

Christian MONTHLY

DEDICATED TO THE PROCLAMATION
OF THE WORD OF GOD



for Children

Psalm 119:105
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

Winter 2012

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

Matthew 2

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the One who is born King of the Jews? We have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him." Herod, the king of Judea, was disturbed, wondering about this "King of the Jews." HE was the king of the Jews! Herod asked his own wise men, "Where is the Christ going to be born?" They answered, "Bethlehem, because the prophet wrote, 'Though you are small, Bethlehem, out of you will come a Governor to rule My people Israel.'"



Herod spoke to the wise men privately and asked them when the star had appeared. The wise men told him. Then Herod told the wise men, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the young Child.

When you have found Him, come and tell me, so I can go to worship Him, too." But Herod didn't really want to worship Jesus. He wanted to kill Him! Herod didn't want anyone else to be the king.

The wise men left King Herod to search for Jesus. When the wise men saw the star they rejoiced and were very joyful! They knew they were on the right path. The star went ahead of them and stopped over the place where Jesus was. When the wise men arrived, they went into the house. They found Jesus with His mother Mary, and they fell down on their faces and worshipped Him. They opened their treasures and gave Him gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. When the wise men were ready to leave, God warned them in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country another way.

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Get up! Take the young Child and His mother and run away into Egypt. Stay there until I tell you because Herod is going to search for the Child to try to destroy Him!"

When Joseph got up, he took Mary and Jesus and quickly, quietly left Bethlehem by night. They hurried to Egypt, staying there until after King Herod had died.

King Herod waited and waited for the wise men to return to Jerusalem. Finally he realized they weren't coming back at all. They had slipped away, along with his chance to easily find Jesus. King Herod was furious! He was so angry he sent his men to Bethlehem and the surrounding area to kill every boy child who was two years old or younger, because that was the time the wise men had told Herod that the star had appeared.

Oh the sadness in Bethlehem! The prophet had foretold that this would happen, and mothers and fathers grieved for their children who had died. Brothers and sisters mourned the loss of their siblings. The wickedness of King Herod affected so many families.

Safely tucked away in Egypt, Joseph and his family waited for the sign to return to their home country. Finally, after King Herod had died, the angel came to Joseph again in a dream, telling him to take Mary and Jesus back to the land of Israel because the ones who had wanted to kill Jesus were dead.

Joseph returned to Israel with Mary and Jesus, but when he heard that Herod's son Archelaus was now the king in Judea, he was afraid to go there. Joseph received another warning in a dream, so they turned aside and went to live in Galilee, in a city called Nazareth. The prophet had foretold that the Christ would be a Nazarene.

Through the years before the birth of Jesus, many prophets had received the Word of the Lord about the Christ, the Savior of the world. Everything that God had said happened. God's Word always comes true.

Through Three Years Toddlers

When Jesus was born, a special star appeared in the sky. The wise men saw the star and followed it. They were looking for Jesus, the King of the Jews. The wise men went to Jerusalem, an important city, because they thought that's where the King would be born. But Jesus wasn't there. After the wise men left Jerusalem, they were very, very happy to see the star again. The star went ahead of them until it came to the place where Jesus was, and there it stopped. The wise men went into the house and worshipped baby Jesus. They gave Him presents, the first Christmas presents. Here is a poem about the wise men:

**The Wise Men traveled from afar,
Following the Christmas star,
When it stopped they jumped for joy,
And worshiped baby Jesus boy.**

Tots

Four-Six Years

Where is Jesus?

Where is the King of the Jews?

When the wise men left their own country to search for the King of the Jews—Jesus—they didn't know where they were going or how long they would be gone. They were following the star that God had placed in the sky to guide them. If the wise men really were wise, they took supplies with them and planned for a long journey. If they weren't so wise, they maybe didn't plan for a long journey.

There are many things we don't know about the wise men, including how many there were. Some people think there were three because three gifts were given to Jesus, but we don't know because the Bible doesn't tell us.

We know the wise men were very happy to see the star after they left King Herod. We know they fell down and worshipped Jesus. We know they had provisions enough to give gifts to King Jesus, very precious, expensive gifts.

**When they saw the star, they rejoiced
with exceeding great joy. And when
they were come into the house, they saw
the young child with Mary his mother,
and fell down, and worshipped him: and
when they had opened their treasures,
they presented unto him gifts; gold, and
frankincense, and myrrh.**

Matthew 2:10-11



Ages Seven-Ten

Tykes

When you look at a shadow, you see the shape of something. You don't see the real thing, but you get a glimpse of what it looks like. If you look at the shadow of a tree, you can tell that the real thing is a tree.

There are "shadows" in the Old Testament that give us a glimpse of things in the New Testament. For example, there are similarities between Moses, the prophet who led the children of Israel out of slavery, and Jesus, the Savior of the world. We can't take the example too far, though, because Jesus has been and will ALWAYS be greater than Moses.

Here are some similarities:

Moses: threatened by a wicked king when he was a baby
Jesus: threatened by a wicked king when He was a baby
Moses: adopted by the pharaoh's daughter
Jesus: adopted by Joseph
Moses: face shone after being on the mountain with God
Jesus: face shone at the Transfiguration
Moses: delivered children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt
Jesus: delivered children of God out of slavery to sin
Moses: mediator between God and children of Israel
Jesus: mediator between God and all mankind

Here are some differences:

Moses: fully human
Jesus: fully God and fully human
Moses: God's servant
Jesus: God's Son
Moses: sinner
Jesus: sinless
Moses: died
Jesus: died and rose again!



When you're looking for something exciting to read, grab your Bible and read the **Acts of the Apostles**. Through the power of God, these people had amazing experiences! This is an adventure story like no other, and it is TRUE. It really happened. Here's a quick run-down:



- Acts 1:** The Apostles watch Jesus ascend into heaven. (Wow!)
- Acts 2:** The Holy Spirit comes down like fire on the Apostles, and they speak in tongues. Peter preaches his first sermon and three thousand people are saved. (3,000 people!)
- Acts 3:** Peter and John heal a lame man.
- Acts 4:** Five thousand more men are saved. The Apostles pray, the building shakes and the Holy Spirit fills them all.
- Acts 5:** More people are saved. The Apostles do more miracles. Sick people are brought into the street so Peter's shadow will fall on them and they will be healed. The Apostles are imprisoned, but an angel frees them. (Peter's *shadow* heals people!)
- Acts 6:** The Word of God increases and more people believe in Jesus. Stephen is preaching and doing miracles and is arrested. While he is on trial, the council sees that his face looks like an angel.
- Acts 7:** Stephen preaches to the council. He becomes the first Christian martyr when they throw him out of the city and stone him to death. While they are stoning him, he looks into heaven and sees the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Stephen prays for those who stone him. The young man Saul is there during the stoning.
- Acts 8:** The Church at Jerusalem is persecuted and scattered. Saul enters house after house, dragging Christians away to prison. Philip preaches and does miracles in Samaria, and many people believe. The Holy Spirit falls on them by the hands of Peter and John. Philip preaches to the Ethiopian eunuch and he believes. The Spirit carries Philip away to Azotus.
- Acts 9:** Jesus appears to Saul on the road to Damascus, strikes him blind, and Saul becomes Paul the Apostle of the Lord. The one who persecuted the Church of God is now preaching in the name of Christ. Of course, the Jews try to kill him.

Whew! That's only the first nine chapters! In chapters ten through twenty-eight, there are more miracles, more martyrs, visions, raisings from death, shipwrecks and snake bites. There are more releases from prison, both from the kind of prison with bars and from the prison of sin. Read this book and you'll see God's power at work in the early Church.

Teens

Long ago, there was a very infamous kidnapping. The ransom required a blood payment, the blood of the prisoners. Death was the only escape, but this was not a good solution. The prisoners would be dead rather than rescued! The prisoners were helpless in the grip of their abductor. They could not free themselves. They could not pay the ransom.

ran·SOM: A sum of money or other payment demanded or paid for the release of a prisoner

In the Garden of Eden, Satan tricked Adam and Eve into disobeying God's commandment and every person born into the world was taken captive by the evil one. We were all under the power of death, held by Satan, in need of rescue from his wicked enslavement. We were enthralled by sin, born into bondage.

What is the ransom for sin?

Money was not an acceptable payment for the ransom. Only blood could pay the sacrifice for sin. In Old Testament times, millions of animals were sacrificed to atone for the sins of the people of Israel, but the blood of animals could not deliver from the bondage of sin. The requirement is the death of the person who sinned, unless.... unless... someone ELSE gave their life, someone ELSE gave their blood.



God came to earth, in the form of a human. Jesus—God Himself—was born as a human baby and lived on earth for over thirty years. Because He was fully man, He walked, talked, ate, cried. Because He was fully God, He healed the sick, made the blind to see and the lame to walk, raised the dead. He made friends and He made enemies. Eventually, His friends deserted Him and His enemies put Him to death. But, really, in the end, *people* didn't put Jesus to death. *God* did. God gave *Himself* as a ransom for our sin. He paid the blood sacrifice and rescued us from the power of Satan.

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all.

1 Timothy 2:5-6

King David had a handsome son named Absalom. Absalom rebelled against his father and tried to take David's kingdom away from him. When David's army went to fight Absalom and his army, King David instructed his commanders to be gentle with Absalom. Although Absalom had rebelled against his father, King David loved his son and wanted his life to be spared. King David's heart was tender toward his wayward son. But in the course of the battle for the kingdom, Absalom was killed, and King David was very, very sad.

He had worried over Absalom's safety and he was grief-stricken at his death. Some of the most heart-wrenching words in the Scripture appear in 2 Samuel 18:33, when King David learns of the death of his son:

**"O my son Absalom, my son,
my son Absalom!
would God I had died for thee,
O Absalom, my son, my son!"**



King David's anguish of heart over the death of his son reveal the depth of his love for Absalom. King David wished that he had died rather than his son.

In the David and Absalom story is a picture of God's tenderness toward His wayward and rebellious children. God our Father loves His children more than King David loved his son. And God DID die for us, when His Son Jesus came to earth in the form of a man and died on the cross to save us from sin.

Have you ever lost something that was very dear to you? Maybe a favorite toy was misplaced. Maybe a close friend has moved far away. Maybe someone you love has died.

There are different degrees of "lostness" with different degrees of anguish. If you lose a favorite toy, you might be a little sad for a day or two. If your friend moves away, you may be a little more sad for a little longer time. If someone you love dies, you may be very sad for a very long time.

"Grief" is the deep sorrow caused by the death of someone we love. People deal with grief in different ways. Sometimes grief is accompanied by denial, anger or depression. After about a year, people usually begin to accept the death of their loved one.

When someone you love is grieving, you may not know what to say to comfort them. Sometimes the best thing you can do is just be there with them, give them a hug, and let them talk. There isn't anything you can say or do that will bring their loved one back, and sometimes all they want is for someone to listen and to remember with them. If someone you love is so sad with grief that you are worried about them, please talk to an adult you trust. Sometimes people need to talk to counselors or pastors to help them understand and deal with grief.

If you are grieving, please talk to someone you trust. In time it should get easier. It may take a long time, but eventually, with God's help, you will remember your loved one with joy rather than sorrow. You will be thankful for the time you spent together and the memories you made.

Because we are Christians, we know that we will see our loved one again in heaven. We may grieve over death, but we don't grieve as those who have no hope of eternal life. We know that our body dies, but our spirit—our real self—will never die.



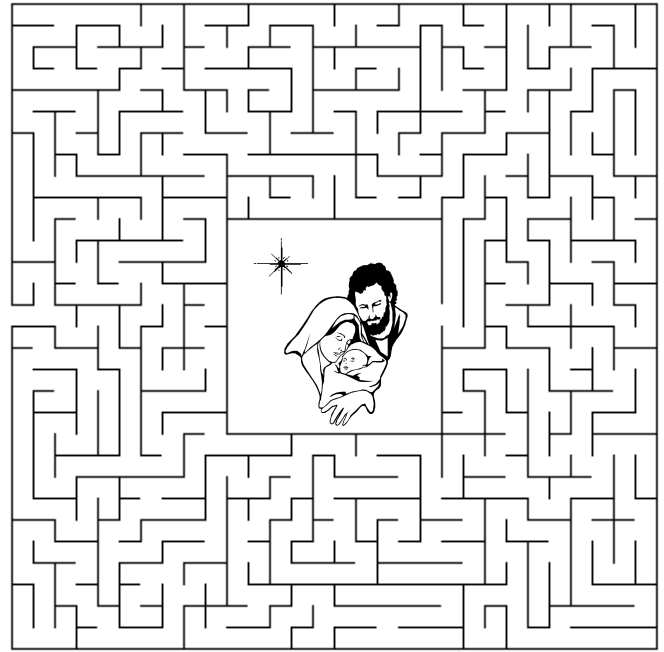
**Weeping may endure for a night,
but joy cometh in the morning.**

Psalm 30:5

Circle the correct word in each group.
See Matthew 2:9-12 if you need help.

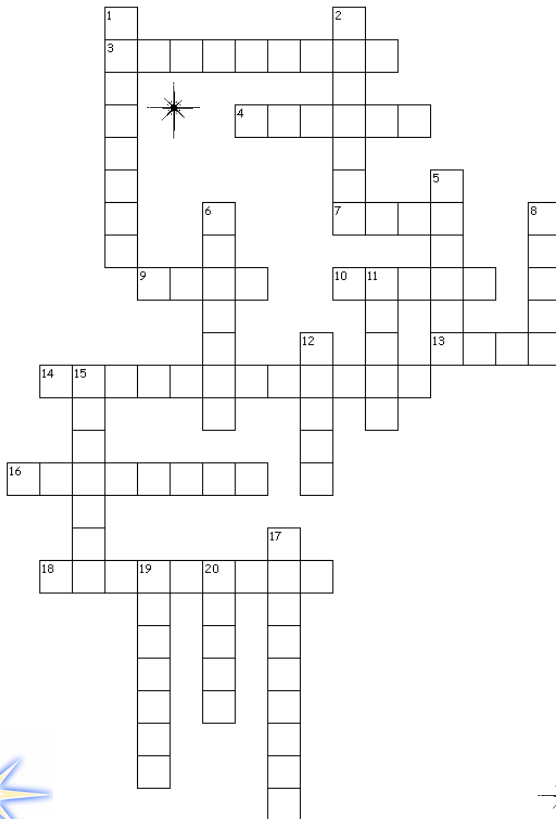
When they had heard the king, they **DODGED / DEPARTED / DAWDLED**; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the **NORTH / SOUTH / EAST / WEST**, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young **MOTHER / CHILD / FATHER** was. When they saw the star, they **REJOICED / RECEIVED / REMINDED** with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his **GRANDMOTHER / AUNT / MOTHER**, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their **SUITCASES / TREASURES / PACKAGES**, they presented unto him gifts; **BRONZE / SILVER / GOLD**, and frankincense, and **OLIVE OIL / MYRRH / ALOE**. And being warned of God in a **LETTER / E-MAIL / DREAM** that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own **CONTINENT / COUNTRY / COUNTY** another way.

Follow the wise men as they find Mary, Joseph and King Jesus.



Riddle Me This:

- ★ Two men in the Bible did not die. What are their names?
- ★ I am the prophet who foretold the babies in Bethlehem would be killed. Who am I?
- ★ What is greater than God, more evil than the devil, the poor have it, the rich need it, and if you eat it you will die?



Across

3. King Herod's son
4. Savior of the world
7. Led the wise men to Jesus
9. Jesus' mother
10. The number of gifts given to Jesus
13. Direction the wise men saw the star
14. One of the gifts given to Jesus
16. Foretold Jesus' birth
18. City where King Herod lived

Down

1. City in Galilee
2. Very, very angry
5. Be very sad about death
6. Bow down in reverence
8. Where Joseph took his family to safety
11. Building where the wise men found Jesus
12. King of Judea when Jesus was born
15. Be very joyful
17. City where Jesus was born
19. The number of wise men
20. Warned Joseph in a dream

LED BY A STAR!

Puzzle Fun

Answer Key: page 7

How many stars are on this page?



When they saw the star,
they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

Matthew 2:10

*I will ransom them from the power of the grave;
I will redeem them from death:
O death, I will be thy plagues;
O grave, I will be thy destruction. ~Hosea 13:14*

Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come!



Dear Father God,

Thank You for sending Your Son to this world to save us from our sin. Thank You that Jesus was sinless, and that He paid the debt we could never pay. Help us to understand Your great love, so great that You sent the Savior to us.

Thank You for leading the wise men to Jesus. We want to worship Your holiness as the wise men fell down to worship Your holy Son Jesus. They brought gifts to Him, and we would also bring our hearts to You, sinful though they are. Father, cleanse our hearts and make them a proper place for You to live. Fix our thoughts on You and on the promises in Your holy Word.

Help those who grieve with the comfort that only You can give. Teach us to cry with those who cry. Give us eyes to see the need in our world and to love those around us. Give us willing hands and hearts that will be faithful in Your service. Help us to not judge the size of any task as being too great or too small, but to do everything in Your name and for Your glory. Let us shine Your light every day, wherever we are: at home, at school, at work.

You give us eternal life and make us new creatures through the Word and the Sacraments, as You also give us natural life here on earth. Every breath we take is from You and we thank You for it.

“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever.” (1 Tim 1:17)

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

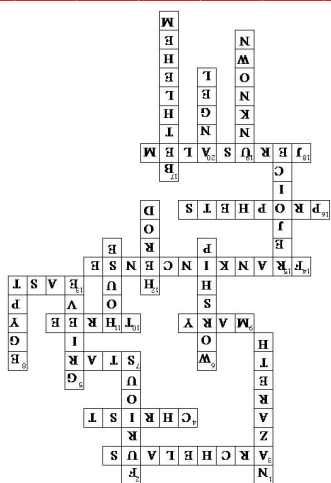
Puzzle Answer Key



- Nothing
- Jeremiah (Jer 31:15)
- (2 Kings 2:11)
- Enoch (Gen 5:24) and Elijah

Riddle Me This:

There are 16 stars on the
How many stars?



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For Parents:

Time is a fleeting thing. We think that we are in the “now” but just at the moment we think this, time has already passed and the moment becomes the past. The future becomes the present becomes the past, in the blink of an eye. Children often have a better grasp of living in the now than many adults do, as they normally don’t have the concerns for tomorrow that a parent has. Children aren’t responsible for providing for a family, for example.

Because children live in the now, they often will have many questions when a loved one passes away. They may not understand death, and they may not understand grief. When you have the opportunity, explain death and grief to your child—appropriate to their age, of course—so that when death touches their lives, they will be prepared. Death isn’t something that children (or many adults) like to contemplate, but every person on this earth will feel its cold hand at some point in their lives. And every person will experience it, unless the eastern skies open and Jesus returns in His glory before the day of our death.

Death is an unknown quantity. We have no personal experience to which to compare it. In God’s Word, death is compared to sleep; Lazarus was “sleeping” when he was dead. Our Jesus, who is the Resurrection and the Life, has power over death. Death has also been compared to natural birth. If given the choice, an unborn child may choose not to be born because of fear of the unknown, but we who have been born know that outside the womb is where God intended us to spend our lives. The time in the womb is only in preparation for our “real” life. In the same way, our time on this earth can be compared to the time *in utero*. We are passing the time here in preparation for our real “real” life, the one that will last forever.

Remind your children that God is with His children even in death. If we rest on His Word and promises, we need not fear the sleep of death. This body is the only part of a Christian that experiences death. Our spirit—our real self—doesn't ever die. We are already living in eternity. Our physical selves have only to go through the transformation from this earthly body to our heavenly body. What an assurance this is to the one who fears death!

***To every thing there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die...***

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

