

Miss, Hiss or Kiss? Luke 2:7; Matthew 2:1-18  
How will you celebrate (or respond to) “Christ” at  
Christmas?

**Luke 2:7 (NKJV)**

**<sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.**

**Matthew 2:1–18 (NKJV)**

**2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”**

**<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.**

**<sup>5</sup> So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:**

**<sup>6</sup> *‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;  
For out of you shall come a Ruler  
Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”***

**<sup>7</sup> Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”**

**<sup>9</sup> When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. <sup>11</sup> And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

**12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.**

**13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”**

**14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “*Out of Egypt I called My Son.*”**

**16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. <sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:**

**18 “A voice was heard in Ramah,  
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children,  
Refusing to be comforted,  
Because they are no more.”**

### Romans 3:23 (NKJV)

**<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**

**ἡμαρτον hay-mar-ton**

And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.



Luke 2:7

**means to miss the mark**

**To miss the target ...**

*1. Most people miss Him altogether –*

**<sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (NKJV)**

*1. The grand point of Luke 2:7 is that Jesus was not recognized for WHO and WHAT He was and is –*

*2. This was prophesied about Jesus –*

**53 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the Arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is no beauty that we should desire Him.* Isaiah 53:1–2 (NKJV)**

*A. Isaiah speaks of few believing ... who?*

*B. The Arm of the LORD is truly Who Jesus IS, He is God's strength for our salvation –*

*C. But He is not recognized as such, but is described as a tender plant, a root out of dry ground! Do plants thrive when they are in dry ground? Here the dry ground is Jesus' earthly parent, Mary and step-father Joseph! Maybe not POOR but not rich, definitely not kings and queens!*

*D. No form or comeliness, no beauty in Jesus Himself – He is NOT a male model! He is probably not tall.*

*Jesus is like this today! We the church are His body! There is nothing special about us – <sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 2 Corinthians 4:7 (NKJV)*

*3. But not only is Jesus not noticed because He comes in HUMBLE ways, also He is not noticed because of distractions –*

A. *Seemingly big events –*

**2 And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup> So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Luke 2:1–3 (NKJV)**

*Many get caught up in what is going on in the NEWS, supposedly earth-shaking things, few noticed Jesus' birth. Augustus was establishing His Kingdom!*

*However, we pray for God's Kingdom to come -*

**<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven. Matthew 6:10 (NKJV)**

B. *Yet, it comes quietly, in unnoticed ways –*

“Lead on, O King Eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease, and holiness shall whisper the sweet Amen of peace; For not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums, with deeds of love and mercy The heavenly kingdom comes.”

C. *The cares of this world can distract us from Christ –*

**<sup>22</sup> Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. Matthew 13:22 (NKJV)**

*Even “Christmas” with all the gifts, parties, family stuff, serving, not bad things, can distract us from Christ, even true Christians -*

**–<sup>38</sup> Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. <sup>39</sup> And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.”**

**<sup>41</sup> And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. <sup>42</sup> But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.” Luke 10:38–42 (NKJV)**

## *II. Too many people “Hiss” at Christ –*

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.” Matthew 2:7–8 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. <sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: <sup>18</sup> “*A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more.*” Matthew 2:16–18 (NKJV)

### *1. This “HISS” is the “HISS” of Satan –*

*A behind the scenes, spiritual-view of Matthew 2 -* **12 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. <sup>2</sup> Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. <sup>3</sup> And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. <sup>4</sup> His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. Revelation 12:1–4 (NKJV)**

*A. Woman Israel / Mary*

*B. Child, our Lord Jesus Christ*

*C. Dragon = Satan –* **<sup>9</sup> So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; ... Revelation 12:9 A (NKJV)**

*2. Note it is Herod, the government, that has a problem with Christ –*

*The dragon / Satan implies more government than just Herod ... but includes him –*

3. Note “MURDER” was his solution –

**Herod ... was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under... Matthew 2:16 B**

*MURDER is still Satan’s solution -*

*Between November 2019 and October 2020, 3,530 Christians were killed because of their faith in Nigeria. In North Korea attending a Bible study is a crime punished by the death penalty. Our abortion laws also show we are not really a “Christian” nation.*

*Though it is not always murder it is estimated that 360 million Christians are persecuted world-wide, for instance Vietnam has established Christian Free Zones, where Christians are not aloud to live or work.*

*III. We are called to KISS Christ –*

**2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” Matthew 2:1–2 (NKJV)**

1. *We are all called to WORSHIP Christ! To treat Him as WORTH something, WORTHY –*

**<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, Revelation 5:9 (NKJV)**

2. *The Wise men in Matthew 2 did this by –*

*A. Seeking Him –*

**<sup>13</sup> And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV)**

*B. By rejoicing in gaining a closeness to Him -*

**<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. Matthew 2:10 (NKJV)**

*C. By bowing before Him and giving Him valuable gifts –*

**<sup>11</sup> And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11 (NKJV)**

*The most valuable gift we can give is our LIFE, He gave His for us –*

**<sup>12</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. Romans 12:1 (NKJV)**

*3. We are called to LOVE Him -*

**<sup>22</sup> If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!  
1 Corinthians 16:22 (NKJV)**

*A. The Ephesians LOST their first LOVE – you have left your first love.  
Revelation 2:4*

*B. Note they are evaluated by Christ Who knows them, knows their hearts -*

**<sup>2</sup> “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: <sup>2</sup> “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; <sup>3</sup> and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.**

*Jesus knows us just as well ...*

*C. Note that while He sees many things He likes, they LACK one extremely IMPORTANT THING -*

**<sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. <sup>6</sup> But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. <sup>7</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” ’ Revelation 2:1–7 (NKJV)**

*D. Let us use this holiday season to IMPROVE our relationship with God and Christ –*

*E. Renew your committed to daily Bible Reading, Meditation, Prayers, Church Attendance*

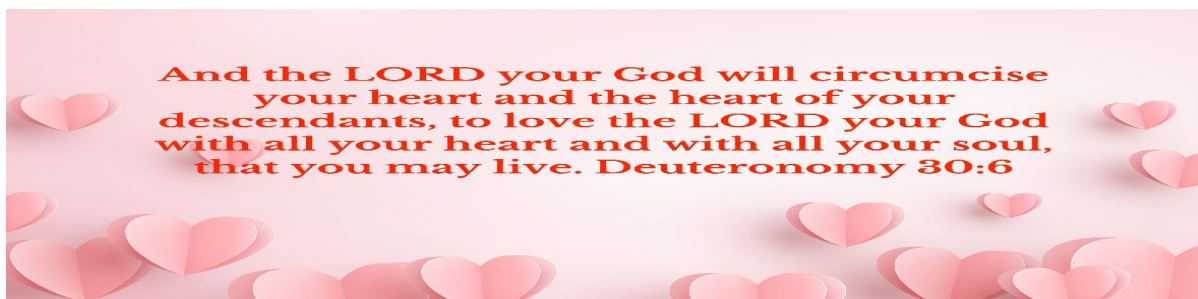
*F. Be whole-hearted in your efforts –*

**<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 22:37–40 (NKJV)**

*G. We do not by nature LOVE the LORD, with all our hearts, souls, minds ...*

**<sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. Romans 8:7 (NKJV)**

*H. We need God’s help to do this -*



**<sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish *in* the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him. Psalm 2:12 (NKJV)**