

The Christmas Story 2023

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Transcript

00:00:00 Announcer

The following message was recorded Sunday, December 24th, 2023.

On this Christmas Eve Sunday, Pastor Rick shares the Christmas story from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. When and where was Jesus born? And now, here's Pastor Ritt.

00:00:16 Pastor Rit

Today I'm going to give you some things to think about. I'm going to dispel some myths. Was he born on December 25th?

00:00:23 Pastor Rit

No, he wasn't. You sure? OK, with the three wise men.

00:00:29 Pastor Rit

That came.

00:00:31 Pastor Rit

We don't know. We don't know. Did they come to the place where he was born right after his birth? No, he didn't. They didn't they? What other myths are there about Christmas that we're going to spell this morning that you might be thinking of? Was he born in a cave or a stable with her donkeys and cows and chickens and geese? No. No.

00:00:50 Pastor Rit

You know, God is so precise. Isn't it wonderful? How we can you know, we're talking about sailors and sailing and. And it's so amazing how we can predict the tides, isn't it, David? Right to the second. Every single day. The preciseness of God. And I want you to know that that he wasn't born capriciously. No, there was a preciseness to the birth of Jesus.

00:01:13 Pastor Rit

That's recorded for us in the Scriptures and what we believe must be based upon what the scripture has to say, not what we believe or speculate. Is that true?

00:01:23 Pastor Rit

Now there's only two places we would go in the Gospels, the four Gospels to look at the birth narrative. We wouldn't go to Mark's Gospel because he starts with.

00:01:32 Pastor Rit

The baptism of John Mark starts with the baptism of John and we won't go to John's gospel cause John's gospel starts with.

00:01:40 Pastor Rit

Very beginning in the beginning, right?

00:01:43 Pastor Rit

Let there be light.

00:01:45 Pastor Rit

And light was in the beginning of Christ, but he doesn't go into the birth narrative. Neither does mark. So the only place we can go to understand what's really taking place in the birth narrative would be either Matthew or Luke. Luke. So go to Matthew first. Let's look there. OK. Yeah.

00:02:01 Pastor Rit

Matthew's gospel.

00:02:14 Pastor Rit

And the other thing I like to do away with is that fat man in the red suit. Ohh, don't. It's not me, not me.

00:02:22 Pastor Rit

Alright, I'm not talking about me. I'm not the fat man in the red suit. Who are we talking about? Yeah, if you.

00:02:27 Pastor Rit

If you take that N and you move it to the end of the.

00:02:29 Pastor Rit

Name what do you got? Satan. Who am I? Who am I? Isn't that terrible? Yeah.

00:02:34 Pastor Rit

There's only one Saint Nick in the Bible, isn't that?

00:02:36

Right.

00:02:38 Pastor Rit

Where's that?

00:02:39 Pastor Rit

Nickname is John Chapter 3. He's the only Saint nick in the Bible. OK, but where did I say?

00:02:44 Pastor Rit

To go.

00:02:45 Pastor Rit

Man, OK, let's go to Matthew Matthew's gospel.

00:02:49 Pastor Rit

Chapter 2. Let's go there.

00:02:58 Pastor Rit

As I said, I have a lot of information I'm going to share with you and your mind needs to be clear.

00:03:02 Pastor Rit

And I recognize that even myself, as I came in here and drove into the parking lot this morning, my mind was filled with all kinds of things that I needed to take care of quickly and are.

00:03:13 Pastor Rit

Minds can be a distraction.

00:03:17 Pastor Rit

To where God wants to speak to us, you see.

00:03:20 Pastor Rit

Before I study, before I study the word of God, the first thing I have to do is I have to settle myself. I have to quiet my mind. Ask the Lord, please settle my mind quiet me so that I can receive what you have for me. Don't allow my mind to become distracted.

00:03:33 Pastor Rit

And it's good to keep a pad and a pencil there because you're things you immediately will want to remember, and you'll try to remember those things rather than concentrate on what God has for you. So you write those down. That's what I do in my study.

00:03:45 Pastor Rit

But right now I want your minds to be uncluttered. Take a deep breath.

00:03:51 Pastor Rit

Come on. Some of you didn't do it. Come on, it helps.

00:03:53 Pastor Rit

Take a deep breath, big deep breath.

00:03:59 Pastor Rit

Lord, I pray right now.

00:04:03 Pastor Rit

Lord, in this life at this time there's only two ways in which we experience you, Lord.

00:04:10 Pastor Rit

It's with our minds and with our hearts.

00:04:13 Pastor Rit

And there can be such distractions in each Lord there can be things in our heart that don't belong there, Lord.

00:04:21 Pastor Rit

And there can be distractions in our mind, law and order, keeping us preventing us from hearing your truth.

00:04:28 Pastor Rit

Because you said Jesus, whom you set free, will be free indeed.

00:04:34 Pastor Rit

And that your truth shall set us free, and that your word is truth, Lord.

00:04:41 Pastor Rit

So this morning Lord and all that I have studied and all that I have prepared, Lord, I just offer this service to you and ask you by the power of.

00:04:49 Pastor Rit

Your Holy Spirit.

00:04:51 Pastor Rit

To bring to my remembrance those things you want me to share and Lord to allow these, your sons and daughters, to absorb when you have for them this morning.

00:05:01 Pastor Rit

But Lord clear our minds. Settle our hearts. Lord, help us to focus on you. This Christ mass.

00:05:10 Pastor Rit

Was to put you first in all things and before everyone or any possession or position or pleasure.

00:05:19 Pastor Rit

Lord reign in our hearts.

00:05:22 Pastor Rit

Thy Kingdom come.

00:05:25 Pastor Rit

In our lives.

00:05:27 Pastor Rit

In Jesus, name and everyone said.

00:05:31 Pastor Rit

So in Matthew Chapter 2, let's pick it up. In verse 18. We'll start there. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. After his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

00:05:47 Pastor Rit

Weren't. Yeah. What did I say?

00:05:50 Pastor Rit

I said to bless you.

00:05:54 Pastor Rit

Let me be very clear, I don't have it all together, but all together we have it all OK. None of us have it all together, but all together.

00:06:02

We have.

00:06:02 Pastor Rit

All right, so you help me because a lot of times my mind goes quicker than my mouth or vice versa. OK, so chapter one is that what I said? Chapter one, verse 18, Matthew's gospel.

00:06:13 Pastor Rit

Relax, we're going to have a good time.

00:06:15 Pastor Rit

Here this morning, the joy, the joy of the Lord is our strength. Amen. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. After his mother, Mary was betrothed to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

00:06:30 Pastor Rit

And then Joseph, her husband, being a just man and not wanting to make a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

00:06:39 Pastor Rit

But while he thought about these things, behold an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take your your marry your wife.

00:06:49 Pastor Rit

For that, which is conceived in hers of the Holy Spirit, and she will bring forth a son, and you shall call his name Jesus Yahshua Jehovah Shuah I am salvation.

00:07:00 Pastor Rit

For he will save his people from their sins.

00:07:04 Pastor Rit

And so all this was done that it might be fulfilled, which was spoken to the Lord through the Lord through the prophet, saying behold, the Virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which is translated God with us.

00:07:17 Pastor Rit

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the Angel of the Lord commanded him, and he took to him his wife and did not know her until she had brought forth her first born son and called his name Jesus.

00:07:32 Pastor Rit

Now after after Jesus was born in Bethlehem, this is after some time. OK, you need to understand that this event that we're going to look at with these wise men coming from the east, he was somewhere between 2:00 to 5:00 to six years old at this point. So it had been some period of time when they saw that star and they began to travel.

00:07:53 Pastor Rit

How far did they have to travel?

00:07:56 Pastor Rit

600 plus miles depending upon the route it was probably it could be have been as much as 1000 miles. It would have been a journey lasting months.

00:08:05 Pastor Rit

But it says now after that, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem. What does Bethlehem mean? Beth House lamb bread. The bread of life was born in the House of Bread. Isn't that wonderful? That's coincidental too, isn't it?

00:08:19 Pastor Rit

Do you know something interesting about the OR coincidental about the Hebrew language is that.

00:08:27 Pastor Rit

The rabbis would say coincidence is not a kosher word, and you know why.

00:08:33 Pastor Rit

Because God is sovereign, but also listen to me in the Hebrew language, there's no word for coincidence.

00:08:39 Pastor Rit

Isn't that a?

00:08:39 Pastor Rit

Coincidence well.

00:08:42 Pastor Rit

Anyway, reading on it.

00:08:45 Pastor Rit

Born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, Behold wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, where is he who was born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him.

00:09:00 Pastor Rit

These wise men, do you know the Greek word here for wise men?

00:09:05 Pastor Rit

Well, it's where we get the word. Magi. It's Magos megos. These Magos wise men. They came from the east. Now we can speculate where they came from because there's a lot of good evidence, extra biblical evidence for where they might have come from where.

00:09:17 Pastor Rit

Do you think they?

00:09:18 Pastor Rit

Came from where?

00:09:21 Pastor Rit

Babylon from Babylon, from the Parthian Empire, from Persia, Babylon, was overtaken by the Medes and the Persians. The Medes and the Persians became the Parthian Empire. The Parthian Empire became a very strong, powerful world empire which was always competing and warring against the.

00:09:38 Pastor Rit

Which empire?

00:09:40 Pastor Rit

The Roman Empire. Thank you. So there was this battle continually between the Roman Empire and the Parthian Empire, but these men would have come from Babylon, which was formerly Babylon, the Parthian Empire, but they they were. There's a strong possibility that they were part Jew.

00:09:57 Pastor Rit

Now, why would that be? Where would there be any influence whatsoever in Babylon with regard to any understanding of the Jewish Messiah, Magi, the Messiah of the?

00:10:06 Pastor Rit

Daniel. So these men, in all probability came from what we would call the cult of Daniel the cult of Daniel. And who were they looking for? He who would be born king of the Jews, the king of the universe, king of the world. Now, now we don't have time right now. But if you went back into Daniel's prophecies, you'll see.

00:10:26 Pastor Rit

In Chapter 2 verse.

00:10:27 Pastor Rit

44 That Daniel predicts world governing empires, and he says when these world governing empires form, even to the last and the last one would be a revive Roman Empire, he said in the days of these kings. What?

00:10:45 Pastor Rit

No, in the days of these kings.

00:10:49 Pastor Rit

OK, the God of heaven will establish his Kingdom and he will reign forever and ever and ever as the first prediction in Daniel of the of the messianic reign of Jesus Christ, the millennial Kingdom, and then on into everlasting joy, peace, love.

00:11:09 Pastor Rit

Is that wonderful? And then in Chapter 7 around verses 13 and 14, he says the same thing basically.

00:11:16 Pastor Rit

So in the cult of Daniel, there was an understanding that.

00:11:20 Pastor Rit

There was one to be born in Israel who would be the king of the world, who would bring about a Kingdom of everlasting hope, peace, joy, love, righteousness forever and ever and ever. And that's what they were looking for.

00:11:37 Pastor Rit

We're done.

00:11:39 Pastor Rit

These Magos were magi.

00:11:41 Pastor Rit

From the Middle Persian and Ohh by the way. And what was Daniel noted for in the Kingdom? What did what did they Revere him?

00:11:48 Pastor Rit

Over his diet.

00:11:51 Pastor Rit

Only egg was vegetables. I don't remember that.

00:11:53 Pastor Rit

Diet. My wife constantly tries to get me on the Daniel Diet. I said no, I'm a I'm a a carnivore.

00:12:00 Pastor Rit

Me. Where's the beef? You.

00:12:01 Pastor Rit

Know. No, no. What was he?

00:12:03 Pastor Rit

Known for.

00:12:05 Pastor Rit

It's wisdom, the wisdom of Daniel is what he was revered for, his understanding. And So what we have here is these, these coming. And as these men grew in their understanding, who gives us wisdom.

00:12:20 Pastor Rit

God, now what is wisdom?

00:12:25 Pastor Rit

OK, the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord, but wisdom is simply the proper application of the knowledge you do have. Knowledge is the gathering of information. Right now we we live in an age now where men are forever forever learning, but.

00:12:37 Pastor Rit

Never coming to the knowledge of the.

00:12:40 Pastor Rit

That's why more and more people don't understand what Christmas is all about.

00:12:44 Pastor Rit

They don't celebrate Christmas. They're Pagan.

00:12:46 Pastor Rit

It's a Pagan worship. They're Christian name only Christian in name only. It's Christian.

00:12:52 Pastor Rit

Yeah, yeah, the worshipping Baal, the worshipping Bacchus, you know, that's going to take place. It's so sickening, right?

00:13:00 Pastor Rit

But Daniel.

00:13:02 Pastor Rit

Gave these men a true understanding and the wisdom that would.

00:13:04 Pastor Rit

Come from God.

00:13:05 Pastor Rit

And as that wisdom flows as you seek God, will he be?

00:13:08 Pastor Rit

Found by you.

00:13:10 Pastor Rit

Knock and the door be open. Ask and the answer should be given. Seek and you shall. Is that true? I found that to be true.

00:13:18 Pastor Rit

38 years of age. I started seeking and I still see today as wise men do right and he's constantly giving me understanding, giving me revelation, giving me wisdom and the knowledge that I do have. Now I have to believe that these Magos these Magi that came from the east. They were worshipping the God of Daniel the God that they knew the God of Israel, and as they were submitting to him and what they did know, he gave them.

00:13:41 Pastor Rit

Further wisdom and understanding and revelation.

00:13:45 Pastor Rit

I've discovered that in my own life.

00:13:47 Pastor Rit

Have you? Who can say?

00:13:48 Pastor Rit

Amen. All right, all right. Yeah. A bunch of scholars here. Very good. So these men had wisdom. They were coming, seeking the one who would become come become king of the world.

00:14:00 Pastor Rit

They came from the east and they came to Jerusalem saying, where is he? Who would be born King of the Jews, for we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him now was this star a natural celestial object in the sky? Was it a star? Was it a planet? Was it sun? What was it?

00:14:19 Pastor Rit

No, none of those personally. My personal opinion, we don't know. No one knows for certain. But my personal opinion is it was supernatural. It was a supernatural star or light that they had seen because as they entered Jerusalem, they didn't see the light anymore. We're going to see here in a minute that then the star returned and they had exceedingly.

00:14:35 Pastor Rit

Great joy, it's back.

00:14:38 Pastor Rit

Right.

00:14:39 Pastor Rit

Isn't it wonderful when the star rises up in your heart in your life? Who's that star?

00:14:45 Pastor Rit

Jesus, yeah.

00:14:49 Pastor Rit

Where is he? Who is to be born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him. And when Herod the king heard this, he was troubled now. Now why would Herod be troubled that these guys talking about a king? And why would he be troubled when there's this border incursion?

00:15:05 Pastor Rit

These people coming across their border, why would it be so concerned now? Would it be 3 wise men?

00:15:12 Pastor Rit

We don't know how many. We just know there were wise men, plural 2.

00:15:14 Pastor Rit

Or more, but they would have hundreds of people in this caravan coming to seek out the wisdom.

00:15:22 Pastor Rit

Of the holy one.

00:15:24 Pastor Rit

And now, why would Heron be concerned? A couple of reasons why.

00:15:29 Pastor Rit

Competition. OK, but who's this king? I'm the king of the Jews. Who who established Herod as king of the Jews? Romans. The Romans did.

00:15:38 Pastor Rit

Who established December 25th as Christmas? The Romans did be careful what Rome establishes. OK. Just to just to.

00:15:51 Pastor Rit

If you if you would like to talk to me about it later, we can. I was a Roman Catholic for 30 years.

00:15:57 Pastor Rit

But and and and so much of the Church of Rome, if you read the book that Paul wrote his epistle to the Romans, that was the church.

00:16:05 Pastor Rit

But over any period of time everything comes becomes corrupt, every man's institutions, and you see where his woke Pope? I mean, how he wants to bless what?

00:16:14 Pastor Rit

As a Roman Catholic, Roman Catholic should be raising up in arms furious. How could this be? God alone established marriage between one biological Man, 1 biological woman, till death do them part. Is that right? Yeah. It's just a rebellion against God once again.

00:16:32 Pastor Rit

Where was I? Rome. Yes.

00:16:36 Pastor Rit

Why was he concerned? Why? Because the Romans had established him as the king of Judea. Why would he be concerned? Because there was this constant battle that took place almost 800 years between the Parthian Empire, the Roman Empire, Parthian Empire, the Roman Empire, and and the the prize that they would win would be that area of Palestine or the Middle East there that.

00:16:55 Pastor Rit

Bridge between Asia and Europe. OK. And so it would go back and forth. And who would suffer the most as this would go on back and forth, back and forth for almost.

00:17:06 Pastor Rit

The Jews Israel cause it's damaged in the middle, you see. And so Harry would have been very concerned about this border crossing this incursion upon his border upon the Parthians. Ohh no. Are we

gonna go through this again? And he was no match for the Parthian Empire, you know. And he knows exactly what would happen is we'll be squeezed in the middle again. But he was also concerned about the fact that that.

00:17:26 Pastor Rit

He was the king of Judea, king of the Jews.

00:17:32 Pastor Rit

You to me and.

00:17:34 Pastor Rit

Descendant of Esau.

00:17:36 Pastor Rit

What modern, what modern troublemaker was either to mean the descendant of Esau?

00:17:42 Pastor Rit

Matter of fact, I'm not talking about my cat. I had a cat on.

00:17:45 Pastor Rit

Him there fat.

00:17:46 Pastor Rit

She oh, she terrorized me every night, you know.

00:17:50 Pastor Rit

Her given name was Hadassah, right, Esther Queen Esther. But her Hebrew name was Hadassah beautiful.

00:17:58 Pastor Rit

But then I found that she was a terror and I.

00:17:59 Pastor Rit

Named her Arafat.

00:18:02 Pastor Rit

You do mean Herod.

00:18:06 Pastor Rit

It's OK to laugh in church.

00:18:09 Pastor Rit

Verse 3 when Herod the King heard this, he was troubled in all Jerusalem with him, and when he had gathered all of the chief priests and the scribes and the people together and inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. And they said to him in Bethlehem of Judea, for it is written in the prophets. But you, Bethlehem in the land of Judea, are not the least among the rulers of Judah.

00:18:28 Pastor Rit

Judah, whose of the tribe of Judah the language of.

00:18:33 Pastor Rit

David David, is that tribe and not the least among the rulers of Juniper. Out of you shall come a ruler. Who shall shepherd my people, Israel.

00:18:43 Pastor Rit

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the Wise Men, determined from then what time the star had appeared, and he sent them to Bethlehem, and he said, go and search carefully for the.

00:18:55 Pastor Rit

What does it say? It doesn't say baby or the baby or the infant. Does anybody know?

00:19:01 Pastor Rit

What the Greek word is here.

00:19:04 Pastor Rit

What is it?

00:19:05 Pastor Rit

Pardon. And what does it mean?

00:19:10 Pastor Rit

Someone in their terrible twos? Ohh my.

00:19:13 Pastor Rit

You know, somewhere in the age of two to six somewhere in that area, Young child 9 times. Luke is going to emphasize a young child, a young child, a young child, a young. You get it, you get the point. What does the Bible say? Did the wise men confront the infant?

00:19:31 Pastor Rit

Primos. That's the word there for infant primos. No, he didn't. Not primos.

00:19:37 Pastor Rit

But a young child, further evidence that when they came, it was well after his birth. OK, once you understand it nine times it's going to say that the young child.

00:19:48 Pastor Rit

And when they found him, bring back word to me. Here it is, describing to them that I may come and worship him also the herd. Wanna worship him? Herod want to kill him. And how do we know that? Because this deranged monster killed all of the young men. Young boys in Bethlehem. After this, didn't they? Yeah.

00:20:06 Pastor Rit

Well, that is angelic. Is that an Angel?

00:20:10 Pastor Rit

If your cell phone turn it off, you're a devil because you didn't turn it off.

00:20:14 Pastor Rit

To begin.

00:20:14 Pastor Rit

With, but if it's an Angel.

00:20:16 Pastor Rit

OK.

00:20:22 Pastor Rit

We're controlled by those things.

00:20:23 Pastor Rit

Aren't we?

00:20:26 Pastor Rit

No, that's right, my dear. No. When they heard the king, they departed. And behold the star which they had seen in the east, went before them till it came over there. Where the.

00:20:37 Pastor Rit

Young Child was when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

00:20:41

There it is again.

00:20:42 Pastor Rit

Again, again, look, it came back.

00:20:44 Pastor Rit

Let's follow the star now makes sense. They would go to Jerusalem, right? What? What? What? Jerusalem was the place that was established as the capital of Israel. Jerusalem was the place that

where God would be worshipped at, who conquered over Jerusalem. When did they first discover or when did Jerusalem first become a city within Israel?

00:21:04 Pastor Rit

And how did that happen? 1000 BC? How did that happen?

00:21:07 Pastor Rit

King David defeated the Jebusites. Now you read in the narrative this morning that he was born in Bethlehem, the city of David.

00:21:18 Pastor Rit

Does the Bible describe the Bethlehem as the city of David?

00:21:24 Pastor Rit

I'm sorry, the city of David. Where would the city of David be? In the Bible? What? What city would be the city of David in the Bible? As far as the Bible is concerned, overwhelming evidence.

00:21:34 Pastor Rit

Jerusalem over 40 times Jerusalem is called the City of David. The City of David, the city of David. Why now does Luke record that Bethlehem is the city of David? What did?

00:21:44 Pastor Rit

You say that.

00:21:47 Pastor Rit

You forgot.

00:21:48 Pastor Rit

I'm sorry, that's where. Thank you for reminding him, Caroline. You know we do forget, GAIL reminds me all the time.

00:21:55 Pastor Rit

That's where he was born. OK, so we want to make that point right, that that's where the young child was born in Bethlehem. It was called the City of David because of the place of his birth. And we'll see there was some other very, very important people in the lineage of Christ born there.

00:22:10 Pastor Rit

Verse 10. They saw the star. They rejoice with the seemingly great joy, and when.

00:22:15 Pastor Rit

They had come into the house.

00:22:17 Pastor Rit

Not the barn, not The Cave. When they came into the house, they saw what the young child with Mary, his mother. They fell down, they worshipped him and then they had opened up their treasures. They gave him gifts. Now This is why we say there's three wise men.

00:22:30 Pastor Rit

Because of the three gifts, but we we don't know how many offerings of gold or frankincense or more there was, there may have been more than one and we know how many wise men there were. But there were three gifts given to him, all representative of his position.

00:22:44 Pastor Rit

The glory that he has in the highest right.

00:22:48 Pastor Rit

Glory excelsius the High Lord and the highest they gave him treasures, which they presented gifts to him of gold, frankincense and myrrh. What did that represent?

00:23:00 Pastor Rit

Frank. And how about the gold? What did the gold?

00:23:02 Pastor Rit

Represent his kingship, his kingship, or the frankincense, his priesthood, the mirror.

00:23:11 Pastor Rit

Prophet, Priest and King Jesus alone Jesus alone fulfill those 3 roles. No other men in history and the Jewish people to break history could fulfill those rules. The only one who was close to that was who.

00:23:25 Pastor Rit

No, no, Mckusick was Jesus. He was the the athlete. He was Christ's vision of Christ. The the only physical blood man.

00:23:32 Pastor Rit

Who? No.

00:23:36 Pastor Rit

Why are you answering all these questions we give?

00:23:38 Pastor Rit

Ed. A card.

00:23:40 Pastor Rit

Merry Christmas, Ed. You're so smart. I don't know why I do this, you know.

00:23:45 Pastor Rit

Ask him. No. Give him a Panera card.

00:23:46 Pastor Rit

Give him a Panera.

00:23:47 Pastor Rit

Card. He likes Panera.

00:23:57 Pastor Rit

What was the question? He answered.

00:24:08 Pastor Rit

Thank you, Samuel. Was the one Samuel was a priest, right? Samuel was a prophet.

00:24:15 Pastor Rit

But Samuel wasn't a king. He was.

00:24:16 Pastor Rit

A judge. That's right. And so the only one that was close in that was Samuel. But Jesus alone is prophet, Priest and king. That's why these three gifts, specifically they speak of that role that he fulfills. Verse 12 then being divinely warned and warned in a.

00:24:32 Pastor Rit

Dream that they should depart and return to Herod. They did not return to Herod. They departed from their own to their own country another way.

00:24:45 Pastor Rit

They're gonna take flight and they're going to go to Egypt, and they're gonna have to vacation down in Egypt for a little while. And all of that.

00:24:53 Pastor Rit

Was funded by who?

00:24:57 Pastor Rit

God himself, God himself, led the maggots to bring the gifts that would take care of them while they were in Egypt, but they're only gonna be in Egypt until Herod dies. They'll come back, but we want to continue with our study of the birth narrative. And so where would we go from here?

00:25:12 Pastor Rit

Luke chapter 2. So go with me there Luke 2.

00:25:16 Pastor Rit

Luke 2 gives us some more information that we don't necessarily get from Matthew. Matthew touches upon it, but Luke's a little more exhaustive.

00:25:24 Pastor Rit

So Luke, chapter 2.

00:25:33 Pastor Rit

I love what Christmas really is.

00:25:36 Pastor Rit

You know, I haven't been Christmas shopping once.

00:25:40 Pastor Rit

And I don't intend to.

00:25:42 Pastor Rit

You know what I did to relieve all my Christmas stress yesterday?

00:25:47 Pastor Rit

Where we go.

00:25:48 Pastor Rit

We went cycling.

00:25:51 Pastor Rit

And I could not believe the traffic going to the mall and the parking lot and the congestion. And then we finally got on the trail. Ohh boy. Wasn't that the lorry and glorious. Yeah, yeah. Yeah. But love it. Don't get caught up in all this craziness.

00:26:08 Pastor Rit

Christ's mass worship the Lord.

00:26:13 Pastor Rit

Why do people think today that love is expressed in buying the most expensive gift that you can't afford?

00:26:21 Pastor Rit

Did you hear what?

00:26:21 Pastor Rit

I just said.

00:26:23 Pastor Rit

You know, that's what most people do. Ohh I have to prove my love to you, darling. I'm going to buy you a gift. That.

00:26:28 Pastor Rit

Neither one of us can.

00:26:29 Pastor Rit

Afford we'll worry about it after Christmas. Anxiety in the heart after Christmas leaves, too. Oh, that's what the Bible says.

00:26:40 Pastor Rit

Anxiety in the heart leads to depression and you know how many people are going to be anxious over the debt that they've collected during this season of the year.

00:26:50 Pastor Rit

About January 20th.

00:26:53 Pastor Rit

They're going to wish they had never done it all. It's all emotional, it's not thought.

00:27:00 Pastor Rit

Right. Is that not true? I know. Listen, I'm only telling you this from experience. I've been there. I used to think that the way I have to express my love during Christmas is.

00:27:09 Pastor Rit

Buying gifts I can't afford.

00:27:11 Pastor Rit

But that'll prove my love does that proves your.

00:27:13 Pastor Rit

Love. No. Can you buy devotion? Can you buy friendship? Can you buy?

00:27:18 Pastor Rit

Love. No, no.

00:27:22 Pastor Rit

I don't know why I went there, but anyway chapter 2, verse one Luke's gospel came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus and all the world should be registered. And this census first took place while Tyranus was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. There were no less than three census, said Caesar, Augustus declared.

00:27:41 Pastor Rit

During his reign, one was in.

00:27:45 Pastor Rit

Eight BC One was in two BC and one was in 680. Which one do you think?

00:27:50 Pastor Rit

We're talking about.

00:27:51 Pastor Rit

Two BC. Thank you. That's the one. That's the census. So Joseph, go to with me to verse 4 now.

00:27:59 Pastor Rit

Joseph also went up from Galilee to the city of Nazareth from the city of out of the city of Nazareth into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and the lineage of David to be restored with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. And so it was that while they were there, the days were completed.

00:28:19 Pastor Rit

Her to be delivered and she brought forth her first born son, wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in the Manger. There's a definite article here in the Greek text that doesn't appear in your translation.

00:28:32 Pastor Rit

So would you please scratch out the A and put in the Manger? It's a different article, a specific Manger that's true of verse seven. It's true of verse 12. It's true of verse 16. If you go back to an interlinear, you'll find that to be true. It's a definite article V manager, not a just any manager. The manager very specific. OK.

00:28:52 Pastor Rit

And I'm.

00:28:53 Pastor Rit

Being very specific about that for a reason, you'll see in a moment.

00:29:02 Pastor Rit

When was Jesus born?

00:29:10 Pastor Rit

When was Jesus born?

00:29:13 Pastor Rit

When was he born?

00:29:14 Pastor Rit

How do you know that?

00:29:19 Pastor Rit

That's that's not an appropriate answer.

00:29:22 Pastor Rit

But I did tell you that.

00:29:24 Pastor Rit

Go with me to chapter one of Luke's gospel chapter. One of Luke's gospel. We're going to discover that Jesus was not born on December 25th.

00:29:32 Pastor Rit

Now we don't know the exact date of his birth, but we know the close time frame. What?

00:29:37 Pastor Rit

Frankie what?

00:29:39 Pastor Rit

You know.

00:29:43 Pastor Rit

Yeah, if she. And if she doesn't know, I would be really disappointed because I don't know how.

00:29:46 Pastor Rit

Many times I've taught.

00:29:47 Pastor Rit

This, and you've been with me. You're my daughter. In the Lord you've been.

00:29:51 Pastor Rit

With me.

00:29:51 Pastor Rit

For how long now? Oh, God. Seems like forever.

00:29:57 Pastor Rit

Yeah. No, you didn't. You would have remembered.

00:30:00 Pastor Rit

Can we have this conversation later?

00:30:03 Pastor Rit

You know, there's a lot of.

00:30:03 Pastor Rit

People listening in.

00:30:06 Pastor Rit

Keep all those sweet nothings to yourself right now.

00:30:10 Pastor Rit

All right, where?

00:30:10 Pastor Rit

Are we Luke? Chapter one, please look at verse 5.

00:30:14 Pastor Rit

There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias. When were the days of Herod? When was Herod king?

00:30:26 Pastor Rit

37 BC to January 14th one BC what happened on January 14th?

00:30:33 Pastor Rit

He got eaten up by.

00:30:33 Pastor Rit

Worms. Ohh yeah, Can you imagine? Yeah. God, let parasites just take him over because he.

00:30:40 Pastor Rit

Was an eagle man.

00:30:42 Pastor Rit

Right. Don't you like? Ohh. That word even makes you gives you goosebumps. Doesn't.

00:30:47 Pastor Rit

Little Noah or Leonardo was sitting here. He's down in Florida playing golf, but we correspond and that little guy, you know, he's just so rich in the. But I can't, you know, some kill some children. The Lord just puts his hand on them, you know.

00:31:01 Pastor Rit

But we're talking about the word evil.

00:31:05 Pastor Rit

Terrible, isn't it?

00:31:06 Pastor Rit

You take the E out of it. What do you got?

00:31:08 Pastor Rit

VIL, what is it via?

00:31:12 Pastor Rit

Take the video. What do you got?

00:31:15 Pastor Rit

Take the eye out where you got right where you're going. If you don't follow Jesus L, you're going to L.

00:31:23 Pastor Rit

He he heard was evil. He died on January the 14th. One BC. He was the king of Judea. A certain priest named Zacharias Zacharias, of the division of a bad guy. And his wife was the daughter of Aaron. And her name was Elizabeth, both descendants of the priest of both godly, wonderful people of Great reputation.

00:31:42 Pastor Rit

Very, very given over to the Lord, and they were both righteous before God walking in all of his commandments and ordinances of Lord blameless, but they had no children because Elizabeth was barren and they were both well advanced in age. Oh my, what is Zacharias mean?

00:31:59 Pastor Rit

God remembers, God remembers. What does Elizabeth mean?

00:32:03 Pastor Rit

His covenant or his oath. And now the Angel is revealing to them they're going to have a son and he's going to tell them you need to name this boy trouble. No, that was. No, no. You need to name him.

00:32:15 Pastor Rit

John and what does it mean?

00:32:17 Pastor Rit

Isn't that amazing? Just listen. Just in the meanings of these three names as the gospel gospel.

00:32:24 Pastor Rit

What? What? What do we just sing? That is the word gospel.

00:32:29 Pastor Rit

Love first.

00:32:32 Pastor Rit

That means gospel, you know. Did you know that?

00:32:35 Pastor Rit

It's French. It's French for a gospel or good speak.

00:32:39 Pastor Rit

Now it's it's been interpreted now to mean Christmas, but it literally means the gospel, the gospel just in these three names. You imagine that Jackson.

00:32:48 Pastor Rit

Zachariah remembers Elizabeth's governor's oath to be gracious.

00:32:53 Pastor Rit

And after 400 silent years from Malachi, the Italian? No, no, Malachi. Malachi to Matthew. God didn't speak. God didn't work. He was silent. They must have believed.

00:33:05 Pastor Rit

That he has abandoned us.

00:33:09 Pastor Rit

But then God remembers his covenant to Israel.

00:33:14 Pastor Rit

For their namesake, for his namesake, not for them. We read that in.

00:33:19 Pastor Rit

Ezekiel 36 just the other night. I'm not doing this for you, Israel. Not because you deserve this as well. Before 9 my namesake, I'm going to restore you. I'm going to. I'm going to revive you spiritually.

00:33:33 Pastor Rit

Why did he save you? Why did he revive you? Because there was something about you.

00:33:38 Pastor Rit

No. For the glory of his name, for the glory of the highest. Yeah. Zachariah. God remembers his covenant or his old Elizabeth to be gracious, John. And after 400 silent years, I told you the Messiah.

00:33:57 Pastor Rit

It's coming.

00:33:58 Pastor Rit

The Mashiach Nagi, the King of Israel and here he is. Wow, is that amazing? That's find that amazing. Yeah. No, wait. What was Zachariah doing?

00:34:10 Pastor Rit

Look at the text. Read the text, OK. The priest named Zacharias, of the division of Bajai, and his wife was one of the daughters of Aaron. Her name was Elizabeth, and they were both well advanced in age. They were righteous before God, but they had no children. Elizabeth was barren. They were both advanced in age verse 8 now. So it was while he was serving as priests.

00:34:32 Pastor Rit

And for God in the order of his division according to the custom of the priest, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

00:34:42 Pastor Rit

And the whole multitude of the people were were praying was praying outside at the hour of incense, and then an Angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar, and when Zachariah saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

00:34:57 Pastor Rit

Well, that's what would happen if an Angel came and visited us, wouldn't it? Now, what is this order or division of a bad eye?

00:35:09 Pastor Rit

The 24 divisions of the priests there were more priests than than there were opportunities to serve. OK, and so every priest wanted the opportunity to serve. So in David's time they divided them into divisions. Just look with me. Keep your place here. And Luke 1 and go to first chronicles.

00:35:26 Pastor Rit

24.

00:36:04 Pastor Rit

Are you there?

00:36:06 Pastor Rit

There's a wonderful sound.

00:36:09 Pastor Rit

Someone came to the men's study on.

00:36:12 Pastor Rit

Saturday morning and after the study, they said, man, you know, all you could hear was guys turning their bibles pages of their Bible, he said. I I can't remember the last time I've been in a church where that was true.

00:36:24 Pastor Rit

Most churches don't need a Bible. They don't carry a Bible. Why? They don't believe the Bible doesn't believe the Bible. People don't believe in the Bible. They don't study the Bible.

00:36:31 Pastor Rit

They give them lessons on how to be good citizens, how to save your money, etcetera, etcetera. Life, living principles rather than the word of God. But what do the people need? What's going to set them free? The truth of the word of God.

00:36:46 Pastor Rit

Chapter 24 of first chronicles it says now these are the divisions of the sons of Aaron. Everybody who was going to be a priest need to be a descendant.

00:36:55 Pastor Rit

Of the tribe of.

00:36:57 Pastor Rit

Levi, they had to have Levi jeans.

00:37:01 Pastor Rit

In order to be a priest is.

00:37:02 Pastor Rit

Required, right? Yeah.

00:37:05 Pastor Rit

But more specifically, had to be a descendant of Aaron. Aaron was of the tribe of Levi, now Nadab ABI, who eliazar. FMR. And and and it goes on and on and on. But for our conversation, please look with.

00:37:17 Pastor Rit

Me at verse.

00:37:24 Pastor Rit

Come on, just add it here.

00:37:26 Pastor Rit

I should have underlined, huh?

00:37:28 Pastor Rit

Right here, verse 10.

00:37:30 Pastor Rit

The 7th Hackos the 8th.

00:37:35 Pastor Rit

About verse 10, first chronicles. What does it say?

00:37:38 Pastor Rit

Of the 8th Division. Who was it?

00:37:41 Pastor Rit

Abijah Abijah Zacharias is of which division?

00:37:45 Pastor Rit

Abijah and this is the only time. Listen to me. This is the only time in his in life his entire life that he would have this wonderful privilege.

00:37:54 Pastor Rit

Of going into the holy place and offering incense on the.

00:38:00 Pastor Rit

Altar of incense offering and representing the prayers of the people. So as a priest, he's representing the people to God and he comes out, he's to represent God.

00:38:08 Pastor Rit

To the people.

00:38:10 Pastor Rit

How much of A representative are you of God to those who know you best?

00:38:19 Pastor Rit

How much of A representative are you to God to those that you know best? We're supposed to do both, right?

00:38:25 Pastor Rit

I'm supposed to represent Gale to God, and I'm supposed to God. To Gale. That's my role.

00:38:32 Pastor Rit

You believe in the priest of all believers.

00:38:35 Pastor Rit

All believers are priests. Is that true?

00:38:39 Pastor Rit

So you're a priest unto yourself.

00:38:41 Pastor Rit

No, no. The priest, as we see here, they were ordained or anointed to officiate in the sacrificial system of Israel. The priest was called to offer sacrifice unto the Lord, and there's many sacrifices in the old Old Testament which was the way in which God to prescribe where you come to him for a temporary covering of your sin.

00:39:02 Pastor Rit

Not a complete remission that would come through the Messiah.

00:39:07 Pastor Rit

But you and I, acknowledging the priesthood of all believers, offer a sacrifice to God that only I can offer. Only you can offer. What is that sacrifice that only you can offer to God?

00:39:20 Pastor Rit

Your life, that's what it means.

00:39:23 Pastor Rit

It's not a priest unto yourself.

00:39:26 Pastor Rit

But I beseech you, I beg you, I implore you, by the mercies of God. What?

00:39:32 Pastor Rit

You present yourself a living sacrifice, a burnt offering unto God. That's what Paul was talk.

00:39:38 Pastor Rit

But zacharias. He was a priest, and he he was ordained and anointed to officiate in offering sacrifice and God. In here the the altar of incense. Now now, without going through a lot of unnecessary redundant history, let me just tell you, and you can research this yourself. The 8th Division of a badge I in the year.

00:39:55 Pastor Rit

In which our our Lord.

00:39:56 Pastor Rit

Was was.

00:39:59 Pastor Rit

Born was July 13th, 3 BC.

00:40:03 Pastor Rit

13 That's an unlucky number, isn't it?

00:40:08 Pastor Rit

My God is sovereign.

00:40:11 Pastor Rit

There's no unlucky numbers you'll be, do you even luck? Good luck. Bad luck. Do you believe in luck? No, there's no such.

00:40:16 Pastor Rit

Thing as luck.

00:40:17 Pastor Rit

God, sorry. God's in control. Right. 13 July 13th is a wonderful number. As far as I'm concerned.

00:40:24 Pastor Rit

Me boy. Me Boy was born on July 13, 1970. Yeah, AM.

00:40:28 Pastor Rit

I that old.

00:40:29 Pastor Rit

My goodness no.

00:40:33 Pastor Rit

So back to Luke's gospel, chapter one.

00:40:38 Pastor Rit

He was of the division of a Badger. He's offering incense at the altar of incense. And so when did I say this was?

00:40:45 Pastor Rit

July 13, three BC OK and the people are outside praying. They're all praying unto the Lord. And what do we think they're praying for, the Messiah to come?

00:40:55 Pastor Rit

To deliver them from the yoke of Rome, right. That's what they're really desiring. And what should we be praying continually.

00:41:04 Pastor Rit

Who saw the?

00:41:05 Pastor Rit

Who saw the coming of the Lord more than any other man?

00:41:08 Pastor Rit

John the beloved, the apostle. Right. Jesus. Jesus says to Peter. What is it to you if this man remains until I come? And so everybody thought. Well, John's not going to die until the Lord comes again. But John did see the second coming of the Lord. When.

00:41:20 Pastor Rit

He was on the Isle of Patmos, exiled oh, what a wonderful time he had just him and the Lord.

00:41:27 Pastor Rit

That's solitude.

00:41:29 Pastor Rit

Right, that's separation from everything else, but separated to the Lord. And then he saw the revelation.

00:41:36 Pastor Rit

Do you know that the revelation the the book of the Revelation from chapter one to the end of the book is?

00:41:42 Pastor Rit

The day of the Lord.

00:41:44 Pastor Rit

Right.

00:41:48 Pastor Rit

And John sees the coming of the Lord.

00:41:52 Pastor Rit

And he is so blessed by that.

00:41:56 Pastor Rit

And the point I wanted to make is that as the people were outside praying, Lord come.

00:42:03 Pastor Rit

When John sees the coming of the Lord and all associated with it, what would your reaction be?

00:42:10 Pastor Rit

The tribulation period.

00:42:12 Pastor Rit

A period in a time of trouble for which the world has never seen before, nor will ever see again.

00:42:19 Pastor Rit

In just two of the judgments during that period, what happens?

00:42:23 Pastor Rit

In two judgements during that period, which most don't believe, but it's coming, half the population is gone.

00:42:30 Pastor Rit

He's going to terrorize the world.

00:42:35 Pastor Rit

After all of that and you read the revelation you say.

00:42:38 Pastor Rit

Oh my goodness.

00:42:40 Pastor Rit

Lord, what it be?

00:42:43 Pastor Rit

What would your reaction be?

00:42:48 Pastor Rit

OK, but what else would you want? Lord, can you just wait? Can you just wait a little longer?

00:42:54 Pastor Rit

Wouldn't you want him to?

00:42:55 Pastor Rit

Wait, what was John's reaction?

00:42:58 Pastor Rit

At the end of the revelation, come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

00:43:03 Pastor Rit

Why to end all of this suffering all the pain, all the sorry.

00:43:07 Pastor Rit

Yeah, he saw the second he saw the first coming of Christ. He saw the second coming of Christ. What a privilege. So they were out there praying, praying for the first coming of the Lord. This was, as I said, July 13, three BC verse 13 now, chapter one. But the Angel said them do not be afraid, Zacharias. For your prayers. Heard what was zachariah's prayer be?

00:43:30 Pastor Rit

I'm sorry.

00:43:32 Pastor Rit

He wants a baby. He he not only wants to see the Messiah kind of course. But you know they're in their old age and you know, it's very important to have male children at that time. Why?

00:43:42 Pastor Rit

They were your 401K. You, you. You didn't have a 401K other than your your children, right? And most of it was agriculture. So you needed lots of children to work on the on the farm and take care of things. The vineyard, whatever it might have been. And so I think he was probably praying for somebody's also praying for the Messiah to come. He probably had given up on his son. At this point. It was very old. An age, right.

00:44:05 Pastor Rit

Yeah. How many of you have grandchildren?

00:44:08 Pastor Rit

Ohh, you're so blessed, yeah.

00:44:10 Pastor Rit

Yeah. Now, why? And the Lord chose not to allow me to have grandchildren. I don't know. I prayed. I went into the temple. I've asked them over and over. I've pleaded. I've fasted. I've put on sackcloth and ashes, but it just. It's not for me. It's for you.

00:44:23 Pastor Rit

But I have a bunch of grandchildren upstairs. Love them all.

00:44:26 Pastor Rit

Right.

00:44:27 Pastor Rit

But Zachariah, I think he wanted a son, but I think he wanted the Messiah to come as well. I think he had more hope in the Messiah than he did in as Elizabeth being pregnant.

00:44:35 Pastor Rit

The Angel said them don't. Don't be afraid, Zacharias. For your prayers. Heard your wife Elizabeth will bear you with son. So that's indicative of the fact that he was praying for her son.

00:44:45 Pastor Rit

You shall call his name John Gracious, and you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he goes on to talk all about these characteristics of John. What a wonderful man he was.

00:44:58 Pastor Rit

Let's go to UM.

00:45:00 Pastor Rit

Verse 26.

00:45:04 Pastor Rit

Now, in the sixth month, 6th month of what?

00:45:09 Pastor Rit

How do you know that?

00:45:12 Pastor Rit

You go to verse 36, verse 36 of the chapter says now indeed Elizabeth, your relative has also conceived the son in her old age. And this is the this is now the 6th month for her who was called Baron for with God nothing is impossible. So that's how we know when he talks about it being the 6th month.

00:45:34 Pastor Rit

The 6th month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, right, because that's the context here. She was pregnant, miraculously.

00:45:40 Pastor Rit

Right. She's going to have a baby. And so this being the 6th month.

00:45:44 Pastor Rit

When would that be?

00:45:50 Pastor Rit

July is when he served in the Temple right August.

00:45:55 Pastor Rit

September, October, November, December.

00:46:01 Pastor Rit

So this is January, about January right to BC.

00:46:04 Pastor Rit

BC No2 BC January 2 BC because it was 3 BC previously and this is the 6th month look at the text now verse 26 in the sixth month. The Angel Gabriel was somebody God to the city of Gallington. Nazareth to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph of the House of David. The Virgin's name was Mary.

00:46:24 Pastor Rit

And having come in, the Angel said to her, rejoice. Highly favored, one from the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, but when she saw him, she was troubled as saying. And consider what men are greeting. This was. And then the Angel said they're not be afraid. Mary, if you found favor with God and behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a son and should call his name Jesus.

00:46:40 Pastor Rit

To us, he will be great. He will be called the son of the highest, the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the House of Jacob Forever and ever and ever and ever in his Kingdom.

00:46:51 Pastor Rit

There will be no end.

00:46:54 Pastor Rit

Then Mary said to the Angel, how can this be since I do not know a man? The Angel answered and said to her the Holy Spirit will come upon you. The power of the highest will overshadow you, and therefore that holy one is to be born, and you'll be called the son of God. Now indeed Elizabeth, your relative also conceived the son in her old age. And this is now the 6th month for her who was.

00:47:13 Pastor Rit

All bearing for with God nothing is impossible. And then Mary said, behold the maid servants of the Lord. Let it be according to your word. And the Angel departed from her.

00:47:26 Pastor Rit

Now if we go to verse 57, we see the birth of John.

00:47:30 Pastor Rit

Right.

00:47:31 Pastor Rit

Now Elizabeth's full time had come for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son and her neighbors and relatives. Heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. Now, when would this have happened?

00:47:48 Pastor Rit

April, when?

00:47:50 Pastor Rit

April 2 BC what would happen in April 2 BC? There would be significant for the Jews.

00:47:56 Pastor Rit

Pay sock? That's right. Passover paycock. Passover so. Alright, so we know that John was born 2 BC, right? And he was born in April. Somewhere around April 2 BC. Now we know that Jesus was how much younger than John.

00:48:12 Pastor Rit

Six months. So when was Jesus born then?

00:48:17 Pastor Rit

Yeah, somewhere September October time frame. What would be significant for the Jews during that time?

00:48:25 Pastor Rit

The fall feasts first fall feast is.

00:48:28 Pastor Rit

Yom Teruah, feast of trumpet, second one Yom Kippur, David Toman, third one.

00:48:33 Pastor Rit

Tablet so-called Feast of Tabernacles and his name shall be called Emmanuel, which means God Tabernacle ring with us, right, God with us. Right now my my particular position is that I believe he was born on the Feast of Tabernacles that year, but he was definitely not born in December. He was not born in December 25th and we know from the biblical record.

00:48:55 Pastor Rit

That he had to be born six months after.

00:48:58 Pastor Rit

John, and therefore he was born somewhere in the September, probably October time frame, which corresponds with the fall feasts of Israel. All those 3 fall feasts of do you know that it that Jesus has literally fulfilled? Where's the time going?

00:49:17 Pastor Rit

You're gonna go to lunch.

00:49:18 Pastor Rit

Do you? No. Do you know that Jesus has literally fulfilled the 1st 4 feasts on?

00:49:23 Pastor Rit

The very day.

00:49:26 Pastor Rit

On Lemon bread, first fruits, Pentecost, and the very day. Do you know that Jesus is going to fulfill the last three fees on the very day those three fees all have to do with the second coming of Christ?

00:49:38 Pastor Rit

The first four all have to do with the first coming, and when he accomplished his first coming the last three all have to do with the second coming. All is gonna accomplish that the 2nd.

00:49:44 Pastor Rit

Coming. Do you even have an understanding of that? I hope you do. I hope you do.

00:49:50 Pastor Rit

Continue to look at the narrative here.

00:49:54 Pastor Rit

Chapter 2.

00:49:58 Pastor Rit

We had discussed the 1st.

00:50:02 Pastor Rit

7 verses now go to verse 8.

00:50:10 Pastor Rit

Back up to verse 7 for one moment. I want to mention something, so she brought forth her first born son, wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in the Manger. I mentioned it to you, right? Because it was no room for him in the end.

00:50:21 Pastor Rit

What's the word for Manger here in the Greek?

00:50:24 Pastor Rit

Patna, was it me?

00:50:27 Pastor Rit

Or a stall, A stall or a crib.

00:50:30 Pastor Rit

Right, a stall or crib.

00:50:33 Pastor Rit

Adele, your goat. I gave baby the other day had a baby.

00:50:39 Pastor Rit

I'm sorry.

00:50:40 Pastor Rit

51 go 5.

00:50:43 Pastor Rit

Ohh 5 babies 5 babies. OK, now you were telling me that one of the goats you Jasmine had to intervene. She was a heroine, right? What did she do?

00:51:03 Pastor Rit

What do you call a male goat?

00:51:06 Pastor Rit

Billy or ram. So. So the male goat was chasing the female goat, which was trying to give birth. But this jerk couldn't leave her alone, right?

00:51:15 Pastor Rit

No, I mean, I'm serious. You know what I mean? Give the girl a break, man. So she had to intervene, right?

00:51:23 Pastor Rit

Now at this time.

00:51:26 Pastor Rit

In ancient Israel, there were certain shepherds that raised certain sheep for a certain purpose, and they would make sure that nobody would asked these views. That's a female lamb EWEU.

00:51:39 Pastor Rit

And that the Rams would not harass them. So I had to take them into a special place and help them give birth, because these, these lambs.

00:51:47 Pastor Rit

Would be used for sacrifice to Hashem. The name they wouldn't say his name.

00:51:51 Pastor Rit

But for God?

00:51:52 Pastor Rit

Right. So like what Jasmine had to do the other day and gave him this, this, this Billy goat, this jerk away from that girl. Right. So she could have her baby. Well, they had to do the same thing. I'll talk more about that in a moment. But Fatima is a stall, stall or crib. It's not necessarily a feeding trough. OK. And I'm going.

00:52:09 Pastor Rit

To explain it to you in a minute.

00:52:11 Pastor Rit

Now they're in the same country, shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. Shepherds used to be an honorable profession. But at this time it's not. They look very down upon shepherds, right, but who are some of the shepherd patriarchs?

00:52:25 Pastor Rit

Abraham was a shepherd, Isaac was a shepherd, Moses was a shepherd, David was a shepherd.

00:52:31 Pastor Rit

And Jesus is called the Good Shepherd and John.

00:52:35 Pastor Rit

The Great Shepherd in Hebrews, the chief shepherd.

00:52:39 Pastor Rit

And first, Peter, thank you. Jesus. Is the shepherd. Now now, shepherds were looked on up, down upon at this time. And those shepherds who were raising sheep for whatever cause, they had to raise their sheep out in the wilderness, they couldn't raise their sheep near the cities, unclean. And then if you were involved with them at all, you were ceremonial, unclean, and you couldn't participate in the worship of.

00:53:00 Pastor Rit

10 minutes, you know.

00:53:01 Pastor Rit

Except there was 1 exception to.

00:53:05 Pastor Rit

These Levitical shepherds who were raising sheep specifically for sacrifice, and once they were born, they would separate them by gender because the Rams were given for what offering.

00:53:19 Pastor Rit

I'm sorry.

00:53:20 Pastor Rit

Give. Give her a gift card, will you?

00:53:23 Pastor Rit

That's right, the Rams were a burnt offering and the use were a.

00:53:27 Pastor Rit

A peace offering. Peace offering. That's right.

00:53:31 Pastor Rit

And so that's very specific. I want to understand cause it's going to, I'm going to cover that more just I got more to give you than I have Time Lord please help me.

00:53:42 Pastor Rit

Shepherds out in the fields, watching out for their flocks, and behold the Angel of the Lord stood beholding the glory. Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid, the Angel said to them. Do

not be afraid, for behold, they bring you good tidings of great joy which would be to all people, for there was born to you this day in the city of David. Why was it called?

00:53:56 Pastor Rit

The City of David, when the city of David was in Jerusalem, because this was his birthplace.

00:54:01 Pastor Rit

The City of David, a Savior lineage of Christ who is Christ the Lord, and this will be assigned to you, assigned to who this word sign is a wonder. It was a supernatural wonder to who? To the shepherds, not to anybody else. It was assigned to the shepherd. Specifically, this will be assigned to you shepherds, and you will find a babe. What's the word?

00:54:22 Pastor Rit

Brephos briefs infant babe infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a Manger. A Manger the Manger.

00:54:29 Pastor Rit

Well, now let's talk about that for a minute.

00:54:34 Pastor Rit

How many of you have ever heard? Oh, no. Let me ask it the other way. Because I know men have. How many? You've never ever heard of the big galator don't know what it is.

00:54:41 Pastor Rit

The medal later.

00:54:43 Pastor Rit

Wow, you're all informed you don't know Paul. OK, well, then I'm talking to you, Paul. This is for you. This service was constructed for you. Genesis 35, Paul.

00:54:53 Pastor Rit

And the rest of you could turn there as well.

00:54:59 Pastor Rit

Migdal adar.

00:55:01 Pastor Rit

The tower of the Flock, Genesis 35.

00:55:07 Pastor Rit

Genesis 35. We know that Jacob goes to Bethel. Jacob means.

00:55:14 Pastor Rit

Dirty rotten scoundrel. He'll catcher, right? But Jacob is going to become Israel. No longer called Jacob. He will be called Israel, governed by God.

00:55:23 Pastor Rit

Isn't that what happened to us?

00:55:25 Pastor Rit

We were Jacob's dirty, rotten scoundrel, and that God came into our life and now we're governed by God in his word, and we we can become the Israel. And that's exactly who Paul calls us in the New Testament that we are the Israel of God. Isn't that wonderful? Yeah. So where are we? Chapter 35.

00:55:43 Pastor Rit

Let's pick it up in verse 16.

00:55:49 Pastor Rit

Then they journeyed as far as Bethel Bethel House of God. That's where we are, right? Bethel Rd. Bethel House of God. And when they were but a little distance to go to prod. Where? What's efra me?

00:56:01 Pastor Rit

Fruitful, otherwise known as Bethlehem, Bethlehem, Ephrath, she labor, Rachel labored in childbirth, and she had hard labor. Now it came to pass when she was in hard labor that the midwife said to her, do not fear, you will have this son also. And so it was as her soul was the parting for she died that she called his name Benoni, which means.

00:56:22 Pastor Rit

Son of my sorrow. But his father called him Benjamin, son of my right arm. And so Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath, that is.

00:56:32 Pastor Rit

Bethlehem and Jacob said a pillar on her grave, which is the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day, and the Israel then Israel journeyed and pitched his tent, where?

00:56:43 Pastor Rit

Beyond the tower of the flock and what is the tower of the flock?

00:56:46 Pastor Rit

The McDowell ater the McDowell ater now and this is very important. You see, Rachel was born Rachel bore Benjamin there in Bethlehem.

00:56:56 Pastor Rit

A lot of significant things have taken place in Bethlehem. There was this beautiful couple we read about this. One of the greatest love stories that has ever been written. What is that?

00:57:06 Pastor Rit

Ruth and Boaz Ruth and Boaz Boaz was the kinsman Redeemer, Boaz as the type of Jesus Christ and they came together by God's Providence, right. God ordained it. Now they came together.

00:57:16 Pastor Rit

They had a son and his son and their son's name was.

00:57:20 Pastor Rit

Old bed born in Bethlehem and Albert had a son and his.

00:57:22 Pastor Rit

Name was Jesse and Jesse.

00:57:24 Pastor Rit

Had a son, several sons, but the Dave is the most famous of them all. Born in Bethlehem and of the lineage of David in the city of David, the place of his birth, Bethlehem at the Tower of the Flock.

00:57:39 Pastor Rit

Was where all of this had taken place near the tower of the flock. Now go with me to Micah.

00:57:48 Pastor Rit

Micah, I'll give you a minute to find it. You can cheat and.

00:57:51 Pastor Rit

Go to the front of your Bible, chapter 4.

00:57:54 Pastor Rit

Speaking of the Tower of the Flock.

00:58:00 Pastor Rit

Significant place where several of the Patriarchs were birthed, where I believe the Messiah himself was birth.

00:58:13 Pastor Rit

Let them know we'll be a little bit longer, John Michael. I'll try to make.

00:58:16 Pastor Rit

It just a little bit.

00:58:19 Pastor Rit

In Chapter 4 of Micah, if you're there, do you have a heading in your Bible?

00:58:26 Pastor Rit

The promise of the coming king, the Lord's reign in Zion, it's all. It's all about the Lord coming to reign. The Messiah, the King of Israel, the one who the wise men were seeking.

00:58:40 Pastor Rit

Let's pick it up in verse 6.

00:58:46 Pastor Rit

We're talking about Zion's triumph, and that Zion is going to become a nation among the nations once again that Israel, and specifically Jerusalem, will be revered and the people of the world will go to Jerusalem to worship the God of Israel. This is during the millennial reign of Christ.

00:59:02 Pastor Rit

Everybody's there. Chapter 4, verse six in that day, says the Lord, I will assemble the lame. I will gather the outcasts and those whom I have afflicted. This is Israel, who has been punished temporarily, but she's going to be restored back to God. Several of the prophets indicate that, and this was indicated here. I will make the lame.

00:59:21 Pastor Rit

Remnant and the outcast, the young Nation, Strong nation, and so the Lord will reign over them at Mount Zion. When will the reign? When will the Lord reign over Israel? At Mount Zion, during the millennial reign.

00:59:34 Pastor Rit

The end of the revelation thousand year rannum we call the messianic millennial Kingdom.

00:59:40 Pastor Rit

And you owe McDowell Ellar Tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion. To you. Shall it come? Even the former Dominion shall come for the Kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem. Now what he's saying there is that that the King of Israel who's going to reign during the millennial reign over all of Israel at the end of time.

01:00:01 Pastor Rit

He's the one who will come now.

01:00:03 Pastor Rit

Luke records for us.

01:00:06 Pastor Rit

Luke 21 corresponds to Matthew 24 or Mark 13. They're both all three of those chapters in the Gospels are apocalyptic. They all speak about the end of time, Luke 21, around verse 24, so talks about the fact that the fullness of the Gentiles has come in and then.

01:00:26 Pastor Rit

God will once again be working among the Jewish people, fulfilling the 70th 7 of Daniel if you know what I'm talking about there. But this is precisely the time period that that Micah is talking about here. The end of days at the end of the age when the Messiah will return. It's interesting that Proverbs 18:10 says the name of the Lord is a strong tower.

01:00:45 Pastor Rit

And the righteous shall run to it and.

01:00:46 Pastor Rit

Be safe now. Go to Chapter 5 for a minute. Chapter 5.

01:00:53 Pastor Rit

The other heading over Chapter 5, verse 2, the coming of the Messiah, the coming of the king. We're talking about the birth of Christ, the Messiah of Israel. Now there's the first coming. There's the second coming. This applies to the first coming, it says. But you Bethlehem ephrathah. Right. What is this designation? It's not just.

01:01:12 Pastor Rit

Bethlehem, it's Bethlehem, Ephrata.

01:01:20 Pastor Rit

OK.

01:01:23 Pastor Rit

I'm sorry.

01:01:25 Pastor Rit

No, say it again. What did you say? What? No, no, no. You said a district. Did you say the word?

01:01:30 Pastor Rit

District, I heard you say the word district. OK. Bethlehem Ephrata was the agricultural district just outside the city of Bethlehem. The little town of Bethel Little Town of Bethlehem, just outside the little town of Bethlehem. Was this agricultural.

01:01:45 Pastor Rit

District in that agricultural district, there was the and this all of this land was given to the priests for the purpose of raising sheep that will be sacrificed unto God during that period of time. Who gave that land to the?

01:02:01 Pastor Rit

Do you know?

01:02:04 Pastor Rit

Who gave that land to the priest?

01:02:11 Pastor Rit

David the King David the King determined that this territory would be used for the priests, for the purpose of raising the sheep that would be offered unto God in the temple during the the many sacrifices that would take place now. It was just outside the little town of Bethlehem.

01:02:29 Pastor Rit

You could not raise your sheep anywhere near the town or inside Israel. Property had to raise sheep in the willows except except the Levitical shepherds who are deemed by the priests to raise these sheep for the purpose of sacrifice unto God, just outside the little town of Bethlehem. It's called the MacDonald theater.

01:02:54 Pastor Rit

Oh, 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 old from everlasting.

01:03:07 Pastor Rit

Therefore, he shall give them up. Now he's talking about Christ, coming and reigning as King. Zachariah, 14, says, and the Lord shall be king over all the earth. This is what's being prophesied now. Now most Jews understood what was being said here, although they don't believe that Jesus was the.

01:03:23 Pastor Rit

Messiah, now I have a book here. It's an ancient volume. It's well, it's not ancient, but it's all. It's called the Life and Times of Jesus. The Messiah by Edersheim. Is anybody who edersheim was.

01:03:33 Pastor Rit

Who was he?

01:03:37 Pastor Rit

Alfred Ederson was a Jew. He was a Jew. He was born a Jew, and he was a.

01:03:42 Pastor Rit

Born 1825, died 18881889. Excuse me, but he was a he was a Christian convert, a Presbyterian minister had ministered to him with regard to Jesus being the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the first coming of.

01:03:56 Pastor Rit

Messiah. And so in 1845, at 20 years of age, he became a Christian. He became a Messianic Jew. He became a completed Jew, embraced Jesus as his Messiah. But as I said, he died at 58 years old in 1883. But he wrote a volume and all of his research and study with regard to Jesus, the Messiah, and a lot of his Realogy in his text. But as I was reading this, some 20 plus years ago.

01:04:20 Pastor Rit

With regard to the birth narrative of Jesus, that's when I fell upon this fascinating discovery that Jesus would be born at the Migdal, later just outside the little town of Bethlehem, in the very place where the Levitical shepherds were raising these sheep to be offered unto God.

01:04:38 Pastor Rit

And they would have this tower built in the center and you can do your research afterwards. Google McDowell either. OK, MIGDALEDER Migdal later and you'll see that this is exactly what had taken place. Now here's what he wrote. This Jewish believer back in the 1800s.

01:04:57 Pastor Rit

Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem, was a settled conviction absolutely equally. So was the belief that he was to be revealed from the Magdalene or the tower of the flock, for the magdalener. Was that watchtower for the for the ordinary flocks that's pastured on the barren sheep ground, beyond Bethlehem, but lay close to the town. No, they weren't in the wilderness. They were close to the town.

01:05:18 Pastor Rit

Raised by the Levitical.

01:05:20 Pastor Rit

Shepherds on the road to Jerusalem. A passage in the mission that leads to this conclusion that the flocks were pastured there and destined for temple sacrifice, and accordingly, that the shepherds who watched over them were not ordinary shepherds. They were Levitical shepherds. The latter were under the ban of rabbinic M on account of the necessary isolation from religious ordinances.

01:05:41 Pastor Rit

In the manner of life which rendered strict legal observance unlikely, if not absolutely impossible. But the same mission passage also leads us to infer that these flocks lay out all year long. Someone said what had to be, you know, the the the he had to be born in the.

01:06:03 Pastor Rit

Because the shepherds don't allow their flocks to be out in the field in the winter, but these particular flocks would be out there at the migdalia later in that precinct area all year long, is what he's saying here.

01:06:17 Pastor Rit

And the mismatch passion also leads us to infer that the flocks layout all year long, since they are spoken of in the field 30 days before Passover, and that is the month of February when in Palestine the average rainfall is nearly this greatest. Thus, Jewish tradition in some dim manner apprehend that first revelation of the inside of the first revelation.

01:06:33 Pastor Rit

Messiah from the Migdal Eder, where the shepherds watched the temple flocks all year long of the deep. Symbolic significance of such a coincidence.

01:06:44 Pastor Rit

Needless to speak, now, what he's saying is that here. Now listen, it would be, and I can't be dogmatic about this, but I have a strong position that I believe Jesus was born at the Magnolia or which is just outside the little town of Bethlehem, where these Levitical shepherds were ordained.

01:07:01 Pastor Rit

Opened by the priest to raise these sheep for one specific purpose, not for their wool, not for consumption, but for sacrifice to God. And when they would raise these sheep. When the U's were ready to drop their their.

01:07:15 Pastor Rit

Youngins right. They would bring them in to the inside of the tower and it was scrubbed. Spotless because all of this is for God. And so they had to be cleansed. There was a ceremonial cleansing to this whole area and they would bring in these views as they were pregnant and ready to give birth. They put them in different stalls and cribs. And then when they're ready to give birth, they bring them out and they'd help them in the birthing pros.

01:07:33 Pastor Rit

Us and when the Lambs were born, they had to do something because they couldn't offer any lamb was spot or blemish that every lamb that had to be offered under God had to be without spot, without blemish. So no birth defects and no injuries.

01:07:47 Pastor Rit

What do? What do we do to babies when they're first born today?

01:07:50 Pastor Rit

We wrapped our hands, don't we? Why do we do?

01:07:52 Pastor Rit

That so they don't scratch themselves, right?

01:07:55 Pastor Rit

Listen, these temple shepherds would birth these youths, babies, Rams were offered for burnt offerings used for the peace offering, but as soon as they were born they would be cleansed. They would be examined for any birth defects. And then if there were none, they would.

01:08:10 Pastor Rit

Wrap them in swaddling cloth.

01:08:13 Pastor Rit

And care for them.

01:08:16 Pastor Rit

Now when Jesus made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when he entered in through the sheep's gate, that is the same gate that all of these temple shepherds would be hurting the flocks that were raised at the Magnolia or at the at the at Bethlehem Ephrathah right they as he was coming in, so were all these sheep.

01:08:37 Pastor Rit

Isn't this an amazing coincidence?

01:08:40 Pastor Rit

That Jesus was born there not not in a dirty stable with cows and donkeys and chickens and geese.

01:08:48 Pastor Rit

No, and there would be no wonder that somehow there would be given a revelation to these shepherds as the shepherds in the hill, the same shepherds right, knew exactly where to go. This will be a sign to you, shepherds.

01:09:01 Pastor Rit

Where you'll find them.

01:09:03 Pastor Rit

In the the Manger wrapped in so they knew exactly where to go. They were running around Bethlehem. They didn't have GPS to try to guide them, but they knew exactly what this sign meant. They were the very shepherds who were committed to do their sanction to do this or they to do this.

01:09:20 Pastor Rit

And it would be no wonder.

01:09:23 Pastor Rit

That he would be born the Good Shepherd, the Great Shepherd, the chief shepherd of the flock. Born there, the Lamb of God takes away the sins of the world. They're wonderful.

01:09:35 Pastor Rit

Yeah, I've already won. I've already kept you too long.

01:09:38 Pastor Rit

I love you. I hope you enjoyed it. Shall we stand?

01:09:41 Pastor Rit

Thank you for listening to this message from Community Chapel of Greenville.

01:09:45 Pastor Rit

For more information and to find more messages like this, please visit to www.ccgrenville.org.

01:09:52 Pastor Rit

It is our desire to see our Lord High and lift it up and to see his people grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.