

General Topics :: Christmas myths

Christmas myths - posted by Nasher (), on: 2003/11/27 10:45

Does anyone know any Christmas myths, e.g. that Mary rode on a donkey etc. and the history behind them?

Re: Christmas myths - posted by Jason, on: 2003/11/27 12:19

Many Christmas myths, including that of Mary riding on a donkey, come from the Infancy Gospel of James, a Gnostic go spel from the late second century.

It, as might be expected is full of heresy and the sensational -- and is the source of many Christmas myths (another is th at Jesus was born in a cave -- although he is not really "born," but kind of materializes outside Mary).

Re: - posted by Nasher (), on: 2003/11/28 6:52

Jason, where do you get the idea that He was not 'born'?

Re: Christmas myths - posted by almondBranch (), on: 2003/11/28 7:32

There is the **three** wise men, I suppose that comes from the three gifts they brought.

Then there is the familiar scene of them arriving at the stable, but the bible says that they came to the house, apparently they came up to two years after Jesus was actualy born. He is refered to as a child at that time rather than a baby.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2003/11/28 11:06

Quote:

-----There is the three wise men, I suppose that comes from the three gifts they brought.

Matthew 2:1 (kjb) - After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem.

Matthew 2:11 (kjb) - On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

That's a great one brother, yes it says 'magi' (wisemen) plural, and in verse 11 it says 'they' presented him with gifts of the three commodities: gold, incense and myrrh. But that does not mean there were three wisemen. there could have been fifty :-D

Re: - posted by Jason, on: 2003/11/28 12:28

I was saying that in the Infancy Gospel of James, Jesus is not actually born but "materializes" outside of Mary. It's a heretical Gnostic text, and this demonstrates that it is truly antichrist.

It is where most of our Christmas myths come from, however.

Greg is correct in that the "three" Magi come from the fact that they had three gifts.