

Those who walked
in the dark
have seen a bright light.
And it shines upon everyone
who lives in the land
of darkest shadows. *Isaiah 9:2*

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The Promise



MATTHEW 7

17B

The Messengers of the Realm

17. "Behold, the kingdom of God is with you, and they shall receive him. Do not think that I have come to destroy the Law, and to abolish the prophets. I have come not to destroy, but to fulfill. For I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law, and the prophets. But whoever neglects these things, and teaches men, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever does them, and teaches, shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. But do not think that I have come to destroy the Law, and the prophets. I have come not to destroy, but to fulfill. For I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law, and the prophets. But whoever neglects these things, and teaches men, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever does them, and teaches, shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

CHAPTER 7

The Word of the Master of the Realm was given to the messengers of the Realm. He said to them, "Do not think that I have come to destroy the Law, and the prophets. I have come not to destroy, but to fulfill. For I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law, and the prophets. But whoever neglects these things, and teaches men, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever does them, and teaches, shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

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The Birth of Jesus

This is how Jesus Christ was born. A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph from King David's family. But before they were married, she learned that she was going to have a baby by God's Holy Spirit. Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone. So he decided to quietly call off the wedding.

While Joseph was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her. Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel," which means "God is with us."

After Joseph woke up, he and Mary were soon married, just as the Lord's angel had told him to do. But they did not sleep together before her baby was born. Then Joseph named him Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25

The Wise Men

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star.

When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshipped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him.

Matthew 2:1-2, 9b-11

A Child Has Been Born

A child has been born for us.
We have been given a son who will be our ruler.
His names will be
Wonderful Advisor
and Mighty God,
Eternal Father
and Prince of Peace.
His power will never end;
peace will last forever.
He will rule David's kingdom
and make it grow strong.
He will always rule
with honesty and justice.
The LORD All-Powerful
will make certain
that all this is done.

Isaiah 9:6-7