

BORN: Christian revelation is: The universe, which stretches beyond what telescopes can see and what there might be in addition to the universe we live in, is CREATED. The Creator created our inner person to be like himself. His intention is that we will be his family. Planet earth was created as a place where He would live among us. This will happen. *"I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared ... I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, 'Look the home of God is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will remove all their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever...' He says... 'Look, I am making all things new!'"* (Revelation 21:1-5) The new earth and heavens had to come because the first earth had been fatally damaged by sin. Sin is simply people turning their backs on God and running their world their way. Even as the sin between nations that results in war is undone by the sacrifice of soldiers - so the sin of humankind was undone by the sacrifice of God the Son - like us in spirit - becoming like us physically by being BORN of a woman- the virgin Mary. *"Because God's children are human beings - made of flesh and blood - Jesus also became flesh and blood by being born in human form. For only as a human being could he die, and by dying break the power of the Devil, who had the power of death."* (Hebrews 2:14)

• Matthew 1:18-24 **The virgin Mary becomes the mother of God.**
"Now this is ___ Jesus the Messiah was ____. His mother ___ was engaged to be married to Joseph. But while she was still a _____ she became _____ by the _____." Joseph being a ___ man did not want to disgrace her _____ and planned to break their engagement quietly. But an _____ of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a _____ and told him that he should go ahead and marry Mary because her child had been fathered by the Spirit of God. The angel also told him that they should call the son that would be born _____, which means "God is our salvation," because he will save his people (the human race) from the consequences of their _____. • His coming into the world had been planned before the creation of the world because God knowing the future knew human kind would misuse their freedom and sin and destroy themselves and their world and need to be saved by the only means that would work - the sacrifice of himself. (Ephesians 1:3-5) • God revealed his plan to intervene in the affairs of this world through his _____. Isaiah, the prophet, speaking for the Lord wrote: *"Look! The _____ will _____ a child! She will give birth to a son, and he will be called _____ (meaning God with us)."* Joseph did as the Lord told him and took Mary _____ as his _____. But she _____ a virgin till her son was born. Joseph named him 'Jesus.'"

ENGAGEMENT. The engagement was as good as married. It could be broken only by a divorce. The custom was that when the husband had built a home (had an ability to support his wife) his father would check it out and allow him to go get his wife and bring her to their home. The bride and the wedding party do

not know when that will happen, so they prepare themselves and wait for his coming. (Matthew 25:1-6) That is also the meaning behind John 14:1-3 where Jesus says, *"In my Father's house are many mansions and I go to prepare a place for you. When everything is ready I will come and get you so that you will always be with me where I am."*

JUST. *Dikaios* in the Greek. It was originally used to speak of people who lived in accordance with the "dike," that is, the rule or custom. It means one who is upright, blameless, righteous, gladly conforming to God's Word and ways. A just person among Christians is one who is cooperating with the Holy Spirit who is changing him to be like Christ. Joseph was an appropriate step-father for our Lord.

VIRGIN. *"A virgin shall be with child."* (Isaiah 7:14) The Hebrew word "PARTHENOS," used for virgin in this prophecy of Isaiah could apply to any young girl of marriageable age. However, the Greek word means specifically a woman who had not yet had a sexual relationship with a man. The Hebrew word is used by liberals to claim that Jesus was not conceived by the Holy Spirit. • The issue of our Lord's virgin birth is not negotiable for us. Our salvation is at stake. The clear word of Scripture is that God is His father. Luther said that if Jesus were only another ordinary saint like you and I - rather than having the Holy Spirit as His father - He would need saving Himself - and we would still be lost in our sins. As it was, He was always holy, *"tempted in every way like us yet not sinning."* Hebrews 4:15 *"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty (futile, dead end) life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom He paid was not mere gold or silver. He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____." I Peter 1:18*

REMAINED. Mary did not sleep with her husband Joseph till after the Lord was born. Although afterwards they had many children including James who became the leader of the Jerusalem church. Things used for the Lord's purposes are holy - that means they are not used for any other purpose. That is why the donkey's colt Jesus rode into Jerusalem had never been ridden before. The Christian is holy unto the Lord. *"Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who lives in you and was given to you by God."* I Corinthians 6:19. That is the major reason God made us holy in our spirit on his part and why on our part we strive to live holy lives.

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• Matthew 2:1-12 **The King of the universe become man receives worship.**

Jesus was born in _____ in Judea - the hometown of David because he was a descendant of David and it was spoken by the Father that he would be of the line of David. _____ from the lands east of Israel - Iraq, Iran or India - saw the _____ which the Father placed in the skies to herald the birth of His son as a man. They came to King _____ and asked about it. Herod was _____ because it sounded like a threat to his throne. The wise men of Israel told him of the prophecy of Micah that the _____ of God's people would be born in Bethlehem. So the wise followed the star till it stopped over Bethlehem and the place where the child was. They entered the house and fell _____ before Jesus and _____ him. They gave him _____ of _____, _____, and _____.

SHEPHERD. The Son of God did not come as a cruel tyrant like King Herod and his son Herod Archelaus. He came like a shepherd of sheep. Jesus said, "I am the _____. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ... I know my sheep and they know me.. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd." John 10:11-16 He said to his disciples, "You know that in this world kings are tyrants, and officials lord it over the people beneath them ... For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others , and to give my life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:25-28 "All we like sheep have gone astray, but the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6

GIFTS. They brought gifts suitable for the kind of person Jesus would be. Gold suitable for a king - Frankincense and incense used along with prayers in the Temple suitable for one who would live to intercede for us. Hebrews 7:25 And myrrh which was used in embalming suitable for one who would die for the world's sins and be buried.

What strikes you in this study and this Scripture?
