

**The Nativity  
Luke 2:1-10**

**Introduction:**

Each Gospel is written to depict or picture Jesus from a particular angle. Jesus arrived on the scene in each one of the Gospels in a different fashion. In Matthew, He came in to the scene as a King, with kingly gifts from kingly wise men. In Mark, Jesus appeared as a Servant, without birth record or lineage. In John, He is shown as the true Son of God. In Luke, the story of Jesus' beginning on Earth is different. Luke resented Jesus as the Son of Man or a Human Being; therefore, his description of Jesus at his birth is the most-loved story to us.

**1. Luke the physician**

Most theologians believe that he was with Mary after Jesus left. It is believed that is why Luke was so able to present the picture of Jesus' birth. The birth of Jesus is explained to us in Luke 2:1-20. Today, we refer to this as the "Nativity Scene." The scene actually began in Luke 1:26. There, Mary was approached by the angel, Gabriel, who told her that she was going to give birth to the much-longed-for Messiah.

**2. Mary's Announcement to Elisabeth**

Though filled with wonder and amazement, she listened to the angel, even questioning him on how such things could be possible. He explained that the Holy Ghost would "come upon her" (Luke 1:35). As if to further prove his point, he told her that Elisabeth was currently with child, even in her advanced age, and that she was 6 months along (Luke 1:36). It appears that Mary raced over to where her cousin, Elisabeth, lived in order to verify the angel's words and to inquire of her cousin's well being. In Luke 1:56, we are told that Mary stayed there for 3 months. This means that Mary was, most likely, there at the birth of John the Baptist. What a miraculous sight that must have been for that young lady!

**3. The Story**

In Luke 2, Mary was nearing the time of her delivery when she heard the decree from the Roman ruler, Caesar Augustus, that each person must return to their birth-city to report for tax purposes. She was, at the point, betrothed to Joseph, according to Matthew 1:24-25. Joseph, being of the lineage of David, had to go to Bethlehem to report and pay his taxes. They were living at that time in the city of Nazareth, in the area of Galilee. That was a 6 to 8 mile trip that Joseph had to take with his very read-to-deliver wife! Certainly, that news was not very well received; however, it was obeyed. Though 6—8 miles to us today does not seem a long trip because of our modern forms of transportation, it was a long trip to these people, especially considering the condition in which Mary was. The trip needed to be made both to pay the taxes and, more importantly, to fulfill the prophecy of Micah 5:2. The obedience of Joseph and Mary to the law also fulfilled the divine prophecy of God.

Upon their arrival in Bethlehem, they discovered that all the places to stay in were occupied. They found shelter in a stable and that is where Mary gave birth to our Saviour. The Bible tells us that she placed Him into a manger. This implies that Joseph, in dire need to care for the love of his life, attempted to clean out this animal shelter and food trough in order to provide for Mary's needs. One can only conclude that both earthly parents of our Saviour were madly in love with each other, that they endured what they endured to make Jesus' birth a reality and also to fulfill Scripture, though that was not their intent. They simply obeyed God and followed the instructions of their earthly leaders and God's prophecy was fulfilled. Throughout this entire beautiful story, we can see the directing hand of God, even in the awkward and uncomfortable times, over those who simply obey and do right.

#### **IV. Announced to Lowly Shepherds**

The Bible does not specify a time but it was on the night Jesus was born that an angel appeared to some shepherds. The shepherds, simply out doing their job, were the first to hear of the birth of the Messiah. One can only wonder if the angels were simply so overjoyed with Jesus and were so accustomed to praising Him in Heaven that they had to praise Him at his earthly birth! The shepherds' response to the news that the angles shared with them was to go and see. They went, saw the Messiah and, with joy and gladness, left the Christ-child and began to tell others about what they had witnessed.

#### **Conclusion:**

This tremendous story heralds the arrival of the Messiah, Who entered into this world with the sole purpose of paying for our sins! The Christmas Day Story is the celebration or holiday that honors the birth of Christ. Though there are others who try to change the wording or alter the meaning of this special day, it cannot change. Christmas day is the day we celebrate the truth that God sent down His only begotten Son to begin the earthly process of paying for the sin of all mankind. This special day is revered by many and out ought to be revered because the beauty of this process, which was completed upon His resurrection from the grave, was the completion of the payment for the sin debt that we all owe. Mary we always remember that Christ's birth is why we have the holiday we call "Christmas." Without Christ, there would be no Christmas! Christ truly is the Reason for the Season!!