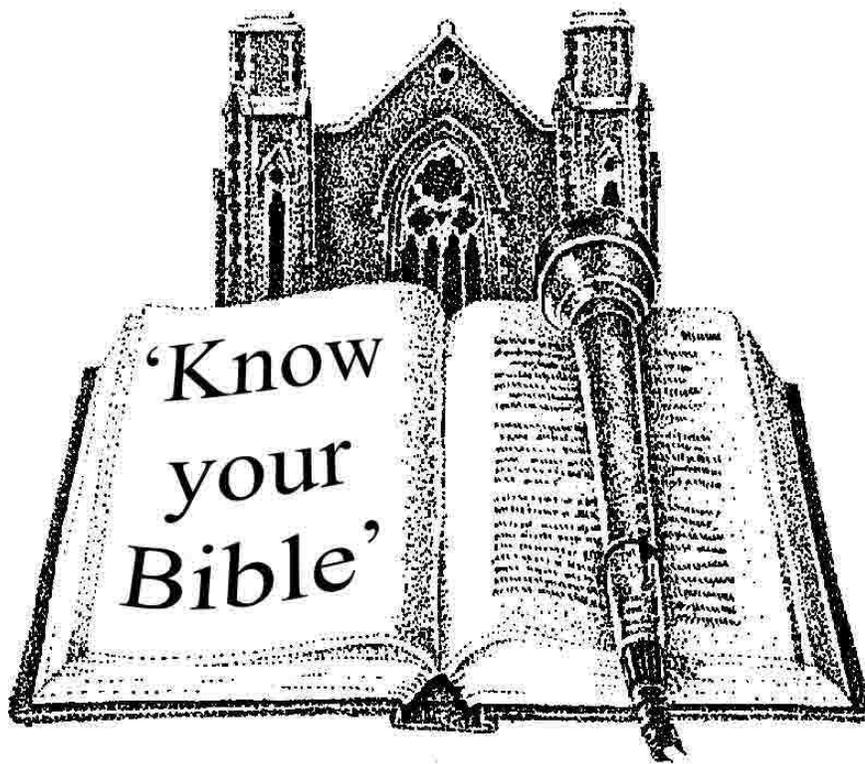


# **Christmas is coming**

**Discussional Bible Studies.**

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**Study Notes by Stuart Olyott**



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# **Christmas is coming**

## **Discussional Bible Studies.**

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### **Table of Contents of Study Notes by Stuart Olyott**

	<b>Sermon Title</b>	<b>Page No</b>
1	Mary's story. Luke 1:26-56.	3
2	Joseph's story. Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-7.	4
3	The Shepherds' story. Luke 2:8-20.	5
4	The Wise Men's story. Matthew 2:1-18.	6
5	John's story. John 1:1-18.	7

## **Christmas is coming!**

### **1. Mary's story.**

Passage for study: Luke 1:26-56.

#### **General Questions:-**

- Who was God's messenger, and where did he go?
- What words made Mary greatly troubled?
- Why did the angel tell Mary not to be afraid?
- What 5 things did the angel foretell about Jesus?
- How did the angel answer Mary's question?
- Why did the angel say the words of verse 37?
- In which way did Mary accept the words of the angel ?
- Give 3 reasons which made Mary praise the Lord.
- What has God done to the proud; the mighty; and the rich?
- What has God done to those of low degree; the hungry; and Israel?

#### **Questions for discussion:-**

1. Mary found favour with God. How Can we?
2. What does verse 37 mean for our life today?
3. What does this passage teach us about praise?
4. Why is it important to believe in the virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ?
5. In what ways does Mary present us with an example to follow?

#### **Notes:-**

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### **2. Joseph's story.**

Passages for study: Matthew 1.18-25 and Luke 2:1-7.

#### **General questions:-**

- What kind of man was Joseph?
- What did he resolve to do with Mary?
- What did the angel say to him?
- By whose power did Mary become pregnant?
- How do we know that Jesus was not Joseph's son?
- What two names are given to the Son of Mary?
- Did Joseph obey the angel?
- Why did everyone have to go to their own city?
- Why did Joseph go to Bethlehem?
- Where was Jesus placed where He was born?

#### **Questions for discussion:-**

1. How does Jesus save His people from their sins?
2. What would you say to someone who says that he simply cannot believe that Jesus was born of a virgin?
3. What can we learn from the character of Joseph?
4. What do these passages teach us about the sovereignty of God?
5. It was a great act of condescension for God to become Man, and yet He came as the very lowest of men. Why?

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### **3. The Shepherds' Story.**

Passage for study: Luke 2:8-20.

#### **General questions:-**

- What were the shepherds doing in the field?
- What happened that night?
- Why were the shepherds filled with fear?
- What was the good news which the angel brought?
- What did the heavenly host do?
- What did the shepherds say to each other?
- How did they go?
- What did they see?
- What did the shepherds do?
- What did Mary do?

#### **Questions for discussion:-**

1. 'Good news of great joy' (10). In what way is this good news today?  
How can it bring great joy?
2. 'To all the people ... a Saviour' (10-11). Is Jesus the only way of salvation for all people today? If so, what is our responsibility to those who have not yet heard about Him?
3. 'He humbled himself' (Philippians 2:8). How is this shown in the birth of Christ?
4. In what ways do the shepherds give us an example to follow?
5. What does this passage reveal to us about the nature of the gospel?

#### **Notes:-**

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### **4. The Wise men's Story.**

Passage for study: Matthew 2:1-18.

#### **General questions:-**

- How did the wise men know that a new king had been born?
- Where did they go?
- How did they discover that Jesus was to be born in Bethlehem?
- What did Herod tell them to do?
- Why did they rejoice exceedingly with great joy?
- What two things did they do when they saw the child Jesus?
- How did they receive guidance from God?
- Why did Herod ask them to return to Jerusalem?
- Where did Joseph take the child and his mother?
- From what danger did they escape?

#### **Questions for discussion:-**

1. In what ways did God guide people in today's passage?  
How do we receive His guidance today?
2. How does this narrative fit into the rest of the Christmas story?
3. Is there any significance in the gifts the wise men brought?
4. What details about this story are generally believed,  
but which are not mentioned in the passage?
5. What good and bad examples are found in this passage?
6. Do you not think it was deceitful of the wise men not to honour the evident  
understanding that they would return to the king?  
How do you justify their action - and similar actions?

#### **Notes:-**

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### **5. John Story**

Passage for study: John 1:1-18.

#### **General questions:-**

- What was in the beginning?
- Who made all things?
- In whom was life and light?
- For what purpose did God send John?
- Who did not know or receive the true light?
- What happens to those who receive him?
- Whose glory have we beheld?
- How did John bear witness?
- What came through Moses, and through Christ ?
- Who has made God known ?

#### **Questions for discussion:-**

1. What do we learn about Christ from these verses?
2. Why did some recognise the identity of Christ (14), but not others (10-11)?
3. How can a person be born of God? How do we know it has happened?
4. What does verse 9 mean?
5. Jesus was "full of grace and truth" (14). What does this tell us about what it means to be Christ like?
6. What are the main things you have learned from these studies in the Christmas story?

#### **Notes:-**