

## 1) The Story: Chapter 22 The Birth of the King



## 2) Discussion Questions

- 3) "in the beginning" is the same phrase used in Genesis one. What does this bring to mind and connect the beginning of all things with the birth of the savior?
- 4) What does it mean for Jesus to be word who was God in the beginning through whom all things were made?
- 5) Who was John? What was his task concerning "the light"?
- 6) Have you ever been fooled by a disguise and then had what was hidden revealed?
  - a) What was the situation?
  - b) What were your emotions before and after that reveal?
- 7) Why do you think the world did not recognize the light when He came to them?
  - a) What are the implications of this?
- 8) How does someone become a child of God?
  - a) What does "not of natural descent" mean?
  - b) What does "of human decision" mean?
  - c) What does "a husband's will" mean?
- 9) Why hasn't anyone ever seen God?
  - a) What are some examples of people who met with God or His messengers?
  - b) What way does the Story describe Jesus as God?
- 10) The birth narrative of Jesus is quite familiar, upon reading this chapter, do you see any parts of this story that are "forgotten", often overlooked or overshadowed by 'larger' events?
- 11) Who and where did the angel Gabriel go to?
  - a) What was her status – physically, socially?

- 12) Have you ever gotten surprising news? What was the situation? What was your reaction? What was Gabriel's message to Mary?
  - a) Who had favored her?
  - b) What ways was she favored?
  - c) What was the description of the son Mary was to have?
- 13) What was Mary's question to the angel? What would your first reaction have been to news like this?
- 14) What are the implications of the son being called "the son of God" and conceived in such an unconventional way?
- 15) Mary's response is a magnificent prayer – what stands out to you from her words?
  - a) What does she mean by "from now on all generations will call me blessed?"
  - b) What is your impression of Mary from what is recorded here?
- 16) The other person in this account is Joseph – What is his reaction to all of these events?
  - a) What changes his mind?
  - b) How does his obedience to God's revealed will in a dream give you insight into his character?
- 17) When the story says "all this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said" It is the result of God's planning from the beginning. What ways has the story foretold the coming of a savior who would redeem people and reconcile them to God?
- 18) The birth narrative is at a specific time and under the rule of a specific leader: Who were they and what were the circumstances of their trek to Bethlehem?
  - a) Have you ever had outside forces move you (geographically, physically, emotionally, mentally) which you saw only in hindsight to be the hand of God at work? What happened and how did it go?
  - b) What kind of social status did Mary and Joseph have in the description of the birth of Jesus?
  - c) Why do you think Jesus was born into such humble circumstances?
- 19) Who did God first tell of the birth of His son?
  - a) In what way were they told?
  - b) What was their reaction?
- 20) Who came to worship the newborn Jesus from the east?
  - a) How did they come to know about the birth of Jesus?
  - b) How did they get from Jerusalem to Bethlehem? (know where to go?)
  - c) Have you ever had the deception of someone revealed? What was the situation and how did you react?

- 21) What was the reaction of Herod when he realized his deception had been seen through?
- What way did Mary, Joseph & their son escape Herod's rage?
  - How were they warned?
  - Have you ever been averted from disaster by what can only be called supernatural means? What were you saved from?
- 22) Jesus' parents were quite devout and went to the temple for Passover. What were the events that surrounded their trip during Jesus' twelfth year?
- When did they realize they had lost Jesus?
  - How long was it until they located Him?
  - Where did they find Jesus and in under what circumstances?
  - What was Jesus' reaction when He was finally located?
- 23) Jesus' "was obedient to them" and grew to maturity while honoring his earthly parents. What are the ways in which Jesus grew ?
- 24) What does it look like to grow in:
- Wisdom?
  - Stature?
  - Favor with God?
  - Favor with Man?
- b) How does following God bring about these traits?
- 25) What is the significance of Jesus' birth on your life? Has it changed in any significant ways? Do you plan to make any changes in response to reading the Story?