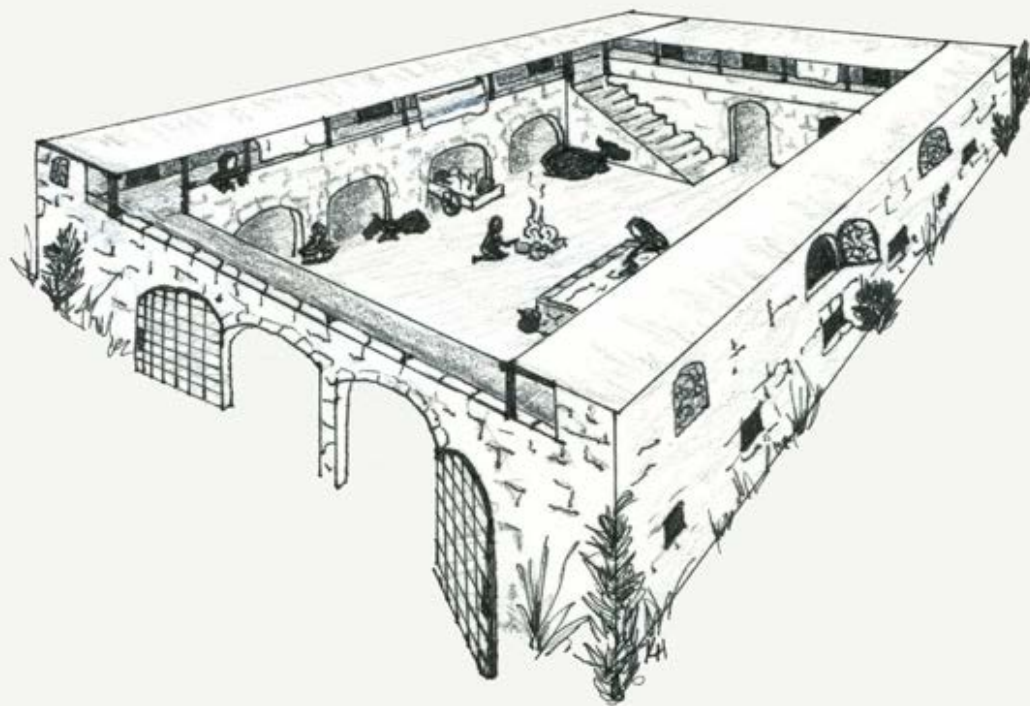
- ALL JEWS MADE THE TRIP “UP TO JERUSALEM” (*ALIYAH*) THREE TIMES EACH YEAR (PASSOVER, PENTECOST, AND TABERNACLES)
- LARGE POPULATION TRAVELLING DUE TO THE ROMAN CENSUS...
- THE ROADS WOULD HAVE BEEN THRONGED WITH TRAVELLERS





Bible History Online

# THE CARAVANSARY







# THE PLACE...BETHLEHEM OF JUDEA





# BETHLEHEM EPHRATHAH

*“But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”*

*---Micah 5:2*

# BETHLEHEM EPHRATHAH (MICAH 5:2)



# A BETHLEHEM STABLE?



# THE EMPEROR CONSTANTINE & EMPRESS HELENA

# THE DOWAGER





# THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY



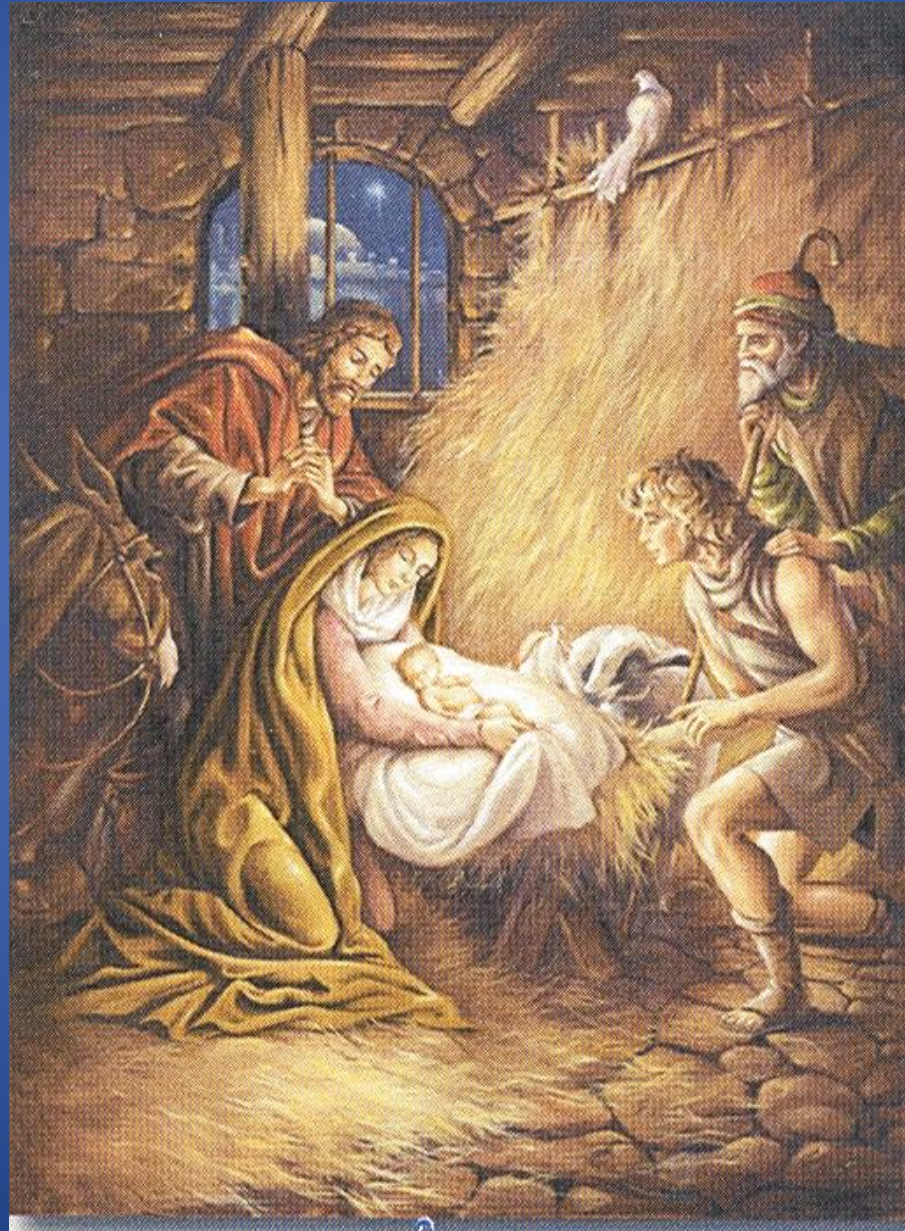








# LAIID IN A MANGER...









# ST. JEROME



**IS THERE ANY PROBLEM?!?!**



**TRADITION?**

**BIBLICAL TRUTH!**



# “NO ROOM AT THE INN?”



# JOSEPH'S "PLANNING"





# Looking Through Jewish Eyes...





# ANCIENT HOSPITALITY...



Joseph & Mary Travel To The Census by William Hole

# JOSEPH'S EXTENDED FAMILY...



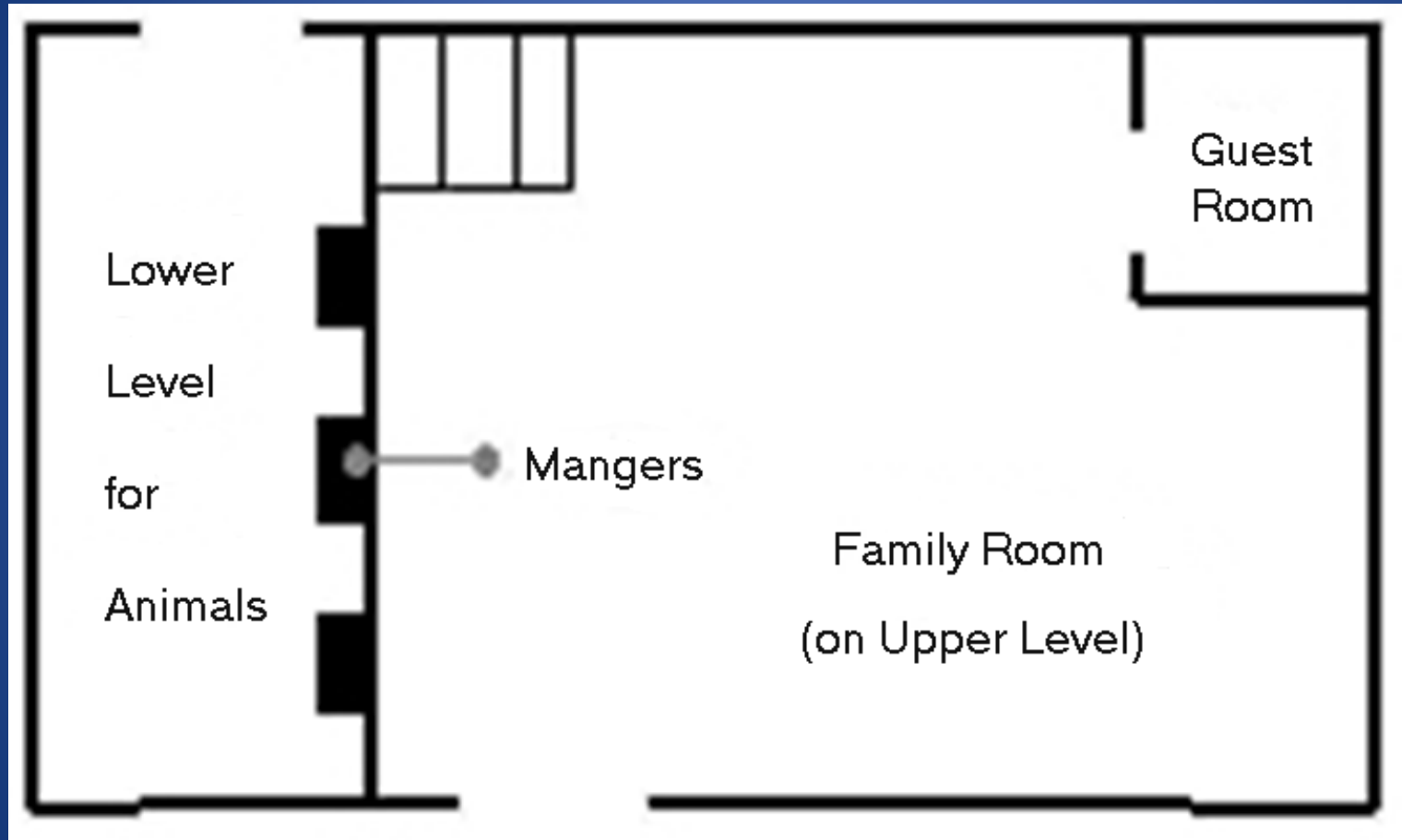
# WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE ACTUALLY SAY?



**“...NO ROOM IN THE *KATALUMA*.”**  
**(INN, GUEST ROOM, OR UPPER ROOM)**



# NO ROOM IN THE *KATALUMA*...





*Patriarch's House*

*upper room*

*outside  
door*

*storage room  
(with manger)*

*courtyard*

**BUT WAIT!**





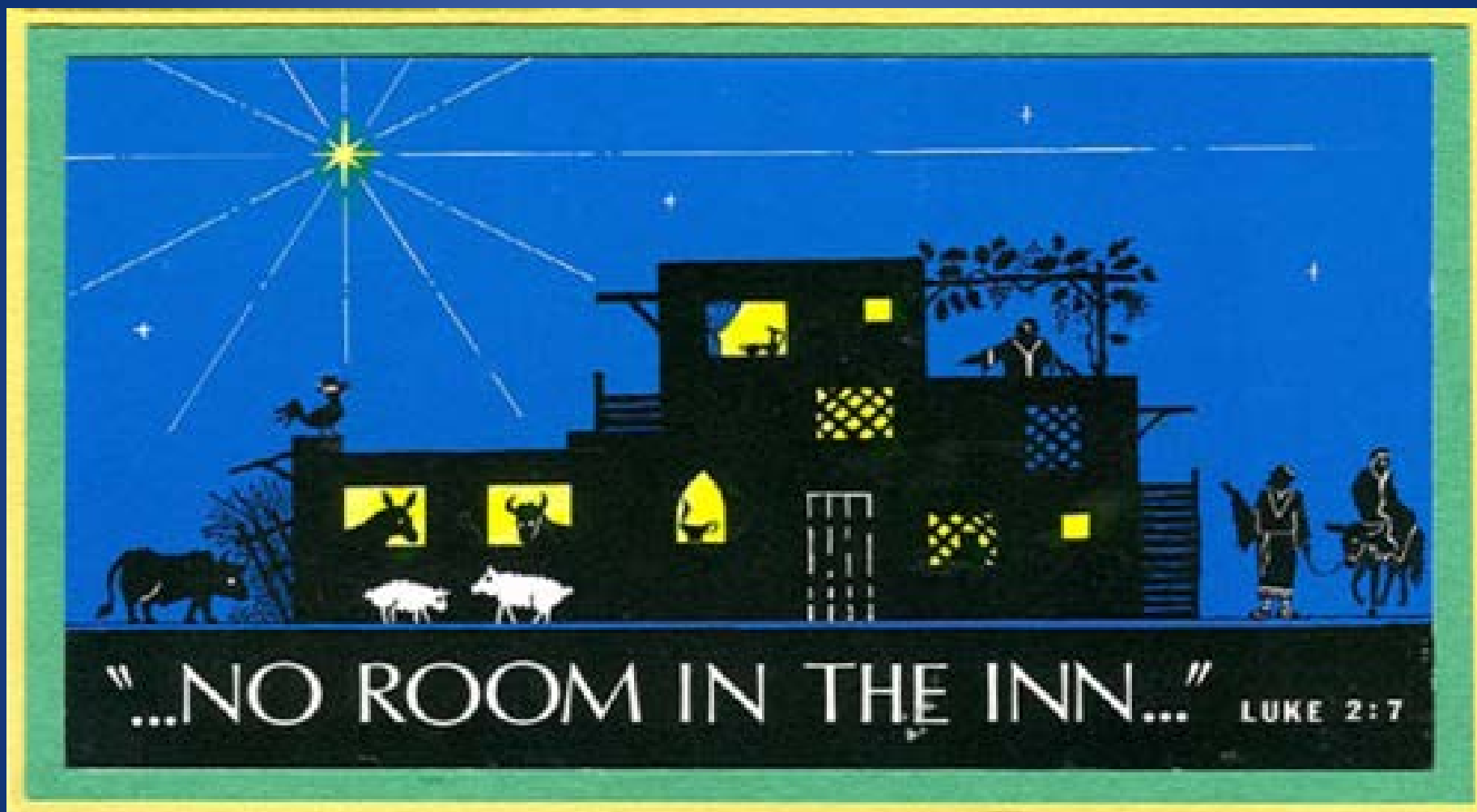


# THE GOOD SAMARITAN

“...But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’” ---Luke 10:33-35

The Greek Word Luke Uses For “INN”...

***Pandocheion!***





# MARY'S "DILEMMA"





**QUESTION???**

**WOULD GOD WILLFULLY  
SUBMIT HIS CHOSEN  
MOTHER OF OUR LORD  
TO SUFFER SHAME AND  
DISGRACE?!?!**

# JOSEPH'S "PLANNING" (Revisited)



# JOSEPH'S MARVELOUS PLANNING...

- MARY IS THREE MONTHS PREGNANT WHEN JOSEPH IS FIRST TOLD
- HE PLANS TO DIVORCE HER “QUIETLY” (NO ONE IS YET AWARE THAT SHE IS PREGNANT!)
- JOSEPH VISITED BY THE ANGEL IN A DREAM
- ROMAN CENSUS HAS ALREADY BEEN DECLARED
- JOSEPH HASTENS TO BETHLEHEM WITH MARY BEFORE SHE BEGINS TO PHYSICALLY “SHOW”
- EASY CARAVAN TRIP FROM NAZARETH TO JERUSALEM (FOUR DAYS)
- THE COUPLE STAYS WITH JOSEPH’S RELATIVES
- JOSEPH FINDS WORK (POSSIBLY IN JERUSALEM)

- WHILE JOSEPH AND MARY ARE THERE, HER DAYS ARE “ACCOMPLISHED”
- JESUS IS BORN IN THE HOME OF LOVING RELATIVES, IN THE PRIVACY OF THE LOWER CHAMBER BECAUSE THERE WAS “NO ROOM IN THE *KATALUMA*”
- JESUS IS SECURELY LAID IN THE MANGER USED FOR THE HOUSEHOLD ANIMALS
- JESUS IS CIRCUMCISED EIGHT DAYS LATER AND PRESENTED IN THE TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM AFTER FORTY DAYS



**“KISSING THE FACE OF GOD!”**



# THE THREE MAGI?



# THREE “KINGS?”





# THE SHRINE OF THE THREE KINGS

Cologne, Germany





# WHY THREE WISE MEN?



Published by the House Publishing 1955



THE









©GospelGifs

# THE MAGI???



# CHALDEAN ASTRONOMERS











# CELESTIAL OBSERVATORIES





# THE CHALDEAN MAGI AND ANCIENT PROPHECY



# THE PROPHET DANIEL...





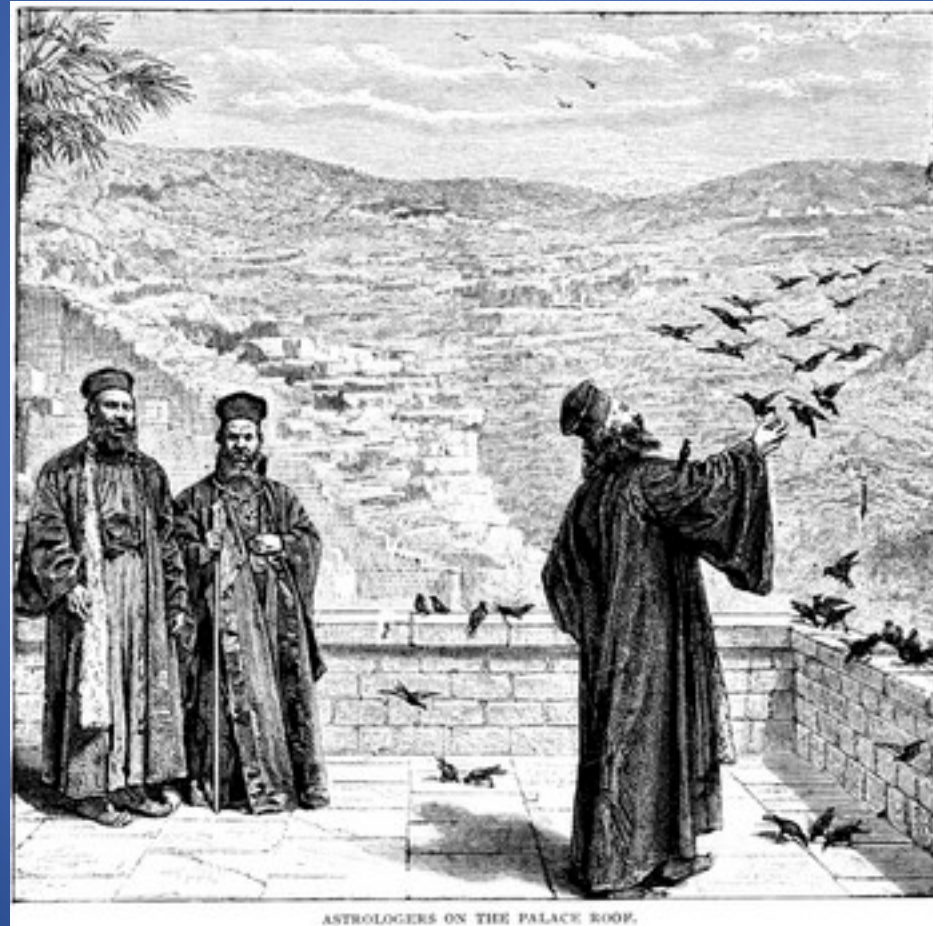
# PAGAN EXPECTATION...

“PEOPLE WERE GENERALLY PERSUADED IN THE FAITH OF THE ANCIENT PROPHECIES, THAT THE EAST WAS TO PREVAIL, AND THAT FROM JUDEA WAS TO COME THE MASTER AND RULER OF THE WORLD.”

---TACITUS (*THE ANNALS*)



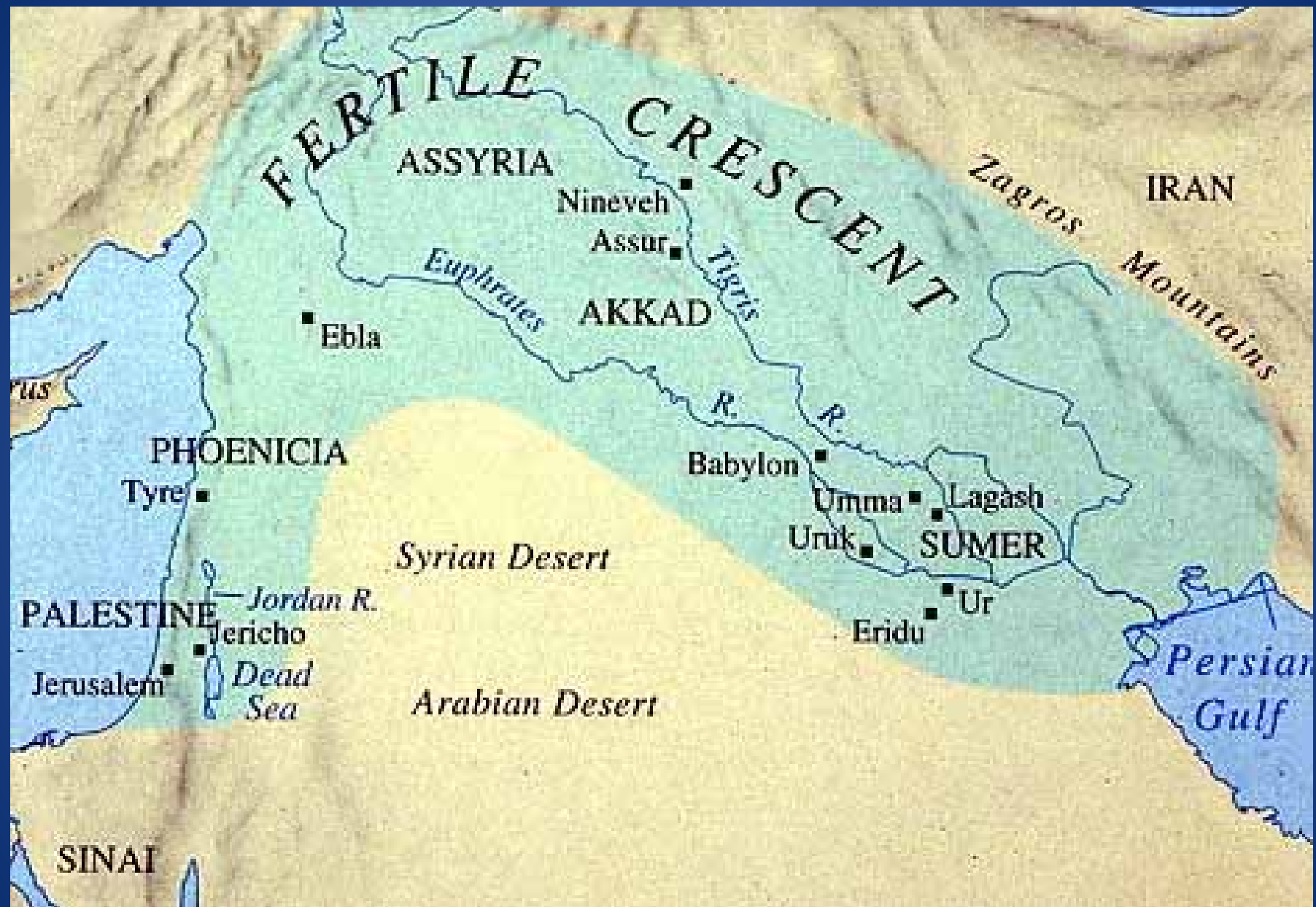
# Journey To Jerusalem











# THEY SOUGHT THE NEWBORN KING IN JERUSALEM...



# AT THE COURT OF HEROD THE GREAT



# HEROD THE GREAT

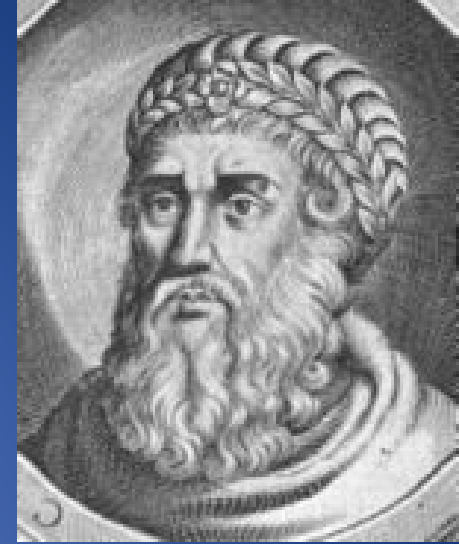




# HEROD THE MONSTER!

- MURDERED HIS “FAVORITE” WIFE
- MURDERED HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW
- MURDERED THREE OF HIS SONS
- MURDERED HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW
- EXECUTED HIS PREDECESSOR
- MASS MURDER OF SUBJECTS
- FINAL HORRIFIC ORDER
- TRULY CAPABLE OF ORDERING THE SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS!

# HEROD THE GREAT



“It is better to be Herod’s Pig (*HUS*)  
than his Son (*HUIOS*)”

---Augustus Caesar



# HEROD DILIGENTLY INQUIRED...



“And  
scri  
the



and  
f



# HILLEL THE GREAT

- THE GREATEST SAGE IN ISRAEL DURING THE REIGN OF HEROD THE GREAT
- PRESIDENT (*NASI*) OF THE SANHEDRIN
- LIKE MOSES, HE REPUTEDLY LIVED 120 YEARS (110 BC TO 10 AD)
- FOUNDER OF THE GREATEST RABBINIC SCHOOL IN JERUSALEM
- HE WAS LATER SUCCEEDED BY HIS GRANDSON GAMALIEL (ACTS 5)...PAUL'S MENTOR (ACTS 22)
- THE MOST LEARNED MAN IN JERUSALEM AT THE TIME OF THE MAGI'S ARRIVAL; HENCE...

# Looking Through Jewish Eyes...



**HILLET THE GREAT WAS QUITE POSSIBLY  
THE LEARNED ONE TO WHOM HEROD  
“DILIGENTLY” DIRECTED HIS QUESTION  
ABOUT THE LOCATION OF THE FUTURE  
BIRTHPLACE OF THE MESSIAH!**

**BUT WAIT!!!**



Christ in the Temple, by Heinrich Holmann, courtesy G. Harrison Conroy Co., Inc.



“And he [Herod] sent them to Bethlehem, and said,  
Go and search diligently for the young child; and  
when ye have found him, bring me word again, that  
I may come and worship him also.”









# Simply stated...

- In a Judean village the size of Bethlehem there were probably never more than a dozen boys under the age of two years, at any one time.
- The slaughter of such a relatively small number of individuals might have been seen as “business as usual,” and gone relatively unnoticed in the horrible, murderous, and bloody kingdom of Herod the Great!





# CHALDEAN ASTRONOMERS...

## WHAT PROMPTED THE MAGI TO RIDE?





# THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM



# BALAAM'S PROPHECY

**“A Star shall come out of Jacob;  
A Scepter shall rise out of Israel...”  
(Numbers 24:17)**



# WHAT IS THE STAR?

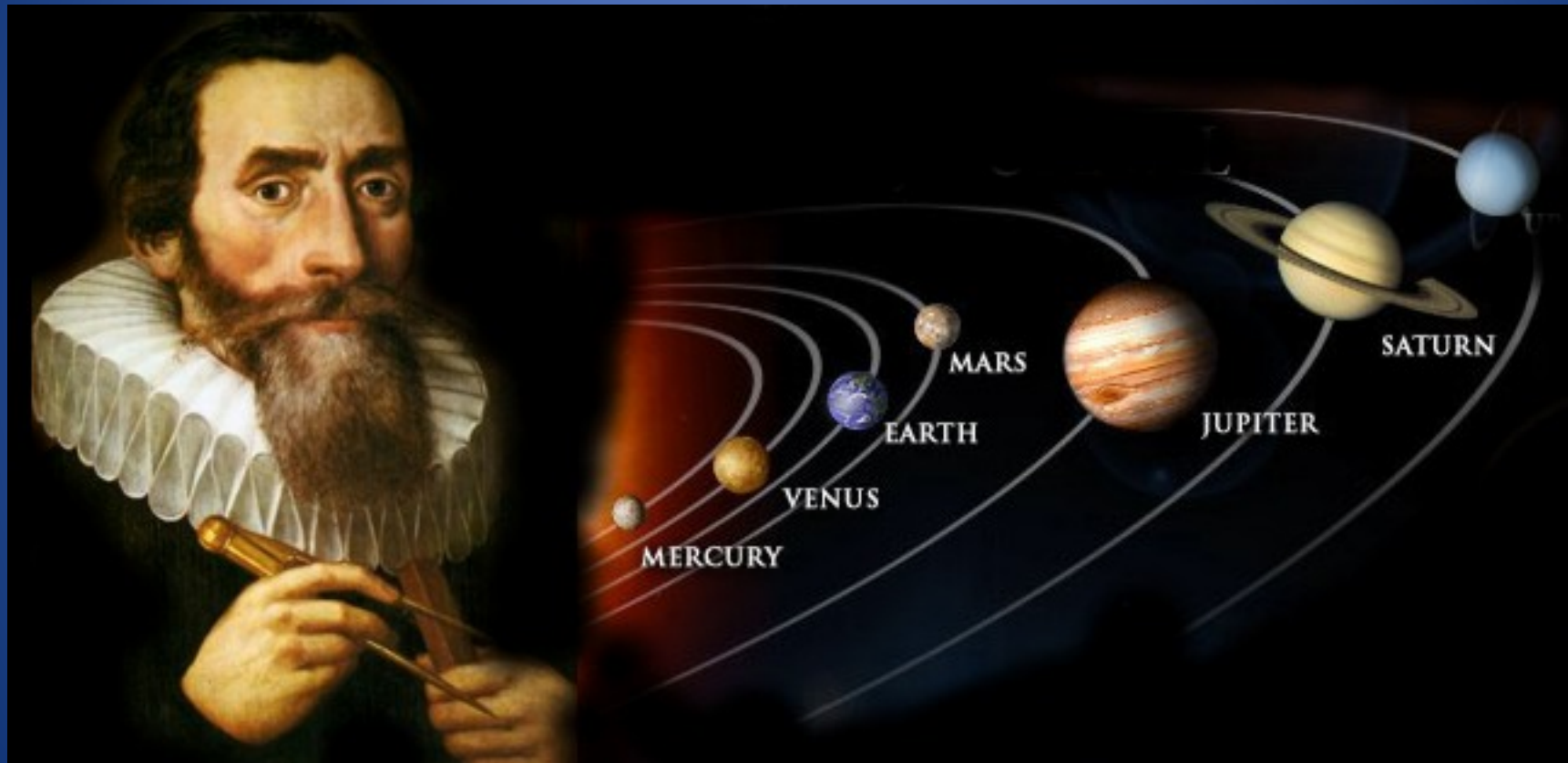
- GREEK *ASTER* (ANY SKY OBJECT THAT IS NOT THE SUN OR MOON)
- COMET?
- METEOR?
- SUPERNOVA?
- PLANETARY CONJUNCTION?
- SUPERNATURAL EVENT?



# THE STAR...

- FIRST OBSERVED IN THE EAST?!
- THEY SAW IT RISE “ACRONICALLY”
- PROMPTS MAGI TO SEEK THE NEWBORN KING
- LEADS THE MAGI ON THEIR JOURNEY
- NOT OBSERVED BY HEROD OR THE JEWS
- HEROD “DILIGENTLY” INQUIRES
- STOPS OVER THE HOUSE OF THE CHILD
- MENTIONED BY MATTHEW BUT NOT BY LUKE

# THE “TRIPLE CONJUNCTION” OF JOHANNES KEPLER





# KEPLER'S "TRIPLE CONJUNCTION"...

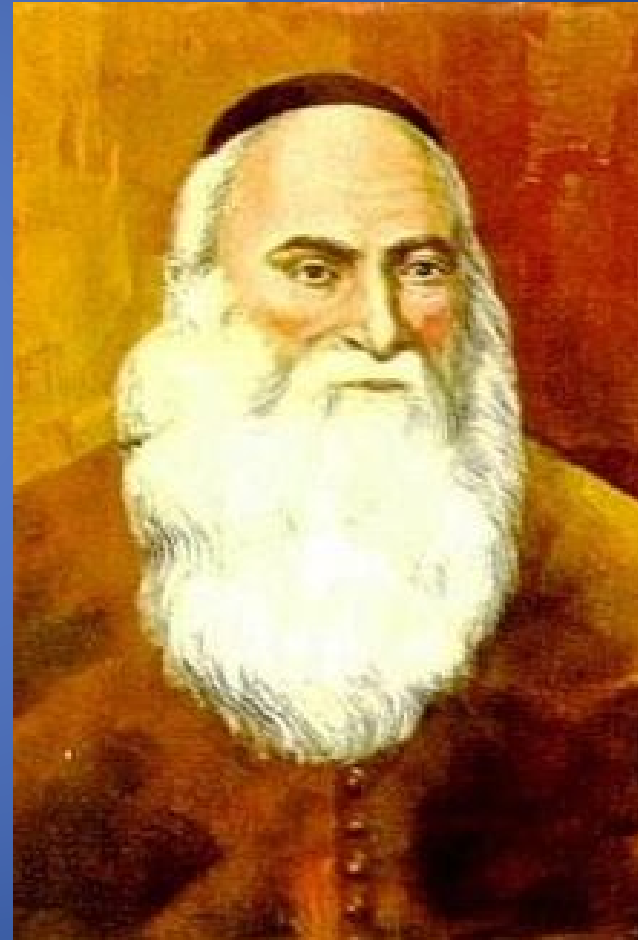
- To the ancients, planets were "Travelling Stars"
- Jupiter was considered to be the "Royal Star"
- Saturn was the "Star" that governed Judea/Palestine
- Pisces was considered the constellation overseeing the Jews
- In 7-6 BC, Saturn and Jupiter came into conjunction three times ("Triple Conjunction"); a very rare occurrence in one year!
- All three conjunctions took place in the constellation Pisces
- In the third conjunction, Jupiter and Saturn were "joined" by the planet Mars...the star of "Great Change and Upheaval"

The Magi would have understood that the long-awaited King of the Jews, prophesied by Daniel, was to be born in Judea, and that His coming would greatly change the world!



# RABBI ISAAC BEN JUDAH ABRABANEL (1437-1508 AD)

- Believed that the Messiah's coming would be heralded by a conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn within the constellation Pisces!



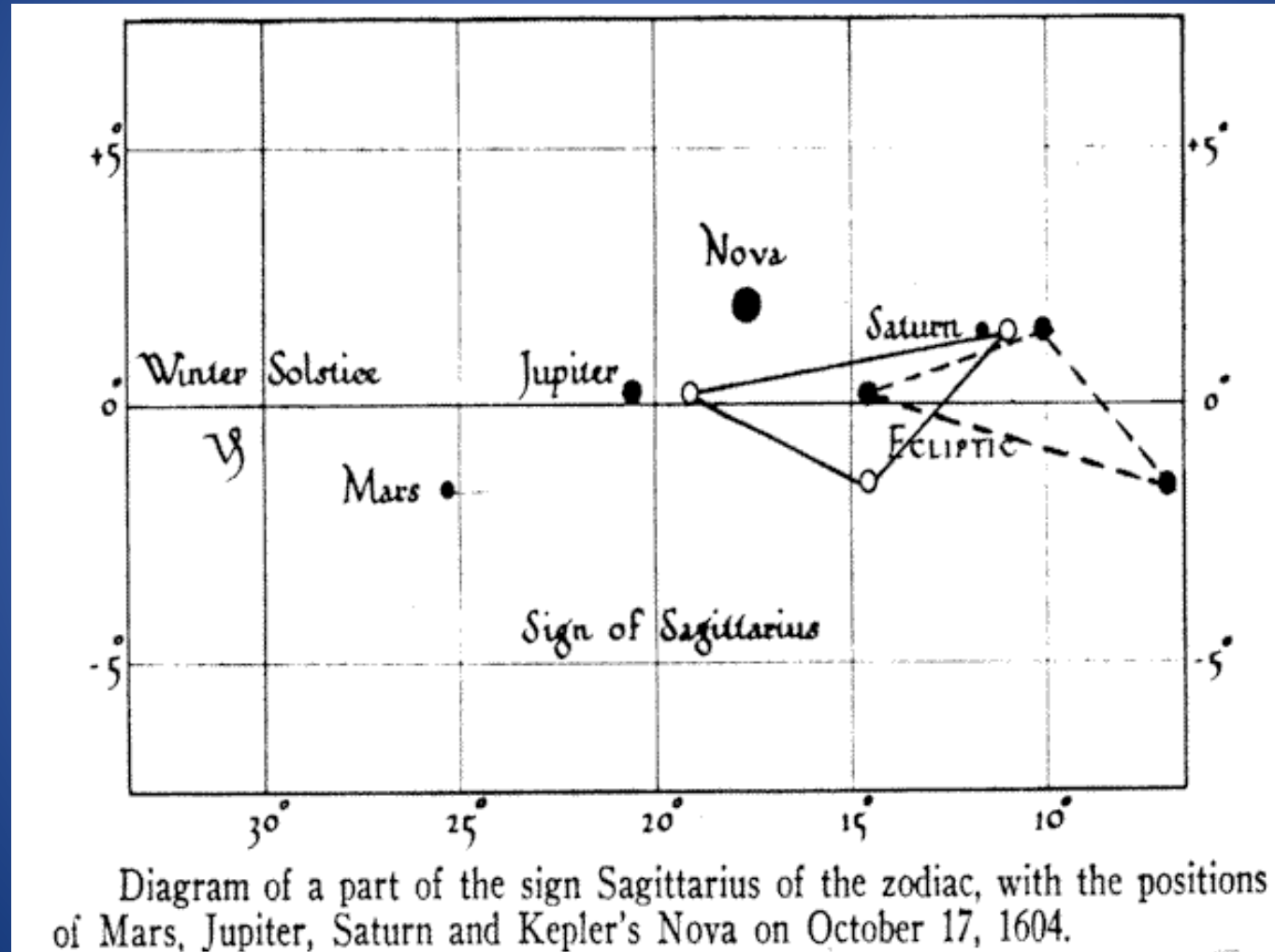
# BUT WAIT!!!

Johannes Kepler also discovered a  
further piece of extraordinary  
evidence...

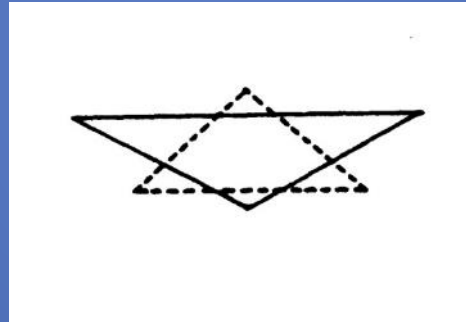
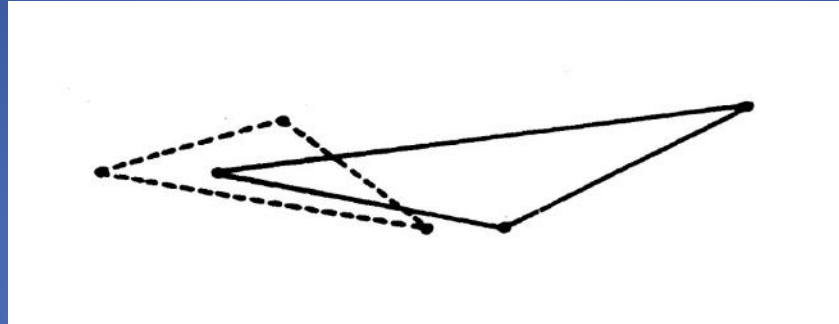
Perhaps he looked through  
“Jewish Eyes”...



# Kepler's Own Diagram From 1604



# Kepler's "Fiery Triangle"



It is interesting to note that although Kepler believed that the Triple Conjunction of 7-6 BC was what prompted the Magi to head for Jerusalem; he did not believe that the celestial event was the actual Star of Bethlehem...



**He believed that the  
Star of Bethlehem  
was a new star  
appearing low in the  
night sky.**





**WHICH PROMPTS ME TO  
ASK THE QUESTION...**

# WHY DOES LUKE FAIL TO MENTION THE STAR?!?!



**“...AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHOWN ROUND  
ABOUT THEM...”**



**“Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.  
See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the LORD rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.  
Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn...  
And all from Sheba will come,  
bearing gold and incense  
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.”**

**---Isaiah 60:1-3, 6b**



# MY PERSONAL BELIEF...

- THE MAGI WERE FIRST CONVINCED OF THE ROYAL BIRTH OF THE JEWISH MESSIAH BY OBSERVING THE TRIPLE CONJUNCTION OF JUPITER, SATURN AND MARS...
- THEY WERE LED ON THEIR JOURNEY, HOWEVER, BY A SUPERNATURAL “STAR” ...
- UPON ARRIVING IN BETHLEHEM, THE STAR POINTED OUT THE CHILD’S HOUSE...
- IT WAS THE SAME STAR THAT HAD EARLIER BEEN WITNESSED BY THE SHEPHERDS...

# THE *SHEKINAH* GLORY OF GOD!

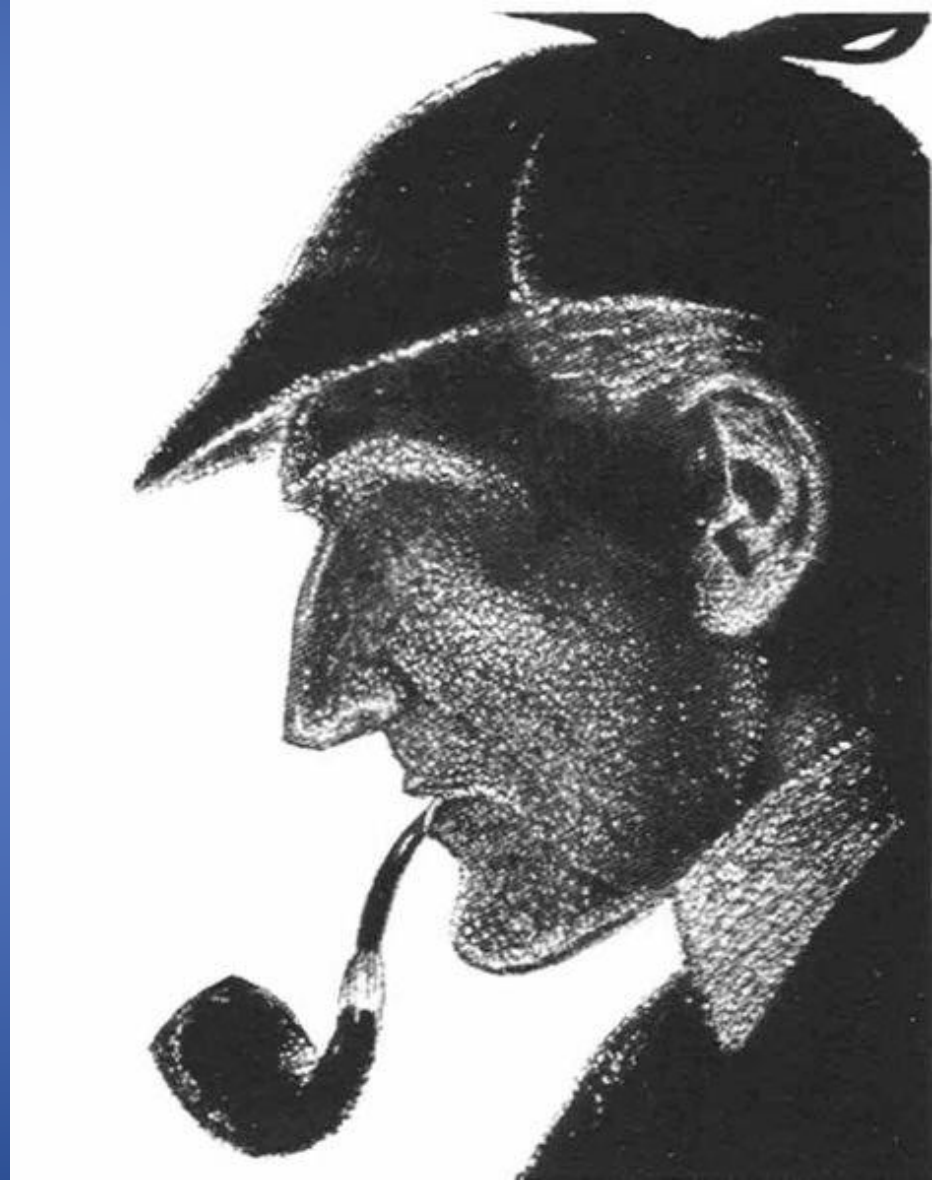


HOW DO WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT THE MAGI DID NOT  
ARRIVE ON CHRISTMAS EVE?



NOR ON EPIPHANY/TWELFTH NIGHT?

# A BIBLICAL MYSTERY...





# IN LUKE'S GOSPEL WE LEARN THAT...

- EIGHT DAYS AFTER HIS BIRTH,  
JESUS WAS CIRCUMCISED (LUKE 2:21)
- AFTER FORTY DAYS, JESUS WAS PRESENTED IN  
THE TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM (LUKE 2:22-23)
- THE REQUIRED SACRIFICE WAS A FIRSTBORN LAMB (LEVITICUS 12:6)
- THE POOR WERE PERMITTED TO SUBSTITUTE TWO  
TURTLEDOVES OR PIGEONS (LEVITICUS 12:8)
- MARY AND JOSEPH SACRIFICED TWO BIRDS (LUKE 2:24)

THEREFORE,

MARY AND JOSEPH WERE POOR...

THEY HAD NOT YET RECEIVED THE GOLD  
FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH!



The Magi Bring Gifts by William Hole

# **A FINAL THOUGHT REGARDING THE THREE GIFTS OF THE MAGI...**

**IN ADDITION TO THEIR SYMBOLIC RELEVANCE  
FOR CHRIST'S EARTHLY MISSION:**

**GOLD (KING)**

**FRANKINCENSE (HIGH PRIEST)**

**MYRRH (SACRIFICIAL ATONEMENT)**

**THE GIFTS ALSO PROVIDED THE FUNDING  
FOR THEIR FLIGHT INTO EGYPT!**







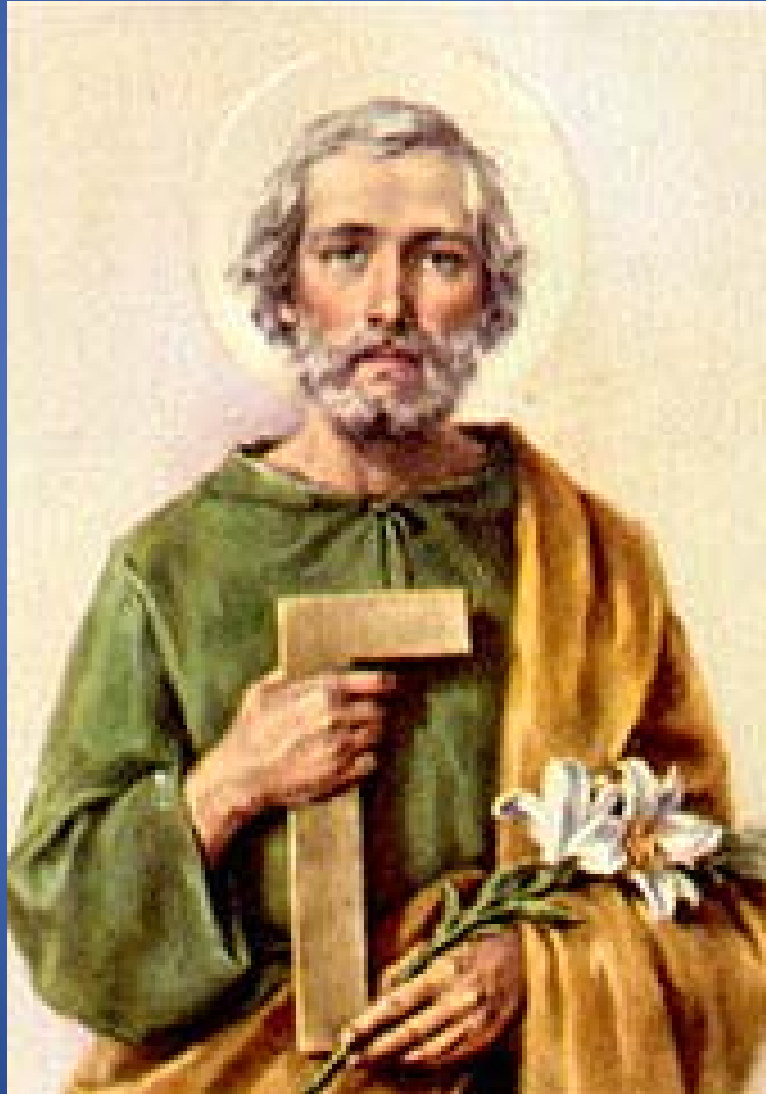
# TRAVEL BY CARAVAN!



# IN SUMMARY...



# JOSEPH'S FURTHER PLANNING...



- UP TO TWO YEARS AFTER CHRIST'S BIRTH THE MAGI ARRIVE AT THE HOUSE WHERE THE HOLY FAMILY IS LIVING AND THEY WORSHIP HIM!
- HEROD ORDERS THE CHILDREN SLAUGHTERED
- JOSEPH IS WARNED BY THE ANGEL AND THE HOLY FAMILY ESCAPES TO EGYPT BY CARAVAN
- THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI PAY FOR THE TRAVEL EXPENSES OF THE EXPEDITION
- AFTER HEARING OF HEROD'S DEATH, JOSEPH TAKES MARY AND JOSEPH BACK TO NAZARETH



- FROM THE TIME THAT JOSEPH AND MARY LEFT NAZARETH UNTIL THEIR LATER RETURN IS A PERIOD OF THREE TO FIVE YEARS
- ABSOLUTELY NO ONE IN NAZARETH IS “COUNTING ON THEIR FINGERS!”
- THE ONLY BIBLICAL MENTION OF CHRIST’S CHILDHOOD IS AT AGE TWELVE...
- SOMETIME BETWEEN JESUS’ AGE TWELVE AND HIS AGE THIRTY, JOSEPH DIES AND IS LAID TO REST...
- THE HEAVENLY FATHER RECEIVES HIM...

**“WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL  
SERVANT!”**



# Looking Through Jewish Eyes...



**THE CHRISTMAS STORY REVISITED...**  
**BUT HOPEFULLY NO LESS BEAUTIFUL!**





**IN CONCLUSION,  
ALWAYS REMEMBER...**



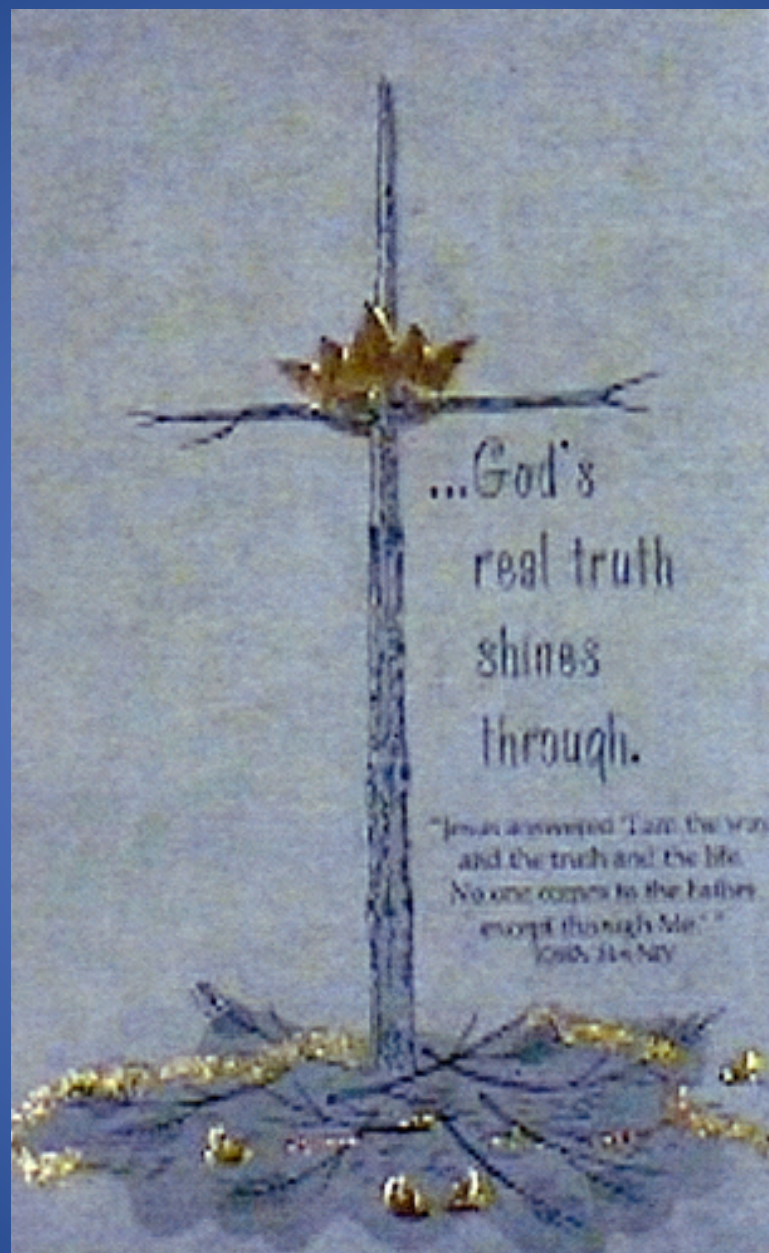












...God's  
real truth  
shines  
through.

"Jesus answered 'I am the way  
and the truth and the life.  
No one comes to the Father  
except through Me.'"  
John 14:6

**HAVE A BLESSED  
CHRISTMAS!**

**AND A HAPPY  
HANUKKAH!**



***"SOLI DEO GLORIA!"***







William Colin Marris  
**CIRCUIT RIDER MINISTRIES, INC.**  
[www.circuitriderministries.com](http://www.circuitriderministries.com)