

Luke 2:15-21^{vi}

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

^{vi} **About the Gospel: Luke 2:15-21**

The birth narratives in Matthew and Luke present the meaning of Jesus' life, death and resurrection as heralded in his birth. Jesus is the Messiah from the time of his conception (1:32) and birth (2:11).

The good news of salvation is announced not to the mighty but to shepherds, suspected of being thieves and regarded as outcasts because their nomadic way of life made it difficult to keep the law. The "sign" (v. 12) to them is the child lying in a manger. This "thing that has taken place" (v. 1) is literally a word, a communication of significance. They respond, as Luke intends his readers to respond, by spreading the news and by praising God.

Jesus is circumcised in obedience to the Torah and is given the name announced by the angel, Jesus—a form of the Hebrew Joshua—meaning "Yahweh is salvation."