

The Birth of Jesus Explained Through Symbols and Signs

Narrator 1

Welcome everyone, young and old. Peace be upon you. Or as many people say, *Salam*. Peace and Salam to all of you on this blessed day. We are here to tell you the story of the birth of the Jesus the Messiah, also known as Isa al Masih, the son of Maryam.

Narrator 2

Every December in America and in many cities around the world we can see bright lights and hear happy music. It's Christmas time. People of many ethnic backgrounds and beliefs like to celebrate this holiday. It's so exciting with bright lights and shiny ornaments on trees and lots of fun giving and receiving gifts!

Narrator 1

But what is the meaning of Christmas? At school and in the shopping malls I see flying reindeer, and a Santa Clause who seems to know every good and naughty that we do. I see lots of advertisements for alcohol and parties at Christmas. Many children just talk about what they want to get as a gift under the tree. Is this what Christmas is all about?

Narrator 2

Not at all! It's about the birth of Jesus, Isa al Masih! Christmas trees, Santa Clause and flying reindeer are not part of the original story. The true story can be found in the scriptures with many details written 2000 years ago in the Gospels, or what some call the Honorable Injil. It's a great story with signs and symbols!

Narrator 1

I'm so excited to hear the story. Tell me about the angels? I see angels on lots of pictures, Christmas cards and as ornaments hanging from Christmas trees. I know that the mighty God who made everything also made the angels to protect us and to send messages to us. What is it about angels at Christmas?

Narrators 3

Can we tell you?

Narrator 4

We know the story too!

Narrators 1

Sure! Come join us!

Narrator 3

Months before Jesus was born, a young lady named Maryam, who many call Mary, was engaged to marry a carpenter named Yusif, who we also call Joseph. One day something very unusual happened. An angel appeared to Maryam. She was super frightened, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid, Maryam, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, for He will rescue His people from their sins."

Narrator 4

You can imagine how surprised Maryam was! What could this great sign of an angel from God mean? She asked the angel, “How can this be, since I am not married?”

Narrator 3

The angel answered, “Nothing is impossible with God. The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you.”

Narrator 4

Maryam remembered the prophecies in the ancient scriptures that promised the Rescuer would be born miraculously to a virgin. She realized God must be choosing her to finally fulfil His promise to send light from heaven and to clean away sin in a suffering world! “I am the Lord’s servant,” Maryam answered. “Let it happen to me just as you have said.” Then the angel left her (Luke 1:38).

Narrator 1

But what about her fiancé Yusif? He must have been very upset to have his fiancé be pregnant without them being married! I bet when she told him about the angel he had a hard time believing her.

Narrator 3

But God had more angel signs! That night, the angel appeared to Yusif and said, “Yusif, do not be afraid to take Maryam as your wife. This baby is by the holy Spirit. She will have a son. Give him the name Jesus, because that means the One who rescues people from their sins.”

Narrator 4

Yusif was amazed to think that God chose his family for such a special task. He chose to protect Maryam’s good name and married her. They eagerly waited for this special baby.

Narrator 1

Now I understand about all the angels we see at Christmas time. But I have more questions. When I drive past some houses, I see statues of people looking at a baby with animals all around. I think they are trying to show the story of Jesus, Isa al Masih’s birth, but what are all those animals doing there?

Narrator 2

I can tell you about that. The king of the land, named King Herod, demanded that everyone go back to the place where their ancestors were born so they could take a census. Maryam and Yusif had to travel 90 miles to the town of Bethlehem.

Narrator 3

That’s a long way! I get tired just walking one mile!

Narrator 2

That's for sure. Yusif got a donkey so Maryam could ride, but it was still very hard for them. When they arrived in Bethlehem, Maryam was ready to give birth to her baby. They looked for a place to stay but all the hotels were full. Finally, one man said, "You can use my animal stable."

Narrator 4

An animal stable? That's a dirty place. No hospital and no family close by. That's so hard!

Narrator 2

Yes. Maryam lay down on the straw exhausted. There was no midwife, no doctor or family to help her. Instead, smelly animals surrounded her. She gave birth to a son, wrapped him tenderly in strips of cloth, and soothed him to sleep in a feeding box. This was Jesus, Isa al Masih!

Narrator 1

Why would God have such a special baby born like that? It seems so strange.

Narrator 2

Listen. Listen and I will tell you! The Gospels, the Injil, tells us that Jesus, Isa al Masih was born in such a humble way to show that God loves all people, including the very poor. If He had been born in a palace, the poor might have been afraid to approach Him. Instead, when He grew up, by being in a poor family, experiencing hard times, He would be able to understand other people's suffering and show them God's great compassion. He was like a king, who had chosen to go among his peasants, to understand their difficulties and to help them improve their lives.

Narrator 1

That's so amazing! Then all the animals at Christmas time are a sign of God's love!

Narrators 5 and 6

(Come in singing). We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas. We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Narrator 3

Hey, you guys sounds great! And Merry Christmas to you too! I love hearing songs on the radio and in shopping malls at this time of year. I know lots of them are just about happy family traditions, but does the singing connect us in any way back to the story of the birth of Jesus, Isa al Masih?

Narrator 5

We can tell you about that. In many countries, when a baby is born, the neighbors come and sing to welcome them. No family was near Yusif and Maryam to sing songs to them. It seemed pretty sad, but the mighty God did not forget them.

Narrator 6

On the night Jesus, al Masih was born, a group of shepherds suddenly came running through the streets from outside the town where they'd been watching the sheep. They shouted to everyone they met along the road, "An important baby has been born tonight! We were startled by a bright light and suddenly saw an angel appear. He said to us, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today a Rescuer has been born to you. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'"

Narrator 5

The shepherds said that after this amazing announcement, many angels appeared in the sky singing an incredibly beautiful song to welcome this special birth. Today, no one knows the tune, but the words have been recorded: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, goodwill to men." When we sing Christmas songs, we do so to remember the angels' song. We also want to celebrate that God has found a way to bring peace between humans done by sending Jesus, Isa Al Masih.

Narrator 6

The shepherds found baby Jesus wrapped in pieces of cloth and lying in a manger, just as the angel had said. They bowed to show Him honor, in awe that this special child would be born to a poor family. They were sure now that God loved poor people too because the news had been told to poor people just like themselves.

Narrator 1

This is so fun! I'm learning so much. But I've got more questions. At Christmas time I see many beautiful lights strung all around houses and a star on the top of Christmas trees. What's that all about?

Narrators 7, 8, and 9**(Come in singing)**

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star
O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy Perfect Light

Narrator 1

Hey guys. You sound great, but we already learned about what the songs mean. What are you trying to tell us about?

Narrator 7

You just asked about the lights and stars. We're here to explain them.

Narrator 8

For many centuries people around the world have studied stars. Some studied them as signs pointing to the Creator God. Some mistakenly tried to use stars to predict the future. God's the one who knows that.

Narrator 9

And that's exactly what was happening. Approximately two thousand years ago, a group of men east of Israel were studying the stars. They also studied the ancient scriptures and knew that the God who created the world, including the stars had sent a prediction about the coming Messiah, Jesus al Masih. They read in the scriptures called the Honorable Tawrat, or the Torah, these words, "The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

Narrator 7

One night, those men who were studying, who we call the wise men, saw a huge bright star. This was the sign given to them to lead them to the Messiah. They were so excited that they prepared some costly gifts, got on camels, and followed the star. They were sure this was the sign of the new baby that would be the Messiah.

When they arrived in Jerusalem, the wise men were surprised to find that the religious leaders were ignorant about the birth of the one who had been predicted. In fact, the present ruler, King Herod, was really troubled at the thought that maybe this baby would be a rival to his throne.

Narrator 8

The religious leaders should have known that it was time for their scriptures to be fulfilled. They had become careless in reading and understanding what God had told them. However, they did know that the scriptures predicted the Messiah would be born in a small village called Bethlehem. King Herod told them, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and honor Him also." He was really trying to trick them because He intended to murder this child who might be a threat to his kingdom.

Narrator 9

At night, the wise men from the East saw the star and followed it all the way to the small town of Bethlehem and found the baby, whose name was Jesus, Isa Al Masih. And that's why we have all the Christmas lights and stars. They are symbols to remind us that God sent a sign, not just to the Jews but to those who lived east of them to show that God had sent the Messiah for all people.

Narrator 2

That's such an amazing story. I've got one more question too. What about all the gifts people give at Christmas?

Narrator 7

Do you remember how we said the wise men prepared gifts? They gave Maryam and Yusuf gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to honor Jesus al Masih as God's gift to humans. At the time of Jesus' birth, gifts such as gold, frankincense, and myrrh were only given to a king. These wise men were truly convinced that this little baby was someone very special.

Narrator 8

When we give gifts at Christmas it shows we are grateful to God and we want to pass on the love. Parents feel honored when their children show gratitude by giving them a gift. A wife feels very happy when her husband takes time to choose something special to show He loves her. I love getting gifts, but I especially like to give a gift.

Narrator 9

And it's fun to think that when we give gifts it's a symbol of God's sign of love in the original Christmas story.

Narrator 1

Thanks so much men for helping us know about the sign of gifts.

Narrator 2

So what ever happened to that wicked King Herod?

Narrator 7

King Herod was really worried. He was waiting to hear back from the wise men. However, an angel also appeared to them and told them to go back to their country using a different route. They were not to tell King Herod about seeing Jesus.

Narrator 8

The angel also went and woke Yusuf. He told him to quickly take Maryam and Jesus to flee to the country of Egypt because Herod was going to try to kill the baby.

When King Herod realized the wise men had tricked him, he got so angry that he ordered soldiers to search for and kill all the baby boys, age two and younger. It was so sad. Just because of Herod's selfishness and greed so many people suffered.

Narrator 9

Isn't that exactly why we have so much misery and problem today. I think war and family problems are all caused by selfishness and greed.

Narrator 1

That's for sure. I've heard that God is still giving dreams to help people the truth about His love and His plan to save people from sin. We should all pray that we can know God more through the scriptures and even through dreams.

Narrator 2

I think is so awesome that baby Jesus, Isa al Masih escaped Herod's massacre. Nothing could destroy God's plan. Jesus safely got away to Egypt. He lived there until it was safe enough to come back to Israel. I guess Yusuf, Maryam and Jesus, Isa al Masih all really understood what it is like to be a refugee. I know God really loves those who are suffering today. Someday He will stop all the suffering in the world.

Narrator 1

Well this was a very good summary of the signs of Christmas. It's amazing that hardly anybody knows about King Herod, but millions celebrate the birth of Jesus, Isa al Masih.

Narrator 2

That shows God's blessing on anyone who lives to help others. And that's how Jesus, Isa al Masih lived His whole life. Jesus became known as a great teacher and prophet. His parables, stories, and sayings have been translated into hundreds of languages. His acts of compassion for the poor and the sick have inspired millions. But that's a story for another time.

Narrator 1

Now it's up to us to choose how we will live. Will we seek our own pleasure and power like King Herod? Or will we choose to help others and to sacrifice time and money to make our families, our towns, and our countries places of peace? That's what will bring true joy.

Narrator 2

You are so right. This Christmas I want to especially help the poor and show compassion to others. I want to sing praises to God and learn more about His ways in the scriptures. I want to encourage everyone who has been listening to find out more about this story. One good place is at the website mylanguagemylife.com. You can learn more about God's story and more about the life of Jesus, Isa al Masih in over 180 languages.

Narrator 1

Really? That's a lot of languages. That just goes to show you that God really does love all people and wants to rescue them from sin. Merry Christmas!

All

Merry Christmas everyone!

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