

The Nativity of Our Lord – 2024

Wednesday, 12/25 – Christmas Day at 10 am



Text: Genesis 3; 1 Peter 3; 1 Samuel 26; Luke 13 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: *We have finally arrived at Part 6 of 6 as we conclude our series on **The 12 Days of Christmas!***

Even though most people think **The 12 Days of Christmas** is a *stupid song*, it is ➡packed with meaning and ➡directly connected to the Bible!

It began as a **poem** almost 500 years ago (1558), and then became a **song** about 100 years ago (1909). The poem was a **secret way** to focus on **12 important Bible-related gifts**. *The secrecy was due to severe persecution* (see parts 1 & 2).

We began this series by learning the history behind the poem, then we counted down from **Day 12 to Day 3**:

- **Day 12** – **Twelve Drummers Drumming**, which point to **The 12 points of belief in the Apostles' Creed**.
- **Day 11** – **Eleven Pipers Piping**, which point to **The 11 faithful disciples**.
- **Day 10** – **Ten Lords A-Leaping**, which point to **The 10 Commandments**.
- **Day 9** – **Nine Ladies Dancing**, which point to **The 9 Parts of the Fruit of the Spirit**.

- **Day 8 – Eight Maids A-Milking**, which point to **The 8 Beatitudes**, which begin the Sermon on the Mount.
- **Day 7 – Seven Swans A-Swimming**, which point to **The 7 Gifts of the Spirit**.
- **Day 6 – Six Geese A-Laying**, which point to **The 6 Days of Creation**.
- **Day 5 – Five Golden Rings**, which point to **The First 5 Books of the Bible** – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deut.
- **Day 4 – Four Calling Birds**, which point to **The 4 Gospel Accounts** – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- **Day 3 – Three French Hens**, which point to **The 3 Great Blessings** – Faith, Hope, and Love.

We now focus on **Day 2**, and then **Day 1**:

1. **Day 2 – Two Turtle Doves: The Old and New Testaments.**
 - a. The Contents of Both Testaments: They tell us about
 - ♣ God’s creation, ♣ people’s sin, ♣ God’s love, ♣ Jesus’ saving work, and ♣ Jesus’ return!
 - b. A Key Difference Between the Testaments: In the **OT** the Savior is **promised**; in the **NT** He **came** and **finished** His work *to take away all sins!*
 - i. The First Promise of the Savior: The LORD said to Satan: **Genesis 3:15** “...I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”
 - ii. The Fulfillment of Jesus’ Work: **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...”
 - c. The Close Connection Between the Testaments:
 - i. St. Augustine made this profound statement: “The NT is in the OT concealed; the OT is in the

NT revealed.” ♦The better we know the OT, ♦the more we will benefit from the NT!

ii. Turtle Doves Mate for Life: Since they stay together, *let's keep our Testaments together by focusing on the whole Bible!*

d. Application: Memorize [1 Peter 3:18](#). Need some guidance? See the [Daily Devotion](#) brochure.

2. **Day 1 – A Partridge in a Pear Tree: *Jesus, The Christ, The Promised Savior* – all 12 days point to JESUS!**

a. Jesus' Birth: We celebrate His birthday on 12/25. For those who follow the Church Year (*Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost*), **The 12 Days of Christmas** are **12/25** through **1/5**.¹

b. David and Jesus: The OT calls David a partridge, which pointed ahead to Jesus, ***the Ultimate Partridge***: **1 Samuel 26:20** “the king of Israel [*Saul*] has come out to search for a single flea, just as one hunts a partridge in the mountains.”

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).

The Yellowstone National Park Story: “After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in

¹ It's likely that Jesus was born on the Feast of Tabernacles in late September or early October. 12/25 converted a celebration of daylight to a celebration of **the True Light of the World** (Jn. 1:9)!

ashes, perched [like a statue] on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he gently struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings.

The loving mother, keenly aware of the impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings... She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze arrived, the heat scorched her small body, but the mother remained steadfast because she [was] willing to die, so those under the cover of her wings would live.”² **Jesus** – He endured hell, *so that we could enter heaven!*

- d. All 12 Days Point to Jesus: **The** ▶**12** Points of Belief in the Apostles’ Creed, ▶**11** faithful disciples, ▶**10** Commandments, ▶**9** parts of the Fruit of the Spirit, ▶**8** Beatitudes, ▶**7** Gifts of the Spirit, ▶**6** Days of Creation, ▶**5** First Books of the Bible, ▶**4** Gospel Accounts, ▶**3** Great Blessings, ▶**2** Testaments, and **A Partridge in a Pear Tree!**

Conclusion: Please pick up a **12 Days of Christmas** brochure in the Narthex. Then, *beginning today*, follow my daily challenge during **The 12 Days of Christmas!**

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, *our True Love*, **TYSM** for the 12 Bible-related gifts included in the song! Help us to take a little time each day to enjoy those gifts and stay focused on Jesus!

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² <https://www.backyardchickens.com/threads/true-story-of-a-bird-found-after-a-forest-fire.261270/>