

Christmas Outline

A listing of the 163 Gospel verses that speak of the Christmas Nativity period

LUKE 1 – 76 of the 80 verses of Luke's gospel (chapter 1) speak of events which are included in this Christmas outline.

Luke 1:5-25, 39-80 - 63 verses in all, are centered around, or about the Angel Gabriel's announcement to the priest Zechariah of the coming of the forerunner of Jesus, John the Baptist. It also tells of Zechariah's initial, hesitating response and his wife Elizabeth's response.

Luke 1:26-45 – 20 verses, are about the Angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary of her role in the coming of Jesus and then shows her response.

LUKE 2 - 39 of 52 verses speak of Mary and Joseph and the Christ Child. The other 13 verses of Luke 1, not counted in the verses of the Christmas story, give us our only glimpse into the growing up years of Jesus.

Luke 2:1-5 (5 verses) speak of the announcement of the Roman census and the response of Joseph and Mary to it.

Luke 2:6-7 (2 verses) are the only verses which speak of the actual Nativity (birth event that we call Christmas) of our Lord Jesus.

Luke 2:8-20 (13 verses) tell us of the announcement of the birth to the shepherds by the angels and the shepherd's response.

Luke 2:21-38 (18 verses) tell of (1) Mary and Joseph's bringing of the eight day old Christ child to the temple, (2) of the Holy Spirit's announcement of the Messiah's arrival to the seniors Simeon and Anna and then (3) their response.

Luke 2:39 (1 verse) concludes the Christmas story, as told by Luke.

MATTHEW 1 – Matthew is the only other gospel book than includes a narrative of any of the events of the Christmas drama.

Matthew 1:1-17 – (17 verses) Matthew gives us a listing of the genealogy of Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25 – (8 verses) tell of the angel's announcement to Joseph in a dream of his role as the earthly father of Jesus and his response.

Matthew 2 – All 23 verses of Matthew are included in this Christmas outline

Matthew 2:1-12 (12 verses) tell of the celestial announcement of the Messiah's birth to the Magi of the east and their response. Also included is the announcement, of sorts, of that birth to King Herod and his response.

Matthew 2:13-18 (6 verses) tell of the announcement, given to Joseph by an angel in a dream, of Herod's life threatening danger to Jesus. Then it tells of Joseph's and Mary's response to it.

Matthew 2:19-23 (5 verses) tells on another angelic announcement to Joseph by way of a dream and his resulting response to return to their former home region of Nazareth where Jesus would grow to adulthood.

The Biblical account of the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world, is told in a very few verses (163 by my count). You could easily read them every day throughout the season of Advent (the four weeks prior to Christmas) and it would be profitable to you. If you chose not to read the 63 verses about John the Baptist every day and the 17 verses of names, the genealogy of Jesus, in your reading every day, you could read the whole narrative in Luke and Matthew in about 11 minutes. That would be 11 minutes well spent in getting more familiar with what the Bible actually tells us of the Christmas story.