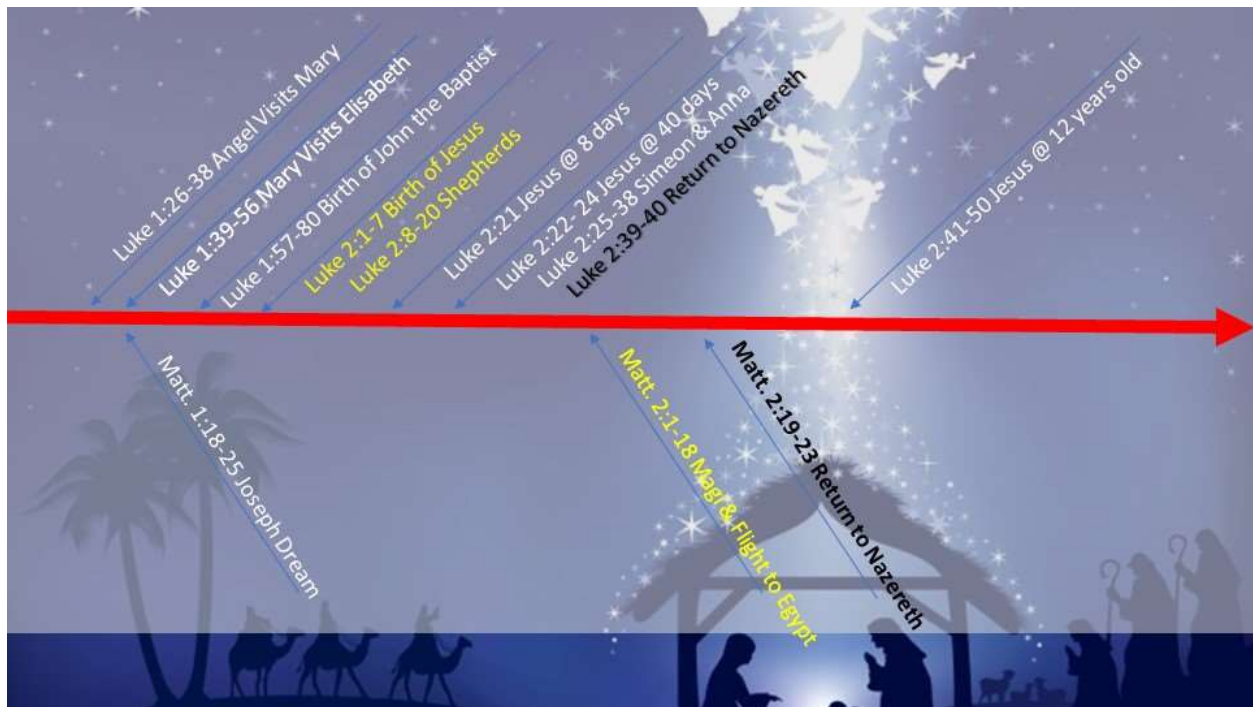


21T20j Christmas Myths- Christmas Story Retold

Hello my friends. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table for the Christmas Story Retold.

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. Over the past few weeks, we have been having some fun discussing Christmas myths and Christmas OutTakes. But today is Christmas Eve. This is a special night for most of us. We celebrate our Savior and King's birth and God amazing redemption story.

So, before we get started today, let's look at the parallel timeline from Mathew 1 & 2 and Luke 1 & 2 side by side again.



I want to end our Christmas series today by telling the Christmas story using some of the things we have been talking about the last few weeks. The Christmas Story Retold using Matthew and Luke together. One more thing before we get started, I want to highlight something. There are some pretty amazing things told about Jesus in the extended Christmas Story. First, Mary is visited by an angel and the angel tells her, *“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”* (Luke 1:31-33 NKJV)....

Then Joseph has a dream that tells him Jesus *“He will save His people from their sins”* (Matthew 1:21b NKJV)

Then Jesus is born in Bethlehem and the angels appear to the shepherds and say, *“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”* (Luke 2:11 NKJV)....

And last, when the magi enter our story they tell Herod, *“saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”* (Matthew 2:2 NKJV)

Jesus is King, Jesus is Christ the Lord, Jesus is our Savior, Jesus will save us from our sins, Jesus is son of God. Watch for these announcements as we read the Christmas Story from the Bible.

Okay, let's look at the Christmas story in the Bible. I want to pick up the story as Mary and Joseph are traveling to Bethlehem from Nazareth. This is from Luke 2:1-7. Now, Mary was very pregnant when they begin this very long trip. A 90 plus miles walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem and they probably took the Jordan river valley route to avoid Samaria. They are probably traveling with others, maybe family and friends. As they walk, I'm sure Mary & Joseph had to talk about what was soon going to happen. I imagine they talked about Mary's visit from an angel, Joseph's dream, the baby's name was going to be Jesus and many other things. I can only guess but I would think they would be discussing how Jesus was about to enter the world and everything was going to change. After several days of walking and nights along the road, they arrive in Bethlehem. When they get to the house, the upper room is already full. Most likely with other relatives. So, Mary and Joseph had to stay in the less appealing lower room of the house. It is possible other relatives are also staying in the lower room with them. Then, After some time, it was time for Mary to give birth to Jesus. Surrounded by their loving family, the King of kings and Lord of lords was born humbly in Bethlehem fulfilling the prophecy from Micah 5:2 *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”* (Micah 5:2 NKJV)

The newborn baby Jesus is wrapped in swaddling cloths and placed in a manger to sleep. Swaddling cloths were strips of cloth used to wrap babies, no diapers in 1st century Judea.

(Let's continue in Luke 2:8-20) *“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to*

God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us. And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.” (Luke 2:8-20 NKJV)

I cannot even imagine the excitement of the shepherds. A visit from angels, then a visit to the new baby Messiah. And think about how gracious and kind Mary and Joseph were.

Then the next verse in Luke is Jesus being circumcised according to Jewish law, in Luke 2:21. *And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb (Luke 2:21 NKJV)*

Then the next 3 verses are after Mary had completed her required purification according to Jewish law of about 40 days, Mary and Joseph take baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to present him and give the required sacrifice of redemption for the first born son. *Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”. (Luke 2:22-24 NKJV)*

They meet Simeon and Anna at the Temple in next few verses in Luke 2:25-38. I’m going to skip these amazing prophecies for the sake of time today. Please read them. So, Mary and Joseph hear these amazing prophecies about baby Jesus. Then we pick up the story in verse 39-40, *So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. (Luke 2:39-40 NKJV)*

Sometime later, Magi from the east see a star in the sky. They determine this is the sign foretold in scriptures. They travel to Judea to pay their respects to the newborn King. When they arrive in Judea after their long journey, they stopped to gain permission to travel in Judea from the reigning king Herod the Great. Now let’s pick up the story in Matthew 2:1-18 *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, (magi or) wisemen from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests*

and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ (From Micah 5:2)” (Matthew 2:1-6 NKJV)

So, After hearing the Magi, all of Jerusalem was in turmoil. Herod consults the religious leaders to determine where the messiah would be born based on the scriptures, including Micah 5:2.

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the magi, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.” (Matthew 2:7-8 NKJV)

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. (Matthew 2:9-12 NKJV)

The rest of the Christmas narrative in Matthew is clear what happens next in Matthew 2:13-15 with the family flees to Egypt and culminating with Joseph, Mary and Jesus returning from Egypt to Nazareth in Matthew 2:19-23. There is also one last short story of young Jesus at age 12 in Luke 2:41-52.

Let's Pray

Father God.

I pray these things in your name Lord Jesus, Amen

What an amazing story. I love the details in this story as the Bible places them. I pray you take time to celebrate with your family that Jesus is King. Jesus is Lord. Jesus is our Savior, and He has forgiven us. Now as we spend time remembering His birth and celebrating the greatest gift ever given. Remember we are part of the Kingdom of God. Jesus' kingdom. Jesus is our King. As we celebrate this Christmas, let's celebrate our King and our roles in the Kingdom of God right now on earth as it is in heaven.

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. Merry Christmas Everyone.