

christmas story bible king james version

Christmas story Bible King James Version is a cherished narrative that recounts the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ, a pivotal event in Christian theology. The story, as presented in the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible, emphasizes themes of hope, humility, and divine love. This article will explore the biblical accounts of the Christmas story, examining the key characters, prophecies, and the significance of this sacred event as depicted in the KJV.

1. The Prophecies of the Messiah

The Christmas story begins long before the birth of Jesus, with numerous prophecies in the Old Testament that foretell the coming of the Messiah. These prophecies set the stage for the events that would unfold in Bethlehem.

1.1 Key Prophecies

Several significant prophecies highlight the anticipation of a savior:

- Isaiah 7:14: "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."
- Micah 5:2: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."
- Isaiah 9:6: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

These prophecies illustrate the expectation of a leader who would bring hope and salvation to the people.

2. The Birth of Jesus Christ

The New Testament accounts of Jesus' birth are primarily found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. The KJV provides a rich and poetic narrative of this miraculous event.

2.1 The Annunciation

The story begins with the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary, a young virgin engaged to Joseph. In Luke 1:26-38, we see the angel proclaiming:

- Luke 1:30-31: "And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus."

This moment signifies the divine intervention that marks the beginning of the Christmas narrative.

2.2 The Journey to Bethlehem

Due to a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed, Joseph and Mary traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem. This journey is significant as it fulfills the prophecy of Micah.

- Luke 2:1-5: "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed... And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, unto Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child."

The arduous journey underscores the humble circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth.

2.3 The Birth in the Manger

Upon arriving in Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph found no room at the inn. Therefore, Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger, symbolizing his humble beginnings.

- Luke 2:6-7: "And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

This scene evokes a deep sense of humility and speaks to the nature of Christ's mission on Earth.

3. The Shepherds and the Angels

The announcement of Jesus' birth was made not to kings or nobles, but to humble shepherds, emphasizing the inclusive nature of the Gospel.

3.1 The Angelic Proclamation

In Luke 2:8-14, angels appear to the shepherds to announce the birth of the Savior:

- Luke 2:10-11: "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

This declaration not only brings joy but also signifies the universal importance of Jesus' birth.

3.2 The Shepherds' Response

The shepherds, filled with awe, hurried to find the newborn Christ. Their immediate response reflects the urgency and importance of sharing the news of Jesus' birth.

- Luke 2:15-16: "And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger."

The shepherds' visit highlights the joy and reverence surrounding the birth of Jesus.

4. The Visit of the Magi

The visit of the Magi, or wise men, is another significant part of the Christmas story, found in the Gospel of Matthew.

4.1 The Star and the Journey

The Magi followed a star that signified the birth of a new king. Their journey from the East symbolizes the recognition of Christ's significance beyond the Jewish people.

- Matthew 2:1-2: "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

4.2 The Gifts of the Magi

Upon finding Jesus, the Magi presented gifts that hold profound symbolic meanings:

- Gold: Represents Jesus' kingship.
- Frankincense: Symbolizes His divinity and role as the High Priest.
- Myrrh: Foreshadows His suffering and death.

- Matthew 2:11: "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."

This visit underscores the recognition of Jesus as the King and Savior.

5. The Significance of the Christmas Story

The Christmas story Bible King James Version is more than just a narrative of events; it carries deep theological and spiritual significance for Christians around the world.

5.1 Themes of Hope and Salvation

The birth of Jesus symbolizes hope for humanity. It represents God's promise of salvation and the fulfillment of the prophecies outlined in the Old Testament.

5.2 The Message of Humility

Jesus' humble birth teaches important lessons about humility and service. The circumstances of His arrival remind believers that greatness in the Kingdom of God is often found in humility and simplicity.

5.3 The Universal Call

The diverse groups who recognized and worshipped Jesus—from shepherds to wise men—illustrate that the message of Christ is for all people, regardless of their background or status.

6. Conclusion

The Christmas story Bible King James Version is a profound narrative that encapsulates the essence of Christianity. Through the miraculous birth of Jesus, the fulfillment of prophecies, and the humble circumstances surrounding His arrival, the story invites believers to reflect on themes of hope, humility, and universal love. As the Christmas season approaches, this sacred account continues to inspire and uplift countless individuals, reminding them of the true meaning of Christmas.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of the Christmas story in the King James Version of the Bible?

The central theme of the Christmas story in the KJV is the birth of Jesus Christ, which signifies the arrival of the Messiah and the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation to humanity.

Which books of the Bible contain the Christmas story in the King James Version?

The Christmas story is primarily found in the Gospels of Matthew (chapters 1 and 2) and Luke (chapters 1 and 2) in the King James Version.

What is the significance of the angels in the Christmas story according to the KJV?

In the KJV, angels play a significant role as messengers of God, announcing the birth of Jesus to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds, thereby signifying the divine nature of this event.

How does the King James Version describe the birth of Jesus?

The KJV describes the birth of Jesus in a humble setting, noting that he was born in a stable and laid in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

What gifts did the wise men bring to Jesus in the KJV account?

According to the KJV, the wise men brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh as gifts to honor the newborn King.

What prophecy is fulfilled by the birth of Jesus in the Christmas story of the KJV?

The birth of Jesus fulfills the prophecy found in Isaiah 7:14, which states that a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

In the KJV, what role does Mary play in the Christmas story?

Mary is depicted as a key figure in the Christmas story; she is chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus, demonstrating faith and obedience to God's will.

What was Joseph's reaction to Mary's pregnancy in the KJV?

In the KJV, Joseph initially plans to divorce Mary quietly upon learning of her pregnancy, but an angel appears to him in a dream, assuring him to take her as his wife because the child is conceived of the Holy Ghost.

How does the KJV describe the shepherds' visit to Jesus?

The KJV describes the shepherds as receiving a message from an angel announcing the birth of the Savior, after which they hastily travel to Bethlehem to find the baby Jesus, rejoicing in the good news.

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