

17. The Birth of a Savior

Introduction: In the previous story, God asked his messenger, Isaiah, to bring good news to the people of Israel. This good news was that God would send a savior to come into the world. This savior would bear the sins of the people. After seven hundred years, the savior that God had promised was born. (Isaiah 53)

There was a young woman named Mary. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph. But before they got married, God's spirit made Mary pregnant. (Matthew 1:18)

When Joseph learned that Mary was pregnant, he did not want to insult her in front of others. He was planning to quietly divorce her. While he was thinking about this, God's angel came to Joseph in a dream and spoke to him. (Matthew 1:19–20)

“Joseph, David's descendant, you must listen. Do not be afraid. Go and take Mary as your wife. It was God's spirit that made her pregnant. You are to name this child Jesus. Jesus has come to save people and bear the sins of people. Through him, man's relationship to God can be reconciled.” (Matthew 1:20–21)

When Joseph awoke he followed what the angel told him do and took Mary as his wife. But he did not sleep with her until after Jesus was born. (Matthew 1:24–25)

A few months later, Mary gave birth to this child. An angel had visited her as well and told her to give the child the name, Jesus. (Luke 2:21)

Joseph and Mary brought little Jesus to the city of Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, there was a place to worship God. Following their law, Joseph and Mary went to this city to present Jesus to God. When they arrived at the worship place, they met an old man. This old man had been waiting there for a long time, waiting for God to give Israel the savior. (Luke 2:22, 25)

When he saw little Jesus, he held him, and happily praised God. (Luke 2:28)

He said, “God, you have done what you have promised. Now I have nothing more to wait for; I can leave this world, because you have let me see this savior who can save this world. He is really our hope.” (Luke 2:29–32)

Joseph and Mary heard what this old man said about this child and were puzzled. (Luke 2:33)

Later, this old man gave a blessing to the child, Jesus, and told Mary, “In the future many people will not accept this child, and many people will have hope because of him.” (Luke 2:34–35)

After Joseph and Mary had visited Jerusalem, they went home. Jesus grew up day by day with a healthy body and much wisdom. God was very pleased with him. (Luke 2:39–40)