





















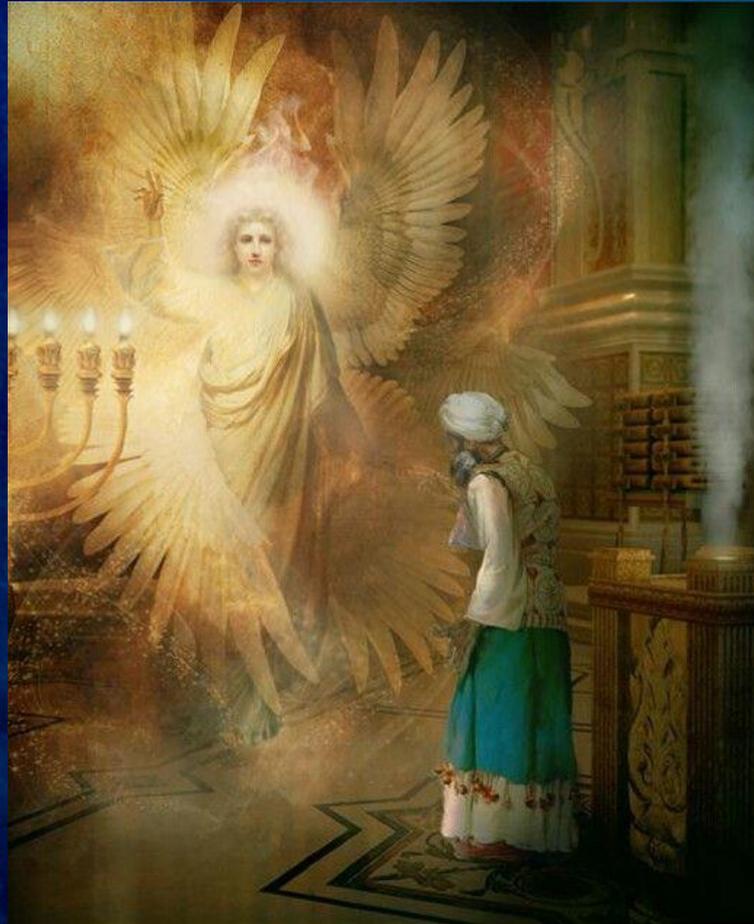
# Christmas is Political

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Ben Chenoweth

# Christmas is Political

## 1. The birth of the Messiah



## Luke 1:14-17

You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly.

# Mal. 3:1

“Look! I am sending my messenger, and **he will prepare the way before me**. Then the Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger of the covenant, whom you look for so eagerly, is surely coming,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.

## Mal. 4:5-6

Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord arrives. His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse.

## Mal. 4:5-6

Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before **the great and dreadful day of the Lord** arrives. His preaching will turn the hearts of **fathers to their children**, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse.

# Luke 1:30-33

“Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favour with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called **the Son of the Most High**. The Lord God will give him **the throne of his ancestor David**. And **he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!**

## Luke 2:10-11

Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. **The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord**—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!

## Luke 2:25-32

At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting **for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel**. The Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

# Luke 2:25-32

“Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace,

as you have promised.

I have seen **your salvation**,

which you have prepared for all people.

He is a light to reveal God to the nations,

and he is the glory of your people Israel!”

# Luke 2:38

She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly **for God to rescue Jerusalem.**

## Acts 1:6

So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”

He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

# John 18:36

Jesus answered, “**My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom.** If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But **my Kingdom is not of this world.**”

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## 1. The birth of the Messiah



# Luke 1:46-55

“Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!  
For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,  
and from now on all generations will call me  
blessed.

For the Mighty One is holy,  
and he has done great things for me.

# Luke 1:46-55

He shows mercy from generation to generation  
to all who fear him.

His mighty arm has done tremendous things!

He has scattered the proud and haughty  
ones.

He has brought down princes from their  
thrones

and exalted the humble.

# Luke 1:46-55

He has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away with empty hands.

He has helped his servant Israel  
and remembered to be merciful.

For he made this promise to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his children forever.”

# Christmas is Political

1. The birth of the Messiah
2. Societal reversals

# Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
for he has anointed me to bring Good News  
to the poor.

# Luke 6:20-21

God blesses you who are **poor**,  
for the Kingdom of God is yours.

God blesses you who are **hungry now**,  
for you will be satisfied.

In 2018, Australia claimed the top place in terms of global median wealth per adult (US\$191,453), edging out Switzerland, according to the Credit Suisse Research Institute's 2018 Global Wealth Report. Australia's average wealth per adult of US\$411,060 is also the second highest in the world after Switzerland.

[www.ceda.com.au/Digital-hub/Blogs/CEDA-Blog/October-2018/Australia-tops-global-wealth-rankings](http://www.ceda.com.au/Digital-hub/Blogs/CEDA-Blog/October-2018/Australia-tops-global-wealth-rankings)

Australia is also one of the countries with the most equitable distributions of wealth compared with other developed nations, such as the UK and the USA. Only six per cent of Australians have net worth under US\$10,000, compared to 18 per cent in the UK and 28 per cent in the USA.

[www.ceda.com.au/Digital-hub/Blogs/CEDA-Blog/October-2018/Australia-tops-global-wealth-rankings](http://www.ceda.com.au/Digital-hub/Blogs/CEDA-Blog/October-2018/Australia-tops-global-wealth-rankings)

## Luke 18:22-25

When Jesus heard his answer, he said, “There is still one thing you haven’t done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

But when the man heard this he became very sad, for he was very rich.

When Jesus saw this, he said, “**How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!** In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”

Cashew nuts video:

<https://www.facebook.com/FRANCE24.English/posts/10157772880524434>

# Christmas is Political

1. The birth of the Messiah
2. Societal reversals

# Christmas is Political

1. The birth of the Messiah
2. Societal reversals
3. Three competing kings



# Luke 2:1-3

In those days **Caesar Augustus** issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.



# Micah 5:2

But you, O **Bethlehem**  
Ephrathah, are only a small  
village in Judah. Yet **a ruler of**  
**Israel will come from you**,  
one whose origins are from  
the distant past.



# Proverbs 21:1

The king's heart is like a  
stream of water directed by  
the Lord;

he guides it wherever he  
pleases.



# Christmas is Political

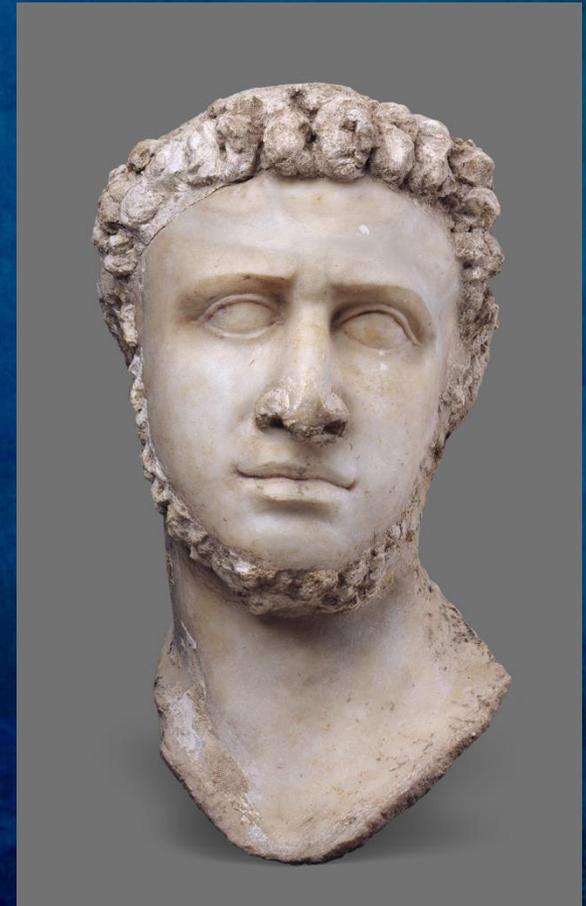
1. The birth of the Messiah
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# Matt 2:1-2

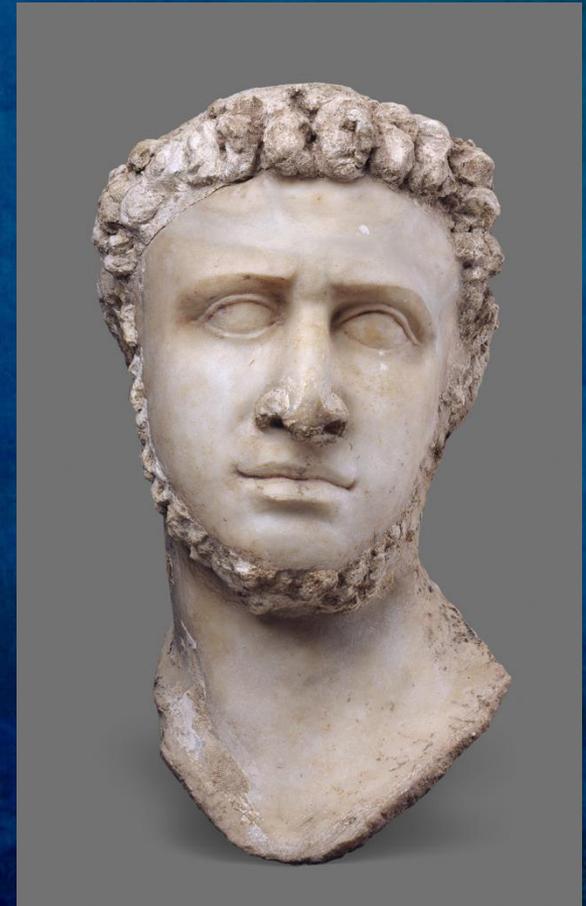
Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of **King Herod**.

About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have seen his star as it arose, and we have come to worship him.”



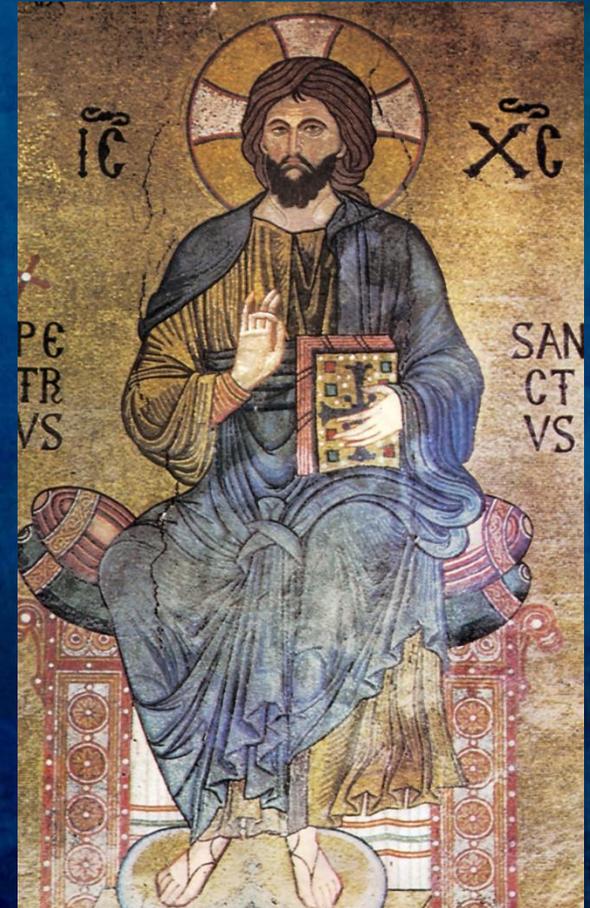
# Matt 2:18

Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me **so that I can go and worship him, too!**”



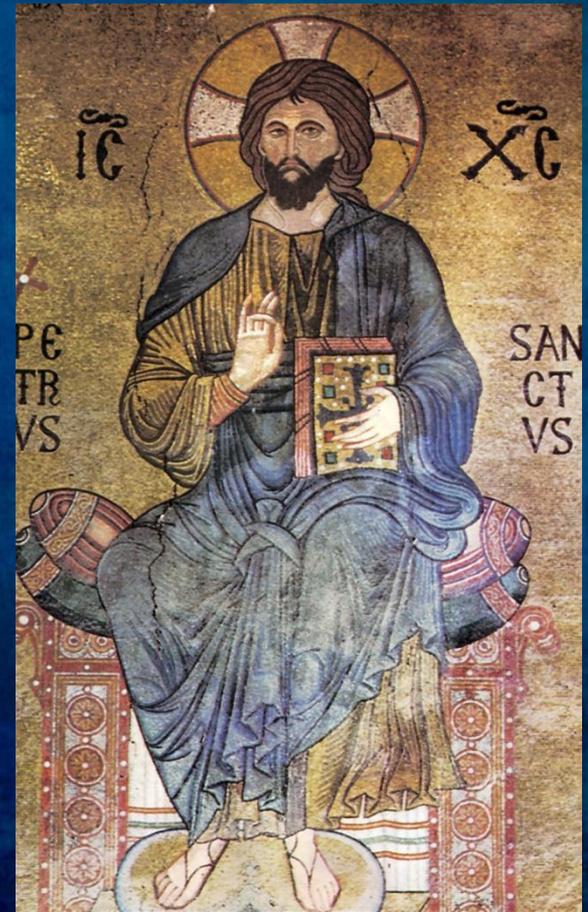
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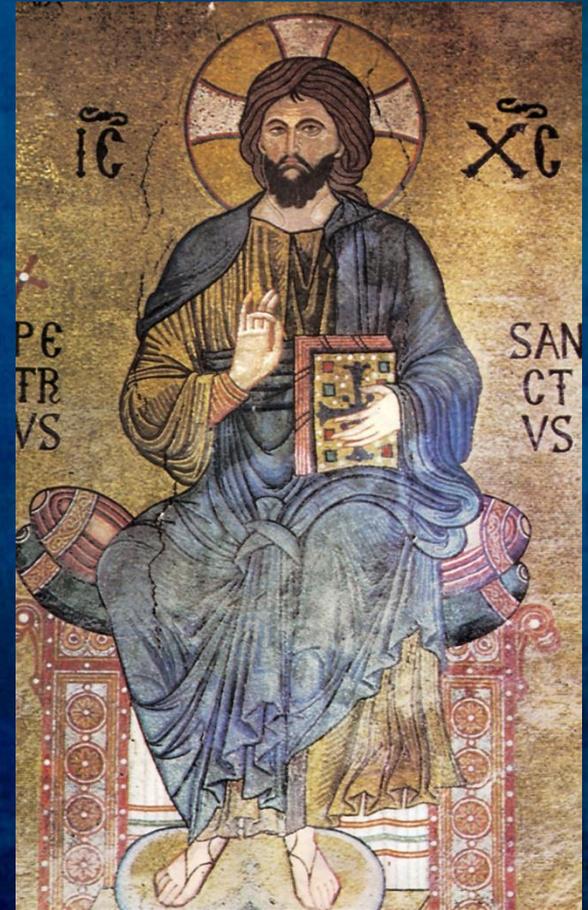
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