

A King is Born



God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in northern Israel, to a woman named Mary, who was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. The angel Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Congratulations! The Lord is with you!"

Mary was confused by what the angel said. "Who are you and why have you come?" she asked.

"Don't be frightened, Mary," the angel told her, "for God has decided to wonderfully bless you. Very soon now, you will become pregnant and have a baby boy, and you are to name Him 'Jesus.' He will be very great and will be called the Son of God."

Mary was very surprised, but she said, "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to do whatever He wants me to."

Then the angel disappeared.



Not long afterward Caesar Augustus, the Roman emperor, decreed that everyone should be registered and counted. This meant that everyone was required to return to the place where his family was from, for this registration, called a census. Joseph had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, journeying there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee.

Joseph took with him Mary his wife, who was expecting her baby by this time. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born. But there was no room for Joseph and Mary in the village inns, since the city was full of people who had come for the census.

And so Mary gave birth to her son in a humble stable. She wrapped Him in a blanket and laid Him in a manger, a feed trough for the animals, to sleep.



That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared, and the landscape shone brightly with the glory of the Lord.

The shepherds were very frightened, but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you the most joyful news ever! The Savior—Christ the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem! You will find a baby wrapped in a blanket, lying in a manger!”

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a host of angels praising God. “Glory to God in the highest,” they sang, “and peace on earth to men of good will.”

When this great host of angels had returned again to Heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Come, let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this wonderful thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”



The shepherds ran to the village and found their way to Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby Jesus, lying in the manger.

The shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were very surprised. Then the shepherds went back again to their fields and flocks, praising God for the visit of the angels, and because they had seen the child, just as the angel had told them.



Jesus was born during the reign of King Herod of Judea. Wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the newborn King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in far-off eastern lands and have come to worship Him.”

King Herod called a meeting of the Jewish religious leaders. “Did the prophets tell us where the Messiah would be born?” he asked.

“Yes, in Bethlehem,” they said.

The wise men started out again. The star appeared to them again, in the sky over Bethlehem, and led them to where the child was. They were so happy!

Entering the house where the child and Mary, His mother, were, they knelt down before Him. Then they opened their presents and gave Him gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



Jesus came to give us His love and happiness forever. You can receive Jesus as your Savior by saying this simple prayer:

Dear Jesus, please come into my heart. Thank You for coming to Earth for me, and for forgiving me for my mistakes. Thank You that one day I will live with You in Heaven. Help me to learn to be like You—to be kind and loving to others. Amen.

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Art by Kristen Dufrane. Text courtesy of Activated! Kids magazine.

