



The Birth of Yeshua HaMashiach

December 26, 2021 – Part 2

Luke 2 ¹⁻² During those days, the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, ordered that the first census be taken throughout his empire. (Quirinius was the governor of Syria at that time.) ³ Everyone had to travel to the hometown of their family to complete the mandatory census. ⁴⁻⁵ So Joseph and his wife, Mary, left Nazareth, a village in Galilee, and journeyed to their hometown in Judea, to the village of Bethlehem, King David's ancient home. They were required to register there, since they were both direct descendants of David. Mary was pregnant and nearly ready to give birth. ⁶⁻⁷ When they arrived in Bethlehem, Mary went into labor, and there she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped the newborn baby in strips of cloth, and Mary and Joseph laid him in a feeding trough since there was no available space in any upper room in the village. ⁸ That night, in a field near Bethlehem, shepherds were watching over their flocks. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared in radiant splendor before them, lighting up the field with the blazing glory of God, and the shepherds were terrified! ¹⁰ But the angel reassured them, saying, "Don't be afraid, for I have come to bring you good news, the most joyous news the world has ever heard! And it is for everyone everywhere! ¹¹ For today in Bethlehem a rescuer was born for you. He is the Lord Yahweh, the Messiah. ¹² You will recognize him by this miraculous sign: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in the feeding trough!" ¹³ Then all at once *in the night sky*, a vast number of glorious angels appeared, the very armies of heaven! And they all praised God, singing: ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest realms of heaven! For there is peace and a good hope given to the sons of men." ¹⁵ When the choir of angels disappeared and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go! Let's hurry and find this Word who is born in Bethlehem and see for ourselves what the Lord has revealed to us." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found their way to Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in a feeding trough. ¹⁷ Upon seeing this miraculous sign, the shepherds recounted what had just happened. ¹⁸ Everyone who heard the shepherds' story was astonished by what they were told. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these things in her heart and often pondered what they meant. ²⁰ The shepherds returned to their flock, ecstatic over what had happened. They praised God and glorified him for all they had heard and seen for themselves, just like the angel had said. ²¹ On the day of the baby's circumcision ceremony, eight days after his birth, his parents gave him the name Jesus, the name prophesied by the angel before he was born. ²² Forty days after the birth of her son, Mary's time of purification had completed, so she came to the temple with a sacrifice, according to the law of Moses. So Mary and Joseph took baby Jesus to Jerusalem to be dedicated before the Lord. ²³ For it is stated in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be set apart for God" ²⁴ and is required to offer a prescribed sacrifice, "either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." ²⁵ As they came to the temple to fulfill this requirement, an *elderly* man was there waiting—a resident of Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. He was a very good man, a lover of God who kept himself pure, and the Spirit of holiness rested upon him. Simeon believed in the imminent appearing of the one called "The Refreshing of Israel." ²⁶ For the Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not see death before he saw the Messiah, the Anointed One of God. ²⁷ *Keeping his promise*, the Holy Spirit led Simeon to be in the temple court at the very moment Jesus' parents entered to fulfill the requirement of the sacrifice. ²⁸ Simeon cradled the baby in his arms and praised God and prophesied: ²⁹⁻³¹ "Lord and Master, I am your loving servant, and now I can die content, for you have fulfilled your promise to me. With my own eyes I have seen your Word, the Savior you sent into the world. ³² He will be glory for your people Israel, and the Revelation-Light for all people everywhere!" ³³ Mary and Joseph stood there, awestruck over what was being said about their baby. Simeon then blessed them and prophesied over Mary, saying: ³⁴⁻³⁵ "A painful sword will one day pierce your inner being, for your

child will be rejected by many in Israel. And the destiny of your child is this: he will be laid down as a miracle sign for the downfall and resurrection of many in Israel. Many will oppose this sign, but it will expose to all the innermost thoughts of their hearts before God.”³⁶⁻³⁷ A prophetess named Anna was also in the temple court that day. She was from the tribe of Asher and the daughter of Phanuel. Anna was an aged widow who had been married only seven years before her husband passed away. After he died she chose to worship God in the temple continually. For the past eighty-four years she had been serving God with night-and-day prayer and fasting.³⁸ While Simeon was prophesying over Mary and Joseph and the baby, Anna walked up to them and burst forth with a great chorus of praise to God for the child. From that day forward she told everyone in Jerusalem who was waiting for their redemption that the anticipated Messiah had come!³⁹ When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required of them by the Law of the Lord, they took Jesus and returned to their home in Nazareth in Galilee.⁴⁰ The child grew more powerful in grace, for he was being filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.⁴¹ Every year Jesus’ parents went to worship at Jerusalem during the Passover festival.⁴² When Jesus turned twelve, his parents took him to Jerusalem to observe the Passover, as was their custom.⁴³ A full day after they began their journey home, Joseph and Mary realized that Jesus was missing.⁴⁴ They had assumed he was somewhere in their entourage, but he was nowhere to be found. After a frantic search among relatives and friends,⁴⁵ Mary and Joseph returned to Jerusalem to search for him.⁴⁶ After being separated from him for three days, they finally found him in the temple, sitting among the Jewish teachers, listening to them and asking probing questions.⁴⁷ All who heard Jesus speak were awestruck at his intelligent understanding of all that was being discussed and at his wise answers to their questions.⁴⁸ His parents were shocked to find him there, and Mary scolded him, saying, “Son, your father and I have searched for you everywhere! We have been worried sick over not finding you. Why would you do this to us?”⁴⁹ Jesus said to them, “Why would you need to search for me? Didn’t you know that it was necessary for me to be here in my Father’s house, consumed with him?”⁵⁰ Mary and Joseph didn’t fully understand what Jesus meant.⁵¹ Jesus went back home with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother treasured Jesus’ words deeply in her heart.⁵² As Jesus grew, so did his wisdom and maturity. The favor of men increased upon his life, for he was *greatly* loved by God. TPT

John 1 ¹ In the beginning the Living Expression was already there. And the Living Expression was with God, yet fully God. ² They were together—*face-to-face*, in the very beginning. ³ And through his creative inspiration this Living Expression made all things, for nothing has existence apart from him! ⁴ A *fountain* of life was in him, for his life is light for all humanity. ⁵ And this Light never fails to shine through darkness—Light that darkness could not overcome! ⁶ *Suddenly* a man appeared who was sent from God, a messenger named John. ⁷ For he came as a witness, to point the way to the Light of Life, and to help everyone believe. ⁸ John was not that Light but he came to show who is. For he was merely a messenger to speak the truth about the Light. ⁹ For the perfect Light of Truth was coming into the world and shine upon everyone. ¹⁰ He entered into the world he created, yet the world was unaware. ¹¹ He came to the people he created—to those who should have received him, but they did not recognize him. ¹² But those who embraced him and took hold of his name he gave authority to become the children of God! ¹³ He was not born by the joining of human parents or from natural means, or by a man’s desire, but he was born of God. ¹⁴ And so the Living Expression became a man and lived among us! We gazed upon his glory, the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father overflowing with tender mercy and truth! ¹⁵ John announced the truth about him when he taught the people, “He’s the One! He’s the One I’ve been telling you would come after me, even though he ranks far above me, because he existed before I was even born.” ¹⁶ And from the overflow of his fullness we received grace heaped upon more grace! ¹⁷ Moses gave us the Law, but Jesus, the Anointed One, unveils truth wrapped in tender mercy. No one ever before gazed upon *the full splendor* of God except his uniquely beloved Son, who is cherished by the Father and held close to his heart. Now that he has come to us, he has unfolded the full explanation of who God truly is! TPT

John 11 ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “My Lord, if only you had come sooner, my brother wouldn’t have died. ²² But I know that if you were to ask God for anything, he would do it for you.” ²³ Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise and live.” ²⁴ She replied, “Yes, I know he will rise with everyone else on resurrection day.” ²⁵ “Martha,” Jesus said, “*You don’t have to wait until then.* I am the Resurrection, and I am Life Eternal. Anyone who clings to me in faith, even though he dies, will live forever. ²⁶ And the one who lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ Then Martha replied, “Yes, Lord, I do! I’ve always believed that you are the Anointed One, the Son of God who has come into the world for us!” TPT

Acts 4 ¹² There is no one else who has the power to save us, for there is only one name to whom God has given authority by which we must experience salvation: *the name of Jesus.*” TPT - ¹² And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among people by which we must be saved [for God has provided the world no alternative for salvation].” AMP

John 13 ³ Now Jesus was fully aware that the Father had placed all things under his control, for he had come from God and was about to go back to be with him. ⁴ So he got up from the meal and took off his outer robe, and took a towel and wrapped it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ dirty feet and dry them with his towel. TPT

Philippians 2 ⁵ And consider the example that Jesus, the Anointed One, has set before us. Let his mindset become your motivation. ⁶ He existed in the form of God, yet he gave no thought to seizing equality with God as his supreme prize. ⁷ Instead he emptied himself of his outward glory by reducing himself to the form of a lowly servant. He became human! TPT

Philippians 3 ⁹ My passion is to be consumed with him and not cling to my own “righteousness” based in keeping the written Law. My only “righteousness” will be his, based on the faithfulness of Jesus Christ—the very righteousness that comes from God. ¹⁰ And I continually long to know the wonders of Jesus and to experience the overflowing power of his resurrection working in me. I will be one with him in his sufferings and become like him in his death. ¹¹ Only then will I be able to experience complete oneness with him in his resurrection from the realm of death. ¹² I admit that I haven’t yet acquired the absolute fullness that I’m pursuing, but I run with passion *into his abundance* so that I may reach the purpose for which Christ Jesus laid hold of me to make me his own. ¹³ I don’t depend on my own strength to accomplish this; however I do have one compelling focus: I forget all of the past as I fasten my heart to the future instead. ¹⁴ I run straight for the divine invitation of reaching the heavenly goal and gaining the victory-prize through the anointing of Jesus. ¹⁵ So let all who are fully mature have this same passion, and if anyone is not yet gripped by these desires, God will reveal it to them. TPT

Galatians 3 ¹³ Yet, Christ paid the full price to set us free from the curse of the law. He absorbed the curse completely as he became a curse in our place. For it is written: “Everyone who is hung upon a tree is cursed.” ¹⁴ Jesus Christ dissolved the curse from our lives, so that in him all the blessings of Abraham can be poured out upon gentiles. And now through faith we receive the promised Holy Spirit *who lives in us.* TPT

2 Corinthians 8 ⁹ For you have experienced the extravagant grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was infinitely rich, he impoverished himself for our sake, so that by his poverty, we become rich *beyond measure.* TPT