







G O D ———
With
——— U S



Luke 3:1-2



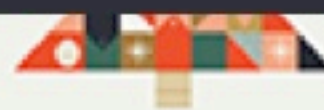
In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.





B.C. = Before Christ

A.D. = Anno Domini ("the year of our Lord")





*GOD —
With
— US*₄



Fun Christmas Fact of the Day:
Jesus was born about six years "Before Christ" (BC).



R: Why do you keep claiming
you are God's chosen people?



1. Rome controls your leadership and temple.

- Roman Governors
- Herod's Temple complex
- Corrupted High Priests
- Temple funds stolen
- Priestly vestments locked up



1. Rome controls your leadership
and temple.

2. Rome is systematically
dissolving your way of life.

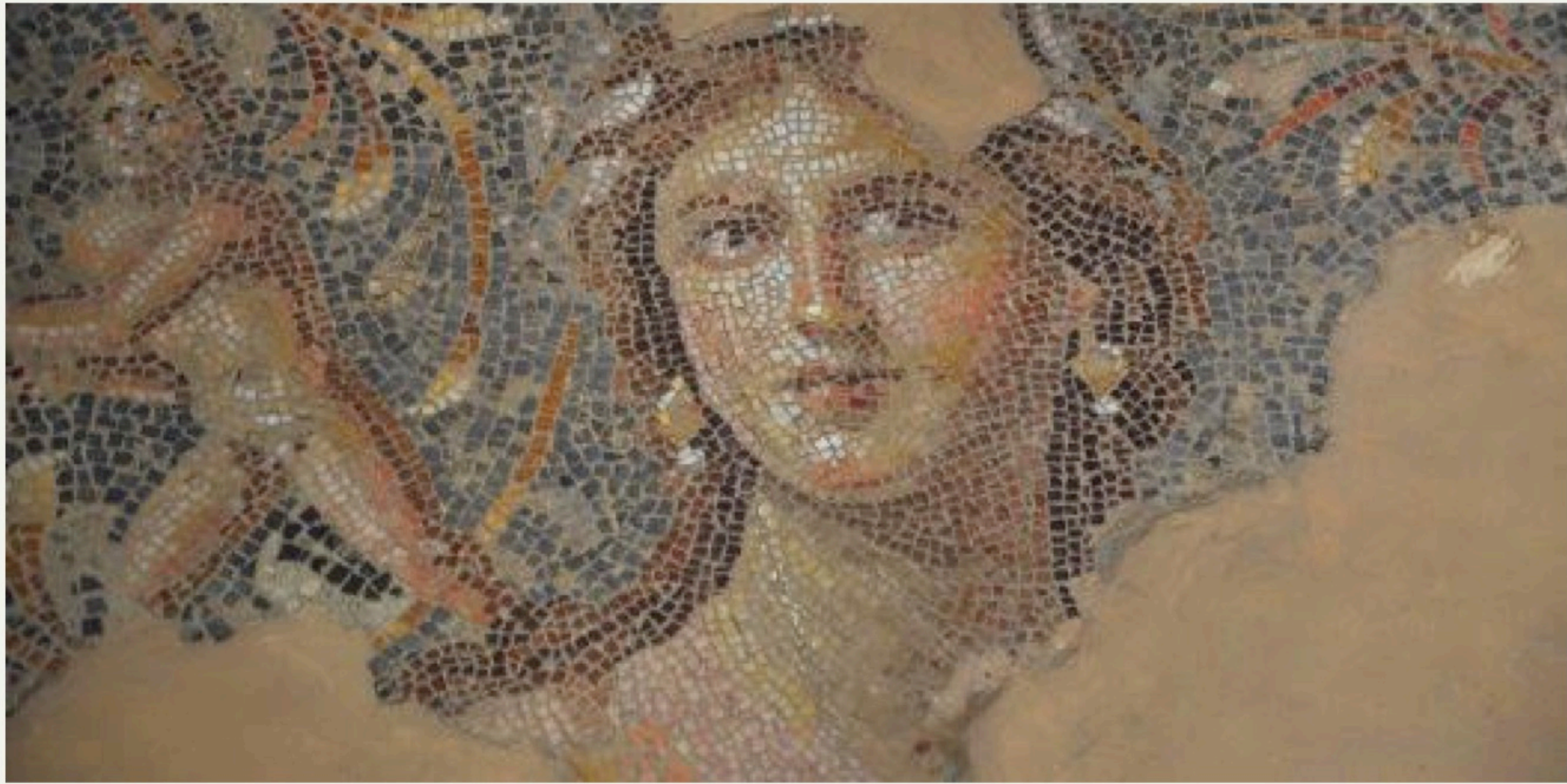


A decorative border of Christmas icons including trees, stars, and ornaments. The icons are arranged in a grid-like pattern. The colors are primarily red, green, gold, and white. The icons include various styles of Christmas trees, stars, and ornaments, some with intricate patterns. The overall aesthetic is festive and traditional.

GOD —
With
*— US*₉



GOD —
With
— *US*



GOD —
With
— US

1. Rome controls your leadership and temple.
2. Rome is systematically dissolving your way of life.
3. Rome violently cuts down all dissent.



R: Why do you keep claiming
you are God's chosen people?

J: Just wait. Our God keeps His
promises.



R: Why do you keep claiming
you are God's chosen people?

J: Just wait. Our God keeps His
promises.

R: What promises?






The family of Abraham is God's answer to sin
and will one day be a blessing to all the earth.








Genesis 12:1-3



The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”



-The family of Abraham is
God's answer to sin and will
one day be a blessing to all the
earth.

-God will keep His promise
despite Israel's sin.



Deuteronomy 28–30

- a. Obedience = Blessing.
- b. Disobedience = Exile.
- c. You choose.





Deuteronomy 29:24-25

“And all the surrounding nations will ask, ‘Why has the Lord done this to this land? Why was He so angry?’ And the answer will be, ‘This happened because the people of the land abandoned the covenant that the Lord, the God of their ancestors, made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt.’”







The Great Son of David



2 Samuel 7:12-13




“For when you die and are buried with your ancestors, I will raise up one of your descendants, your own offspring, and I will make His kingdom strong. He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for My name. And I will secure His royal throne forever.”








The Great Son of David – Isaiah 9:6-7



“For a Child is born to us, a Son is given to us.
The government will rest on His shoulders. And He will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of His ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!”





The New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34

“The day is coming,” says the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah.



This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant...”






The New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34




“I will put My instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people... And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”








The Super Jubilee - Daniel 9:21-24



As I was praying, Gabriel... came swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice. He explained to me, “Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding... A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place.





Matthew 1:1

This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah,
a descendant of David and of Abraham...



Matthew 1:17

All those listed above include fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah.

7 + 7

7 + 7

7 + 7

Abraham
Gn 12:1-3

David
2Sm 7:12-13






Exile
Dan 9:21-24

Jesus the 7th "7"
Mt 1:1-17



Matthew 18:21-22

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!”



5 Scriptures, 4 Dreams, 1 Star

1:18–21 – Joseph trusts Mary unexpected pregnancy bc of a Dream.

1:22–25 – “Immanuel” is born according to Scripture.

2:1–2 – Magi find the way bc of a Star.

2:3–8 – Messiah is born in Bethlehem according to Scripture.

2:9–12 – Magi hide Jesus’ location from Herod bc of a Dream.

2:13–14 – Joseph escapes Herod into Egypt bc of a Dream.

2:16–18 – The mothers of Bethlehem weep over injustice according to Scripture.

2:15,19–21 – Joseph returns from Egypt after Herod’s death according to Scripture and bc of a Dream.






2:22–23 – The family settles in Nazareth according to Scripture.






2 Corinthians 1:20

For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for His glory.








Matthew 1:22-23

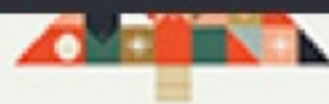


All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through His prophet: "Look! The virgin will conceive a Child! She will give birth to a Son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"





Main Theme of Matthew's Christmas
We worship a God who keeps His promises.




- 17% of Christians self-identified as part of such a movement
- 31% believe that God increases the riches of those who give
- Two-thirds agreed God wants people to prosper.
- 43% agreed the faithful receive health and wealth.
- Almost half of all churches with more than 10,000 members preach prosperity from the pulpit.
- Roughly 45% of all worshippers in the USA attend the largest 10% of churches.
- “American audiences have made this gospel their own.”

-Dr. Kate Bowler, Blessed








Malachi 3:10



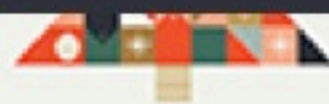
“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in My Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put Me to the test!”





Isaiah 54:2

Enlarge your house; build an addition. Spread out your home,
and spare no expense!






Proverbs 22:6

Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.








Luke 11:9-10



And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.



"Soft" Prosperity Theology

The Gospel of "Live Your Best Life"

The Gospel of "Discover Authentic Self"

The Gospel of "Self-Esteemism"



“The problem with most expectations
is that they are:

Unconscious – We have expectations we’re not even
aware of until someone disappoints us;

Unrealistic – We may have illusions about others.
For example, we think someone should be
available at all times to meet our needs;



The problem with most expectations is that they are:

Unspoken – We may have never told the other person what we expect, yet we are angry when our expectations are not met;

Unagreed upon – We may have had our own thoughts about what was expected, but it was never agreed upon by the other person.



In order for expectations to be established they must be:

Conscious – I have to become aware of the expectations I have for the other person;

Realistic – I have to ask myself if my expectations regarding the other person are realistic;



GOD —
With
— *US*

What do you pray for?

- Health
- Blessing
- Healing
- Help for Family Needs
- Resolution to Life Problems
- Success at Work
- Safety





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