

## 21T20a Christmas Myths- the Christmas story timeline

Hello my friends. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table for the Christmas Myth of the Christmas timeline.

I love the Christmas season with all the traditions and gatherings of family and friends. It is truly a beautiful time of year. I love to see all the lights and decorations. But often we forget there is a reason for the season. That reason is Jesus. The birth of Jesus to be exact. For Christians we have lots of traditions about Christmas; the Nativity, the Star, the Wisemen but did you know that many parts of our traditional Nativity story are not actually in the Bible or least not part of the night Jesus was born. These are the Christmas Myths.

If you attend church or have ever watched a Christmas special about the birth of Jesus on Television, then I bet you have a timeline in your mind about the Christmas Story.

It might go something like this. Mary is dragged to Bethlehem by Joseph for this bad census thing the mean emperor was doing. Mary is about to have a baby as they travel. After many stops trying to find a room at an inn, they end up in the barn or stable with the animals and here comes baby Jesus. Then these shepherds come to see Jesus along with these 3 Kings or wisemen all in the stable with baby Jesus. And later that same night Joseph gets a dream to flee to Egypt and they are off again. Go, Go, Go baby and all. Everything taking place at the American-style blazing fast pace.

But is this really the Christmas story. The Bible tells a little different story, not quite so frantic, not quite so rushed. We have to remember there are two accounts of events around Jesus' birth in the Bible; Matthew and Luke. I think it is a good idea to look at them together as one cohesive story. If we look at them separately, we might make some bad assumptions.

So let me show you a rough outline of Mathew 1 & 2 and Luke 1 & 2 side by side for ease of understanding both accounts.



I'm sure there are people who will disagree with my placement of some of these scriptures. And I could be wrong. But there are some very obvious things you can get from these two accounts in Matthew and Luke, that I thought were surprising, amazing and thought provoking.

So let's take a quick look at the Christmas timeline. First the Christmas story we often think about covers a lot more than one night in Bethlehem. What we know for certain. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. And Mary & Joseph were in Bethlehem because of a Roman Census. Also, Shepherds came to see baby Jesus the night he was born or at least shortly after he was born. After this the story of Jesus shifts to the days and months and years after his birth. We have a story of Jesus at 8 days, 40+ days, approximately 2 years old and 12 years old all capture in the Matthew 2 and Luke 2. The Magi, flight to Egypt fall some where between 40 days after Jesus' birth and before He was 12 years

old. That's all we know specifically from the Bible account of the the Christmas story in Matthew and Luke.

Interesting isn't it. I'm sure your personal version of this story, the greatest story every told is somewhat different from this timeline. I know mine was.

Over the next few weeks leading up to Christmas, I'm going to explore a few themes both Christmas Myths and Christmas Out-Takes.

- **M 12/6**                      21T20a: Intro to series TIMELINE
- **W 12/8**                      **21T20b: Christmas Myth – the Inn**
- **F 12/10**                     **21T20c: Christmas Myth – the 3 Kings**
- **M12/13**                     **21S30a: Christmas Out Takes - Joseph (Man of Faith)**
- **W12/14**                     **21S30b: Christmas Out Takes - Travel**
- **F12/16**                     **21S30c: Christmas Out Takes - Shepherds**
- **M12/20**                     21S30e: Christmas Out Takes – the Christmas Star
- **W12/22**                     21S30h: Christmas Out Takes – Why Dec. 25th
- **F12/24**                     21T20d: Retold Bible Christmas Story

You are probably asking why do I care so much about these Christmas Myths and Out-Takes? Well first if it's not in the Bible then we need to be careful including it in our Christmas celebration as fact. I think its better to stick with the story as it's told in the Bible. I actually think, the Bible version is better than the one I thought I knew before.

And I also want us the look at the full Christmas story. We often gloss over or minimize some really amazing parts of this story. I hope you can join me for these Christmas Myths and Christmas Out-takes as we looked at the greatest story ever told and the amazing truths which are far better than what we typically hear and see.

**Let's Pray**

**Father God.**

**I pray these things in your name Lord Jesus, Amen**

As always if you liked the message click like, you can leave comments here or our website or email me. And please subscribe, if you want to be notified when we post new videos, click the notification bell.

See you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.