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Christ Child Is Born

Birth Believed To Have Historical Significance

BETHLEHEM - The parents of the Christ child, born here a few nights ago, have reportedly taken the child and returned to their home in Galilee. The report, however, has not been confirmed and some observers believe the parents may have taken the child into Egypt to escape the threat of King Herod, who has ordered the death of all male children up to the age of two years.

The birth of the child to the Nazareth couple while visiting here has caused a great deal of excitement. Many view the event as being of great historical significance. Some say the birth of the child-named Jesus-is the event predicted some 800 years ago by the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah, who lived in the time of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah and who was said to be the son of Amoz and of royal blood, told of the birth of a child whose name "shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The almighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace".

First word of the birth came from a group of shepherds. According to reports, they were visited by an angel while tending their flocks that night. Apparently sensing their fear, the angel is reported to have said to them: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the City of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord".

The shepherds also reported that "multitude of heavenly hosts" appeared, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men".

The shepherds were told they would find the baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

As soon as the angels departed, the shepherds came to Bethlehem and did, indeed find the baby, just as they were told. It is said they fell to their knees and worshipped Him and then went out into the community telling what they had seen.

Meanwhile, a group of astronomers-sometimes called wise men-had seen the bright star which shown above the place where the child lay. Being men of great curiosity, they hurried eastward and arrived in Bethlehem a few days ago. Upon their arrival, they reportedly asked, "Where is the baby born to be King of the Jews?"

They said they had seen the star and had come to find and to worship the child.

It is believed that this inquiry by the wise men led to the news reaching King Herod. Reports say the King is greatly disturbed over the possibility that the child might indeed be the new King. A source close to the palace, has disclosed that Herod has called in his priests and attorneys and has learned from them that the child was indeed born here in Bethlehem, just as predicted by the prophets.

This, the source says, led Herod to call for the visiting wise men and consult with them on the whereabouts of the Christ child. It was learned, however, that after leaving the King, the wise men did find the child and that they did, as they came to do, worshipped him. They also gave unto him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

It was also learned that these men, warned by God did not return to Herod as requested with information on the whereabouts of the Christ child. They reportedly are returning home by an undisclosed route.

The child's parents, Mary and Joseph, came to Bethlehem as the result of a recent order by Caesar Augustus that all citizens must be taxed. Joseph, being of the line of David, was required to list his taxes here in the City of David.

The couple, however, could not find accommodations in the inns here and were forced to accept the offer of one friendly innkeeper, who insisted that they use his stable for the night. It was here that the birth took place.

A well-informed source explained the birth in the following manner:

"The child's mother was engaged to be married to Joseph, but before they were married she found out that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit. She was told these things by the angel Gabriel. Joseph, being a good man, did not wish to disgrace Mary and he was considering secretly breaking off the engagement. However, the angel Gabriel visited Joseph and said to him: 'Do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. She will give birth to a son, and he will be called

Child Brought To Temple

JERUSALEM - The Christ child, born eight days ago in the little town of Bethlehem, about eight miles from Jerusalem, was brought to a local temple today by his parents, Mary and Joseph.

The couple brought the child here to offer a sacrifice, according to the law of God-a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons.

A man named Simeon, who had been told by the Holy Ghost that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Christ, appeared at the temple. Simeon took the child in his arms and blessed God. He said: "Lord, now let thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation-which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel".

Prophet Isaiah Has Impressive Record

BETHLEHEM - The prophet Isaiah, who died nearly 700 years ago, and who correctly foretold of the birth here of the Christ child, has a long and impressive record of prophesy.

His principal prophesies have been the captivities of Israel and of Judah; the ruin and desolation of Assyria, Babylon, Tyre, Damascus and Egypt among others. He told of the destruction of Syria and Egypt for confederating against Judah, even designating the name of Damascus and the tribe of Ephraim. This prediction was fulfilled by Tiglath-pileser, king of Assyria.

Isaiah gave encouragement to Ahaz and to Hezekiah when they were beleaguered by their enemies and called Cyrus by name and

It is reported that Mary and Joseph marvelled at the things spoken of him.

Then Simeon blessed the couple and said to Mary, "Behold this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel".

Also present at the temple was a prophetess named Anna, who spends most of her time in the temple, worshipping God. She is the daughter of Phaneul of the tribe of Aser and she is reportedly in her late eighties and has been a widow for many years.

She, too, upon seeing the Christ child, gave thanks to God and she reportedly, spoke to all who are seeking redemption about the Christ child.

After the visit here, it was reported that the child was taken by his parents back to their own city of Nazareth.

suffer for our sins and that he will be resurrected. He also tells of His final glory and of the establishment and perfection of his kingdom. He has said it will spread universally among the Gentiles.

Citizens Must Register

An order that all citizens of the Empire must register themselves for the census is announced by Empero Caesar Augustus. Each must register himself in his own town, the decree pronounced.

Emmanuel' (which means God is with us).

"Joseph, having heard these things, followed through with his plans and married Mary but had no relations with her before she gave birth to Jesus".

"In all the world", the source continued, "Mary is the most blessed of all women".

While many locals view the birth of Jesus with alarm and share, perhaps, King Herod's fears, still others believe the birth fulfills the predictions of the ancient prophets. These people point to a number of things in support of their position.

Among them is the virgin birth and they see the shining star as the predicted sign. Some quote the prophet who wrote: "You Bethlehem, the land of Judah...For from you will come a leader, Who will guide my people Israel".

One believer noted the predicted suffering of Rachel, at the death of her children at the hands of Herod's men. Hundreds of years ago, the prophet wrote: In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not".

And some of these believers are convinced that the Christ child is now in Egypt, saying that someday the scriptures must be fulfilled as it is written, the Lord said, "I called my Son out of Egypt".



Angel's Visit To Mary Revealed

NAZARETH - Some of the details of the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary, mother of Jesus, have been revealed here. According to reliable reports, the angel greeted Mary thusly: "Hail, thou that are highly favored, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among women".

Mary was somewhat frightened at the sight of the angel and according to the story, was not sure just how to receive him.

She received reassurance however, when the angel said to her: "Fear not, Mary for thou hath found favor with God".

The angel continued, "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy

womb and bring forth a son, and shall call his name JESUS.

"He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.

"And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom, there shall be no end".

Mary then asked the angel: How shall this be, seeing that I know not a man? And the angel answered:

"The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God".

The angel reportedly also told Mary of the pending birth of a son to her cousin, Elisabeth saying: "for with God, nothing shall be impossible."

Mary told the angel, "Be it unto me according to thy word". And Mary then went to visit and to tell her cousin Elisabeth about the angel's visit. She reportedly stayed with Elisabeth for about three months.

Shepherds See Angels

A group of shepherds, tending their flocks at night in the fields, reported that an angel of the Lord appeared to them and they were frightened.

But the angel said to them: "Don't be afraid! For I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very night in David's town your Savior was born-Christ the Lord! This is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger".

Then they said that "suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to god: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth to men with whom he is pleased!'"

The angels immediately disappeared into heaven, the shepherds said, and they hurried off to see this that had happened. They found Mary and Joseph, and saw the babe lying in a manger, for there was no room in the inn for them.

The shepherds spread the words of the angels and went back to their fields, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.

Isaiah Predicts Birth Of Christ

BETHLEHEM - The prophet Isaiah predicted the birth of the Christ child which has caused so much excitement here in recent days.

Nearly 800 years ago, the prophet among his many predictions forecast the birth by writing the following:

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a man is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

"Of the increase of his government and peace, there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this".

