



Church History Literacy

Christmas History Part 2

Lesson 94

Biblical-Literacy.com

© Copyright 2007 by W. Mark Lanier. Permission hereby granted to reprint this document in its entirety without change, with reference given, and not for financial profit.

O, Holy Night

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining. Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices! O night divine, the night when Christ was born; O night, O Holy Night , O night divine! O night, O Holy Night, O night divine!



Probably not
“The” holy night

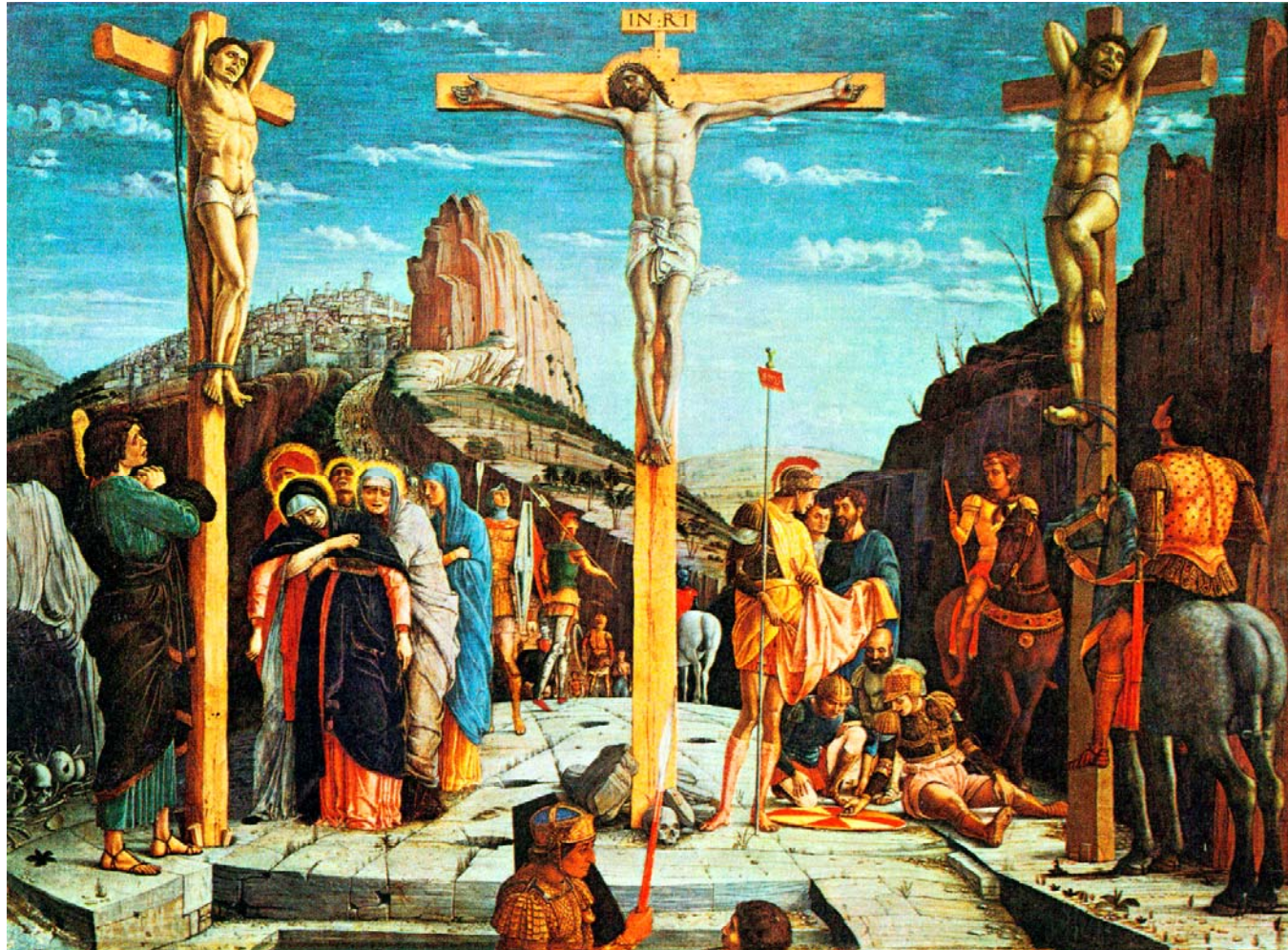
Shepherds kept
watch in the
fields from March
through
November!



Old theory: December 25 was the
Roman celebration of Saturnalia



Better theory: December 25
was 9 months after March 25th!



On the twelfth day of Christmas ...

**On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love
sent to me: Twelve drummers drumming,
Eleven pipers piping, Ten lords a-leaping,
Nine ladies dancing, Eight maids a-milking,
Seven swans a-swimming, Six geese a-
laying, Five golden rings, Four calling birds,
Three French hens, Two turtle doves, And a
partridge in a pear tree!**

A white calendar page with a silver clip at the top. The word "December" is printed in black at the top, and the number "25" is printed in large, bold, red font below it.

December

25

A white calendar page with a silver clip at the top. The word "January" is printed in black at the top, and the number "6" is printed in large, bold, red font below it.

January

6

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear
That Glorious Song Of Old From
Angels Bending Near The Earth
To Touch Their Harps Of Gold
Peace On The Earth Goodwill To
Men From Heaven's All Gracious
King The World In Silent Stillness
Lay To Hear The Angels Sing



“For while gentle
silence enveloped all
things, and night in its
swift course was now
half gone, your [God’s]
all-powerful word leapt
from heaven.”
(Wisdom of Solomon
18:14-15)

We Three Kings

**We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse
afar Field and fountain, moor
and mountain Following
yonder star**

Kings?



“Nations will come to
your light, and kings to the
brightness of your dawn...
And all from Sheba will
come, bearing gold and
incense and proclaiming
the praise of the LORD.”
(Isaiah 60:3,6)

Three?



“Meanwhile, Abimelech had come to him [Isaac] from Gerar, with Ahuzzath his personal adviser and Phicol the commander of his forces... Early the next morning the men swore an oath to each other. Then Isaac sent them on their way, and they left him in peace.” (Gen 26:26-31)

Three?



The first 'Noel!' the
angels did say, Was to
certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay ...
And by the light of that
same star, Three wise
men came from country
far; To seek for a King
was their intent, And to
follow the star wherever
it went. Noel! Noel!
Noel! Noel! Born is the
King of Israel!

While considering the Middle
Ages... In the 1100's...

**O come, O come, Emmanuel
Redeem thy captive Israel
That into exile drear is gone
Far from the face of God's
dear son Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel Shall come to thee,
O Israel.**

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” which means, “God with us.” (Mt. 1:21-23)

Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, No crib for
His bed The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head The
stars in the sky Looked down
where He lay The little Lord
Jesus Asleep on the hay.**



**The cattle are lowing The poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus No crying He makes. I
love Thee, Lord Jesus Look down from the
sky And stay by my cradle, 'Til morning is
nigh.**



**O little town of
Bethlehem How
still we see thee lie
Above thy deep
and dreamless
sleep The silent
stars go by Yet in
thy dark streets
shineth The
everlasting Light
The hopes and
fears of all the
years Are met in
thee tonight.**

1600's English American Christmas Carols



Jolly Ol' Saint Nicholas

Jolly ol' Saint Nicholas, lean your
ear this way! Don't you tell a
single soul; what I'm going to say:
Christmas Eve is coming soon;
now, you dear old man, Whisper
what you'll bring to me; tell me if
you can.

What we
know:





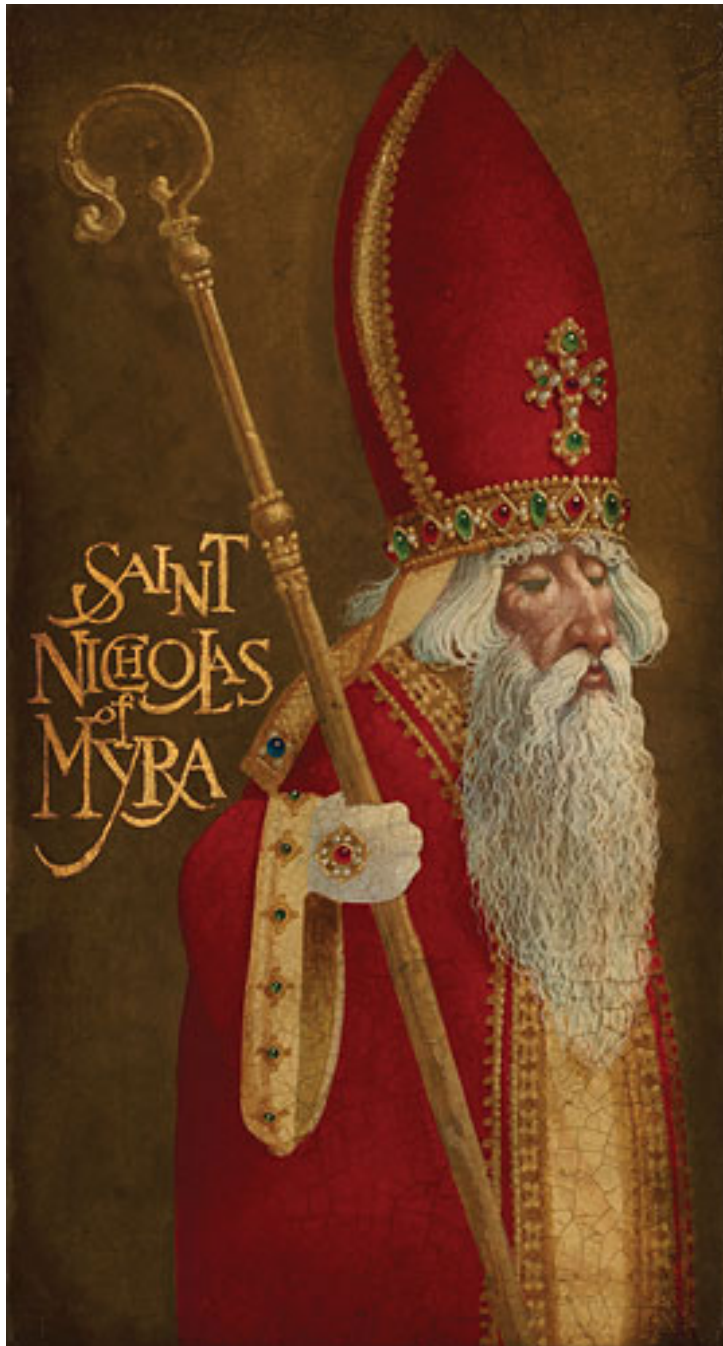
What we know:

- Born in Patara



What we know:

- Born in Patara
- Probably late 200's



What we know:

- Born in Patara
- Probably late 200's
- Bishop of Myra



What we know:

- Born in Patara
- Probably late 200's
- Bishop of Myra
- Died around 345-352ish



What we hear:



What we hear:

- Supporter of orthodoxy



What we hear:

- Supporter of orthodoxy
- Giver of gifts



What we hear:

- Supporter of orthodoxy
- Giver of gifts
- Patron saint of sailors and children



What we hear:

- Supporter of orthodoxy
- Giver of gifts
- Patron saint of sailors and children
- “Sinter Claas” in Holland

Claas comes
to America:





Claas comes to America:

- Washington Irving in 1809



Claas comes to America:

- Washington Irving in 1809
- Dec. 6, 1810 banquet for "Sacnte Claus"



Claas comes to America:

- Washington Irving in 1809
- Dec. 6, 1810 banquet for "Sacnte Claus"
- 1821 Irving gives Claus flight



Claas comes to America:

- Washington Irving in 1809
- Dec. 6, 1810 banquet for "Sacnte Claus"
- 1821 Irving gives Claus flight
- 1822 moves to Christmas

Twas the Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse; The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there; The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads; And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, Had just settled down for a long winter's nap, When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow Gave the
lustre of mid-day to objects below, When, what to my
wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh,
and eight tiny reindeer, With a little old driver, so lively
and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick. More
rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he
whistled, and shouted, and called them by name; "Now,
Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen! On,
Comet! on Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen! To the top of
the porch! to the top of the wall! Now dash away! dash
away! dash away all!" As dry leaves that before the wild
hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount
to the sky, So up to the house-top the coursers they
flew, With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof The
prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my
hand, and was turning around, Down the chimney St.
Nicholas came with a bound. He was dressed all in fur,

from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all
tarnished with ashes and soot; A bundle of toys he had
flung on his back, And he looked like a peddler just
opening his pack. His eyes -- how they twinkled! his
dimples how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his
nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up
like a bow, And the beard of his chin was as white as the
snow; The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath; He
had a broad face and a little round belly, That shook,
when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly. He was chubby
and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw
him, in spite of myself; A wink of his eye and a twist of
his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And
filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk, And
laying his finger aside of

his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And
away they all flew like the down of a thistle. But I heard
him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,

"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."





Haddon Sundblom

1931

O, Christmas Tree

O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree! How lovely are your branches; O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree! How lovely are your branches; Not only green when summer's here, But also when 'tis cold and drear. O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree! Thy leaves are so unchanging!



What we know:



What we know:

- Luther? No...



What we know:

- Luther? No...
- German? Yes!



What we know:

- Luther? No...
- German? Yes!
- U. S. first Christmas tree mentioned in 1821

Slew of Holiday Songs post WW2

Slew of Holiday Songs post WW2



Slew of Holiday Songs post WW2



Slew of Holiday Songs post WW2



Slew of Holiday Songs post WW2





Robert May; Montgomery Wards 1939

Reluctant Gene Autry in 1949



Jack Rollins and Steve Nelson; 1950

Excited Gene Autry in 1950

Do you hear what I hear?

Said the night wind to the little lamb, do
you see what I see Way up in the sky, little
lamb, do you see what I see A star, a star,
dancing in the night With a tail as big as a
kite With a tail as big as a kite

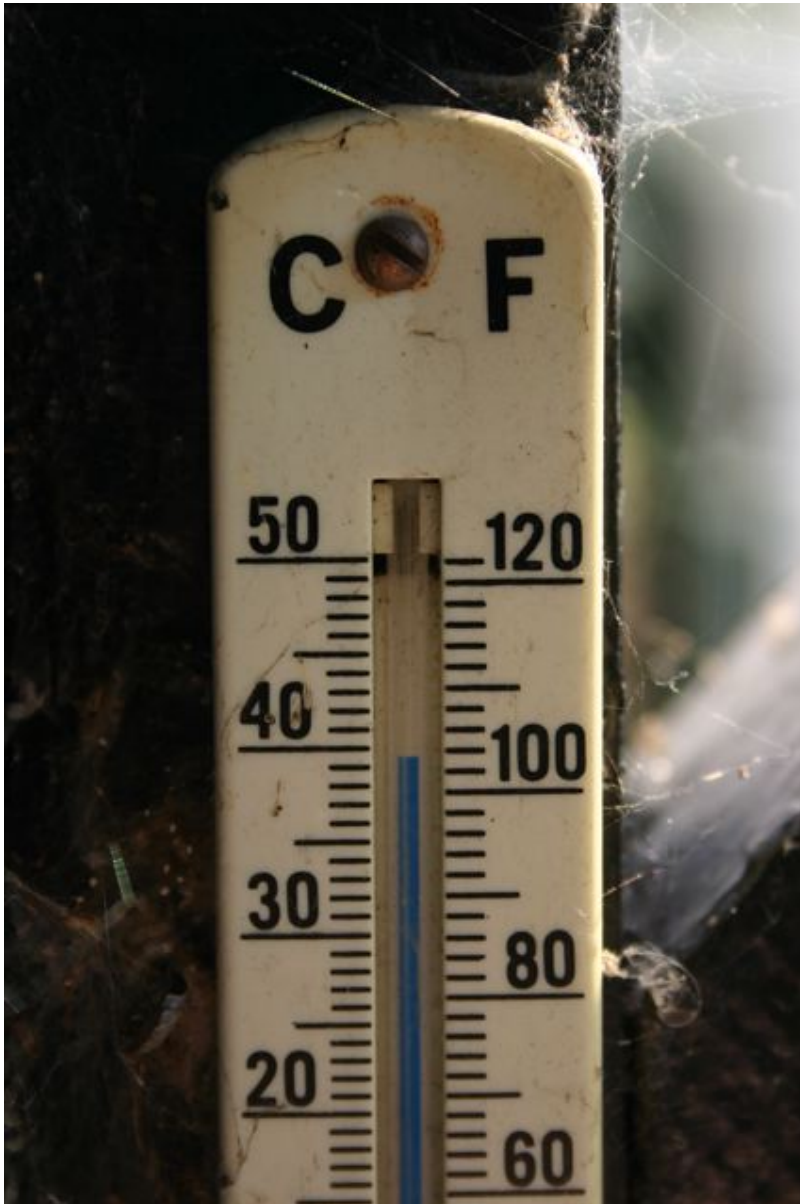
THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS



Said the king to the people everywhere,
listen to what I say **Pray for peace,**
people everywhere! listen to what I say.

Merry Christmas to You

And so, I'm offering this simple phrase To kids
from one to ninety-two Although its been said
Many times, many ways Merry Christmas!
Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas to.. You!



Chestnuts roasting
Jack Frost nipping
Yuletide carols
Folks dressed up like
Eskimos

Points for Home

Points for Home

1. “A *Savior* has been born! Glory to God in the highest!” (Lk 2:14).

Points for Home

1. “A *Savior* has been born! Glory to God in the highest!” (Lk 2:14).
2. He was given “the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (Mt 1:21).

Points for Home

1. “A *Savior* has been born! Glory to God in the highest!” (Lk 2:14).
2. He was given “the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (Mt 1:21).
3. “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.” (Is. 9:6).