## The Birth of Christ – The Handmaid of God

#### **NAZARETH OF GALILEE**

GALILEE = The Circuit (i.e. circle)

NAZARETH (Grk.) = Guarded

NAZARETH (Heb.) = The Branch

- It was 8 km southwest of Tiberias
- It was 32 km southwest of Capernaum
- It was 140 km north of Jerusalem
- = Burlington to London = 141 km
- It was 150 km north of Bethlehem
- = Oakville to London = 151 km
- Nazareth was 175 km north of Hebron
- = Mississauga to London = 173 km

#### **NOT CONFORMED**

- Marys in the New Testament:

MARY = Rebellion

- 1) Mary the Mother of Jesus Luke 1:27
- 2) Mary Magdalene Luke 8:2
- 3) Mary of Bethany and sister to

Lazarus and Martha Matthew 26:6 - 7

- 4) Mary the Mother of James the less and Wife of Cleopas (Alphaeus) Luke 6:15; Mark 15:40
- 5) Mary the Mother of John Acts 12:12
- 6) Mary of the Ecclesia in Rome Romans 16:6

#### **MARY AND MIRIAM**

- Having A Bible Role Model:
- 1) Ordained to give watch to the infant Moses
- 1) Ordained to give birth to the Lord Jesus
- 2) Nurtured the growth of Israel's Deliverer from Egypt
- 2) Nurtured the growth of Israel's Deliverer from Sin
- 3) Would learn humility by being placed outside the Camp
- 3) Would learn humility by being found outside the House
- 4) Moved to utter a Divine song over the Egyptians
- 4) Moved to utter a Divine song over the Proud

#### **BLESSED**

- Blessing them of low degree:
- 1) Mary Luke 1:28
- 2) Ruth Ruth 3:10
- 3) Hannah 1 Samuel 2:20
- 4) Abigail 1 Samuel 25:33
- 5) Jael Judges 5:24

## **HIS MOTHER** (Fulfilling the Word of the LORD)

- The prophecy was issued through a prophetic seer
- The fulfillment was meted out through an angelic visitor

## Isaiah 7 Luke 1

"behold, a virgin" "to, a virgin"

"shall conceive" "thou shalt conceive" "bear a son" "bring forth a son" "shall call his name..." "shalt call his name..."

"Immanuel" "Jesus"

## MARY'S SON (From Luke 1)

- Jesus would fulfill eternal promises:
- 1) "shall be great" v 32
- 2) "shall be called the Son of the Highest" v 32
- 3) "shall [receive] the throne of David" v 32
- 4) "shall reign over the house of Israel" v 33
- 5) "shall [have a never-ending] kingdom" v 33

#### BARREN (Barren in the Bible)

- There are six barren women in the Bible:
- 1) Sarah Genesis 21
- 2) Rebekah Genesis 25
- 3) Rachel Genesis 30
- 4) Manoah's Wife Judges 13
- 5) Hannah 1 Samuel 1
- 6) Elizabeth Luke 1

#### **HUMBLE** (Those of a meek spirit)

- 1) Elisabeth Luke 1:42 45
- 2) Moses Numbers 12:3
- 3) The Centurion Matthew 8:8
- 4) Paul Acts 20:19
- 5) Us Matthew 5:5

## **GOD HATH** (Mary praised all that God hath done)

- 1) "he hath regarded" v 48
- 2) "he hath done" v 49
- 3) "he hath shewed" v 51
- 4) "he hath scattered" v 51
- 5) "he hath put down" v 52
- 6) "he hath filled" v 53
- 7) "he hath sent away" v 53
- 8) "he hath holpen" v 54

### **HEBRON** (...into the hill country with haste)

- And they gave out of the tribe of the children of Judah, and out of the tribe of the children of Simeon, these cities which are here mentioned by name. Which the children of Aaron, being of the families of the Kohathites, who were of the children of Levi, had: for theirs was the first lot. And they gave them the city of Arba the father of Anak, which city is Hebron, in the hill country of Judah, with the suburbs thereof round about it. (Joshua 21:9 – 11)

#### THE HANDMAID OF GOD (A woman of a gentle spirit)

- Mary impresses as being trustful, courageous and yet gentle. She gave herself unreservedly to whatever Yahweh required of her, and in this she showed outstanding trust. She shouldered the burdens of life that rested so heavily upon her in such a fashion as to reveal that she was also a woman of courage. Yet she was gentle and self-effacing. – Guidebook To the New Testament, H.P. Mansfield, p 38

#### **NOTES**

## The Birth of Christ – The Guardian of Jesus

# <u>JUST MAN</u> (The character of Cornelius was of a high standard)

- 1) "devout" = Committed
- 2) "feared" = Meek
- 3) "all his house" = Exemplar
- 4) "gave" = Generous
- 5) "prayed" = Reverent
- 6) "alway" = Consistent

#### **WORKERS** (Working with your hands)

- 1) Joseph Matthew 13:55
- 2) A & P Acts 18:3
- 3) Paul Acts 18:3
- 4) Bezaleel Exodus 31:1 5
- 5) Huram 2 Chron. 2:13 14

#### **CARPENTERS** (An Honourable Profession)

CARPENTER = A Craftsman, a Joiner

- 1) 1<sup>st</sup> Example (King Joash repairing the Temple):
- 2 Kings 12:11 12, 14 15 "And they gave the money...for they dealt faithfully."
- 2) 2<sup>nd</sup> Example (King Josiah repairing the Temple):
- 2 Kings 22:4 7 "Go up to Hilkiah the high priest...because they dealt faithfully."

#### MIDDLE (When mercy and truth kissed)

- Those who met together the letter and the spirit:
- 1) The Two Spies Joshua 2
- 2) David and his Co. Matthew 12
- 3) Boaz Ruth 4
- 4) Paul 2 Corinthians 8
- 5) Jesus John 8

#### **NOTES**

#### **WOMEN (A Flawed Heritage)**

- An Issue of Being with Other Men
- 1) Mary Matthew 1
- 2) Bathsheba 2 Samuel 11
- 3) Ruth Ruth 4
- 4) Rahab Joshua 2
- 5) Tamar Genesis 38

## **IN A DREAM** (Angel Communicating w/ Joseph)

- Note "in a dream"
- 1) "in a dream" Matthew 1:20
- 2) "in a dream" Matthew 2:13
- 3) "in a dream" Matthew 2:19
- 4) "in a dream" Matthew 2:22

### FEAR NOT JOSEPH (Comforted by Divine Words)

| Luke 1     |
|------------|
| "Mary"     |
| "feat not" |
|            |

- "conceived in her" "thou shalt conceive"
- "the Holy Spirit" "the Holy Spirit"
- "bring forth a son" "bring forth a son"

- "shalt call his name Jesus" "shalt call his name Jesus"

#### **SILENT WITNESSES (An example in action)**

- Those whose actions spoke louder than words:
- 1) Zadok 1 Samuel 2:35"A Faithful Priest"
- 2) Titus 2 Corinthians 8:16 "A Caring Brother"
- 3) Abel Matthew 23:35 "A Righteous Son"
- 4) Timothy 1 Timothy 4:12 "A Youthful Example"
- 5) Joseph Matthew 1:19 "A Just Man"

#### **ADOPTION (Adopted Sons)**

- 1) Joseph with Jesus Matthew 1:25
- 2) Johoiada with Joash 2 Kings 12:1
- 3) Abraham with Lot Genesis 11:31
- 4) Paul with Timothy 1 Timothy 1:2
- 5) God with Us Galatians 4:4 6

## **MARRIED** (What constituted marriage in Israel)

- From the moment of betrothal a woman was treated as actually married. The union could not be dissolved except by regular divorce; breach of faithfulness was regarded as adultery. – *Sketches of Jewish Social Life*, Alfred Edersheim, p 137

## **BILL OF DIVORCEMENT** (He hath found some uncleanness)

- A husband could divorce his wife publicly before a judge if he were charging her with an offense; in this case he could disassociate himself from her publicly, get back any bride price he had paid, and acquire any dowry her father had given her for the marriage. Because divorces could be effected by a simple document with two witnesses, Joseph could divorce her without making her shame more widely known. – *The IVP Bible Background Commentary*, Craig S. Keener, p 48

#### THE HOUSE OF DAVID (I will be his Father)

- And as great a blessing as these words were to David, there was going to come a time when a son of David would be born that would not be his...it would be God's
- "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son." (2 Samuel 7:12 14a)

#### **NOTES**

## The Birth of Christ – The Visit of Shepherds

#### **THE BIRTH OF CHRIST** (Timeline of events)

- 1) Luke 1:8 Gabriel Visits Zachariah (6 B.C. December)
- 2) Luke 1:24 Elizabeth Conceives (6 B.C. December)
- 3) Luke 1:26 Gabriel Visits Mary (5 B.C. June)
- 4) Luke 1:39 Mary Visits Elizabeth (5 B.C. June)
- 5) Luke 1:56 John the Baptist is Born (5 B.C. Sept)
- 6) Luke 1:56 Mary Returns Home (5 B.C. Sept)
- 7) Luke 2:1 A Decree From Cesar (4 B.C. January)
- 8) **Luke 2:2** Cyrenius Taxes Israel (4 B.C. February)
- 9) Luke 2:4 Joseph & Mary to Bethlehem (4 B.C. March)
- 10) Luke 2:7 The Birth of Christ (4 B.C. March)
- 11) Luke 2:8 Good News to the Shepherds (4 B.C. March)
- 12) Luke 2:16 Shepherds Visit the Manger (4 B.C. March)

#### **AUGUSTUS** (Recognized to be divine)

CESAR (Gk. KAISAR -> Kaiser) = Severed (i.e. The Only One)

AUGUSTUS = Venerable (i.e. The Revered One as in a god)

- Augustus was emperor at the birth and during half the lifetime of [the] Lord, but his name occurs only once (Luke 2:1) in the New Testament, as the emperor who ordered the enrolment in consequence of which Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem, the place where the Messiah was to be born.
- Unger's Bible Dictionary, p 109, Merrill F. Unger

#### CYRENIUS THE GOVERNOR (...taxing was first made)

Full Name: Cyrenius Publius Silpicius Quirinus

CYRENIUS = Warrior

- 1) Began as a Military Commander
- 2) Then was elevated to a Political Governorship of Syria
- Quirinus was twice governor of Syria, and, by very striking and satisfactory argument, is fixed by the time of his [first] governorship from B.C. 4 to A.D. 1; and the second A.D. 6 10.
- Unger's Bible Dictionary, p 233, Merrill F. Unger

#### THE CITY OF DAVID (That he should be born in Bethlehem)

- This decree took every Jew for the time being to his ancestral home. "All went to be enrolled, every one into his own city." It thus took Joseph to Bethlehem, where lay the hereditary family connection with the soil, and where therefore, his enrolment would have to be effected. It took Mary there also, which is one of the proofs of Mary's Davidic extraction: for had she been of another house than the house of David, there would have been no need for her to go to Bethlehem, "the city of David". - Nazareth Revisited, p 65, Robert Roberts

#### **THE INN OF CHIMHAM** (A Lodging Place of Provision)

- The Inn of Bethlehem had a memorable history of its own, being named in Jeremiah 41:17 as the 'inn of Chimham,' the place of rendezvous from which travellers started on their journey to Egypt. It was so called after the son of Barzillai, whom David treated as an adopted son (2 Samuel 19:37 – 38), and was built by him in his patron's city as a testimony of his gratitude. - Pulpit Commentary: Mark and Luke, E. Bickersteth, p 411

#### **SHEPHERDS ABIDING (Second Class Citizens)**

- The rabbis considered them to be religious outcasts and their testimony was not admissible in court (i.e., later Jewish tradition). This was because they lived with the sheep and could not keep all the rules and regulations of the rabbis (i.e., Talmud). - Studies of the New Testament, Dr. Bob Utley, Luke 2

## **SHEPHERDS ABIDING** (Second Class Citizens)

- With regard to gentiles and shepherds of small, domesticated animals, one may not raise them out of a pit and one may not lower them into a pit. Yet, it is permitted to raise them from the put where the exchange of payment occurs, due to the enmity that exists. - Avodah Zarah (Foreign Worship) Talmud, 26a

## **THE TOWER OF THE FLOCK** (Providing for the Service of God)

- An animal that is found between Jerusalem and Migdal Eder, or a similar distance in any direction, the males are considered burnt offerings. The females are considered peace offerings. Those which are fitting as a Pesach offering are considered Pesach offerings if it is thirty days before the festival.
- Mishnah Shekalim, Talmud, 7.4
- Migdal Eder was located one Roman mile east of Bethlehem (a Roman mile of 1,000 paces is a little short of our mile by 143 yards) MIGDAL EDER = The Tower of God's Flock

### **SHEPHERDS** (God's Chosen Shepherd)

Lit. Gk "And thou, Beth-Lehem, of the land of Judah, thou art by no means the least among the leaders of Judah, for out of thee shall come one leading, who will shepherd my people Israel." (Matthew 2:6 on Micah 5:2)

### **JOSEPH (Harkening unto David)**

- Joseph was linked to David in three ways:
- 1) He was "of the city of David"
- = David's Birthplace
- 2) He was "of the house of David"
- = David's Family
- 3) He was "of the lineage of David"
- = David's Tribe

#### **GOD THE SHEPHERD** (Isaiah 40)

- The Nurturer of His Flock:
- 1) "he shall feed his flock like a shepherd"
- = God the Shepherd will provide
- 2) "he shall gather and carry the lambs"
- = God the Shepherd will protect
- 3) "he shall gently lead those that are young"
- = God the Shepherd will pasture

#### A LOWLY BIRTH (A Saviour, Christ the Lord)

- Such a lowly beginning to the life of Christ upon earth is an astounding fact. We have been so familiar with it ever since we knew the name of Christ, that it fails to strike with the force that belongs to it. A lowlier birth it would be impossible to imagine. Parents lowly, though of noble descent; and forced, for the moment, into the lowliest position in the city of their kindred, to herd with "the ox and the mule which have no understanding," in circumstances offensive to every delicate sensibility, and repugnant to the most rudimentary sense of self-respect! What are we to think about it? It is surely easy to read the lesson. Christ, the highest, began the humblest. - Nazareth Revisited, p 65, Robert Roberts

#### **SHEPHERDS** (Pasturing the Flock)

- 1) Abel Genesis 4:2
- 2) Moses Exodus 3:1
- 3) David **1 Sam. 16:11**
- 4) Amos **Amos 1:1**
- 5) God Isaiah 40:11

#### **THE LOWLY** (Receiving Good News)

- For ye see your calling brethren:
- 1) Tax Collectors Matt. 9:9
- 2) Fishermen Luke 5:11
- 3) Lepers Matt. 8:2
- 4) Thieves Luke 23:42
- 5) Us 1 Cor. 1:21 29

## The Birth of Christ – The Arrival of Magi

## **THE BIRTH OF CHRIST** (Timeline of events)

- 1) Luke 2:1 A Decree From Cesar (4 B.C. January)
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- 9) Matthew 2:1 Wise Men Come to Jerusalem (4 B.C. March)
- 10) Matthew 2:9 Eclipse of the Moon (4 B.C. March 13th)
- 11) Matthew 2:15 Death of Herod (4 B.C. April)
- 12) Luke 2:22 The Passover (4 B.C. April 11th)

#### **HEROD (A Cruel Leader)**

HEROD = Heroic

EDOM = Red (i.e. Fleshly)

- He was an Idumean (descendant of Esau or Edom)
- Born 73 B.C. and died 4 B.C. (69 years old)
- Ruled in the region of Israel from 37 B.C. to 4 B.C. (33 years)

## **HEROD THE GREAT (Dating of the King of the Jews)**

- The eclipse of the moon [which is the only eclipse of either of the luminaries mentioned by our Josephus in any of his writings] is of the greatest consequence for the determination of the time for the death of Herod, and for the birth and entire chronology of Jesus Christ. It happened March 13th, in the year of the Julian period 4710, and the 4th year before the Christian era.
- The Antiquities of the Jews, Book 17 Chapter 6 Section 4 [footnote]
- The Gospels tell us that Christ's birth was shortly before Herod the Great died.
- Josephus records an eclipse of the moon just before Herod passed on.
- This occurred on March 13th in 4 B.C.
- Josephus also tells us that Herod expired just before Passover.
- This feast took place on April 11th, in the same year, 4 B.C.
- From other details supplied by Josephus, we can pinpoint Herod the Great's demise as occurring between March 29th and April 4th in 4 B.C.

#### **HEROD THE GREAT** (An Ambitious Ruler)

- Josephus records that Herod was appointed procurator of Galilee at the age of twenty-five (Ant. 14.9.2). Mark Antony gave Herod a tetrarchy (Ant. 14.13.1 2) and afterward he [Antony] persuaded the Roman Senate to make Herod a king (Ant. 14.14.4). The great Roman historian Tacitus affirms that Herod was placed on the throne by Mark Antony, and that Augustus (Caesar) enlarged his privileges (Hist. 5.9).
- Unger's Bible Dictionary, Merrill F. Unger, p 471

#### **HEROD THE GREAT (An Ruthless Ruler)**

- Herod was one of those sinister characters who expose all that is worst in the human heart. By craft he had obtained a dispensation from Rome to rule Israel. His anxiety to retain that rule had become an obsession, which was only satisfied by the blood of every rival. Even his wife and sons were sacrificed to his lust and jealousy. Old age found him a victim of his own vice. Living in the luxury of his new palace, this descendant of the hated Esau surrounded himself with spies, and lived in perpetual fear of retribution from an outraged people, starting at every shadow, and imagining enmity in every political move.
- A Life of Jesus, Melva Purkis, p 20

#### **HEROD'S DEATH (A Pompous Ruler)**

- There was an abundance of pomp of the funeral. The body was carried upon a golden bier, embroidered with very precious stones, of great variety: and it was covered over with purple, as well as the body it self: he had a diadem upon his head: and above it a crown of gold. He also had a sceptre in his right hand.
- Antiquities of the Jews, Book 17 Chapter 8 Section 4

### **BALAAM OF PETHOR** (A Soothsayer for Hire)

- a) Numbers 22:22 "the angel of the LORD stood"
- b) Numbers 22:23 "the angel of the LORD standing"
- c) Numbers 22:24 "the angel of the LORD stood"
- d) Numbers 22:26 "the angel of the LORD stood"

#### THEIR TREASURES (They presented unto him gifts)

- 1) Gold = King = A Metal = Royalty
- 2) Frankincense = Priest = A Powder = Liturgy
- 3) Myrrh = Man = An Oil = Humanity

## BALAAM & THE MAGI (Men of Mesopotamia) Numbers 22 - 24

- Balaam would come before a distressed king of the Moabites
- The Magi would come before a distressed king of the Israelites
- Balaam was met by the angel of the LORD that stood for an adversary
- The Magi were met by the angel of the LORD that stood for an ally
- Balaam witnessed with the eye the future rising of the Star
- The Magi witnessed with the eye the present shining of the Star
- Balaam fell down at the utterance of the Word of God
- The Magi fell down at the presence of the Son of God

#### CHIEF MEN (...which are come from Babylon) Zechariah 6:9 – 10

HELDAI = Out of worldliness

TOBIJAH = Goodness of YHWH

JEDAIAH = Known of YHWH

JOSIAH = Founded of YHWH

ZEPHANIAH = Treasured of YHWH

LXX "Take the things of the captivity from the chief men..."

#### **GREAT MOURNING (A voice heard, lamentation, and weeping)**

- Not to be diverted from his purpose Herod sent his soldiers down to Bethlehem, and slaughtered all the children in the town who were two years old or under. The busy noises of the little township were silenced and in their place was a noise of bitter wailing as mothers watched in helpless grief the soldiery seek out every young child. - A Life of Jesus, Melva Purkis, p 21

#### **GREAT MOURNING (The wail of a multitude)**

- Thereupon arose a wail rarely heard upon earth – the wail of a multitude of bereaved mothers. It is impossible to conceive acute natural agony than that inflicted on the mothers of Bethlehem. As no human affection is stronger than that of a mother for her child, so no suffering could be greater than that caused by this cruel slaughter. Many have been the efforts of the pencil to depict the scene – various the success – tragic enough, all, but doubtless none of them coming up to the reality. It is one of the most harrowing episodes in the story of human suffering – a long, dark, dreadful story...In Ramah was there a voice heard, lamentation and weeping and great mourning. - Nazareth Revisited, Robert Roberts, p 83

## The Birth of Christ – The Home of Nazareth

#### THE BIRTH OF CHRIST (Timeline of events)

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- 13) Matthew 2:26 Wise Men See the Star (6 B.C. March)
- 14) Matthew 2:2 Wise Men Begin Travelling (6 5 B.C.)
- 15) Matthew 2:1 Wise Men Come to Jerusalem (4 B.C. March)
- 16) Matthew 2:9 Eclipse of the Moon (4 B.C. March 13th)
- 17) Matthew 2:11 Wise Men come to Bethlehem (4 B.C. March)
- 18) Matthew 2:14 Joseph & Mary travel to Egypt (4 B.C. March)
- 19) Luke 2:21 Jesus circumcised on the way to Egypt (4 B.C. March)
- 20) Matthew 2:15 Death of Herod (4 B.C. April)
- 22) Luke 2:22 The Passover (4 B.C. April 11th)
- 22) Matthew 2:21 Joseph & Mary travel to Israel (4 B.C. April)
- 23) Luke 2:22 Joseph & Mary travel to Jerusalem (4 B.C. April)
- 24) Matthew 2:23 Joseph, Mary, & Jesus in Nazareth (4 B.C. April)

**LUKE 1:26** And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. 29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. 36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing shall be impossible. 38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. 39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; 40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. 41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: 42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. 43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord. 46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, 47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. 48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. 49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. 51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. 53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. 54 He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; 55 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever. 56 And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her

own house. MATTHEW 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. 24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: 25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS. LUKE 2:1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. 2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. 15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. 18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were

told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. MATTHEW 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. 3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. 5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. 7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. 9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. 11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. 13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. 14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: 15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. 16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, 18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. LUKE 2:21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. MATTHEW 2:19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a

dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. 21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. LUKE 2:22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; 23 (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) 24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. 25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. 26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, 28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: 30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, 31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; 32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. 33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. 34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; 35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. 36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; 37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. 38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. MATTHEW 2:22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: LUKE 2:39 And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. MATTHEW 2:23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene. LUKE 2:40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.