

Jesus' Birth in Bethlehem

2 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all <sup>the</sup>the inhabited earth. <sup>2</sup><sup>the</sup>This was the first census taken while <sup>the</sup>Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all *the people* were on their way to register for the census, each to his own city. <sup>4</sup> Now 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 family of David, <sup>5</sup> in order to register along with Mary, who was <sup>the</sup>betrothed to him, and was pregnant. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the <sup>the</sup>time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a <sup>the</sup>manger, because there was no <sup>the</sup>room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock at night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord *suddenly* stood near them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. <sup>10</sup> And *so* the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; <sup>11</sup> for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is <sup>the</sup>Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a <sup>the</sup>manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly <sup>the</sup>army of angels praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace among people <sup>the</sup>with whom He is pleased."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had departed from them into heaven, the shepherds *began* saying to one another, "Let's go straight to Bethlehem, then, and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the <sup>the</sup>manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen *Him*, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it were amazed about the things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.