

# The Life of Christ

## The Christmas Story

### The Announcements

#### Already covered

Daniel 9:20-27 Messiah announced to Daniel by Gabriel

Luke 1:5-25 John the Baptist announced to father by Gabriel

Luke 1:26-38 Jesus Christ announced to Mary by Gabriel

Luke 1:39-56 Mary visits Elizabeth

- Unborn John filled with Spirit & leaps in womb,
- Elizabeth identifies unborn (max 1-2 wks old) Jesus Christ, blesses Mary
- Mary prophesizes and blesses God – “The Magnificat”

Luke 1:57-80 Birth of John

#### To Continue...

(Matthew 1:1-17 Genealogy of Jesus – save until later)

Matthew 1:18-25 Jesus announced to Joseph by Gabriel

- Vs. 18 Betrothal = Formal, legal engagement – not married, still separate and chaste, he’s got the contract, but can’t take delivery yet!.
  - Already called “husband & wife”
  - Infidelity would be considered adultery, as if married
  - Breaking betrothal required formal divorce, as if married
  - Consummated by actual wedding, then actually married and husband takes his wife home.
- Vs. 20 Gabriel calls Joseph, “Son of David,” highlighting prophecy
- Vs. 24 For sequence, this probably happens AFTER she got back from visiting Elizabeth, when she was apparently alone.

## Bethlehem

### From Nazareth to Bethlehem

Luke 2:1-5 Note the historical diligence of Luke, the reason for moving for the census could be the national importance of tribal affiliations or the necessities of Roman officials who would have great difficulty conducting a census without any appreciable technology.

### The Birth of Christ

Luke 2:6-7

No room in the inn, could have meant the traditional turning away, but maybe, they both wanted to avoid the extreme crowds and found a place to be alone – knowing that she was about to deliver. – Note that it’s likely she delivered upon

arrival at Bethlehem if she was near delivery at all and then took a long donkey ride, that would probably do the trick!

### **The Shepherds**

Luke 2:8-14

The Announcement – the sign of a baby in the barn, sleeping in the feed trough is obviously unusual enough to identify that you had the right baby. The sign of the swaddling cloth means the baby would be newly born – He was still going to be wet behind the ears – literally.

Note that AN angel of the Lord, appeared, not God manifest, but a messenger, apparently other than Gabriel or he would likely be named again.

Savior, Christ, Lord – literal translation = Savior, Messiah, Lord

In time frame, these shepherd probably raising sheep for Passover

Vs. 10-11      The Christmas Herald!

Vs 12            Instructions

Vs 13-14        Glory to God!

**Every time I read this passage** – Who were these shepherds? They were the blue collar, poor, common man, who trusted God!

Vs 15-20

The visit and return of the Shepherds

And their testimony and how it was received.