



His mark

THE WHAT AND WHY OF HIS
“MARK” (AT CHRISTMAS)

Luke 2:6-7



HALLMARK" VS "HISMARK"

“Hallmark” version is the fictional imagination that we allow to become more than entertainment. The “Hallmark” version is “heavenly.” Only problem-- this ain’t heaven! Hallmark can become the expectation for a meaningful Christmas, whether in cards or movies, its the air-brushed, perfect, romance, version that can end up breeding disappointment. Hallmark kept as entertainment is not a bad thing. Its only when we make “Hallmark” the expectation for real life that is problematic.



“HISMARK” VS “HALLMARK”

- God decides my life story because his love and presence bring satisfaction and meaning. True and lasting satisfaction is found not in my circumstances (or even my love-connection) but in the living water and bread of life of Jesus Christ. When His “mark” is upon me, I have meaning and purpose even in the downturns of life. The Hallmark version may be heavenly – but Hismark is real, even in the valley of shadows.



1. HIS SON WAS BORN IN PRESUMPTIVE SEXUAL IMMORALITY. (JOHN 8:41)

Of course, the author of the story, God, knows it!

A. Specific time.

**B. Mary is “found” to be pregnant, while engaged.
Matt 1:18**

**C. They are still engaged when Jesus was born.
Luke 2:5.**

Why not wait until after the wedding to send Gabriel?

WHY BORN AMIDST THE RUMORS OF ADULTERY?

1. Virgin birth was “His mark,” his sign to humanity of “who done it.”
 - Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
 - The virgin birth and the resurrection work together as God “signs” the story for us!





2. HIS SON WAS BORN IN THE PROPHETIC CITY OF BETHLEHEM -- AMIDST RELATIVE SILENCE; AND, RAISED IN THE “WRONG” CITY!

A. Bethlehem. Micah 5:2, Matt 2:6. Luke 7:50-52

- Heavenly host to shepherds only?
- Star to Magi who are two years late? Matt 2:16
- Gabriel to Mary while alone? No witness?
- Joseph in a dream that no one else has?

B. Nazareth? Why not raised in Bethlehem? Lk 7:50-52



WHY THE SILENCE? WHY NAZARETH NOT BETHLEHEM?

Those who rejected Jesus included:

- **Religious leaders; Jews, as a whole; the Romans.**

John 1:11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.



WHY THE SILENCE? WHY NAZARETH NOT BETHLEHEM?

God speaks, not by sight, but by His Spirit. He gives us what we ask of him, even our skepticism.

- **John 6:40** For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, ... 44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; ... 45 "It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.



3. BORN “SON OF GOD” VS “ANOINTED” PROPHET (MESSIAH) AS AN ADULT?

- **John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. ... 18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.



WHY BORN THE “SON OF GOD.”

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4. VISITED BY THE LAST PEOPLE YOU WOULD INVITE TO A BIRTH.

Shepherds (temple shepherds or hired hands):

- 1. One of five “despised occupations” according to Rabbis. (They handled “dead” stuff in the fields.)**
- 2. Assumed thieves, liars.**
- 3. Could not testify in court**

WHY SHEPHERDS AS FIRST EVANGELISTS?

There is no one outside the love of God. If he can save shepherds, he can save me!

- **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (Jn. 3:16 ESV)**



THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

1. Month 1: Angel Gabriel visits Zacharias. Luke 1:11
2. Month 5: Elizabeth makes pregnancy known by going outside. She was in seclusion for 1st 5 months. Luke 1:24
3. Month 6: Angel Gabriel visits Mary. Luke 1:26. Mary immediately goes to see Elizabeth who is now in her 6th month (Luke 1:37). Luke 1: 39
4. Month 9: Mary returns home in her 3rd month and is “found” to be pregnant. Luke 1:56
5. Month 9: John is born. Luke 1:57



THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST:

6. Month 15: Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem. Mary is now in her 9th month (Luke 2:6-7)
7. Month 15: Angels appear to shepherds to announce the birth of Christ. Shepherds arrive at birth scene. Luke 2: 8, 16
8. Month 15: a star “appears in the East” announcing the birth of a special child who will be King of the Jews. Matt 2:1-2.
9. Month ? - 39: Magi arrive in Jerusalem to visit the child (Matt 2:2). They are directed to Bethlehem according to the prophecy (Matt 2:5). They give gifts to the Child.
10. Month 39: Joseph is warned in a dream to flee to Egypt (Matt 2:13). Herod kills all children in Bethlehem younger than 2. Matt 2:7, 16-18.

