

Christ's Birth in Chronology

I was asked this question: Which gospel we read so we can know the events of Jesus' birth in sequence? That question inspired me to compose this message and put the Scriptures in the following order:

1. The Birth of Jesus foretold: "26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. 29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. 36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing shall be impossible. 38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her." (Luke 1:26-38 KJV) The word of God says ***"26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph ..." (Luke 1:26-27)*** What he means here with, ***"in the sixth month"***, that before the angel of the Lord came to Mary he already went and appeared to Zechariah the priest and he announced to him that his wife Elizabeth the cousin of Mary, will conceive a child, and indeed Elizabeth became pregnant ***"23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. 24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, 25 Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." (Luke 1:23-25 KJV)*** Therefore when Elizabeth was pregnant in her sixth month the angel of the Lord went to Mary and announced to her the birth of Jesus. Mary after the visit of the angel she got pregnant with Jesus.

2. Mary's visit to Elizabeth: "39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; 40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. 41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: 42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. 43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord." (Luke 1:39-45) Mary was

pledged to marry Joseph, and it seemed that from the above Scripture that once she received the good news about Jesus' birth, and that as well as Elizabeth was also pregnant in her six months, she moved from her place in Nazareth, a city in Galilee to a town in the hill country of Judea, Hebron, to visit her relative Elizabeth in order for her to confirm what she received from the angel. Mary moved to Elizabeth and she was pregnant. Her visit was fruitful and it confirmed to her what she had received from the angel, as well as it confirmed to her that she was pregnant by a prophetic message from Elizabeth. ***"56 And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house." (Luke 1:56 KJV)*** So most likely Mary stayed there till Elizabeth was nine months pregnant and possibly Mary witnessed the birth of John.

3. Joseph's decision to marry Mary: "18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. 24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: 25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS." (Matthew 1:18-25 KJV) When Mary had arrived to her town in Nazareth coming back from Judea, she was more than three months pregnant therefore there were obvious changes on her that showed she was pregnant. Now Joseph who was pledged to marry her came to know that and he thought to divorce her. Because those who were pledged to marry, are contracted in order to marry within a certain time. And some they say that even a written document was obtained to prove that agreement. So when Joseph found out that she was pregnant he wanted to leave her, and in order for him to do that then he needed to divorce her because in marriage they were contracted on document as married and cannot leave her without a written certificate of divorce. At that time when Joseph about to take his action God interfered and the angel announced to Joseph that Mary his wife that which was conceived in her was of the Holy Ghost and will give birth to a son whom he will name Jesus because he will save His people from their sins. Mary when she received the good news from the angel she trusted God that He will be the one to speak to Joseph and He will arrange everything to come true. Mary and Joseph were not meeting each other before the appointed day when the angel spoke to Joseph because they were obedient to the Word of God. If they were meeting before marriage how it will be proved to others around them that she was conceived from the Holy Spirit and not by a man. The encouraging message came in a dream that God gave to Joseph, in accordance to God's promise in ***Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."*** That message of God helped Joseph to change his mind and obeyed the Lord, ***"24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:" (Matthew 1:24***

KJV) This where the time that Joseph and Mary had their marriage ceremony. They got married but Joseph slept and united with her only after the birth of her first son, **“25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.” (Matthew 1:25 KJV)**

Every time you look intently into the Word of God you will discover more of the truth of God’s Word that makes you understand life well and give you more practical application of how to obey God and walk in His ways.

After Joseph took Mary home as his wife, further events had happened to finalize the event of Jesus’ birth.

4. The birth of Jesus: **“1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. 2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:1-7 KJV)** God ordained for the census to happen so that the birth of Jesus will take place in the town of Bethlehem to fulfill God’s Word in Micah 5:2, **“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”** When Joseph went there to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child that means they were officially married and they have document to be presented to the local Romans authority. **We can commend Joseph and Mary here with their obedience to God and His Word by their submission to the government authority.**

5. The visit of the shepherd: **“8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, good will toward men. 15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. 18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had**

heard and seen, as it was told unto them.” (Luke 2:8-20 KJV) The shepherds visited Jesus who was laid in a manger in a house for animals.

6. The visit of the wise men: **“1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. 3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. 5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. 7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. 9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. 11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:1-11 KJV)**

7. Jesus’ circumcision and his presentation to the Lord in the temple in Jerusalem: **“21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. 22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; 23 (As it is written in the law of the LORD, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) 24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” (Luke 2:21-24 KJV)** Jesus presented to the Lord in accordance to God’s command in Exodus 13, **“1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine.” (Exodus 13:1-2 KJV)** **“1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean. 3 And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. 4 And she shall then continue in the blood of her purifying three and thirty days; she shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled.” (Leviticus 12:1-4 KJV)**

8. The persecution against Jesus and the killing of the boys of bethlehem: **“12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.” (Matthew 2:12 KJV)** With the visit of the wise men to Jesus, and in their not going back to Herod in Jerusalem, persecution broke out against Jesus and His family. Herod was afraid that another king will take his place of leadership. **“16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was**

mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, 18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.” (Matthew 2:16-18 KJV)

9. The escape to Egypt: *“13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. 14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: 15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.” (Matthew 2:13-15 KJV)* God warned Joseph to take the child Jesus and His mother and to go to Egypt to protect Him.

10. The return from Egypt: *“19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. 21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.” (Matthew 2:19-23 KJV)* The period that Jesus stayed in Egypt is not clearly determined but some they suggested few months while others suggested some years. But most likely that was a short period before God put Herod to death. **Luke 2** confirms that his parents were going to Jerusalem yearly and Jesus went with them at the age of twelve years’ such confirms that they had returned from Egypt, *“41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.” (Luke 2:41-42 KJV)* If Herod was still alive who was looking for Jesus they could not be able to do that.

My Dear and Beloved: God is the one who ordained the birth of Jesus to come and save the world. But obedient, diligent committed people, Joseph and Mary, were willing to suffer and carry the call of God were needed to accomplish God’s plan of salvation for mankind. **Let us learn from the message and see how we can be a channel of blessing to others as Joseph and Mary interacted and obeyed God’s Word and call.**

Let us pray

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your blessed Word of yours to me and for the motivation that I received to go on and*

serve you. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the corrections and the admonishments we received in this message.

Now repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your worldliness and your yoke with non believers. Renounce your stubbornness and your delayed obedience. Renounce your love for material things, the lust of your eyes and the love for the worldly matters. Repent of your immoralities, and the rest of the work of the flesh. Renounce your lack of submission to the government authority. Repent of your selfishness, doing your own will, lack of commitment and non willingness to give to God your time, your effort and your material things. Repent from your non willingness to persevere and suffer for Christ. Repent from wasting your time and spoiling your mind with the Media. Repent of your lack of reading God’s Word in the Bible and your lack of prayer. Lord I repent from the following _____.

Lord, “Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.” Lord give me also more insight in all what I had received from your Word and to apply in my life so I will continue to be effective in my service and ministry unto you. Lord I commit myself to follow you in full obedience to your Word, commands and your good plan for me. Lord give me patience and perseverance to do all my responsibilities as I am waiting for you to come and take me with you for eternity. This all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord thank you for my brethren and my sisters who repented and came back to you willing to follow you and the good plan for them to live for you and to serve you. Lord sustain them and provide for their needs so they will continue to serve you. Lord protect them and direct them with your Holy Spirit and speak to them so they can persevere during the time of their trails. Lord set their lives as good examples to others to follow you.

Lord we pray for us as a church that we will continue to teach your Word and to proclaim your ways to our families and to the rest of our workers and members. Lord we commit ourselves to walk before you in holiness in accordance to your will and plan for us. Lord lead us to direct your people with your Word and plans. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit, and lead us and enable us to reach new people, making new disciples and training new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord I pray for more people to be water baptized, and receives the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord bless and increase all our ministries, and prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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