

God Announces Jesus' Birth: To Shepherds - To Wise Men

1. The night Jesus was born, shepherds were taking care of their sheep in a nearby field. Suddenly they became very frightened when an angel appeared to them. "Don't be afraid," the angel said. "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Then the angel told the shepherds that someone very special had just been born. The angel said that the baby was Jesus Christ, who would free people from the power of sin in their lives.



2. The angel told the shepherds that Jesus had been born in a cattle shed. Then many angels came and sang, "Glory to God, and peace to men on earth." After the angels left, the shepherds went and found the baby and His parents in the cattle shed as the angels had said.



3. At that same time, a group of scholars in a distant land in the East, saw an extraordinary star in the sky. They understood that it meant that an extraordinary person had been born. They began a long journey to find Him, so they could worship Him. When they came to Jerusalem, they went to King Herod's Palace and asked, "Where is He that is born, King of the Jews?"

They explained about the extraordinary star they had seen several months earlier.

4. King Herod was upset about their question. He was the Roman king who ruled over the Jews who lived in his kingdom. "Who was this Person whom these "Wise men" were seeking? Could it be that there was Someone who would be his rival and a threat to His kingdom?" He called together his wisest men. He asked them where the King whose coming was promised in the Jewish Scriptures, was to be born. They told him, "in the small town of Bethlehem."



5. King Herod asked the scholars about the exact time that the extraordinary star appeared, and then sent them on their journey to Bethlehem. He ordered them to, "go search diligently for the child. As soon as you have found Him, report to me, so I too may go and worship Him."

6. The wise men left the King's presence and as they traveled away from Jerusalem, the special star appeared again. As they reached Bethlehem, the star stood over the house where Jesus and His parents were living. They saw the young child with His mother and bowed down and worshipped Him. They opened up their treasures and presented their gifts to Him - gold, incense and myrrh.

7. But Herod had no intention of worshipping the child they had told him about. He planned to get rid of Him. But God warned the wise men, in a dream, that they should return home by another way and not go to Jerusalem! God also warned Joseph, in a dream, that the child's life was in danger. God told Joseph to escape to Egypt with his family. Herod realized that he had been tricked by the wise men. He killed all baby boys younger than two years, in the area around Bethlehem. God protected Jesus from King Herod's plan to kill Him.

Questions: God Announces Jesus' Birth: To Shepherds - To Wise Men

- A. What were the shepherds doing the night Jesus was born?
What happened that made them afraid?
- B. What did the angel say to the shepherds?
What did they say this special baby would someday be able to do?
What did the angels sing about?
- C. What other extraordinary thing happened at the time of Jesus' birth?
Who traveled the long journey to Jerusalem?
Who did they go to see in Jerusalem and what did they ask him?
- D. Tell about King Herod's response when he heard what the wise men were looking for.
How did Herod find out where the king of the Jews was to be born?
What did King Herod say he intended to do when he found the child?
- E. What happened when the wise men started their journey to Bethlehem?
What did they do when they saw the child and His mother?
- a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
- F. Tell about the two dreams mentioned in this story. (Who? What?, Why? Result)
- a. _____
b. _____
- G. What did Herod do when he knew he had been tricked by the wise men?
Why was Herod unable to kill baby Jesus?



Something to Think about and English Conversation Practice:

- A. How did God communicate with people in our story? Can you find five ways that God speaks to people?
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
- B. Do you think God can still speak to people today in these same ways?

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