

How Will You Respond to the Christ Child?



Christmas 2017

Luke 2:1-20 & Matthew 2:1-11

Anthony Grove Baptist Church

Dr. Dennis E. Bean

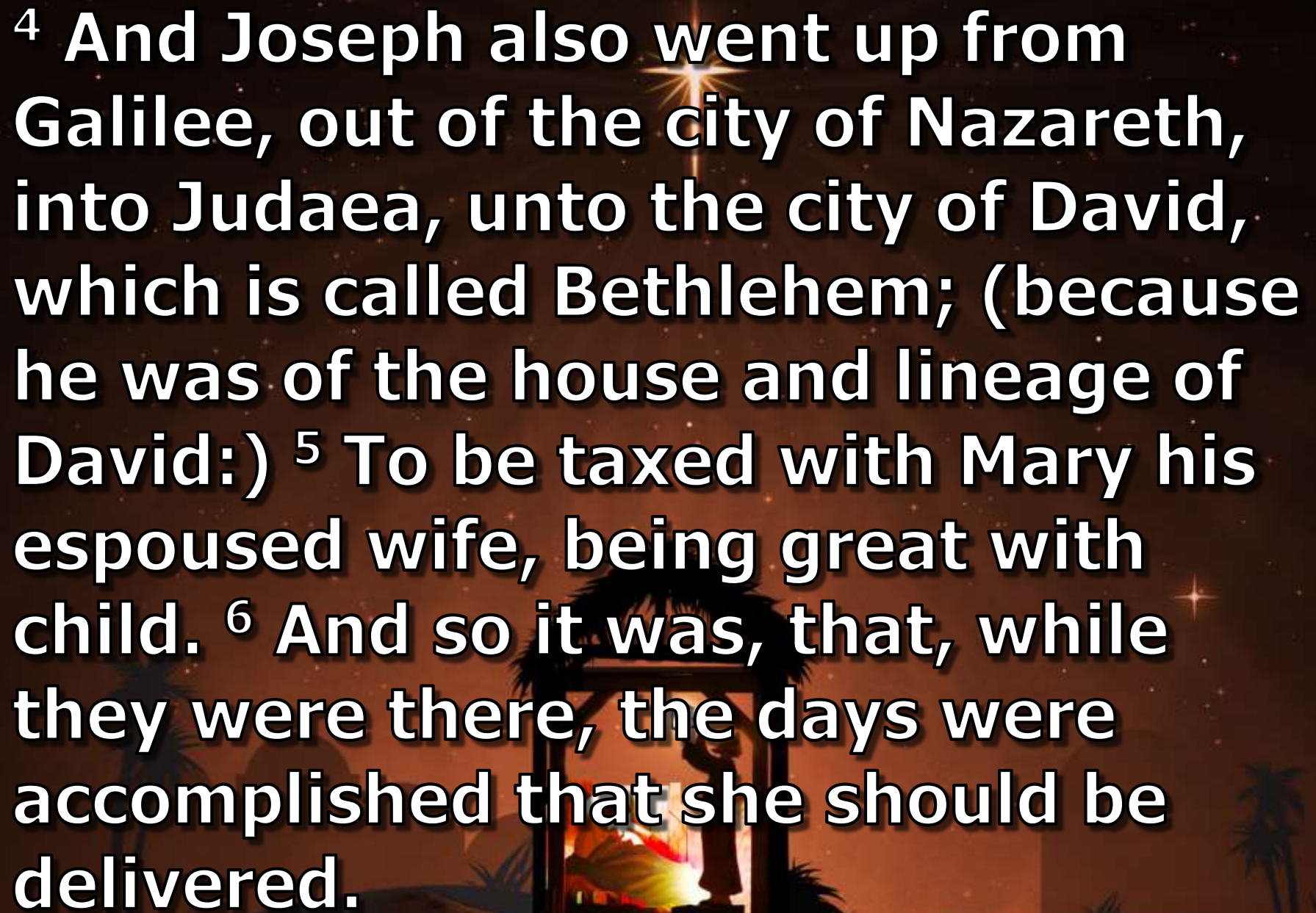
December 24, 2017

Luke 2:1-20

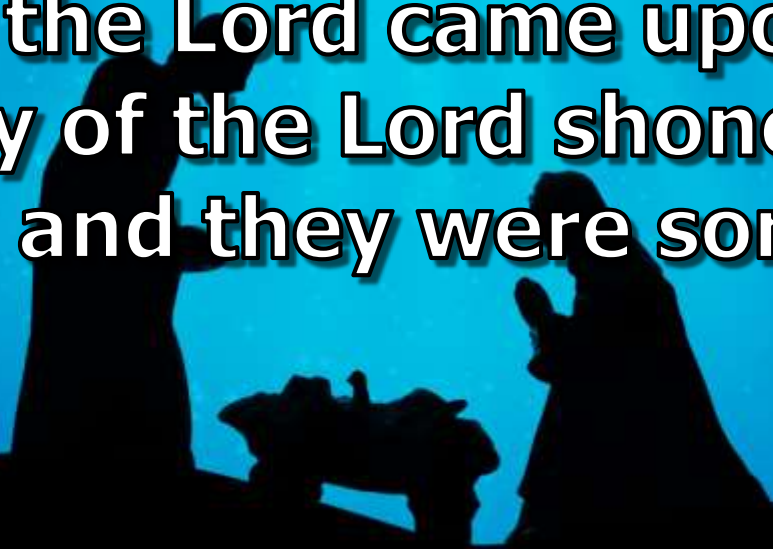
¹ And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. ² (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.



⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) ⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

The background of the text is a dark, starry night sky. A bright star with a lens flare is positioned near the top center, above the word 'Nazareth'. In the lower center, there is a silhouette of a person standing in a doorway or a small structure, looking out. The scene is dimly lit, with some light coming from the doorway and the star.

7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.



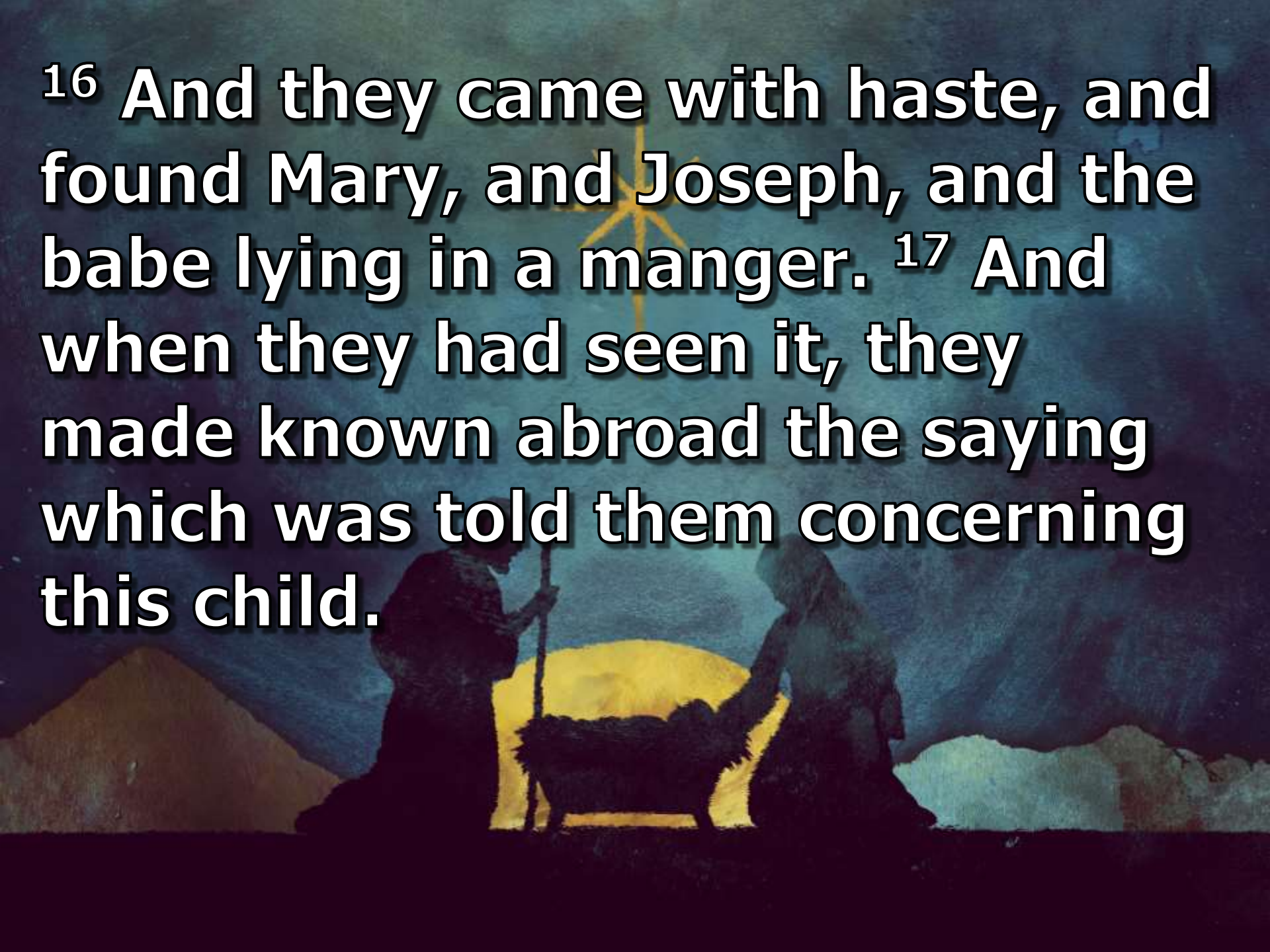
¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.



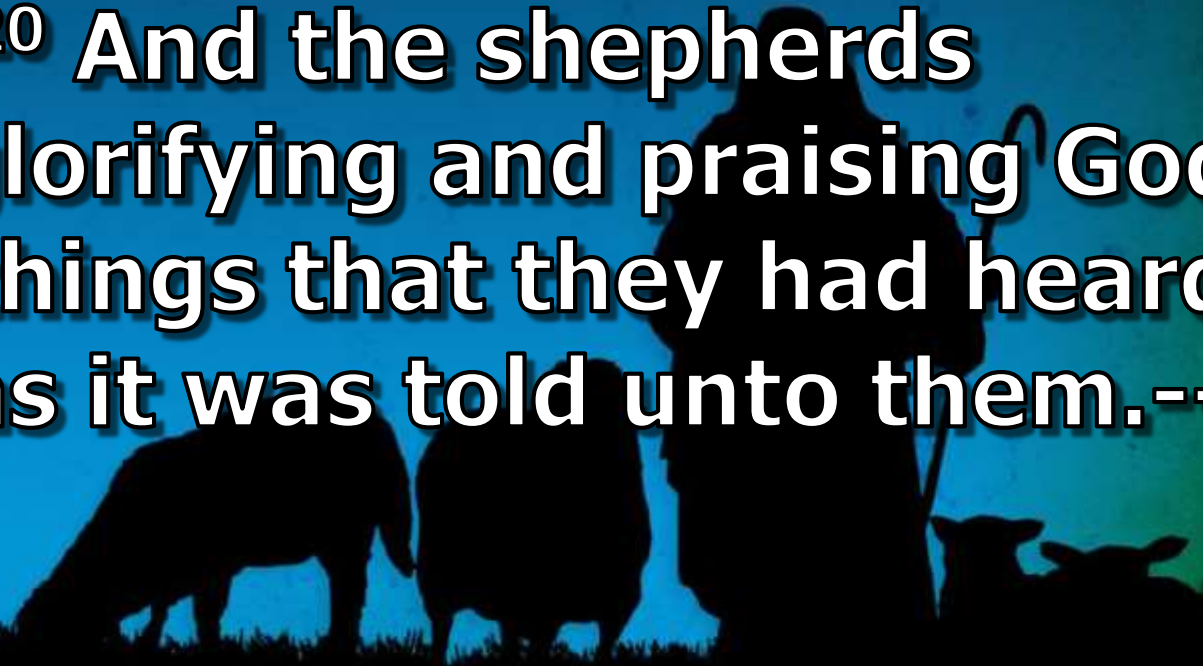
13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. 15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.



¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.



¹⁸ And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.--
(KJV)



**How Will You Respond
to the Christ Child?**



1. The Angels Responded With Praise

Luke 2:9⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.-- (NIV)



A. The Reason For The Rejoicing.

Luke 2:10–11¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.-- (KJV)



B. The Reaction To The Announcement.


Luke 2:13–14¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.-- (KJV)



2. The Shepherds Responded With Promptness.

A. They Were Prompt In Their Worship.

Luke 2:15–16¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.-- (KJV)



B. They Were Prompt In Their Witness

Luke 2:17–18, 20¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.-- (KJV)



3. Herod Responded With Pretense.

Matthew 2:3³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;-- (ESV)



A. Herod Pretended To Be Spiritual.

Matthew 2:8⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."-- (NIV)



B. Herod's Pretense Did Not Fool God.

Matthew 2:13¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."--
(NIV)



Mark 7:6

⁶ He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "
'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.-- (NIV)



4. The Magi Responded With Adoration.

A. They Were Unlikely Prospects.

Matthew 2:1¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem-- (NIV)



B. They Responded with Unselfish Presents.

Matthew 2:11¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.



5. The Scribes Responded With Procrastination

Matthew 2:4⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born.



Matthew 2:5

**5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,”
they replied, “for this is what
the prophet has written:**



2 Corinthians 6:2

² For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.



6. The Inn Keeper Responded With Left Overs.

Luke 2:7⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.-- (KJV)





GOD BLESS

Have a Great Week!