



# The Nativity of our LORD



Year 10 G  
9<sup>th</sup> January 2011

# Quiz

- In how many Gospels is the story of the Nativity told?
  - **2**
- Which Gospels
  - **Matthew & Luke**
- Who told St Mary that she would give birth to the baby Jesus?
  - **The Arch Angel Gabriel**
- Why did St Joseph marry St Mary after he learned that she was going to have a child?
  - **An angel told him to marry her**
- Jesus was born in a ....?
  - **Manger**
- Who was king of Judea when Jesus was born?
  - **Herod**
- Before who did a multitude of angels appear praising God?
  - **Shepherds**
- How many Wise Men where there?
  - **The Bible does not say**
- The Wise Men were present at the Manger (Yes/No)
  - **No.**
  - **And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother (Matt 2:11)**
- The Wise Men went first to which city asking “where is He who is born King of the Jews?”
  - **Jerusalem**
- What gifts did the Wise Men bring to the Baby Jesus?
  - **Gold, Frankinsence, Myrrhh**
- After the Wise Men left Bethlehem an angel told Joseph to take St Mary and the Baby Jesus to...?
  - **Egypt**
- What animal did St Mary ride to Bethlehem?
  - **The Bible does not say**
- Why did the Holy Family name the child “Jesus”?
  - **The Angel told both St Mary & St Joseph to use that name**
- Jesus grew up in which city?
  - **Nazareth**
- Which Prophetess served in the temple day and night and spoke of Jesus to all that looked for redemption?
  - **Anna**
- “And the Word became flesh and...
  - **... dwelt among us”**



# The Genealogy of Christ

- The Gospel according to St Matthew

- 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: 2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers... 16 And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. 17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.

- **Why is David mentioned before Abraham?**

- Because David and his kingdom were a prominent thought in the minds of the people.
- Also St Matthew wanted to continue the idea that David's kingdom was eternal. *"He will be great; and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."* (Luke 1:32-33)
- Also David was from Bethlehem

- **Why start with Abraham and not Adam?**

- *And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.* (Gen 12:3)



# The Genealogy of Christ

- The Gospel according to St Luke

- 1:5-25 Annunciation of St John the Baptist
- 1:26-38 Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus
- 1:39-56 St Mary visits St Elizabeth
- 1:57-80 Birth of St John the Baptist
- 2:1-7 Birth of Our Lord Jesus
- 2:21 Circumcision of our Lord
- 2:22-24 Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple
- 2:41-52 Our Lord in the temple at the age of 12
- 3:1-22 The preaching of St John the Baptist and the Baptism of Our Lord
- 3:22 And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased. 23 Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli ...
- 38 the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

- Why does St Luke wait until the Baptism of our Lord at the age of 30 before going through the genealogy?

- Because baptism gives the true heavenly adoption.
- Also he wanted to wait until the Father calls Him His beloved Son.
- Notice also that St Luke goes back to Adam and then God whilst St Matthew start at Abraham.



# The Star

- Was the star a natural star or was it a heavenly power in the form of a star?
- Does the fact that “His star appeared at His birth confirm the truth of astrology?”

## 1. The movement of the star

Stars move from West to East, but this star when from North to South, which is where Bethlehem is relative to Persia.

## 2. Appeared during the day

## 3. Appeared and disappeared at the right times ...

*“When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them” (Matthew 2:9)*

## 4. It descended over the manger ...

*“and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.” (Matthew 2:9)*



# The Wise Men

- Who are the Wise Men?
  - They came from the east, probably from Persia – modern day Iran/Iraq
  - They were of high rank, maybe princes, scientists or priests
  - They were experts in Astronomy
  - Perhaps they heard from the Jews in the dispersion about a Saviour who will come to deliver them and to become the king of the Jews? And as a result they did not give Him presents that were suitable for a baby wearing swaddling cloths...
    - *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia (1 Pet 1:1) ... And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matt 2:11)*



# Lessons from the Wise Men

- They travelled night and day for weeks to see Him.
- They left their families and country to see Him
- They put themselves in danger to see Him. They came to a country that had a King in order to worship another King. Despite the danger they travelled a long way to do so.
- They did not fear danger for they publicly said *“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”* (Matt 2:2)
  - *The Jews who rejected Christ despite having prophets sent from God living amongst them whilst the gentiles followed a star.*
    - *Let us not take for granted the fact that we were born into Christian families*
  - They did not go back to their country the same way they came... *“they departed for their own country another way.”* (Matt 2:12)
    - *This symbolises the change in life after meeting Christ. Once we truly meet Him we never go back to our own ways.*



# The Birth of Jesus

*what really happened?*





GLORY BE TO GOD. FOR EVER  
& EVER. AMEN



