



# CHRISTMAS 2021

Study on the Birth of Jesus

## ABSTRACT

Gospel of Matthew shows the kingship of Jesus. Luke shows Jesus as offering salvation to all humanity – Jew and Gentile alike. In the Bible, the story of Christmas begins with an invitation. Luke invites us into a different time and a different place, one full of fascinating people and stories. These people were anticipating a special event. They were waiting for their Savior, who was to appear in the form of a little baby named Jesus.

Melanie Dixon, Pastor Geek



Matthew 1-2



Luke 1-2



GOSPEL SYNOPTIC



Explain the life of Jesus,  
communicate history, for the  
purpose of discipleship

# CHRISTMAS 2021

## OVERVIEW

The Gospels present to us yet another type of writing in scripture that we must understand in order to learn all it has for us.

THE GOSPELS REPRESENT A COMBINATION OF HISTORICAL AND THEOLOGICALLY DRIVEN MINISTRY DOCUMENTS.

When reading the scriptures we need to know who wrote it, who it was written to, and why it was written in order to gain a right understanding of it and then apply it to our lives.

As you read the history of Jesus' birth keep in mind the following purposes for the Gospels:

1. They were written to show others who Jesus truly was
2. They were written to show what the proper and improper response was to who Jesus is
3. They were written to show what the outcome of an individual's response was to Jesus
4. They were written to show what the daily lifestyle followers of Jesus should look like

KEEP IN MIND DURING YOUR READINGS OF THESE GOSPELS THAT THEY WERE WRITTEN TO BE SPOKEN. READ THEM ALOUD. LISTEN TO THEM READ ALOUD ON YOUVERSION IF YOU CAN.

Why is this important? Details designed to make the stories come alive do not need to have any greater significance. Each writer of the Gospels may highlight or put emphasis on one point over another, however the key facts, places, and history of the events remain unchanged. It is the audience that changed and therefore how it was communicated changed as well.

THE GOSPELS SHOULD BE COMPARED TO EACH OTHER WHERE POSSIBLE TO SEE THE EMPHASIS THAT EACH HAS.

By looking at each Gospel as the same time it gives us the opportunity to discern the differences and ask ourselves why did this writer emphasize this and the other did not?

THESE ARE THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JESUS WITH HIS DISCIPLES ON EARTH. BE CERTAIN TO READ THE ENTIRE EVENT.

We cannot pull just a single part of the event out of scripture and expect to understand it. This is especially true with the Gospels. We hear all the time especially in today's times, yeah but is that all the Story? We are blessed to have not 1 but 4 perspectives on the events and life of Jesus. Take in the full story before trying to discern what it means.

## GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

### MATTHEW CHAPTERS 1-2



#### Matthew the Apostle

**Matthew was an educated tax collector who was one of the original 12 Apostles.**

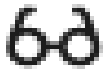


GOSPEL, SYNOPTIC



50 – 60 AD

Time covered is from 7 BC to 26 AD



His account is unique in that it was written for Jewish people, to persuade them that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Matthew understood the importance of supporting his testimony with Old Testament prophecy, which he cited more than 50 times.

**Matthew 1:18-25**

***Joseph's Dream of Mary***

**Matthew 2:1-12**

***The Magi***

**Matthew 2:13-15**

***Flight to Egypt***

**Matthew 2:16-23**

***Bethlehem Genocide & Egypt***

## GOSPEL OF LUKE

### LUKE



**Luke was a very well-educated Gentile and friend of several apostles.  
Luke was a physician**



GOSPEL, SYNOPTIC



60-61 AD

Time covered is from 7 BC to 26 AD



Much of the material in Luke's gospel involves Jesus' dealings with individuals. Many are not wealthy or part of acceptable society of their day. They include many sinners. It is for this reason that Luke is considered the gospel of Good News for the common man.

***Luke 1:26-38 Angel Gabriel Visits Mary***

***Luke 1:39-45 Mary Visits Elizabeth***

***Luke 1:46-56 Song of Mary (Magnificat)***

***Luke 1:57-67 Birth of John the Baptist***

***Luke 1:68-80 Zacharias Prophecies***

***Luke 2:1-20 Nativity***

***Luke 2:21-38 Two Prophets Speak***

### COMPARISON OF EVENTS

Event	Matthew	Luke
Forecast to Joseph	1:24-25	2:7
Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem	1:25	2:6-7
Dedication at Jerusalem	1:25	2:21

## PERSONS AND PLACES

As with any history it is important to understand the background of those active in that history. Here is some to get you started. You may want to know more about others not listed, write them down, see what you can find and then we can go through them together.

PERSON/PLACE	BACKGROUND	REFERENCES
<b>Mary (Mother of Jesus)</b>	<p>Believed to have only been in her teens when visited by the Angel.</p> <p>Very little can be determined about her background as the main focus when speaking about her is focused on affirming the Divinity of Jesus.</p> <p>Here is what we do know, based on the culture and other sources:</p> <p>She was born poor (no one who had resources would live in Nazareth at that time in history)</p> <p>Women were second class citizens and considered property of their fathers or husbands.</p>	<p>Luke 1:26-38</p> <p>Luke 1:46-56</p> <p>John 19:25-37</p>
<b>Joseph (Husband of Mary)</b>	<p>Engaged to Joseph when Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Born in Bethlehem</p> <p>Trade: Carpenter</p> <p>From the Line of David</p> <p>Joseph only appears in the telling of the history and life of Jesus.</p>	<p>Matthew 1:18-25</p> <p>Matthew 2:13-16</p> <p>Matthew 2:19-23</p>
<b>Angel of the LORD</b>	A Heavenly messenger from God	
<b>Elizabeth</b>	<p>Originally deemed barren (which carried a social stigma in their time)</p> <p>Mother of John the Baptist</p> <p>Wife to Zechariah</p>	

PERSON/PLACE	BACKGROUND	REFERENCES
<b>John the Baptist</b>	Mother: Elizabeth (Mary's Cousin) Father: Priest	
<b>Zechariah</b>	Describe as righteous, blameless Priest in the 8 <sup>th</sup> division	
<b>Caesar Augustus</b>	Ruler at the time of Jesus' birth His decisions and actions provide the backdrop for the New Testament events	
<b>Quirinis</b>	Roman governor at the time of Jesus' birth, responsible for taking the census	
<b>Manger</b>	Not what you see in most pictures, this is a cement box used to feed and water animals	

**KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS**

Below are some example words. What word is used in your version? What means does that lead to? What are some other words you can use that mean the same? What are some words that mean the opposite?

VERSE	WORD	DEFINITION	SYNONYM / ANTONYM
	Revelation		
	Sign		
	Betrothal	<p>Marriage what not a romantic affair but a contract.</p> <p>Girls were betrothed (engaged) often as young as 7 or 8, and were considered to be the man's wife, even if not formally married.</p> <p>The formal marriage in those times was when the women (girl) physically moved into the mans house. (which did not occur until they were able to start having children)</p>	

OBSERVATION / ANALYSIS – WHAT QUESTIONS COME TO MIND?



## QUESTIONS? DEFINITIONS?

Example questions you may want to think about. What is the meaning of \_\_\_\_\_? What is the significance of \_\_\_\_\_? Why is this important?

CROSS REFERENCES

Proverbs verse	Cross reference/where else is it explained	What will I do about it?

## PERSONAL APPLICATION/THOUGHTS

What are your thoughts on the passage? What are some things that you need to consider in your day to day life? What are some things you hadn't thought of before?