



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors Dennis & Diane Gordon

JESUS IS LORD #1 Holy To The Lord - A New Beginning



GROUP SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:21-23 “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt **call his name JESUS**: for he shall save his people from their sins. ²² Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, ²³ Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and **they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.**”

1 Timothy 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

Jude 25 “**To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.**”

1. INTRODUCTION: Joseph and Mary took baby Jesus to present Him in the Temple as holy to the LORD, and returned to Bethlehem. All of Jerusalem heard the exciting news that the Messiah was born, and were troubled by this news; but why were the Jews so troubled? Because Jesus had been given the name above all names, the name of His Father! Can it be true that Jesus, is God our Savior from Heaven? Jesus could only come to save us from our sins, because He is ‘God with Us’! When we commit ourselves as holy to God, Satan comes with strong opposition.

ORDER OF SERVICE:

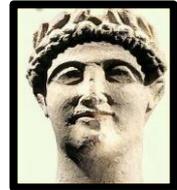
1. Light Candles & Pray
2. Children’s Songs & Story
3. Intro Gospel Craft/Coloring
4. Dismiss Kids to Noah’s Ark with ‘Animals Go Marching Song’
5. Adult Fellowship Break
6. Worship Song Set
7. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer
8. Blessing Songs & Benediction

2. MANY IN JERUSALEM, AND MANY STILL TODAY, ARE TROUBLED HEARING THAT JESUS IS THE ONLY WISE GOD OUR SAVIOR, WHO BECAME FLESH.

Luke 2:16-18 “And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”

The Jews were excited, yet afraid to believe the shepherds’ news that the Messiah had been born! The news traveled quickly all over Jerusalem, but their news was met with unbelief. Herod believed, but he was not about to give up his position as king, to a baby!

Matthew 2:1-3 “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, ² 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. ³When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.”



Simeon was right that many in Israel will fall because of this sign!



Luke 2:34-35 “And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; ³⁵ (yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

The Savior’s birth reveals the hearts of men, and still causes many of God’s people to fall. The Jews in Judea were looking for Yehshua, ‘Salvation’, but after waiting many hundreds of years for the Savior to come as a baby, yet King, could the Messiah really be here? Could it be that this was just another false Christ?

3. HEROD HEARS OF THE BABY KING WHO WAS BORN AND BEGINS A PLAN TO KILL ALL THE MALE BABIES BORN SINCE THE WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST.

Upon their arrival in Jerusalem, the Magi asked King Herod, where was the baby king? But Herod was King of the Jews! Herod called the Jewish priests and scribes, alarmed that a baby was born to take his place – this baby must be found!



*Matthew 2:4-7 “And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, **he demanded of them where Christ should be born.** ⁵ **And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,** ⁶ **And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.** ⁷ **Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.** ⁸ **And he sent them to Bethlehem,** and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.”*

God at creation made the stars to be for signs. A star was to rise out of Jacob (Israel), who would be king, and the Wise Men had been watching for God’s sign in the stars. This star in the heavens, would be a rare astronomical sign signaling the royal birth was about to take place; it was recorded near the Passover of 6 BC near the same time when the angel Gabriel announced to Zechariah that his wife Elizabeth, long past the age of childbearing, would conceive John the Baptist; and Jesus was conceived 6 months after! This sign fulfilling prophecy, appeared 800 miles to the East, signaling the wise men to begin their travels in order to reach Bethlehem, a 1 to 2 year journey, just in time for the birth of the Savior! (*See: Dating the Birth and Ministry of Jesus Christ Booklet*)

This is why Herod, a jealous and insane man, inquired of when the star first appeared; since the Magi had begun their journey when they first saw the star. To him his meant this baby may have been born when the sign first appeared – as long as 2 years ago.

4. THE MAGI LIKELY BEGAN THEIR JOURNEY OF ABOUT 800 MILES NEAR THE CITY OF SUSA IN PERSIA.

Where was the East, and who were the Wise Men? The same term for Wise Men and for East was used when Daniel was in Babylon and in Susa. The distance from ancient Persia to Jerusalem was about an 800-mile trip, that could easily have taken 1-2 years.

Matthew 2:9-10 “When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.”¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.”

By knowing the time they left, Herod could determine the shortest and longest time for the trip, deviously intending to kill all male babies near that age who could possibly be the newborn king! The Magi initially had seen an astronomical sign in the stars, an aligning of planets that year, which of course does not continue for 2 years, but this sign signaled them to begin their journey. It was the presence of the LORD that led them, by the same type of ‘star’ a pillar of light, as He had led them in the desert for 40 years.

Isaiah 19:19-20 “In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD.”²⁰ And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them.”

The star shone brightly to guide the shepherds and Magi, and continued to shine until its purpose was fulfilled, and they arrived to worship the Savior, who is Christ, the LORD of Heaven!



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.”

In the presence of the LORD, we fall down to worship Him!

5. HEROD'S CRUELTY WAS PURE EVIL, BUT GOD PROTECTS AND WARNS HIS PEOPLE WHEN TO FLEE.

There is a lot to be said for instant obedience! The more quickly we obey the Lord, the more likely we are to hear His voice.



Matthew 2:12-15 “And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, **they departed into their own country another way.** ¹³ And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, **Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.** ¹⁴ **When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:** ¹⁵ and was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Out of Egypt have I called my son.**

After presenting Jesus in the Temple, Joseph and Mary went back to Bethlehem before their eventual return to Nazareth. The Magi came to worship the infant Jesus in Bethlehem, (in Strong’s Concordance, Child #3812 means infant). Then Joseph was warned in a dream to flee to Egypt because Herod would seek to kill Jesus.

Matthew 2:16-18 “Then **Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.** ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, **In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.**

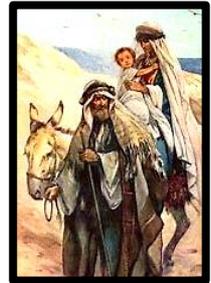


Rama is a city near Rachel’s tomb north of Jerusalem. Weeping was heard in Rama and Judea, from the borders to the coasts!

6. THE DATE HEROD BEGAN BUILDING THE TEMPLE, AND DEATH IN 4 BC, DATES BIRTH OF JESUS TO 5 BC.

The date of King Herod's death is important, because the Bible clearly sets the date of Jesus' birth to be previous to Herod's death occurring just before Passover of 4 BC. Jesus began His first year of ministry, 'beginning to be 30' at His baptism and anointing September 26 AD. It was Passover of 27 AD, when the disciple said the Temple in Jerusalem had been building for 46 years (*building began 20 BC*). (*See: Dating the Birth and Ministry of Jesus Christ Booklet*). Jesus was presented in the Temple after Mary's 40 day purification and back in Bethlehem of Judea, living in a house when the Wise Men arrived to search for him. Within the given Biblical timeline, Jesus was likely born on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, September 14, 5 BC, before Herod's death before Passover 4 BC, indicating that Jesus would have been a 2 month old infant when the Magi came to visit when Joseph was warned to flee to Egypt until Herod's death just before Passover April 9, 4 BC, and at least 7 months old after, when Mary and Joseph returned to Nazareth.

Matthew 2:19-23 *“But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,²⁰ saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.²¹ And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.²² But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judæa in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:²³ and he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.”*



The Bible interprets itself when we search the scriptures to prove all things taught by men, so let God's word be your compass.

7. OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST CAME AS A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS OF MEN JUST AS SCRIPTURES PROPHECY.

Isaiah 9:2 “*The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.”*

God’s people were looking for the light of the Messiah, the Glory who is God, coming to redeem them! This ‘great light’ would come as ‘the Light of the World’ to bring light to those who were spiritually dead and dwelling in darkness. The gospel of John begins with references to the light which is the very Shekinah glory of God!

John 1:1-5 “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²The same was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life; and the life was the light of men. ⁵And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not...¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth”*



1 Kings 8:10-11 “*And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, ¹¹So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.”*

In days of old, God’s presence was tangible in the cloud of His glory, so intense that the priests could not stand up to minister, and God’s glory filled the house of the Lord! Jesus had this same glory, this same life originating in Himself **because this same God, became visible in flesh, Jesus Christ, ‘GOD WITH US’!**

John 5:26 “*For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.”*

8. MESSIANIC PROPHECY SAYS A BRANCH OF DAVID'S LINE, (not a direct descendant of David) WILL COME TO WIPE AWAY THE GUILT OF ISRAEL IN ONE DAY.

*Jeremiah 23:5-6 "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **I will raise unto David a righteous Branch**, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. **In his days Judah shall be saved**, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**"*

This baby Messiah is the branch of David's line, who came to save His people "Judah". Born to become the sacrifice for the sins of His people.



*Zechariah 3:8 "Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, **behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.**"⁹For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and **I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.**"*



Jesus is God manifest in flesh, the servant, the Branch, who removed iniquity in one day by shedding His blood.

*1 Timothy 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, **received up into glory.**"*

*Acts 20:28 "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to **feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.**"*

God became flesh in His Son, the baby born in Bethlehem, to shed His own blood for our sins. God came as Messiah, as He promised, to build the temple of the Lord, His people, whose sins were wiped away in one day when He was crucified for their sins.

9. MESSIANIC VERSES ABOUT JESUS ARE FACTUALLY TRUE WHEN RECEIVED AS THEY ARE WRITTEN.

Jewish writers have said that Christians misuse scriptures referring to Judah being God's son, to refer to Jesus in error. The clarification is that God called Judah His sanctuary, because they were chosen to carry the seed of his son, **but Judah has forgotten that God also said He would come to dwell in the midst of them forever as their Savior, in the form of a man, born as a baby.**

Isaiah 9:6. Amos explained that God would return to re-build David's tabernacle and possess both remnant and heathen called by His name, saying that David (**the seed of David**), would be **the servant shepherd who becomes the king** so that His people may live with Him in their land for evermore, **this is JESUS!**



Amos 9:11-12 *“In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: ¹²That they may possess the remnant of Edom, **and of all the heathen, which are called by my name,** saith the LORD that doeth this.”*

Ezekiel 37:25-26 *“And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: **and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.** ²⁶Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and **I will place them,** and multiply them, **and WILL SET MY SANCTUARY IN THE MIDST OF THEM FOR EVERMORE.**”*

Psalms 114:1-3 *“When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language; ²**Judah was his sanctuary,** and Israel his dominion.”*

Ezekiel 37:24 *“And **David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd...**”*

The **SANCTUARY** is the **PRINCE**, is the **ONE SHEPHERD**, is the **SEED OF DAVID**, our **LORD JESUS CHRIST!** As we commit our way to Jesus, **we have a new beginning in Him!**

10. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND ME.

1. When we commit ourselves as holy to God, Satan comes with strong opposition.
2. Many in Jerusalem, and many still today, are troubled hearing that Jesus is the only wise God our Savior, who became flesh.
3. Herod heard of the baby king who was born, and began a plan to kill all the male babies born since the wise men left the East.
4. The Magi likely began their journey of about 800 miles from ancient Persia where God's people had been slaves in Babylon.
5. Herod's cruelty was pure evil, but God protects those who seek Him, and warns his people when to flee.
6. The Bible interprets itself when we search the scriptures to prove all things, so let God's word be your compass.
7. Our LORD Jesus is the Light of the World with the source of "Life in Himself" the same as the Father has life in Himself.
8. The Branch bearing God's glory could only be God Himself.
9. Messianic verses about Jesus are factually true when received as they are written.
10. God called Judah His Sanctuary and Son, because they carried His seed, the Seed of David, the One Shepherd, Jesus Christ! As we commit our way to Jesus, we have a new beginning in Him!



GROUP PRAYS TOGETHER:

Our Dear Father,

We come to you with thankful hearts for the foundation you have provided for us, by writing your pure words for us in the Holy Bible, that you have preserved for us forever! Thank you that with confidence we can know that you, our God, became flesh to save us from our sins, and so that we might know you as our LORD and Savior and friend. We commit our whole hearts to you, and thank you for this new beginning today, **in Jesus' name, Amen.**

11. CHILDREN’S STORY: THE MESSAGE OF THE NATIVITY

Mary hopped into the car and closed the door, *“Mama, I shared a picture of our nativity with my friend at school today because Jesus is so special*



to me, and I thought that everybody believes in Jesus! Shaylee said her family believes in God too, but they don’t believe in Jesus or celebrate Christmas because they’re Jewish. Shaylee is really nice and her family believes in God, so how is that possible Mama?”

Mama answered thoughtfully, *“Let me tell you a true story Mary, one that happened long ago:* When Adam and Eve sinned, God promised that the ‘seed of the woman’ (*the Messiah born of a woman*) would come to put an end to sin forever, by His blood shed to pay the penalty of death for all of our sins. The prophet Isaiah wrote in [Isaiah 9:6](#) that this Savior would be called the Son of God, the Comforter, and the Everlasting Father too, because this Savior was going to be the Spirit of God Himself made visible in His Son, our Lord Jesus! The seed was the Spirit of God Himself who would become flesh in a descendant of the woman who were called the nation of Israel; the Jewish people like your friend Shaylee, and the Savior was born to a virgin named Mary in Bethlehem. Many Jews did receive Jesus as their Savior but most were blinded to the scriptures, and that is why many Jewish people today do not know that Jesus is God, the Messiah, who came to earth to fulfill His promise, because they have never put all the Old Testament prophecies together to see that Jesus truly is the Messiah! *“Jesus said we should pray for Jewish people who do not understand that Jesus is ‘God with Us’ so they believe and receive Him, because He loves them so much!” “I understand now,” said Mary, “I can’t wait to tell Shaylee about Jesus, so she can know Him too!”*

12. GOSPEL COLORING PAGE & CANDLE CRAFT:



Directions: Copy and color picture. Cut out and glue picture and scripture to a candle jar. Decorate with twinkling stars!

HOLY TO THE LORD – A NEW BEGINNING

Psalm 37:5 “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”

Philippians 4:7 “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

