

THE BEST OF CHRISTMAS

MATTHEW 2

"Merry Christmas" started in the 1500's. At that time, "merry" meant P_____ and had the connotation of God's _____.

Bishop John Fisher was *praying that God would make Cromwell's Christmas P_____ by God's own _____, despite the circumstances.*

The phrase "Merry Christmas" became popularized by the fictional character E_____ S_____.

TENSIONS OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS:

- The thoughts, feelings, and impulses that tormented _____.
- The thoughts, feelings, and fears of _____.
- The thoughts and words and probable _____ of those who knew Joseph and Mary.
- The very, very long and difficult _____
- The lack of a _____ to _____
- B_____ without a _____

What "huge piece of the story" is missing?
F_____

Why might this "piece" be missing?

MATTHEW 2

This takes place _____ Jesus was born.

After up to 2 years after the birth, Mary and Joseph are still in _____.

Mary and Joseph didn't have family or friends with them on the first Christmas, but they had _____.

1. GOD WAS _____

What really MAKES Christmas ... "merry"?

MATTHEW 2:10 "When they _____ the _____, they were overjoyed."

2. GOD WAS _____ HIS _____.

Vs. 4 Prophet M_____ Promise: a shepherd king coming from _____.

Vs. 15 Prophet H_____ Promise: the coming Messiah would be called out of E_____.

Vs. 17 Prophet J_____ Prophecy: the weeping of women mourning for their _____

Vs. 23 Prophets: Many Promise: The Messiah would be called a "_____".

3. GOD WAS _____

God was in _____, and Joseph was in _____.

When we really trust God, we show that trust by obeying each "_____ " He gives.