

**The Birth of Christ****TEXT:** Matthew 2:1-23

and shepherds.

**STORY ELEMENTS:****Key word(s):** "on earth, \_\_\_\_\_,  
good will toward men"**Setting:** circa 5 BC in Bethlehem.**Main Characters:** God, Gabriel, Mary,  
Joseph, Jesus, angels, and shepherds**Climax:** Luke 2:11 *For unto you is born this  
day in the city of David a Saviour, which  
is Christ the Lord.***Plot:** Christ's birth is attended by angels**The Manger**

- (2:1) The decree of Augustus took place in 8 BC. It would have taken a few years for the decree to be fulfilled. The phrase "all the world to be taxed" is best understood as "all inhabitants of Roman provinces were to be registered," i.e., a \_\_\_\_\_ was being conducted.
- (2:3-4) The census required each family to return to their tribal town to register. Since both Joseph and Mary were descendants of David, they made a \_\_\_\_\_-mile journey to Bethlehem.
- (2:5-7) Bethlehem was filled with travelers coming for the census, and accommodations would have been difficult to find. We are not sure where Mary and Joseph stayed, but we do know that when Jesus was born, he was placed in a manger, i.e. an animal \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Shepherds**

- (2:8) The fields surrounding Bethlehem were used for grazing sheep that supplied \_\_\_\_\_ ovine needs. The fields would have been busy all year, so it is futile to try to determine the season in which Jesus was born according to when shepherds were in the field.
- (2:9-14) While the shepherds watched their flocks, an angel appeared to them and gloriously announced the birth of the Messiah. The angel told the shepherds how to find Jesus, and then the angel was joined by a \_\_\_\_\_ of the heavenly host. The angelic choir filled the sky above the shepherds and sang praises to God.
- (2: 15-20) The shepherds quickly made their way to Bethlehem to find the newborn Messiah. When they came to where the babe was laid, they shared their story with Mary, Joseph, and others. The shepherds returned to their flocks glorifying and praising God.

**Observations & Applications**

- Many prophecies were fulfilled in the Savior's birth:
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ in general, i.e., that the Messiah would be the seed of a woman: Genesis 3:15

8. The \_\_\_\_\_ birth: Isaiah 7:14
9. The Messiah would be born in \_\_\_\_\_: Micah 5:2
10. His \_\_\_\_\_ means: Isaiah 53:3
11. He would be the very \_\_\_\_\_ of God: Psalm 2:7
12. Christ became human through his incarnation. Christ's humanity is an important doctrine and one that the Apostle John defended ardently in the first century (1 John 4:2-3). The incarnation was necessary for several reasons:
13. We needed a perfectly \_\_\_\_\_ representative.
- 14.
15. Romans 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.
- 16.
17. We needed a substitute \_\_\_\_\_ and a perfect high priest.
- 18.
19. Hebrews 2:16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. 17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.
- 20.
21. We needed a fully man/fully God \_\_\_\_\_ between God and man. (1 Tim. 2:5)
22. We needed a perfect \_\_\_\_\_ to follow:

***1 Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:***

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**ANSWER KEY:**

Key word(s): "peace" | 1) census | 2) 70 | 3) feeding trough 4) Jerusalem's 5) Multitude | 6) - - - | 7)a) incarnation; b) virgin; c) Bethlehem; d) humble; e) Son | 8) a) obedient; b) sacrifice; c) mediator; d) example