



# Paul's Theology

## Lesson 55

# Christmas

*Biblical-Literacy.com*

© Copyright 2009 by W. Mark Lanier. Permission hereby granted to reprint this document in its entirety without change, with reference given, and not for financial profit.

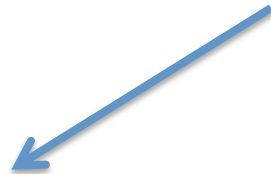


# Merry Christmas

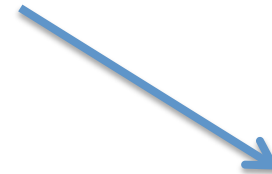


Paul Interrupted –  
Christmas History  
December 20, 2009

# New Testament Accounts



Matthew



Luke

BUT NO CHRISTMAS  
CELEBRATION!

# New Testament Accounts

Matthew



# New Testament Accounts

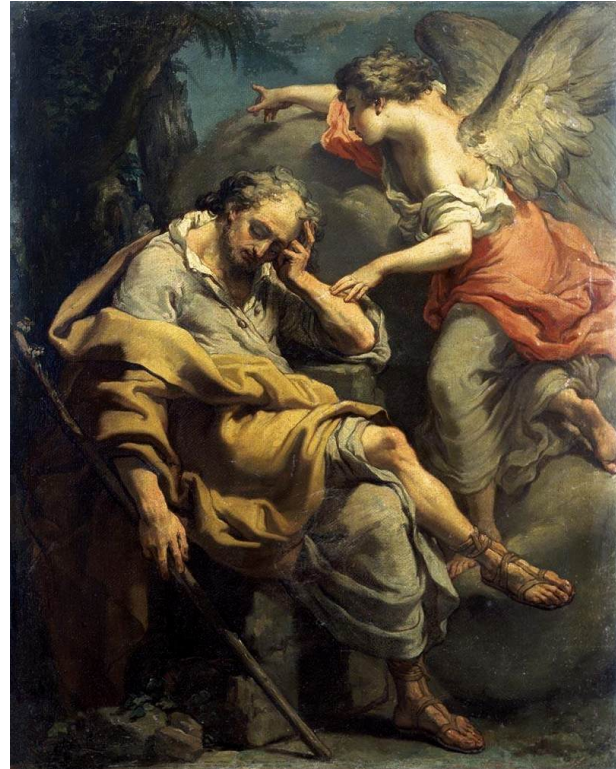
Matthew



“She was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit”

# New Testament Accounts

Matthew

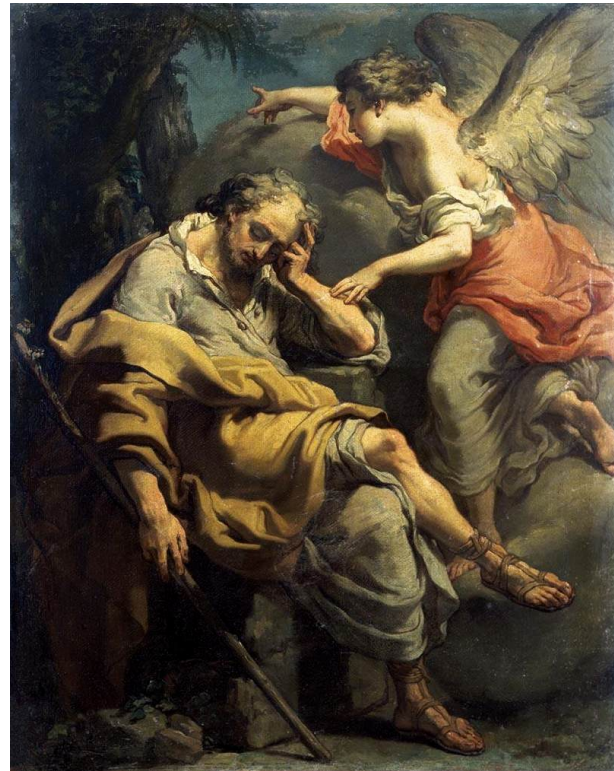


“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins”



# And they shall call him Immanuel

O Come, O come  
Immanuel  
And ransom  
captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely  
exile here  
Until the Son of God  
appear  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Immanuel shall come to  
thee, O Israel.



# New Testament Accounts

Matthew



Wise men from the East ...  
“We saw his star!”



# We Three Kings

We three kings of  
orient are  
Bearing gifts we  
traverse afar  
Field and fountain  
Moor and mountain  
Following yonder star



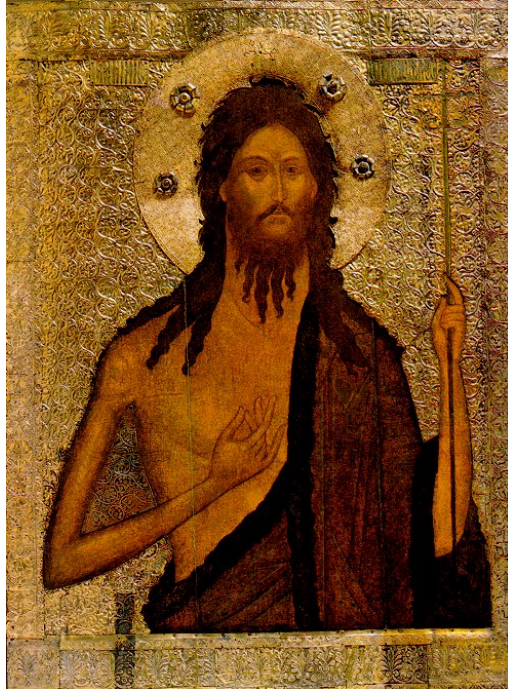
# New Testament Accounts

Matthew



Flight to Egypt and slaughter of the  
innocents

# New Testament Accounts



Luke

The background of John the Baptist

# New Testament Accounts



Luke

The angel Gabriel visits Mary

# New Testament Accounts



Luke

Mary and Elizabeth visit  
The *Magnificat*

# The *Magnificat*



And my soul proclaims his  
greatness and the Lord  
And my spirit exalts in  
God my Savior  
For he has looked with  
mercy on my lowliness  
And my name will be  
forever exalted  
For the mighty God has  
done great things  
His mercy will reach from  
age to age



# New Testament Accounts



Luke

“In those days, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus... There was no room at the inn”

# Away in a Manger



Away in a manger no crib  
for a 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

# New Testament Accounts



Luke

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord”

# Angels We Have Heard on High



Angels we have heard on  
high

Sweetly singing o'er the  
plains

And the mountains in  
reply

Echoing their joyous  
strains

*Gloria in excelsis Deo*

[Glory to God in the Highest]

# New Testament Accounts

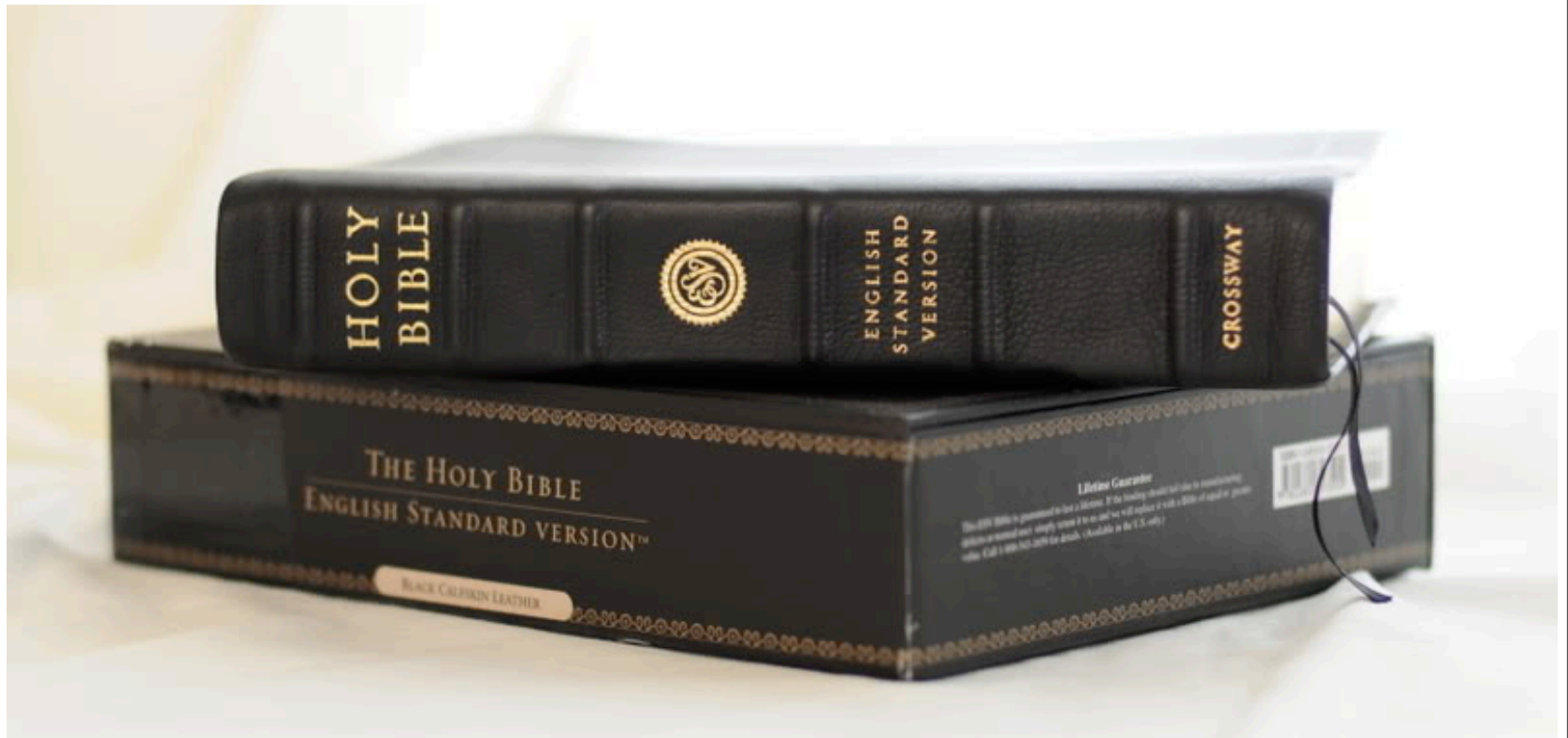


Luke

“They brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord”



# No early Church celebration





# Why December 25?

The “History of Religions” hypothesis



# Why December 25?



March 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 February	1 March	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1 April	2	3

Now add 9 months

March 25

Crucifixion



# For a while, January 6

December  
25

January  
6





# For a while, January 6

December  
25

January  
6



12 days



1100's

Christ's Mass



Christmas

1223

St. Francis of Assisi







# The Puritan's Reaction

“We wish you a  
merry Christmas”

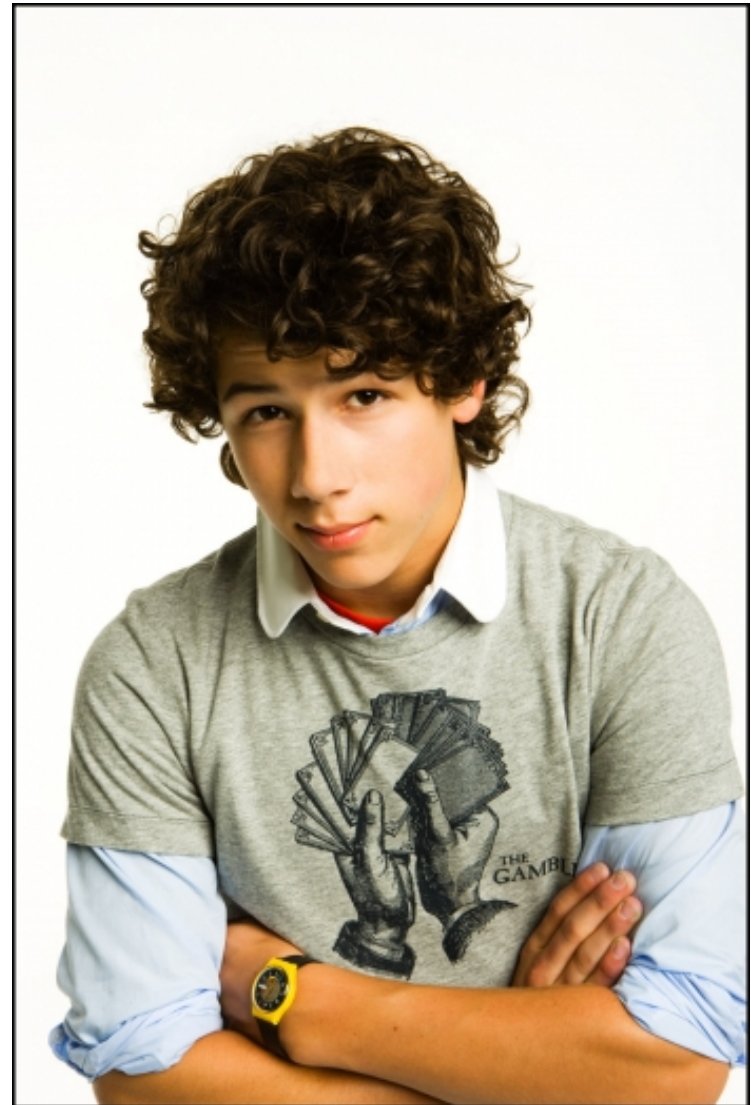




# Enter civil unrest in New York

1809

Feast of St. Nicolas



# Enter civil unrest in New York

1810

Feast of St. Nicolas

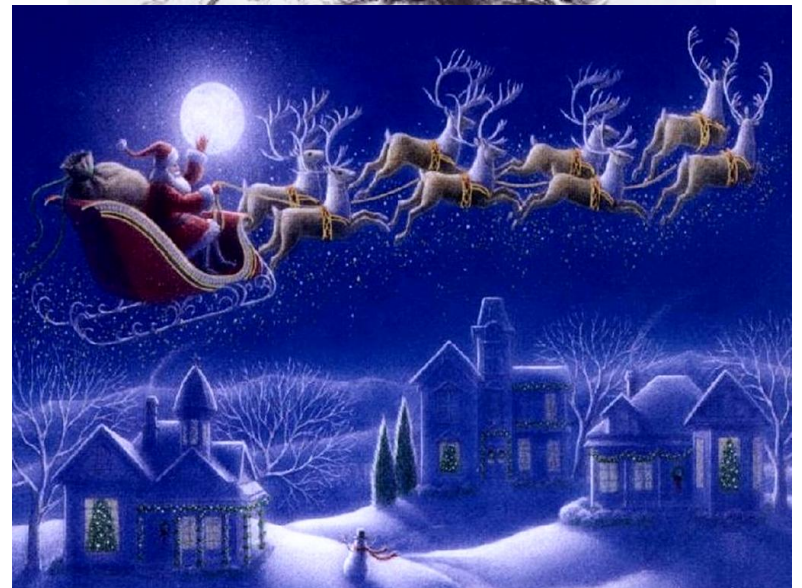
“Sinter Claas” in Dutch!

1821

Washington Irving

1822

Clark Clement Moore



# Montgomery Wards?

1939 Robert May  
1949 Gene Autry





# Points for Home

*“Unto you is born this day in the  
city of David a Savior, who is  
Christ the Lord”*

Lk 2:11

**Glory to God in the highest!**



# Points for Home

*He was given “the name Jesus,  
because he will save his people  
from their sins”*

Mt 1:21





## Points for Home

*“Glory to God in the highest, and  
on earth peace among those with  
whom he is pleased”*

Lk 2:14

**Merry Christmas!**