

The Four words of Christmas

Nativity

This is cool. Did you know that the word Horoscope has a meaning? I did but I didn't. It means this "a forecast of a person's future, typically including a delineation of character and circumstances, based on the relative positions of the stars and planets at the time of that person's birth." The word Nativity is described as a horoscope of Jesus birth. That is true. Think about it. the Bible story has stars, heavenly hosts, and gifts that symbolize the future of Jesus.

Most of us think of nativity as that picture of Jesus in a stable surrounded by animals, his parents, wise men, shepherds, and a star shining down. It's a nice scene. The flip side is the realists. Jesus was born with parts of cloth wrapped around him. She was pregnant by suspicious circumstances. There was no room to birth so they used a stable. Was it cold? The birth cradle was a food trough. Did it smell in there? Was their food? Where did they sleep the second night? It's not a nice scene.

Yet, we do know the nativity scene. If you want to promote Jesus it works. Christmas is the nativity. Santa gives gifts just like the wise men did. We sing Christmas carols just like the heavenly hosts did. A birth is a joyous time of year. So is Christmas for most. We have Easter, Halloween, and many other traditions but Christmas is the biggest. Let's just walk through the nativity just a little.

Did you know that the wise men were not at the birth? In all honesty we don't have much information about what really happened. What we do know is that Jesus was born and the ruler

Herod was a man who dabbled in astrology. He had heard of the signs of a future ruler being born. A prophesy was coming true due to the signs. Yet, he had no clue where. This man wanted to kill the child. There was going to be no messiah to take Rome on his watch. How do we know Jesus was around two years old when the wise men arrived? After the wisemen left, Herod ordered all the Hebrew children 2 and under to be killed. Right after this, Joseph and his young family booked it to Egypt. Clearly, Jesus was probably several months old at least.

Secondly, we have the barn scene. Were the animals surrounding Jesus? We don't know. The angels came sometime during or after Jesus birth and talked to the shepherds. Yes, the shepherds were there near the birth. During or after the birth? We just don't know. Did the angels come too? The Bible does not say.

Let's talk about the star. Was it a star? In the Bible a star can be a royal line. A child. Did the wise men follow a star or a prophesy? It's unlikely they were Jewish either. Some Persian prophesy told of signs of a baby. These men were most likely Persian from the east. Quickly if your look at Isaiah 11 it talks about the root of Jesse. In revelation 22 it mentions that root to be the offspring of David Jesse's son. They called him the morning star. Matthew says it was a star in the sky. This is all we have to go on as to what this star really was.

I love the joke that says Jesus was born in a manger. It's funny. Why shepherds? They were the least loved people in those days. The dirty stinking sheep herders. They probably were very low class. It's how God rolls. Women were at the tomb first. Sheep herders saw Jesus first. Even Zechariah John the Baptists Father new of the coming child. A prophetess named Anna wanted to see the child. So did a God-fearing man named Simeon. So many signs, visions, and prophesy accompany this little nativity scene. Of course we also have the seeking wise men.

We can argue about Christmas on many levels. Sure, the word Christmas is under attack. Many nativity scenes have been banned. It's an odd thing really. Yes, it's a Christian event. However, Jesus is a Jewish baby. The whole world has some form of Santa. I'd like to think that the current nativity scene is a mosaic of the whole baby Jesus experience. It's a collage of the wise men, shepherds, Mary, and a stable. We celebrate that people from far and wide came to see baby Jesus. That means something.

Far too often people go too deep. The nativity is not right. The time line is wrong. How could Mary be a virgin. Angels, God, and a messiah? How can it be? Yet, we have heard of stories about babies found in dumpsters. There have been car births and miracle babies. We have heard it all. Yet, Jesus can't be? The nativity reminds us that not everything is as it seems. If God does exist then miracles can happen. The nativity scene is a collage of one big fat miracle. The coming of the world's savior though human means. How cool is that.