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...Jesus was born in Bethlehem
of Judaea in the days of Herod
the king,...

Matthew 2:1

Christmas was always the best time of the year for our family. We would get up early in the morning and open presents. Everyone was happy even if we did not get a lot of presents. Opening gifts is fun but that is not what Christmas is all about. Christmas is the story of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, the best gift ever given. Over 2,000 years ago, Jesus was born on this earth. This man was very special because He was and is God in a human body.



1. The Bible talked about Jesus being born 700 years before it happened in Micah 5:2, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be r _____ in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from e _____."

2. Many Jews knew that the Messiah or God would come someday and be born just like us because the Bible said so. Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a child is b _____, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

3. The Bible talked about Jesus being born of a virgin. Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself shall g _____ you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a s _____, and shall call his name Immanuel."



Before we go into the Christmas story, remember that Jesus is God and existed before He came down to earth as a baby.

The Wonderful Story of the First Christmas Gift, God's Son, Jesus.

Joseph and Mary were going to be married when an angel Gabriel told Mary she was going to have a child. Luke 1:26-28;31;34-35. "And in the sixth month the angel G _____ was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name J _____. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The H _____ G _____ shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the S _____ of G _____."



The angel told Joseph, also. Matthew 1:19-20, "Then Joseph her husband, being a j _____ man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the a _____ of the Lord appeared unto him in a d _____, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, f _____ not to take unto thee Mary thy w _____: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost."

So Joseph still took Mary as his wife but did not touch her until after Jesus was born. (Did you know that Mary had 4 other sons and also daughters in Mark 6:3, "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us?")

When Mary was almost ready to have the baby, they had to travel to

Bethlehem to pay their taxes. Luke 2:1,3,5-6, "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the w_____ should be t_____. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with c_____. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered."

There was "no room for them in the inn," (Luke 2:7) so Jesus was born in a barn and laid "in a manger" (Luke 2:7). At that same time there were shepherds taking care of their sheep when angels appeared to them. Luke 2:9,13-14, "And, lo, the a_____ of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore a_____. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly h_____ praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth p_____, good will toward men." The shepherds went and found Jesus in a manger and worshipped Him.



Also, at that time, a star appeared. Matthew 2:1-2, "Now when Jesus was born in Beth-lehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came w_____ m_____ from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his s_____ in the east, and are come to worship him."



When Herod the king heard this he was very angry because Jesus was a threat to his kingdom. He thought Jesus would take over his kingdom. King Herod told the wise men to find this child. Matthew 2:9-12, "When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the y_____ c_____ (not a baby) was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young c_____ with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; g_____, and frankincense, and m_____. And being warned of God in a d_____ that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another w_____."



During the night Joseph was told in a dream to go into Egypt because King Herod would try to kill Jesus and he tried in Matthew 2:16, "Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and s_____ all the children that were in Beth-lehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from t_____ years old and u_____, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men."



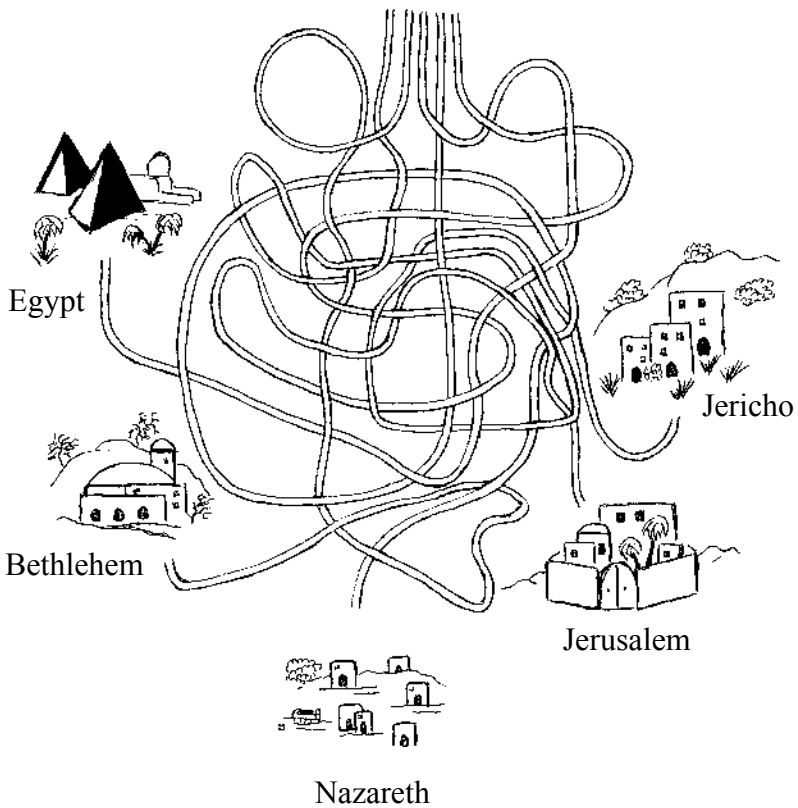
After King Herod died, an angel told Joseph to go back. Matthew 2:23, "And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene." God protected His Son Jesus.



This is the reason we give presents to each other because God gave us His Son. John 3:16, "For God so l_____ the world, that he g_____ his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Help the Sheperd find baby Jesus.

Find the right road to the right place.
Look up Luke 2:15 to find the right city.



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