

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 Dec 2019Numbers 01-09God Leads
- 2) 08 DecNumbers 10-14God Judges
- 3) 15 DecNumbers 15-20God Requires
- 4) **22 DecNumbers 21 / Matthew 1God Saves**
- 5) 29 DecNumbers 22God Calls
- 6) 05 Jan 2020Numbers 23-27God Commissions
- 7) 12 JanNumbers 28-36God Expects
- 8) 19 JanDeuteronomy 5 & 19Valued
- 9) 26 JanDeuteronomy 1-4Honored
- 10) 02 FebDeuteronomy 5-6Loved
- 11) 09 FebDeuteronomy 7-18Revealed
- 12) 16 FebDeuteronomy 20-30Chosen
- 13) 23 FebDeuteronomy 31-34Promised

INTRODUCTION

- Far too often traditions become the basis for us believing in things not found in Scripture or they become sacred cows. For example:
 - ♦ Many believe angels sung on the night Christ was born – but scripture doesn't say they did or did not [Luke 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 there were 3 wise men, but Scripture does not say
 - ♦ 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

Passage	Comments		
Numbers 21:1-8	<p>A New Generation Rises Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-3. They were ready to fight and not cower away <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ They were ready to obey and not grumble ♦ ...until they got to verse 4, where the older generation still complained about leaving Egypt • vv6-9. God sent fiery serpents to correct and restore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The remedy involved looking at the upraised serpent ♦ Symbolic of looking to the crucified Lord for salvation ♦ BUT why a SNAKE? Is there a reference to Satan? ♦ Note: Hezekiah, ~500 years later, destroyed the bronze serpent after it became an idol 2Kings 18:4 		
Any Modern-Day Sacred Cows?	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Altar Call? • Dress codes? • Use of Technology? • The order of service? • Flowers in Sanctuary? </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church committees? • Pews vs chairs? • Music? Choir? • Evening service? • Others? </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Altar Call? • Dress codes? • Use of Technology? • The order of service? • Flowers in Sanctuary? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church committees? • Pews vs chairs? • Music? Choir? • Evening service? • Others?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Altar Call? • Dress codes? • Use of Technology? • The order of service? • Flowers in Sanctuary? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church committees? • Pews vs chairs? • Music? Choir? • Evening service? • Others? 		
Matthew 1:1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew records the lineage from Abraham, because he was addressing more of a Jewish audience • Luke records the lineage from Adam, because he was addressing more of a Gentile audience 		
1:6-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew lists Joseph's lineage through Solomon, making Jesus the legal heir to the throne of David • Luke apparently gives the lineage of Mary, making Jesus the physical heir to the throne of David through Nathan, one of David's other sons 		
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 linguistic practice of this era 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 		

Passage	Comments
Matthew 1:18-25	<p>Joseph finds out his fiancée is pregnant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary's story of her pregnancy being by immaculate conception was too hard to accept • Was it by a Roman soldier or a moment of indiscretion? • Joseph was discreetly divorcing Mary when God conveyed to him in a dream the truth of Mary's situation • Can we have Godly dreams, like Joseph (3x) & the wise men, to provide us with direction in life? • According to Heb 1:1-2 God spoke to special recipients in various ways. In all cases dreams were to be tested and not blindly accepted Zech 10:2; 1John 4:1
1:23	<p>ISAIAH 7:14 "THEREFORE THE LORD, HIMSELF, WILL GIVE YOU A SIGN: BEHOLD, A VIRGIN WILL BE WITH CHILD AND BEAR A SON, AND SHE WILL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL." – written about 740 B.C.</p>
<p>Out of 365 Messianic prophecies, over 60 have been fulfilled, and 15 of those refer to His birth</p>	
More than Coincidence?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of the 7 Jewish feast days, Jesus was crucified on Passover, buried on Unleavened Bread, raised on First Fruits, and sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost • If He was born during the Feast of Trumpets, that leaves 2 more Jewish Feasts to commemorate the Lord's activities sometime in the future. • The Day of Atonement or judgment (possibly as seen in Rev 20) and Tabernacles – the establishment of God's eternal dwelling, as possibly seen in Rev 21
Back to Numbers 21:9-35	<p>v35. "So they killed him (Og) & his sons & all his people until there was no one left alive – and they took his land"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Again, how do we answer the skeptics when they query us about the annihilation of entire people groups by God's people at His command? • First, recall this: God told the Jews to wipe out the inhabitants of Israel for their horrific and unrepentant sins of adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, child sacrifice, sorcery and brutality (cf Lev 18; Deut 9:4; 12:31; 18:14) • Then consider this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God would love to see the wicked repent 2Pet 3:9 ♦ BUT His patience does have an end..... Hos 1:6 ♦ He even vents His wrath on His own people once they sin exceedingly..... Ezek 9:10

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- We are never told to commemorate the Lord's birth, but, instead, His Death, Burial, and Resurrection

NEXT WEEK: Numbers 22. A talking donkey teaches Balaam about God. Was this a myth or a miracle? How do you defend the faith when skeptics can legitimately question such strange occurrences and ask us to "prove it"?

