**December 24, 2017 “Why Should I Believe the Christmas Story?”**

**Deuteronomy 18:22**

**Isaiah 42:8-9**

**II Peter 1:19-21**

I think that sometimes I am unfair to those who do not believe the Bible is what it says it is, namely the Word of God. They argue and often time will say that this Book called the Bible is nothing more that myths and old wives tales written to people who need a crutch to lean on in order to make it through life.

This week as I was preparing for today’s message, I tried to put myself into the mindset of those who claim that the Bible is nothing more than a feel-good fairy tale. Take for example the Christmas story. In the first couple of chapters, we have some of the most bizarre things ever described in literature.

1. An angel appears to the old guy in some ancient temple who is burning incense
2. The old dude is told he is going to have a son with his wife is as old as he is
3. This angel even tells him what to name the boy
4. Then this old dude has a stroke or something and can’t speak
5. Then this same angel goes to a young girl and tells her… she is special
6. How special? She too is going to have a child with no husband
7. Then this young girl goes on a trip to visit her relatives and a baby starts doing a jig in his mother when she arrives to greet his mother
8. His mom loses it and starts to scream things about this young girl
9. Then this young girl starts to sing, stays three months and goes home
10. Then the old lady has her child and wants to name him John
11. The relatives start to argue with her and the old man asks for a tablet, writes John on it and is instantly cured of his stroke
12. Then he starts to sing
13. Meanwhile the young girl tells her boyfriend she is pregnant by the Holy Spirit
14. After she tells him this, an angel appears to the boyfriend and tells him what to name the Child

And then you have the audacity to say that flying reindeer pulling a fat guy in a red suit in a sleigh is any different?

So, what is the Christian’s answer? Well that’s what the Bible says? That is what God said happened? So how do we answer?

1. Deuteronomy 18:21-22
   1. Here are the criteria
      1. If what the prophet who speaks in the Name of the Lord says, “such and such is going to happen” and it does not happen
      2. Do not listen to him
   2. Question
      1. What are you to do if what he says will happen does happen?
   3. Isaiah 42:5-9
      1. Who can tell the end from the beginning?
         1. God the Lord
   4. II Peter 1:19-21
2. What did God say was going to happen?
   1. Isaiah 7:14
      1. Matthew and Luke both record this is true
   2. Genesis 12:1-3, and 7
      1. Here is a promise given to a man almost 25 years before his son is to be born
      2. Galatians 3:16
      3. Matthew 1:1
   3. Genesis 49:10
      1. Messiah would come from Judah
         1. Shiloh… means “the one who has the right”
      2. Luke 3:33-34
   4. II Samuel 7:16
      1. Jeremiah 33:14-17
      2. Matthew 1:1
      3. Luke 1:32… message to Mary
   5. Micah 5:2
      1. Hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus
      2. Luke 2:4-7
      3. Matthew 2… Herod calls the chief priests and scribes
         1. Where is the Messiah to be born?
         2. Bethlehem of Judah
   6. Hosea 11:1
      1. Matthew 2:13-15… fled to Egypt
   7. Isaiah 40:3-5
      1. John 1:19-23
   8. Malachi 3:1
      1. Luke 2:21-35… Simeon
      2. Luke 2:41-49
   9. Jeremiah 31:15
      1. Matthew 2:16-19
   10. Isaiah 11:2
       1. Isaiah 61:1-2
       2. Matthew 3:13-17
       3. John 1:33-34
   11. Psalm 110:4
       1. Genesis 14:17-20
       2. Hebrews 5:4-9
       3. Hebrews 6:19-20
       4. Hebrews 7:1-2
          1. King of Righteousness
          2. King of Peace
          3. Hebrews 7:14-17
          4. Hebrews 7:24-25
   12. Isaiah 9:1-2
       1. Matthew 4:12-17

Christmas is not some holiday where we all rock around the Christmas tree but rather it is the fulfillment of the promises of God which are “Yeah and Amen” and we all can hang our eternal destiny on His prophetic Word. In His Word we all can see a great light shining in the darkness of sin.

Have you done that? Have you taken God’s Word and stood in awe at the wonderment of it all?

That act alone will change your life forever