



## "THE BIRTH OF THE KING"

### CHAPTER 22

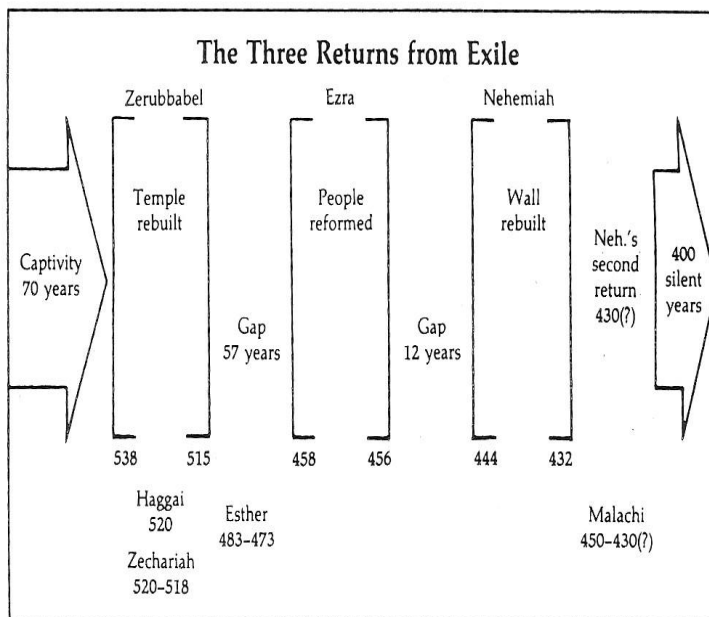


The New Testament period begins with John the Baptist being born after a period of 400 years of silence on God's part.

During these 400 years there is little known except what we have through the "Dead Sea Scrolls"

There is confusion about who John the Baptist really was because people looked back to their Old testament roots.

The exile had cautioned the people in looking for a Messiah, but they were longing for the Messianic age.



Chapter 24 opens with words from John 1:1-14. These are some of the most important statements we have about the divinity of Jesus the Christ.

It is one of the most important ties to the relationship between God the Father and Jesus.

Mormons have difficulty with these first five verses of John. They have trouble seeing the distinction between the Father and the Son here.



*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*

This passage talks about the one God of the Trinity, yet, it also talks about each person of the Trinity. While the Father and the Son are one, they have distinct roles. The Father is creator, the Son is the redeemer.



The angel Gabriel was sent to a young virgin whose name was Mary, living in the village of Nazareth with an announcement regarding the birth of Christ.

*"Mary was greatly troubled at the angel's message."* This is an understatement

The announcement to Mary was about something that had never happened. She, a virgin would conceive and give birth to a Son. From the human story this is impossible, with God all things are possible.



Consider the response of Mary to this announcement. *"I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled."*

Her response indicates her faith. It also indicates her need for a savior (Page 330)

Joseph response can be easily understood. Here was an issue of unfaithfulness.

Joseph also demonstrates his faith in response to the angel's message in his dream.



Just as we have seen throughout the Old Testament, God again uses a pagan king, being a part of His divine plan.

Caesar Augustus orders a decree for a census requiring everyone to return to their home town.

Consider the difficulty of traveling so late in her pregnancy. Mary and Joseph make the journey.

In keeping with the prophecies of the Old Testament, the Messiah is born in Bethlehem.



In Bethlehem, the King of kings is born in a manger. The incarnation takes place in such a lowly place, so opposite the introduction of royalty in the human side of the story.

Here we see God becoming one with man. In the flesh Jesus becomes both God and man, where he will demonstrate His state of humility and His state of Exaltation.

In keeping with Law of Moses Joseph and Mary present Jesus at the temple to be circumcised on the 8<sup>th</sup> day.



Arriving at the temple both Simeon and Anna recognize Jesus and speak words of blessings, but Simeon also speaks of the danger that is yet to come.

With the arrival of the magi from the east King Herod feels threatened, desiring to destroy any opposition he makes a decree to have all male infants two and under to be killed.

God enters the story again by sending an angel to Joseph to warn him in a dream to escape to Egypt to protect the child from the wrath of Herod.



Only after the death of Herod will it be safe to return to Israel and settle his family in his home in Nazareth.

Little is known of the boyhood of Jesus. His first appearance is in the temple at the age of twelve.

There he astounds the Jewish leaders with his wisdom and knowledge.

As the chapter closes we are left to wonder who is this Jesus. Is he a prophet? A great Rabbi? A new political leader?