THE JOURNEY of Christmas

Agape Life Church — December 25, 2022

*So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "**Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."** And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.* Luke 2:15-16

*Now after Jesus was 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 has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."***
Matthew 2:1-2

The Road to the First Christmas Took Many Journeys

We see a number of important journeys associated with the coming of Christ in the Christmas story. Gabriel traveling from heaven to earth to proclaim the plan of God to Mary. Then Mary travels to visit Elisabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. After that Joseph and Mary journey to Bethlehem. The Shepherds then travel to witness the birth of Christ. The most famous Journey of the wise men from the east came and found the Christ child and gave Him gifts. After that Joseph warned in a dream travels with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Then finally they all return back to Galilee in Israel to the city of Nazareth where it all began when Gabriel announced the Good news to Mary.

Of all these journeys, the longest and the most important was Jesus coming <u>from heaven to earth</u> to bring salvation to all who would believe.

The Journey to the Light

The Shepherds and the wise men from the east made their journey; the shepherds from close and the wise me from afar.

*Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, **I am the light of the world. <u>He who follows Me</u> shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life**.* John 8:12

Core Point: The journey of Christmas is a road we travel that takes us past the darkness in the world around us to follow the light before us. As we discover what God reveals, our life is changed forever!

Light always overcomes darkness - always remember, *the darkness does not win.*

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:4–5 ESV

*For once you were full of darkness, **but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!*** Ephesians 5:8 NLT

The Journey to Revelation

*All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and **no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him."** Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; for I tell you that **many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it."*** Luke 10:22-23

This is the legacy of the wise men from the east.

*So I say to you, **ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.* Luke 11:9 -10

*"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." **But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God**.* 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

The Journey to Believing

Faith is based on the Word of God, *the revealed Word of God by His Spirit.* The shepherds followed and believed, the wise men followed and believed, we also follow and believe and discover the wonderful things God has prepared for us!

The Journey to Our Savior

As we journey and find Jesus, **we also find our ultimate life revealed in Him.**

*For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. **And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***
Isaiah 9:6

Core Statement: I join all who make the journey to the Savior! I have found Him! He is my Lord, my Savior, my King and my closest friend! I will let His light shine from my life as I always follow Him!