# Lesson 2 Matthew 1:18-25, 2:10-11 Infancy of Jesus

Life in Christ: When did you feel closest to Our Lord this week?

1. Matthew states that the birth of Christ was the fulfillment of prophecy. Give (highlight) one fact from these prophecies that was fulfilled in the birth of Christ.

Genesis 3:14-15

14 Then the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you shall be banned from all the animals and from all the wild creatures; On your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat all the days of your life.

15 [3](#3) I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel."

Psalm 2

1 [1](#1) Why do the nations protest and the peoples grumble in vain?

2 [2](#2) Kings on earth rise up and princes plot together against the LORD and his anointed:

3 "Let us break their shackles and cast off their chains!"

4 The one enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord derides them,

5 Then speaks to them in anger, terrifies them in wrath:

6 "I myself have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain."

7 I will proclaim the decree of the LORD, who said to me, "You are my son; today I am your father.

8 Only ask it of me, and I will make your inheritance the nations, your possession the ends of the earth.

9 With an iron rod you shall shepherd them, like a clay pot you will shatter them."

10 And now, kings, give heed; take warning, rulers on earth.

11 Serve the LORD with fear; with trembling bow down in homage, Lest God be angry and you perish from the way in a sudden blaze of anger. Happy are all who take refuge in God!

Isaiah 9:6-7

5 For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.

6 His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, From David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains By judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

1. In Isaiah 7:14, the word “virgin” is sometimes alternatively translated “young woman.” When this prophecy was given to King Ahaz by Isaiah, how impressed do you think King Ahaz would have been by the alternative translation as a sign from God?
2. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states the following: How do you respond to this teaching of the Church and the Bible?

Catechism 497

497 The Gospel accounts understand the virginal conception of Jesus as a divine work that surpasses all human understanding and possibility: "That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit", said the angel to Joseph about Mary his fiancée. The Church sees here the fulfillment of the divine promise given through the prophet Isaiah: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son."

1. Read Luke 1:26-38.

Luke 1:26-38

26 [10](#10) In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,

27 to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.

28 And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you."

29 But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

31 Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, [11](#11) and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father,

33 and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" [12](#12)

35 And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

36 And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived [13](#13) a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;

37 for nothing will be impossible for God."

38 Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

A. How did Mary show her faith?

B Had Joseph’s reaction in Matthew 1:19 been in keeping with the Law, what would have been the result for Mary?

Matthew 1:19

19 Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly.

C What does that tell you about Mary’s response in Luke 1:38 (see also Genesis 38:24 of the Tamar story)?

Genesis 38:24

24 About three months later, Judah was told, “Your daughter-in-law Tamar has acted like a harlot and now she is pregnant from her harlotry.” Judah said, “Bring her out; let her be burned.”

1. A. The name Jesus, in three languages is presented below. What is the difference between the meaning of the Hebrew version of Jesus’ name and the meaning given in verse 21 and what is the significance of that difference? (Hint: there is an equality between both meanings)
2. Greek name “Jesus” (yesous)
3. Hebrew name “Joshua” (yehoshua’)
4. “Joshua” means “the Lord is salvation”
5. Aramaic “Jeshua” (yeshua).

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit.

19 Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,\* yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly.

20 Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her.21 She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

24 When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

25 He had no relations with her until she bore a son,\* and he named him Jesus.

B The two names given to Mary’s son and their meanings are found in verses 21 and 23. Based on the answer to part A and the meanings of the names, What does this tell us about who Jesus is?

1. In Numbers 22-24, there is an amusing story of Balaam, called upon to curse the Israelites nearing the end of their wilderness journey. The story is complete with a talking donkey. Balaam was a pagan prophet, but was directed by God to give this this prophecy. Four times he was called to curse the Israelites; four times he issued a blessing instead. His final oracle includes the prophecy that brought the Magi at Jesus birth. What does this tell you about the One God as sovereign over all peoples and all events?

Numbers 24:17

I see him, though not now; I observe him, though not near: A star shall advance from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel

1. Nothing in the Bible tells us there were three magi. What, in this chapter, may be the basis for the number three?

Matthew 2:10-11

10 They were overjoyed at seeing the star,

11 and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

1. A. How does the Magi’s search for Jesus illustrate Jesus’ teaching concerning those who seek Him?

Matthew 7:7

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened

1. There are four possible results of seeking and finding Jesus:
2. Those who seek and find Him
3. Those who are seeking and have not yet found Him
4. Those who do not seek and do not find Him.
5. Those who do not seek but find Him

B What does Jesus say will be the result for those in the second category?

C Do you think there are any in the fourth category? Why?

D. Where do you see yourself in seeking and finding Jesus?