



# The First Christmas



News Making  
As It Looks  
To A Maconite  
By BOB SLOAN

## King James Version

## Revised Standard Version

AND there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

THERE shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel: whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son 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.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

THE angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, thou that art favored, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women."

THE angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you."

And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be.

And the angel said unto her, "Fear not, for thou hast found favor with God, and thou shalt conceive and bear a son, and shalt 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."

And the angel said to her, "How can this be, since I have not husband?"

Then said Mary unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?"

And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible."

And Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And the angel departed from her.

And Mary said, "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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NOW the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise. When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife, and knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

NOW the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

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AND it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

IN those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

And so it was that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came unto them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto 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 Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "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."

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him: and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people to-

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests

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## Under The Stars

How often, in the gospels, the statement recurs: And He went up into a high mountain. . . . Is it repeated so many times, surely, because it had special significance for Him? And does it not have significance for us in today's world of tension and war, of suspicion and hate? Like all pre-Christmas seasons, we have had a time of bustle and activity, of gift buying and wrapping; of almost frantic haste to do the things we felt must be done. After today, all that will be over. And with it finished, would it not be well for us to give ourselves the opportunity to be lifted, figuratively, to a high mountain of thought—we almost surely would—be so lifted, of tonight, or tomorrow night, we should go alone, under the silent stars, and ponder a little of the meaning of Christmas. In such quiet, gazing at the majesty of the heavens, we might—we almost surely would!—recapture the thing we all so sorely need today, some of that peace that passeth understanding.

## Justice, 1952 Style

It is a tradition in American justice that a man is presumed innocent until he is proved guilty; that the burden is on the state to prove his guilt, rather than upon him to prove his innocence; and that the evidence must prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Actually, that concept almost certainly stems from the Magna Charta, signed in 1215, more than two hundred years before America was even discovered! In addition to that common law tradition, the Constitution of the United States guarantees certain specific rights: "The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury." "No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court." And "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy, and public trial, by an impartial jury. . . and be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor." Those are specific guarantees written into the Constitution, but those guarantees, as well as the common law tradition that a man is presumed innocent until proved guilty, all are being nullified in Washington. The latest instance is the case of John Carter Vincent. Mr. Vincent, a career diplomat, has served his government for 28 years. Repeatedly, his loyalty has been investigated, and repeatedly he has vindicated himself. But the other day while he was on duty in Morocco, the Loyalty Review Board of the Civil Service Commission concluded that there is reasonable doubt as to his loyalty, and recommended that he be discharged from government service. It is true, of course, that the government must have men of unquestioned loyalty in its service. It also is true that Mr. Vincent has not been given court trial. But the fact remains that this public action by an administrative board is tantamount to trying, convicting, and sentencing this man. Before the court of public opinion, he is convicted of treason; his usefulness to his country almost certainly is at an end, and his own life and that of his family ruined. And all this, mind you, not because of reasonable proof of his guilt, but of a mere reasonable "doubt" of his innocence. Was this case tried by a jury, as guaranteed by the Constitution? The answer, of course, is no. Was this man convicted "on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act . . . in open court"? The answer is no. Did he "enjoy the right to a speedy, and public trial"? He has been on trial time after time. And in each case he was tried without a jury. Was he "informed of the (exact) nature of the accusation"? The evidence indicates he was not. Was he "confronted by the witnesses against him"? Certainly not; in most such cases the accused never knows who the witnesses against him are, and in this case the accused was an ocean away. Like the average American, the editor of this newspaper does not know and has hardly more than heard of John Carter Vincent, and therefore has little personal interest in what happens to him. But it is high time the average American became interested in this open flouting of the Constitution, this deliberate destruction of personal rights. For tomorrow, or next year, it might be you or

Poetry  
Editor  
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Sponsored by Asheville Branch, National League of American Pen Writers  
THE HIGHEST GIFT  
The winter stars are golden balls  
To decorate the sleigh of night  
For Santa who with full moon face  
Is shedding on the earth his light.  
Imagination has conceived  
And years have bred the Santa fun.  
It is the height of fancy's love,  
But eternal love adores the Son.  
Edith Deaderick Erskine  
Weaverville, N. C.

STRICTLY PERSONAL  
By WEIMAR JONES  
CHRISTMAS MEMORIES  
It had nothing whatever to do with gifts, but was a game. The idea was to "get Christmas gift" on others by saying it to them before they could say it to you.  
Year after year I went to bed very early on Christmas Eve, in hopes of being the first awake the next morning. But nearly always I awoke with the sheep.  
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## Do You Remember?

Looking backward through the files of The Press  
50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK  
Paul Jones, who has for some time been The Press printer, was kicked by a horse last Wednesday evening and has been laid up for repairs since that time.  
Mr. B. F. Carr, of Mayesville, Ga., was in town Friday and Saturday. Mr. Carr is always a welcome visitor here, particularly among our stock men.  
Mr. W. L. Painter has just returned from Baker City, Ore., and looks fat and well. He says he will go back to Oregon in the spring.  
25 YEARS AGO  
Dollars to doughnuts that Charlie Teague will never appear in public wearing the gold medal recently presented to him as a Master Farmer.  
Mr. Reid Cabe has just completed and furnished a nice seven-room house in Fair Ground Park. Mr. H. P. Nichols, who is employed with the U. S. Forest Service, has rented the house and will occupy it at once.  
Mrs. Bob Cansler and two children, of Pisgah Forest, are here to spend the Christmas holidays. Mr. Cansler will join them Saturday.  
10 YEARS AGO  
Frank Baldwin, Arnold Duval, Ford Duval, and Frank Solesbee, who have been working in Florida, returned home to spend the Christmas holidays. (Kye).

Miss Mary Evelyn Moore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Moore, and Miss Lucille Calloway, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tim Calloway, who are studying in the engineering department of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, are training to inspect airplanes for Glenn-Martin Corporation.