

January 9–15. Matthew 2; Luke 2: We Have Come to Worship Him

Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7 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.

What do we learn about the birth of Jesus from these verses?

Orson Pratt

"He came in a very meek and humble manner; his birth and advent into this world were in the most humble position. Born, as it were, in a stable, laid down in a manger. Not born in king's palace—not born among the great and noble, but in a very obscure manner. He grew up from infancy to manhood engaged in the carpenter's business.... Nothing characterizing him as the Great Creator of this world, or as its Redeemer, only to those who were well acquainted with the predictions of the Prophets." (JD, 15:53)

Sterling W. Sill

"It should stimulate us to remember that when Jesus was born in Bethlehem there was no room found for him in the inn. But there is a strange foreboding in this thought. 'No room' was the Master's experience throughout his life. There was 'no room' for his doctrines, 'no room' for the spirit of his mission. We must not allow history to repeat itself because we make no room in our country or our lives for the Savior of the world." (CR, April 1959)

Testimonies of the Divinity of the Baby Jesus

Testimony of the Shepherds

Luke 2:8-20

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone

round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15 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 is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

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

What do the angels testify about Jesus?

(For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord)

What was the testimony of the shepherds?

(And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child)

Thomas S. Monson

"Then came that night of nights when the angel of the Lord came upon shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock, with the pronouncement: 'For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.'

"Thus personally invited to undertake a search for the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, did these shepherds concern themselves with the security of their possessions? Did they procrastinate their search for Jesus? The record affirms that the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us now go even unto Bethlehem... And they came with haste.'
(CR, Oct. 1965)

Testimony of Simon

Luke 2:25-33

25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

What was the testimony of Simon?

(mine eyes have seen thy salvation)

How did Simon know he would see the Lord before he died and how did it come about that he was at the temple that day?

(Holy Ghost
he came by the Spirit into the temple)

Reuben Clark, Jr

"There came into the temple, at that time, one Simeon, to whom the Holy Ghost had revealed that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord, Christ when he came into the temple and saw the infant Jesus, he took, 'him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said... mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.' Thus to him came a testimony." (CR, April 1946)

Testimony of Anna

Luke 2:36-38

36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

What did Anna do after she received the witness that Jesus was the Christ?

(gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem)

Dallin H. Oaks

"Joseph and Mary brought the infant Jesus to the temple at Jerusalem after forty days to present him to the Lord. There, two aged and spiritual temple workers received a witness of his identity and testified of him. Simeon, who had known by revelation from the Holy Ghost that he should not taste of death until he had seen the Messiah, took the infant in his arms and testified to his divine mission. Anna, whom the scripture called 'a prophetess' recognized the Messiah 'and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.'

"Anna and Simeon were eyewitnesses to the infant.... Their knowledge of his divine mission came through the witness of the Holy Ghost. 'The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy' (Rev 19:10.) Therefore, we can properly say that when each received this witness, Simeon was a prophet and Anna was a prophetess. Each then fulfilled the prophetic duty to testify to those around them." (CR, Oct. 1990)

What responsibility do we have after we receive a witness that Jesus is the Christ?

(Each then fulfilled the prophetic duty to testify to those around them)

We have the testimonies of three witnesses that the baby born to Mary is the promised Savior. And we are told that they received their testimonies thru the power of the Holy Ghost

Shortly after came the testimony of the Wise Men

Matt 2:1-12

1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

2 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.

3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet,

6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

11 ¶ And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

What did the Wise Men know about the child they were seeking?

They knew that the star was a sign of Christ's birth and they came to worship their Savior

(Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star)

he demanded of them where Christ should be born

they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him)

Bruce R. McConkie

"It would appear [the Wise Men] were true prophets, righteous persons like Simeon, Anna, and the shepherds, to whom Deity revealed that the promised Messiah had been born among men. Obviously they were in possession of ancient prophecies telling of the rise of a new star at his birth. That they did receive revelation for their personal guidance is seen from the inspired dream in which they were warned not to return to Herod after they had found and worshiped the Son of Mary." (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1:103)

N. Eldon Tanner

"[The Wise Men] expected a new star. This was because ancient prophets had foretold the signs that would appear. Those who had read of the prophecies were prepared for these signs when they came, and what a thrilling thing it is to know, as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, that the wise men from the east followed the star to the place of his birth, and as they came to Jerusalem they asked: '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.' They were instructed to go to Bethlehem, where he would be born, as prophesied by Micah the prophet. When they arrived at Bethlehem, they saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and fell down and worshiped him." (CR, Oct. 1964)

Talmage explains why the testimony of the Wise Men is so important

James E. Talmage

“It will be observed that the testimonies concerning the birth of the Messiah are from two extremes, the lowly shepherds in the Judean field, and the learned magi from the far east....

“There were classes of people among the Jews whom these lowly shepherd witnesses could not reach, and had they been able to reach them, the story of the angel's visit, and the concourse of angels singing the magnificent song of Peace on earth, good will to men would doubtless have been accounted an idle tale of superstitious folk, deceived by their own over-wrought imaginations or idle dreams. Hence God raised up another class of witnesses—the wise men from the east—witnesses that could enter the royal palace of proud King Herod and boldly ask: 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. (Jesus the Christ, pg. 108-109)

Later we have the twelve year old Jesus testifying of His own divinity

Luke 2:41-51

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.
42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.
43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.
44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.
45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.
46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.
47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.
48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.
49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?
50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.
51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.
52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

How do these verses testify of Jesus' divinity?

(all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers
And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?)

Eldred G. Smith

"He declared who he was. Throughout his life on earth, he repeatedly declared that he was the Son of God. At the age of twelve, he was found 'in the temple' conversing with the 'doctors.' In answer to his mother's reproof, he said, 'Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?'" (CR, April 1976)

Jesus knew who His real father was

James E. Talmage

"[Mary's] Son's response had brought anew to her mind the truth that Joseph was not the Boy's father. She appears to have been astonished that One so young should so thoroughly understand His position with respect to herself. He had made plain to her the inadvertent inaccuracy of her words; His Father had not been seeking Him; for was He not even at that moment in His Father's house, and particularly engaged in His Father's business, the very work to which His Father had appointed Him? (Jesus the Christ, pg. 108)

Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled

There are a number of prophecies from the Old Testament stating that Christ would be a descendant of king David. This was fulfilled through both Mary (Luke 3) and Joseph's (Matt 1) ancestry

In Matt 2:5-6 we read that the prophecy of Micah was fulfilled that the Savior was to be born in Bethlehem

Matt 2:13-18

13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

16 ¶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.

17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,

18 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.

What two prophecies are mentioned in these verses?

Verse 15, "Out of Egypt have I called my son" is from Hosea 11:1

Verse 18 is from Jeremiah 31:15)

Matt 2:19-23

19 ¶ But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.

21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judæa in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:

23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

What prophecy mentioned in these verses?

Verse 23, "He shall be called a Nazarene." This prophecy is not found in our Old Testament.