

The Journey (Part 1)

Christmas is another designed memorial to remind people of what is important.

- God set up days, ceremonies, rituals, and religious services all designed to cause people to remember.
- In the New Testament, and in the church, Jesus is first and our first priority,

The Title – Announced

Luke 2:8–20 (NIV) ⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But 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.** ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly 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.” ¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

These were Jews—what did this mean to them?

- What had they been living at that time?
- In the American church, the focus is on Jesus as the Savior of the world, the one born in a manger to save the world through the cross; but there is more to the story we need to look at (a forgotten concept).

Genesis 22:17–18 (NIV) ¹⁷I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Genesis 49:10 (NIV) The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his.

1 Chronicles 17:10–14 Isaiah 11:1–10 Isaiah 9:6–7

Jeremiah 23:5–6 (NIV) ⁵“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, **a King who will reign** wisely and do what is just and right in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.

Jeremiah 30:8–9 (NIV) ⁸“In that day,” declares the LORD Almighty, “I will break the yoke off their necks and will tear off their bonds; no longer will foreigners enslave them. ⁹Instead, **they will serve the LORD their God and David their king**, whom I will raise up for them.”

Daniel 2:44–45 (NIV) ⁴⁴In the time of those kings, the **God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people.** It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.

Daniel 7:13–14 Daniel 7:27 Daniel 9:25 Micah 5:1–2 Zechariah 9:9–10

Romans 14:11 Matthew 19:28 Matthew 25:31–33 Revelation 14:14

Back to Luke 2

- You see the concept of the Messiah was one of a King and a Kingdom
 - Jesus is the Messiah, Christ the Lord.
 - What Kind of King is HE? A savior and a ruler—the same as He has always been.
 - Notice He invites the Shepherds to come.
 - Notice the Shepherds were not the best and brightest, according to the world.
 - Notice the Shepherds' response: Joy! The Kings' angels/Messengers had invited them.
 - The result was worship: praising God and sharing the good news.
 - As believers, we worship the King in His Kingdom.
 - What Kind of King is He?
 - He is a grace-giving King.
 - He is a King who allows us to choose to be in His Kingdom.
 - He comes riding on a donkey.
 - He is one who speaks truth.
 - He commands obedience and yet understands we need a sacrifice.
-
-
-
-

Passages for Life Group Discussion

Week 1: God's heart and purposes displayed in Jesus—the Promised Messiah and King

Key Idea: All of history points to the coming of Jesus. God had an intentional plan He prepared from before the beginning of time. His plan includes a loving King who reigns with a people who love Him.

Passage: Isaiah 7:14 & 9:1-7

1. What does this passage promise?
2. Trace the promise of the Messiah King through the Bible. Suggested passages: Genesis 3:15 & 12:1-3; 2 Samuel 7:6-16; Micah 5:2; Malachi 6:12, 13 & 9:9; Luke 2:9-12; Colossians 1:15-20; Revelation 19:11-16. What did you discover?
3. How does, or how could, the promise of a Messiah King impact your view of Christmas, its festivities, and our world at this time?
4. What action or response will you take to what God has shown you about Himself? How can you use this Christmas season to respond to what God is doing?