

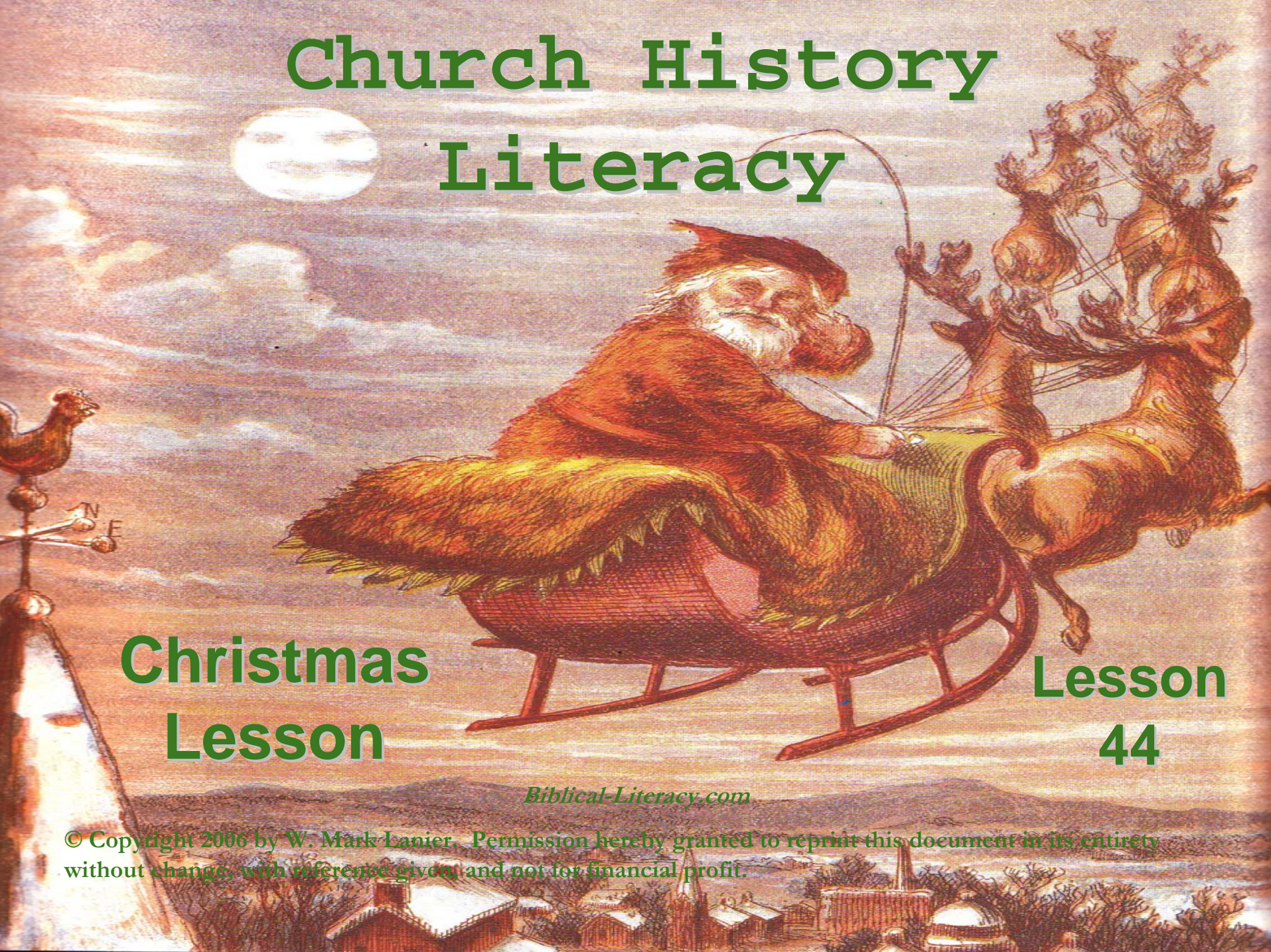
Church History Literacy

Christmas Lesson

Lesson 44

Biblical-Literacy.com

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Loads of Questions



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1. Where does the Bible speak of Christmas?



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2. Were there 3 kings of the Orient?



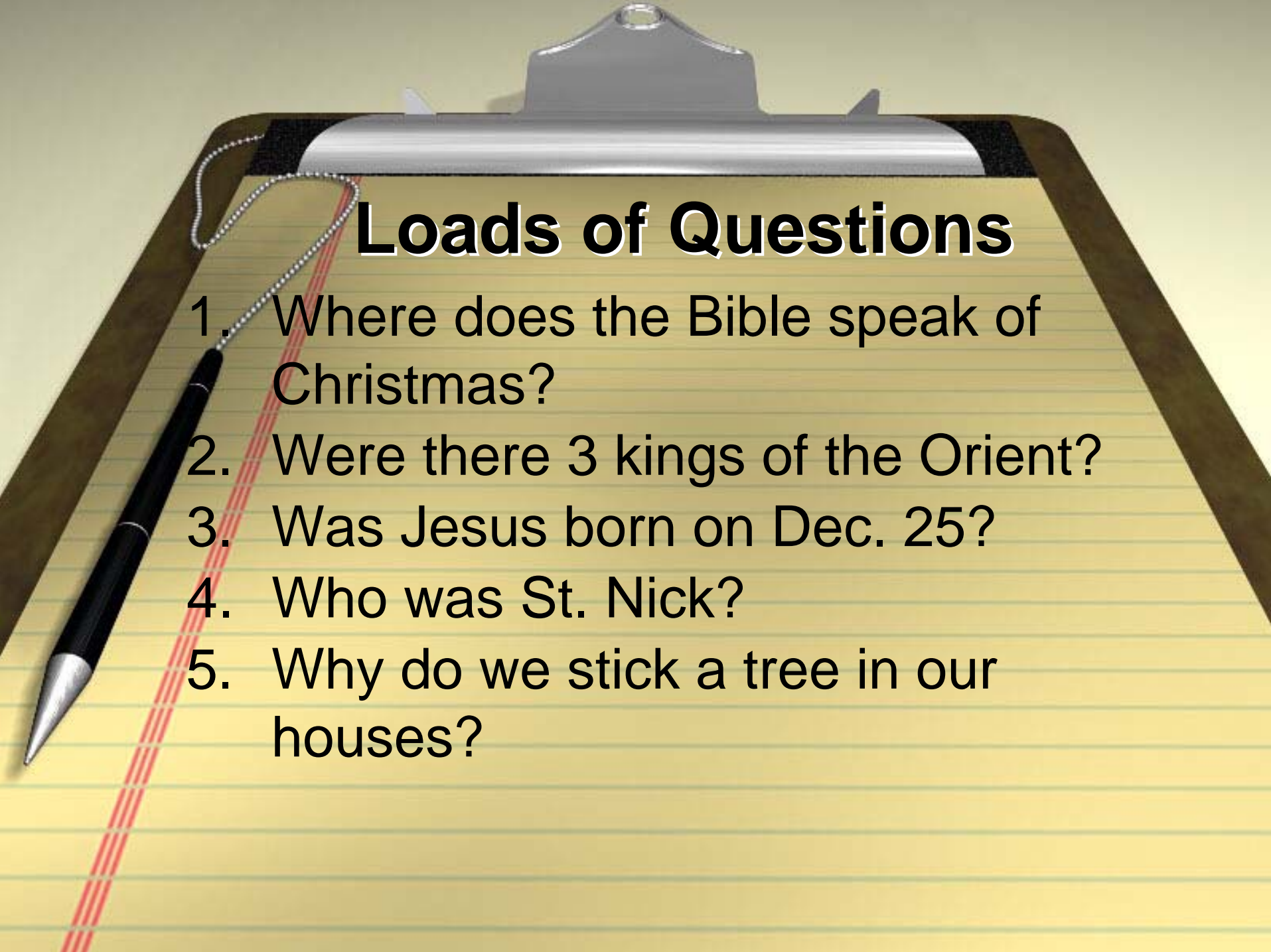
Loads of Questions

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2. Were there 3 kings of the Orient?
3. Was Jesus born on Dec. 25?



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5. Why do we stick a tree in our houses?



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1. Where does the Bible speak of Christmas?
2. Were there 3 kings of the Orient?
3. Was Jesus born on Dec. 25?
4. Who was St. Nick?
5. Why do we stick a tree in our houses?
6. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?



Our Assignment:



Our Assignment:

- Look at Biblical account of Jesus' birth



Our Assignment:

- Look at Biblical account of Jesus' birth
- Historical development of the holiday



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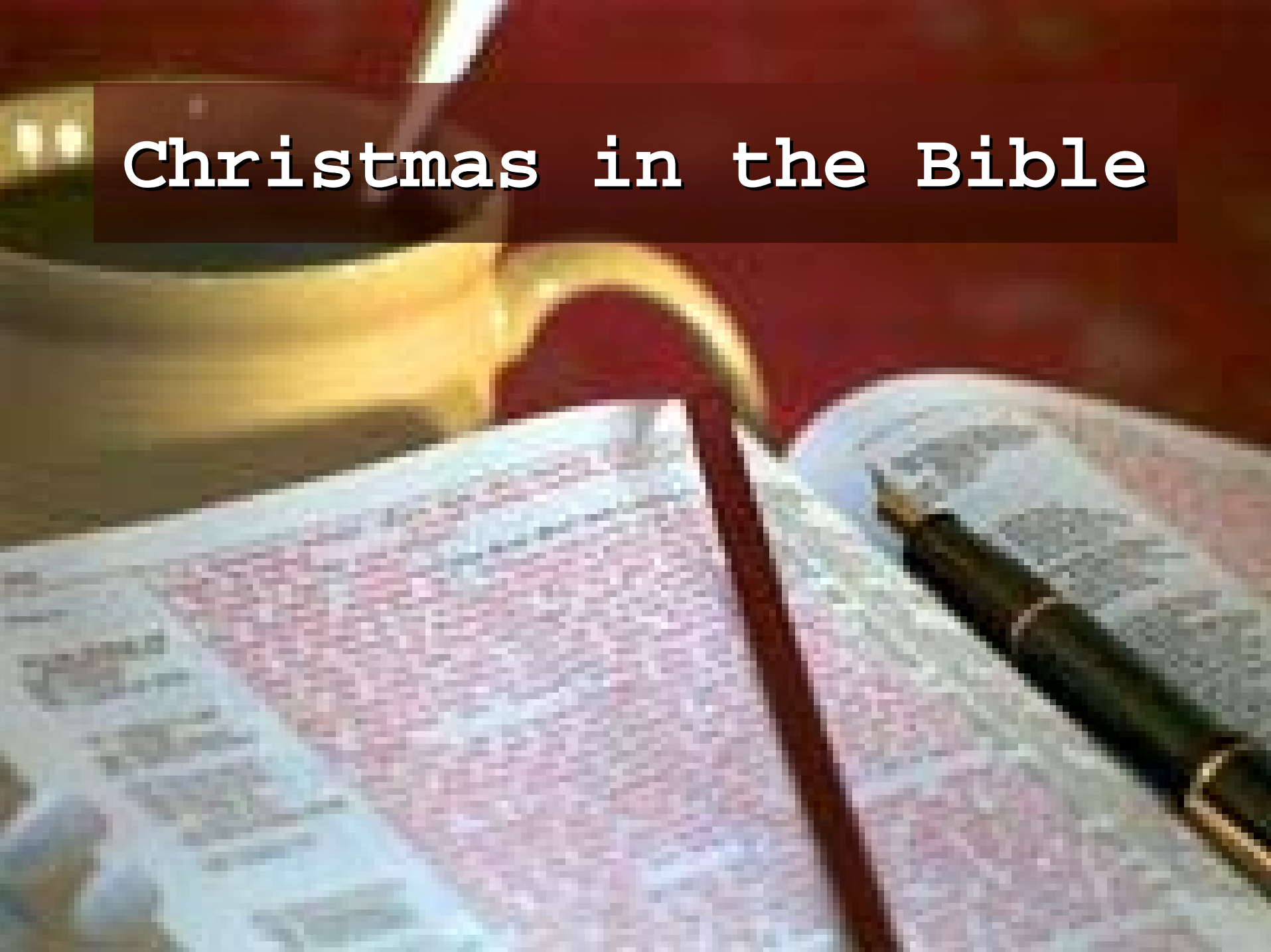
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Christmas in the Bible



Christmas in the Bible

- No mention of the Church celebrating the birth of Christ

Christmas in the Bible

- No mention of the Church celebrating the birth of Christ
- Matthew and Luke record the first celebration of Christ's birth



The Birth of Christ

Fiori da Urbino
(1535-1612)

“You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”



The Birth of Christ

Fiori da Urbino
(1535-1612)

“This took place to fulfill what the Lord had said... ‘The virgin will be with child ... and they will call him Immanuel’...”



The Birth of Christ

Fiori da Urbino
(1535-1612)



The Adoration of the Wise Men

Dirk Bouts
(1420-1475)

“Magi from the East came to Jerusalem”

The Adoration of the Wise Men

Dirk Bouts
(1420-1475)



La Epifania

“They saw the child ... they bowed and they worshipped him. Then they ... presented him with gifts of gold and incense and of myrrh”

The Adoration of the Wise Men

Dirk Bouts
(1420-1475)





La Epifania.



Mary

La Epifania.



Joseph

Mary

La Epifania.



Joseph

Mary

La Epifania.



Joseph

Mary

La Epifania.



Joseph

Mary

La Epifania.

We Three Kings



We Three Kings

John Hopkins 1857



We Three Kings

John Hopkins 1857



We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and
mountain,
Following yonder star ...

PROBLEMS:



PROBLEMS:

“Magi”, not “Kings”



PROBLEMS:

“Magi”, not “Kings”

No one says, “three”

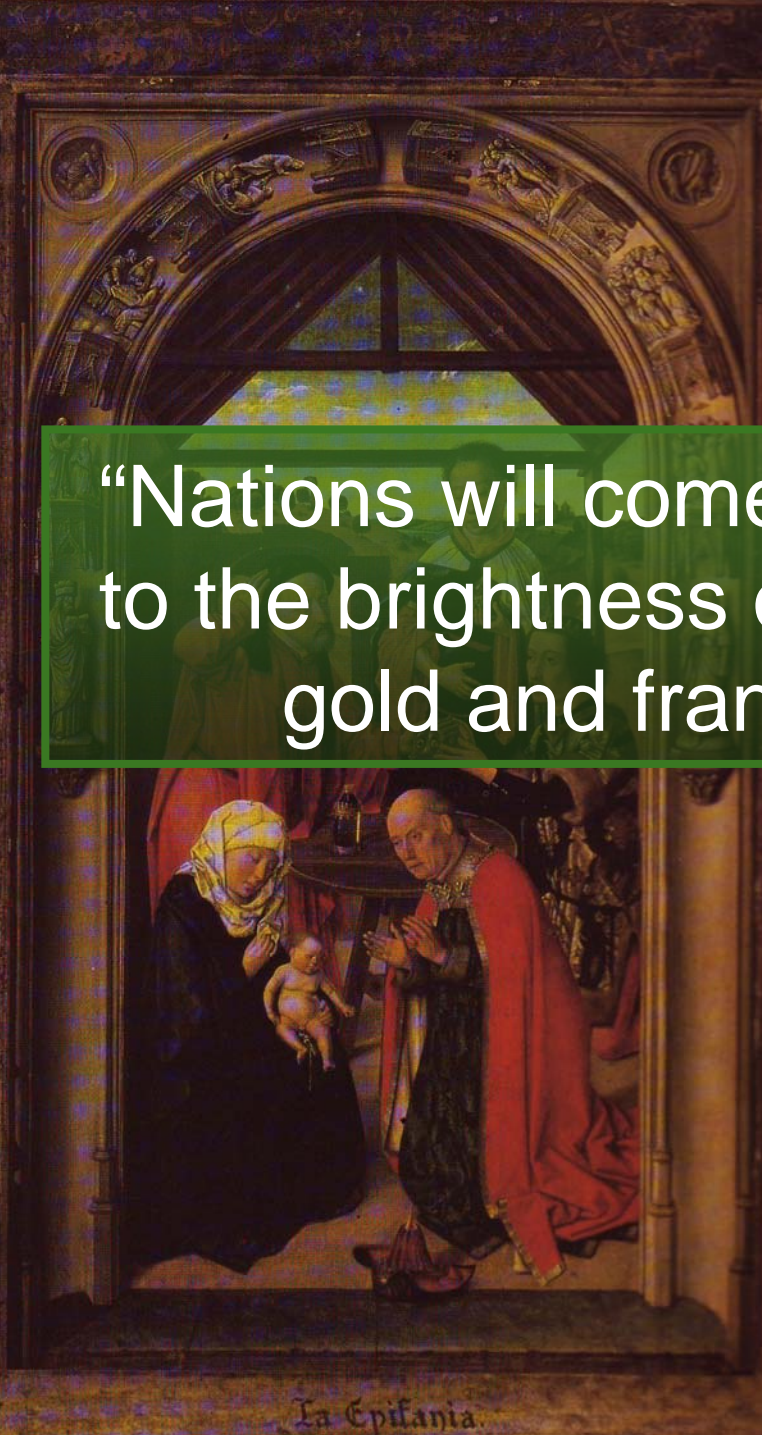


PROBLEMS:

“Magi”, not “Kings”

“Nations will come to your light, and the **kings** to the brightness of your rising. They will bring gold and frankincense.” (Isa. 60:3-6)

No one says, “three”



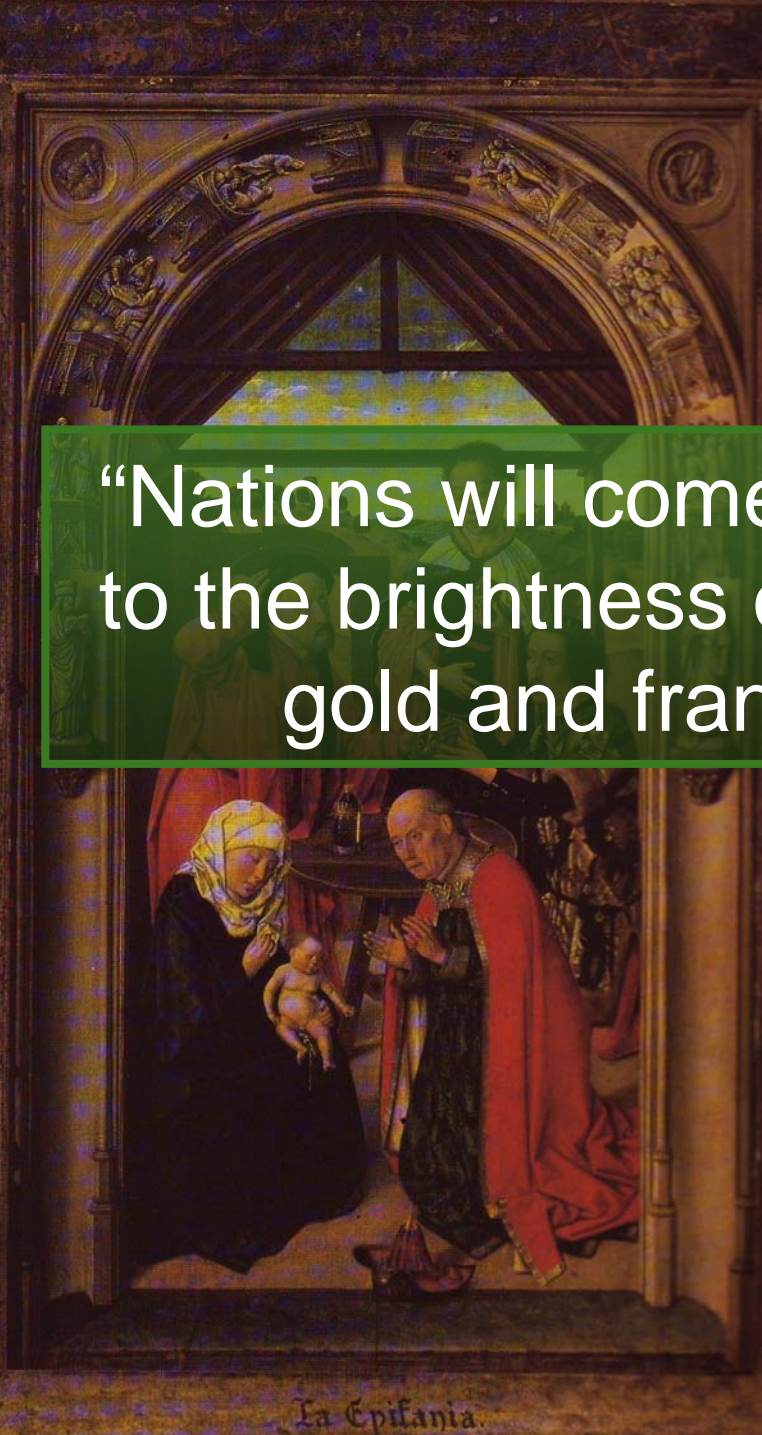
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3 gifts, 3 givers!



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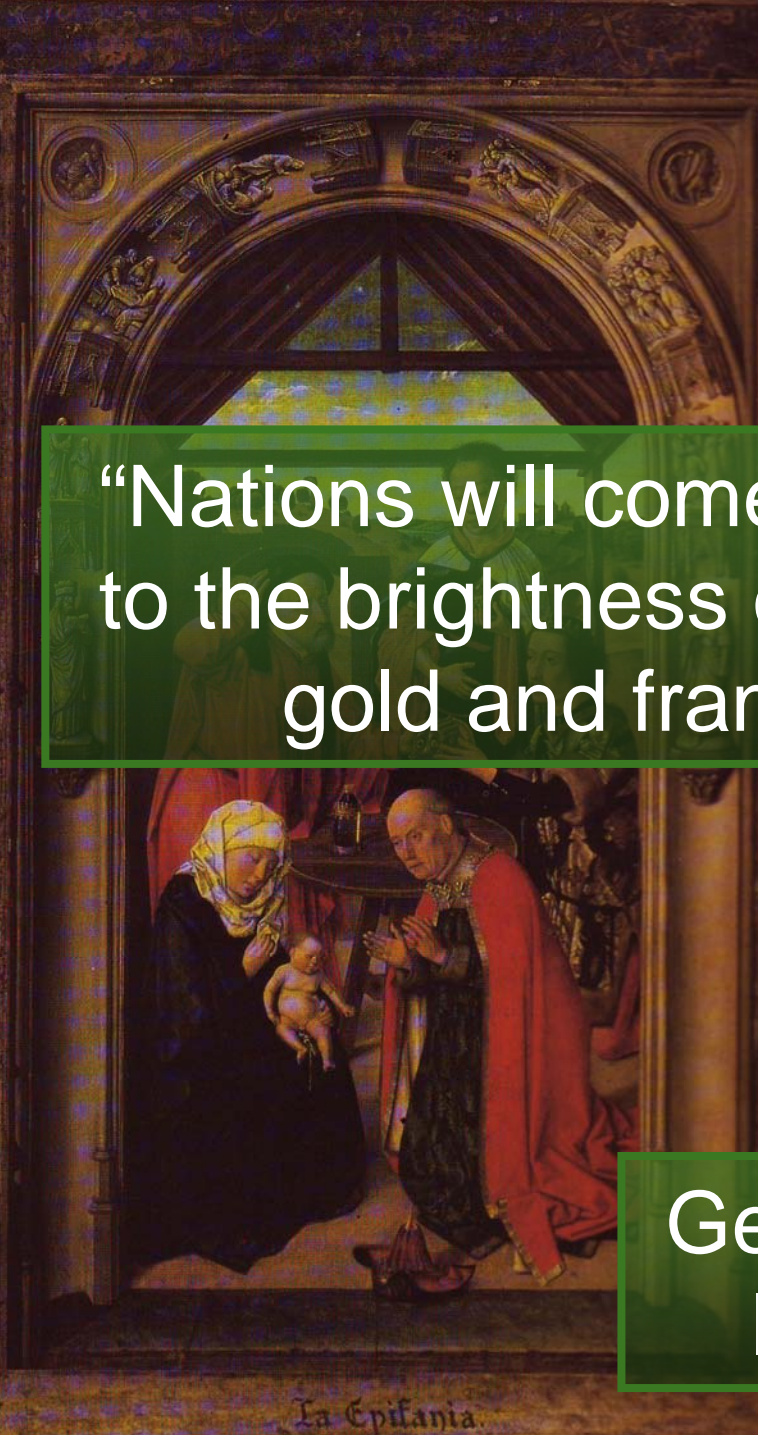
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3 gifts, 3 givers!

Gen 26:26-31, 3 acknowledge Isaac as blessed (Origen)





Adoration of the Shepherds

El Greco
(1540-1614)



Adoration of the Shepherds

El Greco
(1540-1614)

“In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken.”



Adoration of the Shepherds

El Greco
(1540-1614)

“There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks” An angel said to them, “Today a Savior has been born to you.”



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- Historical development of the holiday
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- **Historical development of the holiday**
- Modern American traditions



Clement of Alexandria
(150-215)



Some Gnostics date
the birth of Jesus to
May 20, 3 BC

Corbis.com

Clement of Alexandria
(150-215)

Origen of Alexandria (185-254)



Some Gnostics date
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Clement of Alexandria (150-215)





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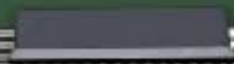
Clement of Alexandria
(150-215)

Origen of Alexandria
(185-254)



Only evil people
celebrate birthdays





A classroom scene featuring a large green chalkboard. At the top, a world map is mounted in a wooden frame. On the left side of the chalkboard, a wooden ruler is placed vertically. At the bottom center, a black chalkboard eraser is attached. The text "So how do we get to December 25?" is written in white on the chalkboard, underlined. There are some faint chalk marks on the board, including a handprint on the right side.

So how do we get to December 25?



So how do we get to December 25?

We were celebrating by 336



Two Theories on December 25:



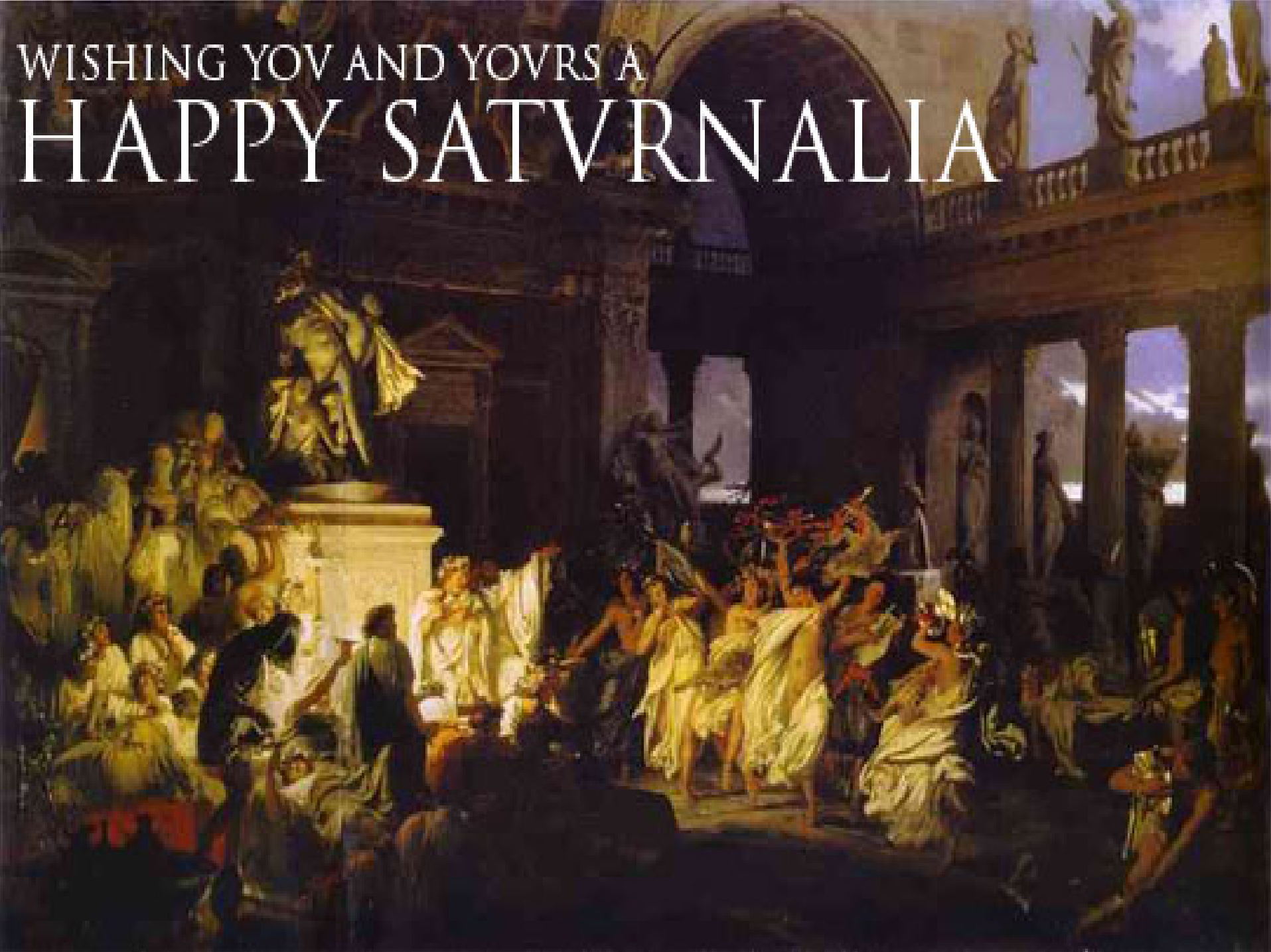
Two Theories on December 25:

1. The "History of Religions Hypothesis"



Two Theories on December 25:

1. The "History of Religions Hypothesis"
2. "The Calculation Hypothesis"



WISHING YOV AND YOVRS A
HAPPY SATVRNALIA


The Calculation Hypothesis



The Calculation Hypothesis

- In God's perfection, most holy people died on their birthday

The Calculation Hypothesis



- In God's perfection, most holy people died on their birthday

- Jesus died March 25 (Spring equinox) or April 6

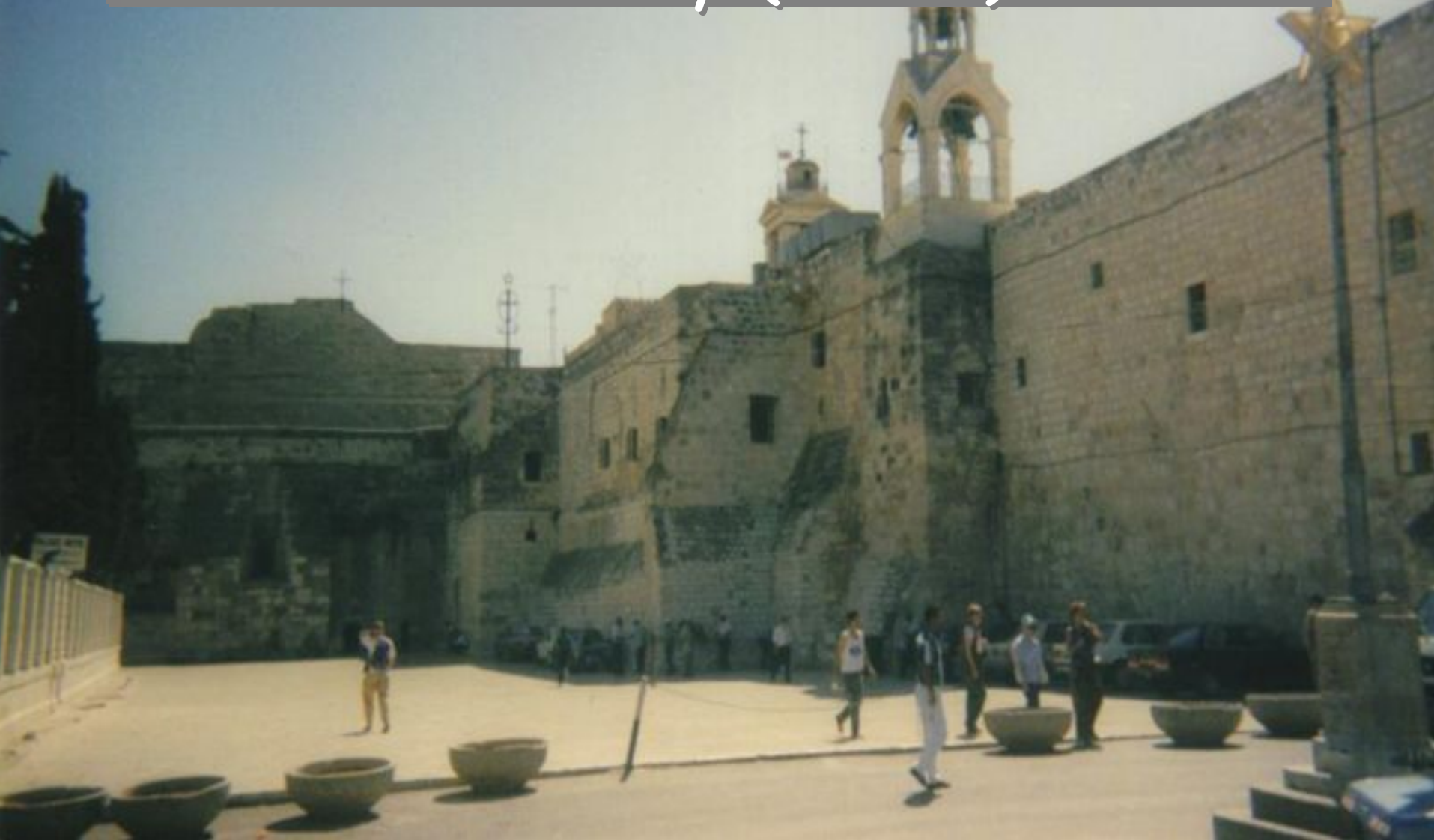


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Midnight Mass at Church of the Nativity (400's)



Midnight Mass at Church of the Nativity (400's)



11th Century England, "Christ' Mass"

Nativity Scenes - St Francis



Christmas Carols

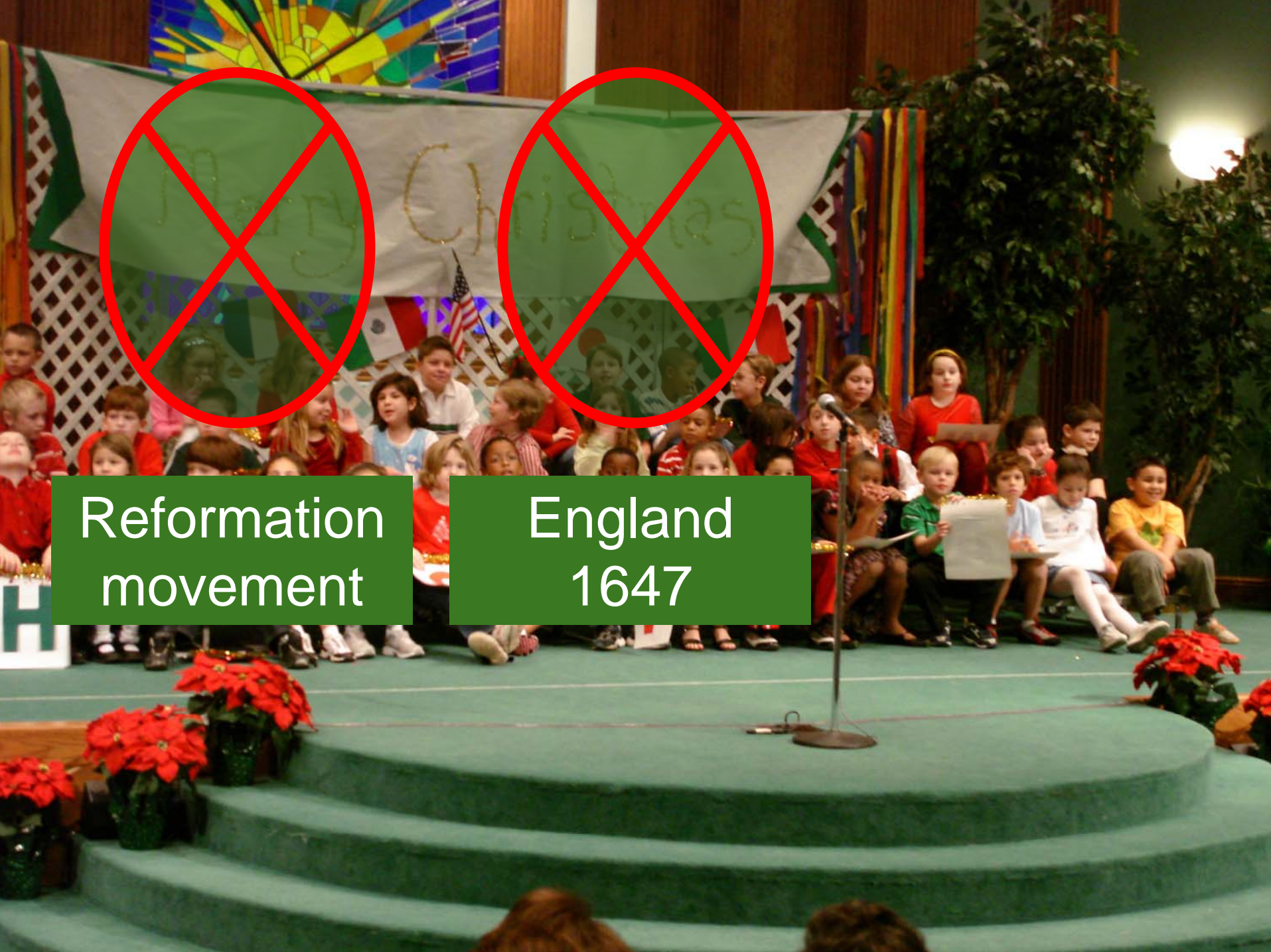


Merry Christmas



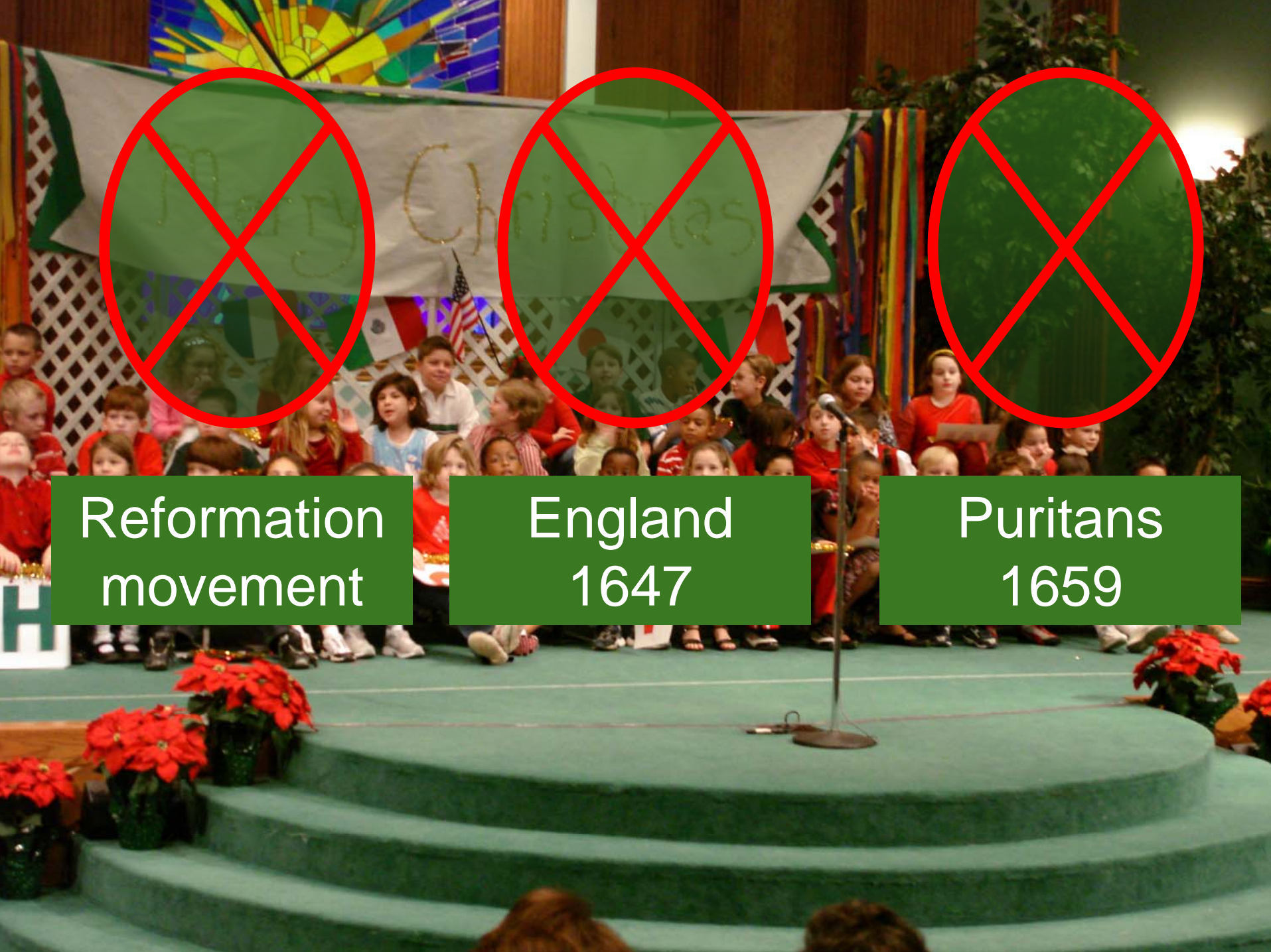


Reformation
movement



Reformation
movement

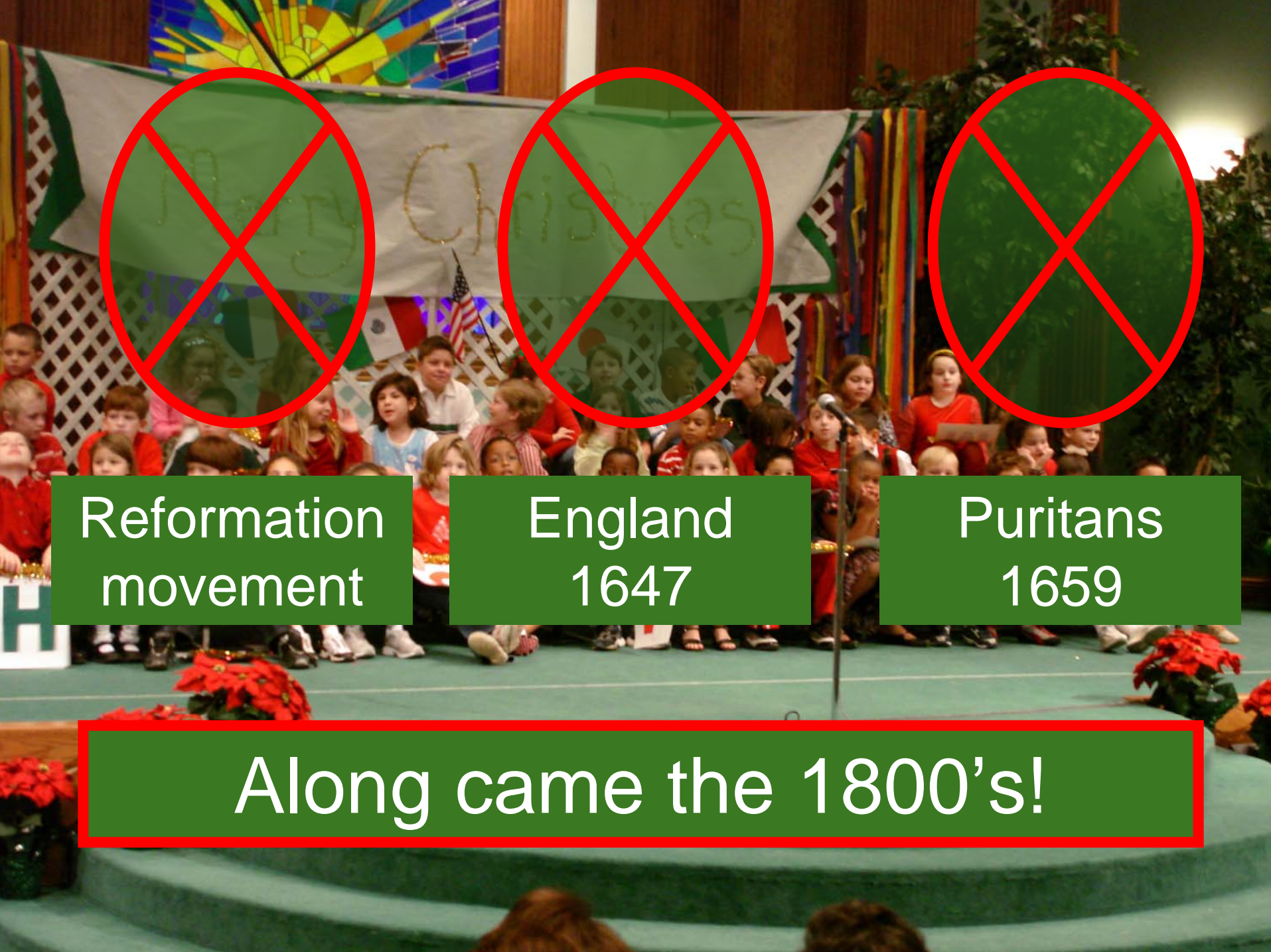
England
1647



Reformation
movement

England
1647

Puritans
1659



Reformation
movement

England
1647

Puritans
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Along came the 1800's!





St. Nicholas
(Died 345-352ish)



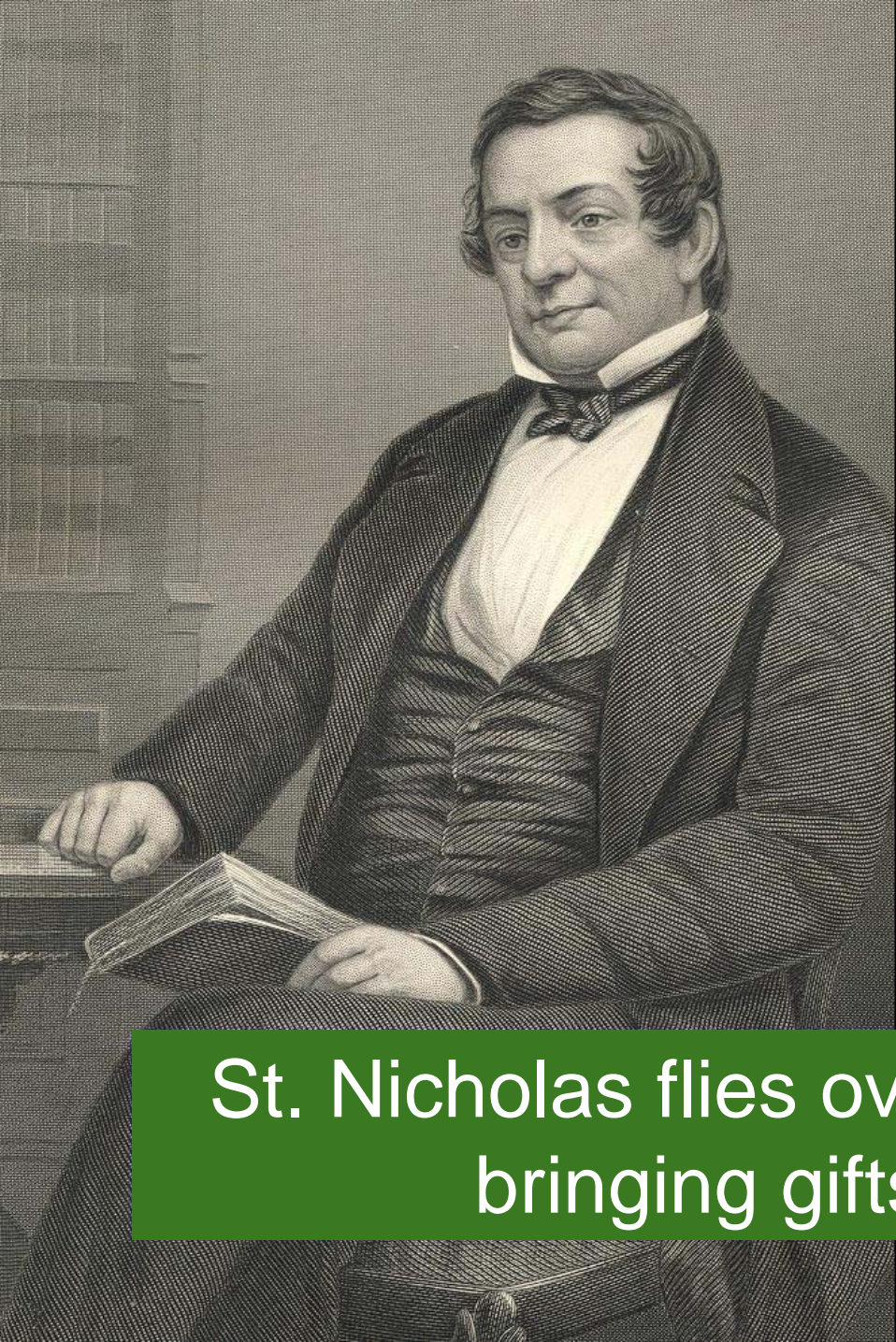
St. Nicholas
(Died 345-352ish)

Patron Saint of
Sailors and
Children



Washington Irving

*History of
New York
(1821)*



Washington Irving

*History of
New York
(1821)*

St. Nicholas flies over trees in a wagon
bringing gifts to children



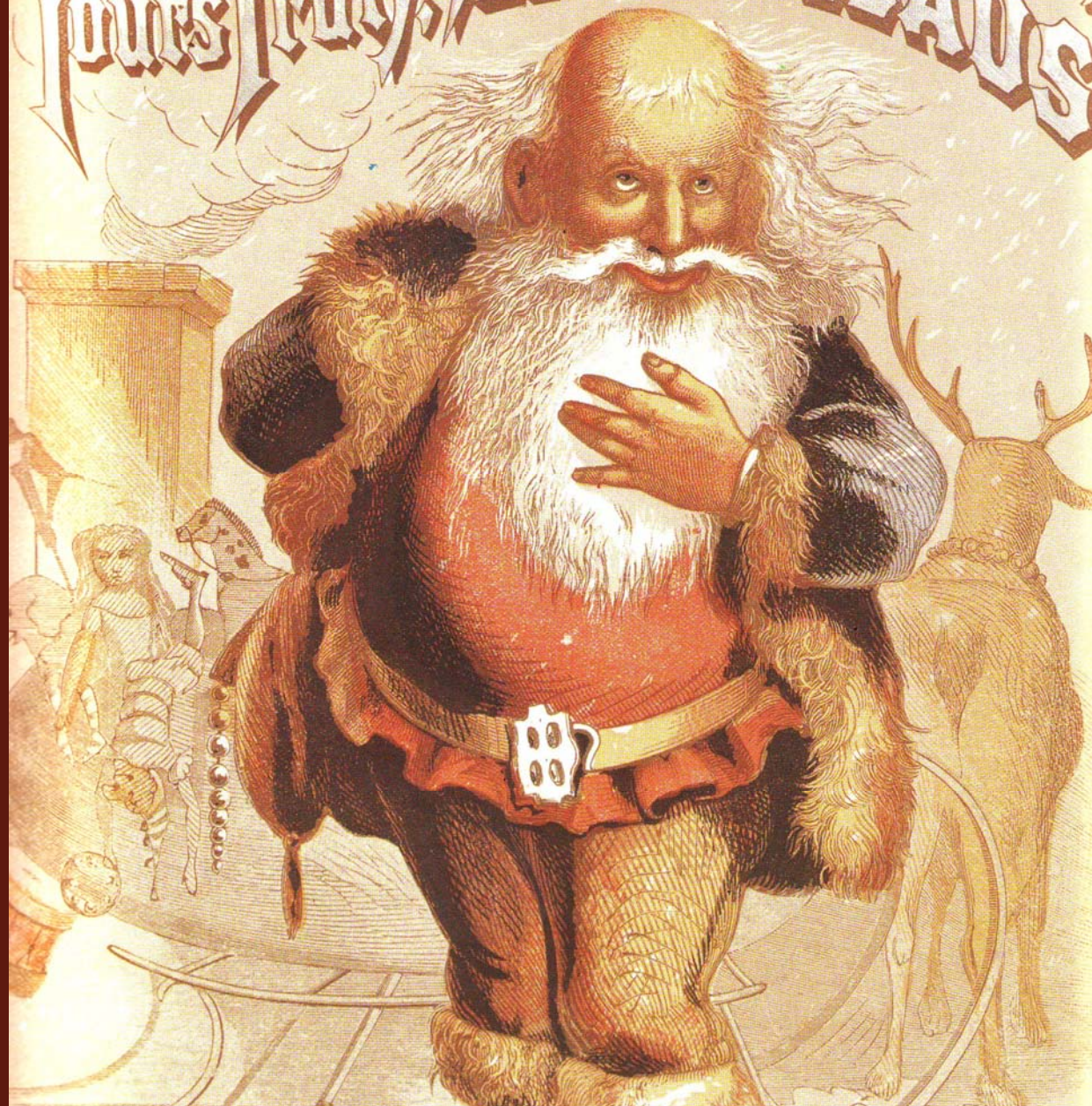
Clement
Clarke
Moore
(1822)



Clement
Clarke
Moore
(1822)

“Twas the night before Christmas, and all
through the house....

“
Yours Truly, SANTA-CLAUS”







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KRISS KRINGLE
ON A WHEEL.







Montgomery Wards



Points for Home

Points for Home

- “A Savior has been born! Glory to God in the highest!” (Lk 2:14)

Points for Home

- “A Savior has been born! Glory to God in the highest!” (Lk 2:14)
- He was given “the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” (Mt. 1:21)

John Chrysostom (349-407)

John Chrysostom (349-407)

“Bethlehem this day resembles heaven. It hears from the stars the singing of angelic voices, and in the place of the sun it enfolds itself on every side with the Sun of Righteousness. And ask not how this can happen, for where God wills, the order of nature yields. For he willed, he had the power, he descended, he redeemed... This day He Who Is, is born; and He Who Is becomes what he was not. For he was God and became Man, yet not departing from the divinity that is his.”