THE HIDDEN CHRISTMAS STORY

(Luke 2:1-20)

The HISTORICAL Christmas story is a HIDDEN Christmas story

The Story We've Heard—a syncretistic, secularized story filled with myths, misinformation, misconceptions, and misunderstanding

The History We Haven't

- Social pressure
- Government oppression
- Inadequate housing
- Unreliable eyewitnesses

The Point of the Story (Luke 2:10—11)

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

QUOTES OF NOTE

Anticipation soared for "a new order of the ages" at the time of Jesus' birth. The Roman poet Virgil coined that phrase, sounding like an Old Testament prophet as he declared that "a new human race is descending from the heights of heaven," a change that would come about due to "the birth of a child, with whom the iron age of humanity will end and the golden age begin." Virgil wrote these messianic words not about Jesus, however, but about Caesar Augustus, the "present deity," the "restorer of the world," who had managed to reunite the empire after the civil war sparked by Julius Caesar's assassination. (Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*)

It is, in point of fact, extremely improbable, under existing conditions, that Jesus would have been permitted to be born at all. Mary's pregnancy, in poor circumstances, and with the father unknown, would have been an obvious case for an abortion; and her talk of having conceived as a result of the intervention of the Holy Ghost would have pointed to the need for psychiatric treatment, and made the case for terminating her pregnancy even stronger. Thus, our generation, needing a Savior more, perhaps, than any that has ever existed, would be too humane to allow one to be born. (Malcolm Muggeridge, *Jesus: The Man Who Lives*)

The God…who could order armies and empires about like pawns on a chessboard, this God emerged in Palestine as a baby who could not speak or eat solid food or control his bladder, who depended on a teenager for shelter, food, and love. (Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*)