

The Very First Christmas



Duncan J Maltby



Long, long ago, in a town
called Nazareth, there lived a
kind young woman named
Mary.







One day, an angel appeared
to her with wonderful news!





"Mary," said the angel, "God
has chosen you for something
very special. You are going to
have a baby, and you will
name him Jesus. He will be
God's own Son."





Mary was amazed, but she said, "I will do whatever God wants."





Mary was engaged to marry a
good man named Joseph.
Joseph was a carpenter who
worked with wood.





When Joseph learned about
the baby, an angel visited him
in a dream too. "Don't be
afraid," the angel said. "This
baby is from God. Take care of
Mary and the baby Jesus."





Soon, Mary and Joseph had to
take a long trip to the town of
Bethlehem. Everyone had to
go to their family's hometown.





Mary rode on a gentle donkey
while Joseph walked beside
her. It was a long, bumpy
journey.





When they finally reached Bethlehem, the town was very crowded. They needed a place
*to stay because the baby would be born very soon.





The innkeeper said, "All my
rooms are full." But he offered
them a warm, dry stable
where the animals slept.





That night, in the stable with
the cows and donkeys, baby

- ★ Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in soft cloths
- ★ and laid him gently in a manger, which is a feeding box for animals.





Nearby, some shepherds were
watching their sheep in the
fields. Suddenly, the dark sky
filled with bright light!





An angel appeared and told
them wonderful news:
"Tonight, a very special baby
has been born in Bethlehem.
He is Christ the Lord!"





Then the whole sky filled with
many angels singing, "Glory
to God in the highest, and
peace on earth!" The
shepherds hurried to
Bethlehem and found Mary,
Joseph, and baby Jesus.





Far away in the East, some
wise men saw a beautiful,
bright star in the sky. They
knew this star meant a new
king had been born.





They followed the star for
many days and nights,
traveling across deserts and
mountains, until it led them
to Jesus.





The wise men brought special gifts for the baby king: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- ★ They bowed down and worshiped him.





And that is how Jesus came
into the world on the very
first Christmas. He was God's
greatest gift to everyone.





Every Christmas, we
remember that special night
when Jesus was born, and we
celebrate God's love for all of
us.



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