

Jesus' birth - God sends Jesus to rescue his family



In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what

the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

~ Luke 2:1-20 ~

If you needed to be rescued, would you want some one to send a baby to save you?

Probably not! Babies are cute, but they can't really do much, can they?

But God's rescue mission involved sending a baby to save his family!

It does sound pretty crazy, but it wasn't any old baby that God sent, it was Jesus, the Messiah the Lord.

Messiah the Lord means God's special chosen one. See Jesus was God's special chosen one, in fact he was God come as a human, to come and fix up and rescue God family!

That is right, Jesus is God come as a human!

God's plan to rescue his family was all about him coming, as a human to rescue his family and make it possible for everyone everywhere to be part of his forever family!

How good is that!

Some questions to think about:

1. How would you have felt if you had been there with the shepherds that night when the angel appeared?
2. What was the good news that the angel had for the shepherds?
3. Why is Jesus more special than any other baby that has ever been born?
4. How are you going to respond to Jesus?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that in Jesus you became a human. Thank you that you kept your promise to rescue your family. Thank you that you have made it possible for everyone everywhere to be part of your forever family.

Amen.