

# The Fourfold Gospel

Jesus Birth, The Magi, Flight to Egypt avoiding the slaughter of children from Bethlehem

# Birth of Jesus

- Luke 11:1-7
  - Caesar Augustus decrees a census
    - What was the usual purpose of a census?
      - Taxation
      - War readiness
  - “each in his own city”
    - Why would Jews travel to a different city than they were living in to be counted?
      - The Jews were allowed by Rome to be enrolled as citizen in their ancestral home given by Joshua in the initial distribution of land during the conquering of Canaan
  - “because he was of the house and family of David”
    - As we read, Joseph was descended directly through David as was Mary
      - Through which of David’s son’s were Mary and Joseph descended?
        - Mary through Nathan, Joseph through Solomon

# Birth of Jesus

- Luke 2:8-20
  - “And there were shepherds in the same country...”
    - The Lord chose to herald the news of Jesus’ birth to shepherds – an allusion to the role Jesus would play as the Great Shepherd.
  - “And an angel of the Lord stood by them”
    - To show fellowship with man, AN angel started the revelation. But in short order, a multitude of heavenly host were revealing the message of Jesus’ birth to these shepherds who would then herald the message to the world.
  - “You shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes laying in a manger”
    - The angel reveals the exact place and disposition of Jesus’s birth, revealing something that the shepherds could recognize as prophetic.
  - “And all that heard it wondered...”
    - The evangelism of the good news given to the shepherds and shared with all incited a wondering of what had been revealed then and in antiquity

# Jesus circumcision and dedication

- Luke 2:21-39
  - “And when eight days were fulfilled for circumcising him...”
    - Jesus’ parents were devout Jews and followed the law as it pertained to circumcision, cleansing and naming Jesus.
  - “his name was called Jesus”
    - The name was given to Mary by the angel before Jesus was conceived. Mary and Joseph fulfilled the prophecy and carried out the command given them.
  - “And when the days of their purification according to the law of Moses were fulfilled”
    - Purification after birth – Leviticus 12:1-8
  - “they brought him up to present him to the Lord”
    - As the Law commanded, his parents knew that as a male firstborn, Jesus was to be dedicated to the Lord
  - Who was Simeon? Who was Anna?

# The Magi

- Matthew 2:1-12
  - “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem”
    - The prophetic birthplace of the Messiah – Micah 5:2
  - What were the Magi looking for? What attracted them?
    - The king of the Jews
    - A star
  - “...and behold, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on ahead of them until it came to a stop of the place where the Child was”
    - Was this a normal heavenly body?
    - Some claim this was a convergence of our planets
  - “and opening their treasures, offered him gifts”
    - What gifts were offered?

# Flight to Egypt

- Matthew 2:13-18
  - “Arise and take the young child and his mother, and flee to Egypt”
    - Why did the Lord want them to get out of dodge?
  - “Out of Egypt I called my son”
    - Who was quoted as saying God would call his son out of Egypt?
  - Why did the magi not go back to Herod?
  - What caused Herod to kill the children?