

7. **12/31 – 7 Swans A-Swimming = The 7 Gifts of the Spirit**

- a. Purpose: They are given to Christians to enable them to serve in God's kingdom!
- b. The Gifts: "...exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; ⁷ if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness" (Rom. 12:6-8).
- c. Application: ♦Identify your gift(s), ♦give thanks, and ♦be diligent in using it/them to be a blessing!

8. **1/1 – 8 Maids A-Milking = The 8 Beatitudes**

- a. They Tell Us: What we are / How we live **as disciples of Jesus**.
- b. **Matthew 5:3-10** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

- c. Application: Ask: Do the beatitudes describe my life? Wherever necessary, *let us repent!*

9. **1/2 – 9 Ladies Dancing = The 9 Parts of the Fruit of the Spirit**

- a. Believers: We have the Holy Spirit!
- b. Application: Let us grow in showing the following in our lives: "...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..." (Galatians 5:22-23).

10. **1/3 – 10 Lords A-Leaping = The 10 Commandments**

- a. A Summary of the 10 Commandments: (1) God; (2) God's Name; (3) God's Word; (4) God's Representatives; (5) God's Gift of Life; (6) God's Gift of Marriage; (7) God's Gift of Possessions; (8) God's Gift of a Good Reputation; (9 & 10) God's Gift of Contentment.
- b. Application: Let us keep them to **love** and **honor** our **Great God!**

11. **1/4 – 11 Pipers Piping = The 11 Faithful Disciples**

- a. Their Work: They faithfully proclaimed Jesus and called people to repent and believe!
- b. The Faithful 11: "...Simon, who is called **Peter**, and **Andrew** his brother; and **James** the son of Zebedee, and **John** his brother; ³ **Philip** and **Bartholomew**; **Thomas** and **Matthew** the tax collector; **James** the son of Alphaeus, and **Thaddaeus**; [and] ⁴ **Simon the Zealot**..." (Matthew 10:2-4).
- c. Application: Let us be faithful!

12. **1/5 – 12 Drummers Drumming = The 12 Points of Belief in the Apostles' Creed**

- a. Purpose: It summarizes the Bible.
- b. The 12 points: (1) I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. (2) And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; (3) who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary; (4) suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; (5) He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; (6) He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; (7) From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. (8) I believe in the Holy Spirit; (9) the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; (10) the forgiveness of sins; (11) the resurrection of the body; (12) and the life everlasting. Amen.
- c. Application: Give thanks to Jesus!

Conclusion

Throughout the Year: Let us keep ♦remembering the song, ♦growing in the Bible, ♦trusting in Jesus, and ♦sharing God's saving truth with others!

Scripture in this brochure: NASB 1995 version.

Connect With Us

Website: www.BLC7500.com

YouTube: "Benefit from the Bible"

Facebook: "Bethlehem Parma"

Saturdays: Class 3:00; Service 4:00

Sundays: Service 9:00; Classes 10:30

7500 State Road, Parma, OH 44134 / 440-845-2230

(Last Update: 12-24)

The 12 Days of Christmas

A clever, fun, and secret way to remember important teachings during a time of great persecution!

The 12 Days: 12/25 ➔ 1/5



Introduction

You have heard of the song, but do you know ♦the interesting history and ♦the close Bible connections? *Please keep reading!*

The singers are people who trust in Jesus for eternal life. They are singing about their True Love, *God the Father*, who is giving them 12 important Bible-related gifts during the 12 days of Christmas.

To play the song, **The 12 Days of Christmas**, by Pentatonix: [click here](#) (Caution: Some words in the song are out of order.)

The History of the 12 Days

- Which 12 Days? In the Church Year (*Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost*), the Season of Christmas has 12 days: **December 25 ➔ January 5.**

- **How was Christmas Celebrated Long Ago?** Christians attend church on each of the 12 days of Christmas. “In ancient times... few people worked in the dead of winter.... So, devoting a dozen days to prayer, reflection, and attending church was not a huge undertaking.”¹
- **Why was the Poem / Song Written?** Roman Catholic priests in England wrote the poem in 1558 to disguise their teachings. “Teaching the Catholic faith was outlawed in [1558]. [Queen Elizabeth, persecuted Roman Catholics (1558-1603).] Those who instructed their children in Catholicism could be drawn and quartered [a horrible form of capital punishment]. Thus, the church went underground.”² “Frederic Austin turned the poem... into a song in 1909.”³

How to Benefit from the 12

Each section below has a date. On each of the 12 days, read the section below and apply it to your life. For greater benefit, watch, listen to, or read the sermon series!

The Meaning of the 12 Days

1. **12/25 – A Partridge in a Pear Tree = Jesus, the Christ, the Promised Savior**
 - a. We Celebrate His Birthday on 12/25 (It is likely that Jesus was born on the Feast of Tabernacles – late September or early October. Christians converted the celebration of daylight to a celebration of the birth of the True Light of the World).
 - b. David and Jesus: The OT refers to David as a partridge, which pointed

to Jesus, *the Ultimate Partridge*:
Read [1 Samuel 26:20](#).

- c. The Love of a Partridge: A partridge will give its life to protect its chicks. Jesus said: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!” (Luke 13:34).
 - d. The Yellowstone National Park Story: The Ultimate Sacrifice – [click here](#)
 - e. Application: Give thanks to Jesus for taking away your sins!
2. **12/26 – 2 Turtle Doves = The 2 Testaments – The Old and The New**
 - a. Their Contents: They both tell us about †God’s creation, †people’s sin, †God’s love, †Jesus’ saving work, and †Jesus’ return!
 - b. A Key Difference: In the OT the Savior is **promised**; in the NT He **came** and **finished** His work!
 - c. Their Close Connection: St. Augustine wrote: “The NT is in the OT concealed; the OT is in the NT revealed.” Think about that...
 - d. Application: Memorize this verse: [1 Peter 3:18](#) “For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God...” Need help? [click here](#)
 3. **12/27 – 3 French Hens = The 3 Great Blessings – Faith, Hope, and Love**

- a. Faith: Trust in Jesus for eternal life!
- b. Hope: Certainty that God will fulfill every promise!
- c. Love: What believers show toward God and others, now and forever!
- d. The Bible Says: “...now faith, hope, love, abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love” (1 Cor. 13:13). // Why? Faith and hope are temporary, *but love is eternal!*
- e. Application: Examine yourself: †Is your faith in Jesus for eternal life? †Are you confident in every promise of God? †Are you loving God and others? Wherever we are falling short: *Let us quickly repent!*

4. 12/28 – 4 Calling Birds = The 4 Gospel Accounts – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

- a. They Proclaim: Jesus’ †life (*without sin*), †death (*to pay our penalty*), †resurrection (*showing His victory*), and †return (*at any moment!*)
- b. Their Purpose: [John 20:31](#) “...these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”
- c. Application: Pick one of the four and commit to reading a chapter a day.

5. 12/29 – 5 Golden Rings = The First 5 Books of the Bible – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

- a. The First Five Books of the OT: They tell us about †creation, †marriage, †the fall, †the Promised Messiah,

†sacrifice, †judgment (flood), †languages, and †a people through whom the Savior would come into the world!

- b. Jesus’ Pre-Ascension Statement: He said this to His disciples: [Luke 24:44, 46-47](#) “...all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses [that is, the first five books of the OT] and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” [Then He said:] “...it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”
 - c. Application: On 2/1/25, begin reading Gen. – Deut., 1 chapter/day.
6. **12/30 – 6 Geese A-Laying = The 6 Days of Creation**
 - a. God: He ★made us, ★loves us, ★sustains us, and ★saved us; **therefore**, He is worthy of our love, trust, honor, obedience, and praise!
 - b. Important Facts: **The Bible is true** – *the sum of God’s word is truth* (Ps. 119:160), **and God created in six days** – “...in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them...” (Ex. 20:11).
 - c. Application: As we live each day in the middle of God’s **ongoing 6-day creation miracle**, let us †see it, †be in awe of His greatness, †gladly trust in Him, and †give Him thanks!

¹ Ace Collins, Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003, 163.

² Ace Collins, 163.

³ “When was the 12 Days of Christmas poem turned into a song?” Google, Generative AI.