

Back to Bethlehem

Scripture Reference: Luke 2:1-7

Do you have a sense that GOD has been _____ behind the scenes in your life so HE can reveal HIMSELF to you? (Are you paying attention?)

I. What faithful people in Israel knew about the birth of the Messiah:

- A. All the Nations on the Earth would be blessed through the _____ (Descendent) of Abraham. Genesis 12:3, 22:18 (2000 years prior to JESUS' Birth)
- B. HE would come from a seemingly _____ – the family of Jesse. Isaiah 11:1 (600 years prior)
- C. HE would come from the tribe of _____ (Gen. 49:10), and from the royal line of _____. Jeremiah 23:5-6) He would reign from David's Throne in _____. Isaiah 9:6-7 (600 years prior)
- D. HE would be born of a _____. Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1 (600 years prior)
- E. HE had to be _____. Micah 5:2 (700 years prior)

Remember: "GOD watches over HIS Word to _____ it" Jer. 1:12

II. GOD used Emperor Caesar Augustus to get Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem:

V.1 "in those days" **Remember:** History is really _____.

- A. Augustus was born Gaius Octavius in 63 B.C. He was the grandnephew of _____, who adopted him as a son. After Julius Caesar's assassination in 44 B.C. Octavius ascended to the throne after defeating his last rival, _____, at the battle of Actium.
- B. Octavius was given the venerated title, "_____ " in 27 B.C. – meaning "_____. " During his 40 years of rule, he brought Rome to the height of its glory, _____, and prosperity. ("_____")
- C. Every _____ Augustus ordered a census to be taken across the Roman Empire. This had two purposes: to register young men for _____ and for _____. (the Jews _____ this)

Remember: Augustus was ruling, but GOD was _____.

- D. Publius Sulpicius Quirinius was the Roman official _____ for carrying out this census and for putting down the Jewish _____ that the census sparked. (Josephus, Acts 5:37) V.2
- E. Joseph was required to return to the city of his fathers to record his _____, occupation, _____, and family. V.3-4 Mary earlier accepted her part in the Mission to bring _____ to the people's of the Earth when she said to the Angel Gabriel, "I am the _____ of the LORD, let it be _____ according to your Word." Luke 1:37

F. Joseph _____ his mission to shepherd this prophetic family.

Matthew 1:20-25 I am sure they both rejoiced in the anticipation of doing GOD's Will. Did they _____ all of this? _____.

* **Remember:** Even with limited understanding, it is important to always ACT _____ GOD wants you to do. Don't _____ until you understand it all. (you never will) _____, and take the next step. It always _____.

G. Joseph and Mary were already _____ to be husband and wife, but the marriage was not consummated until after JESUS was born. **V.5**

III. Some of the places Mary and Joseph may have passed through on the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem: (a _____ arduous journey)

Remember: Faith is a _____; a _____ but a great journey.

A. _____ – where Hannah prayed for a son at the Tabernacle. 1 Sam. 1:9-11

B. _____ – where Hannah's son, Samuel judged Israel.

C. The Valley of _____ – a valley of weeping and faith. Ps. 84:6

D. _____ – where Jacob had his life-altering dream and encounter. Gen. 28

E. _____ – where Jeremiah pictured Rachel weeping for her children. Jer. 31:15

F. _____ – where Solomon encountered GOD. 1 Kings 3

G. _____ – where Samuel raised his memorial stone. 1 Sam. 7:12

H. _____ - the City of the Great King. Jer. 3:17, Ps. 132:13-14

I. Mount _____ – where Abraham went to sacrifice his son, Isaac. (he didn't)
But where GOD allowed HIS only Son to be a _____ for us all.

J. _____ – ("the House of Bread") was the home of Boaz and Ruth

(Book of Ruth) - and the home of Jesse, and his son David. 1 Samuel 16

Are you hungry, looking, _____? John 6:35

IV. Once Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem:

A. They discovered there was _____ to stay, because of all the other people arriving. **V.7** The best Joseph could find was a _____ where animals were kept.

B. The _____ came for the Baby to be born, it was very stressful. **V.6**
Mary gave birth to her _____ Son. (She had at least 4 other sons, and daughters. Mark 6:3) The CHRIST-child was wrapped in strips of cloth to keep the Baby warm and secure.

C. The New-Born King was placed in a stone _____ used to feed animals.
("manger")

"The Word became Flesh, and dwelt among us" John 1:14

