



THE ACTION BIBLE™

# Christmas

25 Stories about Jesus' Arrival

THE ACTION BIBLE CHRISTMAS  
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# Contents

<b>The Christmas Story</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14. Dove</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>1. Isaiah</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15. Blanket</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>2. Zechariah</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16. Angel in the Sky</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>3. Gabriel</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17. Lamb</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>4. Mary</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18. Shepherd Boy</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>5. Joseph</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19. Simeon</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>6. Elizabeth</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20. Anna</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>7. Joseph’s Friend</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21. Young Astronomer</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>8. Census Announcer</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22. The Star</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>9. Mary’s Friend</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23. Camel</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>10. Traveler</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24. Wise Man</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>11. Town of Bethlehem</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>25. Donkey</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>12. Innkeeper</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Why Did God Send Jesus as a Baby?</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>13. Manger</b>	<b>32</b>		



# The Christmas Story

**Luke 1:26–38; 2:1–20**

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.”

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



# 1 Isaiah

Almighty God, I want to understand.

You have shown me things that have yet to happen. I don't know when they will occur, but I trust that they will someday. You've given me glimpses of Your plans for Your people—and for a special person You're sending: the Messiah. I admit, when I line up all Your promises about Him, they don't really make sense. How could one person be and do so many things?

For example, why would You have this Messiah born in little old Bethlehem? Shouldn't a king come from a mighty city? But I suppose our greatest king, David, was from Bethlehem, and You said the Messiah will be from David's family line. You also said this chosen One will bring Your light from Galilee—and that's so far from Bethlehem. I don't see how that fits together.

You give this man royal titles—Your very own titles! Mighty God and Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. That shows He must indeed come straight from You. But then it sounds like He will be a servant, instead of a king who deserves others to serve Him. You said He will open the eyes of the blind and heal the sick and bring joyful freedom to people in chains. He sounds compassionate and humble.

So why will He be punished? These sad visions You've given me ... I see His suffering and pain, and I just don't understand. How could Your special servant be rejected, beaten, and killed? Won't Your people grasp that You Yourself have sent Him?

The vision I've seen shows that He will be a perfect sacrifice—to take on our wrongdoing so our sins can be forgiven. His punishment will bring us peace, and His wounds will heal our souls.

I'm so glad Your vision doesn't end there ... because You don't let the Messiah remain in death. After He is buried in a rich man's tomb, You will bring Him to life again—forever. And the good news of Your salvation will reach to the ends of the earth!

Almighty God, Your ways are high above mine. You know I will continue to tell Your people what You have planned ... even when I myself can't put it all together. I know some day it will all make sense ... and You will fulfill Your promises, even if it takes centuries.



*What do you think it was like for Isaiah to hear from God?*

*If you met a prophet like Isaiah, what would you ask him?*

*What are your favorite prophecies about the Messiah that Isaiah mentioned?*

