

Lesson 01: The Birth of Jesus

Objective: To know that God is *faithful* and He always keeps His promise.

Background: After Adam and Eve disobeyed God's words, God promised that one day He would send a Savior to earth to save the people from sin (Gen.3:1-5; 12:1-3). Since then God had been preparing the history for the coming of the Savior. And the promise given long ago was *finally fulfilled* at the birth of Jesus two thousand years ago. He was born in Palestine, a tiny country under the rule of Roman Empire (Gal. 4:4, 5).

Introduction: Read over carefully Luke 1 :26-38; Matthew 1 :18-25; and Luke 2:1-7 before you answer the questions.

Let's Think:

1. Jot down what you know about Mary at the time when she learned that she will be with a child (Give Scripture references). In what way will the birth of this child *be different* from the birth of *all* others? What's significant about this truth? and Why?
2. What was Mary's initial response to the news? and why? Do you observe any *change* in her feelings and attitude as the event unfolded? Read carefully Lk. 1 :29, 34, 38.
3. Was Mary aware of the predicament she would be in by being *obedient* to God? But, how was her problem solved? (Mt. 1:18-21)
4. What's significant about Lk. 2:1-7 and Mt. 2:1-6 in the light of Micah 5:2, which was spoken some 700 years earlier? Explain *how history served the purpose of God*. Locate the places on a map.
5. Was there a "media coverage" of the birth of Jesus? How do you describe this "epoch-making" event? Can the significance of an event be measured by the amount of publicity given? Give your reason.
6. How do the names "Jesus" and "Emmanuel" signify the purpose of His birth? Explain. (Read carefully Mt. 1:21, 23; In. 1:14) By the way, has that purpose been accomplished in your life? Take time to reflect.
7. What glimpse of God do you gain through this study? Read also In. 3:16. Is He *your* God? Do you know Him *personally*?

Let's Remember: "But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, .." (Galatians 4:4). An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph saying, " ..she (Mary) will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sin." (Matthew 1 :21)