

Angel appears to Mary

A long time ago, about 2000 years there was a young girl called Mary. Mary was an Israelite, a Jew. She believed in and loved God.

One day as she was going about her ordinary day an Angel appeared.

The Angel said "Mary, God is with you"

Mary was confused and afraid.

The angel said "Don't be afraid, God has chosen you. You will become pregnant and have a son. You should call him Jesus. He will be God's Son. He will be a King whose Kingdom will never end."

Mary said "erm, how can that happen?!"

The angel said "Nothing is impossible with God"

Mary said "I'll do what God says"

Travel to Bethlehem and the birth

Mary and Joseph were Jews. Israelites. Their country had been occupied by the Romans and now the Emperor was in charge. He wanted a census. He wanted to know how many people were in his Kingdom. To make it easier to count he told everyone to go back to the town where they were born. For Mary and Joseph that was Bethlehem. Mary was very pregnant and the journey would have been slow.

When they arrived, they couldn't find anywhere to stay. There were so many visitors to the town. Eventually someone offered them a stable. And that's where Mary had her baby. A boy. They laid him in a manger and called him Jesus.

Shepherds and Angels

The night Jesus was born Shepherds were in a nearby field guarding their flocks. Suddenly an angel appeared bright and shining. The shepherds were terrified.

The angel said "don't be afraid, I have good news. Tonight a baby has been born, he will be the saviour of the world, he is the Messiah (the King you have

been waiting for). You'll find him in Bethlehem wrapped in cloth laying in a manger.

Suddenly the skies were filled with more angels all singing "Glory to God". The shepherds rushed to Bethlehem and found Jesus just as the angel had said. They told Mary and Joseph "the angel said you're son will be the saviour of the world, he is the Messiah, the king we have waiting for" Then they ran through the town telling everyone what they had seen and shouting out praises to God.

The Wise Men

At the time Jesus was born God put a new star in the sky. Some Wise Men in eastern lands saw it and knew it meant a new King had been born. They travelled first to the palace in Jerusalem and asked King Herod "Where is the new King?"

Herod did not know and did not want there to be a new King! His advisors told him the Messiah, the King they had been waiting for was meant to be born in Bethlehem. King Herod sent the Wise Men to Bethlehem (hoping they'd come back and tell him so he could kill Jesus).

The Wise Men followed the star to Bethlehem, it stopped over the place where Jesus was. They entered the house and found Mary and Jesus. They bowed down, worshipped him and gave him gifts fit for a King. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod so they went home another route.