

# ***Matthew 2:1-12***

Iraqis Visit the Christ Child!?! The Aftermath of the First Christmas and the Real “Real Meaning” of Christmas

## **Godly Wise Men from Babylon (Iraq) v1-4**

***Come to Jerusalem to Worship the King of the Jews***

Good works like true worship is a fruit but not the root of salvation

## **Ungodly Wise Men Quote Bible Prophecy v5-6**

***But Have No Desire to Go to Bethlehem to Worship TKOTJs***

Religion without relationship is only rules/behavior modification and self +R

## **Godly Wise Men from Babylon/Iraq v7-12**

***Follow a “Star” to Bethlehem to Find the King of the Jews***

The Greek word here (αστηρ) refers to “a bright object in the sky”

## **Take This To Heart**

***The Jewish Messiah is the Savior of the World***

“...(the Gospel) is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes to the Jew first and also to the Gentile.” Romans 1:16

***The Real “Real Meaning” of Christmas***

*The Babe in That Manger Was/Is the God-Man-Savior*

## Two Key “Christmas” Passages Correlated

### **Matthew 1:1-2:23**

Begins the 1<sup>st</sup> section of his Gospel (1:1-17) with the LEGAL genealogy thru His LEGAL father-Joseph starting with Abraham: validating He is t/Jewish Messiah

### **Luke 1:5-2:40**

Ends the 1<sup>st</sup> section of his Gospel (3:23-3:38) with the PHYSICAL genealogy of our Lord through his PHYSICAL mother-Mary starting validating that Jesus is the perfect person.

1:5-25 The angel Gabriel appears to the priest Zacharias in Jerusalem announcing the soon to be natural conception of his son who is to be named "John" and who will be the Messianic forerunner (ala Isaiah and Malachi) and born to his previously barren/aging wife-Elizabeth.

1:26-38 Several months later, Gabriel comes to Mary in Nazareth and announces her soon to be supernatural conception/pregnancy of a Son-the Messiah who is to be named "Jesus".

1:39-55 Mary travels south and visits her relative Elizabeth who is then six months pregnant with John. Mary remains for three months-until just before John's birth.

1:56 Mary returns to Nazareth-visibly pregnant.

1:18 Mary is found to be pregnant after having been out of town for over three months.  
1:19 Joseph assumes the obvious and plans to quietly dissolve the engagement.

1:20-25 An angel appears to Joseph and announces that Mary's pregnancy is the result of a supernatural conception-that the son she is carrying is the Messiah, and is to be named "Jesus".

### **The Night of the Birth**

2:1-20 Joseph and Mary are forced to travel to Bethlehem in Judea to conform to Roman census regulations and Jesus is born there in a stable. Immediately after the birth, angels appear to local shepherds outside the city who quickly go to investigate.

### **8 Days after the Birth**

2:21 The baby is circumcised and formally named "Jesus" when He is eight days old.

### **40 Days after the Birth**

2:22-38 Jesus, is presented in the Temple (according to the OT Law concerning firstborn sons-Exodus 13:2) and while there He is worshipped by Simeon and Anna.

### **12-18 Months After the Birth**

2:1-12 Jesus is worshipped in Bethlehem by the "Wise Men/Magi" who arrive there via Jerusalem following the light of the Shekinah glory to the house (not a stable) where the family is now living.

2:13-18 Joseph is warned by an angel in a dream to leave Bethlehem immediately and to go into Egypt to avoid the wrath of the paranoid King Herod.

2:19-23 After Herod's death, an angel tells Joseph that he is to take the Child and His mother back to Israel/Nazareth.

2:39-40 Joseph, Mary, and Jesus return to the parents' home town of Nazareth.

### **Correlating Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2 Biblically Briefs on Christmas and Being Biblically Briefed on Christmas Equips Us to Do Two Things**

- 1: to untangle the common confusion about shepherds and Magi bumping into one another...realizing they interacted with the Christ Child at different times!?!
  - 2: to untangle the too common obsession with Santa > the Savior

### **The Theology of Christmas (Real Real Meaning of Christmas)**

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.