

From Heaven to Earth: The Story of Christ's Coming

Hearing the Message

MATTHEW 1:3–4, 16, 18–25; 2:16; LUKE 1:18–20, 26–38, 62



The Heart of the Matter

Significant things often begin in seemingly insignificant ways. When sound waves enter the human ear, they bounce off three tiny bones: the hammer, the anvil, and the stirrup. The resulting vibrations send a message to the brain where logic is employed in the decision-making process. Then, the hearer takes certain action steps based on the words heard.

Zacharias, Mary, Joseph, and Herod all heard God's message with their ears. Their hammers, anvils, and stirrups conveyed to their brains the announcement of Messiah's arrival. So what accounted for their different reactions? Zacharias doubted, Mary and Joseph believed, and Herod rejected the message. And each of their responses had significant results.



Discovering the Way

1. Zacharias Doubted the Message (Luke 1:18–24, 62)

Zacharias didn't suffer from hearing loss. He suffered from unbelief, which had serious consequences.

2. Mary Believed the Message (Luke 1:26–38)

Although Gabriel's words didn't make logical sense, Mary believed. And God blessed her.

3. Joseph Doubted and Then Believed the Message (Matthew 1:16–24)

When Joseph heard Mary's explanation of her pregnancy, he doubted. But then God graciously confirmed Mary's words, and Joseph believed.

4. Herod Rejected the Message (Matthew 2:16)

When the wise men told Herod about Christ's birth, Herod rejected the message of Jesus's kingship.

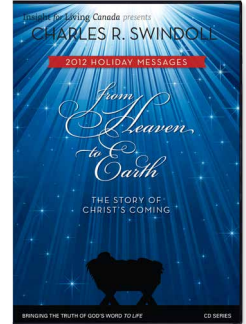


Starting Your Journey

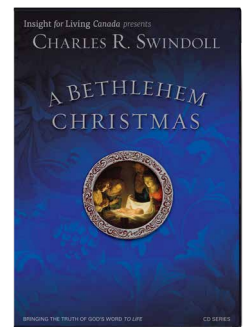
Every Christmas, the sounds of the season enter our ears, but do we believe the message? Take time to reflect on the sermons and songs of the season, and praise God for the gift of His Son.



Tools for Digging Deeper



From Heaven to Earth: The Story of Christ's Coming
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A Bethlehem Christmas
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