

Lesson 3 | December 19, 2021

The Savior Is Born

Study Text: Luke 2:1–40

Central Truth: Jesus was born to be the Savior of the world.

Key Verse: Luke 2:11

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord (KJV).

The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! (NLT).

Learning Objectives

- Students will understand the significance of the Savior's birth in the lives of individuals, communities, and nations.
- Students will be confident in sharing the true meaning of Christmas with unbelievers.
- Students will be motivated to do something tangible to represent Christ to someone in need this week.

Introducing the Lesson

Say: It is easy for believers to get drawn into the “trappings” of the Christmas season and forget the reality and significance of our Savior's birth. This lesson brings us back to that reality and helps us refocus on truths we can share with others.

Opening Activity—God's Purposes Fulfilled

Ask: What example can you give of a way that God has orchestrated an event or circumstance in your life.

Say: The time had come for the long-awaited Messiah to be born, and we see God's hand orchestrating the events leading to the fulfillment of the prophecies surrounding the birth of Jesus. Because of a census, Joseph and Mary were required to travel to Bethlehem, the city of Joseph's ancestors, to register, fulfilling the prophecy of Micah 5:2. This was only the beginning of many prophecies to be fulfilled. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

The Christmas story is perhaps better known to the secular world than any other account in the Bible. Through the years, Christmas has been mentioned in countless television shows and movies, through music created just for the holiday season (by believers and unbelievers alike), and in displays of nativities that dot the landscape in the month of December. However, the simple-yet-profound significance of Christmas is

often lost in the rush and busyness of the season. **People too often fail to grasp the powerful truth that God sent His only Son into this world as the sacrifice for sin, to be the Savior of the world. To provide atonement for all heaven as well as the earth.**

Heb. 8: 7 If the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need for a second covenant to replace it. 8 But when God found fault with the people, he said:

**“The day is coming, says the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel and Judah.**

11 So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. 12 With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever.

Jesus radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. God promised everything to his Son as an inheritance and through Jesus he made the universe. Because I am human, Jesus became flesh and blood so he could die breaking the power of the devil who had the power of death. Jesus did not come to help angels, he came to help me. Since he has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.

Part 1—Humble Birth God Worked Through Circumstances

Luke 2:1–5

[Luk 2:1-5 KJV] 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.

Say: A careful study of the birth of Jesus reveals multiple ways that God used circumstances to accomplish His will. He used a Roman census to bring Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, and He used the jealous King Herod to fulfill the prophecy of the “cry” that was “heard in Ramah” (Matthew 2:18, NLT). **God also uses our circumstances to accomplish His will in our lives.** (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Luke, the physician and historian who was a Gentile saved by God’s grace, gave us some of the most precise time frames related to world history found in the New Testament. Caesar Augustus, who ruled from 27 bc to ad 14, had a census taken of the Roman Empire (Luke 2:1). This census was done while Cyrenius (verse 2, KJV; Quirinius, NLT) was governor of Syria.

The Bible does not give the ages of Joseph and Mary, though it does refer to Joseph’s occupation as a carpenter (see Matthew 13:54–56). This placed him within the social status of the working class; not priest or teacher, but not among the poorest classes either. Both Joseph and Mary were descendants of King David.

The census forced people to return to the cities of their ancestral birth to register (verse 3). For Joseph, this meant traveling about 100 miles south from Nazareth to Bethlehem, the city of David. **This was at least a three-day journey. It would have been inconvenient for Joseph, but with Mary, who was pregnant, it would have been trying and wearisome (verses 4–5).**

It is noteworthy that God used a pagan ruler’s census to bring the King of kings to the city of Bethlehem for the most momentous birth in all history. **Jacob had prophesied over his son, Judah, that the king’s scepter would not be taken from his line (see Genesis 49:10).**

[Gen 49:10 KJV] 10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him [shall] the gathering of the people [be].

This prophecy would find its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus. Micah had prophesied that from Bethlehem would come a “ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting” (Micah 5:2, KJV).

[Mic 5:2 KJV] 2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, [though] thou be little among the thousands of Judah, [yet] out of thee shall he come forth unto me [that is] to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth [have been] from of old, from everlasting.

God can use the circumstances of life to fulfill His purpose. Through difficult circumstances, He can open a way for miracles in our lives that would not have been possible if conditions had remained the same. God can also guide us through difficult situations that help us grow spiritually and bring honor to Him.

Discuss

? What are some specific events you can recall from the Christmas story that are recorded in Scripture?

? Describe a time when you endured a difficult situation that ultimately helped you grow spiritually. In what ways did you grow?

The King of Kings Was Placed in a Manger

Luke 2:6–7

[Luk 2:6-7 KJV] 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.

Say: The location of Jesus' birth is irrefutable evidence of the love of God for humanity. The Creator of the universe, the King of kings, "gave up his divine privileges" to begin a 33-year sojourn on this planet (Philippians 2:7, NLT). (Share your highlights from the following text.)

As a result of our many Christmas pageants, we often imagine that Mary and Joseph trudged into Bethlehem mere hours before Jesus was born and knocked on doors looking for a place to stay. However, the text does not tell us how long they were in Bethlehem before the time came for the birth of Mary's baby. **It may have been a few hours, or it could have been a few weeks, since Joseph was likely surrounded by family who had gone to Bethlehem for the census and also may well have had relatives living there. We do know that they found a place that was safe, private, and humble for His birth.** It was a stable for animals, perhaps in a cave attached to a family home. Mary wrapped her firstborn baby in strips of cloth and placed Him in a manger (Luke 2:6–7).

Those born into royalty, riches, and privilege often struggle to relate to the poor and outcasts of society. The pain and despair of those who struggle to adequately feed themselves and provide the basic needs of life are unfamiliar to many who have enjoyed the abundance a privileged birth often brings. **Jesus, the Son of God, came**

into the world in humble circumstances. This is a powerful reminder that He can relate to our weaknesses and understand the struggles we face in life. Looking at the events of this first Christmas, we can catch a glimpse of the heart of God—His great compassion for us. **Jesus came into the world without fanfare and without the privileges normally afforded to royalty. In that lowly stable, everlasting hope and light came to the world in the person of Jesus Christ.**

Resource Packet Item 1: What About Bethlehem?

Distribute the work sheet and divide your class into small groups. Ask one half of the class to work on the Old Testament section while the others work on the New Testament section. Then ask the groups to report their responses.

Discuss

? What significance do you find in the Savior's coming into the world through humble circumstances?

? Read Philippians 2:5–11. Paul opens this passage about Christ with an admonition that we should have the same attitude Jesus had. How can you make that happen in everyday life?

Part 2—Angelic Announcement Good News Proclaimed

Luke 2:8–14

[Luk 2:8-14 KJV] 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.

Say: When the angels announced Jesus' birth, they did not go to the temple to find the religious leaders of that time, nor to the palace to tell the king. Instead, they went to a group of ordinary shepherds, showing the inclusiveness of God's plan. This good news was for everyone. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

While the birth of Jesus was humble in its circumstances, it was not completely without fanfare. **The birth announcement was made in such a way that it pointed again to Jesus' coming to be the Savior of the world.**

Bordered by hills, Bethlehem was a good place to raise sheep, often to be offered as sacrifices. **So it is fitting, perhaps, that the first announcement of the Savior's birth was made to a group of shepherds. While watching over their flocks at night to protect them from thieves and attack by wild animals, an angel of the Lord came to these shepherds. Though they may have been largely unnoticed by the world, God invited them to visit His Son. In the light of the glory of the Lord, these poor shepherds were terrified (Luke 2:8–9).**

The angel then spoke a word of peace. The shepherds were not to fear because the message was one of good news for all people (verse 10). The angel spoke of Bethlehem, the city of David, where the Messiah had just been born. He would save the people from their sins. And the shepherds would find the Baby lying in a manger, or feeding trough, wrapped in strips of cloth (verses 11–12). **This was a lowly birth for the highly exalted Son of God.**

When the message had been given to the shepherds, a large number of angels appeared, praising God, who is glorious above all things. Through His Son, God offers peace to all people (verses 13–14).

The peace the angels spoke of extends to us today. **We must first see the need to carry this message to individuals in our communities, for there can be no peace in society without peace in each person, family, and neighborhood. It starts with prayer, for this is a divine work, and extends to people one-on-one. May we all find our place in extending God's peace through our hearts and our hands.**

Resource Packet Item 2: Prince of Peace

Distribute the work sheet and discuss the questions as a class.

Discuss

? What special significance might there have been in the fact that shepherds visited Christ that night? What does the Bible, including the Old Testament, say about shepherds?

? How can we take the message of peace to a world so torn apart by pain, uncertainty, selfishness, and violence?

Good News Embraced

Luke 2:15–20

[Luk 2:15-20 KJV] 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.

Say: The shepherds didn't question the announcement by the angels. They simply hurried to Bethlehem to give praise to the newborn Messiah. Praise for the work of God is always an appropriate response. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

The angelic proclamation inspired action, which is the response of faith. After the angels had left, the shepherds decided they would go to Bethlehem to see this newborn Baby (Luke 2:15). **They were not going in order to prove if this were true or not, but to give praise for what had been told them.** After a hurried search, they found Mary and Joseph, with the Baby lying in a manger (verse 16). **Their faith led them to find the promised Messiah.**

When God speaks to us through His Word, we should also be inspired to act. **Faith should produce a change in how we go about our lives.**

When their time with the Baby was done, the shepherds once more expressed the simple faith that pleases God: They reported the good news to others about Jesus. The words of God's grace from the lowliest of men amazed those they approached (verses 17–18). **They did not just rejoice in the moment, only to keep quiet about it afterward. They went out and told others, who were, in turn, astonished by their message.**

Mary chose to keep these things to herself for a time, treasuring her memories of these events in her heart. She pondered them often (verse 19). **Also, the shepherds returned to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for what they had experienced (verse 20). Their response of praise to God lifts our hearts yet today, for we know that God's grace extends to people at every level and status of life.**

Even today, we can respond to God's grace, choosing to lift our voices to Him in praise through the day and to recognize His mercies in each day's events. And **we can also**

tell others about the Savior, who came to bring peace and God's favor to all people.

Discuss

? What kinds of thoughts and emotions might the shepherds have experienced that night? What thoughts and emotions do you experience when God has done something amazing in your life?

? How can you express your worship to God for sending His Son to be the Savior of the world?

Part 3—Seeing God's Salvation

Jesus Recognized as the Savior

Luke 2:21–35

[Luk 2:21-35 KJV] 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. 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.

Say: When Mary and Joseph took Jesus to be presented at the temple, they encountered Simeon who, directed by the Holy Spirit, confirmed that the Baby they were holding is truly the Christ. He also gave them a glimpse of the future for this Child. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Mary and Joseph had the Baby Jesus circumcised on the eighth day, in accordance with the law of Moses (Luke 2:21). He was given the name Jesus, the name the angel told Joseph to give Him (see Matthew 1:21). **The name “Jesus” means “the Lord saves” and reflects the mission of the Messiah.**

Jewish mothers went through a time of ritual purification after giving birth, which was forty days for the birth of a son (see Leviticus 12:1–5). Following this time of purification, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to present Him to the Lord at the temple (Luke 2:21–23). This ritual would involve the sacrifice of a pair of doves or pigeons for the poor, or a lamb for the wealthy (verse 24; see Leviticus 12:8).

In Jerusalem at that time was a man named Simeon, a devout follower of God who was longing for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. **The Holy Spirit was with him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he saw Christ, the anointed One (verses 25–26). Divinely directed, he went to Mary and Joseph in the temple and took the Baby in his arms, offering praise to God for the fulfillment of His promise to Israel to provide salvation (verses 27–28). Simeon could die in peace, for the Messiah had come—the One who would be a light to the Gentiles and the glory of Israel’s people (verses 29–32).**

Mary and Joseph were amazed at what was said (verse 33). **It was not that they were unaware of who Jesus was, and is, but the scope of what He was to accomplish was being made clear to them. He would be not only the glory of the people of Israel, but He would also be a light to the Gentiles (verse 32).**

The blessing of Simeon may well have surprised these parents even more. **The Child would cause those who believe to be raised up and those who deny Him to fall. Simeon also said that a sword would pierce Mary’s heart, referring to Jesus’ suffering that she would one day observe (verses 34–35).**

Resource Packet Item 3: What Would I Say if I Were . . . ?

Distribute the work sheet and give students a few minutes to fill it in. Then ask a few people to share what they have written.

Discuss

? In what ways can a Christian today reawaken the sense of wonder and amazement that was experienced that first Christmas?

? How would you answer someone who asked what Christmas means to you?

Jesus Proclaimed as the Savior

Luke 2:36–38

[Luk 2:36-40 KJV] 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. 39 And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. 40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

[Luk 2:38 NLT] 38 She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

Say: The message of Jesus was beginning to spread, even when He was a Baby. Not only did the shepherds tell others about Him, but later in Luke we see that Anna, an elderly widow, eagerly “talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem (Luke 2:38, NLT). (Share your highlights from the following text.)

While Joseph and Mary were at the temple in Jerusalem to present Jesus, a prophetess, Anna, approached them. Her husband had died after just seven years of marriage, and now she stayed at the temple praying and fasting continually (Luke 2:36–37). Moved by the Spirit, Anna gave thanks to God, speaking to those around her who longed for the redemption of Jerusalem (verse 38).

People around us are looking for something meaningful to fill their lives. At Christmas, this search is heightened as people look to recapture some sense of the peace or joy that the birth of Jesus promises. This desire can be met as Christians proclaim Jesus as the Savior of the world. **The Christmas season provides many opportunities to share with the lost “good tidings of great joy” (verse 10, KJV).**

One way to do this is to take part in giving to those in need, perhaps through the church or a local need-based agency. Work together with your family and friends to relieve some of the stress that single parents or those living alone might be feeling at this time of year. There are many ways we can help others come to see the truth that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

In a world that is in darkness, this message of light and hope is vital. Let us seek the Spirit to guide us to coworkers, neighbors, or others who may be longing for some sign of hope and peace in a holiday that has become mostly materialistic.

Discuss

? How did Anna use people's expectations to tell them about Jesus?

? What hopes and dreams of others can we use to share the story of Christ?

What Is God Saying to Us?

Say: Jesus arrived on earth in humble circumstances and His first worshippers were shepherds. He was also worshipped by an elderly man who had been waiting for His arrival and by an elderly woman who served others as she waited. All of these individuals were eager to praise Him and testify about what they had seen. God also calls us to share His message with those around us. Christmas is a great time to do so because people can be especially open to the message of the gospel at this time.

Living It Out

Ministry in Action

- Develop a succinct way you can share the true meaning of Christmas with people you come into contact with during this season.
- Join with other class members or have your own family provide food and/or gifts for someone in need.
- Pray for those who have never heard the true Christmas story, whether in your own community or in some other country.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday:

Sure Prophecy.

Isaiah 9:2–7

[Isa 9:2-7 KJV] 2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. 3 Thou hast multiplied the nation, [and] not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, [and] as [men] rejoice when they divide the spoil. 4 For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. 5 For every battle of the warrior [is] with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but [this] shall be with burning [and] fuel of fire. 6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of [his] government and peace [there shall be] no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Tuesday:

Source of Our Peace.
Isaiah 53:1–5

[Isa 53:1-5 KJV] 1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? 2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, [there is] no beauty that we should desire him. 3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were [our] faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Wednesday:

God's Anointed Son.
Psalm 2:1–12

[Psa 2:1-12 KJV] 1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, [saying], 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. 5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. 6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. 7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou [art] my Son; this day have I begotten thee. 8 Ask of me, and I shall give [thee] the heathen [for] thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth [for] thy possession. 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. 10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish [from] the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed [are] all they that put their trust in him.

Thursday:

Miraculous Conception Foretold.
Luke 1:26–35

[Luk 1:26-35 KJV] 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.

Friday:

Virgin Birth.

Matthew 1:18–25

[Mat 1:18-25 KJV] 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.

Saturday:

Cause for Rejoicing.

Matthew 2:1–11

[Mat 2:1-11 KJV] 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.