

united kingdom

JESUS' BIRTH

the Kingdom story from creation to revelation

(Luke 1:26-38; 2:21-52; Mt 1:19-25)

The Promised King, Jesus, arrives – not quite as expected. He looks nothing like a king (but He is a descendant of David!), and He's actually God's Son! As soon as He's born, others recognise Him as the Promised King.

Introduction

God's people wait expectantly for many years, and God finally sends His Promised King.

Mary

She is a young woman, engaged to Joseph, a descendant of King David. An angel comes to her and says:



- You will have a son and name Him Jesus (*God saves*)
- He will rule on David's throne forever!
- Mary is a virgin, but the angel says that God's Spirit will cause this to happen.

Mary accepts what God says.

Joseph

In those days, it is shameful and illegal to be pregnant outside of marriage. Joseph is wondering how to handle Mary's pregnancy. An angel tells him to take her as his wife and the baby as his son.

Jesus

The baby is born a few months later in Bethlehem, and Mary and Joseph call Him Jesus as the angel had said. Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the place of worship to dedicate Him.



The Old Man



There is an old man whom God's Spirit had told that he would not die until he had seen the Promised King. The old man sees Jesus and recognises Him.

The Prophecy

The old man says:

- I have seen the Promised King who has come to save all people from the punishment for their disobedience.
- He is a light to reveal God to the entire world!



- The child will be both accepted and rejected.



- The deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.



Conclusion

Mary and Joseph are amazed and return home with Jesus. Jesus grows strong and healthy, and both people and God are very pleased with Him.

Weekly Meditation and Reflection

Below are some questions and further reading if you would like some extra food for thought on this story. Some may find it helpful to journal the answers, and others may simply want to read and pray through them.

1. If you are a woman, walk back through this story as Mary. Imagine being in her situation – a 14 year-old girl who is engaged to be married. The angel comes to you. How do you react? What makes you choose to believe the angel and accept the message?
2. If you are a man, walk back through this story as Joseph – feeling the hurt and betrayal that he may have felt when he first found out that Mary was pregnant. We don't have much in this story about what the angel says to Joseph, but try reading Matthew 1:18-25, and think about what Joseph must have thought as the angel talked to him. What made him choose to believe the angel and obey?
3. Read Luke 2:25-35 or tell yourself that part of the story again. Look at each thing that the old man said about Jesus. Pay special attention to verses 30-32. Think about how Jesus is still doing that today. How is He still God's salvation? How do you see that worked out in today's world? How is He still a light to reveal God to the world? How do you see that worked out in today's world? Look at verse 35. Do you still see that the deepest thoughts of many hearts are being revealed?

4. Does spending time with God reveal your deepest thoughts? As you think on this, ask yourself ... are you treating Jesus as your King? Are you giving Him the praise due one who is the "light to reveal God to the entire world?"

Meditate on the following passages:

- Isaiah 49:6
- Isaiah 42:6
- Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:20-23