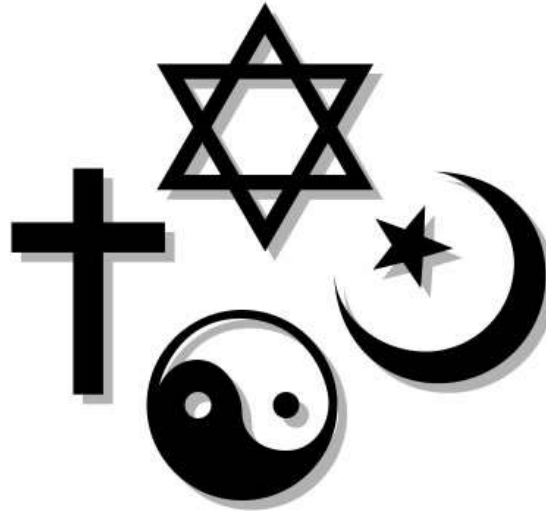


# Symbols in the Christmas Story



We are surrounded by powerful symbols





# The Bible Communicates Through Symbols

Think of what comes to mind with each of the  
following:

















# There are Symbols Surrounding the Birth of Christ

Symbols are Found in Names

# Symbols of Christmas – His Name

- Jesus – Greek for Joshua “Yahweh is salvation”
- Immanuel – “God With Us”
- King of Jews
  - Recognized by Magi
  - Rides into Jerusalem as King
  - He discusses his kingdom with Pilate
  - “King of the Jews” is placed on the marker above the cross.
  - His nation rejected him as their king

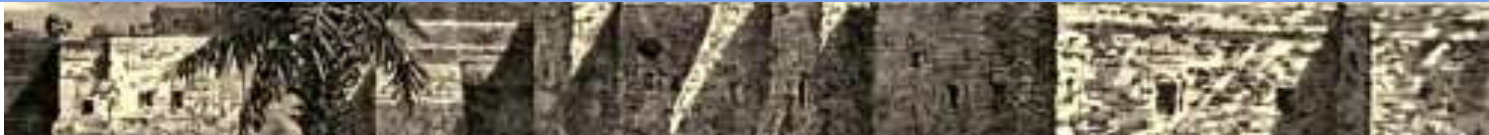


# Symbols of Christmas - Places

- Bethlehem – “City of Bread”



Micah 5:2 (ESV) But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.



John 6:35 (ESV) Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.



# Symbols of Christmas - Places

- Egypt
  - Jacob's family escaped famine
  - Joseph took his family to escape Herod.



Matthew 2:13–14 (ESV) <sup>13</sup> Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt

# Symbols of Christmas - People

Mary (the Virgin)

Matthew 1:18 (ESV) <sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.



Isaiah 7:14 (ESV) Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.



# Symbols of Christmas - People

- Joseph in Gen.
  - Brought family to Egypt
  - Delivered his people
  - Forgives brothers

Matthew 1:19 (ESV) And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

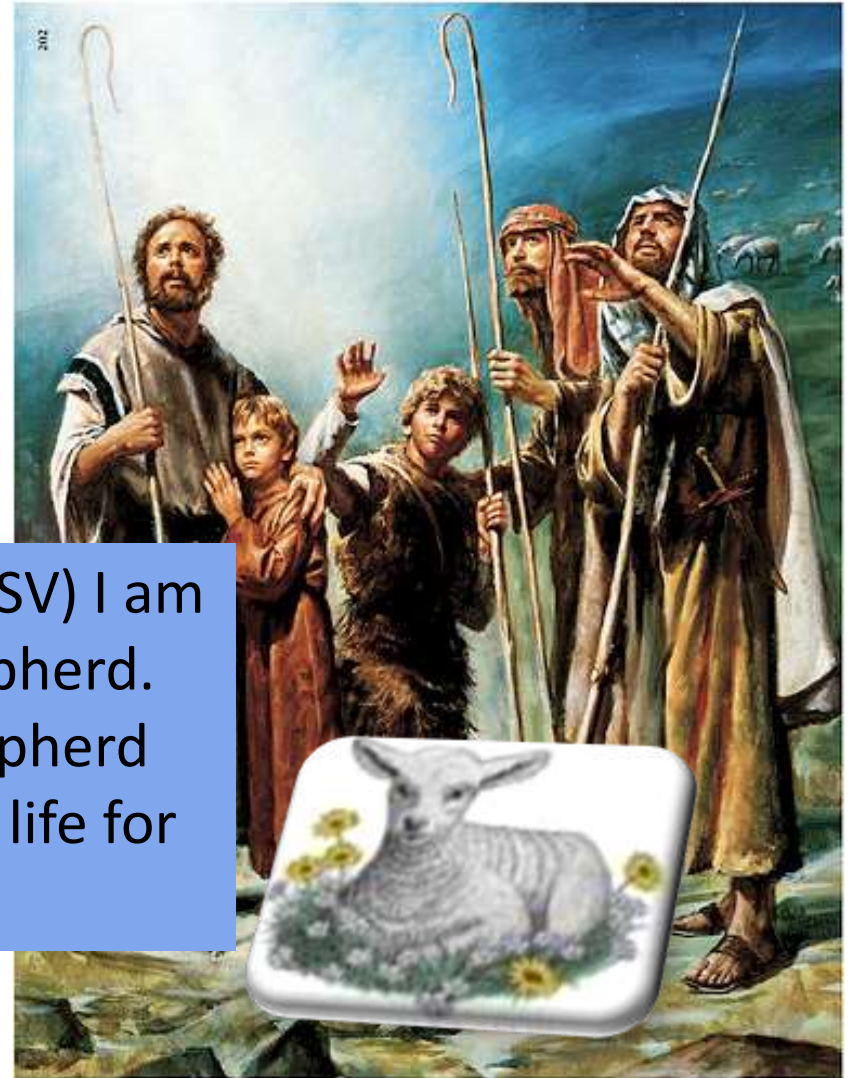


# Symbols of Christmas - People

- Shepherds
  - Who would be more appropriate to see the lamb of God.



John 10:11 (ESV) I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.



# Symbols of Christmas - People

Magi

Matthew 2:1–2 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> 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, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the



Isaiah 60:6 (ESV) A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

# Symbols of Christmas - Gifts

- Gold

- Symbol of royalty
- Symbol of wealth
- The idea of giving
- **Symbolic of the King**



# Symbols of Christmas - Gifts

- Frankincense

- Used in religious worship and performed in churches
- Was used by the ancient Egyptians
- **Syria** is the main source of frankincense
- **priests** used to burn frankincense



# Symbols of Christmas Gifts

Myrrh – also sap from a tree.

Mixed with wine and offered to Jesus on cross

Ingredient in Mary's perfume used before the crucifixion

A spice used to prepare Jesus for burial

**Symbolizes Christ's sacrifice**

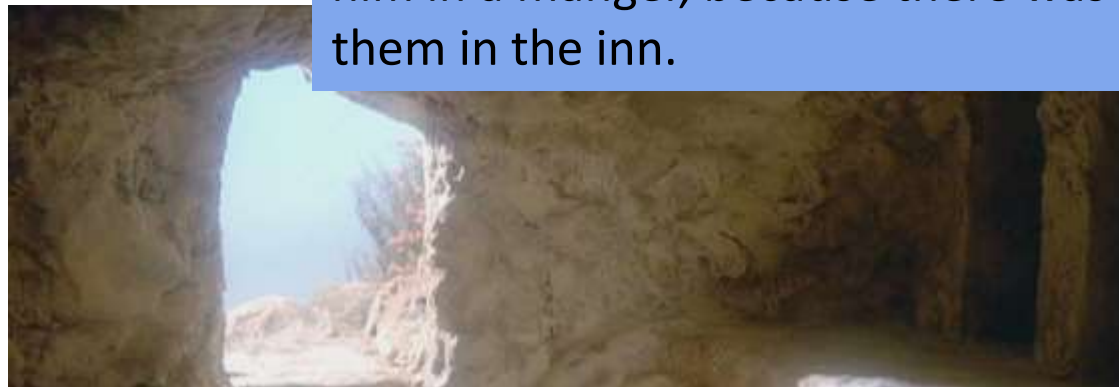


# Symbols of Christmas - Objects

- Swaddling Clothes
- Two times he is wrapped
  - His birth
  - His Death



Luke 2:7 (ESV) And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



Matthew 27:59–60 (ESV) <sup>59</sup> And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud <sup>60</sup> and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock.

# Symbols of Christmas - Objects

- Manger

The manger may have been similar to the slab that Jesus was laid on in his death.





# Symbols of Christmas - Objects

Star Of Bethlehem

Christ birth is significant to the entire universe.



Colossians 1:15–17 (ESV) <sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

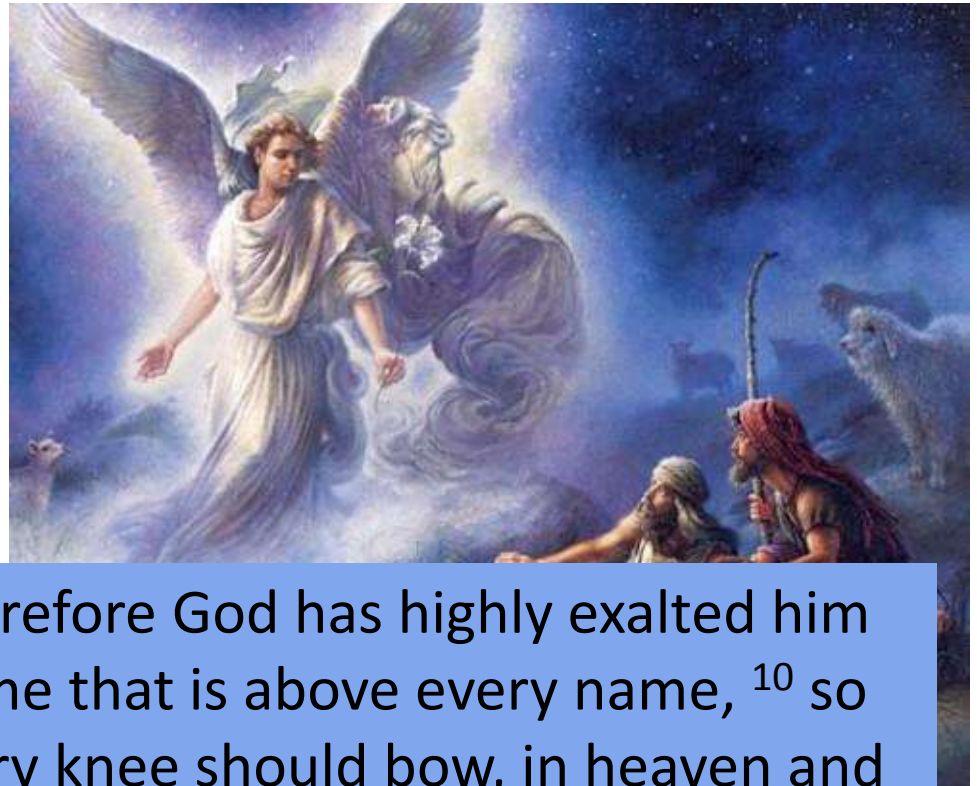


# Symbols of Christmas - Objects

## Angels

Christ is over all

Even the angels honor him and recognize his birth.



Philippians 2:9–11 (ESV) <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

# Who is this baby to you?

- Is He your King?



# Who is this baby to you?

- Is He your High Priest?



# Who is this baby to you?

Is he your sacrifice?



# Who is this baby to you?

## Is He the Lord of the Universe?



Who is this baby to you?

