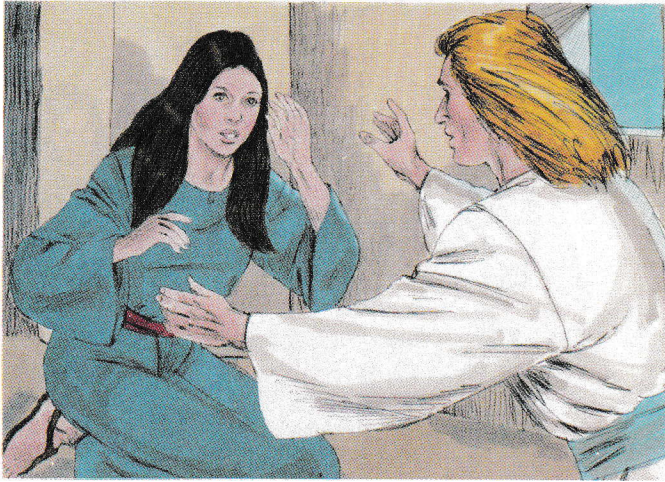


# The Messiah Is Born



**1** Months had passed since the angel told Mary that she would have a baby. Word now came that Augustus, emperor of Rome, had ordered everyone to go to his hometown and sign a roll book.



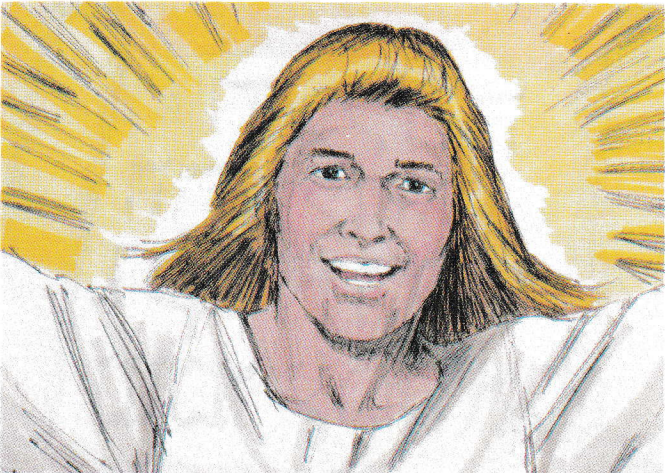
**2** So Joseph took Mary and went from Nazareth to Bethlehem of Judea, where he had been born. It was there that King David, Joseph's ancestor, had been born hundreds of years before.



**3** While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary's baby to be born. Because all the inns were full, they had to stay in a stable. Mary used a manger as a bed for the baby.



**4** That same night an angel of the Lord appeared to some shepherds who were in the fields with their sheep. The glory of the Lord shone around them and they were afraid.



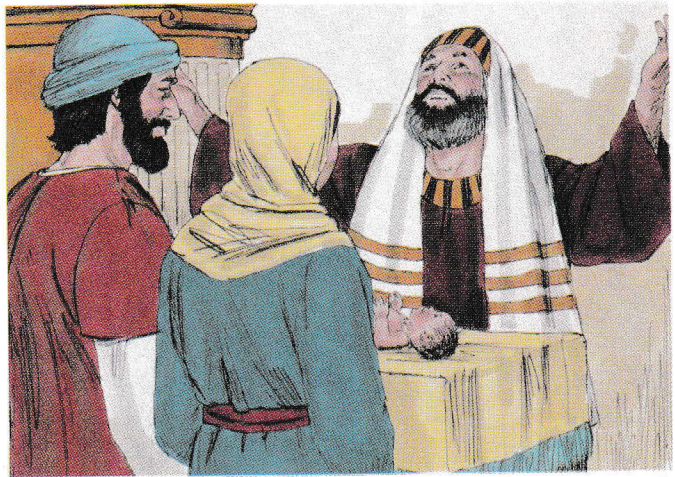
**5** But the angel said, "I have brought you very good news. This very day your Savior was born in the city of David. He is Christ, the Lord. You will find him lying in a manger."



**6** The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem. There they found Joseph and Mary—and the baby lying in a manger.



**7** The shepherds told them all that the angel had said about the child. The words filled them with amazement. Mary remembered these things and thought about them deeply.



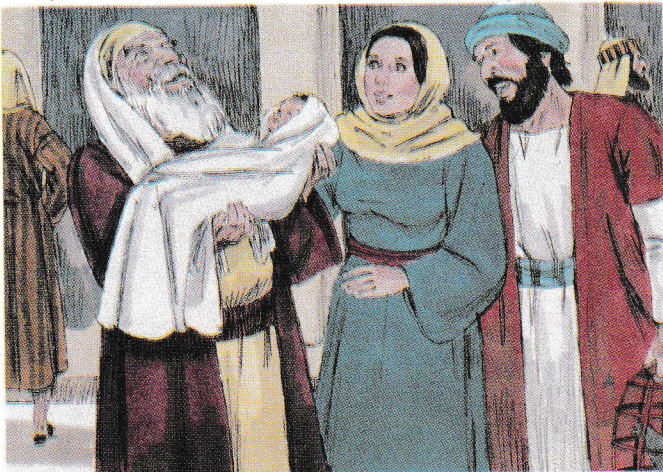
**8** When the child was one week old, they took him to be circumcised. At that time, they named him Jesus, just as the angel had instructed them to do.



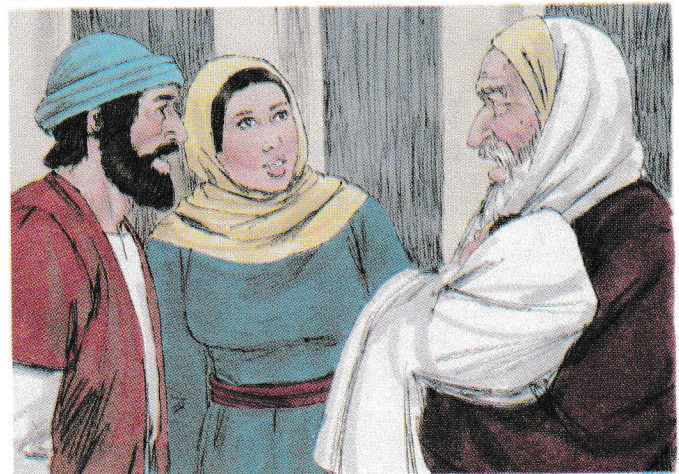
**9** After forty days, Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem. They sacrificed a pair of doves or pigeons, as the Law required. While they were in the Temple, an old man named Simeon came up.



**10** Simeon was a good man who was hoping for the salvation of Israel. The Holy Spirit had promised him that he would not die before he saw the Messiah whom God had promised.



**11** Simeon took Jesus in his arms and gave thanks to God. He said, "Lord, you have kept your promise; now I can die in peace. With my own eyes I have seen your salvation."



**12** He said to Mary, "This child will cause the rise and fall of many in Israel. Many will speak against him, and your own heart will be broken with sorrow." Mary and Joseph were amazed at his words.