**The X(mas) Files**

**#3 CHRISTMAS 2019**

**Introduction:**

* Jesus had been born
* Circumcised 8 days later.
* About a month later (at 6 weeks) a ceremony of dedication
  + This happened before they fled to Egypt
* Historical context:
  + Israel had lost independence
  + People of that world knew:
    - Daniel’s prophecy
    - The place of Messiah’s birth
* Simeon the Just
  + 27yo High priest
    - Leader of Hasmonean family
    - Herod the Great had already slaughtered a majority of leaders
  + He was president of Gran Sanhedrin
  + Possibly part of assembly that Herod called together to find the birth place of Messiah
    - Knew all the messianic scriptures, eg

Isaiah 9:6-7*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.*

* This is no ordinary leader**.**

1. **Moved by the Spirit**

Luke 2:25-27 *Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required…*

* Moved by the Spirit
  + Led by the Spirit
  + In the spirit
  + Revealed by the spirit
* Definition: doing something that you don’t have to or are not forced to

Simeon

1. Led by Spirit

* Holy Spirit revealed a personal things (v26)
* Holy Spirit led / moved him to a particular place

Luke 2:29-32 *“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”*

1. About Jesus

* His revelation fulfilled
  + Seen the Saviour
* Revelation to others”
  + Light to gentiles
  + Glory for Israel

1. To Parents

* Cause falling and rising of many
* Will be spoken against
* People’s hearts revealed
* Sword will pierce your soul

1. Confirmed

* Prophetess Anna
  + Served in temple 84 years
  + Spoke about the child to all who were searching for the Messiah.
* Living righteously with faith
  + Don’t shelve the anointing

Nicolo Paganini (1782-1840) the great Italian violinist, willed his fine instrument to his come city of Genoa. His bequest carried one contidion, though: the violin was never to be played – it would simply be placed on display. But that’s not good for a finely crafted stringed instrument. It needs to be used and handled regularly if its beauty and value are to be retained. As a result of Paganini’s request, his beautiful violin decayed and wasted away as a museum piece, simply because it wasn’t played.

* + Doesn’t matter what age
  + Credible moving in the spirit is required.

1. **Star Trek**

* Magi: wise men, spiritual advisers
  + Priestly of Medes (modern Iran)
  + Astrologers / dream interpreters
    - Possibly descendants of those taught by Daniel
    - Daniel was called chief of Magio
  + Knew the prophecy of Daniel

Matthew 2:1-2 *After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”*

* They came to worship

Matthew 2:10-12 *When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.*

* They sought Him out
* Brought special gifts worthy of a King.

1. **Ways to Worship**
2. Gave their wealth: (gold)

* Success; work; business; time
* Joseph and Mary were poor
  + God provided for their trip to Egypt

1. Gave their Worship (frankincense)

Psalm 141:2 *May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.*

* Bowl of incense in Revelation 5:8 is the prayers of the saints

1. Gave their witness (myrrh)

* Ingredient of anointing oil (representing the Holy Spirit)
* Had aromatic properties
* Used in purification rites
  + To purify us
* Cosmetic – made beautiful

**Conclusion:**

Over 2000 years ago God put a star in the sky over Bethlehem, and hung His gift on a tree at Calvary… and He put your name on it.