



WELCOME HOME, IT'S CHRISTMAS

Revelation 12:12-4

¹² A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; ² and she was with child; and she *cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads *were* seven diadems. ⁴ And his tail *swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

Revelation 12:7-9

⁷ And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, ⁸ and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole ¹⁰ world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him

John 1:1-18

The Deity of Jesus Christ

1 ^aIn the beginning was ^bthe Word, and the Word was ^cwith God, and ^dthe Word was God.

2 ¹He was in the beginning with God.

3 ^aAll things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

4 ^aIn Him was life, and the life was ^bthe Light of men.

5 ^aThe Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not ¹comprehend it.

The Witness John

6 There ¹came a man sent from God, whose name was ^aJohn.

7 ¹He came ^{2a}as a witness, to testify about the Light, ^bso that all might believe through him.

8 ^{1a}He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light.

9 There was ^athe true Light ¹which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

10 He was in the world, and ^athe world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

11 He came to His ¹own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become ^achildren of God, *even* ^bto those who believe in His name,

13 ^awho were ¹born, not of ²blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

The Word Made Flesh

14 And ^athe Word ^bbecame flesh, and ^{1c}dwelt among us, and ^dwe saw His glory, glory as of ²the only begotten from the Father, full of ^egrace and ^ftruth.

15 John ^{*a}testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, '^bHe who comes after me ¹has a higher rank than I, ^cfor He existed before me.' "

16 For of His ^afullness ¹we have all received, and ²grace upon grace.

17 For ^athe Law was given through Moses; ^bgrace and ^ctruth ¹were realized through Jesus Christ.

18 ^aNo one has seen God at any time; ^bthe only begotten God who is ^cin the bosom of the Father, ^dHe has explained *Him*.

Mark 1:1-3

¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“Behold, I send My messenger ^aahead of You,

Who will prepare Your way;

³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness,

‘Make ready the way of the Lord,

Make His paths straight.”

Matthew 1:1-17

1 The ¹record of the genealogy of ²Jesus ³the Messiah, ^athe son of David, ^bthe son of Abraham:

2 Abraham ¹was the father of Isaac, ²Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of ³Judah and his brothers.

3 Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, ^aPerez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of ¹Ram.

4 Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon.

5 Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse.

6 Jesse was the father of David the king.

David ^awas the father of Solomon by ¹Bathsheba who had been the wife of Uriah.

7 Solomon ^awas the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of ¹Asa.

8 Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of ¹Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah.

9 Uzziah was the father of ¹Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah.

10 Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of ¹Amon, and Amon the ^afather of Josiah.

11 Josiah became the father of ¹Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the ^adeportation to Babylon.

12 After the ^adeportation to Babylon: Jeconiah became the father of ¹Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel.

13 Zerubbabel was the father of ¹Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor.

14 Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud.

15 Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob.

16 Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, ^awho is called ¹the Messiah.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the ^adeportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the ^adeportation to Babylon to ¹the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Luke 1

Introduction

1 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things ^{1a}accomplished among us,

2 just as they were handed down to us by those who ^afrom the beginning ¹were ^beyewitnesses and ^{2c}servants of ^dthe ³word,

3 it seemed fitting for me as well, ^ahaving ¹investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write *it* out for you ^bin consecutive order, ^cmost excellent ^dTheophilus;

4 so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been ^{1a}taught.

Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

5 ^aIn the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named ¹Zacharias, of the ^bdivision of ²Abijah; and he had a wife ³from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

6 They were both ^arighteous in the sight of God, walking ^bblamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord.

7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in ¹years.

8 Now it happened *that* while ^ahe was performing his priestly service before God in the *appointed* order of his division,

9 according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot ^ato enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

10 And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer ^aoutside at the hour of the incense offering.

11 And ^aan angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense.

12 Zacharias was troubled when he saw *the angel*, and ^afear ¹gripped him.

13 But the angel said to him, "^aDo not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and ^byou will ¹give him the name John.

14 "You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

15 "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will ^adrink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit ¹while yet in his mother's womb.

16 "And he will ^aturn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God.

17 "It is he who will ^ago as a *forerunner* before Him in the spirit and power of ^bElijah, ^cto turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to ^amake ready a people prepared for the Lord."

18 Zacharias said to the angel, "How will I know this *for certain*? For ^aI am an old man and my wife is advanced in ¹years."

19 The angel answered and said to him, "I am ^aGabriel, who ^{1b}stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.

20 "And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time."

21 The people were waiting for Zacharias, and were wondering at his delay in the temple.

22 But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them; and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he ^akept ¹making signs to them, and remained mute.

23 When the days of his priestly service were ended, he went back home.

24 After these days Elizabeth his wife became pregnant, and she ¹kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying,

25 "This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked *with favor* upon *me*, to ^atake away my disgrace among men."

Jesus' Birth Foretold

26 Now in the sixth month the angel ^aGabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called ^bNazareth,

27 to ^aa virgin ¹engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, ^bof the ²descendants of David; and the virgin's name was ³Mary.

28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, ¹ favored one! The Lord ²is with you."

29 But she ^awas very perplexed at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was.

30 The angel said to her, "^aDo not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.

31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you ^ashall name Him Jesus.

32 "He will be great and will be called the Son of ^athe Most High; and the Lord God will give Him ^bthe throne of His father David;

33 ^aand He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, ^band His kingdom will have no end."

34 Mary said to the angel, "How ¹can this be, since I ²am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered and said to her, "^aThe Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of ^bthe Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason ^cthe ¹holy Child shall be called ^dthe Son of God.

36 "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and ¹she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.

37 "For ^{1a}nothing will be impossible with God."

38 And ¹Mary said, "Behold, the ²bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

39 Now ¹at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to ^athe hill country, to a city of Judah,

40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was ^afilled with the Holy Spirit.

42 And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb!

43 "And ¹how has it *happened* to me, that the mother of ^amy Lord would come to me?

44 "For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.

45 "And ^ablessed is she who ¹believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her ²by the Lord."

The Magnificat

46 And Mary said:

^aMy soul ¹exalts the Lord,

47 And ^amy spirit has rejoiced in ^bGod my Savior.

48 "For ^aHe has had regard for the humble state of His ¹bondslave;

For behold, from this time on all generations will count me ^bblessed.

49 "For the Mighty One has done great things for me;

And holy is His name.

50 "^aAnd His mercy is ¹upon generation after generation

Toward those who fear Him.

51 "^aHe has done ¹mighty deeds with His arm;

He has scattered *those who were* proud in the ²thoughts of their heart.

52 "He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones,

And has ^aexalted those who were humble.

53 "^aHe has filled the hungry with good things;

And sent away the rich empty-handed.

54 "He has given help to Israel His servant,

¹In remembrance of His mercy,

55 ^aAs He spoke to our fathers,

^bTo Abraham and his ¹descendants forever."

56 And Mary stayed with her about three months, and *then* returned to her home.

John Is Born

57 Now the time ¹had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she gave birth to a son.

58 Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had ^{1a}displayed His great mercy toward her; and they were rejoicing with her.

59 And it happened that on ^athe eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zacharias, ¹after his father.

60 But his mother answered and said, "No indeed; but ^ahe shall be called John."

61 And they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by that name."

62 And they ^amade signs to his father, as to what he wanted him called.

63 And he asked for a tablet and wrote as follows, “^aHis name is John.” And they were all astonished.

64 ^aAnd at once his mouth was opened and his tongue *loosed*, and he *began* to speak in praise of God.

65 Fear came on all those living around them; and all these matters were being talked about in all ^athe hill country of Judea.

66 All who heard them kept them in mind, saying, “What then will this child *turn out to be*?” For ^athe hand of the Lord was certainly with him.

Zacharias’s Prophecy

67 And his father Zacharias ^awas filled with the Holy Spirit, and ^bprophesied, saying:

68 “^aBlessed be the Lord God of Israel,

For He has visited us and accomplished ^bredemption for His people,

69 And has raised up a ^ahorn of salvation for us

In the house of David ^bHis servant—

70 ^aAs He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets ^bfrom of old—

71 ^{1a}Salvation ^bfrom our enemies,

And from the hand of all who hate us;

72 ^aTo show mercy toward our fathers,

^bAnd to remember His holy covenant,

73 ^aThe oath which He swore to Abraham our father,

74 To grant us that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies,

Might serve Him without fear,

75 ^aIn holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.

76 “And you, child, will be called the ^aprophet of ^bthe Most High;

For you will go on ^cbefore the Lord to ^dprepare His ways;

77 To give to His people *the* knowledge of salvation

¹By ^athe forgiveness of their sins,

78 Because of the tender mercy of our God,

With which ^athe Sunrise from on high will visit us,

79 ^aTo shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,

To guide our feet into the ^bway of peace.”

80 ^aAnd the child continued to grow and to become strong in spirit, and he lived in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Matthew 1:18-25

Conception and Birth of Jesus

18 Now the birth of Jesus ¹Christ was as follows: when His ^amother Mary had been ²betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was ^bfound to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned ^{1a}to send her away secretly.

20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "^aJoseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for ¹the Child who has been ²conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

21 "She will bear a Son; and ^ayou shall call His name Jesus, for ¹He ^bwill save His people from their sins."

22 Now all this ¹took place to fulfill what was ^aspoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 "^aBehold, the virgin shall be with ^bchild and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name ¹Immanuel," which translated means, "^cGod with us."

24 And Joseph ¹awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife,

25 ¹but kept her a virgin until she ^agave birth to a Son; and ^bhe called His name Jesus.

Luke 2:1-7

Jesus' Birth in Bethlehem

1 Now in those days a decree went out from ^aCaesar Augustus, that a census be taken of ^ball ¹the inhabited earth.

2 ¹This was the first census taken while ²Quirinius was governor of ^aSyria.

3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because ^ahe was of the house and family of David,

5 in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

6 While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.

7 And she ^agave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a ¹manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Revelation 12:5-6

⁵ And she gave birth to a son, a male *child*, who is to ^la rule all the ^lb nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she *had a place prepared by God, so that there ^lc she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days...

Luke 2:8-11

8 In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And ^aan angel of the Lord suddenly ^bstood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

10 But the angel said to them, "^aDo not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;

11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a ^aSavior, who is ^lb Christ ^cthe Lord.

Revelation 12:10-11

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. ¹¹ And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even ^lc when faced with death. ¹² For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who ^ld dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time."

Luke 2:12-20

12 "^aThis *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a ^lmanger."

13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 ^aGlory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace among men ^{1b}with whom He is pleased."

15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds *began* saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the ¹manger.

17 When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.

18 And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary ^atreasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.

20 The shepherds went back, ^aglorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

Jesus Presented at the Temple

21 And when ^aeight days had passed, ¹before His circumcision, ^bHis name was *then* called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

22 ^aAnd when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord

23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "^aEvery *firstborn* male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"),

24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, "^aA pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

25 And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was ^arighteous and devout, ^blooking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

26 And ^ait had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not ^bsee death before he had seen the Lord's ¹Christ.

27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, ^{1a}to carry out for Him the custom of the Law,

28 then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace,

^aAccording to Your word;

30 For my eyes have ^aseen Your salvation,

31 Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 ^aA Light ¹of revelation to the Gentiles,

And the glory of Your people Israel.”

33 And His father and ^amother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him.

34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary ^aHis mother, “Behold, this *Child* is appointed for ^bthe fall and ¹rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed—

35 and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

36 And there was a ^aprophetess, ¹Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of ^bthe tribe of Asher. She was advanced in ²years ^cand had lived with *her* husband seven years after her ³marriage,

37 and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with ^afastings and prayers.

38 At that very ¹moment she came up and *began* giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were ^alooking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Return to Nazareth

39 When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to ^atheir own city of Nazareth.

Matthew 2:1-12

The Visit of the Magi

1 Now after Jesus was ^aborn in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of ^bHerod the king, ¹magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

2 “Where is He who has been born ^aKing of the Jews? For we saw ^bHis star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

3 When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the ¹Messiah was to be born.

5 They said to him, “^aIn Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written ¹by the prophet:

6 ^aAnd you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,

Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah;

For out of you shall come forth a Ruler
Who will **b**shepherd My people Israel.' "

- 7** Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them **1**the exact time **a**the star appeared.
- 8** And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him."
- 9** After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was.
- 10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.
- 11** After coming into the house they saw the Child with **a**Mary His mother; and they **1**fell to the ground and **b**worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- 12** And having been **a**warned *by God* **b**in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

Revelation 12:13-17

13 And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *child*. **14** But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she **was* nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the **[a]**presence of the serpent. **15** And the serpent **[b]**poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. **16** **[i]**But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon **[i]**poured out of his mouth. **17** So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her **[k]**children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Matthew 2:13-23

The Flight to Egypt

- 13** Now when they had gone, behold, an **a**angel of the Lord ***b**appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt,

and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.”

14 So ¹Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.

15 He ¹remained there until the death of Herod. *This was* to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “^aOut of Egypt I called ^bMy Son.”

Herod Slaughters Babies

16 Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by ^athe magi, he became very enraged, and sent and ^bslew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.

17 Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

18 “^aA voice was heard in Ramah,
Weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children;
And she refused to be comforted,
Because they were no more.”

19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord ^{*a}appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said,

20 “Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child’s life are dead.”

21 So ¹Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being ^awarned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee,

23 and came and lived in a city called ^aNazareth. *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: “He shall be called a ^bNazarene.”

Luke 2:40-52

40 ^aThe Child continued to grow and become strong, ¹increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Visit to Jerusalem

41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at ^athe Feast of the Passover.

42 And when He became twelve, they went up *there* according to the custom of the Feast;

43 and as they were returning, after spending the ^afull number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it,
44 but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they *began* looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances.
45 When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him.
46 Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.
47 And all who heard Him ^awere amazed at His understanding and His answers.
48 When they saw Him, they were astonished; and ^aHis mother said to Him, "¹Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, ^bYour father and I ²have been anxiously looking for You."
49 And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that ^aI had to be in My Father's ¹house?"
50 But ^athey did not understand the statement which He ¹had made to them.
51 And He went down with them and came to ^aNazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and ^bHis mother ^ctreasured all *these* ¹things in her heart.
52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and ¹stature, and in ^afavor with God and men.

