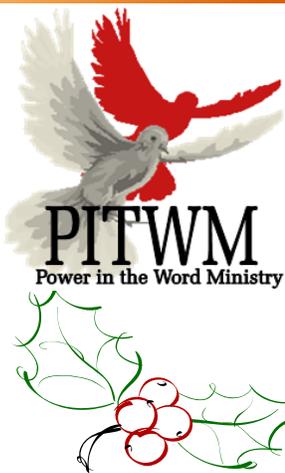




**POWER IN THE WORD MINISTRY**



**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- **God's loves endures throughout all generations through Jesus Christ!**
- **Celebrate the Spirit of Christmas by Celebrating Christ!**
- **God can put Families back together if you let Him!**
- **Love brings out the best!**
- **Prepare to wear the Crown, because the Excellence of God want let you quit!**

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**EDITOR'S WORDS BY GLORIA JEAN WOODARD**

**Follow The True Star Of Christmas Matt.2:1-12:**

Today I want to take you on a journey back two thousand years ago. I want to tell you a story of two kingdoms—two kingdoms that are still present and competing for our interests today.

**But First I Have To Set The Scene For You [When]:**

It's a familiar story, but somewhat clouded by years of tradition. This story, contrary to what you might think, didn't take place in a manger, and it didn't take place when Jesus was a newborn baby. There were no accidental meetings between shepherds and the characters of this story, for this story took place when Jesus had grown perhaps to the stage of crawling, or perhaps even at the stage when Jesus had begun to walk, for it took place, not the night of Jesus' birth, but within the first two years of Jesus' birth. [Where]:

It took place not in a manger, but according to Matthew 2:11 in a house. Mary and Joseph, and their child Jesus, lived in a house in a small, nondescript town called Bethlehem. It was nothing more than a small village; gone were the shepherds, although as they left they had broadcasted the news of Jesus' birth to everyone in the area, but in that small, insignificant town, life began to return to normal. They had found a house in Bethlehem in which to live. Jesus was growing, able to do new things all the time. As new parents, Mary and Joseph would sit there amazed at how their little baby was developing for reasons unknown to us. They hadn't yet returned to their hometown of Nazareth but life was beginning to return to normal for Mary, Joseph, and their growing infant Jesus.

**[Characters]:**

But let me introduce you to three sets of characters that make up this story. **The first character, and probably the most colorful, is introduced in Matt.2:1**

**as King Herod.** He could be cruel and merciless. He was incredibly jealous, suspicious, and afraid for his own position and power. Herod did not take any competition lightly.

**The second set of characters introduced to us is mentioned in v1—the Magi.**

Right away, banish all ideas you may have of three kings of Orient. We know little of these men. We don't even know how many there were. We don't know where they were from, except from the East—probably Persia, Arabia, or Babylon. They weren't kings; they were astrologers or magicians. They were uncircumcised, idol-worshiping heathen, Babylonian, magician—astrologers. Led by a star, these Magi arrived in Jerusalem, and went around asking, "Where is he who is born King of the Jews?" Somehow they had studied and determined that a King had been born in Israel, perhaps they had even read the prophecy of Balaam in Num.24:17: "A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel." But picture these Magi, because they were powerful men in the east. It is likely that they arrived with a large contingent of soldiers and servants. They had the look of prestige, wealth, and power. Imagine their surprise that nobody in Jerusalem seemed to know about this special baby's whereabouts. But they wandered around Jerusalem making inquiries, "Where is he who is born King of the Jews?" And now picture Herod, cruel

CON'T: FOLLOW THE TRUE STAR OF CHRISTMAS MATT.2:1-12

Herod, ready to execute anyone who is a threat to his kingdom. At this point he is some seventy years old, but not willing at all to entertain competition for his job as King of the Jews. *Matt.2:3*, King Herod heard, and he was disturbed. People knew that when Herod got disturbed it often meant bloodshed. **But there's a third set of characters introduced in v4: the chief priest and teachers of the law.** The chief priests were a group of leading priests who had both political and religious power. Matthew also mentions **scribes and teachers of the law.** These were experts in the O.T.

and its oral tradition. These were a group of people that likely didn't get along with the chief priests, but Herod asks these two groups where the Messiah was to be born, and they respond, "In Bethlehem!" Verse 7 tells us that Herod met secretly with the Magi, asked them when the star had appeared. You see, already Herod was planning to kill every male baby of the right age in the small village of Bethlehem and its vicinity, and Herod needed to know what age of the child he should be concerned about. Herod would stop at nothing to eliminate potential threats to his rule. He sent the Magi on their

way, asking only that they return and tell him where to find the child so he says, so he can go and worship too. They leave; they find Jesus in the house in Bethlehem, and they worship Jesus, the King of the Jews. **So use your imagination:** go back two thousand years, picture Mary and Joseph opening their front door, and in shock to see these foreign, uncircumcised, idol-worshipping, heathen, Babylonian, magician, astrologers standing there, with a contingent of soldiers and servants. Now understand also, Herod just waiting for an opportunity to kill anyone who threatens his reign—even a little child.

*Matt.2:16* says that Herod was en-

*"Gold was the gift for a King. Incense is what a Priest uses in sacrifice rituals. And Myrrh was used to prepare bodies for Burial."*

CON'T: FOLLOW THE TRUE STAR OF CHRISTMAS MATT.2:1-12

raged when he heard that he had been tricked by the Magi, who didn't return to report the location of Jesus to him. He knew that the child he was wanting to destroy was the Messiah. Some, like the chief priests and scribes, didn't hate Jesus, but were indifferent to Him. The priests knew scripture, and they pointed others to the Savior, but they wouldn't go themselves. They quoted *Micah 5:2*, but didn't obey it. Throughout history, there have been people who are indifferent to God.

Some like Herod, are immediately hate-

ful, wanting only to destroy Jesus. Others, like the chief priests and the scribes, pay little attention to God and "His Way." It's easy to be indifferent to Christ, even at Christmas. It's possible to know all the gospel accounts of Christmas and how he was born, and live as though Christmas is about Santa, the gift-giving, entertaining, over-spending, and the Nutcracker. However, some, like the Magi, came to the house, for they had Followed the True Star, where they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down, and

worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. The Magi offered Jesus expensive and uncommon presents, and fell down and worshiped Him. These uncircumcised, idol-worshipping, heathen, Babylonian, magician, astrologers who didn't know the scriptures, had the privilege of paying homage to the King of kings. We must focus on and worship the True Star of Christmas—Jesus Christ, God with us.

**HAVE A JOYOUS CELEBRATION OF CHRIST!**

**"FAMILY"** God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land. *Ps.68:6*

Family is very important—to God and to you. Some, you don't see very often, and some you really don't want to see when they come. However, God has created the family to be apart of our lives. There is a strategy to being around family and only God can give it to you. You see every family member plays a part of your life in training you. Mom and dad trains you in our "how to" act around others (social habits); our polite-

ness (yes maam'/no sir, manners); our understanding in business (money/a person of your word); our clothes (what looks presentable); our trust and mistrust of others, beliefs and unbeliefs etc. But God trains us in our "love walk." Many memories come from the family. Yes, whether you knew it at the time, or have come to know it at the time, or have come to know it now, families are very important.

Now the family of God, has been knitly joined together by God as the body of Christ, to productively help those in the family also. However, if you were not trained properly in your immediate family, and you tried to get away from them, you will continue to do the same in the Christian family, the family of God. Remember I said earlier, those you really don't want to see, but God have you around them...?

**PRAYER:**

Thank You Lord today and everyday! You keep making a way and bringing joy into what seemed to be unwanted circumstances! Well, Praise the Lord! Thank You for preserving my life and so many others that came through difficult times this year!; so many bereaved families; so many of those that were ill and the doctors gave up, But God, brought them through. Thank You Lord for a soul saved, a soul turned from the depths of Hell. Lord, You are getting us to

the place where we need to be with You without any help from us, for we would surely mess it up, if it were not for you on our side.

Lord, I pray that many hearts and minds be turned toward You this Christmas season instead of running around looking for the perfect gift; that they would remember You are the "Perfect Gift" for all mankind. You are "*Immanuel, God With Us!*"

Our families need a Savior, of our

friends need a Savior! I really don't want them to be lost forever. As I share "Jesus" with them, I pray that they will be ready and willing to accept Your Call; that they be quick to hear and ready to say "Yes" to your Way for them. I pray for mighty laborers to dwell in your vineyard, a mighty move of the holy Spirit in sinners lives, and that the Harvest will be plentiful!  
**Praise God!**

CONT: **"FAMILY"** At this special time of the year and going into a New Year, old habits and old concepts are to be shed off and be replaced with newer and better habits and concepts. *e.g. call up those you haven't talked to in a long time. It doesn't have to be long. Ask if they need prayer for anything.* You are just getting your foot through the door and it gets you out of your fear of meeting strangers. Well you say you can meet strangers better than some relatives? Well treat them as

if they are a stranger you're meeting for the first time and forget about the past. We're dealing with your family first, because I know there are issues in some, and then you can deal with the family of God. You say, well you don't know my family! Some of them will never act right. God has an order and whatever the inside state of your household is , it will scatter seeds on the outside. So therefore get the inside structure of your household together

and the other structures you build, can be stable because you've been through the tough times in your own family. You might be the only light that God will show them at this time. *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" Matt.5:16.* So allow your light to shine bright over all the tricks of the enemy. Your fight is not with them, but against powers, principalities, rulers of the darkness, and spiritual wickedness; not flesh and blood. Keep that in mind!

The rule is to let Jesus lead and the Holy

{ *Love till you are beside yourself! Love because there is nothing impossible through God!* }

CONT: **"FAMILY"**

Spirit be umpire to dissolve conflicts, battles, and confrontations. Your ammunition will be love. **Love** till you are beside yourself. **Love** till crude remarks don't hurt anymore (not easily provoked). **Love** till hate goes. **Love** till death parts you! You'll be surprised at the results, because that old you, that used to say, "*I don't want to go around them, will begin to say 'nothing is impossible through You Lord', I love'em and they can't do nothing about it !"*

Being around family is a joy! And sometimes the only family, people are around, are those with whom they associate at church. Look out

among you to see who needs talking to; who needs prayer; who needs a helping hand, because the Word says, "*when you have come through the time of testing, turn to your companions (including family) and give them a fresh start"* Lk.22:32 (The Message Bible). You have to be motivated by "**Love**" — who is Jesus! Nothing is too hard for God and it's never too late!

He gives homes and families to those who are solitary (growing singly) outcasts and wanderers, and sets the captive free. The word "*solitary*" means singular, or one. In the Hebrew, the word is "*yachid*"

meaning that the one will unite. God oftentimes has one person in a family who is serving Him; consequently, the Salvation of the entirety of the family is dependent upon that one person. If the light is given by the solitary one, and it is rebuked, the Lord says, "*the rebellious shall dwell in a dry land.*" They have only this time to get it right. Therefore, your family is your assignment: to pray for, treat kindly, spend time with, encourage, check on, but most of all learn to love as God loves.

**God Bless!**

## YOU CANNOT BE A QUITTER AND A CROWN WEARER AT THE SAME TIME!

*"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that ye may obtain" 1Corth.9:24.*

I'm reminded of a marathon runner, who is in the race to go the distance. His focus is the finish line. However, before starting the race, there is preparation. The preparation started with his mind and heart, because they have a heart of running, to say I **can** do it. Then it began with his body, to train it to endure. That's the natural.

However, the same goes for the spiritual. The preparation begins in our mind and hearts. The Word of God is

fed in our minds and received in our hearts by the power of the Spirit of God. Then it's applied to our daily walk to endure because you exercise your faith by trusting and being obedient to the Word and Spirit of God. We exercise our faith when we speak against, when we call those things that be not as if they are; when we believe His Grace is sufficient enough while in the midst of the situation; having the peace that passeth all understanding.

Yes the marathon runner may get to his goal to win a material fight, but the spiritual runner runs to receive the

Crown of Life, and we can't give up! No! The strength inside of us is greater than that of a natural runner. The Almighty God living in us shows us that when we're weak we're strong. In conflicts, His Grace is sufficient! In battle, His strength overpowers any temptation, if we rely on Him. Just because we don't see the reward now, there is a reward, and it's greater than any reward down here on earth.

Yes the marathon runner receives a prize made by hands, but the spiritual runner receives a prize made not by hands. Being truly sealed by the Spirit of God, the devil can't fool you, can't get in, can't deceive you, can't entice you, can't turn you

*"Gold was the gift for a King. Incense is what a Priest uses in sacrifice rituals. And Myrrh was used to prepare bodies for Burial."*

CON'T.: YOU CANNOT BE A QUITTER AND A CROWN WEARER AT THE SAME TIME!

around, can't hold you back! Do you get it?

Allowing Jesus to take that yoke off you, allows you to rest during times of conflict. And by resting, the weight can't overpower you. Jesus is the One carrying the weight and He is the one that endures inside of us if we allow Him. **He Won't Let Us Give Up!**

God's reward is Everlasting Life! Everlasting Life to the end. I'm so glad! I'm so glad it all depends on Him. The run becomes lighter. Lighter as I mature. Lighter as I exercise my faith in Him. Lighter where enemies don't upset me.

I then see a strength displayed that I didn't think I had, or ever could have. **Praise God! ! !**

There is an end, and it's not given to the swift nor to the strong, but to the one who endures. And sometimes it will get harder, but remember, God on the inside helps fight every attack, every battle, every enemy, every hurt, every fatigued moment that will bring lightness to the situation. Know that you will wear the Crown of Life. The crown is given to those who live for Christ, and endure temptations, in the power of the love of God to the end.

Know that it will take endurance. **And endurance can not come about without preparation.**

Begin to prepare the mind, the heart, and the body. It will take all three working together—Spirit, Soul, and Body. And when all three are on one accord, there is unity. Unity in the spirit, unity in the mind, and unity in the body, will enable us to "Press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" *Phil.3:14*. It's like having three cords platted together to form one rope. And one rope working, being strong, holding

Con't.: YOU CANNOT BE A QUITTER AND A CROWN WEARER AT THE SAME TIME!

each together, endures. *Each is holding the other. "We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also be-*

*lieve, and therefore speak; For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."* *2Corth.4:7-9,13,16-18.*

**Don't Quit, Wear the Crown**

May 18, 2004  
Revised November 2009

## "THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE"

**The First Tree was The Cross:** Jh.19:17. The tree reminds us of the crucifixion of Christ. Interestingly, scripture often refers to His death on a tree, rather than on a cross. *He himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree...* 1 Peter 2:24.

**The First Lights was Jesus' Body:** Jh.19:18. Jesus in the midst of anything will light up the world. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness...Jh.1:4-5,9.

**The First Ornament was the Crown:** Jh.19:2. He has a crown of thorns because He is the ruler of a world filled with pain. He was crowned (given authority) with thorns (only through great pain). of Christ, Christ wearing the curse

of man and becoming our curse being hung on the tree and wearing our punishment because he loved us. However, in that glorious day as a victor's wreath, many crowns of glory will be crowned upon Him.

The Angle hung on the tree, represent the Angels who heralded the Birth of the Messiah.

The Star, one of the important ornaments of the Christmas Tree, indicates the guiding star which led the Shepherds and Kings to the new born Jesus Christ.

**The First Gifts were His Blood and The Holy Spirit:** Jh.19:34. The blood cleanses men of their sins. The life of

any living thing is in its blood. The water washes and signifies the Spirit living within poured out for the regeneration which Jesus was to bring. When the blood and water came from His side, it also symbolized the beginning of the church—the body of Christ covered with the blood and filled with the Holy Spirit's Power. There are many other gifts that come because of Jesus Christ.

So, this Christmas season, we need only see the tree, it's lights, ornaments, and gifts as a symbol of Christ's sacrifice for us, always pointing heavenward. We are only imitating the First symbol of God's Christmas Tree! By faith receive Jesus rather than the earthly treasures/gifts. *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith...To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life...Rev.2:7*

## Christmas Alphabet

A is for Angels, appearing so bright, telling of Jesus that first Christmas.	Luke 2:13
B is for Bethlehem, crowded and old birthplace of Jesus by prophet foretold.	Micah 5:2
C is for Cattle, their manger His bed, there in the trough where he laid his head.	Luke 2:7
D is for David, and his ancient throne promised forever to Jesus alone.	Luke 1:32
E is for East, where shone the bright star which Magi on camels followed afar.	Luke 2:1,2
F is for Frankincense, with myrrh and gold, brought by the wise Men as Matthew has told.	Matt. 2:11b
G is for God, who from heaven above sent down to mankind the Son of his love.	John 3:16
H is for Herod, whose murderous scheme was told to Joseph in a nocturnal dream.	Matt. 2:13
I is for Immanuel, "God with us," for Christ brought man back to the Father's house.	Is. 7:14b
J is for Joseph, so noble and just obeying God's Word with absolute trust.	Matt. 1:24
K is for King. A true King He would be, coming in power and authority.	Zech. 9:9a
L is for Love, that He brought down to earth God enfleshed in lowly birth.	1John 4:9
M is for Mary, His mother so brave, counting God faithful and mighty to save.	Luke 1:38a
N is for Night, when the Savior was born for nations of earth and people forlorn.	Luke 2:8
O is for Omega, meaning "the last;" He's Eternal, Present, Future, and Past.	Rev. 22:13
P is for Prophets, when living on earth foretold His redemption and blessed birth.	Num. 24:17
Q is for Quickly, as shepherds who heard, hastened to act on that heavenly word.	Luke 2:16
R is for Rejoice. The sorrow of sin is banished forever when Jesus come in.	Luke 1:14
S is for Savior. To be this He came, the angel of God assigned him His name.	Matt. 1:21
T is for Tidings of joy, not of danger, telling of Him who was laid in a manger	Luke 2:10
U is for Us, to whom Jesus was given to show us the way and take us to heaven.	Luke 2:11
V is for Virgin, foretold by the sage, God's revelation on prophesy's page.	Matt. 1:23
W is for Wonderful, His works and His words, the King of all kings, the Lord of all lords.	Is. 9:6
X is for Christ. It's X in the Greek, Anointed, Messiah, Mighty, yet meek.	Acts 10:38a
Y is for Yes, called God's Yes in His word; God's answer to all is Jesus the Lord.	2Corth. 1:20
Z is for Zeal as it burned in Christ's heart. Lord, by thy Spirit to Us zeal impart.	John 2:17

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Is. 9:6*

**POWER IN THE WORD**

For the Word of god is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

**POWER IN THE WORD MINISTRY:**  
**My MISSION:** Reach and encourage others in letting you know that God is able to do the impossible.  
**My VISION:** Be on the web reaching those I don't see but God does.

**IT CAN HAPPEN**

How much more shall your Father which is in heaven, give good things to them that ask him? Matthew 7:11b  
**IT CAN HAPPEN :**

**My MISSION:** Use the God-given gifts for His glory!  
**My VISION:** Teach others to reach for those God-given gifts in

**LEARNING SALVATION SCRIPTURES:**

1ST WEEK	2ND WEEK	3RD WEEK	4TH WEEK
<b>BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR, AND KNOCK: IF ANY MAN HEAR MY VOICE, AND OPEN THE DOOR, I WILL COME IN TO HIM, AND WILL SUP WITH HIM, AND HE WITH ME.</b> <b>REVELATION 3:20</b>	<b>IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.</b> <b>1 JOHN 1:9</b>	<b>AS FAR AS THE EAST IS FROM THE WEST, SO FAR HATH HE REMOVED OUR TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US.</b> <b>PSALM 103:12</b>	<b>BUT HE THAT SHALL ENDURE UNTO THE END, THE SAME SHALL BE SAVED.</b> <b>HEBREWS 7:25</b>

Meditate on these for 30 days. Get them into your heart. They will be needed when leading a soul to Christ.

Check out the website [pitwm.net](http://pitwm.net)

"For with God nothing shall be impossible."

Luke 1:37

**Dates To Remember**  
**DECEMBER 2009**

Dec. 21 Winter begins  
 Dec. 25. Christmas

**QUIZ TIME:**

- When Mary became pregnant, Mary and Joseph were  
 a) married      b) just friends      c) engaged
- How many angels spoke to the shepherds?  
 a) a multitude    b) two - Gabriel and Michael    c) one
- What song did the angels sing?  
 a) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"      b) "Joy to the World"  
 c) "Glory to God in the Highest"      d) none of the above
- What is a manger anyway?  
 a) a barn    b) a place for hay    c) a feeding trough
- Joseph's family was from  
 a) Jerusalem      b) Nazareth      c) Bethlehem
- Who saw the star over Bethlehem?  
 a) Mary and Joseph    b) shepherds    c) the three kings  
 d) both b and c      e) none of the above
- How many wise men came to see Jesus? \_\_\_\_  
 (Write in correct number)
- What in the world are Magi?  
 a) Eastern kings    b) magicians  
 c) astrologers      d) wise enough to follow the star
- When the wise men brought their gifts to Jesus, they found Him in  
 a) a manger      b) a house      c) none of the above

- What was special about Jesus' mother?  
 a) She was beautiful      b) She was a prophetess  
 c) She loved God      d) She was a virgin
- Who was Jesus descended from?  
 a) King Saul      b) King David  
 c) Jeremiah      d) Moses

**Match the sentences from the book of Luke**

- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| ___ 11. "And in the sixth month | A. highly favored      |
| ___ 12. "And when she saw him   | B. shall conceive      |
| ___ 13. "Hail thou art          | C. the babe leaped     |
| ___ 14. "Behold thou            | D. shall come upon     |
| ___ 15. "He shall be great      | E. shall give unto him |
| ___ 16. "bring forth a son!     | F. ...shall be called  |
| ___ 17. "Son of the Highest     | G. the angel Gabriel   |
| ___ 18. "The Holy Ghost         | H. shall call his name |
| ___ 19. "For with God nothing   | I. shall be impossible |
| ___ 20. "Mary                   | J. she was troubled    |

- Answers:
- |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. C (Matt.1:18)                | 7. Bible doesn't say            |
| 2. C (Lk.2:10)                  | 8. B (Matt.2:11)                |
| 3. D (Lk.2:13)                  | 9. Bread-Heaven (6:50)          |
| 4. C                            | 10. Angel-season-troubled (5:4) |
| 5. C (Lk.2:4)                   | 11. G (1:26)                    |
| 6. E (3 Kgs. are not mentioned) | 12. J (1:29)                    |
|                                 | 13. A (1:28)                    |
|                                 | 14. B (1:31)                    |
|                                 | 15. F (1:32)                    |
|                                 | 16. H (1:31)                    |
|                                 | 17. E (1:32)                    |
|                                 | 18. D (1:35)                    |
|                                 | 19. I (1:37)                    |
|                                 | 20. C (1:41)                    |