

## Christmas - Lesson 5

Everybody has heard of a birth announcement. Whenever a baby is born, the parents mail announcements which give the date of the birth, whether the baby born is a boy or a girl, the name and the size of the baby and the names of the baby's parents.

John the Baptist, when he saw Jesus, said to the crowd of people: "Behold the Lamb of God." (John 1:29b)

1. BEFORE THE EVENT TOOK PLACE, GOD SENT OUT THE **ANNOUNCEMENT** OF HIS SON'S BIRTH.

A) God foretold the **Devil** in the Garden of Eden of His Son's coming. (Genesis 3:15) Warring between the Devil's children and the woman's child was to take place.

B) God **prophesied** through the Prophet Isaiah that His Son was to be born. (Isaiah 7:14) The meaning of the name, Emmanuel, is "God with us." (Matthew 1:23)

C) God **declared** to Mary that she was to bear the Son of God. (Luke 1:35)

D) God **proclaimed** His Son's coming to Joseph, the future husband of Mary. (Matthew 1:20)

2. AFTER THE EVENT TOOK PLACE, GOD **SENT** OUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS SON'S BIRTH.

A) **Angels** were sent from God to some shepherds in the field. (Luke 2:8-20)

B) Imagine the setting before the angels' **appearing** to the shepherd. No doubt the night was lighted only by stars and moon.

C) Imagine the **sudden** appearing of the angels to the shepherds.

D) The angel's **message** to the shepherds was simple and personal. The angel said, "For unto you is born...a Saviour."

E) The angel gave **exact** instructions for finding the Saviour. The shepherds could know beyond any doubt that they had put their trust in the right Person.

F) The shepherds followed the angel's **direction**.

G) The shepherds went out on a **visitation** program!

H) The shepherds **returned** home with a song of praise in their hearts and on their lips.

3. THE APPEARING OF THE **STAR** ANNOUNCED TO DISTANT LANDS, THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST.

A) God used His own **communications** system to announce this great news.

B) In a distant land some **wise** men saw the star of Bethlehem and understood its meaning.

C) None of the political nor religious **leaders** in Jerusalem knew of the birth of Jesus.

D) After their brief interlude in **Jerusalem**, the wise men saw the star again and rejoiced to follow it to Bethlehem.

By the time they had reached Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph and Jesus were no longer in the stable, of course, but in a house.

When the wise men saw Jesus, they bowed down and worshipped Him and presented gifts to Him from their store of treasures.

The gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh were very costly and represented the desire on the part of the wise men to give the best gifts that they could give to Jesus.

E) The wise men were told specifically to return to their **own** country without using the route that led through Jerusalem.

God knew something that the wise men did not know; He knew that King Herod wanted to destroy Jesus and that he had lied to the wise men when he said that he wanted to worship Jesus.

#### 4. THE HOLY SPIRIT PROCLAIMED HIS COMING BY **ELDERLY** PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN WATCHING.

A) **Simeon**, an elderly man in Jerusalem, had been promised by God that he would not see death until he should see the salvation of the Lord.

To fulfill the law, the infant Jesus was brought to the temple by Mary and Joseph for presentation to the Lord. Simeon went and rejoiced that God had kept His promise to him.

B) **Anna**, an elderly lady who had been widowed seven years after her marriage and had given her life to service in the temple and to prayer and to fasting, came to the temple just in time to see Simeon meeting Mary and Joseph and Jesus.

She, too, praised God for the privilege of seeing the Son of God. Anna told all those who were looking for God's prophecies to be fulfilled concerning a Saviour that Jesus had come to earth.

If all these people who had been told of Jesus' coming had not lived in close fellowship with the Lord—learning His Word, obeying Him and praying, they could not have received the announcement of Jesus' coming to earth from Heaven.