

The Characters of Christmas

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Luke 1:26–38(ESV)

[26] In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

[27] to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

[28] And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you.”

[29] But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

[30] And the angel said to her,
“Do not be afraid, Mary, for
you have found favor with God.

[31] And behold, you will conceive
in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall call his name Jesus.

[32] He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,

[33] and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

[34] And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

[35] And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God.

[36] And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

[37] For nothing will be
impossible with God.”

[38] And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word. And the angel departed from her.

Luke 2:1–20 (ESV)

[1] In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

[2] This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.^[3] And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

[4] And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

[5] to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

[6] And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

[7] And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

[8] And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

[9] And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

[10] And the angel said to them,
“Fear not, for behold, I bring
you good news of great joy
that will be for all the people.

[11] For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

[12] And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and 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 among
those with whom he is pleased!”

[15] When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

“Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

[16] And they went with haste
and found Mary and Joseph,
and the baby, lying in a manger.

[17] And when they saw it,
they made known the saying
that had been told them
concerning this child.

[18] And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

[19] But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

[20] And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Matthew 2:9–11 (ESV)

[9] After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose

went before them until it
came to rest over the place
where the child was.

[10] When they saw the star,
they rejoiced exceedingly
with great joy.

[11] And going into the house,
they saw the child with Mary
his mother, and they fell
down and worshiped him.

Then, opening their treasures,
they offered him gifts, gold
and frankincense and myrrh.

