

THE TRUE CHRISTMAS STORY

Harriet Omondiagbe



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HARRIET OMONDIAGBE



Godly Pearls



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"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

"For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Text quoted from The Holy Bible, New King James Version®
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These are Mary and Joseph.

Mary lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee.
She was waiting to marry a man named Joseph.

Joseph was a carpenter and from the family of King David.



One day, Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that she was going to have a baby boy.

“You will call His name, Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High God”, the Angel said.



Mary was very confused.
“But how can this happen?
I am not even married”, she
wondered.
“The Holy Spirit will come
upon you. Nothing is
impossible with God”, the
Angel explained.



Mary replied, “I am the Lord’s servant.
May everything you have said about me
come true”.

Then, the angel left.



When Joseph knew that Mary was pregnant, he decided not to marry her anymore. But an angel told Joseph not to be afraid to marry Mary. So, they got married.



Sometime later, Caesar Augustus asked everyone to go to their hometown for a census. So, Joseph and Mary travelled together from Nazareth to Bethlehem.



- Caesar Augustus was the ruler of the Roman Empire during this time.
- Bethlehem was Joseph's hometown.
- Census means a count of the people who live in a country.



When Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, there was no room for them to stay. There were so many people in the city. But an innkeeper asked them to stay in his stable – a building where he kept animals.

An innkeeper was someone who took care of travellers by giving them somewhere to stay, food, and water.



While they were in the stable, the Baby was born! Mary safely wrapped the Baby with strips of cloth and laid him in a manger.



A manger is a container or open box used to hold food for animals to eat such as cattle and horses



That night, there were shepherds in the fields watching over their flock of sheep. Suddenly, an angel appeared and told them, “don’t be afraid. I bring good news. The Saviour has been born today in Bethlehem!”



Then, many angels started praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”



After the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds went to Bethlehem to see the Baby.

When they got to Bethlehem, they saw Mary, Joseph and the Baby lying in a manger, just as the angel said.



THINK ABOUT IT!
The Saviour of
the world was
born in a
manger.



After the shepherds saw the Baby, they told everyone what had happened. Everyone was surprised when they heard the shepherds' story.

The shepherds later went back to their flock of sheep, praising God for all they had heard and seen.



Eight days after the Baby was born, they called his name JESUS - just like the Angel told Mary.

Later, Mary and Joseph took Jesus into the temple to dedicate Him to the Lord.

To dedicate means to set someone or something apart to God for a special purpose.

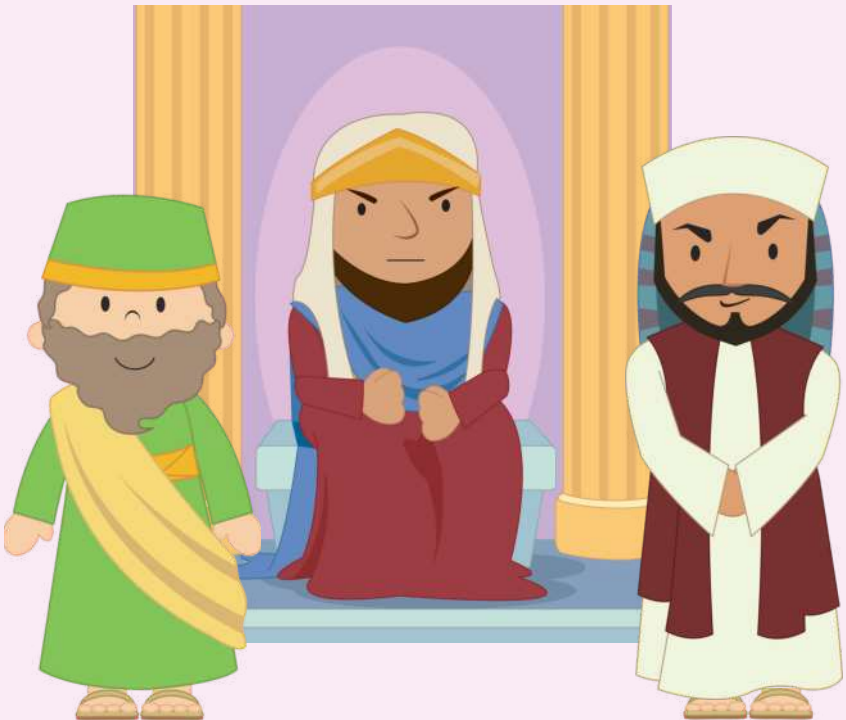


After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and during the reign of King Herod, some wise men from the East arrived in Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the new-born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the East, and we have come to worship Him”.



When King Herod heard what the wise men asked, he was very disturbed. So, he asked the chief priests and scribes, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

“In Bethlehem of Judea”, they said. Then they explained to him all about the prophecy of the birth of Jesus.



Herod then called the wise men secretly, and asked them what time the star first appeared.

Herod told the wise men, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the Child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him too”.




The wise men left King Herod. And the star they had seen in the East guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!

THINK ABOUT IT!
God still guides
us today
through
different means.



The wise men entered the house, and saw Jesus with Mary, His mother. And they bowed down and worshipped Him. Then, they opened their treasure chests and gave Him expensive gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.




THINK ABOUT IT!
What gifts can
you give to
Jesus today?



When it was time for the wise men to leave Bethlehem, they returned to their own country by another way.

God had warned them in a dream that they should not return to Herod because Herod wanted to kill the newborn King.



THINK ABOUT IT!
God still speaks to us today especially through the Bible, His written word.



After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up! Escape to Egypt with the child and his mother”. Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him”, the angel said.



That night, Joseph left for Egypt with Jesus and Mary. They stayed there until the death of Herod.



When Herod saw that the wise men did not return, he was very angry. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys who were two years old and under, living in and around Bethlehem.



When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt.

“Get up! Take the Child and His mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead”, the angel said.

So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and Mary.



Today, we remember and celebrate
the birth of Jesus during Christmas.

Remember that a Saviour was born.
He came to save us from our sins.
The birth of Jesus brings hope to all.
This is the true Christmas story.



What would you do with Jesus today?
Jesus wants to be your best friend
forever.



You can ask Jesus to be your friend
today. He is right there, listening to
you.

About the book.

The book, *The True Christmas Story*, follows the journey of Mary from when she was waiting to get married to Joseph, to a life-changing encounter with an Angel, to giving birth to Jesus in a manger and experiencing God's protection from evil King Herod.

The book, *The True Christmas Story*, is filled with bold and relevant illustrations that will help kids to understand the true meaning and significance of Christmas - with a focus on Jesus, the newborn King and Saviour of the world.

Other books by the author.

1. Dear God, Your love is the best!
2. Jesus loves me and died for me - The true Easter story series, book 1
3. Jesus is alive - The true Easter story series, book 2
4. My emotions and God
5. I can praise God
6. ABCs of nighttime talk with God
7. Not disabled
8. Puppy troubles
9. Looking for Larry
10. Skateboard Pride

ABOUT THE AUTHORS.

Harriet Omondiagbe

Dr. Harriet Omondiagbe is a Christian writer and author. She writes for Godly Pearls, a Christian organization in New Zealand.

Harriet is passionate about godly parenting and wants to see kids thrive in a godly home. Through her writing, she hopes to offer biblically-sound resources to teachers, parents and caregivers, so they can in turn, help their kids to develop a growing faith in Jesus, and real love for God.

Godly Pearls

Godly Pearls is a Christian organization in New Zealand. Our goal is to encourage and empower people to pursue an intentional and deeper relationship with God.

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