

Christmas - The Birth of Jesus

1. One day, 2000 years ago, an angel suddenly appeared to a young Jewish woman, named Mary. He told her that she was going to become pregnant, give birth to a baby boy and that she should call His name, Jesus.

2. Mary was troubled by the news because she was only engaged to the man she loved named, Joseph. They were not living together and she was a virgin. In answer to Mary's questions, the angel explained that Joseph was not involved but that the power of the Holy Spirit of God would come upon her.

3. When Joseph heard that Mary was expecting a child, he was very upset. He was a good and conscientious man and wanted to live a righteous life. At first he did not understand what was happening in Mary's life and he wanted to secretly break off his engagement with her.

4. Joseph did not want to embarrass Mary but it appeared to him that Mary had been unfaithful. Others would think the same thing and in Jewish people thought this to be a great sin punishment for it was death. But, as Joseph was thinking this about this, God appeared to him in a dream and said to him, "Joseph, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. This baby is from God by the power of His Holy Spirit!"



5. Now at that time, the Jewish people were under the rule of the Roman Empire. Caesar Augustus ordered that a census be taken and that each person must return to their birthplace to register. Joseph was from a small town called Bethlehem and so he took Mary with him, to register there.

6. Weary from their journey, Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem and found that every hotel room was full and there was no place for them to stay. Mary was about to deliver her baby and finally, one innkeeper had compassion on them and offered them a place to lie down - in the cattle stall.



7. That night, Mary gave birth to a baby boy, wrapped him up in long strips of cloth and laid him on the straw. They gave Him the name, Jesus, as the angel had instructed.



Read: Luke 2: 8-20 - From Good News Bible

Questions: Christmas -- The Birth of Jesus

1. Who told Mary she was going to have a baby? _____
2. What reasons did Mary give that it was not possible for her to have a baby?

3. What made this baby different from all other babies? _____

4. What was Joseph's reaction when he heard that Mary was pregnant? _____
What did he want to do? _____
5. Why did he take Mary as his wife? _____
6. Why did this couple take a journey during the last days of Mary's pregnancy?

- Where did they go? _____
7. Where was the baby Jesus born? _____
Why was He born in that insignificant place? _____
8. It appears that Mary and Joseph did not know anyone in this small town, or they may have stayed with them. Who came to rejoice with them over the baby's birth.

- How did these people find out about Jesus' birth? _____
9. What were the angels' messages to the shepherds?
 - Vs. 10 a. _____
 - b. _____
 - Vs. 11 _____
 - Vs. 12 _____
 - Vs. 14 a. _____
 - b. _____
10. What did the shepherds do after they saw Baby Jesus? _____
11. What did Jesus come to bring to everyone on earth? _____



By Arlene Sorenson

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Welcome to Our World!

Tears are falling. Hearts are breaking.
How we need to hear from God.
You've been promised. We've been waiting.
Welcome Holy Child. Welcome Holy Child.

Hope that you don't mind our manger.
How I wished we would have known.
Long awaited holy stranger --
Make Yourself at home.
Please, make Yourself at home.

Bring your peace into our violence.
Bid our hungry souls be filled.
Word now breaking heaven's silence.
Welcome to our world. Welcome to our World.

Fragile fingers sent to heal us.
Tender brow prepared for thorns.
Tiny heart whose blood will save us.
Unto us is born. Unto us is born.

So wrap our injured flesh around You.
Breathe our air and walk our soil.
Rob our sin and make us holy.
Perfect Son of God --
Welcome to our world!

By Amy Grant



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