

TEXAS YOUTH CONFERENCE

- 2025 -





For unto you
is born this day
in the city of David
a Saviour, which is
Christ the Lord.

- Luke 2:11 -





Dear Texas Youth Conference Attendee,

On a providential night, shepherds were called to witness the Birth of Christ.

The stillness of the Judean hills was broken not by trumpet nor by sword, but by the sudden brilliance of heavenly light. For an instruction had gone forth from the throne of the Most High, and a messenger - an angel of the Lord - descended with tidings of great joy. And when the glory of the LORD shone round about them, the shepherds trembled. But the message was clear: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Where was the King of Israel to be found? Not in the palace of Herod, nor in the courts of Caesar Augustus. But in a lowly stable, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. A child - yet a King. A babe - yet the Ancient of Days.

How was the King of Israel to be found? Not with spear or shield, but heralded by a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The armies of heaven stood in awe, for the Commander of the Lord's host had entered the world not in conquest, but in humility.

Why was the King of Israel to be found? Not in the strength of horses nor in the might of men, but in the quiet strength of a newborn's cry. For He would grow to bear the sins of many, to break the yoke of bondage, and to proclaim liberty to the captives. His banner would read: Emmanuel - God with us.

As we gather for this year's conference, we too are summoned to witness the Birth of Christ. Not at a throne of gold, but around a cradle of grace. Not to witness earthly grandeur, but to behold divine glory in the face of the Son of God. This is a place where the wise bow and the humble rejoice. And where the lowly are blessed to behold the Lamb of God.

Let us come with reverence. Let us come with wonder. Let us come ready to explore the mystery and majesty of the Birth of Christ.

What we are endeavoring to study this year, and what we will be witness to is not just any beginning. It is the beginning of a journey that will lead to a cross, to a tomb, and to a risen King who reigns as Christ forevermore.

Welcome to the study of the Birth of Christ.

Sincerely,

Jesse Adair

jkbadair@gmail.com

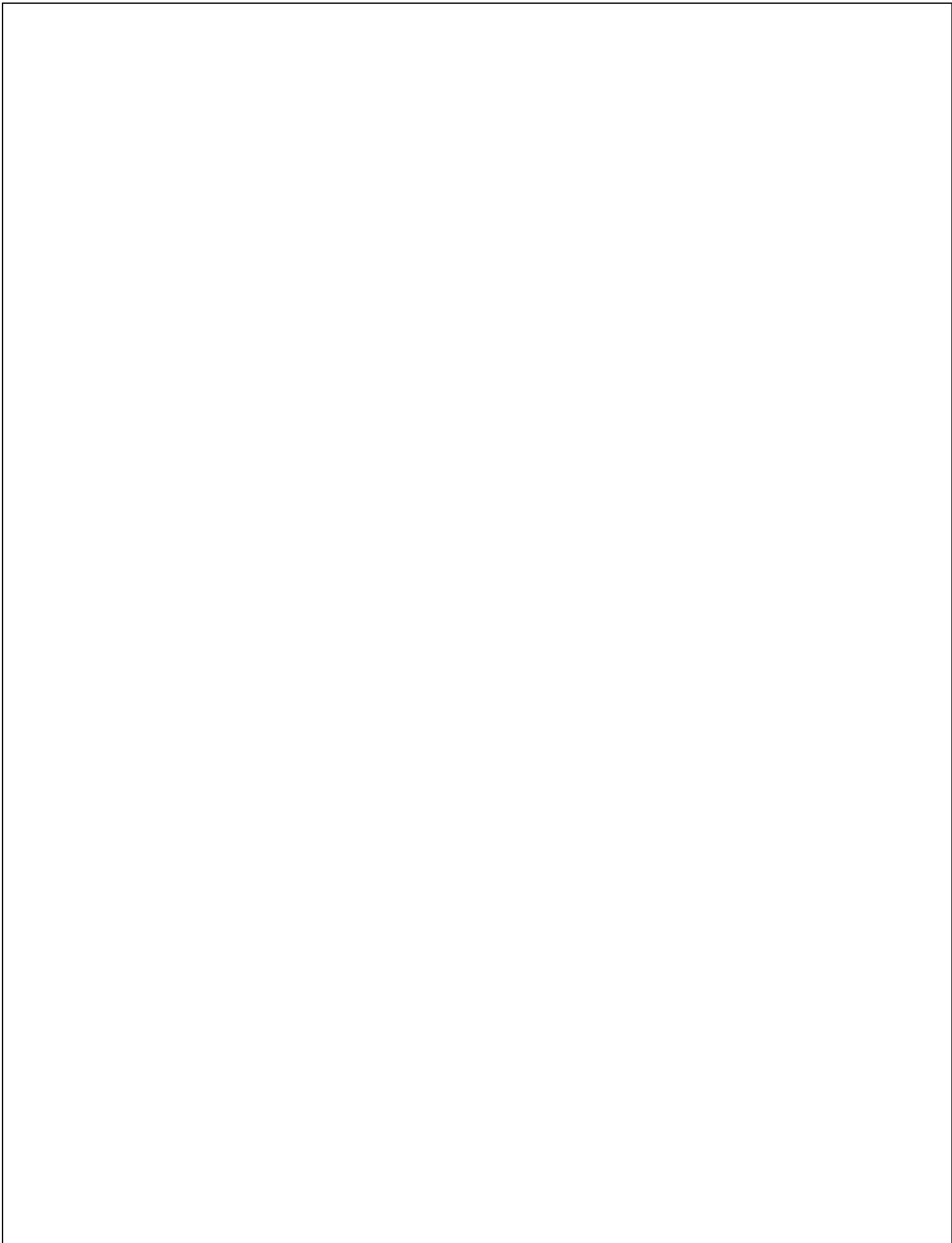
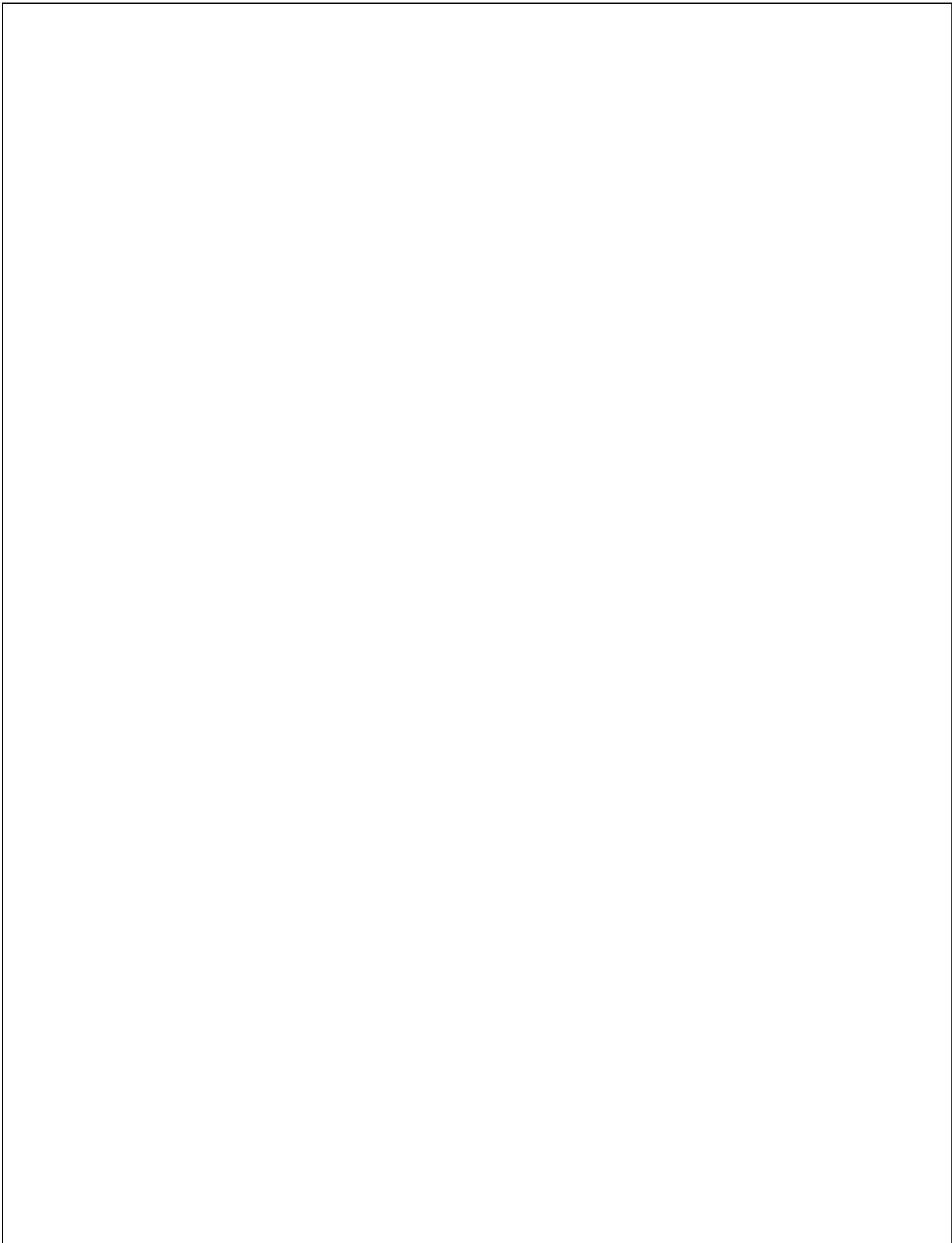




Table of Contents

1	Prayer Before Studying	
2	Study Resources	
3	Study Tools	
4	Optional Bible Marking Colour Scheme	
5	Bible Marking Example	
6 - 8	Timeline of Events	
9 - 14	Section 1	Day 1 The Handmaid of God (Luke 1:26 - 38)
15 - 21	Section 2	Day 1 The Handmaid of God (Luke 1:39 - 56)
22 - 28	Section 3	Day 2 The Guardian of Jesus (Matthew 1:1 - 17)
29 - 34	Section 4	Day 2 The Guardian of Jesus (Matthew 1:18 - 25)
35 - 40	Section 5	Day 3 The Visit of Shepherds (Luke 2:1 - 7)
41 - 47	Section 6	Day 3 The Visit of Shepherds (Luke 2:8 - 20)
48 - 54	Section 7	Day 4 The Arrival of Magi (Matthew 2:1 - 12)
55 - 60	Section 8	Day 4 The Arrival of Magi (Matthew 2:13 - 21)
61 - 66	Section 9	Day 5 The Home of Nazareth (Luke 2:21 - 32)
67 - 72	Section 10	Day 5 The Home of Nazareth (Luke 2:33 - 40)



Prayer Before Studying

Directions: Praying before we endeavour to study God's Word is a good spiritual habit. And a focused prayer in search of God's help is of great value. Here is a prayer that we might use to prepare our minds and begin our time studying The Birth of Christ.

O LORD God, hallowed be Thy Name.

As I endeavour to read Thy Word, may it be made plain to me.

May the depth of it be uncovered and those things that are concealed be opened.

May the experiences of the ones I read about in their actions and words counsel me for good.

May I be diligent as they were diligent.

And may I look for Thy providential hand in all I do, think, and say.

Until he come whose right it is, Thy beloved Son, in whom I pray.

Amen.

Study Resources

Directions: In order to complement our study of The Birth of Christ we may like to utilize some resources. The books have been selected using a critical lens as it pertains to accurately displaying the Truth; however, publications from non-Christadelphians will inevitably have deficiencies. Our discretion should be applied where, if ever, a conflict arises.

Books

- *God, Christ, Man, Woman* - Colin Byrnes
- *Guidebook to the New Testament* - H.P. Mansfield
- *Hannah: Handmaid of the Highest* - Roger Lewis
- *Man & Woman: A Study of Biblical Roles* - Michael Lewis
- *Mary: Handmaid of the LORD* - Geoff Henstock
- *Of Hearts and Minds* - Dennis Gillett
- *Unger's Bible Dictionary* - Merrill F. Unger
- *Women of the Bible* - A Compilation of Essays by Sisters

Classes

Christadelphian Bible Talks:

- “Mary: Handmaid of the LORD” - Con Mitsos

Study Tools

Directions: In order to help us study and uncover details within the word meanings and word locations we will need study tools. This list of tools below should be used to define words, or look up words, in order to answer questions or complete introductory material at the start of each section.

A Bible
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The questions are all based off the King James Bible (KJV) unless a different translation is mentioned. Only a select few translations are encouraged such as: NET, NASB, and YLT.
A Concordance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An alphabetical index arranged in alphabetical order. It shows the book, chapter, and verse location of the most prominent words in the Bible and supplies several words of the context in which each word is found.• In instances like <i>Strong's Exhaustive Concordance</i>, they have cross-references and a dictionary included.
A Lexicon
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A dictionary providing the meanings of the Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, and Latin words.• These are invaluable and helpful in studying the Bible and carrying out a word study from a passage.
Website for a Concordance and Lexicon
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• www.blueletterbible.org <p>Note: Should we need help in using Blue Letter Bible, then we can visit the following link that visually provides steps and guidance on how to use it: (https://www.blueletterbible.org/help/using_blb.cfm)</p>
Apps for a Concordance and Lexicon
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MySword (for Android)• Olive Tree (for Android & iOS)• eSword (for iOS)



= This image indicates that the question is likely to come up in a discussion group.

Optional Bible Marking Colour Scheme

Directions: Choose from any number of these suggested Bible marking themes by assigning a colour with a pencil crayon. Choose whichever colour suits the theme (Good = Blue).

Suggested Themes:

Good		Baptism/Circumcision	
Evil		Numbers/Dates/Time	
Reuben		Love/Blood	
Simeon		Covenant/Eternity/Kingdom	
Levi		God	
Judah		Jesus	
Dan		Lights/Sun/Day	
Naphtali		Dark/Night	
Gad		Key Words	
Asher		Gold	
Issachar		Silver	
Zebulun		Brass	
Joseph		Iron	
Benjamin		Margin	

Bible Marking Example

Rationale: Often we want to Bible mark, but sometimes we do not know where to begin. This is a Bible marking example of how we might mark up our Bibles. It is how a section of Luke 1 might look after we have spent some time Bible marking. There is a short legend and the colours should follow our own prescribed colour scheme.

MARY'S
SITUATION
v26-27

GABRIEL = Man of
God
NAZARETH = Branch
(Heb.) or The Guarded
One (Gk.)
VIRGIN = A Maiden
ESPoused = Betrothed

MARY'S
SELECTION
v28-30

"Said of Jael"
see Judges 5:24

MARY'S
SUCCESSION
v31-33

26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28 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.

29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost 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 Son of God.

36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

MARY'S
SUBMISSION
v34-38

OVERSHADOW
= To envelop
S.W. "overshadowed"
see Luke 9:34

HANDBMAID = Bond slave



■ Headings, Breakdowns

■ Bible Verses © = Cross Reference

■ Definitions @ = Note

Timeline of Events

Rationale: As we are stitching together two synoptic accounts, we want to make sure that we have a good understanding of the order of events. Below and the subsequent two pages are intended to aid us in seeing the story as a complete whole - from beginning to end.

- 1) **Luke 1:8** Gabriel Visits Zachariah (6 B.C. December)
- 2) **Luke 1:24** Elizabeth Conceive (6 B.C. December)
- 3) **Luke 1:26** Gabriel Visits Mary (5 B.C. June)
- 4) **Luke 1:39** Mary Visits Elizabeth (5 B.C. June)
- 5) **Luke 1:56** John the Baptist is Born (5 B.C. Sept)
- 6) **Luke 1:56** Mary Returns Home (5 B.C. Sept)
- 7) **Luke 2:1** A Decree From Cesar (4 B.C. January)
- 8) **Luke 2:2** Cyrenius Taxes Israel (4 B.C. February)
- 9) **Luke 2:4** Joseph & Mary to Bethlehem (4 B.C. March)
- 10) **Luke 2:7** The Birth of Christ (4 B.C. March)
- 11) **Luke 2:8** Good News to the Shepherds (4 B.C. March)
- 12) **Luke 2:16** Shepherds Visit the Manger (4 B.C. March)
- 13) **Matthew 2:26** Wise Men See the Star (6 B.C. March)
- 14) **Matthew 2:2** Wise Men Begin Travelling (6 – 5 B.C.)
- 15) **Matthew 2:1** Wise Men Come to Jerusalem (4 B.C. March)
- 16) **Matthew 2:9** Eclipse of the Moon (4 B.C. March 13th)
- 17) **Matthew 2:11** Wise Men come to Bethlehem (4 B.C. March)
- 18) **Matthew 2:14** Joseph & Mary travel to Egypt (4 B.C. March)
- 19) **Luke 2:21** Jesus circumcised on the way to Egypt (4 B.C. March)
- 20) **Matthew 2:15** Death of Herod (4 B.C. April)
- 22) **Luke 2:22** The Passover (4 B.C. April 11th)
- 22) **Matthew 2:21** Joseph & Mary travel to Israel (4 B.C. April)
- 23) **Luke 2:22** Joseph & Mary travel to Jerusalem (4 B.C. April)
- 24) **Matthew 2:23** Joseph, Mary, & Jesus in Nazareth (4 B.C. April)

LUKE 1:26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, **27** To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. **28** 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. **29** And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. **30** And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. **31** And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. **32** He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: **33** And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. **34** Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? **35** And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost 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 Son of God. **36** And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. **37** For with God nothing shall be impossible. **38** And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. **39** And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; **40** And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. **41** And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: **42** And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. **43** And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? **44** For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. **45** And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord. **46** And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, **47** And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. **48** For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. **49** For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. **50** And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. **51** He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. **52** He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. **53** He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. **54** He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; **55** As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever. **56** And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house. **MATTHEW 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together,

she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. **19** Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. **20** But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. **21** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. **22** Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **23** Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. **24** Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: **25** And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS. **LUKE 2:1** And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. **2** (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) **3** And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. **4** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David;) **5** To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. **6** And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. **7** And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. **8** And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. **10** And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. **12** And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, **14** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. **15** And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. **16** And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. **17** And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. **18** And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. **19** But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. **MATTHEW 2:1** Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem

of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, **2** Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. **3** When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. **5** And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, **6** And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. **7** Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. **8** And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. **9** 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 young child was. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. **11** And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. **12** And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. **13** And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. **14** When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: **15** And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. **16** Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. **17** Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, **18** In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. **LUKE 2:21** And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. **MATTHEW 2:19** But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, **20** Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. **21** And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. **LUKE 2:22** And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were

accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; **23** (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) **24** And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. **25** And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. **26** And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. **27** And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, **28** Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, **29** Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: **30** For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, **31** Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; **32** A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. **33** And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. **34** And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; **35** (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. **36** And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; **37** And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. **38** And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. **MATTHEW 2:22** But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: **LUKE 2:39** And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. **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. **LUKE 2:40** And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

Section 1 - The Handmaid of God

Breakdown of Luke 1:26 - 38

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1) Mary's Situation | Verse 26 - 27 |
| 2) Mary's Selection | Verse 28 - 30 |
| 3) Mary's Succession | Verse 31 - 33 |
| 4) Mary's Submission | Verse 34 - 38 |

Key Words:

This word appears numerous times in Luke 1:26 - 38 and we may like to circle, colour, or underline the occurrences in this section:

- The word "shall"

Key Definitions:

- What does the word "Gabriel" G1043 (verse 26) mean?
- What does the word "Nazareth" G3478 (verse 26) mean?
- What does the word "virgin" G3933 (verse 27) mean?
- What does the word "espoused" G3423 (verse 27) mean?
- What does the word "overshadow" G1982 (verse 35) mean?
- What does the word "handmaid" G1399 (verse 38) mean?

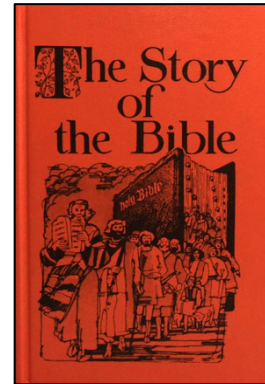
Key To The Context:

The little town of Nazareth, situated in the despised district of Galilee, stands on the edge of a steep cliff that rises precipitously above the broad valley of Esdraelon.

Many important incidents of history had taken place in that valley; many heroic acts of faith had been performed. Along it the enemies of Israel had marched when Yahweh had seen need to punish His people; and at other times back they fled as He had moved to assist Israel in its need.

In the days of Zacharias, the priest, there lived here a young maiden named Mary, of the house of David.

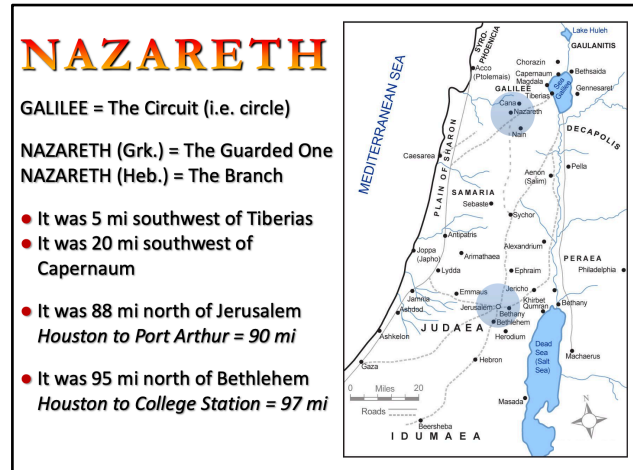
She had characteristics that are most commendable. She was virtuous, thoughtful, kind, considerate and godly. Educated in the divine purpose, with her mind steeped in the teaching of the Scriptures, she looked for the coming of the promised Redeemer.



- *The Story of the Bible: Volume 5*, H.P. Mansfield, p 97 - 98

Luke 1:26

- 1) What is the phrase “in the sixth month” referring to?
- 2) Where in the Old Testament has Gabriel appeared before?



- 3) Choose a word that you believe Gabriel felt when he received the instruction from God to go to Nazareth?
 - a) Nervous
 - b) Dread
 - c) Inquisitive
 - d) Overjoyed

Luke 1:27

- 4) Considering God’s plan of salvation, why is it significant that Mary was a virgin?
- 5) The fact that Joseph was of the house of David means that:
 - a) He was connected with Priests
 - b) He was connected with Levites
 - c) He was connected with Kings
 - d) He was connected with Prophets

Luke 1:28

- 6) What Old Testament character was told she was “blessed...among women”?

Luke 1:29

- 7) Why might we think that Mary was “troubled” at Gabriel’s saying?
- 8) What does it mean that Mary “cast in her mind” the salutation?

Luke 1:30

9) Can we find at least one other occasion when an angel needed to say, “Fear not”?

10) What about this visit by Gabriel to Mary might cause her to fear?

11) Are we aware of anything that Mary had done up to this point to deserve or warrant divine “favour” from God?

GABRIEL

— The Man of God —

Mentioned by name four times:

- “Gabriel” **Daniel 8:16**
- “Gabriel” **Daniel 9:21**
- “Gabriel” **Luke 1:19**
- “Gabriel” **Luke 1:26**

• One of only two angels named:

- 1) Michael = Who is like God
- 2) Gabriel = Man of God

12) Can we find a verse or passage that details why God extends his favour or grace?

13) Write out one lesson from the verse or passage we used in the previous question.

Luke 1:31

14) Up to this point in history, did God reveal the name of Israel’s Messiah?

15) Locate where the following individuals were named before they were born and what their names mean:

Name	Bible Verse	Name Meaning
Ishmael		
Isaac		
Solomon		
Josiah		
John the Baptist		

 16) Fill in the blank: When people think of us (i.e. our character) they instinctively think...

_____.

Luke 1:32

17) What two fathers will Jesus be the Son of?


18) Match the two titles for Jesus with the two fathers from the previous question:

Titles	Father
Son of God	
Son of Man	

19) How long has the “throne of...David” been devoid of a king? See: Ezekiel 21:25 - 27

Luke 1:33

20) What does Gabriel’s message (verse 32 - 33) reveal about God’s plan for salvation?

 21) Find two Bible verses that Mary might have thought about when she heard Gabriel’s message of salvation.

a) Bible Verse # 1:

b) Bible Verse # 2:

Luke 1:34

22) Choose a word that we believe captures the tone with which Mary asked her question:

a) Worried b) Concern c) Curious d) Delighted

 23) How does Mary’s response reflect her character and faith?

24) How do we distinguish between Mary’s answer and Zacharias’ answer (verse 18)?

Luke 1:35

25) Find two other individuals in the Bible where the Holy Spirit came upon them:

a) Individual # 1:

b) Individual # 2:

26) Find a verse in the Bible that explains how God's Holy Spirit impacts us today.

27) Note that Jesus would be called "the Son of God". Although he would be Mary's Son too, how would this impact her relationship with Jesus?

Luke 1:36

28) What does the word "cousin" G4773 tell us about how Mary and Elisabeth were related?

29) What impact would this news have had on Mary with her relationship with:

a) God

b) Elisabeth

BARREN

Barren in the Bible

There are six barren women in the Bible:

- Sarah **Genesis 21**
- Rebekah **Genesis 25**
- Rachel **Genesis 30**
- Manoah's Wife **Judges 13**
- Hannah **1 Samuel 1**
- Elisabeth **Luke 1**

30) Identify one Bible example and one Life example that has had an impact on you and record the impact:

	Bible	Life
Example		
Impact		

Luke 1:37

31) Where in our life has there been a time that we thought a thing impossible for God?

32) Write out one Bible verse that will serve as a reminder to us that “with God nothing shall be impossible.”

Luke 1:38

33) What can we learn from Mary’s willingness to accept God’s will?

34) What are two areas in our Ecclesias that we can take up the spirit of service?

a) Area # 1:

b) Area # 2:

GOD’S HANDMAID

— A woman with a gentle spirit —

Mary impresses as being trustful, courageous and yet gentle. She gave herself unreservedly to whatever Yahweh required of her, and in this she showed outstanding trust. She shouldered the burdens of life that rested so heavily upon her in such a fashion as to reveal that she was also a woman of courage. Yet she was gentle and self-effacing.

Guidebook To The New Testament
H.P. Mansfield, p 38



33) Self-reflect on our own willingness to serve and be directed by the following:

God	Very Unwilling	Unwilling	Neutral	Willing	Very Willing
Jesus	Very Unwilling	Unwilling	Neutral	Willing	Very Willing
Parents	Very Unwilling	Unwilling	Neutral	Willing	Very Willing
Elders	Very Unwilling	Unwilling	Neutral	Willing	Very Willing
Friends	Very Unwilling	Unwilling	Neutral	Willing	Very Willing
Strangers	Very Unwilling	Unwilling	Neutral	Willing	Very Willing

Section 2 - The Handmaid of God

Breakdown of Luke 1:39 - 56

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1) Mary's Salutation | Verse 39 - 41 |
| 2) Mary's Sanctification | Verse 42 - 45 |
| 3) Mary's Summation | Verse 46 - 56 |

Key Words:

These words appear numerous times in Luke 1:39 - 56 and we may like to circle, colour, or underline the occurrences in the chapter:

- The word "blessed" Note: also verse 28 & 68
- The word "salutation/saluted" Note: also verse 29
- The words "He/he hath"

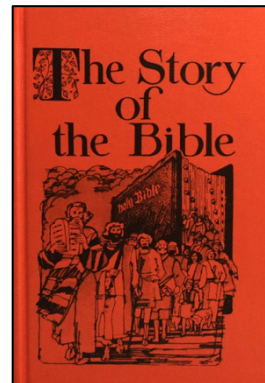
Key Definitions:

- What does the word "haste" G4710 (verse 39) mean?
- What does the word "leaped" G4640 (verse 41) mean?
- What does the word "performance" G5050 (verse 45) mean?
- What does the words "low estate" G5014 (verse 48) mean?
- What does the word "holpen" G482 (verse 54) mean?

Key To The Context:

There were many other questions Mary would have liked to have asked Gabriel, but now, as with Zacharias, the angel had gone as suddenly as he had appeared. Mary was left alone with her tremendous secret. She needed someone in whom to confide and with whom to share the momentous news; but to whom could she turn? There was one who would understand: Elisabeth.

She lived in the hill country of Judah... That was a long journey in those days, for it had to be covered on foot. But it meant nothing to Mary in her excited state of mind. With haste she left Nazareth and, travelling south, eventually arrived at the city of Judah. Finding the house of Zacharias and Elisabeth, she entered and greeted Elisabeth.



- *The Story of the Bible: Volume 5*, H.P. Mansfield, p 100 - 101

Luke 1:39 - 40


- 1) What can we learn about sharing good news from Mary going “with haste”?
- 2) Many margins will suggest Joshua 21:9 for which “city of Judah” Mary went to, but what are two significant features of this city being Hebron? (Hint: Bible Dictionary)
 - a) Feature # 1:
 - b) Feature # 2:

CITY OF HEBRON

— ... into the hill country with haste —

And they gave out of the tribe of the children of Judah, and out of the tribe of the children of Simeon, these cities which are here mentioned by name. Which the children of Aaron, being of the families of the Kohathites, who were of the children of Levi, had: for theirs was the first lot. And they gave them the city of Arba the father of Anak, which city is Hebron, in the hill country of Judah, with the suburbs thereof round about it.

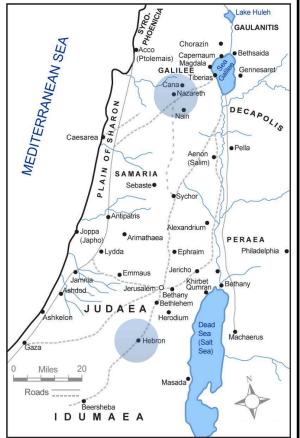
Joshua 21:9 – 11



HEBRON

HEBRON = Seat of Association

- N was 88 mi north of Jerusalem
Houston to Port Arthur = 90 mi
- N was 95 mi north of Bethlehem
Houston to College Station = 97 mi
- N was 110 mi north of Hebron
Houston to Orange = 111 mi
- Zacharias and Elizabeth more than likely dwelled in the city of their own inheritance
Joshua 21:9 – 11



Luke 1:41, 44

- 3) We are told that “the babe leaped in [Elisabeth’s] womb,” therefore we might surmise that:
 - a) The baby leaping was a normal part of Elisabeth’s day
 - b) The baby leaping was a coincidence when Mary arrived
 - c) The baby leaping was a strong kick, stronger than normal
 - d) The baby leaping was the first time it had leaped
- 4) Though we are not “filled with the Holy spirit” when guests arrive at our house, describe our own spirit when we welcome visitors to our house or ecclesia.

Luke 1:42 - 43

- 5) “Blessed” is the first word out of Elisabeth’s mouth when she greets Mary, therefore what does this tell us about her character?
- 6) What does this tell us about how she (elder) viewed her relationship with Mary (younger)?
- 7) Describe a scenario where God has richly provided in our own lives only for it to coincide with an even greater blessing in the life of someone else around us.
- 8) How might Proverbs 25:25 apply to the meeting of these two women?

HUMBLE

– Those of a meek spirit –

Those in the Bible who are noted for being humble:

- Elisabeth **Luke 1:42 – 45**
- Moses **Numbers 12:3**
- The Centurion **Matt. 8:8**
- Paul **Acts 20:19**
- Us **Matthew 5:5**



Luke 1:45

- 9) If Elisabeth is drawing upon God’s unchanging character and His ‘performance’ in her own life, what are two practical lessons that the godly can take from this episode?
 - a) Practical Lesson # 1:
 - b) Practical Lesson # 2:
- 10) Find one or two individuals in the Bible who not only leaned upon God’s word, but their own long experience in the Truth to bolster their faith.
 - a) Individual # 1:
 - b) Individual # 2:

Luke 1:46 - 47

11) At the beginning of Mary's Song of Praise she rejoices in "God my Saviour". What is required of us to make, 'God our Saviour'?

a) What is Required:

b) Verse to support:

GOD HATH

— Mary's Song of Praise —

God hath done great things:

- "he hath regarded" v 48
- "he hath done" v 49
- "he hath shewed" v 51
- "he hath scattered" v 51
- "he hath put down" v 52
- "he hath filled" v 53
- "he hath sent away" v 53
- "he hath holpen" v 54



12) What is one person in our life (young or old) where God *is not* their Saviour; however, we desire that He is?

a) Person's Name: _____

b) Personal action to nudge them in the right direction when I get home from TYC:

I will ... _____

Luke 1:48

13) This word "handmaiden" G1399 is seldom used in the New Testament. Locate the other two occasions:

a) Occasion # 1: _____

b) Occasion # 2: Luke 1:48

c) Occasion # 3: _____

14) After locating the three occasions where "handmaiden" G1399 is used, is there a singular connection between all three?

15) If we are to be 'handmaidens' like Mary, what is one way we can serve back in our home ecclesia?

Luke 1:49 - 50

16) God was “mighty” for Mary, working on her behalf, so where is perhaps one or two areas of our lives where God has been working on our behalf?

a) Area # 1:

b) Area # 2:

17) The recipe for receiving God’s “mercy” was that we “fear him” - write down two Proverbs that encourage us to fear God.

a) Proverbs ____ : _____

b) Proverbs ____ : _____

18) Mary saw God working from “generation to generation” meaning that He is constant throughout a family line. Trace through the names of two godly family lines in the Bible and, if possible, your own family line.

	Bible Family # 1	Bible Family # 2	Our Own Family
Generation 1			
Generation 2			
Generation 3			

Luke 1:51 - 53

19) Mary speaks of many contrasts - see if we can match them by connecting the pairs by drawing a line between them.

The Weak...

...scatter the Proud

The Humble...

...overtake the Rich

The Lowly...

...dethrone the Mighty

The Hungry...

...surpass the Exalted


The Poor...

...regale the Filled

20) On a scale of 1 - 10 (10 being Proud) how are we with quelling our own pride of life?


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

21) If God “[scatters]” the proud, where might we suppose they are scattered from?

 22) Where are some areas where there is clear evidence of pride in the world around us?

a) Area # 1:

b) Area # 2:

 23) The word “imagination” G1271 means (deep thought), which begs the question - are there a few items, activities, or habits, that we can remove from our lives that would promote engaging in ‘deep thought’ and about godly things? (Circle one below).

Item

Activity

Habit

What we will do to remove it from our life: _____
_____.

24) What visuals do we get when we consider that God “hath put down” G2507 and “exalted” G5312? Consider the following two verses where these two words are used respectively:

a) “hath put down” G2507 (Luke 12:18) _____


b) “exalted” G5312 (Acts 2:33) _____

25) How ‘hungry’ (10 being Hungry) are we for the Word of God on Weekdays?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

26) How ‘hungry’ (10 being Hungry) are we for the Word of God on Weekends?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

 27) When we look around the world and we see the opposite of Luke 1:51 - 53 occurring, how might a Psalm of Asaph (Psalm 73) encourage us to trust in God?

28) How would Mary’s personal situation have contributed to her song of praise considering she was a female virgin from despised Nazareth?

Luke 1:54

29) Mary had many inspiring Old Testament passages, and Psalm 86 was certainly one of them. Create a slide that catches just some of the connections:

A SERVANT SONG

— Inspired by the Word of God to Sing —

- A Psalm written by an inspired King named David
- A Song sung by an inspired Handmaid named Mary

Psalm 86	Luke 1
_____ v ____	“He hath” v 54
_____ v ____	“holpen” v 54
_____ v ____	“servant” v 54
_____ v ____	“remembrance” v 54
_____ v ____	“mercy” v 54



Luke 1:55

30) Abraham shares a unique experience with what Mary will experience as it pertains to children - what is that experience?

31) Abraham shares a unique experience with what Mary has experienced as it pertains to being called - what is that experience?

Luke 1:56

32) Mary “abode with [Elisabeth] about three months,” which would support that she stayed until what joyful event?

Section 3 - The Guardian of Jesus

Breakdown of Matthew 1:1 - 17

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1) Patriarchs | Verse 1 - 5 |
| 2) Kings | Verse 6 - 11 |
| 3) Commoners | Verse 12 - 17 |

Key Words:

These words appear numerous times in Matthew 1:1 - 17 and we may like to circle, colour, or underline the occurrences in the chapter:

- The word “generation(s)”
- The names: “Thamar” “Rachab” “Ruth” “the wife” “Mary”
- The word “Babylon”
- The word “fourteen”

Key Definitions:

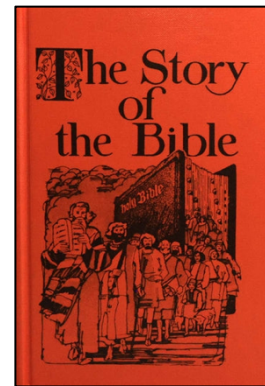
- What do the names (verses 1 - 17) mean?
- What does the word “Christ” G5547 mean?
- What does the word “generation” G1078 (verse 1) mean?
- What does the word “Babylon” G897 (verse 11) mean?

Key To The Context:

Malachi is the last book in the Old Testament Scriptures. It ends dramatically with three significant words: “With a curse!” Thus the Old Testament which opens with God looking upon all that He had made, and acknowledging that it was “very good” (Gen. 1:31), ends with those two ominous words — “a curse.” It was sin that brought such a change. The Law of Moses, the Old Covenant that God made with Israel, emphasized the sinfulness of human nature, and brought everybody under its curse, because all sinned. It made obvious the need of a Redeemer: one who could remove the curse, and lead the way to life.

Jesus Christ is that Redeemer.

It is remarkable that Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament, concludes with those three significant words “with a curse”, and the New Testament opens with the genealogy of the Lord Jesus who alone, can remove that curse!

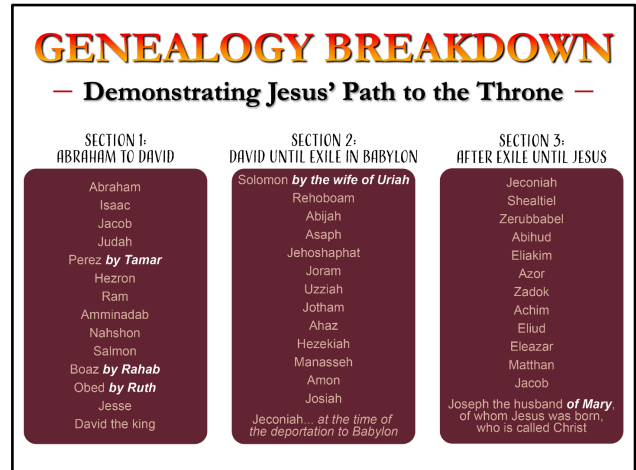


- *The Story of the Bible: Volume 5*, H.P. Mansfield, p 56 - 57

Matthew 1:1

- 1) Matthew's first verse recalls the three Great Covenants - write a word from the verse that supports each covenant:

- a) Edenic:
- b) Davidic:
- c) Abrahamic:



- 2) How many generations can we recall in our own family line?

Our name: _____

Grandfather: _____

Great Grandfather: _____

Great Great Grandfather: _____

- 3) Can we find at least one example in the Old Testament where showing proof of our genealogy was important? (Hint: Ezra).

- 4) In our example, why was it important to be able to show proof of our genealogy?

- 5) Where in the Bible is it a blessed thing to have our names written in a book?



- 6) Where in our own ecclesias do we track or record names and for what purpose(s) do we do this as a community?

Where: _____

What Purpose(s): _____

Matthew 1:2

- 7) Immediately we see that this genealogy begins with faithful patriarchs of the Jewish people; however, Matthew would like to demonstrate that they too had weaknesses. Write out one weakness that each faithful patriarch demonstrated.

Faithful Patriarch	Bible Passage	Weakness
Abraham	Genesis 12:11 - 13	
Isaac	Genesis 26:6 - 7	
Jacob	Genesis 27:18 - 24	
Judah and his brethren	Genesis 37:26 - 33	

Matthew 1:3

- 8) Significantly, it is here that Matthew introduces the first of five women who are in the line of Christ - name them next their corresponding verse.

	Verse	Name
1)	3	
2)	5	
3)	5	
4)	6	
5)	16	

- 9) What are some noteworthy Matriarchs that Matthew could have included?



- 10) Considering it was highly unusual to include women when reckoning one's own genealogy, finish the following thought:

We might suppose that Matthew included women because _____

Matthew 1:4 - 5

- 11) Here is a reference to the husband and father of Rahab and Boaz respectively. Might we have insight into one of the identities of the two men in Joshua 2:1, 18?

THE SCARLET THREAD

— The Long Line of the Scarlet Thread —

Times in the Bible where the Scarlet Thread occurred:

- The Birth of Judah & Tamar's Twins **Genesis 38:27 - 30**
- The Curtains of God's Tabernacle **Exodus 26:1**
- The Ephod of Aaron's Office **Exodus 28:6**
- The Window of Rahab's House **Joshua 2:18**
- The Scarlet of Jesus' Robe **Matthew 27:28**



- 12) Considering that there was an element of preaching the Truth to both Rahab and Ruth, how is our current state of initiative in communicating the Truth to others?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Matthew 1:6

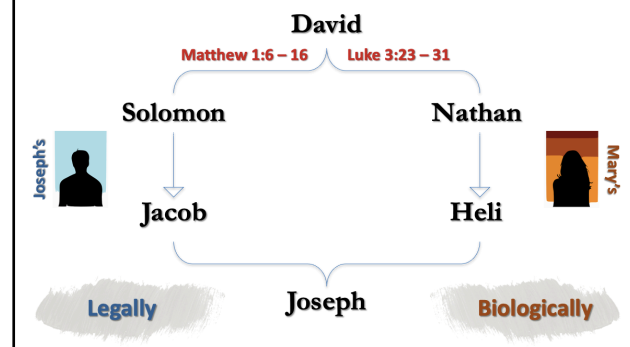
- 13) What epithet is attached to David that no other individual has in this genealogy?
- 14) Considering that David alone receives this epithet, what might be the reason(s)?

- 15) We will have noticed that Matthew's genealogy follows Solomon whereas Luke's follows Nathan, find a reliable commentary that provides some reasons why.

- 16) We will have likely noticed that Bathsheba is instead mentioned as "the wife of Uriah" but why?

THE LINE OF DAVID

— The House and Lineage of David —



Matthew 1:7 - 8

- 17) An astute reading of these verses will catch that there are some names missing in the line of Judah - note them down in the table below as well as a possible reason they have been purposely omitted. Hint: Check a reliable list of Kings.

King Name		Possible Reason
King Name		
Queen Name		
King Name		

- 18) Can we think of any verses that mention that our name can be 'omitted' from a book?

Matthew 1:9 - 10

- 19) This section alludes to how precarious the genealogy became when we consider the life of Hezekiah - what was he lacking when we read 2 Kings 20:5 - 6 & 21:1 together?

- 20) How did Manasseh jeopardize the genealogy when we read 2 Kings 21:6?

- 21) Although we do not practice the abhorrent customs of idolatry, what are three ways in which we can get mixed up with the world that in effect sacrifices our spiritual health? Hint: Attending university and choosing to live in the campus dorm rooms.

Worldly Practice # 1: _____

Worldly Practice # 2: _____

Worldly Practice # 3: _____

- 22) Fill out the table below after reading Ezekiel 18:5 - 17, which contains a segment of the genealogy of Christ by marking out what verses pertain to Hezekiah, what verses pertain to Manasseh, and what verses pertain to Josiah.

King	Verses
Hezekiah	
Manasseh	
Josiah	

Matthew 1:11

23) Yet again, we see how precarious the genealogy became when we consider the life of Jeconiah (a.k.a. Coniah & Jechonias) - what was foretold about him when we read Jeremiah 22:24 - 30?

24) When we consider ourselves, are we at risk of being “carried away to Babylon” due to our own waywardness from God? Fill in the line after the word “because” but only for the answer that we circle.

- a) Yes, because _____
- b) Neutral, because _____
- c) No, because _____



25) What would be two Bible verses informing us that God wants us to be faithful to Him?

- a) Bible Verse # 1:
- b) Bible Verse # 2:

Matthew 1:12 - 13



26) Even though we might find ourselves in a state of unfaithfulness, God is willing to restore us - what are two Bible verses informing us that God's wants to forgive?

- a) Bible Verse # 1:
- b) Bible Verse # 2:



27) In Babylon they had to wait upon the LORD to return to the Land of Promise - personally speaking, what are we waiting for in our own lives or have we had to wait for in the past?

28) Where are two times a believer had to wait upon the LORD for direction or comfort?

- a) Time # 1:
- b) Time # 2:

WILLING

— The LORD's Will —

Those in the Bible who waited upon the LORD:

- Jonathan **1 Samuel 20:12**
- Paul **Acts 18:21**
- James **James 4:15**
- Three Friends **Daniel 3:17**
- Christ **Luke 22:42**

- 29) Look up the meaning of the name “Zorobabel” G2216 (Zerubbabel H2216) and then complete the sentence below:

With this man the LORD was _____.

Matthew 1:14 - 16

- 30) We are now introduced to Joseph, The Guardian of Jesus, and had the Monarchy continued, what could he have been?
- 31) So far we have had: Patriarchs, Kings, and Commoners, but verse 16 introduces a completely new title - what is it?
- 32) Look in a Lexicon and see whether the words “begat” and born” (verse 16) are the same.

Matthew 1:17

- 33) Interestingly, what number do we arrive at if we add $14 + 14 + 14$ together?
- 34) How is the number from question # 33 connected to the Ministry of Christ?

PROPHECIES

— The Birth of Christ —

Old Testament prophecies that foretold the Christ:

- His Mother **Isaiah 7:13 – 14**
- His Father **2 Samuel 7:12 – 14a**
- His Birthplace **Micah 5:2**
- His Position **Numbers 24:17**
- His Arrival **Daniel 9:20 – 27**

- 35) If we could shun one thing and embrace one thing as an ecclesial generation today (maybe the last generation before Christ’s return) what would they be?

Shun: _____

Embrace: _____

Section 4 - The Guardian of Jesus

Breakdown of Matthew 1:18 - 25

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1) A Wife | Verse 18 - 21 |
| 2) A Virgin | Verse 22 - 23 |
| 3) A Son | Verse 24 - 25 |

Key Words:

These words appear numerous times in Matthew 1:18 - 25 and we may like to circle, colour, or underline the occurrences in the chapter:

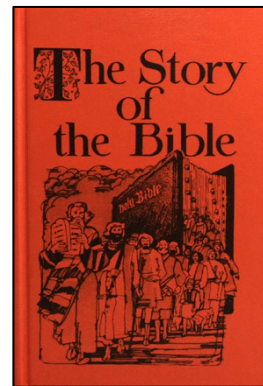
- The word “child”
- The word “son”
- The name “Jesus”

Key Definitions:

- What does the word “espoused” G3423 (verse 18) mean?
- What does the word “just” G1342 (verse 19) mean?
- What do the words “publick example” G3856 (verse 19) mean?
- What does the word “minded” G1014 (verse 19) mean?
- What does the name “Emmanuel” G1694 (verse 23) mean?

Key To The Context:

A few months after the angel had appeared to Mary and she had returned home from her three months' visit to Elisabeth, the angel of Yahweh had appeared unto Joseph in a dream, to confirm the message that Mary had received (Mat. 1:19 - 24). Joseph learned the staggering news, that the maiden he had chosen to be his wife, had also been selected of God to mother the Redeemer whom He had planned from the very beginning to send into the world (Gen. 3:15). Joseph had pondered the matter deeply and earnestly, and had discussed it frequently with Mary. They both recognised the great responsibility that had been placed on them to care for the child in such a way as would contribute best to its future ministry.



- *The Story of the Bible: Volume 5*, H.P. Mansfield, p 110

Matthew 1:18

- 1) What does the phrase “on this wise” G3779 suggest about the nature of Jesus’ birth?
- 2) Were Joseph and Mary considered ‘married’ at the time that they were living?
- 3) When we look up the word “espoused” G3423 what act do sincere couples perform today that hearkens to its definition?

MARRIED

— Joseph her husband... —

From the moment of betrothal a woman was treated as actually married. The union could not be dissolved except by regular divorce; breach of faithfulness was regarded as adultery.

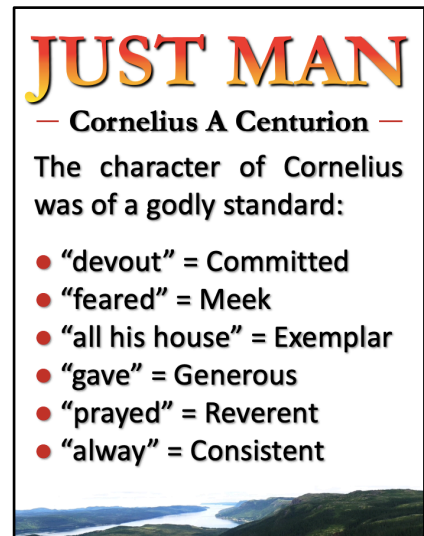
Sketches of Jewish Social Life
Alfred Edersheim, p 137



- 4) Do we or should we consider ourselves ‘married’ to our partner when we enter into a relationship?
- 5) How long had Mary been away from Joseph before he “found [her] with child”?
Hint: Luke 1:26, 56.
- 6) Would we be correct to believe that Mary would have told Joseph how or by Whom she was pregnant?
- 7) Why is it significant that Mary was “found with child of the Holy [Spirit]” before she and Joseph came together?
- 8) How do you think Joseph felt upon learning Mary was pregnant?
 - a) Shock b) Anger c) Confusion d) Betrayal e) Other
- 9) How would passages like Deuteronomy 22 run through Joseph’s mind?

Matthew 1:19

- 10) What is Joseph called in this verse in relation to Mary?
- 11) What does Joseph being described as a “just man” tell us about his character?
- 12) What does the word “just” G1342 mean?
Note: It is used of Cornelius in Acts 10:22.
- 13) What, if anything, about Joseph’s trade (see Matthew 13:55) would have played a part in how he made decisions?
- 14) Why might Joseph have chosen to put Mary away “privily” rather than publicly?



Matthew 1:20

- 15) To what depth was Joseph wrestling with what to do with Mary when we consider the phrase “thought on” G1760?
- 16) What role does the angel play in changing Joseph’s course of action?
- 17) Why might God have chosen to communicate with Joseph through a dream rather than directly as with Mary?
- 18) Has there been an occasion in our life where we had to trust God during a situation that didn’t make sense at the time?
- 19) What does this passage teach us about trusting God’s plan over our own?


Matthew 1:21


20) What “the angel of the LORD” had spoken to Joseph in verses 20 - 21 is exactly what Gabriel had spoken to Mary in Luke 1. Complete the slide that connects the two:

TWO TESTIMONIES

— while he thought on these things... —

Matthew 1	Luke 1
“Joseph” v 20	“Mary” v ____
“fear not” v 20	“fear not” v ____
“conceived in her” v 20	“thou shalt conceive” v ____
“the Holy Spirit” v 20	“the Holy Spirit” v ____
“bring forth a son” v 21	“bring forth a son” v ____
“shalt call his name Jesus” v 21	“shalt call his name Jesus” v ____



 21) Have we ever found ourselves in a situation or set of circumstances where we could be ‘fighting’ against the testimony or will of God and if so what was the outcome?


22) Find one example where an individual is ‘fighting’ against God and one example where a group is ‘fighting’ against God.

Example	Passage	How were they ‘fighting’?
Individual		
Group		

23) Did anyone know the name of Christ before it was revealed to first Mary and then second to Joseph?

24) What does the name “Jesus” G2424 mean?


25) Why would it be important that the angel specifies the name of Christ?

 26) If we have a Bible name, what is the meaning of it? Note: If we do not have a Bible name, select one and write down the meaning of it.

Our Bible Name Meaning: _____

Our Bible Name Selection Meaning: _____

Matthew 1:22 - 23

 27) Not only was Joseph given the testimony of Mary and the angel of the LORD, but here he has a 3rd testimony - the Word of God. Find one verse or passage that encourages us to use the Word of God for direction.

28) Look up the Revised Version (RV) and the Young’s Literal Translation (YLT) for the phrase: “Behold, a virgin shall be with child...” and write it down below.

RV _____

YLT _____

29) How would the phrase “and shall bring forth a son” act as a sign for Joseph that would compel him to believe this was from the LORD?

30) What is the significance of the name “Emmanuel” G1694?

31) How does the significance of “Emmanuel” G1694 relate to Jesus’ mission?

Matthew 1:24 - 25

32) Who is one person in the Bible who responded in a godly way to a dream?

33) Who is one person in the Bible who responded in an ungodly way to a dream?

ADOPTED SONS

— ...and he called his name Jesus —

Those that served as fathers to adopted sons:

- There was Joseph with Jesus **Matthew 1:25**
- There was Johoiada with Joash **2 Kings 12:1**
- There was Abraham with Lot **Genesis 11:31**
- There was Paul with Timothy **1 Timothy 1:2**
- There was God with Us **Galatians 4:4 – 6**

34) Where in these two verses do we see that Joseph would be sacrificing himself in order to “[do] as the angel of the LORD had bidden him”?



35) What does Joseph teach us about obedience, especially when it’s difficult?



36) How are we at listening for God’s guidance in our own lives with life’s decisions?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

36) What is one tangible step that we can undertake to in order that we learn to listen for God’s guidance in our own lives?.

a) Tangible Step: _____

37) What does Joseph’s quiet obedience teach us about leadership and faith?

38) How many words does Joseph say throughout verses 18 - 25?

a) 0 b) 5 c) 7 d) 12 e) Other _____

Section 5 - The Visit of Shepherds

Breakdown of Luke 2:1 - 7

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| 1) Grandly Caesars | Verse 1 - 3 |
| 2) Lowly Parents | Verse 4 - 7 |

Key Words:

This word appears numerous times in Luke 2:1 - 7 and we may like to circle, colour, or underline the occurrences in the chapter:

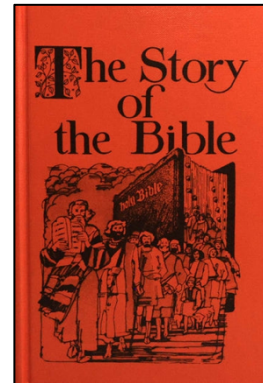
- The word “taxed(ing)”

Key Definitions:

- What does the word “Cesar” G2541 (verse 1) mean?
- What does the word “Augustus” G828 (verse 1) mean?
- What does the word “Cyrenius” G2958 (verse 2) mean?
- What does the word “Bethlehem” G965 (verse 4) mean?
- What do the words “great with child” G1471 (verse 5) mean?
- What do the words “swaddling clothes” G4683 (verse 7) mean?
- What does the word “manger” G5336 (verse 7) mean?
- What does the word “inn” G2646 (verse 7) mean?

Key To The Context:

Caesar Augustus little thought when he decided upon this wide sweeping decree, that he was playing an important part in the fulfilling of Bible prophecy relating to the future monarch of the world. But such was the case. And in it we see the Hand of Yahweh at work. The prophecy of Micah 5:2 required that the Saviour of mankind, earth's future ruler, should be born at Bethlehem. But Mary, his mother, particularly at the time when she was getting ready for the birth of her son, was a resident of Nazareth, a small town in the north of the land. So, in order to bring the purpose of God to fruition, a mighty empire was moved by circumstances to take a census of its subjects.



A humble carpenter of Nazareth and his newly espoused wife Mary, were affected by it, along with millions of others. As a result, an obscure and unlikely prophecy had wonderful fulfilment, and a tiny village (Bethlehem) was suddenly elevated to prominence in the sight of man, that only the ways of Providence could bring about.

- *The Story of the Bible: Volume 5*, H.P. Mansfield, p 109

Luke 2:1

1) Even though Caesar was ruling upon the 'throne' of the Roman Empire, who was ruling in the Kingdoms of Men?

CESAR AUGUSTUS

— The Successor to Julius Caesar —

CESAR (Gk. KAISAR) = Severed (i.e. The Only One)

AUGUSTUS = Venerable (i.e. The Revered One as in a god)

Augustus was emperor at the birth and during half the lifetime of [the] Lord, but his name occurs only once (**Luke 2:1**) in the New Testament, as the emperor who ordered the enrollment in consequence of which Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem, the place where the Messiah was to be born.

Unger's Bible Dictionary
Merrill F. Unger, p 109



2) Can we find a verse to support our answer above?

3) Can we find any other time(s) when a significant ruler (i.e. king) made a decree that all people had to abide by?



4) What is one recent decree from our home country made by a ruler(s)? Note: These could be Laws, Business, Education, the Border, etc.

Decree: _____



5) What would be one helpful Proverb and one helpful verse from Paul's letters that put us in good stead when we are faced with the decrees of today's government?

Proverb: _____

Paul's Verse: _____

6) What does the word "taxed" G583 mean? Note: Some margins have another word.

7) Can we think of an occasion in the Old Testament where the Children of Israel were 'taxed' in relation to the Temple? Note: Exodus 30:11- 16.



8) What might be two spiritual lessons that we can draw out from this Roman taxing, when viewing it from a spiritual perspective?

a) Hint: Enrolling Names _____

b) Hint: Paying Tithes _____

Luke 2:2

9) What does this verse suggest about Luke's intent to anchor the story in historical context?

10) How reliable is Luke's historical detail compared to other ancient sources?

GOVERNOR CYRENIUS

— And this taxing was first made when... —

Full Name: Cyrenius Publius Silpicius Quirinus

CYRENIUS = Warrior

1) Began as a Military Commander

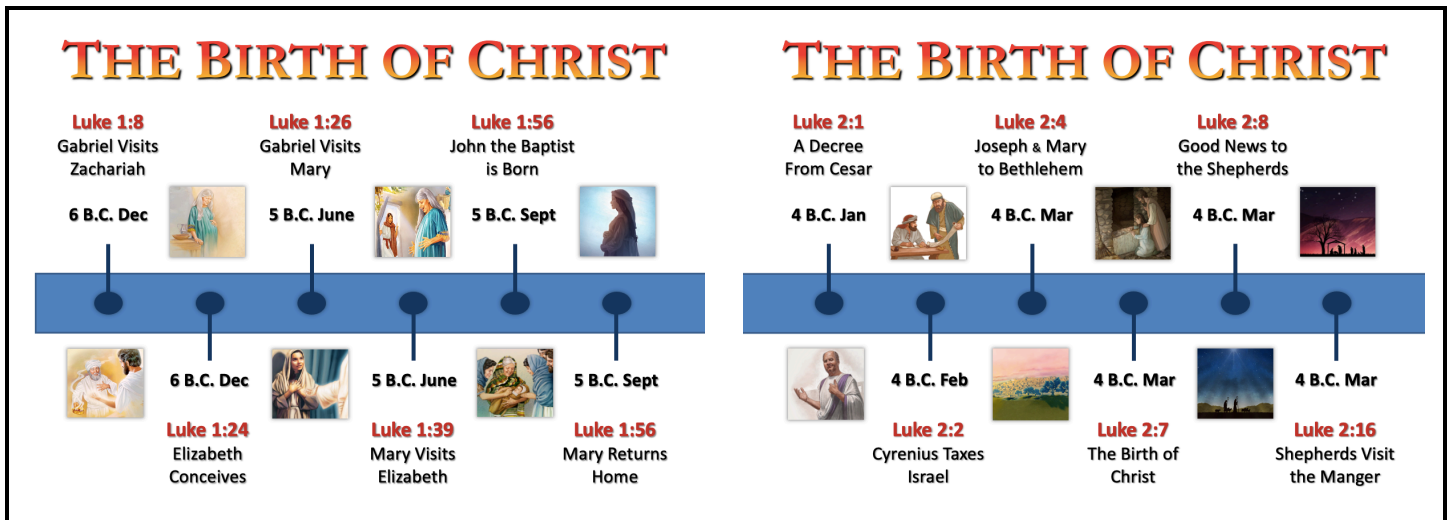
2) Then was elevated to a Political Governorship of Syria

Quirinus was twice governor of Syria, and, by very striking and satisfactory argument, is fixed by the time of his [first] governorship from B.C. 4 to A.D. 1; and the second A.D. 6 – 10.

Unger's Bible Dictionary
Merrill F. Unger, p 233



11) Why might Luke include this specific taxing (which is also a census) as a time marker?



Luke 2:3

12) Why did everyone have to return to their own city for the census?

13) What logistical challenges might this have caused for families?

14) How might this movement of people have contributed to the fulfillment of prophecy?

15) How do you think people felt about being forced to travel for taxation?



16) Can we think of ‘a hardship’ that today’s government might force upon us?

Luke 2:4

17) Why is it significant that Joseph is described as being “of the house and lineage of David”?

18) What prophecy is being fulfilled by Joseph going to Bethlehem?

19) How many miles and kilometres was Nazareth from Bethlehem?

Miles =

Kilometres =

JOSEPH

— Hearken Back to David —

Joseph was linked to David in three distinct ways:

- “of the city of David”
= *David’s Birthplace*
- “of the house of David”
= *David’s Family*
- “of the lineage of David”
= *David’s Tribe*



20) What does this verse tell us about Joseph’s obedience to civil authority?

21) Why might Luke emphasize Joseph’s connection to David here?

Luke 2:5

22) Considering the term “espoused wife” and its meaning, why is it important that we are told this under this circumstance?

23) Why did Mary travel with Joseph, even though she was “great with child”?

24) What risks might Mary have faced traveling while pregnant?

25) What does this verse reveal about the relationship between Joseph and Mary?

26) How might this journey have tested their faith and endurance?

27) What possible topics might Joseph and Mary conversed about as they made this long journey?

Topic: _____

Topic: _____

THE CITY OF DAVID

This decree took every Jew for the time being to his ancestral home. "All went to be enrolled, every one into his own city." It thus took Joseph to Bethlehem, where lay the hereditary family connection with the soil, and where therefore, his enrolment would have to be effected. It took Mary there also, which is one of the proofs of Mary's Davidic extraction: for had she been of another house than the house of David, there would have been no need for her to go to Bethlehem, "the city of David".

Nazareth Revisited
Robert Roberts, p 65



28) Where in our life have we found God working out His plan in a puzzling way (i.e. causing Mary to travel at the end of her pregnancy rather than at the beginning)?

29) What simple lesson or principle do we carry with us from our example above?

Luke 2:6

30) How might Mary and Joseph have felt arriving in Bethlehem under these circumstances?

a) Irritated b) Distress c) Gratified d) Confused e) Other _____

31) What does "the days were accomplished" imply about divine timing?

32) What does this verse suggest about the fulfillment of God's promises?

33) How does this moment reflect both the natural and the providential elements of childbirth?

Natural: _____

Providential: _____

34) What might we think about Luke keeping the description of the birth so brief?

Luke 2:7

35) What is the significance of Jesus being Mary's "firstborn" son?

36) Why was there "no room for them in the inn," and what does that tell us about society's reception of Jesus?

37) What emotions might Mary and Joseph have felt laying their child in a manger?

THE INN OF CHIMHAM

— A Lodging Place of Provision —

The Inn of Bethlehem had a memorable history of its own, being named in **Jeremiah 41:17** as the 'inn of Chimham,' the place of rendezvous from which travellers started on their journey to Egypt. It was so called after the son of Barzillai, whom David treated as an adopted son (**2 Samuel 19:37 – 38**), and was built by him in his patron's city as a testimony of his gratitude.

The Pulpit Commentary: Mark and Luke
E. Bickersteth, p 411



38) What does this scene teach us about God's presence in unlikely places?



39) How might this verse challenge modern ideas of comfort and success?

40) What does this verse reveal about the nature of Jesus' mission from the very beginning?

Section 6 - The Visit of Shepherds

Breakdown of Luke 2:8 - 20

- 1) Heavenly Angels Verse 8 - 14
- 2) Earthly Shepherds Verse 15 - 20

Key Words:

These words appear numerous times in Luke 2:8 - 20 and we may like to circle, colour, or underline the occurrences in the chapter:

- The word “shepherds”
- The word “angel(s)”
- The words “glory(ifying)”

Key Definitions:

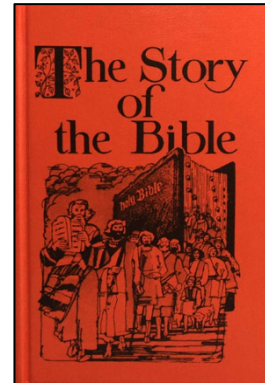
- What do the words “sore” G3173 and “afraid” G5399 G5401 (verse 9) mean?
- What does the word “good tidings” G2097 (verse 10) mean?
- What does the word “Saviour” G4990 (verse 11) mean?
- What does the word “haste” G4692 (verse 16) mean?
- What does the word “wondered” G2296 (verse 18) mean?
- What does the word “pondered” G4820 (verse 19) mean?

Key To The Context:

The record states that there were shepherds minding their flocks in the open air by night when the Saviour was born.

They were on one of the many slopes near Bethlehem, possibly not far from the place where, a thousand years earlier, David had kept his sheep, and had protected them from the wild beasts lurking in many places of Palestine, ready to pounce on the sheep if left untended. As night spread its dark blanket over the earth, the shepherds herded the sheep together, and dividing the night into several watches, arranged among themselves to keep guard in turn over the sheep (see Luke 2:8; margin).

These shepherds were not only vigilant as to the welfare of the sheep, but also of the signs of the times. They were evidently singled out by God for the great honor about to be paid them because of their keen interest in the Old Testament Scriptures concerning the coming Messiah.



- *The Story of the Bible: Volume 5*, H.P. Mansfield, p 114

Luke 2:8

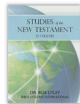
- 1) Why were shepherds chosen to receive the angelic announcement?
- 2) What does “abiding in the field” tell us about the shepherds’ lifestyle?
- 3) How might the shepherds have felt about their role in society?

SHEPHERDS ABIDING

— Second Class Citizens —

The rabbis considered them to be religious outcasts and their testimony was not admissible in court (i.e. later Jewish tradition). This was because they lived with the sheep and could not keep all the rules and regulations of the rabbis (i.e. The Talmud).

Studies of the New Testament
Dr. Bob Utley, Luke 2



SHEPHERDS ABIDING

— Second Class Citizens —

With regard to gentiles and shepherds of small, domesticated animals, one may not raise them out of a pit and one may not lower them into a pit. Only, it is permitted to raise them from the pit where the exchange of payment occurs, due to the enmity that exists.

Avodah Zarah (Foreign Worship)
Talmud, 26a



- 4) What is the symbolic significance of shepherds in the Bible?

Luke 2:9

- 5) What does “the angel of the Lord came upon them” imply about divine presence?



- 6) What would be a suitable answer for “the glory of the Lord” in this context?

- a) A bright star in the sky
- b) A radiant manifestation of God’s presence
- c) The voice of the angel speaking
- d) A vision of heaven opening

- 7) Pick another angelic appearance in Scripture - how does this moment compare to it?
- 8) What might we think the shepherds expected when they saw the angel?

Luke 2:10 - 12

- 9) How does “good tidings of great joy” contrast with the shepherds’ fear?



- 10) Why is the message described as being “to all people”?



- 11) What does this verse reveal about the gospel being available to every individual?

- 12) What is the significance of the titles “Saviour” and “Christ” and “Lord” being used together?

Saviour:

Christ:

Lord:

- 13) How does this verse fulfill a Messianic prophecy? Note: Many margins will provide assistance with this question.

- 14) Why is the sign of a baby in a manger significant?

- 15) What might “swaddling clothes” symbolize - provide a verse to support our answer?

THE LOWLY

— Receiving Good News —

Those in the Bible who are noted for responding:

- Tax Collectors **Matt. 9:9**
- Fishermen **Luke 5:11**
- Lepers **Matt. 8:2**
- Thieves **Luke 23:42**
- Us **1 Cor. 1:21 – 29**



- 16) How does this sign contrast with expectations of a royal birth?
- 17) What might the shepherds have thought about learning that the Messiah was to be born in such humble circumstances?

Luke 2:13 - 14

- 18) What does “a multitude of the heavenly host” suggest about the importance of this event?



- 19) Why might we think the angels “[praised] God” in this moment?



- 20) How might we have reacted to this sudden burst of praise?

- a) We would be overcome with fear and faint
- b) We would run away in fear and confusion
- c) We would be puzzled, yet go back to tending the sheep
- d) We would be awestruck and inspired to seek the newborn Saviour
- e) We would need to ask the angels for more signs and miracles
- f) Other: _____

- 21) What does “Glory to God in the highest” mean in our own words?

- 22) How do these verses relate to Isaiah 52:7 and the message of peace?

- 23) How at ‘peace’ are we with the knowledge that Christ either is or can be our Saviour?

1

2

3

4

5

TIDINGS

— How Beautiful —

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Isaiah 52:7



Luke 2:15

- 24) What does their response tell us about faith and action?
- 25) What does “which the Lord hath made known unto us” reveal about their understanding?
- 26) How does this verse encourage believers to seek and respond to God’s message?

SHEPHERDS

— Watching the Flock —

The Shepherds of the Bible
who watched the Flock:

- Abel **Genesis 4:2**
- Moses **Exodus 3:1**
- David **1 Sam. 16:11**
- Amos **Amos 1:1**
- God **Isaiah 40:11**

Luke 2:16

- 27) What does it say about their character that the shepherds went “with haste” to Bethlehem?
- 28) What does their urgency tell us about what our faith or curiosity should be to things that are spiritual?
- 29) Why is it significant that they found Mary, Joseph, and the baby together?
- 30) What might the shepherds have expected to see and how did reality compare?

Luke 2:17 - 18

- 31) What does “they made known abroad” suggest about the shepherds’ role as witnesses?
- 32) Why do you think the shepherds felt compelled to share what they had seen?

33) What does this verse teach us about sharing the Truth that we know?



34) Rank our own tendency to share the Truth with others on the scale below:

Seldom 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Often

Reason for our number: _____

35) How does this moment compare to any one other biblical instance of people sharing divine encounters?

36) How might their story have been received by others in Bethlehem?

37) How does the response of “wondered” differ from the response of “believed”?



Luke 2:19 - 20

38) Why might Mary have chosen to ponder these events silently?

39) After reading verse 19, describe Mary in one word:

- One Word: _____


40) How might this verse connect to Proverbs 4:23 about guarding the heart?

41) What might we think Mary understood about Jesus at this point?

42) How does this verse show transformation in the shepherds?

43) What does “as it was told unto them” say about the reliability of divine messages?

44) What role does gratitude play in this verse?

 45) What does this verse teach us about the importance of obedience and faith?

46) How does this passage (verse 16 - 20) reflect the movement from revelation to response?

A LOWLY BIRTH

— Christ the Lord —

Such a lowly beginning to the life of Christ upon earth is an astounding fact. We have been so familiar with it ever since we knew the name of Christ, that it fails to strike with the force that belongs to it. A lowlier birth it would be impossible to imagine. Parents lowly



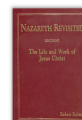
though of noble descent; and forced, for the moment, into the lowliest position in the city of their kindred, to herd with ...

A LOWLY BIRTH

— Christ the Lord —

...“the ox and the mule which have no understanding,” in circumstances offensive to every delicate sensibility, and repugnant to the most rudimentary sense of self-respect! What are we to think about it? It is surely easy to read the lesson. Christ, the highest, began the humblest.

Nazareth Revisited
Robert Roberts, p 67



Section 7 - The Arrival of Magi

Breakdown of Matthew 2:1 - 12

1) Making the Journey	Verse 1	2) Asking the Question	Verse 2
3) Learning the Direction	Verse 3 - 8	4) Seeing the Star	Verse 9 - 10
5) Presenting the Gifts	Verse 11 - 12		

Key Words:

These words appear numerous times in Matthew 2:1 - 12 and we may like to circle, colour, or underline the occurrences in the chapter:

- The word "Judea (Juda)"
- The word "king"
- The word "star"
- The words "young child"

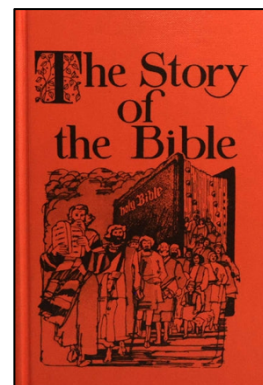
Key Definitions:

- What does the word "Herod" G2264 (verse 1) mean?
- What does the word "wise men" G3097 (verse 1) mean?
- What does the word "troubled" G5015 (verse 3) mean?
- What does the word "demanded" G4441 (verse 4) mean?
- What does the word "privily" G2977 (verse 7) mean?
- What does the word "diligently" G198 (verse 7) mean?
- What does the word "young child" G3813 (verse 8) mean?

Key To The Context:

Far away to the east of Judea, remote from the tiny village of Bethlehem and the proud city of Jerusalem with its resplendent temple, there was a sect known in Persia and Babylonia as the *Magi*, the term used in the Greek language to describe these wise men. The Magi specialised in the study of signs and omens, but, apparently, there was among their number, a small group who clung tenaciously to the teachings that had been given them in times past by a prominent leader who had been placed over them. That leader was the prophet, Daniel.

Among the things that had been revealed to Daniel, was the approximate time when the Messiah, the future king of the Jews, would be born (Dan. 9:25). It seems that he must have disclosed this information to the Magi (the magicians) over whom he had been placed, and that one little group at least, had preserved this teaching, passing it on from generation to generation.



- *The Story of the Bible: Volume 5*, H.P. Mansfield, p 127

Matthew 2:1

- 1) What does “from the east” suggest about the reach of Jesus’ birth?
- 2) How far might these “wise men” have travelled to get to Jerusalem?

Matthew 2:2

- 3) What might the wise men have meant by “his star”? Hint: Numbers 24:17
- 4) How did they know the star signified the birth of the King?
- 5) How does this verse reflect the theme of divine revelation to outsiders?



- 6) Rank our own tendency to ‘prejudge outsiders’ on the scale below:

Seldom 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Often

Reason for our number: _____

- 7) What does “worship him” imply about their understanding of Jesus?
- 8) In all likelihood, the wise men would have known about numerous prophecies concerning Messiah, so with this in mind complete the slide to the right:

- His _____ Micah 5:2
- His _____ Numbers 24:17

PROPHECIES

— The Birth of Messiah —

Old Testament prophecies that foretold the Messiah:

- His Mother **Isaiah 7:13 – 14**
- His Father **2 Sam. 7:12 – 14a**
- His _____ **Micah 5:2**
- His _____ **Numbers 24:17**
- His Arrival **Daniel 9:20 – 27**

THE SEVENTY WEEKS



**Promise
of Christ**
Neh. 2



**Baptism
of Christ**
Matt. 4



**Death
of Christ**
Matt. 27



**Vessel
of Christ**
Acts 9

7 Weeks	62 Weeks	1 Week	
49 years Daniel 9:25	434 years Daniel 9:25	3 ½ years Dan. 9:27	3 ½ years Dan. 9:27

457 B.C.

408 B.C.

26 A.D.

30 A.D.

33 A.D.

70 weeks = 70 x 7 years = 490 years **Daniel 9:24**

Matthew 2:3

- 9) What does “all Jerusalem with him” suggest about the political tension?
- 10) How does this verse foreshadow later conflict in Jesus’ life?

Matthew 2:4

- 11) What two leading religious groups would have made up both:

a) The Chief Priests: _____

b) The Scribes: _____



- 12) What difficulty level was Herod’s question? With 10 being difficult.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Matthew 2:5 - 6

13) What marginal Old Testament verse foretold that Christ would be born in Bethlehem? Hint: Think minor prophet if you do not have a marginal reference.

14) Take a guess at the number of years before Christ was born, that the place of his birth was foretold.

- a) 400 b) 500 c) 600 d) 700

15) How does this verse reflect the role of Scripture in guiding decisions?

16) What does this verse reveal about the religious leaders' understanding?

17) Where is one area of our lives where we know something factually, but we neglect to implement it practically? Hint: We know we should not waste time, yet we mindlessly consume large portions of social media.

Matthew 2:7

18) Why did Herod inquire "privily" about the star?

19) How many men might we think made up this 'private' meeting?

20) How does this verse show Herod's manipulation?

21) What might the wise men have thought about Herod's interest?

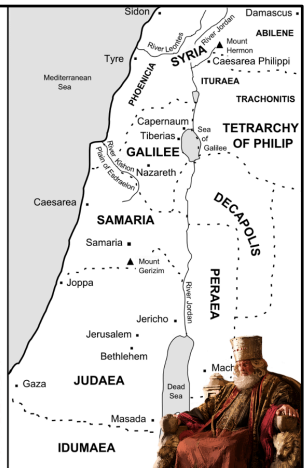
HEROD

HEROD = Heroic
EDOM = Red (i.e. Fleshly)

- He was an Idumean (descendant of Esau or Edom)
- Born 73 B.C. and died 4 B.C. (69 years old)
- Ruled in the region of Israel from 37 B.C. to 4 B.C. (33 years)

"in the days of Herod the king"

Matthew 2:1



Matthew 2:8



22) How does this verse contrast true worship with false motives?

23) Can we find at least one other example of a person or group who feignedly worshipped, and had false motives?



24) What does this verse teach about discernment and trust?

Matthew 2:9

25) What kind of star could this have been - natural or supernatural? Choose one and provide a reason or verse evidence for our answer.

Natural: _____

Supernatural: _____

26) How might the wise men have interpreted the star's movement?

27) What does "stood over where the young child was" suggest about divine guidance?



28) When we think of our own lives, can we think of one way in which God is personally guiding us in the journey to His Kingdom?

29) How does this verse compare to the pillar of fire in Exodus 13:21?

Matthew 2:10

30) Why did the wise men rejoice "with exceeding great joy"?

31) What does this emotional response tell us about their expectations?

32) How does this joy compare to the shepherds' response in Luke 2:20?

Matthew 2:11

33) What does “fell down and worshipped him” reveal about their understanding of Jesus?



34) What do each of these treasures (gold, frankincense, and myrrh) symbolize? Use the Word Bank below to help as we write on the slide under the correct treasure.

Word Bank		
Man	Priest	King

THEIR TREASURES

— They presented unto him gifts —

Gold



- A Metal
- Royalty

Frankincense



- A Powder
- Liturgy

Myrrh



- An Oil
- Humanity

35) How does this verse fulfill Isaiah 60:6?

Matthew 2:12

36) Why were the wise men warned in a dream?



37) What does this verse reveal about God's protection?



38) Can we provide one excellent verse that reminds us that God is ever with us?

Bible Verse: _____

39) Why did they choose to disobey Herod's request?



40) Can we think of a time in our own lives, however great or small, where there might have been divine intervention?

41) What does "departed into their own country another way" suggest symbolically?

Section 8 - The Arrival of Magi

Breakdown of Matthew 2:13 - 21

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1) Receiving the Caution | Verse 13 |
| 2) Protecting the Child | Verse 14 - 15 |
| 3) Slaying the Children | Verse 16 - 18 |
| 4) Heeding the Call | Verse 19 - 21 |

Key Words:

These words appear numerous times in Matthew 2:13 - 21 (and in the surrounding verses) and we may like to circle, colour, or underline the occurrences in the chapter:

- The words "in a dream"
- The word "mother"
- The word "Egypt"

Key Definitions:

- What does the word "flee" G5343 (verse 13) mean?
- What does the word "mocked" G1702 (verse 16) mean?
- What does the word "wroth" G2373 (verse 16) mean?
- What does the words "diligently enquired" G198 (verse 16) mean?

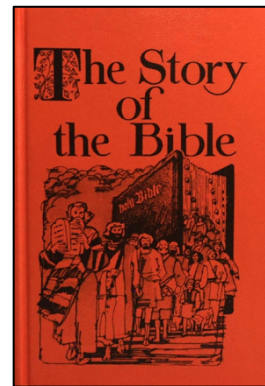
Key To The Context:

But what a shock the wise men received later that night. They had retired to rest, when they had a divine visitation. They learned in a dream that Herod's apparent interest in the baby king was but a cloak for the most sinister and murderous designs against him.

They learned, too, that not only the life of the babe, but the lives of all those closely associated with him, even their own lives, were in danger from the bloodthirsty maniac that sat on Judea's throne as king. They were warned to avoid Herod at all costs, and to get out of the country as quickly as they could.

Immediately they departed into their own country another way. The greatest urgency was now required to remove the young child out of harm's way. The angel of Yahweh appeared to Joseph in a dream, with a message of the most solemn warning: "Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and remain there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him!"

- *The Story of the Bible: Volume 5*, H.P. Mansfield, p 132



Matthew 2:13

- 1) There are approximately four dreams that Joseph has in the early portion of Matthew. Write a short summary about what each dream is about.

Dream	Passage	Short Summary
1	Matthew 1:20 - 21	
2	Matthew 2:13	
3	Matthew 2:19 - 20	
4	Matthew 2:22	

- 2) What does “flee into Egypt” recall from Israel’s history?



- 3) What does this verse teach about obedience under pressure?

Matthew 2:14

- 4) What does Joseph’s immediate response tell us about his faith?

- 5) Why is it important that he left “by night”?

- 6) How does this verse show Joseph’s role in protecting Jesus?



- 7) What does this verse teach about trusting divine instruction?

Matthew 2:15

- 8) What is the significance of the phrase, “Out of Egypt have I called my son”?
- 9) How does this verse show fulfillment of prophecy?
- 10) What does this verse teach us about types in Scripture?
- 11) How does Jesus’ time in Egypt parallel Israel’s history?

Matthew 2:16

- 12) Why was Herod “exceeding wroth”?
- 13) What does this verse reveal about Herod’s character?
- 14) Why did Herod target children “from two years old and under”?



- 15) How does this verse reflect the danger of unchecked power?



- 16) What does this verse teach about the cost of Jesus’ arrival?

HEROD THE GREAT

— A Ruthless Ruler —

Herod was one of those sinister characters who expose all that is worst in the human heart. By craft he had obtained a dispensation from Rome to rule Israel. His anxiety to retain that rule had become an obsession, which was only satisfied by the blood of every rival. Even his wife and sons were sacrificed to his lust and jealousy. Old age found him a victim of his own vice. Living in the luxury of his new palace, this descendant of the hated Esau, surrounded himself with spies, and lived in perpetual fear of retribution from an outraged people, starting at every shadow, and imagining enmity in every political move.



A Life of Jesus
Melva Purkis, p 20



Matthew 2:17 - 18

- 17) How does this verse show the connection between Old Testament prophecy and New Testament events?
- 18) What does this fulfillment tell us about God's sovereignty even in tragic circumstances?
- 19) How does this verse compare to other instances where Matthew cites prophecy, for example in Matthew 1:22 - 23?

20) Where is the location of “Rama” in connection to Bethlehem?

21) What does the phrase “Rachel weeping for her children” symbolize?



22) How does this verse reflect the emotional and spiritual cost of Jesus’ arrival?

Emotional:

Spiritual:



23) What does “would not be comforted, because they are not” mean in our own words?

GREAT MOURNING

— The wail of a multitude —

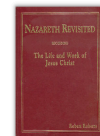
Thereupon arose a wail rarely heard upon earth – the wail of a multitude of bereaved mothers. It is impossible to conceive acute natural agony than that inflicted on the mothers of Bethlehem. As no human affection is stronger than that of a mother for her



child, so no suffering could be greater than that caused by this cruel slaughter. Many have been the efforts of the pencil to depict the scene

various the success – tragic enough, all, but doubtless none of them coming up to the reality. It is one of the most harrowing episodes in the story of human suffering – a long, dark, dreadful story...In Ramah was there a voice heard, lamentation and weeping and great mourning.

Nazareth Revisited
Robert Roberts, p 83



24) How does this verse connect to Jeremiah 31:15, keeping in mind the hope that is found in the verses that follow in Jeremiah?

Matthew 2:19 - 20

25) What does this verse teach about waiting for God's timing?



26) Considering that God is in control over political events, can you reference a political even in recent memory that God has used to bring about His plan and/or purpose?

27) What does this verse teach about trusting God after a season of fear?



28) What emotion might Joseph have felt when he was summoned back into Israel?

a) Perplexed b) Leary c) Lost d) Relieved e) Other: _____



29) What would be one Psalm verse and one Proverbs verse that Joseph could have kept in his mind as he brought Mary and Jesus back into Israel?

Psalms _____ : _____ Proverbs _____ : _____

30) What does "they are dead which sought the young child's life" imply about divine justice?

31) How does this verse reflect God's ongoing guidance in Joseph's life?



32) What does this verse suggest about the importance of obedience in uncertain times?



33) How might this verse encourage someone who has been in a season of waiting?

- 34) What does this verse teach about the relationship between divine protection and human action?

Matthew 2:21

- 35) What does Joseph's immediate obedience to the angel's command reveal about his depth of character?
- 36) What does this verse teach us about trusting God's direction?
- 37) What role does Joseph play in safeguarding the fulfillment of prophecy?

Section 9 - The Home of Nazareth

Breakdown of Luke 2:21 - 32

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1) The Statutes of the LORD | Verse 21 - 24 |
| 2) The Spirit of the LORD | Verse 25 - 27 |
| 3) The Salvation of the LORD | Verse 28 - 32 |

Key Words:

These words appear numerous times in Luke 2:21 - 32 and we may like to circle, colour, or underline the occurrences in the chapter:

- The words "the law"
- The word "holy"

Key Definitions:

- What does the word "purification" G2512 (verse 22) mean?
- What does the word "present" G3936 (verse 22) mean?
- What does the word "Simeon" G4826 (verse 25) mean?
- What does the word "consolation" G3874 (verse 25) mean?

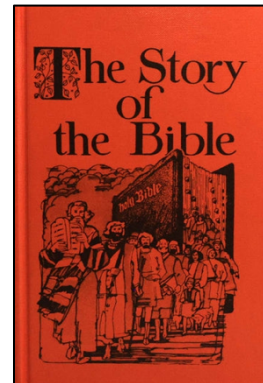
Key To The Context:

The Law of Moses required that a of Mary woman, on giving birth to a son, should separate herself for forty days. During that period of time, she was to remain outside the sanctuary, and was not allowed to touch any hallowed thing (Lev. 12:1-4).

At first sight it seems strange that a mother should be separated from worship at the sanctuary for forty days, merely because she had given birth to a son!

Particularly so, when the instructions of God from the beginning were for mothers to have children. He had declared: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it" (Gen. 1:28; 9:1,7). Had the mother done any wrong in giving birth to a child? Had she sinned in so doing? Was God angry with her because of it? Certainly not! Had not God invited married people to have children? He certainly was not angry with them when they fulfilled His words (Heb. 13:4).

And most certainly this could not have been the case with the birth of His own Son, a birth that caused the angels in heaven to rejoice exceedingly. Why, then, should He deny the mother the right of access to His sanctuary for forty days after the birth of a son? And note, too, that the father was not so treated! What did it all mean?



- *The Story of the Bible: Volume 5*, H.P. Mansfield, p 118

Luke 2:21

1) What Bible verse tells us why Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day?



2) What is one Bible verse that can help us understand what circumcision symbolizes?

3) What does the name “Jesus” mean?

- a) God is with us
- b) YHWH is salvation
- c) Prince of Peace
- d) Son of Man

Luke 2:22

4) What is the “days of her purification” referring to?

5) How does this verse reflect obedience to Mosaic Law?

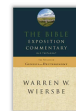
6) What does “present him to the Lord” signify?

DAYS OF PURIFYING

— Holiness unto the LORD —

There are matters of health involved in these instructions. This meant that she had opportunity for rest and recuperation before returning to her household duties. This would encourage her own well being as well as that of the baby. It would also protect her from possible sickness carried by infected people seeking to assist her, or the spread of any infection she might have.

The Bible Exposition Commentary
Warren W. Wiersbe, p 269



7) How does this verse connect to Leviticus 12:1 - 8?



8) How might we think Joseph and Mary felt bringing Jesus to the Temple?

Luke 2:23

9) How does this verse connect to Exodus 13:2?

10) If children are to be raised “holy to the Lord” what are two practical things that parents can implement in the home?

Practical Thing # 1: _____

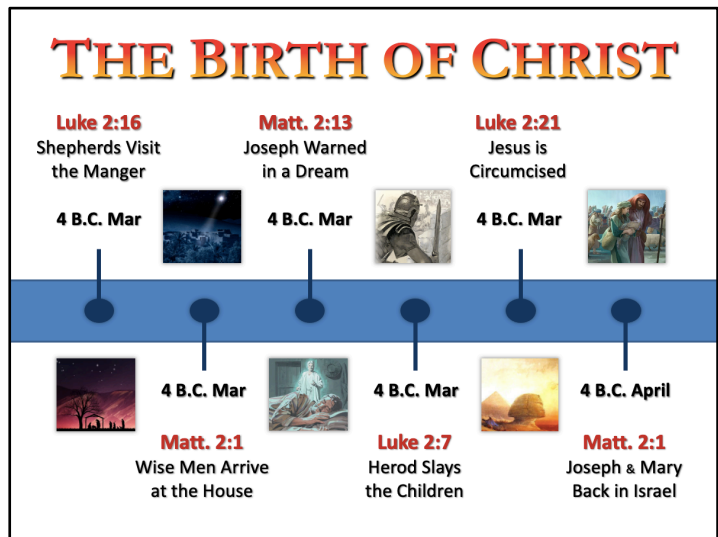
Practical Thing # 2: _____

11) If children are to be raised “holy to the Lord” what is one practical thing that parents can avoid having in the home?

Practical Thing # 1: _____

12) Why was this law important in Israel’s history?

13) How does this verse foreshadow Jesus’ role as the firstborn of all creation (Colossians 1:15)?



Luke 2:24

14) What financial state can we surmise about Joseph and Mary considering that they offered “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons”? Hint: Leviticus 12:8

15) What does this humble offering teach us about worship and sacrifice?

- 16) How does this verse challenge modern Christian ideas of possessing wealth and religious devotion?

Luke 2:25

- 17) Simeon is here described as “just and devout”. Write two descriptive words that other Christadelphians would say about us?

Descriptive Word # 1: _____

Descriptive Word # 2: _____

- 18) What does “waiting for the consolation of Israel” mean in our own language?

- 19) How ready do the Jewish people of today’s world seem for the return of Christ?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- 20) How ready are we personally for the return of Christ?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Luke 2:26

- 21) What does it mean that Simeon was promised he would not die before seeing the Christ?

- 22) How might we think Simeon felt knowing this promise?

- 23) Who or what revealed to Simeon that he would see the Christ?

- a) An angel
- b) A prophet
- c) The Holy Spirit
- d) A vision in the temple

REVEALING GOD’S WORD

Surely the Lord God will
do nothing, but he
revealeth his secret unto
his servants the prophets.

Amos 3:7

Luke 2:27 - 28

24) Why is it significant that Simeon met Jesus during the purification ceremony?



25) What does this verse teach about being led by the Spirit?



26) Can we support our explanation to the above question with a Bible verse?

Bible Verse: _____

27) How does this verse connect to Psalm 103:1 - 2 about blessing the Lord?

**PRIESTLY
BLESSING**

The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Numbers 6:24 – 26

Luke 2:29

28) What does Simeon mean by “Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace”?



29) What does “according to thy word” reveal about Simeon’s faith?

30) How does this verse connect to Psalm 119:165 about peace for those who love God's law?

31) What does Simeon say he is ready to do after seeing Jesus?

- a) Preach the gospel
- b) Depart in peace
- c) Return to his home
- d) Offer a sacrifice

Luke 2:30 - 31

32) What does Simeon mean by “mine eyes have seen thy salvation”?



33) What might we think Simeon expected salvation to look like?

34) What does “prepared” suggest about God’s intentional plan?



35) Why is it important that salvation is described as being for “all people”?

Luke 2:32



36) How are we included in Simeon’s phrase “a light to lighten the Gentiles”?

37) What is the significance of “the glory of thy people Israel”?

38) How does this verse connect to Isaiah 49:6?

39) According to Simeon, Jesus is:

- a) A prophet to Israel only
- b) A teacher of the law
- c) A hope to the Gentiles
- d) A ruler of the Temple

Section 10 - The Home of Nazareth

Breakdown of Luke 2:33 - 40

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| 1) The Sword of the LORD | Verse 33 - 35 |
| 2) The Servant of the LORD | Verse 36 - 40 |

Key Words:

This word appears numerous times in Luke 2:33 - 40 and we may like to circle, colour, or underline the occurrences in the chapter:

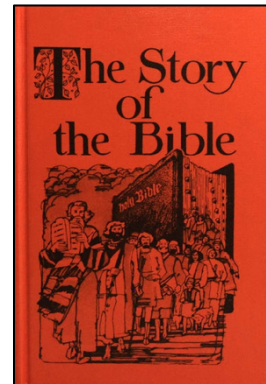
- The words “spoken/spake”

Key Definitions:

- What does the word “marvelled” G2296 (verse 33) mean?
- What does the word “pierce” G1330 (verse 35) mean?
- What does the word “Anna” G451 (verse 36) mean?

Key To The Context:

Having proclaimed the glory of the Son, Simeon also spoke of his sufferings. The sober words he now uttered to the young mother showed that the pathway to glory lay through the dark vale of tears. For having also commended Joseph and Mary to God, he spoke directly to the mother of the Lord: “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against (yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also); that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” These were prophetic words, warning Mary that sad days lay ahead. To the people of Israel the Lord Jesus would be as a stumbling stone, over which they would fall, though, ultimately, the nation would rise to a greater glory than it ever manifested before. Simeon also predicted the sadness of Calvary, when the Lord would die upon the cross, and a weeping mother would see the travail of her firstborn of whom she had expected to see only triumph, victory and glory. He told, too, of how Christ would be a sign which would be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts would be revealed. It would not be possible, predicted Simeon, for anyone to remain indifferent to Christ; his ministry would sharply divide the people, revealing them in their true characters, showing what they really believed in heart, tearing aside the veil of hypocrisy and the veneer of respectability that hid their true state.




- The Story of the Bible: Volume 5, H.P. Mansfield, p 124

Luke 2:33

- 1) Why were Joseph and Mary described as “marveling” at Simeon’s words?
- 2) What does this verse reveal about their understanding of Jesus’ identity?
- 3) What was Joseph and Mary’s reaction to Simeon’s prophecy?
 - a) Fearful
 - b) Amazed
 - c) Angry
 - d) Confused

Luke 2:34

- 4) What does it mean that Jesus is “set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel”?

 5) How does this prophecy reflect the dual nature of Jesus’ impact?

- 6) What does “a sign which shall be spoken against” imply?

- 7) How does this verse connect to Isaiah 8:14 - 15?



 8) How might this prophecy have affected Mary emotionally?

THE FALL AND RISING


— of many in Israel... —

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| • The Masters in Israel | Matthew 21:44 |
| • The Counselors of Israel | Matthew 15:14 |
| • The Many Disciples | John 6:61 |
| • The Son of Perdition | Acts 1:18 |
| • The Unrepentant Thief | Luke 23:39 |

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| • The Master in Israel | John 3:10 |
| • The Counselor of Israel | Luke 23:50 |
| • The Eleven Disciples | Acts 1:10 |
| • The Son of Jonah | Luke 22:32 |
| • The Repentant Thief | Luke 23:40 |

-  9) What does this verse teach about the cost of truth?
-  10) Has there been a time in life where the Truth has cost us something? Note: This can be a work opportunity, friends, etc.

11) How does this verse foreshadow the rejection Jesus would face?

-  12) How does Jesus continue to be a dividing figure in society today?


Luke 2:35

13) How does this prophecy most likely relate to Mary's experience at the cross?

14) Why would God allow Mary to suffer as part of His plan?

-  15) How good are we at letting the Word (Hebrews 12:4) discern our hearts?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

-  16) What does this verse teach about the emotional cost of discipleship?

17) According to Simeon, what would happen to Mary?

- a) She would be exalted
- b) She would be forgotten
- c) A sword would pierce her soul
- d) She would become a prophetess

Luke 2:36

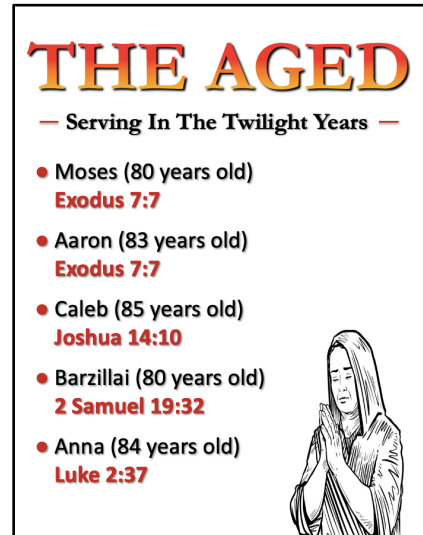
18) What does “a prophetess” mean in biblical terms?

19) Write down at least one other prophetess in the Biblical record.

Prophetess: _____

Passage: _____

20) Why is her age and widowhood emphasized?



21) How does Anna’s life reflect devotion and perseverance?

22) What does this verse teach about women’s roles in spiritual life?

23) Anna was from which tribe?

- a) Judah
- b) Asher
- c) Levi
- d) Benjamin

Luke 2:37

24) How much money does it require to serve “God with fastings and prayers night and day”?

25) How does Anna’s example reflect the spiritual discipline of worship?

26) How many hours per day might we suppose that Anna devoted to things spiritual when we consider she was committed “night and day”?

- a) 1 b) 2 c) 4 d) 6 e) Other: _____

27) On the scale below, rank how devoted we are to regularly serving in the Ecclesia:

Hardly 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Often

Luke 2:38

28) Why did Anna speak to those who “looked for redemption in Jerusalem”?

29) In what way do the individuals that Anna spoke to inform our direction in preaching?

30) In what way(s) does Anna’s witness complement Simeon’s?

GENEROUS

— The Service & The Spirit —

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6 – 7

Luke 2:39 - 40

31) Why did Mary and Joseph return to Nazareth after fulfilling the law?

32) What does “performed all things according to the law of the Lord” teach about our obedience to the laws of God?

33) How does this verse connect to Matthew 2:23 about Jesus being called a Nazarene?

- 34) What does this verse reveal about the importance of spiritual and legal responsibility?
- 35) Are we living in a place like Nazareth that will help us “grow, and [wax] strong in spirit, [being] filled with wisdom”?

HOME OF NAZARETH

It is surely significant the Almighty God chose a poor family living in an obscure and despised place, remote from the centre of national life in Jerusalem, for His Son's upbringing. God knew that an upbringing among simple country folk and in touch with the rhythms of nature was more suitable for Jesus than an upbringing in the sophisticated courts of Jerusalem. His childhood in Nazareth must have equipped Jesus to understand and relate to the challenges of ordinary men and women and the pressures that come with poverty and with being a social outcast.

Mary: Handmaid of the LORD
Geoff Henstock, p 10

