

Those involved at the birth of Jesus Christ

GABRIEL

Lukas 1:26, In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee.

MARY

Luke 1: 26-38, In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. **The virgin's name was Mary.** ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. "Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end. **"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"** The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God. **"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said."** Then the angel left her.

JOSEPH

Matthew 1:19-25 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" --which means, "God with us." **When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.**

INN KEEPER

Lukas 2:4, So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:15, When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. " So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ **When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,** ¹⁸ **and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.** ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ **The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.**

THE WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

Matthew 2:1-2, After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him. "**Matthew 2:9-12**, After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, **and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.** ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

ELISABETH

Luke 1:41-45, When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ **Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!**"

SIMEON

Luke 2:25-32, Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. **For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.**"

ANNA

Luke 2:36-38, here was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, **she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.**

HEROD

Matthew 2:16-18, When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, **and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under,** in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

What are these witnesses telling us today?

Mary is telling us to totally submit our life and body to God.

We must fully believe the Word of the Lord and have no doubt.

The Holy Spirits wants to do a mighty work through us.

Joseph is telling us to obeyed the Lord and guard our behavior and holiness.

The Shepherds are telling us to praise and glorify God and spread the Word of what we have heard and experienced.

The Wise men tell us to bow down, worship and bring our gifts to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Elisabeth is telling us that we are blessed if we believe what the Lord has said in His Word and all will be accomplished.

Simeon says that Jesus Christ is our Light and Salvation.

Anna is encouraging us to give THANKS for the birth of Jesus Christ and to speak to all people about the meaning of Christmas.