

Destin Church of Christ

August 20, 2023

Chapter 22: The Birth of a King

Matthew 1 – 2; Luke 1 – 2; John 1

Introduction:

For the past 21 chapters of *The Story* we have been on the journey, wondering when we will get there. Today we arrived. We look into the manger and behold the Lord of Glory, the long-awaited Messiah. This is the One who made the heavens and the earth, and everything in them.

Lesson Breakdown:

- The Word (John 1)
- According to Your Word (Luke 1)
- Committed (Matthew 1)
- To Bethlehem (Luke 2)
- Movements (Matthew 2)
- His Father's House (Luke 2)

Plot Points:

- John explicitly teaches the preexistence of the Son of God, the Word who was with God and was God.
- Matthew emphasizes Jesus' birth to a virgin mother and adoptive father who, in faith, committed themselves to God's mysterious plan, including angelic visitors, important dreams, magi from far away, and a trip to Egypt.
- Luke demonstrates God's sovereign hand guiding history to fulfill prophecy and highlights the humble shepherds who visited Jesus.

As you watch the video for Session 22 of *The Story*, notice some of the main points.

- ✓ “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”
- ✓ We learn from the Upper Story that he has been conceived without sin.
- ✓ Emmanuel means “God with us.”
- ✓ Caesar ruled the Lower Story.
- ✓ His birth is not the result of a scandal but a solution to our scandal.

UNDERSTAND THE STORY:

The time between the Old Testament and New Testament is known as the 400 years of silence. During this time, so far as we know, God did not speak—no Scripture was written. (page 307)

➤ John 1:

In the beginning was the Word. (309) [John 1:1]

On page 309, [John 1:2-14], John describes “The Word”:

- Everything was made through the Word. (309) [John 1:2-3]
- In the Word was life, which was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not *overcome* it. (309) [John 1:4-5]
- The world was made through him, but the world knew it not. (309) [John 1:10]
- He has the power to make those who believe in Him the sons of God. (309) [John 1:11-13]
- The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. (309-310) [John 1:14]

1. Who or what is this “The Word” John is describing?

The law comes from Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (310) [John 1:17-18]

➤ Luke 1:

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary, telling her that she will bear a son called Jesus, who will be called the Son of the Highest. (310) [Luke 1:26-28]

Mary is perplexed because she has not known a man, but Gabriel says the Holy Spirit will come upon her. (310) [Luke 1:34-35]

Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, who has also conceived a son. The unborn John leaps in his mother’s womb. (NIB) [Luke 1:36, 39-41]

Mary’s song magnifies the Lord, praising Him for pulling down the mighty from their thrones, and exalting the lowly. (310-311) [Luke 1:46-55]

Elizabeth gives birth. The neighbors and relatives insist they name him after his father. Elizabeth and Zacharias both resist and say his name is John. (NIB) [Luke 1:59-60]

After losing his ability to speak (NIB) [Luke 1:22], Zacharias finds his voice. (NIB) [Luke 1:63-64]

➤ Matthew 1:

After Mary was found with child, Joseph thought about putting her away. An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and told him “that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.” (311-312) [Matthew 1:19-21]

This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 7:14).
(312) [Matthew 1:22-24] – [vs 25 ... NIB]

Joseph marries Mary. Jesus is born. (312) [Matthew 1:24-25]

➤ Luke 2:

(312) [Luke 2:1-7] ... Because of the Roman census, Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem. Instead of a stable, Jesus may have been born in the lower room of a house where animals often stay, and there laid in a manger (*feed trough*).

Shepherds are in the fields attending their flocks, and an angel appears to them.
(312-313) [Luke 2:8-20]

2. What does the angel tell them? (312) [Luke 2:11]

3. Once they get to Bethlehem, how would they know how to find Mary, Joseph, and the baby? (313) [Luke 2:12]

Suddenly, a multitude of the heavenly host appear. (313) [Luke 2:13-14]

4. What is the “Heavenly Host”? (313) [Luke 2:13]

So, they go to Bethlehem and see the baby. (313) [Luke 2:15-16]

5. After the shepherds had seen the baby Jesus, what did they do? (313) [Luke 2:17]

Everyone who heard it marveled. (313) [Luke 2:18]

Mary treasured and pondered all these things in her heart. (313) [Luke 2:19]

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen. (313) [Luke 2:20]

6. Did the shepherds leave their flocks out in the fields?

➤ Matthew 2:

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem.
(313) [Matthew 2:1]

There are three different names for the same group of people: Magi - Wise men – Kings. Some believe they were astrologers.

The term “Magi” refers to Persian priest.

The identification of the Magi is linked to Old Testament prophecies that describe the Messiah being worshipped by kings in Psalm 68:29 and Psalm 72:11.

7. How many Magi (wise men) from the east came to worship Jesus?
8. What were their names?
9. Where were the Magi from?
10. What was their most likely mode of transportation?
11. Without GPS, how was the Magi led to the baby Jesus?
12. Did this star lead the Magi directly to Bethlehem? (314) [Matthew 2:7-10]
13. Was this a real star?
14. How long was it from the birth of Jesus to when the Magi visited Joseph, Mary and Jesus?

The Magi were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and tell him where Jesus is, so they returned to their country by another route. (314) [Matthew 2:12]

After the Magi had left, an angel tells Joseph to flee to Egypt, fulfilling the prophecy in Hosea 11:1. (314) [Matthew 2:13-15]

15. How soon did they leave? (314) [Matthew 2:14]

Joseph, Mary and Jesus stayed in Egypt until the death of Herod. (314) [Matthew 2:15]

16. How long did Joseph, Mary, and Jesus stay in Egypt?

Herod, being deceived by the wise men, was angry and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under. This was a fulfillment of what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet (Jeremiah 31:15). (314-315) [Matthew 2:16-18]

17. Which came first ... verse 13 or verse 16?

18. If John the Baptist was only 6 months older than Jesus (Luke 1:39-45), why is there no mention in the Bible of his life ever having been in danger as a result of King Herod's murder of every child under two years of age?

After the death of Herod, his son Archelaus becomes governor. An angel tells Joseph to move to Nazareth, thus fulfilling what was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene." (315) [Matthew 2:19-23]

19. Where do we find this prophecy?

➤ Luke 2:

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover. One year, Jesus is lost from his parents, and 3 days later, found in the temple. (315) [Luke 2:41-47]

20. How old was Jesus when this happened? (315) [Luke 2:42]

21. Was Jesus the teacher or a student? (315) [Luke 2:46]

"The task is to ask! Ask the right people, the right questions, in order to get the right answers." ~ Ed Young Jr.

Questioned by his parents, he says they should have known He was about his Father's business. (315-316) [Luke 2:48-50]

22. If Jesus was fully God and also fully human, why would he need to engage in the process of learning God's word?

Between the ages of 12-30, Jesus was obedient to his parents and Mary treasured all these things in her heart. The people watched and wondered as he increased in wisdom and stature. (316) [Luke 2:51-52]

Ancestors of Jesus Christ are listed (318-319) [Matthew 1:1-16]. It is a royal line of succession, the line of David through Joseph, rather than a human genealogy through Mary, as in Luke (NIB) [Luke 3:23-38].

From the Lower Story it looked like this baby would be born in sin, the result of a scandal, but from the Upper Story, we see that Jesus was born without sin.

Next week we'll look at the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry. Take time this week to read chapter 23 of *The Story*: "Jesus' Ministry Begins."

Matthew 3 – 4; 11; Mark 1 – 3; Luke 8; John 1 – 4