

Sandy Laws

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM
WHO'S WHO IN THE
NATIVITY STORY





Hello friend!

Welcome to "Journey to Bethlehem: Who's Who in the Nativity Story," your concise guide to the pivotal figures of the first Christmas. From the faithful Mary and Joseph to the astute Magi and horrible King Herod, this A-to-Z booklet is your portal to the people who played a part in the birth of Jesus.

Grab a cup of tea, your Bible, and head to the story of Jesus' birth, as told in Matthew and Luke's gospels. Flip through these pages to discover the essence of each character's role in the Nativity. It's a journey that promises to enhance your connection with the celebrated story of Jesus' arrival in Bethlehem, making your holiday season both merry and meaningful.

~Sandy



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CAESAR AGUSTUS: THE INFLUENCE OF AN EMPEROR



CAESAR AUGUSTUS: THE INFLUENCE OF AN EMPEROR

Caesar Augustus' decree for a census, as documented in the Bible (Luke 2:1), was a pivotal event that prompted Joseph and Mary's journey to Bethlehem, where the story of Jesus' birth unfolds. His political maneuvers also solidified Herod's position as the ruler of Judea, affecting the land where Jesus was born.

The Ascendancy of Augustus

Born Gaius Octavius, Augustus' road from a senator's son to the founder of the Roman Empire was shaped by courage, providence, and strategic partnerships. His early life took a decisive turn when Julius Caesar, his great-uncle, named him his successor.

Following Julius Caesar's assassination, Octavius, only nineteen, entered the turbulent Roman political arena. He formed a political alliance with Marcus Aemilius Lepidus and Mark Antony to collectively rule Rome. Eventually, the alliance soured, leading to a civil war that peaked with the Battle of Actium. Octavius' victory over Mark Antony and Cleopatra confirmed his position as the sole leader of the Roman realm.

The Establishment of the Empire

Octavius deftly maneuvered to retain power while also restoring the Republic, a move that earned him the revered title of Augustus from the Roman Senate. Under Augustus, the Roman Empire expanded and thrived. He maintained tight control over his territories, with client kings like Herod the Great of Judea firmly under his thumb.

Life Lesson: God's Power over the Powerful

For us today, the story of Augustus reminds us of the intricate interplay between human ambitions and the grand tapestry of God's providence. It prompts reflection on how even the actions of powerful leaders can play a role in fulfilling God's purposes and reminds us to seek wisdom, discernment, and alignment with God's plan in our own lives, trusting that He weaves every thread into a greater, redemptive narrative.

ELIZABETH'S REMARKABLE JOURNEY: A TESTAMENT OF FAITH



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In a small Judean town, Elizabeth endured the pain of childlessness, surrounded by the growing families of her peers. Despite her advanced years, her hope for a child persisted, even as she faced the societal stigma of infertility.

Her husband, Zechariah, remained a source of unwavering support (Luke 1:7). He was a man of deep faith and dedication. As a priest, he served dutifully at the temple in Jerusalem and his hometown. His lineage traced back to Aaron, the brother of the prophet Moses. Despite the absence of an heir, his love for Elizabeth never wavered (Luke 1:5).

A Divine Encounter

It was during Zechariah's priestly service in the temple that the couple's lives changed dramatically. Zechariah was chosen by lot to refresh the incense in the Holy Place, the room closest to the very chamber of God, the Holy of Holies. While there, Zechariah encountered the angel Gabriel, who brought the miraculous news of Elizabeth's forthcoming pregnancy (Luke 1:8-17).

The Promise Fulfilled

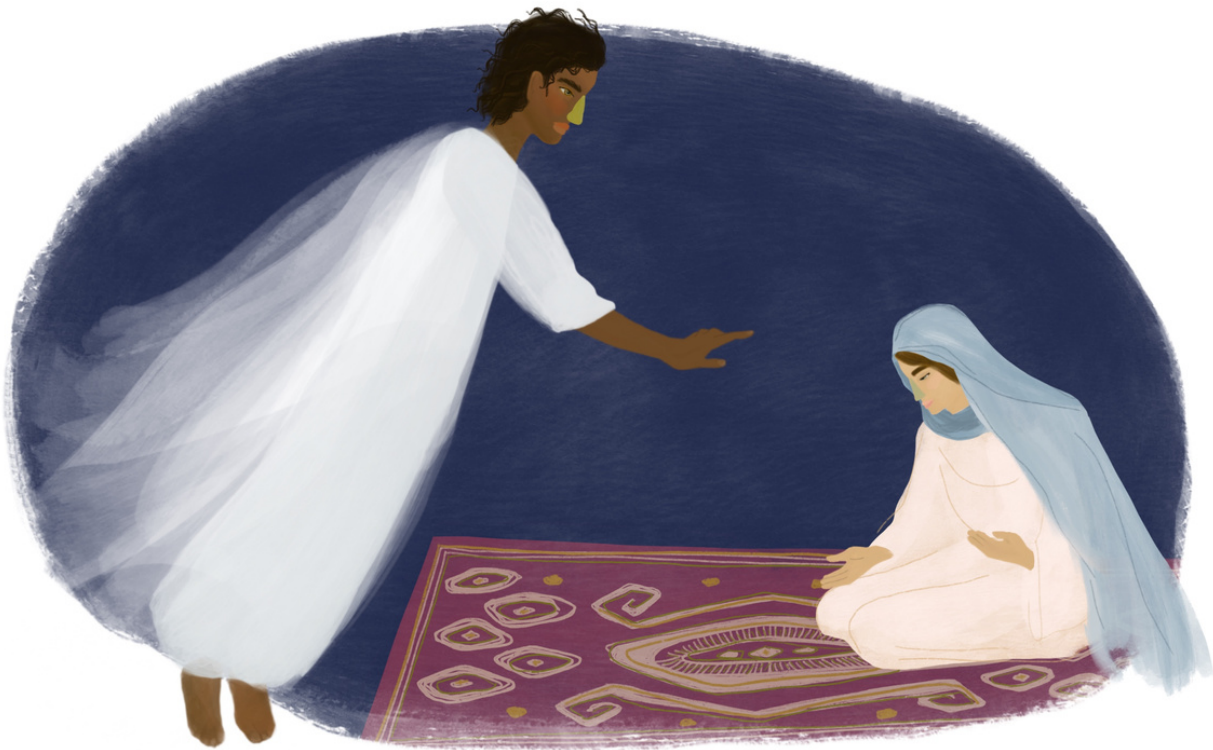
Elizabeth, now with child, spent her early months in solitude and reflection. When Mary, soon to be the mother of Jesus, visited, a joyous encounter affirmed the divine nature of both their sons (Luke 1:39-45).

The birth of John, who would be known as the Baptist, brought jubilation to the couple. Defying tradition, Elizabeth and Zechariah named him as the angel had instructed. John would grow to be a significant figure, preparing the way for Jesus (Luke 1:57-66).

Life Lessons: Trusting in God

The narrative of Elizabeth and Zechariah teaches us about resilience and faith. Their unwavering trust in God's plan, despite doubt and societal pressure, led to a miracle, reminding us that perseverance in faith can yield extraordinary outcomes in our lives (Luke 1:24-25).

GABRIEL: HEAVENLY MESSENGER AND HERALD



GABRIEL: HEAVENLY MESSENGER AND HERALD

Gabriel is an angel and a celestial envoy of God. He serves as a key figure in the nativity narrative. His appearances span over 430 years, from Daniel's time around 438 BC to encounters with Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph in 6 or 5 BC (Daniel 8:16; 9:21, 22; Luke 1:11-20). Gabriel assumed human form when delivering messages to earthly recipients, making notable appearances in dreams and reality.

A Divine Mission and Angelic Hierarchy

Angels, created by God like humans, dwell in heaven, serving diverse roles as messengers of God and helpers to humans. They guide, protect, instruct, and deliver divine warnings. While tens of thousands of angels serve in heaven, only two are named in the Bible: Gabriel and Michael. Michael is designated as an archangel, suggesting authority over other angels. While not explicitly called an archangel, Gabriel may hold a similar rank.

Gabriel's Prominent Role in the Nativity

Gabriel emerges prominently in the Nativity narrative, entrusted with messages to pivotal figures. He appears to Zechariah and Mary in human form, and quite possibly to Joseph in his dreams, conveying God's directives. Additionally, he delivered a message to Daniel centuries before the birth of Jesus. This continuity underscores the fact that angels, unlike humans, do not age conventionally, sustaining their role over centuries.

Gabriel's Encounter with Zechariah and Mary

Gabriel's heavenly mission takes him to the Holy Place in the Temple, where he informs Zechariah that his wife, Elizabeth, will bear a son named John. Zechariah's disbelief incurs punishment as Gabriel strikes him mute. Months later, Gabriel appears to Mary, announcing her role in the birth of Jesus, the awaited Messiah. Mary humbly accepts her divine task (Luke 1:11-20).

Joseph's Dreams and God's Divine Guidance

Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, may also receive a divine message from Gabriel in his dreams. Gabriel instructs Joseph to take Mary as his wife and names the child Jesus. When danger looms, Gabriel warns Joseph to flee to Egypt. After Herod's death, Gabriel guides Joseph's return to Nazareth (Matthew 1:20-21; 2:13).

GABRIEL: HEAVENLY MESSENGER AND HERALD

Life Lesson: Trusting Divine Guidance

Gabriel's missions demonstrate the importance of trusting God's guidance. Zechariah's initial doubt contrasts with Mary and Joseph's unwavering faith. In our lives, we encounter moments when we must heed God's guidance, even when it challenges our understanding. Gabriel's role reminds us that God's plans unfold in ways that may surpass human comprehension. Trusting in God's wisdom and purpose can lead us on a path aligned with His divine will, just as Mary, Joseph, and others in the Nativity story did.

HEROD THE GREAT:
A KING CAUGHT BETWEEN WORLDS



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Herod, the King of Judea during Jesus' birth, walked a precarious line between Jewish traditions and Roman rule. Born an Idumean in 63 BC, he was Jewish by birth, which caused tension in Judea. His life was marked by political maneuvering and characterized by brutality.

A Shrewd Rise to Power

Herod's ascent to power began when his father, Antipater I, served as a high-ranking official under John Hyrcanus II, a Hasmonean leader appointed by Rome to govern Judea. Antipater's loyalty earned Herod and his brother governance roles in Galilee and Jerusalem.

From Galilee to Judea: A Complicated Journey

Herod's journey to absolute power was fraught with strife. After fleeing to Rome to escape the reign of Antigonus, who usurped the Judean throne with Parthian support, Herod secured the backing of the Roman Senate in 39 BC. Teaming up with Rome, he waged a long battle to reclaim Jerusalem, ultimately becoming King of Judea and ending the Hasmonean dynasty.

Herod's tangled family tree compounded his troubles. He married ten women and fathered fifteen children. His convoluted lineage, combined with his opulent lifestyle and Roman allegiance, alienated many. Despite his accomplishments, Herod was deeply mistrusted and prone to paranoia.

A Reign of Brutality

Herod's reign was marred by cruelty, including the execution of family members, including his sons and wives, to eliminate potential threats. His obsession with power led to a reign marked by fear and instability.

After the birth of Jesus, the Magi's visit, and news of a new "King of the Jews" in Bethlehem deeply unsettled Herod. Fearing a threat to his rule, he ordered the massacre of all male infants under two years old in Bethlehem and its surroundings. This horrific event, known as the "Massacre of the Innocents," aimed to eradicate any perceived challenge to his authority (Matthew 2:16).

HEROD THE GREAT: A KING CAUGHT BETWEEN WORLDS

Life Lesson: The Perils of Power

Herod's life illustrates the dangers of unchecked power and the corrosive effects of paranoia. As we navigate our own spheres of influence and authority, it's essential to remember that power, when misused or abused, can have devastating consequences. Herod's story serves as a reminder to wield power wisely, maintaining perspective and humility. By doing so, we can strive to create a more just and compassionate world, grounded in faith and wisdom.

JOSEPH:
A MAN OF FAITH AND OBEDIENCE



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Joseph, a skilled craftsman in Nazareth, was ready to marry Mary, the daughter of Joachim and Anna. Their union seemed destined, and their families were close to finalizing their betrothal. With a trade and steady employment, Joseph was well-prepared for marriage and family life.

A Life Interrupted

Mary's unexpected pregnancy disrupted Joseph's plans. Mary's news of her pregnancy shocked Joseph and he faced a dilemma: publicly break off the engagement or marry Mary quietly and later divorce her. The latter option aimed to protect her from public shame and possible death.

Divine Intervention

In a dream, an angelic messenger—quite possibly Gabriel—informed Joseph that Mary's pregnancy was a result of divine intervention—the Holy Spirit's work. He was instructed not to fear taking Mary as his wife, for her child, Jesus, would save people from their sins (Matthew 1:20-21). Joseph's faith and obedience led him to embrace this divine plan.

Marriage, Travel, and Birth in Bethlehem

Joseph and Mary married, abstaining from intimacy until after Jesus' birth. When Caesar Augustus called for a census, they journeyed to Bethlehem. Amid the census and temporary accommodations, Jesus was born, wrapped in cloth, and placed in a manger.

Return to Nazareth

Following Jesus' birth, Joseph was warned in a dream by an angel to flee to Egypt, to protect Jesus from Herod's threats. After Herod's death in 4 BC, Joseph received divine guidance once more, instructing him to return to the land of Israel with his family. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus moved back to Nazareth, settling into a house and a familiar life surrounded by friends and family.

JOSEPH: A MAN OF FAITH AND OBEDIENCE

In Nazareth, they raised Jesus and had several other children, including sons Joseph, James, Jude, and Simon, as well as an unknown number of daughters (Matthew 13:55-56). Mary and Joseph provided their children with love, guidance, and a Jewish upbringing in this small Galilean town. It was within these humble surroundings that Jesus spent his formative years.

Joseph's role in the Gospels gradually fades, and he is not mentioned during Jesus' public ministry. Most likely, he passed away before that time.

Life Lesson: Embracing Divine Interruptions

Joseph's life teaches us to remain open to divine interruptions. Sometimes, our well-laid plans are redirected by unexpected circumstances. In those moments, faith and obedience can lead us toward God's purpose, even when we can't foresee the outcome. Just as Joseph embraced God's plan for his family, we too can trust that divine guidance can lead us through life's unexpected turns. By remaining open to God's interruptions, we may find ourselves playing a part in His grand design, even if it takes us down an unanticipated path.

LUKE:
THE FAITHFUL COMPANION
AND CHRONICLER



LUKE: THE FAITHFUL COMPANION AND CHRONICLER

Luke, the author of the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts, was a faithful companion to the apostle Paul. His writings bear witness to the birth narrative from Mary's perspective, capturing the essence of early Christianity.

Travels with Paul

Luke's life was intertwined with Paul's mission to share the gospel. As a physician, he cared for Paul's health during their extensive travels through the Roman Empire, including regions like Galatia, Macedonia, Achaia, and Italy. They faced trials together, including a shipwreck and being stranded on the island of Malta.

Friendship and Partnership

Luke and Paul were not just colleagues but close friends. Their partnership began when Luke joined Paul's journey in Troas, Galatia. From there, they embarked on an extraordinary mission to spread the message of Jesus, often facing opposition, harassment, and imprisonment. Luke witnessed firsthand Paul's unwavering commitment to reaching the gentiles.

A Firsthand Witness

Through his travels and interactions with early Christian communities, Luke gained unique insights into Jesus' life and the early church's history. Fluent in Greek and an adept writer, he meticulously researched and documented these experiences.

Luke's writings emphasize Jesus' compassion for the poor, the oppressed, and women. His Gospel showcases stories of Jesus' interactions with marginalized individuals and contrasts the responses of women with those of men.

Luke's Nativity Story is distinctive, presenting events from Mary's point of view. He adds details not found in Matthew's account, providing a unique perspective on Jesus' birth and early life.

LUKE: THE FAITHFUL COMPANION AND CHRONICLER

In his nativity account, Luke includes stories such as Zechariah and Elizabeth's miraculous conception of John the Baptist, Gabriel's visit to Mary, the Roman census requiring a trip to Bethlehem, the angelic proclamation to shepherds, Jesus' presentation at the Temple, and the episode of Jesus being separated from His family in Jerusalem at age twelve.

Life Lesson: Embracing Dedication to God's Work

Luke's life demonstrates the power of dedication to God's work. He wholeheartedly supported Paul's mission, documenting the Christian story for generations to come. Similarly, we can find purpose and fulfillment in dedicating our lives to God's work, even in challenging circumstances. Luke's example reminds us that faithfulness and unwavering commitment can leave a lasting impact on the world, illuminating the path of Christ for others to follow.

MARY:
A HUMBLE SERVANT OF GOD



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Mary's life in Nazareth, a small town in Galilee, was marked by the simplicity of daily routines, hard work, close-knit family bonds, and a strong adherence to faith. In this tight-knit community, Mary, like other girls, assisted her mother with domestic chores, learning the essential skills of homemaking and family care.

Nazareth: A Quiet Town

Nazareth, nestled away from the main highway, retained its unique character. With a population of 200 to 500 predominantly Jewish residents, it remained relatively untouched by the Roman or Greek influences of larger cities. The people knew each other well, their lives revolving around family, work, and their faith.

Mary's Family and Betrothal

Mary's family held paramount importance in her life. Though little is known about her family, account to tradition, her parents were Joachim and Anna. Also, according to the Jewish custom, her parents would have arranged her betrothal at a young age, around 13 or 14. This betrothal marked the beginning of her journey towards marriage.

Gabriel's Divine Message

Mary's life took an unexpected turn when the angel Gabriel appeared to her with a divine message (Luke 1:26-27). God had chosen her to be the earthly mother of Jesus, setting her apart for a unique purpose. Mary's response to God's extraordinary plan was marked by humility and submission. She accepted her role as the Lord's servant without hesitation or fear, demonstrating her unwavering trust in God's divine will.

Eager to share her joy and revelation, Mary visited her relative Elizabeth, who was also with child (Luke 1:39-40). Their meeting was filled with divine signs and confirmations, strengthening their faith.

Mary and Joseph's Journey to Bethlehem

Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem for the census marked the fulfillment of Micah's prophecy, underlining the significance of Jesus' birthplace (Micah 5:2).

MARY: A HUMBLE SERVANT OF GOD

Following Jesus' birth in Bethlehem and their return from Egypt to Nazareth, Mary and Joseph expanded their family (Matthew 13:55-56).

Life Lesson: Responding with Humility and Trust

Mary's life teaches us the power of humility and unwavering trust in God's plan. She was an ordinary young girl chosen for an extraordinary purpose, as revealed in Luke 1:26-56 and Matthew 2:1-23. Mary's willingness to submit to God's will, even in the face of uncertainty, inspires us to surrender our lives to Him with trust and humility. Just as Mary played a pivotal role in God's redemptive plan, we too can find purpose and significance when we yield ourselves to His guidance and purpose.

MATTHEW:
FROM TAX COLLECTOR TO DISCIPLE



MATTHEW: FROM TAX COLLECTOR TO DISCIPLE

Matthew, one of the twelve apostles and an eyewitness to Jesus' life, tells the nativity story from Joseph's perspective. Before becoming a disciple, Matthew worked as a tax collector along the busy road between Damascus and Accho, near Capernaum on the northern shores of the Sea of Galilee.

A Profitable Occupation

As a tax collector, Matthew charged travelers a tariff, often around five percent of the purchase price, for transporting goods on this well-traveled route. His employer, a chief tax collector, managed multiple collectors in the region. Matthew, like many others, would take a portion of the collected taxes for himself, passing the rest to his employer. This system was how the Romans collected taxes in Israel.

Matthew's lucrative business allowed him to live comfortably, even extravagantly. He was well-educated, proficient with numbers, and entertained his friends, including fellow tax collectors, with lavish dinners. Tax collectors, despised by the Jews, were considered traitors for collaborating with the Roman Empire and its appointed ruler, Herod the Great. Their status in Jewish society was very low.

The Call of Matthew

One day, as Jesus was working in the area, he approached Matthew in his tax booth and said, "Follow me" (Matthew 9:9). Without hesitation, Matthew left his tax-collecting business behind and became a disciple of Jesus. He followed Jesus throughout His earthly ministry and was eventually appointed as one of the twelve apostles.

Matthew's Gospel

Around 60 A.D., Matthew authored his account of Jesus' life, which emphasizes Jesus' fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and his role as the promised Messiah. In the nativity story, Matthew highlights several ways in which Jesus' birth fulfills prophecy, including the virgin conception, the birth in Bethlehem, the slaughter of the innocents, and the return from Egypt (Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5:2,4, Jeremiah 31:15, Hosea 11:1).

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Matthew's Gospel includes unique elements in the nativity story that are not found in Luke's account. These include the angel's appearance to Joseph in a dream (Matthew 1:20-24), the visit of the Magi or Wise Men from the East (Matthew 2:1-12), the family's flight to Egypt to escape King Herod's decree (Matthew 2:13-15), and the tragic massacre of the innocent boys in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16-18).

Life Lesson: Responding to the Call

Matthew's journey from a lucrative but despised occupation to becoming a disciple of Jesus demonstrates the transformative power of answering God's call. His immediate and sacrificial response teaches us that when we hear Jesus' call to follow Him, we should be willing to leave behind whatever hinders us, no matter how comfortable or profitable it may be. Matthew's story challenges us to prioritize our response to God's calling, recognizing that following Jesus is the path to true fulfillment and purpose in our lives.

SHEPHERDS: GUARDIANS OF THE FLOCK



SHEPHERDS: GUARDIANS OF THE FLOCK

Shepherding was a demanding profession, requiring shepherds to find food and water in challenging environments and protect their flock from various threats, including wild animals like lions, bears, and wolves. Retrieving stray animals was part of the job, and shepherds were financially responsible for any losses unless they could prove circumstances were beyond their control. Shepherds were lowly regarded in Israel, spending their days guarding and caring for their flocks, often in isolation.

The Appearance of Angels

In Luke's Gospel, the shepherds' story unfolds as Mary gives birth to Jesus in Bethlehem, and nearby shepherds tend to their flocks during the night. An angel of the Lord, possibly Gabriel, appears to them with a glorious light—the "glory of the Lord" (Luke 2:9)—signifying the divine presence. The shepherds are terrified.

Good News for All

The angel assures them, saying, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people" (Luke 2:10). God chose these humble shepherds as the first recipients of this momentous news. It reflects God's love for the lowly and emphasizes that Jesus came as a Savior for all.

Following the angel's announcement, a "great company of the heavenly host" joins the angel, offering praise to God: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:13). The shepherds decide to go to Bethlehem and see what has happened.

The shepherds find Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in the manger and, after witnessing the miraculous event, become the first messengers of Jesus' birth, sharing the news with others.

Life Application: Sharing the Message

The shepherds' story reminds us that God often chooses the humble and lowly to carry out his divine plans. Their immediate response to the angel's message serves as an example for us. We should heed God's call in our lives, even when it seems unexpected or unconventional.

Just as the shepherds were the first messengers of Jesus' birth, we, too, are called to share the good news of Christ with others. This requires boldness and a willingness to go beyond our comfort zones, just as the shepherds left their flocks to witness the Savior's arrival.

THE MAGI: SEEKERS OF THE KING



THE MAGI: SEEKERS OF THE KING

The Magi were a priestly caste hailing from regions east of Israel, including Arabia and Persia. Their roles included overseeing rituals and interpreting celestial events such as the movement of stars to discern potential future occurrences. They were respected advisors to rulers who sought their wisdom.

Following the Celestial Signs

Studying the night sky, the Magi discerned a celestial event, a new star, signaling the birth of a great leader in Judea. Convinced of its importance, they embarked on a long and challenging journey to Jerusalem, the capital of Israel. While tradition suggests three Magi, Matthew's Gospel does not specify their number. Nor does it designate them as kings, although tradition often portrays them as such.

Herod's Concern and Deception

The Magi's inquiry about a new king quickly reached King Herod's ears, unsettling him. He gathered his priests, scribes, and teachers of the law to determine where the prophesied Jewish Messiah was to be born. Their search led them to the prophecy of Micah, indicating Bethlehem as the birthplace (Micah 5:2; Matt. 2:5).

Herod summoned the Magi to Jerusalem and shared Micah's prophecy with them, deceitfully claiming he wished to worship the child. Herod's true intentions were far from worship; he aimed to eliminate any potential threat to his rule. He sought information about the star's appearance to identify the child's age.

The Magi's Visit to Bethlehem

Following Herod's directive, the Magi resumed their journey, still guided by the star. Upon arriving in Bethlehem, the star seemingly stood still over the location where Jesus, Mary, and Joseph resided. In that humble abode, they found the infant King of Israel, the awaited Messiah, and they knelt in worship (Matt. 2:11).

THE MAGI: SEEKERS OF THE KING

Gifts Fit for a King

The Magi presented precious gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These offerings, individually valuable and symbolically significant, were a fitting tribute to the newborn King. After their visit, the Magi received a divine warning not to return to Herod, avoiding further contact with the treacherous king. Obediently, they departed by a different route.

Life Lesson: Acknowledging the Divine

The Magi's journey underscores the significance of Jesus' birth. They were the first gentiles to recognize and worship Him, acknowledging him as the long-awaited Messiah. Their faith and adoration contrast with Herod's deceitful intentions.

The Magi's visit reminds us that the worship of Jesus should transcend boundaries and be open to all people, regardless of their background or status. We, like the Magi, should seek Jesus with devotion and humility, acknowledging him as our Savior and King, and guarding our faith against deceptive influences.

THE STORY OF ZECHARIA: A DIVINE APPOINTMENT



THE STORY OF ZECHARIAH: A DIVINE APPOINTMENT

In Luke's birth narrative of Jesus, he introduces us to a remarkable couple, Zechariah and Elizabeth, residing in the Judean hillside. Their lives become intertwined with the birth of Jesus, emphasizing the divine orchestration of events.

Zechariah: A Dedicated Priest

Zechariah, a devout priest and descendant of Aaron, served his community and the temple in Jerusalem. Priests rotated duties, and Zechariah's service required him to draw lots for specific responsibilities. One day, his lot awarded him a sacred task.

Entering the Holy Place, adjacent to the Holy of Holies, Zechariah approached the altar of incense. This was a rare privilege, as few priests entered this sacred space. His role was to replenish the incense, an essential and revered duty. The room was dimly lit by twelve lamp stands, and at the back stood the altar of incense. This was the holiest space any priest could access, next to the inner sanctum where God's presence dwelled.

The Angelic Encounter

As Zechariah performed his duties, he encountered the angel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the altar. Shocked and gripped with fear, Zechariah listened as Gabriel delivered a life-altering message: Elizabeth, though old, would bear a son named John, who would be a joy, filled with the Holy Spirit, and play a crucial role in preparing the way for the Lord.

Zechariah's doubt was evident as he questioned Gabriel's message. In response, Gabriel identified himself as God's messenger and foretold Zechariah's muteness until the fulfillment of this promise.

Life Lesson: God's Divine Appointments

Zechariah and Elizabeth's story reminds us that God's plan unfolds through divine appointments. Often, God uses ordinary people in extraordinary ways to fulfill His purposes. Our faith and trust in His plan, even when it seems impossible, can lead to miraculous outcomes.

THE STORY OF ZECHARIAH: A DIVINE APPOINTMENT

We should also remember that God's divine appointments are not limited by age, circumstance, or human limitations. He works beyond the bounds of our understanding, and our faith should remain steadfast, even when faced with doubt.

In our lives, we may encounter unexpected and challenging situations, but just as God used Zechariah and Elizabeth to play crucial roles in His plan, He can use us too. Our willingness to trust in His timing and purpose can lead to extraordinary blessings and fulfill His divine appointments in our lives.



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