

**I**n the fourth year before the opening of the Christian Era, Joseph, a carpenter of Galilee, obedient to a decree of Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed, every one in his own city, went with Mary, his wife, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David.

**A**nd 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.

**I**n the same country were shepherds, keeping watch over their flock by night, and lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and they were sore afraid, and the angel said, fear not; for, behold, I bring tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day a Saviour. And suddenly there was 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 the shepherds came, and found the babe lying in a manger, and made known abroad the saying concerning the child, and all that heard it wondered. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

**A**nd came eastern wise men to Jerusalem, following the child's star, and Herod the king was troubled for prophecy had told that from Bethlehem would come a ruler of all Israel, and he sent the wise men there, saying, search diligently, and when ye have found the child bring me word, that I may come and worship him also. And lo, the star led them to where the young child was, and they fell down and worshipped him, and presented unto him gifts, and they returned not to Herod, but departed another way.

**F**orty days after his birth, the child was presented at temple in Jerusalem, whence the family returned to Nazareth.

**B**ut Joseph, fearful of Herod's wrath, fled with Mary and the child into Egypt, and Herod, unaware of their escape, slew the babies in Bethlehem and all the coasts thereof.

**W**hen Herod died, Joseph returned with Mary and the child to Israel, but hearing that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither, and turned aside into the parts of Galilee.

**W**hen Christ began to be about thirty years of age, he was baptized in the river Jordan, by his cousin John the Baptist, and passed forty days in the wilderness near Jericho, and began his ministry preaching in the synagogues in Galilee, in Nazareth and in Capernaum.

**A**nd he dwelt in Nazareth, until his thirtieth year, and then he came to Jerusalem, and he was with God and man.

**I**n his twelfth year, taken to Jerusalem for the Passover, the child, for three days was lost from his kin, and they found him in the temple questioning with the doctors.

**O**n the Sunday in April before the feast, when Christ was thirty-four years old, he rode into Jerusalem, returning at eventide to Bethany, and the next three days went he also into the city, and did preach in the temple, and on the fourth evening he sat in Jerusalem, sharing with the twelve the Passover feast, and near midnight, in the

Garden of Gethsemane on Olivet, whither he had gone after the feast, he was seized by his enemies, and sent bound to the high priest Caiaphas, and tried in the morning by the Sanhedrin, and taken before Pilate and Herod Antipas, and sentenced to be crucified, and he carried his cross to Calvary, and on that afternoon died upon the cross.

THE GREAT SEA  
(MEDITERRANEAN SEA)

PALESTINE  
FROM 4 B.C. TO 30 A.D.  
SCALE  
EACH PARALLELOGRAM  
IS 20 MILES ON EACH SIDE

This perspective map depicts the principal journeys of Christ, Mary, and Joseph from the time of the Savior's birth (4 B. C.) to his death (A. D. 30).

# The Birth and Journeys of Christ

## CHAPTER 2.

1 The wise men are directed to Christ by a star. 13 Joseph fleeth. 16 Herod slayeth the children.

**N**OW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea 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.

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 Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

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

7 Then Herod, when he had privately called the wise men, enquired 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.

13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto 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."

## The Story of Bethlehem as Told by Matthew and Luke

BY THE REV. JOHN EVANS

**B**ETHELEHEM, with its azure sky and terraced groves of the olive and fig, its sloping hills where shepherds keep watch over their flocks, is the heart of the world.

Its story is most powerful when most simply told, whether by Matthew the publican (left) or Luke the physician (right). Matthew tells the story to Jews whose world was solely man's. There were Herod the king, the wise men, priests, scribes, and Joseph, the foster father. A disturbance! Where is this babe born king, as Hebrew prophet foretold? The star of David led the way. A masculine story!

Not so with Luke, who wrote for Greek with his sensitive response to form and feeling. Here are motherly details—swaddling clothes, the manger, and, as always with mothers, angels. To be sure, there were shepherds. But these rustic folk found "Mary (scarce mentioned by Matthew), and Joseph, and the babe." And as the scene ends we read Luke's line of matchless understanding, "But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart."

Earth knows no power equal to what this story increasingly unleashes. It is there whether accepted or rejected. It is manifest in tumult of mart and turmoil of nations. Step by step and age by age, at last it compels history to become his story.

Trace the steps of him in that tiny land. They lead to a rugged, weather-scarred hill, but under the impact of them the world will shake. Read what he said. A few moments is enough to scan all his words that remain, but of the making of books to apply their meaning there is no end.

## CHAPTER 2.

1 Augustus taxeth all the Roman empire. 6 The nativity of Christ. 8 One angel relateth it to the shepherds: 13 many also arrive to find for it. 21 Christ is circumcised. 23 Simeon and Anna prophesy of Christ. 40 who increaseth in wisdom, 45 questioneth with the doctors, 51 and is obedient to his parents.

**A**ND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2 And this taxing was first made when Cyreni-us 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, unto Judaea, 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.

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.