

The Christmas Story¹ (#20)

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1) Man's Need for a Messiah

a) Fall of Satan

Satan was created perfect and flawless. He was the sum of wisdom and beauty. He was anointed leader of the highest order of angels called cherubim. He was therefore the arch-cherub. In Heaven, he was over the throne of God deciding who had access to God on his throne. Satan did not sin in Heaven, but in God's created universe—specifically

on Earth when it was laden with minerals and gem stones (Ez 28:13) perhaps like the extraordinary beauty of Crystal Cave in Mexico shown below. The “day-star of the morning²”, who trafficked in precious stones, sinned because of his pride. Satan then voiced his five I wills:

- 1) I will ascend to Heaven. [Rather than guard God’s throne, he now wanted it.]
- 2) I will raise my throne above the stars of God. [He will rule the angels (stars).]
- 3) I will sit on the mount of assembly. [He will head all councils.]
- 4) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds. [He desired God’s Shekinah Glory.]
- 5) I will make myself like the Most High (Is 14:12). [He will possess all God created.]

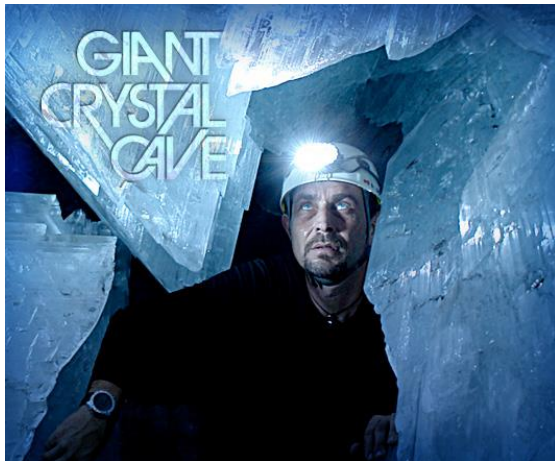


Fig 1 Calcite Crystal in Crystal Cave Mexico



Fig 2 Two Explorers in Crystal Cave

Satan led a revolt in Heaven that resulted in God judging the once beautiful Earth which became “formless and void” (Ge 1:2). God then gave control of the earth to Adam, a being inferior to Satan but created in the image of God. This piqued Satan.

b) Fall of Man

Adam and Eve were created as adults into a state of unconfirmed innocence³; they had the power or contrary choice⁴; they had dominance over creation; and they had fellowship with God (Ge 3:8). In the “cool of the day” God would appear to them and talk.

They sinned after being beguiled by Satan’s temptation and ate the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Ge 2:9).



Fig 3 Michelangelo 1475-1564
Temptation Scene
Sistine Chapel

What happened?

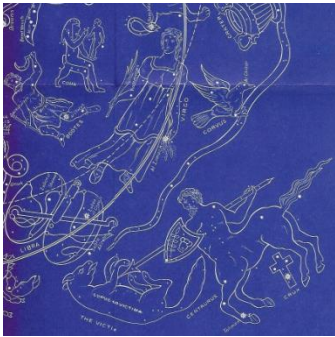
- 1) The image of God⁵ in man was marred.
- 2) Animals became carnivorous. Manual labor became difficult.
- 3) Sickness, illness, and death entered mankind. Childbearing hurt.

- 4) Man became spiritually dead and no longer communed with God.
- 5) Man experienced guilt. His conscience was activated.
- 6) Satan became prince of the Earth.

Man now needed a Messiah: *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive* (1 Cor 15:22). Since God is absolutely holy, no holy man, prophet, or priest could pay the price. Only God himself could redeem man.

2) Hope for a Messiah

a) Pre-Biblical



Before Moses wrote the Pentateuch beginning in 1450 BC, there is strong evidence that the Zodiac, called the Mazzarot⁶ by Job, the cousin of Reu and Nephew to Peleg, was used as a mnemonic for the story of redemption later to be told by the Bible. (See Psalm 19.) Each of the 12 major constellations and 36 deacon constellations indicated an event in the history of the Messiah. See Manuscript #9 entitled *Pre-Biblical Revelation*.

Fig 4 Mazzarot or Zodiac

b) Biblical

Adam knew a Messiah and redeemer was needed from Ge 3:15. His wife, Eve, actually thought her first son, Cain, was the Messiah (Ge 4:1)⁷. As Adam hoped for a Messiah, so too did Seth, his son, and Enosh his grandson, and Kenan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah, Shem, Arphachshad, Shelah, Eber, Peleg, Reu, Serug, Nahor, Terah, Abram, and 14 more generations to David, and 14 more to Jeconiah, and finally 14 more to Jesus, Emanuel⁸, the Lamb of God, which brings us to the Christmas Story, the first of two comings of the same Messiah (Zechariah 9:9-10, Malachi 3:1-2, Isaiah 61:1-3).

3) Belief among the Jews in a Messiah at the Time of Christ

At no time in Biblical history did all the Jews, sometimes called the “Wife of Yahweh⁹”, either delight¹⁰ in keeping the Law of Moses or believe that a Messiah would actually come from the root of Jesse. In fact, only a remnant actually held fast to Scripture. At the time of Jesus’ birth, many Jews were openly saying that the Davidic Covenant had been nullified by God because they had no king from the line of David. Alluding to Jacob’s prophecy in Genesis, many Jews were openly saying that the scepter had departed from Jerusalem and therefore Shiloh would not come¹¹. The Romans had appointed Herod the Great, an Idumaeen (half-Jew) and practicing heathen as king.

Those that did believe in a Messiah, were hoping for *Meshiak ben David*¹², who would reign as king and break the Roman yoke unlike Herod who supported it.

4) Annunciation to Mary

a) Matthew and Luke

The Christmas Story is told in Matthew (the lion from Ezek 1:10) from Joseph’s perspective and in Luke (the man) from Mary’s viewpoint. In Matthew, Joseph plays an active role and Mary is passive. We know what Joseph is thinking, but not Mary. Angels come to Joseph, but not to Mary. In Luke, the viewpoint is reversed.

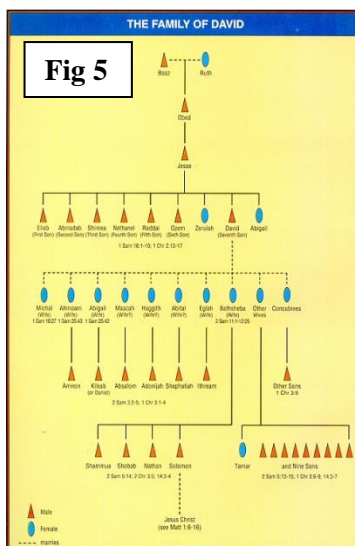
b) Why a Virgin Birth?

In Biblical history, the Angel of the Lord, announced the births of sons to Abram (Genesis 16:11), Samson (Judges 13) and John the Baptist (Luke 1:11). So, it was not without precedent when the Angel Gabriel was sent to Mary (Miriam) in Nazareth six months after John the Baptist was conceived (Luke 1:26). The boy is to be called Jesus (*Yeshua* meaning salvation) and he, the Son of God, is to reign over the House of Jacob forever¹³. Verses 30-33 fulfill the four promises of the Davidic Covenant¹⁴ (eternal kingdom, throne, house, and descendants).

A virgin birth is promised in Verse 35—the same virgin birth hinted at in Genesis 3:15 and stated explicitly in Isaiah 7:14.

*And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her seed;
He shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise him on the heel."*
Ge 3:15 NASU

"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. Is 7:14



Jesus is from the blood and ovum (seed) of Mary, but not the blood and seed of Joseph. In Mary’s genealogy (Luke 3:23 ff) Jesus is “supposedly son of Joseph” (“the” in Greek is missing) and Mary’s line goes through Nathan, the son of David and Solomon’s brother. In Joseph’s genealogy (Mt 1:1 ff) Joseph’s line goes through Solomon and Bathsheba. But, Jeconiah (Coniah) and his progeny are cursed (Jeremiah 22:29-30). This is why Jesus has legal right to the throne through Joseph, but without the curse since he does not have Joseph’s blood, but the blood right to the throne of David through his mother. It did not have to be

that way. Joseph could also have been a descendant of Nathan as Mary was, but the right to the throne would not have been as stark and miraculous. So while the virgin birth would have been necessary if the husband of Mary were not from the line of Solomon, it was not a requirement that her husband be descended from Solomon. In the eyes of the Jews of Jesus' day, Joseph was Jesus' father whose line went through Solomon. This was very important for without it one could not be Messiah. In the eyes of Christians today, it does not matter because of the virgin birth.

It is not true, as some believe, that the sin nature is passed down through man, but not the woman. Does not the psalmist say: *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me* (Ps 51:5). Consequently, a virgin birth does not preclude the sin nature. The sin nature comes from both man and woman or father and mother. So God could have created a sinless man and woman. Their child would not have had the sin nature. That child would have been Jesus. But God did not plan salvation history this way. So a virgin birth was not necessary for holiness.

So how did Jesus avoid the sin nature? In Verse 35 we learn that *the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God* when the Holy Spirit and the power of the Most High overshadow Mary. So Jesus, as a man, was born like Adam, without the sin nature. This does not mean, however, that he could not have been tempted to sin. And indeed, he was tempted.

The reason for the virgin birth or parthenogenesis, was not to legitimize Jesus' claim to the Davidic throne through a stepfather whose bloodline was cursed, and not to avoid the curse of Original Sin, but was to be a sign (miracle) to the faithful and also a sign that Satan would try to imitate as alluded to in Ge 3:15b (...*and between your seed and her seed*).

c) **Mary's Fiat**

Mary's fiat¹⁵ follows: *And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.* Lk 1:38 NASU

Some Catholic Mariologists say that her fiat nearly raised her to the level of God¹⁶, because according to Pierre de Berulle (1575-1629), a French cardinal educated by the Jesuits, "Mary's fiat was more powerful than God's creation of the world". This is far from being true and an excellent example of devotion gone awry. With the angel's proposal, Mary faced three consequences when her pregnancy became known: excommunication from the community, a writ or divorce from Joseph, and under Mosaic Law death by stoning. Mary's fiat was given knowing these consequences, so she had to believe that God would protect her from death, ostracizing, and divorce.

Mary's Song (Lk 1:46-56) resembles Hannah's Prayer (1 Samuel 2) and shows the extent of her theology. She quotes the Tenach (OT) fifteen times showing the Bible was well read in Jesus' home. In this song of praise called the Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55), Mary says to Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John the Baptist:

*My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in **God my Savior**.* Luke 1:46-47

The above verse shows that Mary, like each of us, needed a savior. So Mary cannot be relied upon to save us.

The verse below shows that Mary realized that her son would fulfill the promise to Abraham.

*54 "He has given help to Israel His servant,
In remembrance of His mercy,
55 As He spoke to our fathers,
To Abraham and his descendants forever."* Luke 1:54-55

5) Announcement to Joseph

Later, when Joseph saw that she was pregnant, he sought to write a bill of divorcement because of her infidelity, but privately to save her life.

22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US." 24 And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, 25 but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus. Matthew 1:22-25

The above four verses in Matthew indicate that it was known in the first Century AD that Isaiah 7:14 referred to a virgin (*alma*) birth and not just a maiden's child.

It also shows that Joseph kept her a virgin until her delivery. Then Scripture tells us Mary bore: James, Joseph, Simon, Judas, and two sisters (Mt 13:55) for a total of seven offspring.

6) Caesar's Decree

Chronology:

8 BC: Caesar Augustus issued a decree to number his subjects. Quirinius was the Governor of Syria. Herod was fighting a war out of the country. Birth of Jesus.

6 BC: Possible arrival of magi.

5 BC: Herod left Jerusalem for Mt Frank, the Herodian, in Jericho.

4 BC: Herod the Great died.

In 8 BC, Quirinius, the governor of Syria, enacted Caesar's Decree for a census. Joseph, being from the family of David, went with Mary to enroll in Bethlehem. They took refuge in a cave (stable) and wrapped the infant in "swaddling clothes" which were actually burial cloths stored in one of the caves. Caves were used to house animals, bury

the dead, and store burial garments. So it is symbolic that Jesus was wrapped in clothing he would wear at his death. He was born to die.

Shepherds given the two clues mentioned above (cave and swaddling clothes) were the first to find and worship the Messiah in person. Remember that at one point in their lives, Abraham, Moses, and David were shepherds—a humble but demanding job.

7) Circumcision

a) Biblical

The infant born to Mary did not receive his name officially until 8 days after his birth at the Circumcision (Dt 17:12) as prescribed by both the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants.

And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. Luke 2:21

Under the Abrahamic Covenant¹⁷, circumcision was mandatory only for Jews as a sign of their Jewishness. Under the Mosaic Covenant¹⁸, circumcision was mandatory for Jews and Gentiles. At Jesus' death, the Mosaic Law was rendered inoperative. (Gal 3:16ff) Today Jewish Christians still feel obligated to circumcise their children on memory of the Abrahamic Covenant which is still in effect. Circumcision shows the faith of the parents and not the child. Baptism is not like circumcision in that it shows the faith of the believer.

b) Modern

It is a medical fact that vitamin K and prothrombin levels peak 8 days after birth to 100% of their normal levels¹⁹. Since these two factors contribute to blood coagulation, it is the perfect day for surgery. This was only proven and with great difficulty in the 1980s. How did Abraham know?

The male neonatal circumcision rate in the US in 2006 was 56%--33% in the West, 55% in the South, 63% in the N.E., and 77% in the N. Central States. Circumcision also has some medical benefits that doctors are just discovering today (December 2006). It has been found that the transmission of the HIV virus through intercourse is 50% less likely if the male has been circumcised.

In 2003, a medical study learned that certain types of cervical cancer are very rare in Jewish women. It was then learned, that it was not just Jewish women, but women that had circumcised husbands that were exempt from the malady.

A medical doctor told me that when he was in Viet Nam, those that were circumcised contracted gonorrhea and other sexually transmitted diseases at about on third the rate and severity of others. Some airmen actually begged him to circumcise them.

8) Presentation in the Temple of Solomon

a) Purification

By Mosaic Law, a mother was to undergo a purification ritual²⁰ 40 days after the birth of a boy and 80 days after the birth of a girl. The purpose was to purify the woman and to pay the redemption price for the firstborn (Exodus 13). The redemption gift by Joseph and Mary was two turtle doves (pigeons) because they could not afford the more expensive offering (a lamb). Such ignominy for the future king! But this was predicted by Isaiah (11:1) when he said that a shoot would spring from the root of Jesse²¹ and not the root of David. Jesse represented poverty and his rich son, David--wealth.)

b) Simeon

Simeon was an old man, and one of the believing remnant who was told that he would see the Messiah prior to his death. At the ceremony, he immediately recognized the Messiah and said:

*29 "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace,
According to Your word;
30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
31 Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32 A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES,
And the glory of Your people Israel." Lk 2:29-32*

Notice the double entendre: "Your salvation" in Hebrew is the same as "your Jesus". (*Yeshush* [salvation] vs *Yeshua* [Jesus]).

He then delivers to Mary the famous piercing sword:

34 Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise 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." Luke 2:34-35

Mariologists have been divided down through the centuries as to the sword that would pierce the soul of so great an individual. What was it?²²

c) Anna

Anna then confronted the couple. She was widowed for 84 years, was 105 years old, and also recognized the Messiah. She was what we would call today a prayer warrior, because she "*departed not from the Temple, worshipping with fastings and supplications night and day*". (Luke 2:37)

At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. Lk 2:38

She left the Temple telling the believing remnant that she had seen the Messiah at the age of 40 days. The remnant could now plan on the Messiah's public life some thirty-plus years in the future. Her announcement was like that of the Samaritan woman Jesus would meet at the well (John 4:1-42).

9) The Wise Men or Magi

a) How Did the Magi Know?

*Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw **His 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 Messiah was to be born. 5 They said to him, " In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:*

*6'AND 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 SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL."*

*7 Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time 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 Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way. Matthew 2:1-12*

Conventional manger scenes are inaccurate. The Shepherds and Wise Men never met. They were separated by about two years. The Wise Men were not kings, but magi or astrologers. Also, these wise men were not practicing astrologers, but believing gentiles organized in the days of Daniel during the Babylonian Captivity. Daniel was made head of the astrologers or magi by King Nebuchadnezzar after he interpreted the King's dream and in doing so saved the lives of the other magi. Many then became believers. These believing magi retained the Book of Daniel and knew from the famous 70 Weeks²³ prophecy (Daniel 9:24) when the Messiah would appear.

b) The Star of Bethlehem

What else did the magi know? Balaam was the prophet hired by Balak, the king of Moab to curse the Jews. Balaam made four prophecies concerning the Messiah. The most important was the following:

*I see him, but not now;
I behold him, but not near;
A star shall come forth from Jacob,
A scepter shall rise from Israel, Numbers 24:17*

The star and the scepter are the same. They represent the Messiah. The prophet, Balaam, was from Babylon [Pethor on the banks of the Euphrates] (Nu 22:5 and Dt 23:4).

When a star did appear in Babylon, the believing Magi knew that the time was near from the 70 Weeks prophecy and that the star had significance. They followed it. It was not a real star since it was 1) the personal star of the Messiah [*We saw **His** star in the east.*], 2) It appeared and disappeared. 3) It moved East to West and then North to South. 4) It hovered over the house. It was the Shekinah Glory.

The star was personal because they told the King “We saw **his star** in the East and have come to worship him” (Mt 2:2). Since the Magi did not have the Book of Micah, they did not know where the Messiah would be born. So they came to Herod the Great. Herod called a meeting of the chief priests and scribes and found out where the Messiah was prophesied to be born (Bethlehem from Micah 5:2). Then Herod called a secret meeting with the magi.

The encounter shows the three categories in which people view the Messiah—those that love him (magi), hate him (Herod), and don’t care either way (scribes).

Gold represented his kingship, frankincense represented the presence of God as the smoke penetrating God’s presence in the Holy of Holies, and myrrh represented his death.

After the magi returned secretly to Babylon, Herod killed all male children in Bethlehem and the surrounding area aged two years and younger. This is because Jesus had been born less than two years before the meeting.

10) Flight into Egypt

The flight to Egypt and return trip to Nazareth was financed by the gift of gold from the magi. According to Egyptian historian Dr. Raouf Habib, they entered the Sinai desert at Farama, and traveled east to Zagazig, south to Tal Basta and Belbeis, north to Samnoud, west across a Nile tributary to Mahalla, north to Sakha, west across the Nile to Wadi El Natrun, southeast across the Nile to Mataria site of the Virgin’s tree, south to Babylon in Old Cairo, south to Maadi, up the Nile in a felucca to Samalot on the west bank, east across the Nile to Jebel El Tair, up the Nile along the west bank to El Ashmounein, Dairut, El Quoussiah and finally Deir Drouka by Asyut and the cave of Al

Muharraq as the southernmost point or 377 km south of Cairo. A church dedicated to the Holy Virgin was built in the First Century and the Monastery of the Holy Virgin Mary in the Fourth Century. The monastery is the largest in Egypt and all of Africa. Coptic Christians call the site the Second Bethlehem.

Dangers in their travels included lack of water, lack of food, robbers, wild animals, and Herod's soldiers who made incursions into Egypt.

Miracles (reputed by local Coptics) included idols and statues falling down whenever they entered a village. Baby Jesus caused a spring to flow, left his footprint on a rock in Sakha, and left his palm print on a rock in Jebel El Tair. At El Mataria, formerly Heliopolis and On, a sycamore tree shielded the Holy Family from Herod's soldiers and is famous to this day.



Figure 6 Second Bethlehem at Al Muharraq



Figure 7 Felucca Sailing up the Nile

Joseph then took Mary and Jesus to Egypt for about two years. [Patriarch Theophilus says 6 months.] When Herod the Great died, they returned, but not to Bethlehem since Archelaus was the local ruler. They went instead to Nazareth where Herod Antipas was leader. Meanwhile, the leaders of Jerusalem sent a delegation to Rome and pleaded that a new Roman Procurator, rather than have his cruel son, Herod Archelaus, rule over them.

In those days it was said that if one wanted wisdom, go south and if you wanted riches, go north (Galilee). And the worst town in Galilee was reputed to be Nazareth where there was nothing good (John 1:46; 7:52). Consequently, *he was despised and rejected by men* (Isaiah 53). Nevertheless, there were prophets from Galilee: Jonah, Hosea, and Jesus. (Elijah was from Gilead just south west of Galilee.)

11) The Boy Jesus Teaching in the Temple

a) Pre-Bar Mitzvah Visit to the Temple

And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. Luke 2:40

At the age of 12, one year before Bar Mitzvah, a Jewish boy was generally taken to his first Passover. So was Jesus.

Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast; Lk 2:41-42



Fig 8 Vasily Polenov, 1896, Moscow

His parents were five days without seeing their son—two days traveling and three days in Jerusalem.

And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. Lk 2:47

b) How did Jesus learn Scripture?

Just where did Jesus get his knowledge? The answer is given by Isaiah.

*4 The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples,
That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word.*

***He awakens Me morning by morning,
He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.***

5 The Lord GOD has opened My ear;

And I was not disobedient

Nor did I turn back. Isaiah 50:4-5

The Son of God, Son of Man, and Son of David received instruction from His loving Father every day in the early morning hours. (See also Ps 40:6b.) Later in His life, just prior to His death, He used this same knowledge to prove by debates with the scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herodians that He was the true spotless and unblemished Passover Lamb.

48 His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have 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 I had to be in My Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. Lk 2:48-50

Here Jesus shows that by the age of 12, He clearly knew who His real father was. Imagine how motivated He felt at being the subdued Shekinah Glory²⁴ within His Father's house. It also shows that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was not clear on her son's mission. This was repeated later at a critical time in Jesus' life, when He was officially rejected by the Pharisees. It was at this time that Mary tried to coax her son to come home and stay out of the lime light. Perhaps this was the famous Sword of Simeon mentioned previously: *and a sword will pierce even your own soul--to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.*" Luke 2:35. She did not yet believe in her son.

12) Jesus Early Years

And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. Lk 2:51

Because the God-Man was subject to two sinful people, does not mean that He was inferior to them. In marriage, the woman is subject to the man, but that also does not mean that she is inferior to her husband.

And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men (Lk 2:52).

So after the age of 12, Jesus developed physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially. Sometime after reaching the age of 30²⁵, when by Jewish law one could become a priest²⁶, Jesus was introduced by John the Baptist who said: *Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!* (Jn 1:29). Shortly thereafter Jesus began his 3 ½-year ministry by saying: *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand* (Mt 4:17).

13) The Birth of Jesus Christ in Perspective

Jesus Christ was born as the anointed Messiah. He did not become the Messiah at some later date. He was born with the right to the throne of David, but He did have many tests to pass, and we were not saved just because he was born. Being born was just one of many fulfillments of OT prophecy going back to the days of Adam. Jesus' birth was only possible because God preserved the unpolluted blood of Noah and his family from the flood. When Jesus initiated his ministry, He needed to and did resist Satan's temptations. Shortly thereafter, Jesus was greeted by John the Baptist as the Lamb of God, but had to prove that He was spotless and unblemished during Holy Week according to Exodus 12. Jesus initially preached that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand, but had to change His plans and create the church when He was officially rejected by the Jewish leaders in Matthew 12:24. So the birth of Emmanuel, the Godman was neither the starting nor end point of Salvation History, but one of many intervening points.

¹ General references from Arnold Fruchtenbaum are Manuscripts #1, 20, 31, 122, 154.

² Satan is called the "day-star of the morning" (Is 14:12 in ASV, RSV, ESV, and Message Bible versions), and Jesus is called the "morning star" (2 Pt 1:19 in NASU, NKJV, RSV, NIV, NASB, CJB, ESB, NCV, and WEB Bible versions). The difference is this: The Morning Star "arises" in the morning according to Peter while the day-star fades as the morning progresses. This can be true only if the Morning Star is represented by the sun that dominates and washes out the day star. Here the Morning Star is the Messiah who completely overwhelms the day-star, Satan. This in no way advocates solar, Aten, or Mithras worship which is condemned specifically in Dt 17:2-3, but does pick up on the metaphor seen in Psalm 84:11 (*For a sun and a shield is Jehovah God.*)

³ Unconfirmed innocence: Adam and Eve were created holy, perfect, and innocent of sin. They were, however, untested for their holiness and moral character.

⁴ Contrary choice: the ability to choose contrary to your best interests or contrary to your created nature. God does not have this ability.

⁵ Image of God: See Ge 1:26-27; 5:1-2; 9:6; 1 Cor 11:7; James 3:9. It means that man's mind (intellect, emotion, and will) is like God's. His eternal spirit is like God's. His sense of morality (holiness) is like

God's. God's Trinitarian relationship is like man's family relationship. Man shares God's sovereignty over creation. Ref: Fruchtenbaum #85. Man's bodily glow before sinning was like God's Shekinah Glory. See Pre-Biblical Revelation Manuscript # 9.

⁶ Mazzarot: Job 38:32 and 9:9 also referred to as constellations

⁷ See Manuscript #9 entitled *Pre-Biblical Revelation*.

⁸ Emmanuel: also Immanuel meaning "God with us" as used in Matthew 1:23. The word Emmanuel has the same meaning of God-man or *theanthropos* which is the second of three natures of Jesus Christ. The Messiah according to the OT would be 1) God (Jeremiah 23:5-6), 2) God-man (Isaiah 9:6), and man (Zechariah 13:7).

⁹ Wife of Yahweh: See Ezekiel 16:1-5 for the allegory of the abandoned child, V 6-14 for the marriage, V 15-34 for the adultery, V 35-43 for punishment, V 44-52 for a comparison with Sodom and Samaria, V 53-59 for the restoration of Sodom and Samaria, and V 60-63 for the remarriage of Israel. Ref: Fruchtenbaum Manuscript #155.

¹⁰ Delight: Psalm 1 written by Amenemope says in Verse 2: *But his delight is in the law of the Lord.*

¹¹ *The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,*

¹*Until Shiloh comes, Ge 49:10 NASU. Shiloh, meaning "the one who brings peace", is the Messiah.*

¹² *Meshiak ben David* means "Messiah, the son of David", who would be king and free the Jews from oppression. Even the apostles were looking for such a Messiah when they first were introduced to Jesus. There was a second Messiah in Jewish literature, however, and that was *Meshiak ben Joseph*, the suffering Messiah from Isaiah 53. Of this man, however, they were unsure and certainly not looking to his arrival. Even though there were three back-to-back verses in the Tenach (OT) [Zech 9:9-10, Malachi 3:1-4, Is 61:1-3] that alluded to the first and second comings of the Messiah, the Jews as a people, did not see the two Messiahs here, nor did they see *Meshiak ben David* and *Meshiak ben Joseph* as being the same person.

¹³ House of Jacob: Luke 1:32-33

¹⁴ Davidic Covenant: 2 Samuel 7:11b-17 and 1 Chronicles 17:10b-15

¹⁵ *Fiat*: Latin meaning "let it be done"

¹⁶ See *Mary: Past, Present, and Future* by Ron Banuk, Wittenburg Publications, 1999

¹⁷ Covenants: There are two conditional covenants: Edenic and Mosaic and six unconditional: Adamic, Noachian, Abrahamic, Palestinian, Davidic, and the New Covenant. The Abrahamic covenant can be found in Genesis 12:1-3; 12:7; 13:14-17; 22:15-18; 26:2-5; 18:13-15.

¹⁸ Mosaic Covenant: This is an extensive covenant found in Exodus 20:1 through Deuteronomy 18:68.

¹⁹ *None of These Diseases* by S.I. McMillan, M.D., 1984

²⁰ Purification Ritual: Leviticus 12:1-8

²¹ Root of Jesse: Isaiah 11:1 and 11:10

²² See *Mary: Past, Present, and Future* by Ron Banuk, Wittenburg Publications, 1999. The sword was Mary and her children's initial unbelief in Jesus being the Messiah.

²³ The first decree (*dabar*) of Artaxerxes was issued in the seventh year of his reign in 457 BC (Ezra 7:11-28) to Ezra to build the Temple. His second decree was issued in the twentieth year of his reign in 444 BC to reestablish Jerusalem. It was issued in the month of Nisan (Nehemiah 2:1-9). Since the specific date is not given, it is assumed to have occurred on the first of Nisan. That would be 5 March (Julian) according to Harold W. Hoehner, Professor at Dallas Theological Seminary and 7 March according to Tarek's Universal Converter. To project 69 weeks each with 360 days we have $69 \times 7 \times 360 = 173,880$ days. With no Year Zero, that brings us to 30 March 33 AD Julian or the 10th of Nisan on Palm Sunday or the Triumphal Entry. Note that Josephus wrote that Jesus died on the Passover (14th of Nisan) on 3 April 33 AD Julian. Explanations: A week is a week of years. A year is assumed to be twelve 30-day months or 360 days. There are examples of this in Rev 11:2-3, Rev 12:6, and Rev 13:5. Since a solar or tropical year had 365.2423 days in 200 AD [Today it is 365.2422.], the 476 solar years from 444 BC to 33 AD contain $476 \times 365.2423 = 173,855$ days which is 25 days short. So, by adding 25 to 5 March, we arrive at 30 March 33 AD or 10 Nisan for the Triumphal Entry. But since the Triumphal Entry was not in the evening when the 10th of Nisan began, but on the 10th of Nisan on the following day, the Julian calendar would have been 31 March. The Magi could only guess that the Messiah would have to be born 40 years before this date. Only the star of Bethlehem could tell them the exact year.

²⁴ See Manuscript #16.

²⁵ After thirty: Although it is popularly agreed that Jesus began his ministry at the age of thirty, It is quite probable that based on the information given above for the likely date of his birth being 7 BC and the confirmation by Josephus of his death in on 3 April 33 AD Julian, and the fact that the termination of the 69 weeks would be consistent with 33 AD, then Jesus could well have begun his ministry at the age of 36 ½ and died at the age of 40.

²⁶ Thirty: Numbers 4:3 specifies thirty as the age for priests entering the service, while Numbers 8:24 mentions 25 years of age for the start of an apprenticeship. Jesus was actually 37 at the beginning of His ministry and 40 at His death.