

# CHRISTMAS

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CHAPTER  
TWO



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**THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS**

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LONG AGO, ISRAEL WAS CONTROLLED BY THE ROMAN EMPIRE, WHICH WAS RULED BY AN EMPEROR NAMED CAESAR AUGUSTUS.

THE EMPEROR WANTED TO SEE HOW LARGE HIS POWER EXTENDED...

...SO HE DECIDED TO HAVE EVERY PERSON UNDER ROMAN RULE COUNTED.

IN RESPONSE TO THIS ORDER, PEOPLE WERE MADE TO RETURN TO THE TOWNS THEY WERE BORN IN TO BE OFFICIALLY COUNTED.






THIS MEANT THAT JOSEPH, A DESCENDANT OF THE GREAT KING DAVID, AND HIS FIANCÉE, MARY...

The illustration shows Joseph, a man with a beard and a brown tunic, holding a long wooden staff. He is walking alongside Mary, who is wearing a blue robe and a matching head covering. They are both looking towards the right. In the background, there are rolling hills and a few other figures in the distance, suggesting a long journey. The sky is a mix of purple and orange, indicating either dawn or dusk.

HAD TO MAKE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH BACK TO HIS HOMETOWN OF BETHLEHEM IN JUDEA TO BE COUNTED.



THE LONG JOURNEY WAS MADE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT, AS MARY WAS EXPECTING A CHILD; BUT THIS WAS NO ORDINARY CHILD.

This panel is a close-up of Mary. She is wearing the same blue robe and head covering as in the previous panel. Her expression is one of concern or worry. The background is blurred, showing the same landscape as the previous panel.



MARY CARRIED WITH HER A MIRACLE!

This panel is a close-up of Mary's belly. She is wearing the same blue robe and head covering. Her hands are resting on her belly, and she has a look of awe or wonder on her face. The background is blurred, showing the same landscape as the previous panel.

THE WEARY COUPLE ARRIVED TO FIND THE CITY OVERFLOWING WITH PEOPLE WHO HAD ALL TRAVELED THERE TO BE COUNTED.



THIS PRESENTED A BIG PROBLEM FOR THEM BECAUSE MARY WAS READY TO GIVE BIRTH.

WITH THE INN FULL OF TRAVELERS, MARY AND JOSEPH TOOK SHELTER IN THE ONLY PLACE STILL AVAILABLE...



...A STABLE.

THE GREATEST OF KINGS WAS BORN IN THE LOWEST OF PLACES.



MARY WRAPPED THE YOUNG CHILD IN STRIPS OF CLOTH AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER.



THAT NIGHT, THERE WERE SHEPHERDS STAYING IN THE FIELDS NEARBY, GUARDING THEIR SHEEP.

SUDDENLY, AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED, AND THE GLORY OF GOD SHONE SO BRIGHTLY THAT THEY SHOOK WITH FEAR.

THE ANGEL URGED THEM TO BE CALM...

I BRING GOOD NEWS.

THE MESSIAH, THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD HAS BEEN BORN TODAY IN BETHLEHEM.

YOU WILL FIND HIM WRAPPED IN STRIPS OF CLOTH AND LYING IN A MANGER.

SUDDENLY, THE ANGEL OF THE LORD WAS JOINED BY A VAST HOST OF OTHERS.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN, AND PEACE ON EARTH TO THOSE WITH WHOM GOD IS PLEASED.

THE ARMIES OF HEAVEN APPEARED, FILLING THE SKY ABOVE THE SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELD, AND THEY BEGAN PRAISING GOD AND PROCLAIMING THIS GREAT MIRACLE.

AFTER THE ANGELS HAD LEFT, THE SHEPHERDS HURRIED TO THE VILLAGE TO SEE THE MIRACLE FOR THEMSELVES!

AFTER SEEING THE CHILD, THEY TOLD EVERYONE WHAT THEY HAD SEEN.

EVERYONE WHO HEARD THEIR STORY WAS ASTONISHED!



IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE DAY FILLED WITH MANY MIRACULOUS EVENTS, AND MARY KEPT ALL THE THINGS SHE SAW AND HEARD IN HEART AND THOUGHT ABOUT THEM OFTEN.

AS THE SHEPHERDS RETURNED TO THEIR FLOCKS, THEY CONTINUED TO GLORIFY AND PRAISE GOD FOR THE INCREDIBLE MIRACLE THEY HAD WITNESSED.

EVERYTHING HAD HAPPENED JUST AS GOD PROMISED...

...JUST AS HE HAD PLANNED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF EVERYTHING!

THE END