





A Child Is Born

Matthew 1:18-25

Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20

Birth of Jesus

Begin in Luke 1:26.

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth.

At this time, Nazareth was a small town with a population of around 200-400.

He came to a virgin named Mary, who was engaged to a man named Joseph. Her fiancée was of the house of David; this means he was a descendant of King David.

The angel came to Mary and said,

“Greetings, you are highly favored! The Lord is with you: you are blessed among women!”

She was troubled at this saying, and wondered what kind of a greeting this was and what it meant.

This is quite a statement. An angel comes to you - that is shocking in itself - and then tells you that you are blessed and highly favored. It sounds like she has been selected for a special purpose and she was probably wondering what that meant.

Then the angel said, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God!”

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and name him JESUS.

He will be great, and called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Discuss:

“Of his kingdom there will be no end.” What does this mean?

All earthly kingdoms come to an end. Throughout history we see the rise and fall of kingdoms.

This baby is going to be a different type of man. This baby is “The Son of the Most High,” and will be king forever.

Mary asks a question. If you remember our story about Zacharias, he asked a doubting question. Mary is not asking a doubting question, but more of a “how” question. She is not married, and asks how she will be able to have a baby.

Then the angel explains. He says,

“The Holy Ghost will come upon you and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; the holy thing that is born of you will be called the Son of God.”

This is amazing; think about this. The power of the *Highest*. The highest power in the universe will conceive in her the Son of God.

Then the angel tells her about her cousin, Elisabeth, who had been barren for many years. He tells her that Elisabeth is already six months along.

“With God, nothing shall be impossible.”

Look at Mary’s response. She doesn’t doubt, she doesn’t question. She just says,

“Be it unto me according to your word.”

This is quite a response. She is saying, I will accept whatever you have said.



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But there is *so much more*. We read in John 1:1 that:

Jesus is the *Word*. He is the *Word of God*.

He is the summation of every prophecy in the Old Testament that was ever written. There are so many prophecies and reflections of the Old Testament to the New Testament. There are so many of these treasures in the Old Testament that the average reader does not even recognize. Jesus is all over the Bible, and he is hidden in the stories, psalms, and prophecies (1 Corinthians 2:7).

When Mary says, “*Be it unto me according to your word,*”

All the words about Jesus that have been prophesied and spoken into the world for thousands of years, have now become a seed (Genesis 22:18, 26:4; Psalm 89:4, 29, 36; Isaiah 65:9). This seed, made up of all the words spoken of the coming Messiah, has now become the **very** seed that will conceive in Mary the Son of God -

because she believed and accepted it.

This is so powerful. The angel leaves Mary, and she hurriedly leaves to see Elisabeth.

Go to Matthew 1:18.

Mary is engaged to a man named Joseph. They are not yet married, but Mary is now expecting a child through the power of the Holy Ghost. Joseph finds out that Mary is expecting a baby that he knows is not his child. He clearly cares about her, and does not want to embarrass her and make an example out of her, so he has decided to just quietly leave.

For a woman in this time who was not married but expecting a baby, it was a very disgraceful thing. According to the Mosaic law, she could have been stoned to death.

While Joseph was thinking about these things and trying to decide what to do, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel told Joseph not to be afraid to marry her, because she was expecting a baby that was conceived by the Holy Ghost.

Then the angel told Joseph that Mary would have a son, and call his name JESUS.

He would save his people from their sins.

These things were done to fulfill prophecy that was spoken by Isaiah that a virgin will conceive and bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14).

Joseph woke up, and did as the angel had told him to, and took Mary as his wife. They were not truly married in the fullest sense until she brought forth her first born son, and called him Jesus.

Luke 2:1

In those days, there was a decree from Caesar Augustus that “all the world” had to be taxed.

This “all the world” means the entire Roman Empire, which ruled over a huge portion of the modern world at that time.



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Discuss:

Even though they were living in Israel, they had been conquered by Rome, and they were part of the Roman Empire. Talk about what this would mean.

They had their own government, which was King Herod. But their kings and rulers were ultimately subject to the Roman rulers as final authority.

Everyone had to go back to their hometown to pay taxes. Joseph was of the house of David, so he and Mary left the city of Nazareth and went into Judaea to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem. She was very much expecting, and while they were there it came time for the baby to be born.

They tried to go to an inn, or a hotel, but they were all full. Everyone had come to pay their taxes; it was a decree, which meant it was a mandate, and not optional. So the city was very busy, and there was no room in the inn.

Discuss:

Mary is having the most important baby that has ever been born; she is having the Son of God.

There's no room at the hotel for them, so she had to go into the barn.

She probably did not have a doctor, or a nurse, it was probably just she and Joseph. And they did not have any baby blankets, so they wrapped him tightly in some cloth and laid him in the manger.

It was probably dirty; there probably was not a place to give the baby a bath.

She did not have a bed for him, so she laid him in the feeding trough.

It was probably full of hay, and that is where the animals ate.

Nearby, out in a field, there were some shepherds sleeping in the field, watching over their sheep flocks at night.

Discuss:

Why would they be outside at night watching their sheep?

What would they be doing?

They might be doing this in case a wolf or another wild animal came to get the sheep.

The angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds and the glory of the Lord was shining all around them.

Imagine this! You are outside at night - it is very dark and all of the sudden an angel appears and lights up everything around you! The shepherds were very afraid.

BUT - what do the angels always say? "Fear not!" Don't be afraid! This time the angel was excited! He said,

"I'm bringing you good news of great joy which is for *all* people."

Who did Jesus come for? Just some people? No, he came for ALL people.



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Then the angel said, "In the city of David is born a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. This is how you will know you found him, you will find the baby, wrapped tightly in clothes, lying in a manger."

Then, all of the sudden the whole sky lit up! There was a large number of angels - a multitude of the heavenly host - all praising God, and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men."

Then the angels left.

Discuss:

What would you do? Would you wonder what was going on? Would you go see what they were talking about? The shepherds said to each other, let's go to Bethlehem and see what the angels were talking about.

So, they hurried! They found Joseph, Mary, and the baby lying in a manger.

Then they went and told everyone what had happened.

Would you? Would you go tell everyone if the sky lit up and angels were singing and telling you that there was great news that a baby had been born? And then it was true, and you went and saw the baby?

Everyone that heard the shepherd's news wondered about those things. Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Then the shepherds went back and glorified and praised the Lord for all the things they saw.

Jesus in the Story



This IS Jesus!

Since before the world was created, it was always God's plan to bring about salvation for his people through Jesus (Revelation 13:8).

When Adam and Eve sinned, the Lord already had a plan to save mankind. His plan at the very beginning was for Jesus to come in the flesh as a man and be crucified to save us all.

At the fall of man, Satan took man's authority from him. God could not just immediately bring Jesus into the world at that time to save mankind. Man had been given authority, or dominion, over the earth, but he gave his authority to Satan through sin. God created the world through words, and he had to bring Jesus into the earth through words. For thousands of years words were spoken about Jesus; how he would come, what he would do, what he would be like, what his purpose would be. The words had to be spoken by humans because they were given authority over the earth.

These words had to be hidden in mysteries, otherwise Satan and the rulers of this world would have never crucified Jesus if they would have been able to understand God's plan (1 Corinthians 2:8).

When the angels lit up the sky, they were saying, this is great news! The Son of God is finally here!

God is sending peace, and goodwill to men!

Mary accepted the angel's words along with all the words and prophecies spoken over the years and they manifested in human form. Jesus is now here on the earth to free man from sin, and restore everything that was lost through the fall to those who believe.

Lesson Questions & Memory Verses

49. An Empty Tomb

Read John 20

1. Who did Mary Magdalene think Jesus was?
2. What did Mary think happened to Jesus?
3. What was in the tomb?
4. Do you think a thief would have left the grave clothes?

1 Corinthians 15:17-19

And if Christ be not raised, your faith is in vain; you are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

50. Unable to Speak

Read Luke 1:7, 18, 20, 63-64

1. What do we know about Zacharias and Elizabeth?
2. How did Zacharias respond when Gabriel told him the news?
3. Why did Gabriel say Zacharias would not be able to speak?
4. When was Zacharias able to speak again?

Psalms 139:4-5

For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD you know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, and laid your hand upon me.

51. A Child Is Born

Read Isaiah 9:7

1. When will the government of Jesus stop increasing?
2. What else is always increasing?
3. Whose throne will Jesus sit on?
4. What is his throne established with?

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

52. From the East

1. What gifts did the wise men bring?
2. Why did the wise men not go back to talk to Herod after they found Jesus?
3. Where did Joseph and Mary take Jesus?

Isaiah 60:3, 6

The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. They shall bring gold and incense, and they shall proclaim the praises of the Lord.



