

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 2:1–23.

LESSON 51 -- Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Thou shalt call his name JESUS"

(Matthew 1:21).

BIBLE TEXTS

Matthew 1:18–25

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 2:1-23

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.

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.

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

In a Manger

Joseph and Mary had been told to go to a city called Bethlehem, but there were so many other people there at that time that there was no room in the hotels for Joseph and Mary. The only place they could find in which to rest was a stable. In that country the cattle were kept in a place very near the house, sometimes even in a place under the same roof. Perhaps they were glad to find even that place.

While Mary was in this stable God gave her the Son the angel had told her God was going to give her. He was to grow up and be our Saviour Jesus Christ. Mary may not have understood all that that meant, but she kept the words in her heart, and no doubt, thought of them very often.

The Angels and the Shepherds

Some men were in a field, under the bright stars, watching their sheep as the shepherds did in that country. Suddenly there was a great and beautiful light all around them and it made them afraid. But an angel told them not to be afraid. He said that He had come to tell them some very good news, something that would make all the people happy -- a Saviour had been born.

Then many angels sang about God and His great love. It must have been wonderful to hear angels sing, and hear them sing about God. Those who love God will hear them sing again in Heaven, and, perhaps, sing with them.

When the angels went away the shepherds said: "let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

Finding Jesus

Then the shepherds hurried away to look for the Baby they had heard the angels speak about. They remembered that they had said the Child would be lying in a manger, and there they found Him.

The shepherds must have been very happy when they saw Him, and they told many people what the angels had said to them and what they had seen. They came back to their home praising God for it all. God had been very kind to the shepherds in sending His angel to tell them about Jesus, and they were thankful to Him. We, too, should be thankful that we have heard about Jesus and His great love for us. As the shepherds did, we should be faithful in telling many others about Him.

The Name of Jesus

When the angel of the Lord said that Jesus would be born he also said that He should be called "JESUS," "for he shall save his people from their sins." Jesus has many beautiful names, and there is no name in the world so sweet as that name -- JESUS.

In the Bible we read that we may ask things in Jesus' name: "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it" (John 14:14). It is because Jesus died for us that we can ask for good things in His name. We must give thanks to God for giving us this wonderful Babe of Bethlehem, and try to be as much like Jesus as we possibly can.

QUESTIONS

1. Who told Joseph that he should name his son JESUS? Matthew 1:20, 21.
2. Why was He called JESUS? Matthew 1:21.
3. How did the wise men find the Baby Jesus? Matthew 2:9.
4. Why did Joseph and Mary take Jesus into Egypt? Matthew 2:13.
5. Who tried to kill the Baby Jesus? Matthew 2:16.

LESSON RESOURCES

TITLE

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Lesson 51

Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-23

MUSIC

Unto Us A Boy Is Born

WATCH AND PRAY 110

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SONG

Unto Us A Boy Is Born

Unto us a Boy is born!

King of all creation,

He came to a world for lorn

The Lord of every nation.

PICTURE 1



PICTURE 2



PICTURE 3



PICTURE 4

