



# WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

Date: November 30, 2025

## A Big Deal

Why did the shepherds bow to a baby? Why did angels announce His birth? Why did the wise men travel so far just to give Him gifts? Why did Elizabeth's unborn child leap within her womb when she saw that Mary was pregnant? Why did Simeon and Anna rejoice at the sight of the newborn? Why did Herod try to kill Him? What child was this that everyone made such a big deal about His arrival?

In 1865, William Chatterton Dix wrote the beloved Christmas carol, "What Child Is This?" In essence, the writer ponders on the importance of this precious baby.

"What Child is this who, laid to rest on Mary's lap, is sleeping, whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while good shepherds watch are keeping?"

"Bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh. Come peasant [and] king to own Him. The King of Kings salvation brings. Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

"This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing. Haste, haste, to bring Him laud (praise, glory) — the Babe, the Son of Mary."

Everyone makes a big deal about this Child. Do you?

## Search the Scriptures

If the people who lived at the time of Jesus' birth celebrated His arrival, they must have known some things about Him before He was born. What were those things? What Child is this, and how did they know it?

From the beginning, in *Genesis 1*, God foretold of Christmas Day. Throughout history, He provided hints, types, symbols, foreshadows, and prophecies, to reveal who this Baby was (or would be), and what He would do.

Jesus pointed to them for His followers. He said, “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life. But it is these that testify about Me” (*Jn. 5:39*). In other words, the Old Testament tells us what Child this is.

When Jesus and His disciples approached Jerusalem at the end of His time on earth, He said to them, “Behold, all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man (that’s Him) will be accomplished” (*Lk. 18:31*). Once again, the prophets were writing about this Child.

Later, after Jesus’ death and resurrection, He joined two disciples on the road to Emmaus. “Then, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He explained the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures” (*Lk. 24:27*). The Scriptures (Old Testament) are about the Child, about Him.

Finally, just before His ascension, Jesus said, “All things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled. Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures” (*Lk. 24:44-45*).

Clearly, there was a lot of hype surrounding Jesus’ birth. People greatly anticipated His arrival. Do we?

Let us search the Scriptures and discover what Child this was, so that we, too, may be prepared to worship the One in the manger.

**Have you missed some days?  
Click [here](#) to access previously emailed devotions.**

The reading plan and devotions were developed by Aaron Ferguson, one of our Elders and author of the *Study Guide and Daily Reflections for the One Year Chronological Reading of the Bible and the New Testament*. For more details, visit his website at [BiAY.org](http://BiAY.org).



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