

# Spiritual Significance of the Birth of Jesus

WHY?

JESUS  
the Baby

*Luke 2:1-20*



## Events surrounding the Birth

- The announcement
- The virgin birth
- Visit of the shepherds and wise men
- Reactions to the Birth of Jesus

JESUS  
the Baby

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# The Announcement (Lk 1:26-38)

- **Angel Gabriel** – “hero of God”
  - Name: **Jesus**
  - “Jehovah saves” -- **Purpose!**
  - “Be great, sit on **David’s throne**”
  - Jesus **Christ** (Gk), **Messiah** (Heb)



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# The Virgin Birth (Lk 1:35)

- **Mary – “How can this be?” (1:34).**
- **“The HS shall come upon thee” (1:35a).**
- **Child = The Son of God! (1:35b)**

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# The “Magnificat” Lk 1:46-55

Mary begins  
magnifying and  
praising God!

-1:55 – “Toward  
Abraham and his  
seed forever.”



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# The Virgin Birth (Lk 1:34)

- **Mary – “How can this be?”**
  - Fulfills *prophecy* – Isa 7:14
  - Be a *sign* - to Mary & humanity!
  - Proof of His **divinity** – Lk 1:35

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# Not the only proof of Divinity

**SON OF GOD**

**VIRGIN BIRTH**

**Lk 1:35**

**RESURRECTION**

**Rm 1:4**

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# Enabled the Perfect Mediator

**MEDIATOR**

**SON OF MAN**

**Lk 19:10**

**SON OF GOD**

**LK 9:20**

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# Enabled the Perfect Mediator

“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus . . .” 1 TIM 2:5



Events surrounding the Birth

# Enabled the Perfect Mediator

“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses . . .

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb 4:15-16).



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# Enabled the Perfect Mediator

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14-15).

Immanuel = *God with us*

Isa 7:14 & Matt 1:23

Events surrounding the Birth

# Visit of the shepherds and wise men

- Separate appearances.
  - Shepherds = **manger** (Lk 2:7-20)
  - Wise men = **house** (Matt 2:9-11).
- Whom do they represent?
  - Shepherds = “**common people**”
  - Wise men = **Gentiles!**



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# Traditional Nativity Scene



**St. Francis – 1221 AD**

# ERRORS IN TRADITIONAL NATIVITY SCENE



- Separate appearances
- Not necessarily three wise men.
- Shepherds did not bring gifts.

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# Gifts of the Magi Fulfill Isa 60:6

“Herds (multitudes) of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian. And all from Sheba will come, **bearing gold and incense** and proclaiming the praise of the Lord (NIV).



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# Three Gifts of the Magi

- *Significance?*
  - *Gold* – Gift of Royalty – King.
  - *Frankincense and Myrrh* – Priest's offering.
  - Gentiles: *Accept Jesus as their KING PRIEST!*

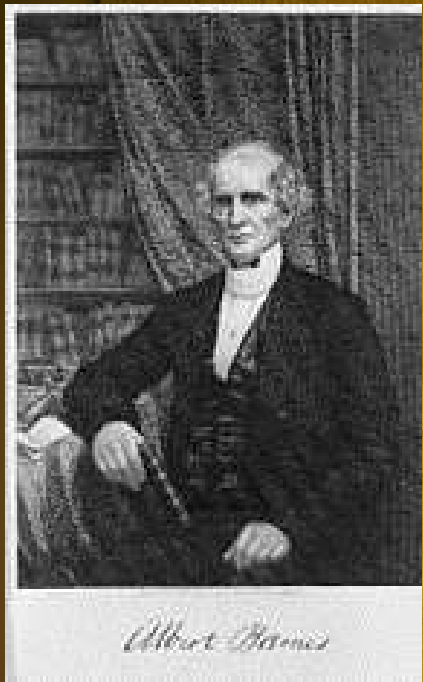
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# Shepherds are out in the fields watching flocks (Lk 2:8)

Albert Barnes:

“Judean shepherds during the summer months spend the night with their flocks in the fields, but by October they bring their sheep in and no longer stay with them. It is highly unlikely Jesus was born on Dec 25 or any winter month.”



# Why 12/25?

- *Encyclopedia Britannica*
  - Liberius, Bishop of Rome, 354 AD
- *Catholic Dictionary*
  - “It was the birthday of the unconquered sun, we changed it to the birthday of the unconquered son.”



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# Reactions to the Birth

- Joseph and Mary – Lk 1:26-38, Mt 1:18-21  
–**CONFUSION.....**
- Innkeeper – Lk 2:7  
–**NO ROOM**
- Shepherds – Lk 2:8-17  
–**CURIOSITY**

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# Reactions to the Birth

- Herod the Great – Matt 2:1-18

–**HATRED**

- Wise Men – Mt 2:1-12

–**ADORING WORSHIP**

**WHAT IS YOUR  
REACTION?**

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WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

*Matthew 2:1-12*

