



Church of God Sunday School

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Matthew 2; Luke 2:1-20

Baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

"Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." When the angels had departed, the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem. There they found Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus—and He *was* lying in a manger, just as the angel said.

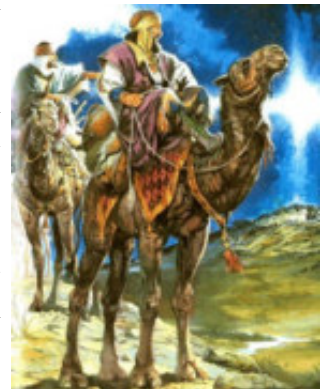
The shepherds told Mary and Joseph how they had heard of Christ's birth. When the shepherds left, they went forth, telling others of the Savior who was born. All who heard the shepherds telling of the birth of Jesus the Savior wondered. The shepherds returned to their flock, praising and glorifying God.

Far away, in the east, were wise men who studied the stars. They saw a new and unusual star. They began a long journey, following that star. Sometime later, the wise men arrived in Jerusalem. They began asking: "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."

King Herod and all of Jerusalem were troubled when they heard that. Herod asked the scribes and the chief priests where Christ would be born. They told him it was prophesied that Christ would be born in Bethlehem. (See Micah 5:2.)

Herod asked the wise men what time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem to search for Jesus. He said, "When ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also." (Do you really think Herod wanted to worship Jesus?)

After the wise men left the king, the star they had seen in the east moved before them until, at last, it stopped over a house where Jesus was. When they entered the house, they saw Mary and the young child Jesus. The wise men fell down and worshiped Jesus.



Have you ever held a newborn baby? Perhaps a new baby brother or sister was born to your family. How did it feel the first time you saw that baby? A baby is one of God's most precious gifts.

Did you know that many years ago, God, in His great wisdom, chose to send His only Son to this world as a baby? This baby was very special, for one day He would grow up and become the Savior of the world. It happened this way.

In those days, Caesar Augustus (*SEE-zuhr Ah-GUHS-tuhs*) sent out a decree that everyone should be taxed. Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem to pay their taxes. When they came to Bethlehem, all the inns were full. So Mary and Joseph stayed in a stable, where the animals were kept. While they were there, Mary gave birth to Baby Jesus. He was wrapped in swaddling clothes (narrow strips of cloth that were wrapped around a newborn) and laid in a manger (a feed trough for the animals).

That same night, shepherds were watching over their sheep in the field. The angel of the Lord appeared to them, and they were afraid. The angel had good news for them. He told the shepherds: "Fear not . . . I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day . . . a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." The angel said that, as a sign to them, they would find the



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They gave Him gifts fit for a king: gold, frankincense (*FRANG-kin-sens*), and myrrh (*MUHR*). When they left, they traveled to their own country by another way. God had shown them, in a dream, *not* to return to King Herod.

The angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream and told him to take Mary and Jesus and flee into Egypt because Herod would seek to kill Jesus.

When Herod learned that the wise men had not come back to tell him where Jesus was, he became angry! Herod was so angry that he "sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under." He was hoping to kill Jesus! But Jesus was already safe in Egypt with His parents.

After Herod died, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph again in another dream. He said, "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." So, Joseph took his family into the land of Israel.

But Joseph was afraid when he heard that Archelaus (*ahr-kuh-LAY-uhs*), the son of Herod, was reigning in Judea (*joo-DEE-uh*). God warned him in still another dream to turn aside into the country of Galilee. Joseph did go into Galilee, to the city of Nazareth. There he raised his family.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." —Luke 2:11*  
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Tell why you are glad that Jesus was born:

Where was Baby Jesus laid? _____