

# EXPLORATION: BIBLE

By Chip Thompson

Jesus said, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me." In the Bible there is only One Way of Salvation.

## SCARLET THREAD #8

Christmas Teaches us the Lesson of "One"

Isaiah the prophet said God would give the world a "SIGN" that would mark the birth of the Messiah. **"The Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel"** (Isaiah 7:14). ONCE in the history of mankind, a virgin would give birth to a Son. This Son would be a One-of-a-kind Child. He would be called "Immanuel" which literally means, "God with us." As confirmation of this promised sign, two chapters later, Isaiah wrote,

**"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of His government  
and peace there will be no end,  
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
To order it and establish it with judgment  
and justice from that time forward, even forever.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this"** (Isaiah 9:6-7).

An angel of God announced the first Christmas. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us" (Matthew 1:20-23).

This passage contains several **AMAZING FACTS**. This special Child was to be named "JESUS," which means "Yahweh is Salvation." This Child "will save His people from their sins." He was the "son of David" – both Joseph (Matthew 1:1-16) and Mary (Luke 3:23-38) were direct descendants of King David. Jesus was the promised Eternal King (2 Samuel chapter 7) which meant, JESUS was the promised Messiah. He was the One and Only human Child to be conceived by God's Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and called "Immanuel"—GOD WITH US.

## The One Way

The entire Bible is a One-Way Street. To be spiritually right you first must serve the One True God. In the ancient world all the nations had their so called "gods." But there was only One Nation that served the One True God. That Nation was Israel, and their One God was Yahweh. The earliest reference to Israel in archaeology identified them by naming their God. Following is an Egyptian inscription that dates to the time of Moses.



**The Soleb Temple Inscription: "Nomads of Yahweh"  
(by permission, photo by Joel Kramer)**

This inscription was created by Amenhotep III in the late 15th century B.C. He was the grandson of Amenhotep II, the pharaoh who died during Israel's Exodus from Egypt. At this time in history the nation of Israel did not have a homeland, they were nomads who wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Amenhotep III identified this group of people as "the Nomads of Yahweh."

Israel was the One nation who worshipped Yahweh as God. He told Israel, "You are My witnesses," says Yahweh, "And My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me. I, even I, am Yahweh, and besides Me there is no Savior" (Isaiah 43:10-11). Yahweh also said, "I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God... Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any" (Isaiah 44:6,8). Yahweh declared himself to be the One True God.

Yahweh also ordained One place on earth for men to worship him. In Deuteronomy chapter 12, God commanded Israel, "You shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and... there you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, and your your tithes... Take heed to yourself that you do not

offer your burnt offerings in any place that you choose; but in the place which the LORD chooses, in one of your tribes..." This command is repeated five times in this one chapter. Where is the One Place on earth where Yahweh, God of Israel, chose to place his name? Yahweh "said to David and to Solomon his son, 'In this house [this Temple] and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever'" (2 Kings 21:7).



**The Temple in Jerusalem was the One Place on earth sanctioned by Yahweh, God of Israel, for true worship. It was the Only Place on earth where blood sacrifices for the atonement of sins were accepted by God. (photo by Chip Thompson)**

The One True God, Yahweh, and the One True Temple, God's Temple in Jerusalem, were SCARLET THREADS that connect directly to Jesus. Jesus became the One Way of Salvation to fulfill the Old Testament law. Jesus came to earth as Yahweh's Temple – the dwelling place of God on Earth. This truth is confirmed by the Apostle John who wrote, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:1-4, 14). When Jesus died on the cross, in Jerusalem, he became the final blood sacrifice for sins. Christmas is all about Jesus. He is The One Way, the One Truth, and the Only One who can offer the world Eternal Life. Christmas proclaims the birth of the One and Only Savior of the World, Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas to all. May your worship this Christmas focus on the ONE who is JESUS, SAVIOR, MESSIAH, and YAHWEH GOD.