



Pastor's Reflections-

Merry Christmas

And blessings from Pastor Ed & Debi at this very special time of year as we celebrate the First Coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ –

Immanuel, God with us. May God be with us all as we await Jesus' soon return for His Church~ Maranatha.

Article-Clearing Away a Christmas Myth

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but where? In a “stable,” right? No.

The Bible declares to us “there was no room for them in the inn” (Luke 2:7). It says nothing about a stable or barn; or even an innkeeper. Thus the erroneous assumption is made that Jesus ended up being born in a wood stable.

Where this idea came from is a mystery, but it has certainly become the belief in the West as seen in Christmas carols, cards, and decorations.

That Jesus would be born in Bethlehem Ephrathah (Micah 5:2), the City of David, is a settled fact.

The fields around Bethlehem (Shepherds Fields) have many caves. Indeed the flocks which pastured there were destined for Temple-sacrifices and accordingly the shepherds who watched over them were not ordinary shepherds. The shepherds would have been Levitical shepherds responsible for caring for the sheep destined for sacrifices during Passover and other Feasts to the Lord.



The caves, necessarily ritually purified, were used for shelter as needed and especially for the birthing of lambs. A little lamb is clumsy at birth. It would have been wrapped in swaddling cloths to keep it from

hurting itself (Deuteronomy 17:1; Hebrews 9:14). The swaddling cloths were repurposed old, worn-out, priest garments which cannot be thrown away.

Note: how did the shepherds know where to go; the angel didn't say? Remember in Luke 2 an angel appeared and told the shepherds, “. . . unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the **LORD**. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:11-12 KJV).

So too, Jesus the Lamb of God, was also wrapped in swaddling cloths and placed in the manger. Where did Mary get the cloths and how did she know she would need them? Remember Mary's cousin Elizabeth (a daughter of Aaron Luke 1:5) was married to Zechariah, a priest. Both knew Jesus was Messiah (Luke 1:39-45). It is likely Zechariah provided his worn priestly garments.

Jesus was born without and lived without sin; He offered Himself as our Passover Lamb (Hebrews 4:15). At this, His First Incarnation, Jesus was crucified and died on **Passover**, and was buried on the **Feast of Unleavened Bread**, and rose at the **Feast of First Fruits**; are all Spring feasts. All the Feasts of the **LORD** are the prophetic **Feasts of the LORD**.

Doesn't it make sense then that Jesus will continue to follow this pattern. So Jesus must return at one of the Fall feasts which take place in the seventh month; Tishri on the Lunar calendar. They are the Feast of Trumpets, the Feast of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles (Booths). On our Gregorian calendar Tishri falls in September/October . Something to think about . . . and prepare for, yes?



Troughs or mangers like this are found all over Israel

D. D. Edwards

Bible- *But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will come forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His times of coming forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity. . . . “BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN WILL CONCEIVE AND GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND THEY SHALL NAME HIM IMMANUEL,” WHICH TRANSLATED MEANS, “GOD WITH US.”* (Mica 5:2; Matthew 1:23).

Welcome Aboard-

**Dawn
McCarthy**



Pastor Appreciation Sunday-

Prayer Requests

1. Faye Tucker-healing from knee surgery
2. Angela Sawyer
3. Barbara Pascucci
4. Debi Pruitt- healing for her wrists & Mohs surgery
5. Pastor Ed- find the cause of his rash



Save-your Sundays for Savior Sundays

Times of Worship in anticipation of the celebration of the birth of Jesus our Savior

- ✚ **Nov. 27th 6pm~Hanging of the Greens~** *A great way to start the High Holy Holiday*
- ✚ **Dec. 4th 6pm~ Cumbee/Anderson Christmas Musical~** *You definitely do not wanna miss these talented ladies*
- ✚ **Dec. 11th 6pm~ “Why the Nativity”~** *Docudrama from David Jeremiah/Turning Point Ministry*
- ✚ **Dec. 18th 6pm~ Shoreline Choir Christmas Special** *Making Much of Jesus*
- ✚ **Dec. 24th 6pm~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** *Communion Service*
- ✚ **Dec. 25th 10:30am~ Christmas Day Service**



It's A Girl!

Laura and Elliott Helms, regular attendees, are expecting their first baby in December. The Shoreline Baptist Church ladies gave them a baby shower and we excitedly anticipate this precious baby. If you would be interested in nursery duty contact Debi Pruitt - 706-348-5010



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