

The Wise Men

(Matthew 2)

When Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled and called a meeting of all the leading priests and teachers of the law and asked them where the Christ would be born. They answered, "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea." So Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem, saying, "Look carefully for the child. When you find

him, come tell me so I can worship him too."

The wise men left and the star that they had seen earlier went before them until it stopped above the place where Jesus was.

When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy. They came to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.







Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph, were engaged to be married. But before they married, Mary learned she was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit.

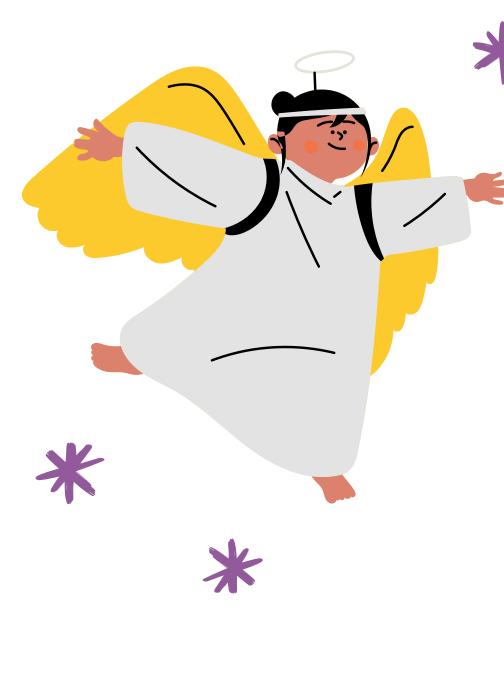
Because Joseph was a good man, he did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly.

While Joseph thought about these things, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the

baby in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. Joseph took Mary as his wife, but they didn't share a bed until she had given birth to her son. And Joseph named him Jesus.







God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin girl named Mary. She was engaged to marry Joseph. The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you."

Mary was scared by what the angel said and wondered what it might mean. But the angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has shown you his grace. Listen! You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and he will rule over the people of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I am a virgin?" The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. For this reason the baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God. Mary said, "I am the servant of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" Then the angel went away.







Some shepherds were in the fields nearby, watching their sheep. Suddenly an angel of the Lord stood before them and the glory of God was shining around them. The Shepherds were very frightened.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news that will be a great joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born! He is Christ, the Lord. You will find him wrapped in pieces of cloth and lying in a manger."

Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in heaven, and peace to all on earth!"

So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in a feeding trough. They told everyone what the angels had said about this child and everyone was amazed. The shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything they had seen and heard.





The Angels

The angels were an important part of the Christmas story. They appeared to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds, bringing messages from God. They praised and thanked God for what He was doing.

(Luke 1-2)

When the angel appeared to Mary, he said "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has shown you his grace. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

When the angel appeared to the shepherds he said "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news that will be a great joy to all the people! Today your Saviour was born in the town of David. He is Christ, the Lord."

Then a large group of angels from heaven joined, praising God and saying: "Give glory to God in heaven, and peace to all on earth!"





The Innkeepers

Did you know the innkeepers are never actually mentioned in the Bible? All we know is that there was no room for Mary and Joseph to stay in guest room and instead they probably stayed in the part of the house where animals are kept.

There may not have been innkeepers, but someone kind chose to make room for this family in their time of need.

(Luke 2)

In those days, the Roman emperor ordered that everyone needed to go to their home town to register. So Joseph travelled from Nazareth to Bethlehem to register with Mary. They were engaged to be married and she was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and had to place him in a feeding trough for animals instead of a crib because there was no guest room available for them.



* Jesus *

(John 1)

Jesus was there in the beginning, with God. In fact, Jesus was God. All things were made by him, and nothing was made without him. In him there was life, and that life was the light of all people. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overpowered it.

(Isaiah 9)

A child has been born to us - God has given a son to us! He will be responsible for leading the people. He will be called:

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Power and peace will be in his kingdom forever. He will rule as king with justice and goodness, now and forever.

(Matthew 1)

All this happened to bring about what the Lord had said through his prophet: "A virgin will be pregnant and give birth to a son."

They will name him Emmanuel which means "God is with us."





(Matthew 2)

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem, in Judea. When Jesus

was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When the wise men saw the star in the east, they were filled with joy. They followed the star and it went before them until it stopped above the place where Jesus was. They saw him with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.