

Christmas 2018_2018 圣诞节

The nativity scene is a common theme either at the shopping centers, hotels or church decoration. We need to also be mindful of the purpose of His coming, what He has accomplished and what He would like us to do while we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Matt 1:24-25, 2:1-11 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. **And he called His name Jesus.** 2:1 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,** ² 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.**" ³ When Herod the king heard *this*, **he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.** ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ⁶ 'But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; **For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.**'" ⁷ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." ⁹ When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. ¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and **fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

马太福音 1:24-25, 2:1-11 约瑟醒了, 起来, 就遵着主使者的吩咐把妻子娶过来; ²⁵ 只是没有和她同房, 等她生了儿子, 就给他起名叫耶稣。2:1 当希律王的时候, 耶稣生在犹太的伯利恒。有几个博士从东方来到耶路撒冷, 说: ² "那生下来作犹太人之王的在哪里? 我们在东方看见他的星, 特来拜他。" ³ 希律王听见了, 就心里不安; 耶路撒冷合城的人也都不安。⁴ 他就召齐了祭司长和民间的文士, 问他们说: "基督当生在何处?" ⁵ 他们回答说: "在犹太的伯利恒。因为有先知记着, 说: ⁶ 犹大地的伯利恒啊, 你在犹大诸城中并不是最小的; 因为将来有一位君王要从你那里出来, 牧养我以色列民。" ⁷ 当下, 希律暗暗地召了博士来, 细问那星是什么时候出现的, ⁸ 就差他们往伯利恒去, 说: "你们去仔细寻访那小孩子, 寻到了就来报信, 我也好去拜他。" ⁹ 他们听见王的话就去了。在东方所看见的那星忽然在他们前头行, 直行到小孩子的地方, 就在上头停住了。¹⁰ 他们看见那星, 就大大地欢喜; ¹¹ 进了房子, 看见小孩子和他母亲马利亚, 就俯伏拜那小孩子, 揭开宝盒, 拿黄金、乳香、没药为礼物献给他。

Christmas is a very good time for reflection. **It is a good time to reflect upon our relationship with the Lord, who He is and to decide how should 2019 be like in**

terms of our priorities in life. 这是一个来反思我们与主关系的好时机，祂是谁，并且决定 2019 年在我们生命中应该是怎样的优先次序。

There are three different kinds of people in this passage beside Jesus. There were the three wise men (Magi), Herod the King and the couple Joseph and Mary. All of them were around during the birth of Jesus Christ and each played different role in this watershed event that changed the destiny of mankind.

Jesus' kingdom is not of this world 耶稣的国不属这世界

V3-4. When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

第 3-4 节 希律王听见了，就心里不安；耶路撒冷合城的人也都不安。⁴他就召齐了祭司和民间的文士，问他们说：“基督当生在何处？”

King Herod was threatened by the news that the king of the Jews will be born. He was threatened by the news brought by the Magi or the wise men about how they have followed a star and the King of the Jews will be born. He tried to hinder the work of God because he thought that Jesus was born to overthrow his kingdom. It is God who put the different authorities in this world but He is never interested about the kingdom of this world. All that we see and experience is temporal and God is more interested in the eternal.

John 18: 35—36 (NKJV) Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “**My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight,** so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; **but now My kingdom is not from here.**”

约翰福音 18:35-36 彼拉多说，“我岂是犹太人呢？你本国的人和祭司长，把你交给我。你作了什么事呢？”耶稣回答说，“我的国不属这世界。我的国若属这世界，我的臣仆必要争战，使我不至于被交给犹太人。只是我的国不属这世界。”

Many of the Jews thought that Jesus will be their earthly king who will deliver them from the evil regime just like Herod hearing from the Magi thought that Jesus will be the king of the Jews. **Jesus clarified in this passage that His kingdom is not of this world.** 耶稣在这段经文中做出澄清，祂的国不属这世界。Jesus would have commanded six legions of angels to defend him if Jesus wanted to overthrow the process of having him crucified on the cross and defeat Pilate. **Jesus was not interested in the kingdom nor any politics of this world. He is God. He came to earth with a mission and that is to redeem mankind to Himself.** 耶稣对这个世界的国度或这世上的任何政治都没有兴趣。祂是神。祂带着使命来到地上，那就是要拯救人类，归向祂自己。

His Name is Jesus 祂名叫耶稣

The name of a person carries a meaning and at times it also carries a lot of authority. Often times, the name of a famous person is associated with his social status, his

achievements and his influence in society. **As you know many people have the tendency to drop names at a meeting to boost their image regarding who they and how they are associate. Jesus wants you to use His name to accomplish His will on earth and to set the captives free!** 就像你知道的，许多人在聚会中倾向于舍弃名字，以提升有关他们是谁及他们如何关联的形象。耶稣要你用祂的名在地上成就祂的旨意，释放被掳的人！

V25. And did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

第 25 节 只是没有和她同房，等她生了儿子，就给他起名叫耶稣。

The name Jesus means Savior and It is the same name as *Joshua* in the Old Testament. It is given to our Lord because "He saves His people from their sins." This is His special role. He saves them from the guilt of sin, by cleansing them in His own atoning blood. He saves them from the dominion of sin by putting in their hearts the sanctifying Spirit. He saves them from the presence of sin, when He takes them out of this world to rest with Him. He will save them from all the consequences of sin, when He shall give them a glorious body at the last day.

The name of Jesus is backed by deity. 耶稣的名有神的支持

Luke 1:30-32 (NKJV) Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and **bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.**

路加福音 1:30-32 天使对她说，“马利亚不要怕。你在神面前已经蒙恩了。你要怀孕生子，可以给他起名叫耶稣。他要为大，称为至高者的儿子。主神要把他祖大卫的位给他。”

The angel was dispatched from the throne of God to bring a message to Mary regarding incarnation and the name to be given to the son. The name was chosen in heaven by the Heavenly Father as Jesus.

John 1:1-3,14(NKJV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.....¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

约翰福音 1:1-3, 14 太初有道，道与神同在，道就是神。² 这道太初与神同在。³ 万物是藉着他造的。凡被造的，没有一样不是藉着他造的...¹⁴ 道成了肉身住在我们中间，充充满满的有恩典有真理。我们也见过他的荣光，正是父独生子的荣光。

Jesus was present at the time of creation. He is. He is the I AM who is the all sufficient one. He is the second person of the godhead. He is the word that created the entire creation and it is His word that is upholding everything that we see. What motivated the great I AM to humble Himself to incarnate as a man is His love for mankind. It is God's love, grace and mercy towards us that He sent Jesus to be born through the virgin Mary in a manger in Bethlehem. The name Jesus was given by God, the Father.

John 16:24 (NKJV) Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

约翰福音 16:24 向来你们没有奉我的名求什么，如今你们求就必得着，叫你们的喜乐可以满足。

Up till this point, the people were not using the name of Jesus in their prayer life and Jesus is instructing them that if they want their prayer to be answered. It has to be asked in Jesus' name! There is only one name that move the angels to work and that's the name of Jesus.

Matthew 18:20 (NKJV) For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

马太福音 18:20 因为无论在哪里，有两三个人奉我的名聚会，那里就有我在他们中间。

Jesus guaranteed His presence with us when we are gathered in His name at home, in church, in the cell group, in the plane, and at any place. He will be there therefore we are assured that God backs up that name with His presence with us. We can have faith and confidence of His presence and the answer to prayer when it is done in His Name. Jesus!

The Name of Jesus is above all names 耶稣的名超乎万名之上

Phil 2:9-11 (NKJV) Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

腓立比书 2:9-11 所以神将他升为至高，又赐给他那超乎万名之上的名，叫一切在天上的，地上的，和地底下的，因耶稣的名，无不屈膝，不口称耶稣基督为主，使荣耀归与父神。

There is only one name that will cause heaven to act, to cause the entire hell to tremble and that's the name of Jesus. God has invested everything into the name of Jesus. There is no other name to be saved except through the name of Jesus. It is Jesus who has redeemed us from the curse of sin, spiritual death and eternal separation from God. Therefore, whoever calls upon the name of the Lord and acknowledging everything that Jesus has done for us on the cross of Calvary will be saved.

It is the prayer and the desire of the Apostle Paul for every believer to understand the power that's in the name of Jesus. In the epistle to the church in Ephesus, Paul told us that God the Father raised Jesus up and seated him at the right hand of the Father.

Eph 1: 20-21(NKJV) Which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

以弗所书 1:20-21 就是照他在基督身上，所运行的大能大力，使他从死里复活，叫他在天上坐在自己的右边，远超过一切执政的，掌权的，有能的，主治的，和一切有名的。不但是今世的，连来世的也都超过了。

Jesus is seated far above all principalities, dominion and might and the devil is under His feet. His name is far above every name that is named. Regardless whether it is the name of a demon, name of a disease, name of an illness or sicknesses (healing takes time and miracle is instantaneous). Jesus' name is far above every name that is named!! **We need to exercise faith in His name! His name itself has power because of His accomplishment and conquest!** 我们要来信靠祂的名！因着祂所成就和战胜的，祂的名本身就带着大能。

Col 2:15 (NKJV) Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

歌罗西书 2:15 既将一切执政的掌权的掳来，明显给众人看，就仗着十字架夸胜。

He has disarmed the weapons of the evil one and God has placed the devil under His feet. Jesus is a victor therefore every principalities and powers are subject to Him. **The demonic forces only recognize and bow to one name and that's the name of Jesus.** 恶魔的军队只承认并屈服于一个名字，那就是耶稣的名。

Mark 16:17-18 (NKJV) And these signs will follow those who believe: **In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.**”

马可福音 16:17-18 信的人必有神迹随着他们，就是奉我的名赶鬼。说新方言。¹⁷手能拿蛇。若喝了什么毒物，也必不受害。手按病人，病人就必好了。

Nobody will use his own strength and natural abilities to overcome the work of the devil. **There will be unbelievers who have given themselves to worship of idols, new age, hard rock music, drugs and every thing that has to do with evil, darkness and wickedness.** 有不信的人，他们崇拜偶像、新时代、摇滚乐、毒品，以及一切与邪恶、黑暗和罪恶有关的。We will know when they manifest when the gospel is being preached to them or the mention of the blood of Jesus Christ. The demons cannot take it! We are to use the name of Jesus to cast out demons out of those who are possessed. Share the gospel with them and fill them with the Holy Spirit.

Matt 28:18 (NKJV) And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

马太福音 28:18 耶稣进前来，对他们说，“天上，地下所有的权柄，都赐给我了。”

This is the reason why Jesus gave the church the vested authority to use His name to set the captives free, to cast out demons and to heal the sick. ALL authority belongs to Jesus and they bow to His name! Use the name to set someone free from oppression and possession if they desire to be freed.

While the time is not due for the demonic forces to be thrown into the lake of fire but they will bow and submit to the name of Jesus.

All the authority.

All the achievements.

All the power is found in the name of Jesus.

There is tremendous power in the name of Jesus. Use it!

Let us remember this name and all the power that comes with it as we reflect upon Christmas.

The Wise Men Worship Jesus 博士朝拜耶稣

Matt 2:1-2,11 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,** ² 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.**"...¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and **fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

马太福音 2:1-2, 11 当希律王的时候，耶稣生在犹太的伯利恒。有几个博士从东方来到耶路撒冷，² 说，“那生下来作犹太人之王的在哪里？我们在东方看见他的星，特来拜他。”...¹¹ 进了房子，看见小孩子和他母亲马利亚，就俯伏拜那小孩子，揭开宝盒，拿黄金、乳香、没药为礼物献给他。

Though they were astrologers who believes in the movement of the stars that indicate the movement of kings and leaders. They fell down and worshipped Jesus which is not a normal civil homage to a petty Jewish king. It was a spiritual homage because their action proved it when they had opened their treasures and presented it rather than "offered" unto him gifts.

They came in search for Jesus, knelt down in worship when they found Him!!

They presented gold to Jesus who is the King of kings. 他们把黄金献给耶稣，祂是万王之王

Revelation 17:14 (NKJV) These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and **King of kings**; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

启示录 17:14 他们与羔羊争战，羔羊必胜过他们，因为羔羊是万主之主，万王之王。同着羔羊的，就是蒙召被选有忠心的，也必得胜。

Are we honoring and worshipping the Lord with what He has blessed us?

They presented "Frankincense" which was an aromatic used in sacrificial offerings. 他们献上了乳香，这是一种用于献祭的香料。

The frankincense is often used by the priest in the temple.

Hebrews 4:14 (NKJV) Seeing then that we have a **great High Priest** who has passed through the heavens, **Jesus the Son of God**, let us hold fast *our* confession.希伯来书 4:14 我们既然有一位已经升入高天尊荣的大祭司，就是神的儿子耶稣，便当持定所承认的道。

Hebrews 9:11-12 (NKJV) But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ¹²Not with the blood of goats and calves, **but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.**
希伯来书 9:11-12 但现在基督已经来到，作了将来美事的大祭司，经过那更大更全备的帐幕，不是人手所造也不是属乎这世界的。并且不用山羊和牛犊的血，乃用自己的血，只一次进入圣所，成了永远赎罪的事。

Jesus is our great High Priest who will offer up His blood the ultimate sacrifice in the heavenly tabernacle. He sat down at the right hand of the Heavenly Father because the ultimate sacrifice has brought about peace between God and men. He has obtained eternal redemption for every one of us.

They presented "**myrrh**" that was used in perfuming ointments and the embalment of the dead. The intent of Jesus' birth is to be the ultimate sacrifice through his death on the cross.

In these three gifts we see who he is, what He came to do and what it cost him.
在这三件礼物中，我们看到祂是谁，祂来做什么，及祂所付出的代价是什么。

Christmas is a time for us to remind ourselves that we need to come with a heart of worship just like the Magi.

圣诞节是让我们自我提醒的时候，我们需要像博士一样带着敬拜的心而来。

Psalms 95:6 (NKJV) Oh come, **let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel** before the Lord our Maker.

诗篇 95:6 来阿，我们要屈身敬拜，在造我们的耶和華面前跪下。

Mark 7:6b (NKJV) 'This people honors Me with *their* lips, But their heart is far from Me.
马可福音 7:6b 百姓用嘴唇尊敬我，心却远离我。

Honestly, I don't think God is interested in the form, the rituals and the liturgies of the service because He is more concern about the heart of men. **What is the point of attending church during Christmas, New Year and Easter when we are physically present but our hearts are with the world.** God is a jealous God. **He doesn't want a heart that devoted to him with only 30%, 60% or 95% because He desires 100%. God wants us to love Him with ALL our heart, soul and mind.** 我们若身在教会，心在世界，那在圣诞节、新年和复活节去教会又有什么意义呢？神是个忌邪的神。祂不要只有 30%、60%或 95% 的心献给祂，因为祂渴望 100%。神要我们尽心尽性尽意来爱祂。

John 4:23 (NKJV) But the hour is coming, and now is, **when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.**

约翰福音 4:23 时候将到，如今就是了，那真正拜父的，要用心灵和诚实拜他，因为父要这样的人拜他。

The wise men came in search for Jesus, knelt down in worship when they found Him!! **They didn't come in search of favor or to obtain something from Jesus. They came to worship Him for who He is! There must have been a reverential awe of God in the manger!** 他们来不是为了寻求好处或从耶稣得到什么，他们来是为了他是谁而敬拜他！在马槽里必定有着深深的敬畏。

Did you and came longing to worship God today? Absence makes the heart grows fonder.....It is a love relationship with God. Worship is a place of intimacy with the one whom we loved and cherish the time with Him. **你是否渴望今天敬拜神？别久情更深……这是与神爱的关系。敬拜是与我们所爱的人在亲密的处所，并且珍惜与祂在一起的时间。**

Worship is a heart to Spirit connection! 敬拜是心与灵的联结

God is seeking worshippers and that's what he wants from us. 神在寻找敬拜者，这正是祂想要得着我们的。

This is one of the greatest revelations that Jesus has given us in the word. It shows us what God wants when it comes to worshipping Him. **It is so wrong for people who skip the praise and worship segment. It is also wrong for us to be late because that's not honoring God. The very purpose of coming to church is to worship Him. This is the reason why it is named as worship service. Therefore, the most important portion of the entire worship service is the worship segment because it is ALL about God. We truly praise and worship to the audience of ONE.** 人们不来参与祷告敬拜的环节是不对的，我们迟到也是错误的因为这不尊崇神。来到教会就是为了敬拜神，这是为什么称之为敬拜聚会的原因所在。所以整个敬拜聚会最重要的部分是敬拜的环节，因为它只在乎神。我们向那独一的听众摆上真实的祷告和敬拜。

The word segment builds up our faith. Sometimes, there are people who queue up for hours to listen to a gifted speaker but we have forgotten the reason we are in church. It is to worship God and the desire to walk in His word. That's what the word does for us which is to equip us to live out the lifestyle in Christ. 话语的部分是为建立我们的信心。有时候有人会排队等上几个小时来听一个有恩赐的讲道者，但我们却忘了我们在教会的原因，是为了敬拜神并渴望行走在祂的话语里。

Let us make it a point to be early for Praise and Worship every week. 让我们每一个礼拜早点来祷告敬拜。

Be Like Mary and Joseph 像马利亚和约瑟一样

Matt 1:24 (NKJV) Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife.

马太福音 1:24 约瑟醒了，起来，就遵着主使者的吩咐把妻子娶过来。

It must not have been easy to receive the news of accepting a woman who is pregnant as wife even though it was a work of God in the life of Mary. Nevertheless, Joseph chose to obey God and take on Mary as his wife so that the Abrahamic covenant will be fulfilled and all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

Luke 1:38(NKJV) Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! **Let it be to me according to your word.**” And the angel departed from her.

路加福音 1:38 马利亚说，“我是主的使女，情愿照你的话成就在我身上。”天使就离开她去了。

Mary is a model of responsive obedience and one who lived out what God has called her to do although she didn't fully understand at that time. 马利亚是响应顺服的榜样，虽然她当时并不完全明白，但她活出了神所呼召她要做的。She did not fully comprehend how it could ever happen but she chose to obey and be used as a vessel unto God. Sometimes, we might not see the full picture or the plan of God but we need to obey. It cost Mary and Joseph some inconvenience but they obeyed out of their love for God.

Mary and Joseph were the conduits to fulfill the plan of God. They were willing to consecrate themselves to serve God. They were chosen to do the will of God for their lives. Jesus was brought into this world out of Mary and Joseph's obedience.

Jesus is the savior of the world and that the very reason for Christmas. Jesus came to seek and to save those who are lost!

Luke 19:9-11(NKJV) And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; ¹⁰ for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

路加福音 19:9-11 耶稣说，“今天救恩到了这家，因为他也是亚伯拉罕的子孙。人子来，为要寻找拯救丧失的人。”

We can choose to be a good vessel to be used by God. God has a will for each and every one of our lives to serve Him.

2 Cor 5: 18-20 (NKJV) Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, **not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.** ²⁰ **Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ,** as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

哥林多后书 5: 18-20 一切都是出于神，他藉着基督使我们与他和好，又将劝人与他和好的职分赐给我们。这就是神在基督里叫世人与自己和好，不将他们的过犯归到他们身上。并且将这和好的道理托付了我们。所以我们作基督的使者，就好像神藉我们劝你们一般。我们替基督求你们与神和好。

Let us remember on this Christmas day that the very purpose for Christ's birth was to seek and to save those who are lost. Now that the Holy Spirit live in us, He will be pleading through us to reach out to those who are lost and He will use us to seek them out in the neighborhood and corporate offices. We are His ambassadors given the word and ministry of reconciliation between God and men. We are to carry the message of the good news that Jesus came for the ungodly, He does not impute their trespasses because Jesus has dealt with it on the cross and all they need to do is to acknowledge His work and call upon the name of Jesus to be saved. It is alright if you

are the only Christian in the office because your partner who is the Holy Spirit will help you and it is He who will convict the person. You are just a conduit for God's blessing and a messenger of the good news!

Are you willing to be used by God just as Mary and Joseph were willing?