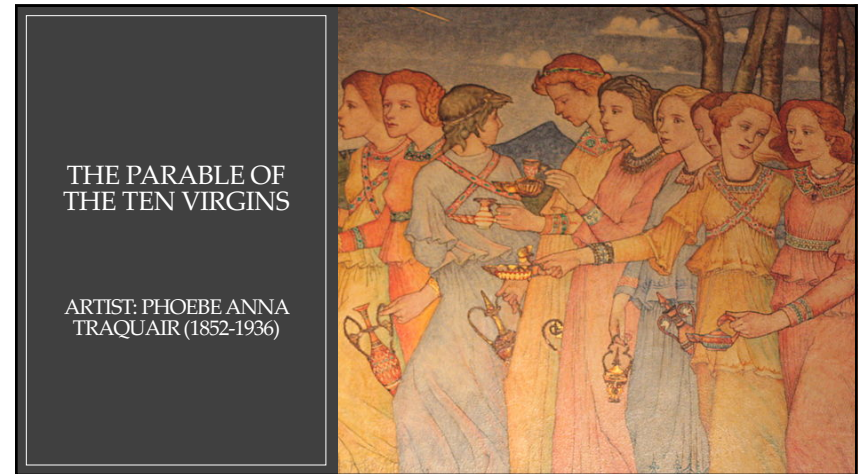
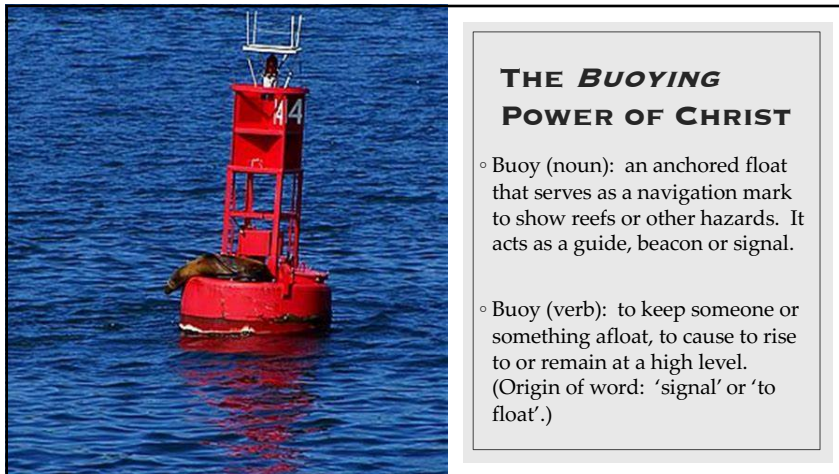


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2



3



4



CHRIST

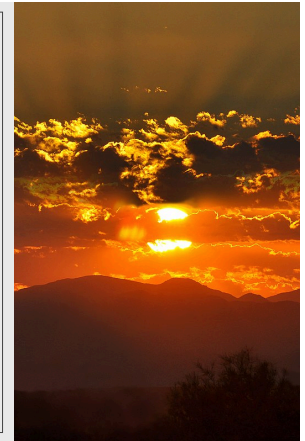
- Christ from 'christos' (Greek) for 'anointed one'; "Messiah" in Hebrew
- Dual nature long contemplated (Jesus and Christ, human/divine)

"The Good Shepherd", stained glass

5

CHRIST JESUS' DUAL NATURE

- "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man" (John 3:13).
- "I am the bread of Life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35).
- "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).



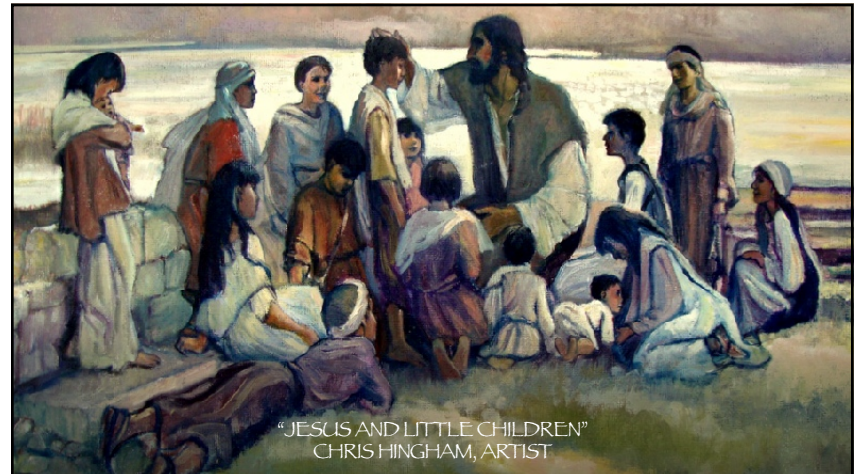
6

THE COMING OF JESUS... Let us

- ...was the climax of centuries of clarification of man's real status.
- Gen. 1:26 - "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our own image.'

Genesis 1:26

7



8



GOD AS FATHER

- "O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand." Isa. 64:8
- Conception by the Holy Spirit - "You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above." John 19:11

9



GOD AS MOTHER

"Listen to me, descendants of Jacob, all you who remain in Israel.
I have cared for you since you were born. Yes, I carried you before you were born."

Isa. 46:3

"Mother's love", Natalie Holland

10



CONCEPTION IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

"You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above."

John 19:11

11




UNPARALLELED RECORD OF HEALING

- "The Kingdom of heaven is at hand" (among us). Matt. 10:7
- "For in him we live, and move, and have our being." (Paul -Acts 17:28)

"The Leper", Ron DiCianni

12



THE LIVING CHRIST

- “Since therefore the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.” (Heb 2:14,15).
- “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” John 1:12

13



BIBLICAL PROPHECY

14


PROPHECY

Biblical prophecy shows that God has always been in charge, always communicating His/Her love for all of us.

- Anticipating the Messiah = the expectation of good



15



THE PROPHET MICAH – FORETOLD WHERE THE MESSIAH WOULD BE BORN

“Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are small among the clans of Judah; one will come from you to be ruler over Israel for Me” (Micah 5:2).

*“O Little Town of Bethlehem”,
Carol Shell Cantrell*

16

DEUTERONOMY PROPHECY

◦ "I will raise up a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell the people everything I command him" (Deut. 18:18).

"Moses", Marc Chagall



ZECHARIAH PROPHECY

◦ "Listen to me, O Jeshua the high priest, and all you other priests. You are symbols of things to come. Soon I am going to bring my servant, the Branch" (Zech. 3:8).



17

18

ISAIAH PROPHECY

"The Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isa. 7:14).



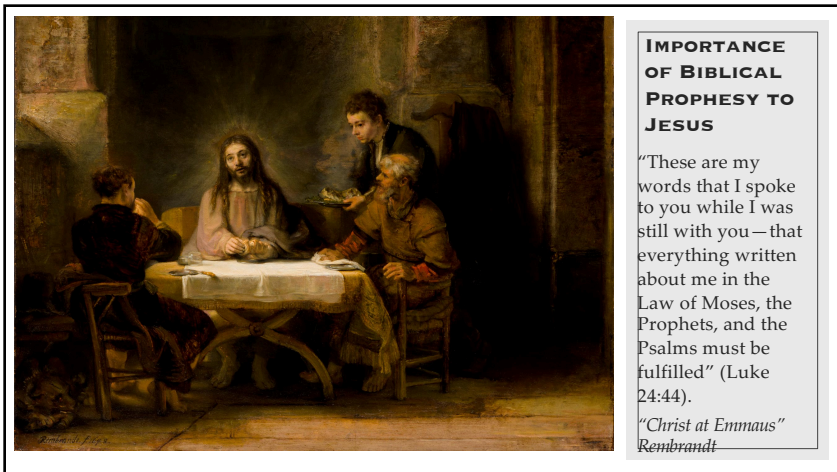
THE MESSIAH'S WORK

"And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing" (Isa 35:5,6).



19

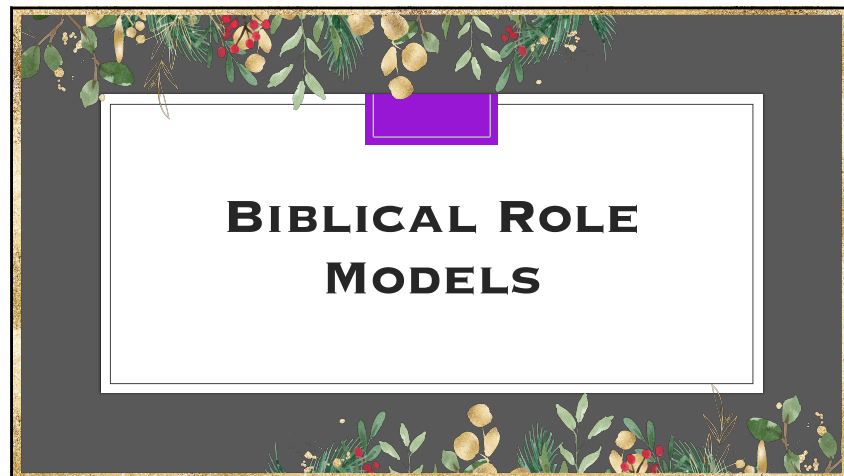
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21



22



23



24



**EARLIEST
FRESCO
OF MAGI
(350 CE)**

FROM CAPELLA
GRAECA,
CATACOMB OF
PRISCILLA, ROME

25



**MAGI
(GREEK) --
SAGES OR
ASTROLOGERS**

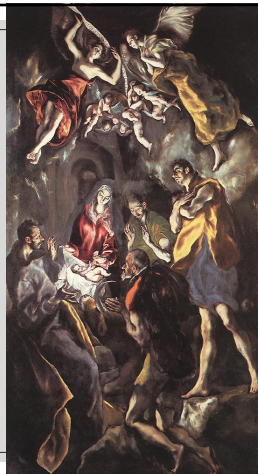
“All nations will
come to your light;
mighty kings will
come to see your
radiance” (Isa.
60:3).

*Procession of the
Magi, Benozzo
Gozzoli (1459-1461)*

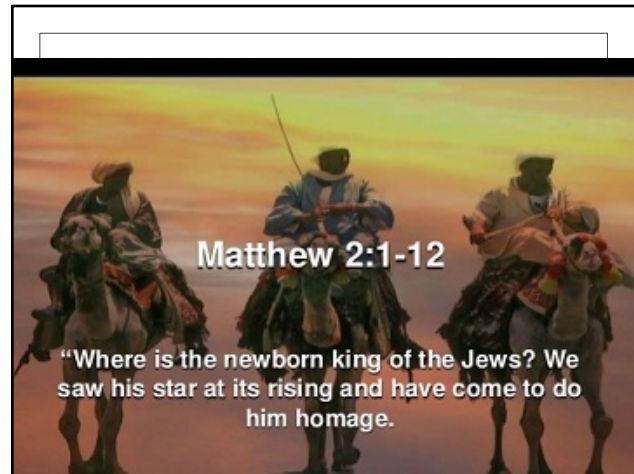
26

**MATTHEW & LUKE – ONLY 2 GOSPELS
WITH BIRTH STORIES**

Matthew – “Adoration of the Magi,” 1609, Rubens (below)
Luke – “Adoration of the Shepherds,” 1612, El Greco (side)



27



**MATTHEW’S
MAGI**

◦ Jesus is the
royal heir;
Christ’s
kingdom =
the Kingdom
of Heaven.

“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We
saw his star at its rising and have come to do
him homage.

28



HONORING CHRIST

- Accord with deep respect and esteem.
- To revere, venerate
- "I will speak of the glorious honor of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works" (Ps. 145:5).
- "Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands" (Ps 8:5, 6).

29

SHEPHERDS IN THE 1ST CENTURY CE

- Role models in **watchfulness**
- Provided basics the sheep needed
- Guarded against thieves and wolves
- Rescued when in danger
- Carried the young ones when needed
- Counted each animal nightly as they passed under their hand.

"The Lost Sheep", Alfred Soord (1868-1915)



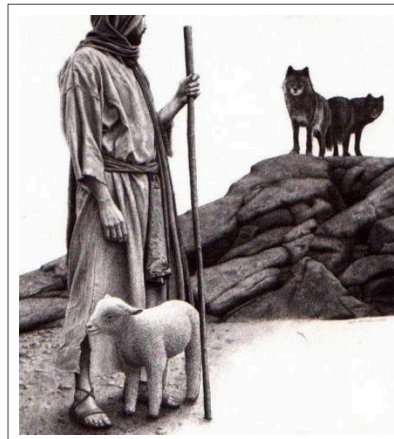
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SHEPHERDS IN LUKE 2:8-12

There were shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger" (*The Message*).

31



SHEPHERD LESSONS:

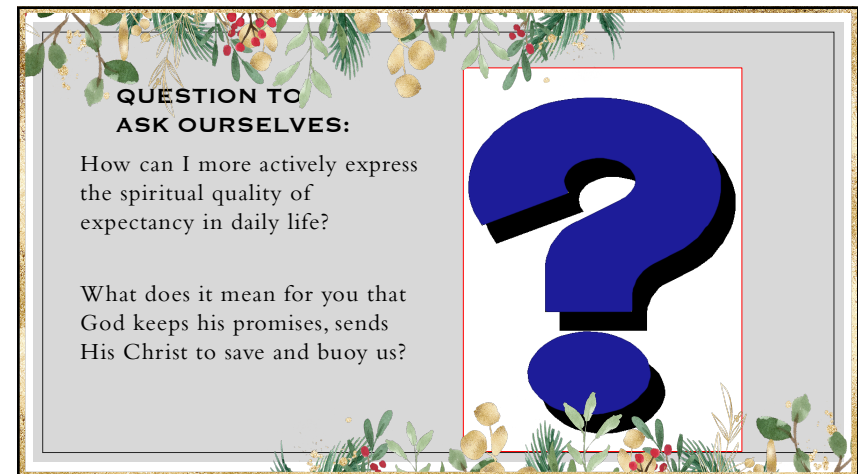
- Watch thought, not just sheep
- This keeps the 'wolves' (whatever tries to devour our joy, well-being) at bay.



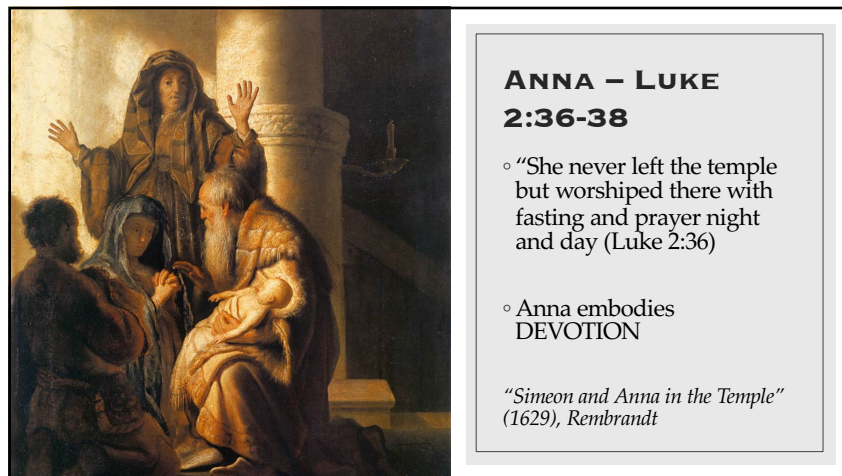
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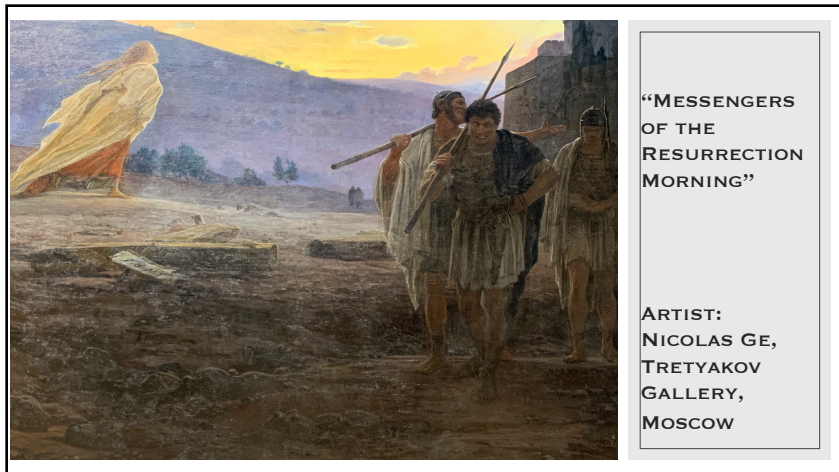
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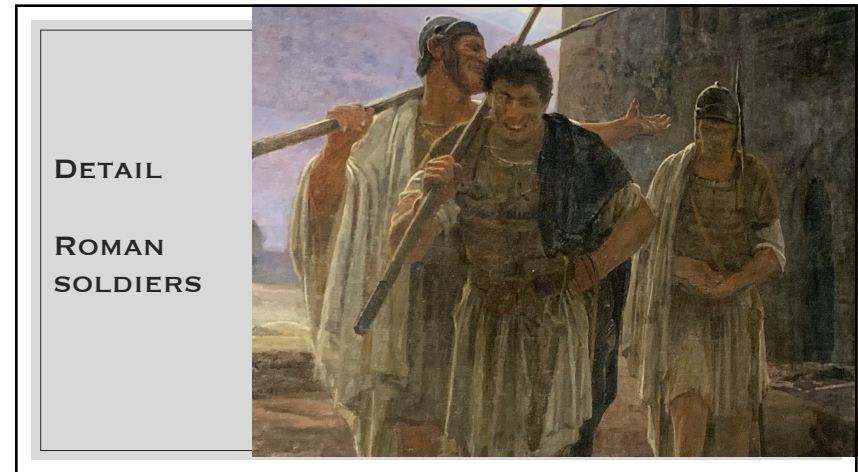
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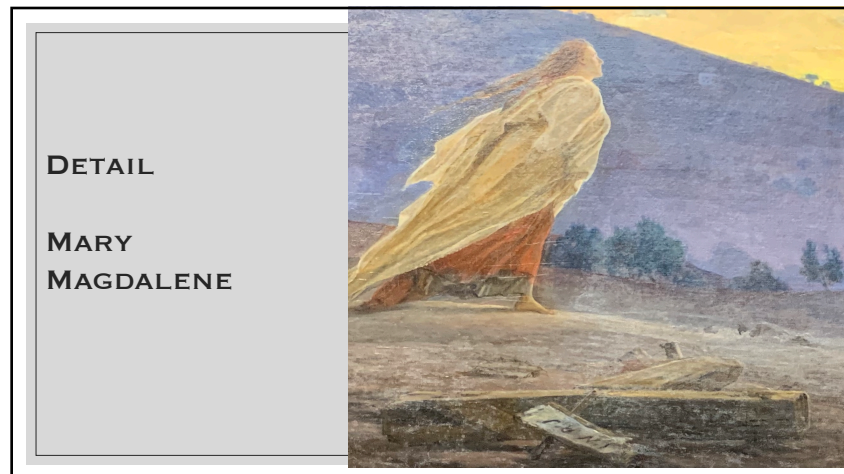
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