**Notes**

****December 2nd 2018**



**The Spirit of Christmas - 1**

***“Breath of Heaven”***

Welcome

The first Sunday of the Rest (Best) of your life

2018

**The Spirit of Christmas– Part 1**

***“Breath of Heaven”***

**Luke 1:35-38**

*35And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*

**‘Far out’**

The story is so far out that it is completely false or completely true.

There’s no room for watering it down in any way!

One key supporting aspect is that this was all predicted 100’s of years before: (prophecy given through Isaiah by the Holy Spirit).

**Isaiah 7:14**

**The ‘Spirit’ of Christmas***What would the story be without the supernatural?*

The Christmas Story ‘oozes’ with supernatural revelation.

* Prophecies given hundreds of years before Jesus’ birth.
* The actual annunciation to Mary: angels.
* Supernatural Guidance given to Joseph in a dream.
* A star points the way for the wise men from the East.
* Angels are seen by the shepherds.

**The angel Gabriel and Mary meet: Luke 1:26-38**

**‘The times they are a changin’***(or are they, or have they… really?)*

The times at the birth of Jesus:

Characterized by political oppression (Romans) and spiritual oppression, lies and deceit of the ruling religious elites (of Judaism).

The people suffered and were crying out for the ‘promised Messiah’. (Pretty much like today):

Just that we have a veneer of sophistication, technology and culture.

**Besides religiosity in general…**

We are faced today with mainstream ‘in your face’ occultism:

Horoscopes, seances, Tarot Cards, crystal balls etc.,

More than ever we need the supernatural help of the Holy Spirit.

He helps us navigate our way to safe harbor in this sea of occultism.

It’s not safe to be isolated, or alone in these end times.

**‘Alone’ or ‘Lonely’**

Some are not alone but are ‘lonely’.

Others are alone, but not ‘lonely’.

The difference is the Lord’s presence.

**Isaiah 7:14**

Immanuel (or Emmanuel) means “God is with us”.

(Up close, personal, engaged).

**The coin *must* have two sides:**

The ‘Christmas story’ of Jesus birth… & the ‘Easter story’ of His death on the cross

**Final take Away & Communion**

**John 16:7-8***Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter) will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.*

Jesus ‘date with destiny’ ensured that heaven would release the Holy Spirit to us, that we might never be alone again.