

Advent & Christmas

Origin
Meaning
Practice



ROCC Equipping Class - November 2021



Historical Christianity, Contemporary Faith

Series 1: Church History

Series 2: The Bible

Series 3: Creeds, Confessions, Sacraments

Series 4: Advent & Christmas




Advent & Christmas: **Origin, Meaning, Practice**

**To gain a deeper understanding of,
and appreciation for, the biblical,
historical Christmas story, and ...**



Advent & Christmas: **Origin, Meaning, Practice**

**to survey the origin and meaning of
the uniquely Christian practice of
Advent within the Christmas season.**

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Advent & Christmas:

Origin, Meaning, Practice

Week 1: The First Christmas

Week 2: Advent: What, Why, How?

Week 3: Christmas Practices



Advent & Christmas

(1 of 3)

The First Christmas



ROCC Equipping Class - November 7, 2021



The First Christmas: “Getting our Bearings”

**Class Exercise –
Tell the Christmas Story**

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The First Christmas: “Getting our Bearings”

Matthew 1:18-2:12
Luke 1:26-56, 2:1-21

*** Handout in Chronological Order**



The First Christmas: “Breaking it Down”

Luke 1:26-38
Gabriel to Mary

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Mary

What do we know?

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Mary

- **Miriam (Myriam, Maryam)**
- **From Nazareth, Spoke Aramaic**
- **Younger Cousin to Elizabeth**
- **Typical Betrothal at 13, 14 yrs.**
- **Torah Fluent**



The First Christmas: “Breaking it Down”

Matthew 1:18-24
Gabriel to Joseph






Joseph

What do we know?

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Joseph

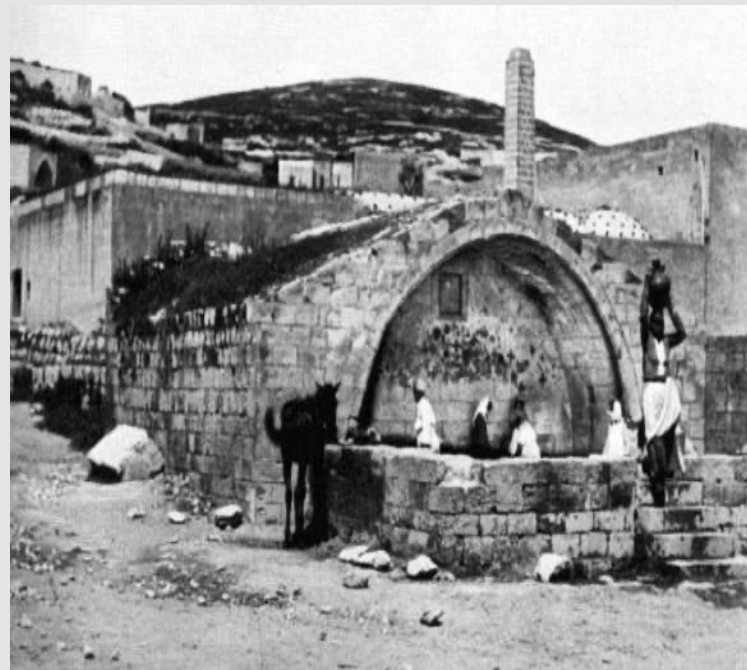
- From Nazareth, Spoke Aramaic
 - Descendent of King David
 - “Carpenter” – Wood, Stone, Metal
 - Likely Died Before Jesus Ministry
 - Just and faithful, God-fearing
- 



Nazareth



511 Nazareth. Haqarib. Nazareth.





Nazareth

- Small (500 +/-) Farming Village
- 15 miles west of Sea of Galilee
- Conservative & Traditional Jewish
- Highly learned in Torah
- “Can anything good come out of Nazareth” John 1:46



The First Christmas: “Breaking it Down”

Luke 1:39-56
Mary to Elizabeth

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Elizabeth

What do we know?

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Elizabeth

- Mother of John the Baptizer
- Wife of Zechariah (Luke 1:5-25)
- Older Cousin to Mary
- “Righteous before God”
- No Children (“Nothing Impossible”)



“The Magnificat”

- **Luke 1:46-56**
- **The “Song of Mary”**
- **Magnificat = Latin for Magnify**
- **Old Testament Allusions / Quotes**
- **Law, Psalms, and Prophets**
- **Hannah’s Prayer (Samuel)**



The First Christmas: “Breaking it Down”

Luke 2:1-5

Nazareth to Bethlehem

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Census

What do we know?





Census

- From Caesar Augustus (6 – 2 BC)
- Great-Nephew of Julius Caesar
- First Roman Census to Include Jews (“Tribal Lineage”)
- Taxes – Empire Building



The First Christmas: “Breaking it Down”

Luke 2:6-7 / Matthew 1:25
The Birth of Jesus

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Birth of Jesus

What do we know?

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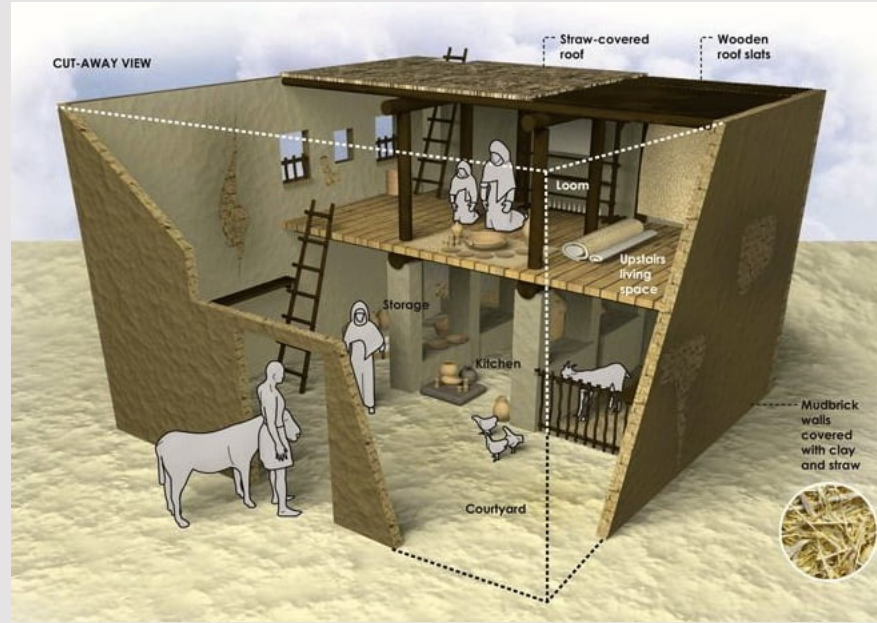


Birth of Jesus

- The “inn” / Kataluma (Guest Room)
- Possible Main Floor / Animal Floor



Kataluma (Guest Inn / Room)



* Pandocheion (travelers inn)



Birth of Jesus

- Manger – Food, Possibly Newborns






Birth of Jesus

- Bet (House) + Lechem (Bread


“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again” – John 6:35

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The First Christmas: “Breaking it Down”

Luke 2:8-20
The Shepherds





Shepherds

What do we know?





Shepherds

- **The Hills Are Alive With ... Sheep!**
- **260,000 Passover Lambs – Josephus**
- **Year-Round, Birthing Season?**
- **Spotless, < 1 Year, < 5 Miles**
- **Lambs of God**




Shepherds

- “Behold, the Lamb of God”
 - John the Baptizer (John 1:29)
- The First to Receive the News
- “Let us go!” (Luke 2:15-20)
- The First to Worship



The First Christmas: “Breaking it Down”

Matthew 2:1-12
The Wise Men





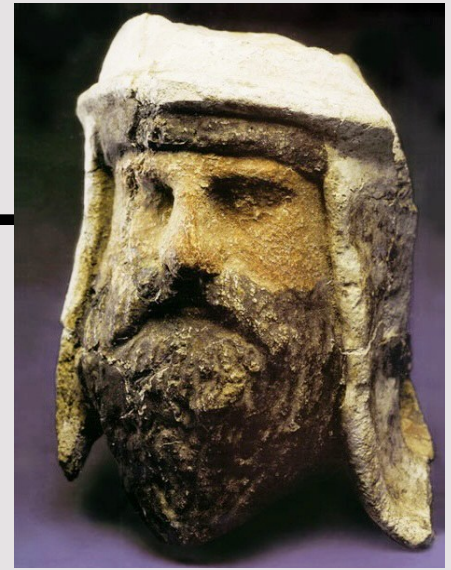
Wise Men

What do we know?

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Wise Men



- King Herod the Great
- Astrologers from Persia
- Divine, Supernatural ‘Star’
- Micah 5:2 “The Christ to be born”
- Gifts for a King (Isaiah 60:6)



The First Christmas

- **Prophecies Fulfilled**
 - **Line of David (Isaiah 11:1)**
 - **Born of a Virgin (Isaiah 7:14)**
 - **Town of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)**
 - **A Star (Numbers 24:17)**
 - **Humble and Low Esteem (Isaiah 53:3)**



The First Christmas: “The Bottom Line”

Barn, Cave, 3 or 300 Wise Men ...

A Promise Fulfilled

A Presence Revealed

A Purpose Unsealed



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The First Christmas



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