

Meet the
King!

SAFARI



Dear parents,

This booklet is offered to your children so that they may learn about Jesus—who He is and what He has done. We hope you will encourage your children to read it, or better still, that you will read it with them.

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Meet the King!

***This is the
true story
from God's
Word, the
Bible, about
a King who
existed long
before He
was born!***

SAMPLE



Years ago in a faraway town there lived a young woman. She was not rich or famous but she did not mind. She was going to get married soon—*that was exciting!*

One day she had a visitor. It was not her neighbor or her cousin but an angel, a special messenger sent by God.

The young woman was scared. You would be too, if you met an angel!

“Don’t be afraid!” the angel said. “God has chosen you for something special.”

What could it be?

“You are going to have a baby,” the angel said. “Give Him the name Jesus. He will be the Son of God, a King.”



"But how?" gasped Mary. (That was her name.) "I'm not married yet."

"This will happen by a miracle. God the Holy Spirit will do it," the angel explained. "Nothing is impossible with God."

"I am ready for whatever God wants," Mary replied.

When the angel left she had a lot to think about:

- ...She was going to have a baby.
- ...He would be God's Son.
- ...A baby King!

God has only one Son. He always lived with God His Father. So He was there when the world was created. We read in the Bible that "All things were made through him..." (John 1:3).



Some time later, after Mary and Joseph were married, Mary knew that her baby would soon be born. It was a bad time to travel but she had to make a journey.

The Emperor had ordered a census. That means he was counting all the people in his empire and everyone had to go to his home town.

Together Mary and Joseph travelled nearly 70 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Perhaps they walked. Perhaps Mary rode a donkey.

Bethlehem was buzzing with people. The tired couple could find nowhere to stay and had to settle for the night in a place where animals lived.

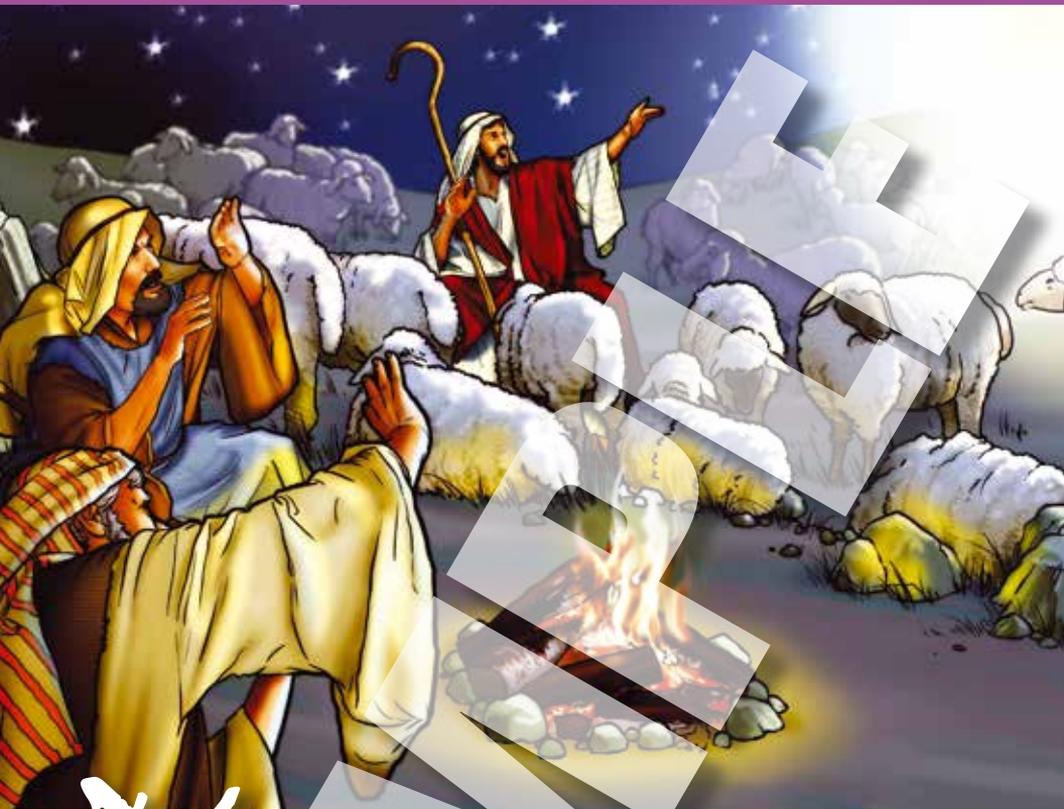


That night the baby King was born. "His name is Jesus," Mary and Joseph may have whispered as they gently wrapped Him and placed Him in the cattle's feeding trough.

Joseph knew the baby was not his child but he was very happy to help care for Him. An angel had told Joseph that the baby was God's Son. "Name Him Jesus," the angel had said, "for He will save His people from their sins."

How would Jesus save His people from their sins? Joseph did not know.

God's Son was coming on a rescue mission; He would rescue people from their sins. Sins are the wrong things you do against God, like telling lies, being selfish, disobeying a parent or stealing. Sin is thinking, saying and doing wrong things, rather than obeying God. In the Bible God tells us that "...we have turned—every one—to his own way..." (Isaiah 53:6).



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obody in busy Bethlehem knew about the miracle baby. But God sent His messenger, an angel again, to tell the good news to some shepherds.

There was dazzling light all around the angel. Like Mary, the shepherds were frightened when they saw him.

“Don’t be afraid,” he said. “I’m here to tell you good news. It’s good news for you and for the whole world. A Savior has just been born in David’s city. He is God’s promised one. He is wrapped up in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”

Suddenly the night sky was ablaze with angels. They were all praising God for sending His Son to Earth.



Savior means rescuer. You and I need to be rescued from our sin. Because of sin you cannot live as God wants. Sin keeps you out of God's kingdom and stops you from being His friend. You deserve to be punished for your sins and God would be perfectly right to punish you forever. But instead He sent His Son to save you.

When the angels went back to Heaven, the shepherds talked it over. "Let's go," they decided. They ran to Bethlehem and found the only baby in the city who had a feeding trough for His bed!

They gazed in wonder at the little boy. They knew that He was their Savior.

On the way home they told everyone they met: "This baby is God's promised one."

"He is the Savior!"

It was dangerous to be a baby King like Jesus was.

Another king, Herod, did not like the idea. He tried to kill the new King. But God kept His Son safe. He had sent Jesus to "save His people from their sins"—nobody else could do that.



Jesus grew up in Mary and Joseph's home in Nazareth. He was a real boy and looked just like other boys. He learned to read and write. Perhaps Joseph, a carpenter, taught Him to make things from wood. He played with His brothers and His friends. He knew what it was like to be happy, sad, excited, lonely and hurt. And Jesus was once the age you are right now!

But in one way He was very different. He did not fight with His brothers. He did not disobey at home. He was always kind, unselfish and truthful. Even His thoughts were always good. He was the only perfect person. *Ever!* He was God, the Son.



When Jesus was an adult, He went around teaching people about God's kingdom. He showed people what God is like. He did things which only God can do.

One day a man who could not walk got a surprise. Four friends said, "We're taking you to Jesus."

They carried him through the streets. But there were so many people crowding the house where Jesus was, they could not get near Him.

But the friends did not give up. They carried the man up the outside steps to the flat roof. *They even made a hole in the roof!* They lowered their sick friend right in front of Jesus.

What would Jesus do?



He looked at the man and saw he had two big problems. Jesus chose to sort out the bigger problem first. So He said, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Some people thought, "What? Only God can forgive sins." They were right, but they did not know that Jesus was God and man.

Next Jesus solved the man's other problem. "Get up," he said, "take up your bed and walk." At once the man got up and walked! That day Jesus did two miracles for one man.

Some people believed in Jesus and followed Him. Many enjoyed His miracles but did not want Him as King of their lives. Some religious leaders hated Him for saying He was God's Son.

Forgiven means that all the wrong you have done is no longer a problem between you and God. He treats you as if you had never done it. In the Bible God says it like this: "... I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more" (Jeremiah 31:34).



One day Jesus was arrested. His enemies set up a fake trial and it was decided He must die. He had the power to escape but He chose not to. He knew He was obeying His Father.

The Roman soldiers made fun of Him. Using long, sharp thorns they made a crown and pushed it onto His head. They dressed Him in a purple robe and hit Him hard, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews."

Soldiers marched Jesus to a hill outside Jerusalem. There they nailed Him to a cross. They put a sign above His head. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."



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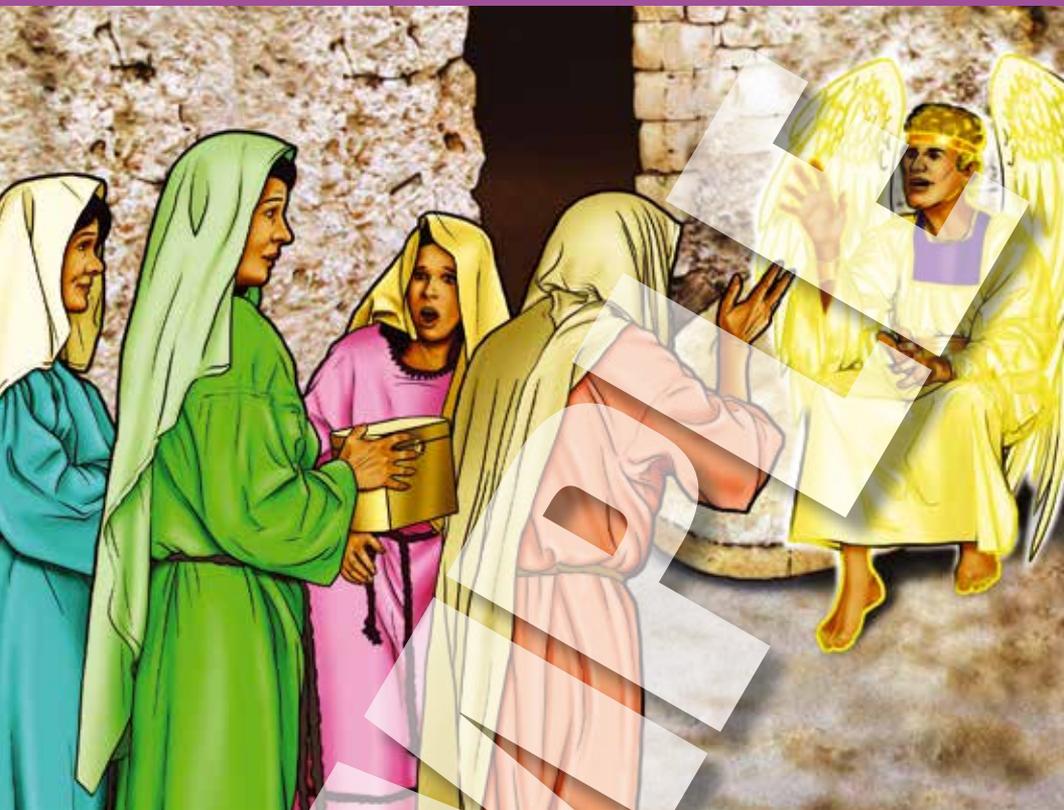
People watched Jesus hanging on the cross. But they did not see all His pain. At midday it became dark as God punished His Son for our sins. That is what made Jesus' death the worst ever.

When it was over Jesus cried out, "It is finished," and He died.

Some of His friends lovingly put His body in a cave. They had so hoped He was the King. But now He was dead.

The rulers made sure no one would get into the cave. A large slab of rock was rolled across the entrance. It was sealed and soldiers were put on guard. That Saturday was a long, sad day.

If Jesus had not died, nobody could have their sins forgiven. God must punish all sin because He is always right and fair. But God loves you so much that He planned this rescue mission and sent His Son to suffer and die. Jesus loves you so much that He was willing to take the punishment you deserve. Jesus died to "... save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Think about these words from the Bible: "...the Son of God,... loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).



Early on Sunday there was an earthquake. An angel came and rolled away the stone from the cave-tomb. The frightened guards ran away.

Some women came to the grave. "He is not here, He is alive!" an angel told them. "Come. Look." The women looked and later Peter and John went in to see for themselves. Jesus was not there. Where was He?

Jesus was alive again!

Mary Magdalene met Him in the garden where the tomb was.

Jesus joined two friends as they walked along a road.

He suddenly appeared in the room where His disciples were. They also met Him on the lake shore and had breakfast with Him.

Over the next 40 days more than 500 people saw Him walking around. *King Jesus was alive! He would never die again.*



One day Jesus and His followers went up a mountain. As He was talking to them, His feet left the ground. He went up, up, up into the sky until a cloud hid Him from view.

As His friends kept watching, two angels came. "He will come back in just the same way," they explained.

The Lord Jesus Christ had returned to Heaven.

Can you imagine the welcome King Jesus received in Heaven? God honored Him far above anyone else. He is King over everything.

There is nobody like King Jesus! In the Bible we read, "...there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). He is the only one who can forgive you and rescue you from sin and the punishment you deserve. He can help you live God's way. He is the only way to God and Heaven.



King Jesus is in Heaven now but one day He will come back to our world. He will punish forever all those who have chosen to live their own way. He will welcome all His forgiven friends. They will live with their King in His wonderful kingdom, which never ends. Jesus Christ can be your Savior and King:

- Will you agree with God that you have sinned? Are you sorry for the wrong things you say, think and do? Are you willing to live God's way?
- Do you believe that Jesus took the punishment you deserve when He died on the cross and rose again?
- Do you want God to forgive your sin and change you on the inside?

If your answers have been yes, listen to this great promise from King Jesus in the Bible: "...everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13). To call on the name of the Lord is to trust the Lord Jesus as the only way to be saved from the punishment you deserve. When you trust in King Jesus, you can tell Him something like this:

"Dear God, I have sinned and I am sorry. I believe Jesus is your Son, who died for me and rose again. I trust Him as my Savior. Please help me live in a way that pleases You. In Jesus' name. Amen."



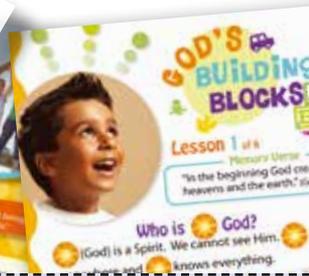
When Jesus Christ rescues you from sin, a whole new way of life begins!

- You will never again be alone. The Lord Jesus promises, "...I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). Your King is always with you. You can talk to Him about anything at any time. You will get to know Him more and more as time goes by.
- Jesus, your King, will help you live as He wants, even when it is difficult. These words are in the Bible: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).
- When you sin again, tell Jesus. "...he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins..." (1 John 1:9).
- You learn more about God and His ways as you read the Bible. The Bible is God's Book so it is very important to read it, believe it and obey it.

On the next page there is a special offer to help you understand more things God says in the Bible. Fill in your name and address, cut it off and mail it to join the *Truth Chasers Club*®. It is free! You answer questions on what's written and receive a new lesson each time by mail. This is a fun way to learn lots from the Bible.

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