730 THE BIRTH OF CHRIST Matthew 1 and Luke 2, NIV

JESUS CHRIST Birth

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.

His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph,

but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,

"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,

because what is conceived is from the Holy Spirit.

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus

because he will save his people from their sins."

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby,

keeping watch over their flocks at night.

An angel of the Lord appeared to them,

and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid.

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;

he is Christ the Lord.

This will be a sign to you:

You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host

appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."