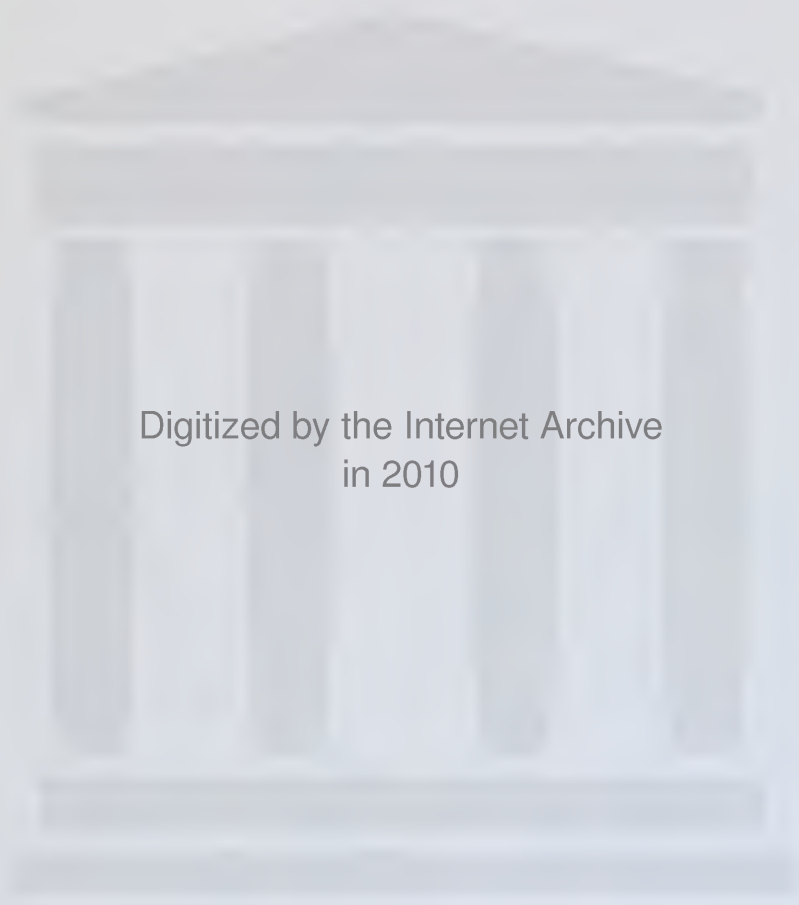


NOW YOU CAN READ  
BIBLE STORIES....

# THE BIRTH OF JESUS





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# NOW YOU CAN READ.... **THE BIRTH OF JESUS**

STORY RETOLD BY ELAINE IFE

ILLUSTRATED BY ERIC ROWE



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NOW YOU CAN READ....

# **THE BIRTH OF JESUS**







Long ago, in a small town called Nazareth, there lived a girl named Mary. At that time, many men had forgotten about God. He decided to send a little child to live and grow up among the people. This little child would teach them about God.



God knew that Mary loved Him, so He chose her to be the mother of His child. He sent an angel called Gabriel to tell Mary about the Baby. Mary was alone in her house when she saw the angel standing beside her. She was afraid and hid her eyes.





The angel looked kindly at Mary and said, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God has sent me to tell you good news. Soon you will have a baby. It will be a boy and His name will be Jesus. He will be a holy child, for He will be the Son of God."





In the same town, a carpenter called Joseph lived. He wanted to take care of Mary and the Baby because he loved her. Joseph took Mary to be his wife.



The king of the land wanted all the people to be counted, so Mary and Joseph had to go back to the place where they were born.



It was a long way to go, so they had a little donkey for Mary to ride while Joseph walked by her side. At last, they came to an inn.

They were very tired and needed a rest. Joseph knocked at the door. The door opened and the innkeeper said, "What do you want?"

"Have you a bed for the night, please?" asked Joseph. "My wife is very tired, for we have come a long way."







"I am very sorry,"  
said the innkeeper,  
shaking his head.

"There is no room  
for you here. If  
you would like to  
stay in the stable  
with the animals,  
you are welcome to  
rest there. It is  
warm and dry."

"Thank you," said  
Joseph. "That will  
do very well."





They followed the innkeeper to the stable, and there in the night, the Baby Jesus was born.

There was nothing for the Baby to wear. Mary wrapped Him in strips of cloth. There was nowhere for the Baby to sleep. Joseph made Him a little bed in the place where food for the cows and donkeys was kept. It was called a manger. He put warm, dry straw in it and Mary laid the Baby there to sleep.






Outside, the night was dark and cold. In the fields close to the town, some shepherds were looking after their sheep. They sat close to the fire, warming their hands and talking to each other.



Suddenly, a great light shone in the sky and an angel stood in front of them.



A bright, multi-pointed star is visible in the upper right corner of the image, set against a deep blue sky. The star has a yellowish-white core with several smaller points of light radiating from it.

They were all afraid but the angel  
said,

“Do not be afraid, for I have come  
to tell you good news. Tonight, the  
Lord Jesus has been born. Go to  
Him. Follow the bright star in the  
sky and it will lead you to the  
stable where He lies.”

Then the sky was filled with angels  
who sang,

“Glory to God in Heaven  
Peace on Earth  
And Joy to all Men.”



At once the shepherds set off,  
following a bright star in the sky  
which led them to the place where  
Jesus lay. With them they took  
their sheep in case a wolf should  
attack them.



The shepherds knocked  
at the stable door  
and Joseph let them  
in.



They knelt down  
beside the Baby  
because they knew  
He was very special.



Mary did not know why anyone should come to see her baby, but she said nothing.

Then the shepherds left the stable and went into the town to let everyone know about Jesus.



Three wise men from the East had been keeping watch on the stars in the sky. They knew that a great king was to be born. They were waiting for a sign to show where to find Him.



At last, a bright star showed them the way.





They rode across many lands following the star. They thought they would find Him in a palace, but the star led them to a poor stable. They left their camels outside and going in, found Jesus lying in a manger.



At once they knew that He was the one they had been seeking.



Each wise man had brought a present for Jesus which was laid down beside Him.

When they had gone, Mary thought again for a long time. Why had the shepherds and the wise men come so far to see her baby?

Then she picked up Jesus and held Him close to her, thinking about what the angel had said.





All these appear in the pages of the story. Can you find them?



Mary



angel



Joseph



donkey



innkeeper





Jesus



manger



star



shepherds



wise men

Now tell the story in your own words.











