

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 05 Dec..... 1Kings 1-4..... What Money Can't Buy
- 2) 12 Dec..... 1Kings 5-9a..... Why Prayer Deserves Priority
- 3) 19 Dec..... **Mat 1-2..... Worship the King of Kings**
- 4) 26 Dec..... 1Kings 9b-11..... Where Compromise Takes You
- 5) 02 Jan..... 1Kings 12-16a..... Anatomy of a Grave Decision
- 6) 09 Jan..... 1Kings 16b-22..... A Hill on Which to Stand
- 7) 16 Jan..... 2Kings 21-23..... Building a Culture for Life
- 8) 23 Jan..... 2Kings 1-5..... Sick of Greed?
- 9) 30 Jan..... 2Kings 6-8..... Right Not to Remain Silent
- 10) 06 Feb..... 2Kings 9-10..... Danger! Unbridled Passion
- 11) 13 Feb..... 2Kings 11-17..... U-Turn Here--and Now!
- 12) 20 Feb..... 2Kings 18-20..... Got to Have Hope
- 13) 27 Feb..... 2Kings 23-25..... Keep Hope Alive

INTRODUCTION

- Far too often traditions have become the basis for us believing in things not found in Scripture. For example:
 - ♦ Many believe Angels sung on the night Christ was born – but scripture doesn't say they did or did not.... Lk 2:10–14
 - ♦ The Bible makes no mention of any innkeeper who told Joseph and Mary the inn was full for the night
 - ♦ Many believe Jesus was born in an open-air barn instead of the lower floor of a house where it was customary for people to bring their animals in from cold or theft
 - ♦ Many believe there were 3 wise men, but Scripture does not give us a number
- Many believe Jesus was born 25 December, 1 AD. Exact day & month is indeterminable, but 12/25 is as good as any
- But the year is definitely not 1 AD. Jesus was born between 6-4 BC because Cyrenius became governor of Syria (Luke 2:2-5) in 6 BC and Herod the Great died (Mat 2:19) in 4 BC

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ In all cases dreams are to be tested and not blindly accepted..... Zech 10:2
2:2,9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Moving Star – No known astronomical event (e.g., comet, planetary alignment, exploding star), so it was either a direct miracle or an anomaly
Was Jesus born in a barn or in a house?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bible makes no mention of any innkeeper who told them the inn was full for the night • Translators of most English versions chose the word “inn” to translate the Greek word καταλυμα (kataluma), which is not the best word to use • Jesus used this same Greek word in Luke 22:11 to refer to a “guest room” or the “Upper Room” • The Greek language has a specific word for hotel or inn. In fact, Luke used it in Luke 10:34, when he wrote about the Good Samaritan who took the beaten man to the “inn” (pandocheion, πανδοχειον) and paid the “innkeeper” (pandochei, πανδοχει, v. 35) to care for the man • Since Luke was quite familiar with the proper term for inn, why didn't he use it in the account of the birth of Jesus? The probable answer is Joseph and Mary did not attempt to stay at an inn • The Bible states there was no room for them in the kataluma – or upper “guest room”
	<p>There is support for animals being in the house</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The account of Jephthah (Judges 11) records he planned to sacrifice the first thing which came out of his house upon his return from fighting • Apparently, he expected an animal to come out of his house. Instead his daughter came out, and she remained a virgin all her days
Luke 2	<p>Bethlehem was Joseph's Home Town</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary likely gave birth to Jesus in the lower level of a crowded in-law's house, in which animals might have been brought in for the night. She then wrapped Jesus in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger (feeding trough used as a crib)

Passage	Comments
1:6-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lineage of Jesus from King David's son, Solomon, to Joseph shows His kingly heritage • Luke records Jesus' physical bloodline (Judah) from King David's son, Nathan, to Mary
1:17	<p>Is the Bible Accurate in Counting?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Generations from Abraham to David • 14 Generations from David to Babylon captivity • 14 Generations from Babylon captivity to Christ • Skeptics challenge us (as they should) on the accuracy of this statement since there are more than 14 generations between all these events • According to Barnes' commentary, this was a common Jewish practice to use truncated or rounded summaries as a way to easily memorize • Therefore, numeric accuracy is not an issue here • God gives skeptics wiggle room to disbelieve
1:19	<p>Joseph finds out his fiancée is pregnant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was it by a Roman soldier or a moment of indiscretion with an old boy friend? • Mary's story of her pregnancy being by immaculate conception was too hard to accept • Joseph was discreetly divorcing Mary when God conveyed to him the truth of Mary's situation • Can we have Godly dreams, like Joseph (3x) & the wisemen, to provide us with direction in life? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Dreams are usually self-induced..... Ecc 5:3 ♦ God works different ways at different times – Moses was face to face, prophets and others by visions and dreams..... Num 12:6-8; Heb 1:1

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- Though we cannot be dogmatic whether angels did or did not sing at the birth of Christ; or whether Mary gave birth to Jesus in an open-air barn or not, we should always strive to validate our beliefs according to what the Bible says
- We are commanded to hold on to that which is good and true and not to whatever is hearsay..... 1Thes 5:21

NEXT WEEK: 1Kings 9-11. Solomon's wives turn the king's heart away from God, and Israel begins to crash and burn

