

THE UNCANNY TIMING OF GOD AT CHRISTMAS

KENNETH AND GLORIA COPELAND WITH KELLIE COPELAND

DECEMBER 21-25, 2020

DAY 1 – THE MIRACLES REQUIRED FOR JESUS' BIRTH

There are many traditional ways to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The beautiful Nativity scene is a composite of the birth of Jesus. When you realize God has your tomorrow in His hands, it's easy to trust Him. Miracles surrounded Jesus' birth. Lay aside the traditional manger scene, and look at the situation. The accuracy of the Scripture is uncanny.

STUDY IT

- I. There are many traditional ways to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
 - However, traditions are not always accurate according to The WORD of God.
 - “Ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition” (Matthew 15:6).
 - Traditions are not bad; just keep them in their place. Don't make your traditions more important than The WORD of God.
 - The word *Christmas* is a combination of two words: Christ, “the Anointed One” and mass, “celebration.”
 - *Christmas* means “a Messianic celebration, a celebration of the Anointed One of God.”

- II. A composite is a gathering of information from several sources put together to make a more complete picture.
 - The biblical writer Luke was like a reporter. He was not one of the 12 disciples, yet he gathered information from many eyewitnesses about the life of Jesus and the apostles.
 - Luke wrote two documentaries: the Gospel of Luke and Acts.
 - The stated reason was to record what Jesus began to do and teach (Acts 1:1).
 - He included some details that were not found in the other Gospels.
 - When you put the four Gospels together, you get a more complete picture—a composite.



- III. The beautiful, traditional Nativity scene is a composite of the birth of Jesus.
- For example, when you study the biblical account, the wise men were not at the manger.
 - There weren't necessarily *three* wise men or kings.
 - The kings had a large group of servants and soldiers accompanying them for convenience and safety reasons.
 - There were three gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh—all very valuable.
 - The gifts were God's provision for Joseph to take care of his family as he fled to Egypt to escape King Herod.
- IV. When you realize God has your tomorrow in His hands, it's easy to trust Him.
- You may not know the whole plan, but go ahead and take the first step.
 - God has plans in place to take care of you.
 - Paul and Silas had been beaten, secured in stocks and put in jail because of their preaching.
 - At midnight as they were praising God, they were delivered (Acts 16:23-26).
- V. Miracles surrounded Jesus' birth.
- The prophet spoke that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
 - The prophecy came to pass 715 years later when Caesar made a proclamation that everyone needed to go to his city of lineage to register and pay taxes.
 - Joseph was from the lineage of David, so he had to go to Bethlehem (Luke 2:4).
- VI. Lay aside the traditional manger scene, and look at the situation.
- The trip from Nazareth where Joseph lived to Bethlehem was about 90 miles, so it took several days to get there.
 - Joseph and Mary had to travel slowly because of her condition; she was nine months pregnant.
 - In Bethlehem there was no room at any inn because many people had come to register and had gotten there before them.
- VII. The accuracy of the Scripture is uncanny.
- The angels did not have to tell the shepherds where to find the Baby—they knew where the manger was and where swaddling clothes were used.
 - The sacrificial lambs were birthed in the cave under the watch tower of Migdal Eder, located in the northern part of Bethlehem, built to protect the Temple flocks.
 - "And thou, O tower of the flock..." (Micah 4:8). *Tower* in Hebrew is *Migdal*.
 - The cave underneath the tower was a protected place, and it had a birthing trough, a manger, for the ewes and lambs.



- These were the lambs that would be used as sacrifices in Temple worship.
- The shepherds had to watch over them to keep them from spot or blemish, and they were expertly trained to take great care of the ewes as they gave birth.
- The newborn lambs were wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid safely in clean straw.
- The Baby Jesus, the Lamb of God, was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid safely in a manger.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Just as God carefully timed every detail and every miracle for Jesus' birth, He is doing the same thing for you. He hears every prayer and He is working to make everything work out right at the proper time.

Let's thank The LORD together:

Heavenly Father, thank You for Jesus. Thank You for Your perfect timing in all that was prophesied about Jesus' birth. Now I want to thank You by faith for what You are doing for me, the prayers You are answering and the timing of every move on my behalf. You are my God, and Jesus, You are my LORD! You are faithful and You never fail. Thank You for caring for me. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



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DAY 2 – WHY JOSEPH'S FAITH WORKED AT CHRISTMAS

There are things in the Christmas story that show the uncanny accuracy of God's WORD. Joseph exercised faith in God all the way through the Christmas experience. Don't ever give up on God's WORD; God has a plan. God gave Himself as a gift to you.

STUDY IT

- I. There are things in the Christmas story that show us the uncanny accuracy of God's WORD.
 - What God said and what He had written came to pass right on time.
 - The magnificent account of the birth of Jesus started with a prophecy.
 - "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2).
 - Caesar made a decree that all the world should be taxed in their own city (Luke 2:1).
 - That meant that Joseph and Mary had to leave their home in Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem.
 - What God said 715 years before moved someone as powerful as Caesar to make a decree that would set up the fulfillment of Micah's prophecy.
 - Everything happened just like God said it would.
 - God's WORD will govern leaders and the actions and decisions of the world.
- II. Joseph exercised faith in God all the way through the Christmas experience.
 - If Joseph had not been able to believe God, he would not have received the provision of God.
 - For example: God knew Joseph would need finances to take his family to Egypt to escape Herod.
 - God prepared a star in the sky. Wise men in the Orient followed the star until they found the young Child (Matthew 2:11).
 - They brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh that could be sold to finance Joseph, Mary and Jesus' stay in Egypt that lasted about two years.



- These people in the Bible had to believe what God said, or else they would never have received His promise.
- III. Don't ever give up on God's WORD. Don't quit. God has a plan.
- If we wait and wonder if what we hear is from God, we'll never receive it.
 - The Bible doesn't say believe you receive because of a dream; it says, believe you receive when you pray (Mark 11:24).
 - Information is not of God just because it came in a dream. Revelation is of God, *if* you get it from His WORD.
 - Your heart needs to be open and ready to believe God is speaking to you.
- IV. In his early meetings, Brother Copeland didn't want to speak a word of knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8).
- Brother Copeland told The LORD that he didn't want to say, "Thus saith The LORD," and make a mistake.
 - The LORD answered, *I can handle any mistake you will make. What I can't handle is your disobedience.*
 - Be willing to be willing.
 - If you question what you hear inside, question it in the presence of God. Let Him assure you with the Scripture that the word is from Him.
 - The Spirit of God will continue to show you things about that word of God.
 - In 2019, The LORD told Brother Copeland, "2020 is going to be a year of great change"—and it has!
- V. God has given Himself as a gift to you.
- You have to *take* the gift. You cannot earn nor pay for it.
 - If you believe when you receive, there's no need to question it. Don't let go; continue to believe.
 - Faith is not of the mind, it is of your spirit, the central focus of your life.
 - Walk and live by faith, and don't speak anything that contradicts the will of God.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Whatever you are hoping for, believe that God will give it to you. Use your faith. Determine to believe God's WORD and His promises—and nothing else!

Repeat God's promise several times a day, and make it personal. "My God shall supply all [my] need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19.

God will do it! Give Him praise!



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DAY 3 – THE UNCANNY TIMING OF GOD AT CHRISTMAS

God continually reveals His WORD to us. It's uncanny how exact God is in everything He does. We traditionally see the Nativity scene with Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, the shepherds and the wise men together in a composite scene. The arrival of the kings and their entourage was impressive enough to stir up all of Jerusalem

STUDY

- I. God continually reveals His WORD to us.
 - As you read and study God's WORD, you see more and more how everything fits together, and you see a more complete picture of His plan. Brother Copeland calls it "going wide-screen."

- II. It's uncanny how exact God is in everything He does.
 - Joseph was a just man and was going to quietly end his engagement to Mary (Matthew 1:18-19).
 - A just man doesn't belittle his wife.
 - The angel told Joseph in a dream to name the baby, Jesus, which in Hebrew is *Yeshua* (Matthew 1:21-23).
 - Jesus' birth fulfilled the Old Covenant scripture:
 - "Therefore The LORD Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).
 - God sent the angel to Joseph in a dream with a message.
 - To receive what the angel says is to receive God's WORD.

- III. We traditionally see the Nativity scene with Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, the shepherds and the wise men together in a composite scene.
 - Actually, it took over 20 days for Joseph and Mary to make the trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem.
 - Then eight days after Jesus' birth, they had to be in Jerusalem to have Jesus circumcised (Luke 2:21).
 - It's amazing that God had everyone exactly in place and everything exactly in order to fulfill His WORD to the prophets.



- IV. God invented time. Before then, there was no time. God is always now.
 - He put the Earth, the garden spot of the universe, and all the planets in the correct places, moving at the right time and in the right orbit to establish time.
 - We just need an open heart to go along in time, and watch it all unfold exactly as God desires.
 - God chose Joseph just like He chose Mary. God has chosen us for His plan.
 - We just need to let Him do what He wants and follow along.

- V. The arrival of the kings and their entourage was impressive enough to stir up all of Jerusalem (Matthew 2:1-3).
 - The Bible doesn't say how many kings there were; but we know they gave Jesus three gifts.
 - When Herod asked the priests where the Messiah was to be born, they knew to look in the book of Micah (Matthew 2:4-8).
 - When the wise men left Jerusalem, the star again guided them to Jesus.
 - They came to the house, not the manger (Matthew 2:11).
 - We know Jesus was about 2 years old when the wise men came because wicked King Herod had all boy babies, 2 years old and younger in Bethlehem killed (Matthew 2:16).
 - Mary saw the messenger angel when he announced to her she would have a Son.
 - That same heavenly messenger appeared to Joseph to tell him to flee to Egypt to protect Jesus from Herod.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

God wants to meet your needs and answer your prayers. Check your patience level. God is working all things for your good in His time!

Make a list of your prayer requests, and end with a declaration of appreciation, even as you wait for God's timing.

Thank You, Father for answering my prayers and meeting my needs. I determine to be patient and know You are in control. Everything You do is perfect, and I expect Your perfect timing in answer to these requests. In Jesus' Name. Amen.





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DAY 4 – GOD'S CHRISTMAS PLAN

The whole Christmas experience happened because the prophets had spoken it. The wise men traveled the long trip from the East with their caravan to Israel following God's star. God has your life in mind. He knows everything you need. The Bible is an Eastern book, and we try to understand it with a Western mind. Jesus wants to commune with us. Jesus wants to give us victory.

STUDY IT

- I. The whole Christmas experience happened because the prophets had spoken it.
 - Deeper study of the life of Jesus reveals His life as fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.
 - Jesus read the Isaiah 61 prophecy in the synagogue.
 - “The Spirit of The LORD is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of The LORD” (Luke 4:18-19).
 - He finished with, “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears” (Luke 4:21).
 - All of the Old Testament tells us how it all started. Moses spent time with God and wrote down what God showed him about the beginning of the world.

- II. The wise men traveled the long trip from the East with their caravan to Israel (Matthew 2:1).
 - Herod realized the newborn king was a threat to him.
 - He took time to ask the wise men when they first saw the star.
 - His motive was not to worship Jesus, but to kill Him.
 - The wise men again followed the star and came to the house where Jesus was.
 - They worshipped Him and gave Him treasures.
 - They gave more than enough to take care of Joseph and his family for the time they were in Egypt.
 - God knew the need would be there, and He prepared them to have plenty.





- III. God has your life in mind. He knows everything you need.
- If you'll let Him, He'll send the kings, or whomever it takes to help you.
 - Don't sit around and worry about it. That hinders God from helping you.
 - Anything that does not proceed from faith is sin (Romans 14:23).
 - Talk about faith: Those kings had to believe that the star was from God.
 - They took their lives into their hands and followed the star until it stopped.
 - God the Father took care of everything for them, and He will for us.
- IV. The Bible is an Eastern book, and we try to understand it with a Western mind.
- Jesus said, "If you will open the door, I will come in and eat with you" (see Revelation 3:20).
 - Jesus is saying, "If you'll let Me come in and be LORD, then I will enter the provision-covenant with you. I'll take care of everything for you. I will eat with you, take care of all your bills, take care of the household, and provide for you."
 - This invitation to open your life to Jesus is not a one-time thing. It's a daily decision we make and a daily invitation.
 - Don't be afraid God will want something from you that you don't want to give; or that He's going to want too much from you.
 - God doesn't want you to be afraid of Him.
- V. Jesus wants to commune with us.
- The classic painting of the Last Supper is a gentile picture.
 - Jesus and the disciples were actually seated in Jewish tradition—on the floor and leaned back on cushions.
 - It was the Passover supper. They had eaten together and were listening to Jesus.
 - Jesus took the cup of the Messiah that was normally turned upside down, and turned it upright.
 - He was making everlasting covenant with them, and with us.
 - When Jesus serves the covenant Communion, He includes the whole household and meets all your needs according to His riches in glory (Philippians 4:19).
 - Knock, ask and listen. Whoever knocks, it will be opened to him. Whoever asks, it will be answered.
- VI. Jesus want to give us victory.
- Jesus speaks to us about our issues and weaknesses so we can have victory.
 - He who has an open heart has the victory.
 - It's the time you spend in His presence that makes the difference. We never want to do anything to distance ourselves from the Holy Spirit.
 - Your will does not have to be broken; yield your will to God's will.



- Your rightness is not what you bring to the table with Jesus. It's the rightness of Jesus that opens the door for us to come to the table to eat and fellowship with Him.
- Jesus is the Gift of all gifts!

MAKE IT PERSONAL

God has a plan and it involves you using faith in His grace. As you watch His plan unfold in your life, resist pride and humble yourself to Him. How? With your words. Speak the wonderful truths that God is great, and He knows what He is doing. Stay in love and faith, and He will lift you into the right place at the right time.

“Humble yourselves in the sight of The LORD, and He shall lift you up” (James 4:10).

Remember: “Having done all, stand!” (Ephesians 6:13).





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DAY 5 – CHRISTMAS BEYOND THE TRADITION

The beautiful Nativity scene is a composite of the birth of Jesus. As we learn more from the biblical Christmas story, we are astounded at the timing and provision of God for the birth of Jesus. He is the Lamb of God and the Good Shepherd. We are clothed in the full armor of God.

STUDY IT

- I. The beautiful Nativity scene is a composite of the birth of Jesus.
 - The wise men didn't come until later, and they gave three gifts—gold, frankincense and myrrh. There may have been more than three wise men.
 - These gifts were more than enough and allowed Joseph to have provision for the trip to Egypt, no matter how long they stayed.
 - God was more than enough for Joseph and for us. He is El Shaddai.

- II. As we learn more from the biblical Christmas story, we are astounded at the timing and provision of God for the birth of Jesus.
 - The arrival of Jesus had already been prophesied in Micah and Isaiah. The WORD of God is accurate. When God gives His WORD, He has to bring it to pass.
 - The Lamb of God had to be slain for the sins of the world.
 - The swaddling clothes were what the shepherds used to wrap newborn lambs in so they would not hurt themselves at their birth. They were destined to be Temple sacrifices, and they had to be without blemish.
 - Now, the Lamb of God, the final sacrifice, was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the clean straw in the manger.

- III. Jesus is the Lamb of God; and He is the Good Shepherd.
 - Jesus leads us beside still waters and feeds us in green pastures to restore our souls. We fear not because our Shepherd is with us (Psalm 23).
 - Emmanuel, God with us, is such a heavy statement. It's God's wraparound presence with us that protects us from sin. We are one with Jesus.





- IV. We are clothed in the full armor of God.
- We are clothed in His armor. We wear the armor of light (Romans 13:12).
 - Be clothed with humility (1 Peter 5:5).
 - Humble yourself; don't condemn yourself, but humble yourself to His authority.
 - You are raised up with Christ, if you are yielded to Him.
 - God is with us. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:5). He is Love (1 John 4:8), and He has faith.
- V. Jesus and the Father are One, but they are not the same.
- Jesus is a Man in heaven, the Father is a Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is working in us in an earthly ministry.
 - Jesus said He needed to leave so the Holy Spirit could come and inhabit us.
 - Jesus is coming through us, the believers, to minister to the world.
- VI. Christians are the most dangerous people on earth to the devil.
- When the Christian who believes in God invests his or her money in the kingdom of God, that person takes control of the devil's operation.
 - That's the reason 2021 will be the Year of the Local Church.
 - The local Christians in churches around the world have the power.
 - The USA is the most dangerous nation, because it preaches more gospel than any other nation.
 - Wars are fought over territory.
 - Believers are supposed to take their authority and take the territory of the souls of men.
 - Go into all the world and preach the gospel (Mark 16:15-16). Those who believe will be saved. Those who don't, won't.
 - Jesus set the whole Church against sickness, disease and poverty.
 - Jesus said, "I have been anointed to preach the gospel to the poor" (Luke 4:18).
 - The gospel to the poor is to not be poor anymore in any area.
 - Merry Christmas!

MAKE IT PERSONAL

As you enjoy Christmas, remember to look past the traditions and seek God's WORD for His truths that will change your life. [Click here to share with us](#), or [contact us on Facebook™](#).

Kenneth Copeland Ministries is committed to preach The WORD of God on every available voice, and that takes Partners. To become a Partner, call us today at 1-800-600-7395, or visit kcm.org/Partner. Remember: JESUS IS LORD!

