

1) This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

2) Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.

3) The angel said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

4) The angel, speaking to Joseph, continued, "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

5) All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us."

6) When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth.

7) In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

8) So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

9) Joseph went to Bethlehem to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

10) While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. And Joseph gave him the name Jesus.

11) Mary wrapped the baby in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

12) And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

13) The angel continued, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

14) Suddenly, before the shepherds, a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

15) When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16) So the shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

17) When the shepherds had seen Jesus they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what they said to them.

18) But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

19) The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

20) 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.

21) After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea Magi from the east came to Jerusalem saying, "We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

22) The star the Magi had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

23) When the Magi saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

24) Then the Magi opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

25) For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.