

## Get Ready!

Two scriptures that I will often refer to us to guide us this year:

### 1 Corinthians 3:9 NLT

For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.

### Isaiah 58:11-12 TPT

Yahweh will always guide you where to go and what to do. He will fill you with refreshment even when you are in a dry, difficult place. He will continually restore strength to you, so you will flourish like a well-watered garden and like an ever-flowing, trustworthy spring of blessing. Your people will rebuild long-deserted ruins, building anew on foundations laid long before you. You will be known as Repairers of the Cities and Restorers of Communities.

"Everywhere I go I find that God's people lack something. They are hungry for something. Their Christian experience is not all that they expected and they often have recurring defeat in their lives. Christians today are hungry for spiritual fulfillment. The most desperate need of the nation today is that men and women who profess Jesus be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Billy Graham

### Acts 1:1 NLT

In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach.

## What We Are Looking For is Already Here!

### Part 7: Get Ready!



January 1, 2023

## Why Was Jesus Born in Bethlehem?

FIRST ANSWER - ABOVE THE SURFACE - EPICENTER

### Isaiah 9:6-7 NLT

6 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

What does Bethlehem mean?

- Beth = House
- Lehem = Bread
- So Bethlehem means House of Bread.

Bread was a means of survival.

## Egypt to Freedom

- Freedom was not getting out of captivity.
- Freedom was not getting into The Promise Land.
- Freedom for the Israelites meant an intimate relationship with God.

Freedom means that there is nothing blocking you from a deep and intimate relationship with Jesus. Freedom is dependence on Jesus.

If you are dependent on Jesus you have found true freedom.

## Temple

## Bread of Life

Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."  
John 6:35

## SECOND ANSWER - BELOW THE SURFACE - HYPOCENTER

Matthew 1:23 NLT

"Look! The virgin will conceive a child!  
She will give birth to a son,  
and they will call him Immanuel,  
which means 'God is with us.'"

Hebrews 1:3 NLT

3 The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.

Hebrews 13:5-6 TPT

For hasn't he promised you, "I will never leave you, never! And I will not loosen my grip on your life!" So we can say with great confidence: "I know the Lord is for me and I will never be afraid of what people may do to me!"

The Holy Spirit often becomes a familiar stranger. We forget the Trinity. Sometimes in our Western Culture we are more comfortable with that.