

Welcome to the Second Baptist Cypress drive-through nativity. Get ready for an up close look at the story of Jesus' birth. Jesus, the King and Savior of the world, came to us in an amazing way. And it all started when the Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus called for a census of everyone in his entire kingdom.

"And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city." - Luke 2:1-2

STATION 2

If you or I were going to write the story of a new king, we would probably choose to have this new king be born to an important family in a major city. But this story is different! It starts in a humble village in a rural part of Israel. Nazareth was a town of less than 1,000 people. No one thought that this town was special at all, but God makes big plans in places that other people overlook. In this small town, Joseph and Mary were engaged to be married.

In order for the new king to be born, God chose a young woman named Mary to have a big job! She would be the mother of the Savior Jesus. Mary must have been frightened, but God sent the Angel Gabriel, who told Mary not to be afraid. God would bless the entire world through her son. God also sent an angel to Joseph just like He did for Mary. The angel told Joseph to marry the girl, because God would allow them to raise this boy, the one who would show the world who God is, and to save God's people from sin.

³⁰Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. - Luke 1:30-31

STATION 4

With a very pregnant wife, Joseph had to travel back to his hometown of Bethlehem for Caesar's census. Bethlehem was a full 90 miles from Nazareth, and they didn't have any cars or trains for the journey. They needed to go the whole way on foot! Too bad there was no Buc-ees for them to visit halfway to Bethlehem. But they were able to make it to their destination, and they eagerly awaited the birth of their son.

STATION 5

A group of Wise Men from the East had been watching the stars, and they believed that a King would be born from the Jews. These men were wealthy and powerful, and they travelled a long way to worship this new king. When King Herod of Judea heard this news, he became afraid because he knew the truth—if Jesus is the true King, then no one else can be king.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." - Matthew 2:1-2

After their long journey, Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem only to find that they had nowhere to stay! The Inn had no vacancy for the young couple. The time came for Mary to have her baby, and they had to place baby Jesus in a manger. The Bible doesn't tell us if Jesus was born in a stable or in a cave, but we know that his baby bed was a box designed for horses and cows to eat hay out of! What a strange entrance for the King of the world!

⁷And 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 – Luke 2:7

STATION 7

A group of shepherds were out watching their sheep and minding their own business, when they got the surprise of a lifetime! Out of nowhere, the shepherds saw the glory of the Lord shining all around them, and an angel told them that the Savior of the world was born in Bethlehem. The angel said that they could find the baby lying in a manger, so the shepherds went straight away to see the new King!

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a mutlitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" – Luke 2:13–14

STATION 8

The shepherds listened to the words of the angel, and they rushed to Bethlehem to see the baby. They told everyone they could about what they had seen and heard. A new Savior was born into the world, and all of Heaven was rejoicing and worshiping Him. Mary kept these things in her heart, because her baby boy was not only King and Savior, but He was also God's Son. God expects all of us to have the same response to Jesus worshipping the King of the world.

¹⁹But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. **– Luke 2:19–20**

Jesus, the King and Savior of the world, didn't grow up to build an army like the kings of the Earth. Instead, He said that God's Kingdom was coming, He trained disciples to follow Him, and He proclaimed that God was His Father. Finally, He laid down His life, even though He was guilty of no crime, and He took the sins of the world upon Himself. He was killed on a Roman cross. Jesus, the Son of God, the true King of the world, allowed Himself to be humiliated, hurt, and killed. Why would He do that? He did it because He loves us, and because He is our Savior. He took the consequences of sin so that you and I might live.

We implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. - 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

STATION 10

For three days after His death, Jesus' followers were scared and upset. But they found something incredible on the third day—Jesus was no longer in the tomb! They learned the reason that God sent Jesus as a tiny baby in Bethlehem—it was because Jesus had come to defeat the power of sin and death. God the Father rose Jesus from the dead, proving that Jesus is the true King, and that death has no power over those who believe in Him! Jesus is alive! He is calling you and I to believe in Him, and to be part of the things that He is doing in the world. To be part of His kingdom, each one of us needs to believe that Jesus is the true King.

If you are wondering what it means to be part of His Kingdom, the answer is pretty simple. It means admitting that you need Jesus because of sin in your life. It means believing that Jesus is the true King who died for our sins and rose again. And it means choosing to make Him the Lord of your life. If you make this decision, then that means that you are part of His Kingdom, and you will have eternal life! If you have any questions about what it means to make Jesus the King of your life, we would love the chance to talk with you about it.

⁶He is not here, but is risen! - Luke 24:6

THANK YOU:

Thank you for coming to the Second Baptist Cypress Drive Through Nativity!

We hope that this experience has given you a glimpse into the excitement of the Christmas story. We would love for you to celebrate Christmas eve with us this year. Please visit second.org for Christmas Eve service times.