“THE CHRISTMAS STORY” (Part I & II)

TEXT: John 1:11 - “He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.”
(Vs. #12) (See: Isaiah 53:3)

WHAT DOES “HIS OWN” mean?

The Jewish people. His own family. Let’s look at those who rejected Him and some who received Him.

REJECTED HIM / / / / / / / RECEIVED HIM

1) Herod (Matt. 2:3/2:15) 1) Shepherds (Luke 2:15-17)

READ: LUKE 6:22 & 23 - “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy; for, behold, your reward is great in heaven…”

HOW SHOULD WE REACT TO PERSECUTION?
Answer: Leap for joy! (Luke 6:23)
Love your enemies. (Luke 6:27, 28, 35)

(PART II)

“LOWLY SHEPHERDS TO PROMINENT WISE MEN”

FIRST POINT: THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:8 - “And there were in the same country shepherds, abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.”

NOTE: Jesus is our Great Shepherd and we are His sheep (if we are born again). Interestingly, this parallel is used to contrast how the
earthly shepherds had to submit to the Heavenly Shepherd of their souls in genuine humility, honor and worship. Jesus wants to be Lord over all the earth.

SECOND POINT: THE WISE MEN

Matthew 2:9-12 - (Vs. 11-b) - “…they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.”

Symbolically speaking, here is what these 3 gifts represented.

1) GOLD = KINGSHIP (Rev. 19:16)

2) FRANKINCENSE = PRIESTLY ROLE (Ps. 110:4; Heb. 5:6; 2:17; 4:14 & 15; 7:3/ 7:26)

3) MYRRH = FIGURE OF HIS DEATH & EMBALMING (Luke 23:56; Luke 24:1; Mark 16:1; John 19:39 & 40)

NOTE: The order of these gifts (from the Wise Men) could be as follows:

1) Myrrh - His death & burial (Ro. 14:9)

2) Frankincense - His priestly role (Heb. 7:22-28; 8:1)

3) Gold - His Kingship (I Tim. 6:15; Rev. 17:14)

In the Christmas Story, Luke 2:11 says (by the angel), “For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a SAVIOUR (not a King, but a SAVIOUR), which is Christ the Lord.”

NOTE: From the poor and common shepherds, who were just ordinary men, to the wise men, who were wise and probably had the money to do traveling and research for their intense investigations, Jesus came to earth for all mankind.

All races, regions, and religions. Jesus came for ALL. He is no respecter of persons. (Acts 10:34) He came the first time to be our Saviour. He will come the second time to be our King.
CLOSING REMARKS:

RECEIVE THE “GIFT” TODAY. IF YOU ALREADY HAVE, THEN GIVE THIS “GIFT” TO OTHERS, SO THEY CAN RECEIVE THIS “GIFT” ALSO!

(See: Romans 5:15, 16 & 18; Romans 6:23; II Cor. 9:15; John 4:10)

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