

The Christmas Story

The story about the mother of Jesus

Luke 1:26b-35, 37-38

²⁶ God sent Gabriel, one of his angel messengers, to Galilee country, to a town called Nazareth.

²⁷ He went there to a young girl that was not married. Her name was Mary. Before that time, Mary didn't ever sleep with any man, like a woman does with her husband. She was promised to a man that was called Joseph. He belonged to the family of David, the man that was the big boss a long time ago.*

²⁸ Gabriel came to Mary and said, "Hello, Mary. God loves you and is good to you. He is here with you now, and he will do something good for you."

²⁹ This worried Mary. She thought, "What's he talking about?"

³⁰ Gabriel said, "Don't be frightened, Mary. God is really happy with you.

³¹ Listen. You will soon have a baby boy, and you will call him Jesus.*

³²⁻³³ God will make him the biggest boss over you Israel people, like David, his grand-father that lived a long time ago. He will be very important, and he will be the biggest boss for ever. He will never stop being the biggest boss

* **1:27** Matthew 1:18 * **1:31** Matthew 1:21

over the Israel people. And people will call him the son of God.”*

³⁴ Mary said, “But I’m not married. I’ve never slept with a man, like a wife sleeps with her husband. How will I get a baby?”

³⁵ Gabriel said, “The Holy Spirit will come to you, and God’s power will come over you and give you a baby. Your baby will be really special, and people will say he is God’s son.

³⁷ God can do anything. Nothing is too hard for him.”*

³⁸ Mary said, “All right, I will do whatever God wants. I want everything to happen just like you said.”

Then Gabriel left her.

2

Joseph had a dream

Matthew 1:18b-25a

¹⁸ Mary was promised to a man called Joseph, but they hadn’t slept together yet, like married people do. Then the Holy Spirit made a baby grow inside Mary.

¹⁹ Joseph found out that Mary was going to have a baby, and he was not happy. He knew that the baby wasn’t his, so he wanted to leave Mary. But he was a good man, and he didn’t want to shame her. So he thought, “I will just leave her quietly, without any argument.”

²⁰ While Joseph thought about that, he went to sleep and had a dream. He saw an angel

* **1:32-33** 2 Samuel 7:12-13, 16; Isaiah 9:7 * **1:37** Genesis 18:14

messenger from God. The angel said, “Joseph, you are from the family of David. Look, you can go ahead and marry Mary. Don’t be too frightened to do that. You see, her baby is from the Holy Spirit, not from another man.

²¹ She will have a baby boy, and you will name him *Jesus*. (That name *Jesus* means *God saves*.) You see, he will save his people, so that God will not punish them for the bad things they do.”*

²² That all happened just like God told one of his men to write in God’s book, a long time ago. He wrote,

²³ “There will be a young woman that has never slept with a man, like a woman does with her husband, but she will have a baby boy. That boy will have a special name, *Immanuel*.

That name means *God is with us*.”*

²⁴ Joseph woke up and did what God’s angel told him to do. He married Mary.

²⁵ But he did not sleep with her, like a man does with his wife, until after her son was born.

3

Mary had a baby boy

Luke 2:1-7

¹⁻³ About the time that John was born, the biggest boss over all those countries was called Augustus. He sent a message to everyone in every country. He said, “The government bosses in every town have to write down everyone’s name on a big list, and make them pay tax

* **2:21** Luke 1:31 * **2:23** Isaiah 7:14; 8:8, 10

money.” So everyone had to go back to their home town and put their names on the list there. (At that time a man called Quirinius was the government boss over Syria country.)

⁴ Joseph belonged to the family of David, the man that was Israel’s big boss a long time ago. David grew up in the town called Bethlehem, in Judea country, but Joseph lived in a town called Nazareth, in Galilee country. So Joseph had to go south to Bethlehem, to put his name on the right list.

⁵ Joseph took Mary with him. She was his promised wife, and she was carrying a baby inside her at that time.

⁶⁻⁷ At Bethlehem they couldn’t find any room to stay in, so they had to sleep in the place where the animals ate their food. Then the time came for Mary to have her baby. She had her baby right there, and she wrapped him up in bits of cloth, just like mothers always did. And she put him down to sleep in an animal’s feed box.

Men that looked after sheep saw baby Jesus
Luke 2:8-20

⁸ Not far away, on that same night, some men were out in the grass lands looking after their sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel messenger from God stood there with them, and bright light from God was shining all around them, and they were very frightened.

¹⁰ But the angel said, “Don’t be frightened. I’ve got really good news for you, and good news for everyone in the world too.

11-12 Today a young woman had a baby boy over there in Bethlehem, in the place where David grew up. Go there, and you will find him. He is wrapped up in cloth, and lying in an animal's feed box. Then you will know that this message is true. He is the one that is going to save you people. He is the Christ, the man that God promised to send to you, to be your leader."

13 Then suddenly a big mob of other angel messengers came from heaven, and they all praised God. They said,

14 "God, you are really great there in heaven, and here on the earth, your people are quiet and happy.

You are really good to your people."

15 Then the angels went back to heaven, and the men said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this baby that God just told us about."

16 Then they went quickly, and they found Mary and Joseph, with the baby boy in an animal's feed box, just like the angel said.

17 After those men saw the baby, they talked to people about him, and they told them the message that God's angel gave them.

18 Everyone was surprised when they heard what those men said.

19 And Mary remembered their words, and she thought about them a lot.

20 As those men walked back to their sheep, they talked about how everything happened, just like God's angel said. They said to God, "You are

really great.” And they told everybody that God is great.

They named the baby Jesus

Luke 2:21

²¹ You know, the law of Moses said that they had to do a young man operation on all baby boys as soon as they were 8 days old. So Mary’s baby had that operation, and they gave him his name, *Jesus*, at that time. That’s the name that God’s angel messenger told Mary to call him, before she started to carry that baby inside her.*

Simeon and Anna met Jesus

Luke 2:22-38

²²⁻²⁴ The Jewish law is like this, a woman’s first baby boy belongs to God. And after a baby boy is born, the mother can’t go into God’s ceremony house or do any of their ceremonies for the next 40 days. It is like she is not clean. Then, after 40 days, she has to go to God’s ceremony house in Jerusalem. She has to get a leader of the Jewish ceremonies there to kill 2 pigeons and burn them, and let the smoke go up to God. This will make her clean again for Jewish ceremonies. So Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem at the right time to follow that law. They took baby Jesus with them.*

²⁵ There was an old man in Jerusalem at that time. His name was Simeon. He was a good man that lived God’s way, and he was waiting for God

* **3:21** Leviticus 12:3; Luke 1:31 * **3:22-24** Exodus 13:2, 12, 15; Leviticus 12:6-8

to make the Israel people happy again. And the Holy Spirit used to tell him things.

²⁶ Before that time, the Holy Spirit told him, “You will stay alive until you see the special man that God will send to save his people. He is called the Christ.”

²⁷ Then on the day that Joseph and Mary took Jesus into God’s ceremony house, the Holy Spirit told Simeon to go there too, so he was there when Joseph and Mary brought Jesus in.

²⁸ And Simeon took Jesus from them, and held him in his arms, and he thanked God, and said,

²⁹ “Now, God, I can die happy, just like you promised me,

³⁰⁻³¹ because now I can see the one that you promised to send.

People in every tribe will see him, and he will save them.

³² He will shine like a light for people that are not Jews,

showing them new things about you, God.

And he will get everyone to respect your people, the Israel nation.”*

³³ Joseph and Mary heard the things Simeon said about Jesus, and they were surprised.

³⁴ Then Simeon asked God to be good to them, and he said to Mary, “This kid is going to ruin a lot of people in Israel, but he will help a lot of others. He will point people to God, but they will not understand, and they will argue against him.

³⁵ When they do that, they will show everyone what they really think. And Mary, later you

* **3:32** Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; 52:10

will be really sad. It will hurt, like somebody is stabbing you with a big knife.”

³⁶⁻³⁸ While Joseph and Mary were talking to Simeon, a very old woman came along. Her name was Anna. She saw Jesus, and she thanked God for him. Some of the people there were waiting for God to send somebody to help the Jewish people. Anna told them about Jesus, that he is that special person.

Anna’s father was Fanuel, and he belonged to the tribe called Asher. She was 84 years old. A long time before this, Anna was a young woman and she got married. But then after 7 years her husband died. After that, she stayed in God’s ceremony house all the time, telling the people God’s words. She prayed all the time, in the day time and at night, and often she didn’t eat any food because she was praying.

4

Some wise men came to Jesus

Matthew 2:1-12

¹ Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in Judea country. At that time, the big boss over that country was called Herod.

There were some wise men in a country to the east of Judea. They always looked at the stars, and one night they saw a special star in the sky. So they went west to Jerusalem, the city in Judea country.

² They asked the Jerusalem people, “Where was that baby born that is going to be the big boss over you Jewish people? You see, back in

our country, we saw his special star. We saw it come up into the sky, so we came here, to show our respect for him. Where will we find him?"

³ Herod was the big boss over that country, and somebody told him that these wise men were talking about another big boss. Herod got very worried. He thought this other person might fight against him and take over his job. A lot of other people in Jerusalem were worried about it too.

⁴ So Herod had a meeting with the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies and the Jewish law teachers, and he asked them, "Where will that baby be born? You know, the Christ, the man that God promised to send?"

⁵ They said, "He will be born in Bethlehem, in Judea country. You see, a long time ago, God told one of his men to write about it. He wrote this in God's book,

⁶ 'Bethlehem is a little town in Judea country, but it is a very important town, because a big boss will be born there. He will really look after God's people, the Israel nation.' "*
That's what those Jewish leaders told Herod.

⁷ So Herod sent for those wise men to come and meet him, but he didn't tell anyone else about the meeting. He asked them, "When did you first see that star?"

⁸ So they told him when they first saw it.

Then he said to them, "Go to Bethlehem and look carefully for that boy. After you find him,

* **4:6** Micah 5:2

come and tell me the place where he's living, so that I can go there too and show respect to him."

⁹⁻¹⁰ The wise men listened to Herod, then they started to go to Bethlehem. Then they saw that same star that they saw before, and they were very happy. That star moved through the sky, and they followed it until it stopped right above the house that Joseph and Mary were living in.

¹¹ The wise men went into that house. They saw Jesus with his mother Mary, and they got down on their knees, to show him respect. Then they opened their bags and gave him some presents. They gave him some gold. And they gave him some powder called *frankincense*, to burn to make a good smell. And they gave him some rubbing medicine called *myrrh*, that smells good, like perfume.

¹² After that, the wise men had a dream. In that dream God told them not to go back to Herod, so they went back to their own country along a different road.

The big boss tried to kill Jesus

Matthew 2:13-23

¹³ After those wise men went away, Joseph had a dream. He heard God's angel messenger say, "Herod will try to kill the boy, so get up and take Jesus and Mary to Egypt country, and stay there until I tell you to come back."

¹⁴ So Joseph got up right then, in the middle of the night, and he got Mary and Jesus, and they left to go to Egypt.

15 They lived in Egypt until Herod died, and then they came out of Egypt and went back to Israel country. So it happened just like God told one of his men to write in God's book, a long time ago. He wrote,

"God called his son to come out of Egypt."*

16 At the time when Joseph, Mary and Jesus were going to Egypt, Herod waited for those wise men to come back, but they tricked him. They didn't come back to him. Then he got really angry. He remembered their story about when they first saw the star, so he sent his soldiers to Bethlehem, and he told them to kill all the little boys up to 2 years old. So they killed all the little boys around Bethlehem. Herod wanted to make sure that Jesus was dead.

17 That all happened the way God's man, Jeremiah, wrote in God's book, a long time ago. This is what he wrote,

18 "In the town called Ramah,
a lot of women are really sad, and they are crying
out loud.

They are the grand-daughters of Rachel.

They are crying for their babies.

Nobody can cheer them up,

because their babies are dead."*

19 Some time later, Herod died. Then, in Egypt, Joseph had another dream. He heard God's angel messenger say,

* 4:15 Hosea 11:1 * 4:18 Genesis 35:16-19; Jeremiah 31:15

20 “Get up and take Mary and Jesus back to Israel country. The people that wanted to kill him are dead now.”

21 So Joseph did what God’s angel messenger told him. He got up, and he got Mary and Jesus, and they started to go back to Israel country.

22 But then somebody told him that Herod’s son Arkelayus was the new big boss over the part of Israel called Judea, and Joseph was too frightened to go there.

Then he had another dream. God told him, “Go to Galilee country.”

23 So he took his family up north to Galilee. He got to the town called Nazareth, and he stayed there. A long time before that, one of God’s men wrote about this, and it is in God’s book. He wrote,

“People will say that God’s special man is from Nazareth.”*

And that happened after Joseph took his family to live at Nazareth.

Jesus at Nazareth

Luke 2:52

52 Jesus grew up to be a man, and as he got bigger, he became very wise too. God was really happy with him, and so was everyone that knew him.*

* 4:23 Mark 1:24; Luke 2:39; John 1:45 * 4:52 1 Samuel 2:26; Proverbs 3:4

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