

Matthew 1:18-2:23; Luke 2:1-39 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. Using Luke 2:15-20 what was the shepherd's response (v15-16) and how can we apply that? What did they share (v17), what was the effect (v18, 19), and how were they affected (v20)?</p>	
<p>5. In Luke 2:21-27 how did Jesus' parents show their obedience (v21, 22-23, 24) and to what did this lead (v25-27)? Describe Simeon (v25) and how God blessed him (v26-27).</p>	
<p>6. Read Luke 2:28-35. What did Simeon do (v28) and how was he affected (v29)? List the things he said about Jesus (v30-31, 32, 33, 35) and the effect on Joseph and Mary (v33).</p>	
<p>7. From Luke 2:36-38 who was in the temple, too, and what was she like (v36-37)? What did she say (v38) and what did this indicate that Jesus would accomplish?</p>	
<p>8. Using Matthew 2:1-12 who came to see Jesus (v1), what did they ask (v2), and what resulted (v3-8)? Why was this significant (v5-6)? What did they do (v9-12) and what does this show?</p>	
<p>9. Looking at Matthew 2:13-18 what did the angel tell Joseph and why (v13)? How did he respond (v14-15) and how did Herod react (v16-18)? What was the significance of these events (v15, 17-18)?</p>	
<p>10. In Matthew 2:19-23 where (v20, 22-23) and when (v19) was Joseph directed? What did he do (v21, 23) and what was the result (v23)? Why did this matter (v23)?</p>	
<p>11. From this study list and describe all to whom God first revealed Christ's birth and the role each of them had. What does it show that God fulfilled His purpose with these types of people, and how can we apply it to our lives?</p>	

Scripture to Remember

“Behold the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His Name, Immanuel, which translated means, ‘God with us.’”

Matthew 1:23 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

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Life Group Questions

No Matter What—Stay in the Right Place (Habakkuk 3:1-19)

(Using questions from Sunday's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Share with your group some of the ways that you typically draw close to God and what that feels like. What usually occurs to bring that about?
2. Read Hab 3:1-2. Why do you think Habakkuk wrote this prayer in the form of an emotional poem? What is the most creative thing you have ever done to worship God?
3. What work of God do you think Habakkuk referred to in v2? How did he know about it? How can we know about the work of God?
4. Talk about the fact that God is always working, that He never works the way people expect Him to, and that we most often miss His work when He does it. How does this impact you?
5. What are some typical expectations we have about God's work in our lives? Discuss how these might interfere with recognizing His work in our lives..
6. From 3:3-15 which description of God means most to you and why—"Warrior", "Radiance", "Sovereign", or "Wrath against Sin"?
7. Discuss the content of Habakkuk's worship in 3:16-19. How can this guide ours?



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Invasion of Planet Earth

Matt 1:18-2:23; Luke 2:1-39

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Movies that center on an alien invasion of earth always fascinate us, whether it’s *Invaders from Mars* in the 1950s or *The Day the Earth Stood Still* from the 2000s. This subject plays on the fear most have when faced with powers greater than themselves. However, if this Power were kind to the human race such an invasion would be good. This captures what God did for us over two thousand years ago. In the person of Jesus, His Son, He “invaded” Planet Earth with a purpose that was clearly for our benefit. His approach in coming, though, was surprisingly ordinary. The stage was set for his coming as He chose an obscure Jewish maiden, Mary, as the virgin who would give birth to Jesus. Her betrothed husband, Joseph, humble and righteous, was ready to quietly divorce her, but the Lord told him to take her as his wife. This baby would be named

Jesus, meaning the “Savior” of the world. Because of a worldwide census they traveled to Bethlehem, the prophesied birthplace of the Messiah, and there Jesus was born. Next, several significant statements were made about Him. Shepherds nearby were told about His birth by a chorus of angels and they traveled to see the baby and tell Mary about it. Then, as Mary and Joseph went to the temple to be purified and dedicate Jesus they were blessed by two statements about Him. Simeon, a devout man who was looking for Israel’s restoration, told them that their Son would be a light of revelation to the Gentiles, the glory of Israel, and a sign to be opposed by many. Anna, a devoted widow who continually dwelt in the temple began to give thanks to God when she saw Him since He would redeem Israel. After this the suf-



The manifest destiny of disciples is to recapture the world for Jesus.

fering of Jesus began. Magi from the East came to worship “the King of the Jews”, but this troubled Herod so much that he formulated a plan to kill Him. The magi, though, after worshipping Jesus left without telling Herod where He was, so Herod had to kill all the babies two and under. An angel had warned Joseph of this impending event, so they fled to Egypt, and after Herod died were told to return. As with many other events in this story, these two fulfilled prophecy, and so did their settling in Nazareth. Significantly all of the people God used in this story were ordinary people; this is who God chose to fulfill His plan for the invasion of Planet Earth

Study Questions for Matthew 1:18-2:23; Luke 2:1-39

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study%20questions))

<p>1. Read Matthew 1:18-25. What “scandal” was discovered (v18) and what was Joseph’s initial reaction (v21)? What did God tell him (v20-21), how did he respond (v24-25) and why was this important (v22-23)?</p>	
<p>2. From Luke 2:1-7 what event occurred (v1-3) and who did this affect (v4-5)? Why did this matter (see Micah 5:2)? Describe the setting of Jesus’ birth (v6-7).</p>	
<p>3. Using Luke 2:8-14 who was told about Jesus’ birth (v8-9), how did they react at first (v9), and what news were they given (v10-12)? Who else joined in and what did their praise mean (v13-14)?</p>	

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