

# A LOVE STORY: THE BOOK OF RUTH

## Chapter 28

### SHEPHERDS, WISE MEN, AND KINGS

12-23-07

#### THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST IS PROPHESED

(Mat 1:18-25) Now the birth of **Jesus Christ** [*Jehovah saves the anointed*] was on this wise: When as his mother **Mary** [*rebellious /// bitter*] was espoused [*betrothed, engaged*] to **Joseph** [*let him add, adding*], before they came together, she was found **with child of the Holy Ghost**. Then Joseph her husband, being a just [*righteous*] man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away [*to divorce her*] privily [*privately*]. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of **David** [*loving*], fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name **JESUS** [*Jehovah saves*]: **for he shall save his people from their sins**. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name **Emmanuel**, which being interpreted is, **God with us**. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: **And knew her not** till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name **JESUS**.

#### THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

(Luke 2:1-7) And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) **And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city**. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David [*about a 90 mile trip*], which is called **Bethlehem** [*house of bread*]; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, **being great with child** [*pregnant*]. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes [*to keep his arms and legs straight*], **and laid him in a manger** [*a feeding trough for animals*]; because there was **no room for them in the inn**.

#### SHEPHERDS ARE THE FIRST TO COME AND SEE JESUS CHRIST

(Luke 2:8-15) And there were in the same country **shepherds** [*pastors*] abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night [*to protect the sheep from robbers and wild animals*]. 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. And the angel said unto them, **Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord**. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men**. 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.

(Luke 2:16-21) And they came with haste, **and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger**. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, **glorifying and praising God** for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called **JESUS**, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

## WISE MEN COME AND SEE JESUS CHRIST ABOUT TWO YEARS LATER

(Mat 2:1-6) Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of **Herod** [*heroic /// appearance, fashion, shape, sight*] the king [*King of the Flesh*], behold, there came **wise men** from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, **Where is he that is born King of the Jews?** for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him [*these words would have struck both terror and fury into the heart of Herod*]. When Herod the king had heard these things, **he was troubled** [*agitated*], **and all Jerusalem with him**. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, **In Bethlehem of Judaea**: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come **a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel**.

(Mat 2:7-12) Then Herod, when he had privily [*privately*] called **the wise men**, inquired of them diligently [*exactly: perfectly*] **what time the star appeared**. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently [*exactly: perfectly*] for the young child; and when ye have found him, **bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also**. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, **the star**, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, **they rejoiced with exceeding great joy**. And when they were come **into the house**, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; **gold, and frankincense, and myrrh**. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

(Mat 2:13-15) And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, **and flee into Egypt**, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Out of Egypt have I called my son**.

## KING HEROD NEVER COMES AND SEES JESUS CHRIST, AND IN RAGE AND FEAR, HE MURDERS A VAST NUMBER OF MALE BABIES

(Mat 2:16-18) Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, **was exceeding wroth**, and sent forth, **and slew all the** [*male*] **children that were in Bethlehem**, and in all the coasts thereof, **from two years old and under**, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, **because they are not**.

(Mat 2:19-23) **But when Herod was dead** [*did Herod ever receive any joy?*], behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that **Archelaus** did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, **He shall be called a Nazarene**.

Amen