

# The Birth of Jesus Christ

*(Adapted from John 1, Matthew 1 and 2, and Luke 1 and 2)*

## Jesus, the Eternal God

At the beginning of time, Jesus already existed. He was with God, and he *was* God. Jesus existed in the beginning with God. In fact, Jesus created everything. Not a single thing came into existence that He did not create.

## God Chooses a Virgin named Mary

God chose a virgin girl named Mary to carry Jesus in her womb.

She was engaged to be married to a man called Joseph. But before they were married, an angel appeared to her. He said, "Greetings! You are highly favored by God, and God is with you. God is going to bless you among all other women!"

Mary was scared. She was just an ordinary girl and she had no idea what the angel was talking about.

The angel saw how frightened she was, "Don't be afraid, Mary. I'm going to explain. God is going to give you an incredible privilege. You are going to become pregnant, and have a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great, because he is the Son of God."

Mary asked, "How can this happen? I'm a virgin." (The word "virgin" means that she had never been with a man in the way that would allow a baby to be born.)

The angel told her, "God is going to create the baby in your womb by the power of the Holy Spirit. The baby will be Holy. He is the son of God."

Mary responded, "I want to be God's servant. May everything happen just as you've explained."

All of this occurred to fulfill one of God's prophecies about the Messiah which says, "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him 'Immanuel'" - Isaiah 7:14. ("Immanuel" is a word which means "God, himself, has come down to dwell with us.")

## J esus is B orn

Back in that time, Mary and Joseph lived under the rule of the Roman empire. The Roman emperor, Augustus, decided that he wanted to take a count of all the citizens under his control. This kind of counting is called a census.

Now the instructions for the census said that, in order to be counted, every man had to go to the town his ancestors were from. Since Joseph's ancestor was King David, he had to go to a town called Bethlehem. He took his fiancée, Mary, with him. And by this time, she was obviously pregnant.

While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born. Mary gave birth to a son, and they named him Jesus, just as the angel had instructed. Mary wrapped the baby up snugly in swaddling clothes and laid him in an animal feeding trough, because the city was so crowded there was no room for them in the inn.

## S hepherds and A ngels

The same night that the Lord Jesus was born, there were some shepherds who were outdoors watching over their flocks of sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared to them. God's glory in the form of bright, shining, light suddenly shone all round them. They were terrified! But the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news of a great joy that is for all people. Today in Bethlehem the Savior was born; he is the Messiah, the Lord God. This is how you'll know you've found the right baby: You will find him wrapped up snugly in swaddling clothes and lying in an animal feeding trough."

Suddenly, the angel wasn't alone. God's vast army of angels appeared around them. They were praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to people on whom God's favor rests."

When the angels had left, the shepherds turned to each other and said, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this baby the Lord God has told us about!" They rushed to the town and found everything just as the angel had told them. There was Mary and Joseph, and there was the baby in the feed trough. They left excitedly and told everyone in town what had happened. They then went back to their sheep, praising God for sending the Savior.

## J esus is the S avior; the P romised Messiah

As Jesus grew up, most people did not realize who he was. Even the chosen people of God rejected him. But to all who repent and put their trust in him, he gives the right to be re-born, spiritually, as God's children.

*For more information, open your Bible to John chapters 1 through 3, or go online to [needGod.com](http://needGod.com).*