

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

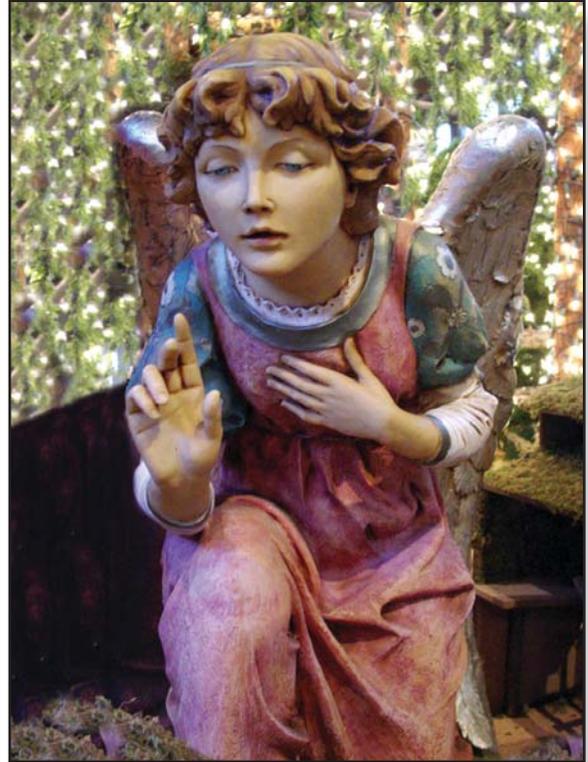
Matthew 1:18-25

The Angel Appears to Joseph

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.



To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.
Isaiah 9:6

Luke 1:26-38

The Angel Appears to Mary

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings! Oh favored one, the Lord is with you!"

29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called Holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God."

38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

(Also read Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5:2)

A Closer Look: Jesus Birth - Prophecy and Fulfillment

Even as Adam and Eve fell into sin, God promised the world a Savior.

1. Read the promise God gave. ~ *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel. Genesis 3:15*

a. Who was God speaking to when He gave this promise? (the serpent) Who would be the one to “bruise his head”? (Jesus) How would the “heel” of Jesus be bruised? (He would be crucified for our sins.)

b. The promises made thousands of years before were perfectly fulfilled in Jesus. What does Jesus say on this?
“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms may be fulfilled.” Luke 24:44

2. Isaiah foretold the salvation story over 700 years before Jesus birth, death, and resurrection. Jesus fulfillment of this and many other prophecies, prove that He is the One to set the world free from sin.

a. What does Isaiah say of Jesus birth? ~ *For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

3. Angels played a prominent roll in foretelling the birth of Jesus and John, the forerunner of the Savior. Who received these precious announcements?

Zechariah: *“Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.” Luke 1:13*

Mary: *“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus.” Luke 1:30-31*

Joseph: *“Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 1:20*

The Shepherds: *“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.” Luke 2:10*

- a. **What is the first thing the angel tells each person?** (*Do not be afraid*)
- b. **In later verses, these people praised God for the promise and its fulfillment.**

4. The shepherds and the wise men were the first recorded visitors to worship the newborn Jesus.

a. What was their response to seeing Jesus?

The Shepherds: *And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. Luke 2:17, 18, 20*

The Wise Men: *When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And going into the house they saw the child with Mary, His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. Matthew 2:10-11*

- b. **Just like these men and women, we are invited to worship Him too. What should our response be to the promise of Jesus coming into our lives?** ~ *To the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen. Romans 16:27*

5. Tell why you feel all the prophecies in the Old Testament and their New Testament fulfillments are important to your faith.