

## The First Gifts Given for Christmas – 12.24.2023

*Last Year (in 2022) Americans spent \$936,000,000,000 on Christmas Gifts, not counting meals and decorations. When we consider how much is spent on buying gifts for others, it's mind boggling to me when it is someone else's Birthday. At Buckley Road Baptist Church in the Liverpool area of Upstate NY, the tradition was to give more to Jesus (Gospel Ministry) than to others. The three years we were there, it provided enough funds to help plant three new churches. I'm not going into the history of the World's celebration of Christmas, but the gifts involved in the Birth of our Savior.*

### **Mary gave her body and reputation.**

#### ***Luke 1:30-38 (NASB)***

30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. 31 "And behold, **you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.** 32 "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "**How can this be, since I am a virgin?**" 35 The angel answered and said to her, "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.** 36 "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. 37 "**For nothing will be impossible with God.**" 38 And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

### **Caesar Augustus Gave a Command.**

#### ***Luke 2:1-5 (KJV)***

1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out **a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.** 2 (*And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*) 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4 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:) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

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### The Innkeeper gave room in a stable.

*Luke 2:6-7 (NASB)* 6 While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; **and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.** [*Explain Manger: Carved out rock*]

### An Angel of the Lord gave a Proclamation of the Messiah's Birth.

*Luke 2:8-14 (NASB)*

8 In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And **an angel of the Lord** suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and **they were terribly frightened.** 10 But the angel said to them, "**Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.** 12 "This *will be* **a sign** for you: you will **find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.**" 13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

### The Shepherds gave their witness.

*Luke 2:15-18 (NASB)*

15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds *began* saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. 17 **When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.** 18 **And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.**

### God gave Revelation through His Prophets.

*Matthew 2:2 (NASB)* "**Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?** For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

*Jeremiah 23:5 (NASB)* "Behold, *the* days are coming," declares the LORD, "**When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land.**"

*Micah 5:2 (NASB)* "But as for you, **Bethlehem Ephrathah,** *Too* little to be among the clans of Judah, **From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.**"

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### **Wisemen gave gifts & their Worship.**

***Matthew 2:1-2,9-11 (NASB)***

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come **to worship Him.**"

9 After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

11 After **coming into the house they saw the Child** with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and **worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

### **God gave His Only Begotten Son.**

***John 3:16 (NASB)*** "For God so loved the world, that **He gave His only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

### **Jesus gave His body to Bear our Sin-Debt!**

***John 10:14-18 (NASB)***

14 "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and **I lay down My life for the sheep.** 16 "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock *with* one shepherd.

17 "For this reason the Father loves Me, because **I lay down My life so that I may take it again.** 18 "No one has taken it away from Me, but **I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.** This commandment I received from My Father."

### ***Galatians 1:3-5 (NASB)***

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and **the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins** so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom *be* the glory forevermore. Amen.

Have you accepted the Gift God has given to all who will receive it by FAITH?  
**[Check the next page to see God's plan of Salvation, The Gospel.]**

If you have accepted His Gift of the Righteousness of God and Eternal Life, have you given your life to live for Him?

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### The Gospel: A Biblical Plan of Salvation

1. **Man is sinful.** – *(We must realize that we are not perfect.)*  
**Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."
2. **The Penalty of Sin is Death** – *(God's Justice requires a payment for sin.)*  
**Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
3. **God's Holiness requires perfection** – *(Holiness cannot tolerate sin.)*  
**Revelation 21:27** "And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie; but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."
4. **Man cannot earn perfection** – *(We cannot make ourselves PERFECT) \**  
**Ephesians 2:8,9** "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast."
5. **Christ made the complete payment for all sin and offers His Righteousness.** - *(We need the Perfection/Righteousness of God to go to Heaven.)*  
**2 Cor. 5:21** "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of god in Him."
6. **God only requires Faith for salvation (Believe, Trust Accept, Etc.)**  
**John 3:16** "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
7. **A believer can know Now that he is Eternally Saved**  
**1 John 5:13** "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."