

the story

Pastor
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GOD'S STORY IS OUR STORY

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The Context:

The Intertestamental Period Between Malachi and Matthew; _____.

The Rise of the _____.

“⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.”

~ GALATIANS 4:4-5 (NIV)

The Fullness of Time in the Lower Story

- Pax Romana
- Openness between cultures and ideas
- Advanced system of Roman roads
- Widespread use of Greek language

The Fullness of Time in the Upper Story

- Spiritual hunger for the Messiah
- Dates and Details of Prophecies (*Daniel 9:24-27*)
- “God loved the world so much that he sent His only son.”
~ JOHN 3:16a

THE BIRTH OF THE KING IN MATTHEW, LUKE AND JOHN

The Genealogies:

Matthew: Back to Abraham

Luke: Back to Adam

John: “In the Beginning was the Word.”

“¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

~ JOHN 1:1-5, 14 (NIV)

JOHN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:

Jesus the _____ became a man to show us _____.

Incarnation

“The glory of the incarnation is that it presents to our adoring gaze not a humanized God or a deified man, but a true God man – one who is all that God is, and at the same time all that man is—one on whose almighty arm we can rest and to whose human sympathy we can appeal.”

| BENJAMIN WARFIELD

The Proper Response to Jesus, God in Flesh:

“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the World.” ~ JOHN 1:29b

Luke's Christmas Message:

Lower story full of _____ .

Upper story full of Jesus the Savior for _____ .

“¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.”

~ LUKE 2:1 (NIV)

THE SURPRISING CHRISTMAS DETAILS:

Jesus born in a _____ and laid in a _____ .

Raised in _____ .

Mary; Unwed teenage mom from a _____ .

Jospeh; A righteous man with no believable excuse.

Shepherds: Unclean and _____ .

The Proper Response to Jesus the Savior to All:

“I am the Lord's servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.”

~ LUKE 1:38a

MATTHEW'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:

Jesus is the Messiah, King of _____ .

“¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’”

~ MATTHEW 2:1-2 (NIV)

“¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

~ MATTHEW 2:10-11 (NIV)

The Gifts of the Wisemen:

Gold: _____ .

Frankincense: _____ .

Myrrh: _____ for one who would give His life.

The Proper Response to Jesus the Messiah King:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS *available on the APP* |     Google TV

- 1 - What is your favorite part about Christmas and why?
- 2 - How would you explain the concept that at the “Fullness of Time” God sent His son?
- 3 - The Birth of the King is covered in three different Gospels each from a slightly different perspective. What does it mean to you that each Gospel has a somewhat different perspective and purpose?
- 4 - Read John 1:1-14. What are the implications of the idea that Jesus the eternal creator became a man to show us the way to God. What other messages do you see in John 1?

- 5 - Luke's Christmas story includes so many surprising people and details. Which is the most surprising for you when it come to the birth of a King? How is Mary's response in Luke 1:38 an inspiration to you?
- 6 - Read Matthew 2:1-12. What would you describe as the big idea of this passage?
- 7 - What are some ways that you could prepare yourself to have the most meaningful Christmas possible this year?

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