BIRTH OF JESUS IN THE BIBLE:

Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-23 Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-40

SELECTED READINGS FROM THE BIBLE (Plainfield CS website)

The Birth of Jesus from Matthew

https://media.plainfieldcs.com/Audiobooks/The_Bible/The%20Birth%20of%20Christ%20Jesus%20-%20Matthew.mp3

The Birth of Jesus from Luke

https://media.plainfieldcs.com/Audiobooks/The_Bible/The%20Birth%20of%20Christ%20Jesus%20-%20Luke.mp3

INTEGRATED STORY OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

The two stories of the birth of Jesus from Matthew and Luke have a number of differences. Certain events are in one story and not the other. To give a complete telling of the story to include all events, the following is an integration of the two stories. However, the sequence of events may have been different.

While there are many events unique to each story, there are points at which the two stories agree:

- Jesus was born of a virgin (Matthew 1:18, 23, 25; Luke 1:27).
- Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee (Matthew 2:23; Luke 1:26; 2:4).
- Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea (Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4–7).
- After Jesus' birth, Mary and Joseph returned to Nazareth (Matthew 2:23; Luke 2:39).

Reference: https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-birth.html

This integrated story does not include the genealogies or the events surrounding the birth of John the Baptist (except for Mary's visit to Elizabeth). Following the story is the birth of Jesus in artwork.

RECAP OF THE EVENTS:

- 1. The Angel Gabriel visits Mary (The Annunciation)
- 2. Mary visits Elizabeth
- 3. Elizabeth blesses Mary
- 4. Mary praises the Lord (The Magnificat)
- 5. Mary stays with Elizabeth and then returns home
- 6. The Angel of the Lord visits Joseph in a dream
- 7. Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem
- 8. Mary delivers her first born (The Nativity)
- 9. The Angel of the Lord visits the shepherds (The Annunciation to the shepherds)
- 10. The shepherds visit Jesus (The Adoration of the shepherds)
- 11. Jesus is circumcised
- 12. Jesus is presented at the Temple
- 13. At the Temple, Simeon blesses Jesus
- 14. At the Temple, Anna thanks the Lord
- 15. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus return to Nazareth
- 16. Wise men seek Jesus
- 17. Herod asks where Jesus should be born
- 18. Herod meets with the wise men
- 19. Wise men visit Jesus at the house (The Adoration of the Magi)
- 20. Wise men return to their own country
- 21. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus go to Egypt
- 22. Herod kills the children in Bethlehem (Massacre of the Innocents)
- 23. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus return to Nazareth
- 24. Jesus grows up with the grace of God

KJV	EVENTS
Luke	1. THE ANGEL GABRIEL VISITS MARY (THE ANNUNCIATION)
1:26-38	And in the sixth month [of Elizabeth's pregnancy] the angel Gabriel was sent
	from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man
	whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.
	And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the
	Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she
	was troubled at this saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this
	should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found
	favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a
	son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son
	of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father
	David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom
	there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I
	know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost
	shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee:
	therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son
	of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her
	old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with
	God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the
	Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.
Luke	2. MARY VISITS ELISABETH
1:39-55	And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a
	city of Juda; and entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.
Luke	3. ELIZABETH BLESSES MARY
1:39-55	And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe
	leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: and she spake
	out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is
	the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord

EVENTS
should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in
mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed:
for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the
Lord.
4. MARY PRAISES THE LORD (THE MAGNIFICAT)
And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in
God my Savior. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for,
behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is
mighty hath done to me great things: and holy is his name. And his mercy is on
them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with
his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put
down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled
the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath
holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; as he spake to our
fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.
5. MARY STAYS WITH ELIZABETH AND THEN RETURNS HOME
And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.
6. THE ANGEL OF THE LORD VISITS JOSEPH IN A DREAM
Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was
espoused to Joseph, before they come together, she was found with child of the
Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make
her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought
on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream,
saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for
that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a
son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their
sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the
Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring
forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is,

KJV	EVENTS
	God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord
	had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: and knew her not till she had
	brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.
Luke	7. JOSEPH AND MARY GO TO BETHLEHEM
2:1-5	And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar
	Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made
	when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into
	his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth,
	into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was
	of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife,
	being great with child.
Luke	8. MARY DELIVERS HER FIRSTBORN (THE NATIVITY)
2:6-7	Nativity definition by Webster: "Birth; the coming into life
	or the world. The feast of Christmas is observed in memory
	of Christ's nativity."
	And so it was, that, while they were there [in Bethlehem], the days were
	accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn
	son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in the manger; because
	there was no room for them in the inn.
Luke	9. THE ANGEL OF THE LORD VISITS THE SHEPHERDS (THE
2:8-14	ANNUNCIATION TO THE SHEPHERDS)
	And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch
	over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the
	glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the
	angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
	which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a
	Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find
	the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there
	was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

KJV	EVENTS
	Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
Luke 2:15-20	10. THE SHEPHERDS VISIT JESUS (THE ADORATION OF THE
	SHEPHERDS)
	And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the
	shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see this
	thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they
	came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.
	And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told
	them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things
	which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and
	pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising
	God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.
Luke	11. JESUS IS CIRCUMCISED
2:21	And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his
	name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was
	conceived in the womb.
Luke	12. JESUS IS PRESENTED AT THE TEMPLE
2:22-24	And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were
	accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (as it is
	written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called
	holy to the Lord;) and to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the
	law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.
Luke	13. AT THE TEMPLE, SIMEON BLESSES JESUS
2:25-35	And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the
	same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy
	Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he
	should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the
	Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for
	him after the custom of the law, then took he him up in his arms, and blessed

KJV	EVENTS
	God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy
	word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared for the
	face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people
	Israel. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken
	of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this
	child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which
	shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also),
	that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.
Luke	14. AT THE TEMPLE, ANNA THANKS THE LORD
2:36-38	And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of
	Aser [Asher]: she was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years
	from her virginity; and she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which
	departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and
	day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and
	spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.
Luke 2:	15. JOSEPH, MARY, AND JESUS RETURN TO NAZARETH
39	And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they
	returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.
Matthew	16. WISE MEN SEEK JESUS
2:1-2	Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king,
	behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that
	is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to
	worship him.
Matthew	17. HEROD ASKS WHERE JESUS SHOULD BE BORN
2:3-6	When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem
	with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people
	together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto
	him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou
	Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, are not the least among the princes of Juda: for

KJV	EVENTS
	out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.
Matthew	18. HEROD MEETS WITH THE WISE MEN
2:7-8	Then Herod, when he privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently
	what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and
	search diligently for the young child: and when ye have found him, bring me
	word again, that I may come and worship him also.
Matthew	19. WISE MEN VISIT JESUS AT THE HOUSE (THE ADORATION OF
2:9-11	THE MAGI)
	When they [the wise men] had heard the king [Herod], they departed [from
	Jerusalem]; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it
	came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they
	rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they 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	20. WISE MEN RETURNED TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY
2:12	And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they
	departed into their own country another way.
Matthew	21. JOSEPH, MARY, AND JESUS GO TO EGYPT
2:13-15	And when they [the wise men] were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord
	appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his
	mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod
	will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child
	and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: and was there until the death of
	Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet,
	saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.
Matthew	22. HEROD KILLS THE CHILDREN IN BETHLEHEM (MASSACRE OF
2:16-18	THE INNOCENTS)
	Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding

KJV	EVENTS
	wroth, and sent forth, and slew all children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the
	coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had
	diligently enquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by
	Jeremy the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and
	weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be
	comforted, because they are not.
Matthew	23. JOSEPH, MARY, AND JESUS RETURN TO NAZARETH
2:19-23	But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to
	Joseph in Egypt, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go
	into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. And
	he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of
	Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judea in the room of his
	father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God
	in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: and he came and dwelt in a
	city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets,
	He shall be called a Nazarene.
Luke	24. JESUS GROWS UP WITH THE GRACE OF GOD
2:40	And the child grew and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace
	of God was upon him.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS IN ARTWORK

- 1. The Angel Gabriel visits Mary (The Annunciation) (artist: El Greco)
- 2. Mary praises the Lord (The Magnificat) (artist: James Tissot)
- 3. The Angel of the Lord visits Joseph in a dream (artist: Philippe de Champaigne)
- 4. Christmas Morn, Christ and Christmas by Mary Baker Eddy, p. 28 (artist: James Franklin Gilman)
- 5. Mary delivers her first born (The Nativity) (artist: Lorenzo Lotto)
- 6. The Angel of the Lord visits the shepherds (The Annunciation to the shepherds) (artist: Carl Bloch)
- 7. The shepherds visit Jesus (The Adoration of the shepherds) (artist: Matthias Stomer)
- 8. Jesus is presented at the Temple (artist: Hans Holbein the Elder)
- 9. At the Temple, Simeon blesses Jesus (artist: Rembrandt van Rijn)
- 10. Madonna and Child (artist: Giovanni Battista Salvi)
- 11. Wise men seek Jesus (artist: James Tissot)
- 12. The Star of Bethlehem, Christ and Christmas by Mary Baker Eddy, p. 16 (artist: James Franklin Gilman)
- 13. Wise men seek Jesus (artist: Gustave Dore)
- 14. Wise men visit Jesus at the house (The Adoration of the Magi) (artist: Bartolomé Esteban Murillo)
- 15. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus go to Egypt (artist: unknown; located at: Saint Catherine's Monastery)
- 16.Herod kills the children in Bethlehem (Massacre of the innocents) (artist: Peter Paul Rubens)
- 17. Portrait of Jesus (artist: Cima da Conegliano)

1. THE ANGEL GABRIEL VISITS MARY (THE ANNUNCIATION)

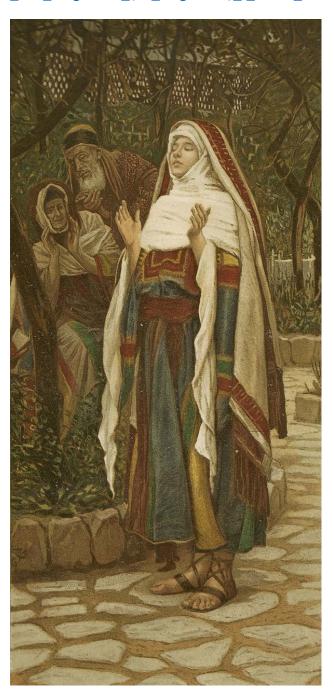
The Annunciation by El Greco, c. 1590–1603, Ohara Museum of Art, Kurashiki, Japan (from Wikipedia)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annunciation



2. MARY PRAISES THE LORD (THE MAGNIFICAT)

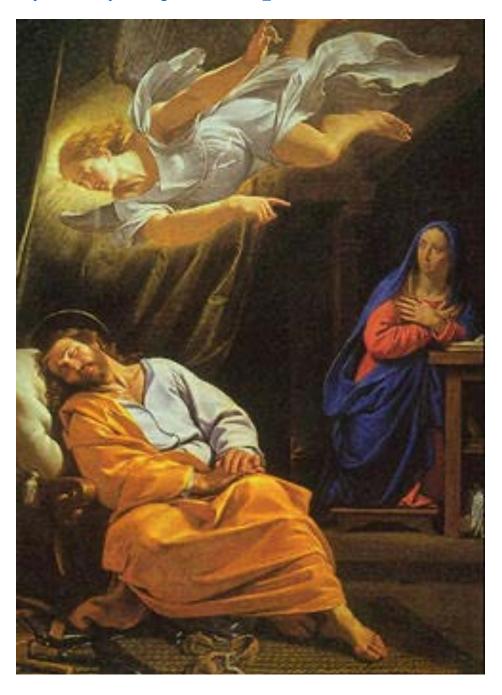
The Magnificat (Le Magnificat) by James Tissot, Brooklyn Museum https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Brooklyn_Museum_-
The Magnificat (Le magnificat) - James Tissot - overall .jpg



3. THE ANGEL OF THE LORD VISITS JOSEPH IN A DREAM

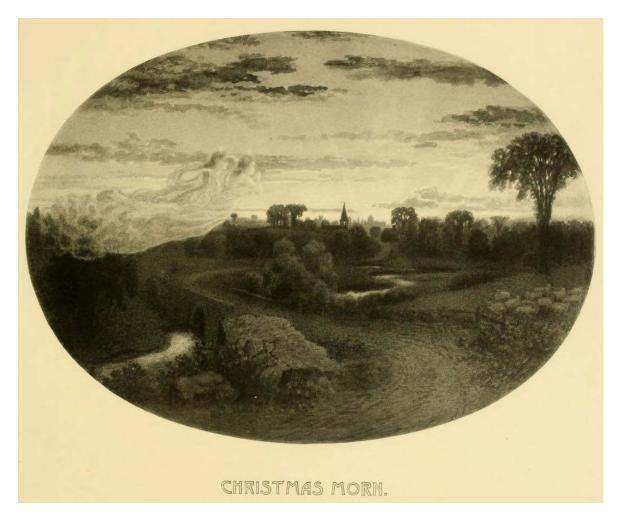
The Dream of Saint Joseph by Philippe de Champaigne, painted around 1636 (from Wikipedia)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew 1:20



4. Christmas Morn, Christ and Christmas by Mary Baker Eddy; artist: James Franklin Gilman

 $\underline{https://archive.org/details/christchristmasp00eddy/page/n15/mode/2up?view=theater}$



5. MARY DELIVERS HER FIRSTBORN (THE NATIVITY)

Adoration of the Christ Child by Lorenzo Lotto, 1523, National Gallery of Art, Samuel H. Kress Collection

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adoration of the Christ Child (Lotto, Washington)



6. THE ANNUNCIATION TO THE SHEPHERDS

The Shepherds and the angel by Carl Bloch, 1879 (from Wikipedia) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annunciation to the shepherds



7. THE SHEPHERDS VISIT JESUS (THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS Adoration of the Shepherds by Matthias Stomer, 1632 (from Wikipedia)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nativity of Jesus



8. JESUS IS PRESENTED AT THE TEMPLE

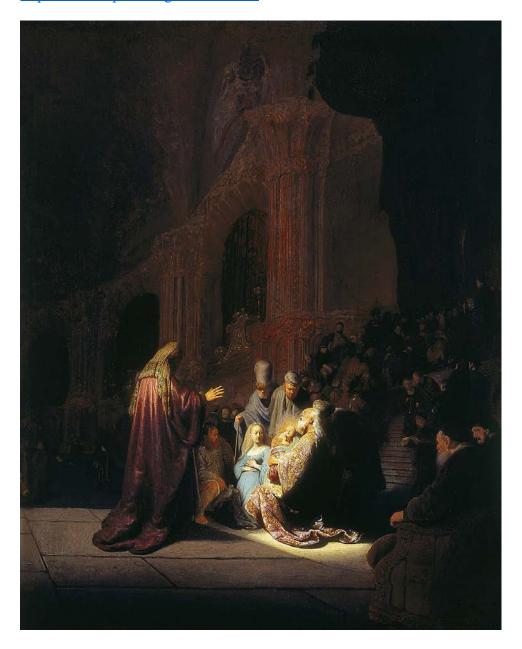
Presentation of Christ at the Temple by Hans Holbein the Elder, 1500–01 (Kunsthalle Hamburg) (from Wikipedia)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presentation of Jesus



9. AT THE TEMPLE, SIMEON BLESSES JESUS

Simeon in the Temple by Rembrandt van Rijn, 1631 (from Wikipedia) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simeon



10. MADONNA AND CHILD

Madonna and Child by Giovanni Battista Salvi, Italian, 1609–1685, (17th century), St. Louis Art Museum

https://www.slam.org/collection/objects/4289/



11. WISE MEN SEEK JESUS

The Magi Journeying by James Tissot, (c. 1890), Brooklyn Museum, New York City (from Wikipedia)

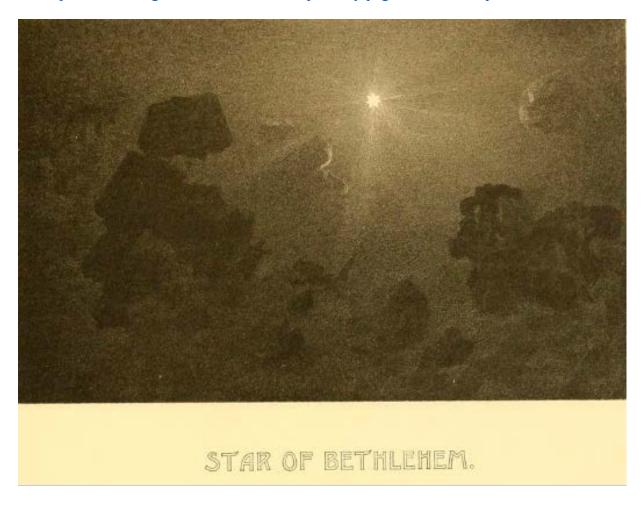
https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Brooklyn Museum -

The Magi Journeying (Les rois mages en voyage) - James Tissot - overall.jpg



12. The Star of Bethlehem, Christ and Christmas by Mary Baker Eddy; artist: James Franklin Gilman

https://archive.org/details/christchristmasp00eddy/page/n15/mode/2up?view=theater



13. WISE MEN SEEK JESUS

THE DORE GALLERY OF BIBLE ILLUSTRATIONS, The Star in the East by Gustave Dore

 $\underline{https://www.gutenberg.org/files/8710/8710-h/8710-h.htm}$



14. THE WISE MEN VISIT JESUS (THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI)

Adoration of the Magi by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, c. 1655 (Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio) (from Wikipedia)

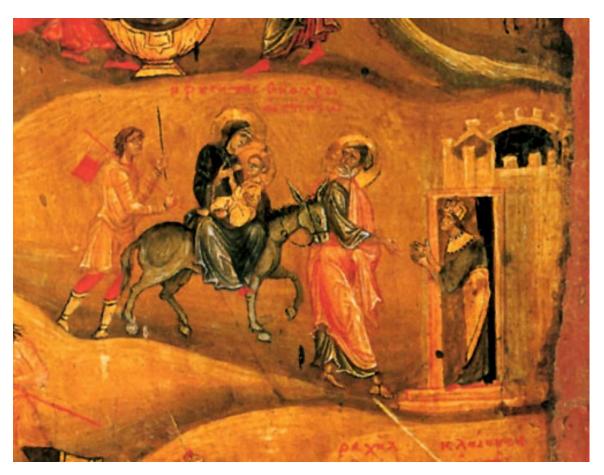
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_Magi



15. JOSEPH, MARY, AND JESUS GO TO EGYPT

Flight to Egypt, artist: unknown; located at Saint Catherine's Monastery, 12th century (from Wikipedia)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flight_into_Egypt



16. HEROD KILLS THE CHILDREN IN BETHLEHEM (MASSACRE OF THE INNOCENTS)

Massacre of the Innocents by Peter Paul Rubens, 1610–11, Toronto (from Wikipedia) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massacre of the Innocents#



17. PORTRAIT OF JESUS

Portrait of Jesus by Cima da Conegliano (1459–1517) (from Wikipedia) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Depiction_of_Jesus



NOTES ON THE TIMELINE

Did The Wise Men (Magi) Arrive 12 Days After Jesus' Birth? Or Was It Much Later? https://reasonsforhopejesus.com/did-the-wise-men-arrive-12-days-after-jesus-birth-or-much-later/

EPIPHANY

Epiphany celebrates two events:

- Magi visit to Jesus (i.e., "Three Kings Day" or "Feast of Epiphany")
- John the Baptist baptized Jesus (eastern Christian religions)

Church tradition says that the Magi visited Jesus 12 days after he was born. However, there is nothing in the Bible that says when this happened.

CANDLEMAS

Candlemas commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. It is generally celebrated 40 days after Christmas, February 2nd.

DID THE MAGI VISIT BEFORE OR AFTER CANDELMAS?

There are some timing considerations. First, Jesus after he was born was "laid in a manger." However, when the Magi visited Jesus, they visited him in a "house" which indicates that they were no longer in the same place as when Jesus was born. It seems unlikely they changed locations so quickly after 12 days.

The other consideration is that Jesus was a "young child" when the Magi visited which indicates this visit was later than 12 days after his birth.

Another consideration is the wealth of Mary and Joseph. When Jesus was presented at the Temple, they did not offer a lamb which is the custom. They offered two pigeons or two turtledoves which is allowed for those who do not have sufficient money for a lamb. This indicates that the family was poor. However, the Magi gave them many gifts which they could have used to purchase a lamb and therefore, indicates that the Temple visit was before the visit by the Magi.

While tradition says that the Magi visited before Candelmas, the timing is not explicit in the Bible and the timing considerations are summarized as follows:

- Magi visited Jesus at a house (indicating at a location different than where he was born)
- Jesus was a "young child" (indicating more than 12 days after he was born)
- Mary and Joseph did not have the money to buy a lamb for the Temple presentation (indicating that the Magi's gifts were received after the Temple presentation)