

## **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***

