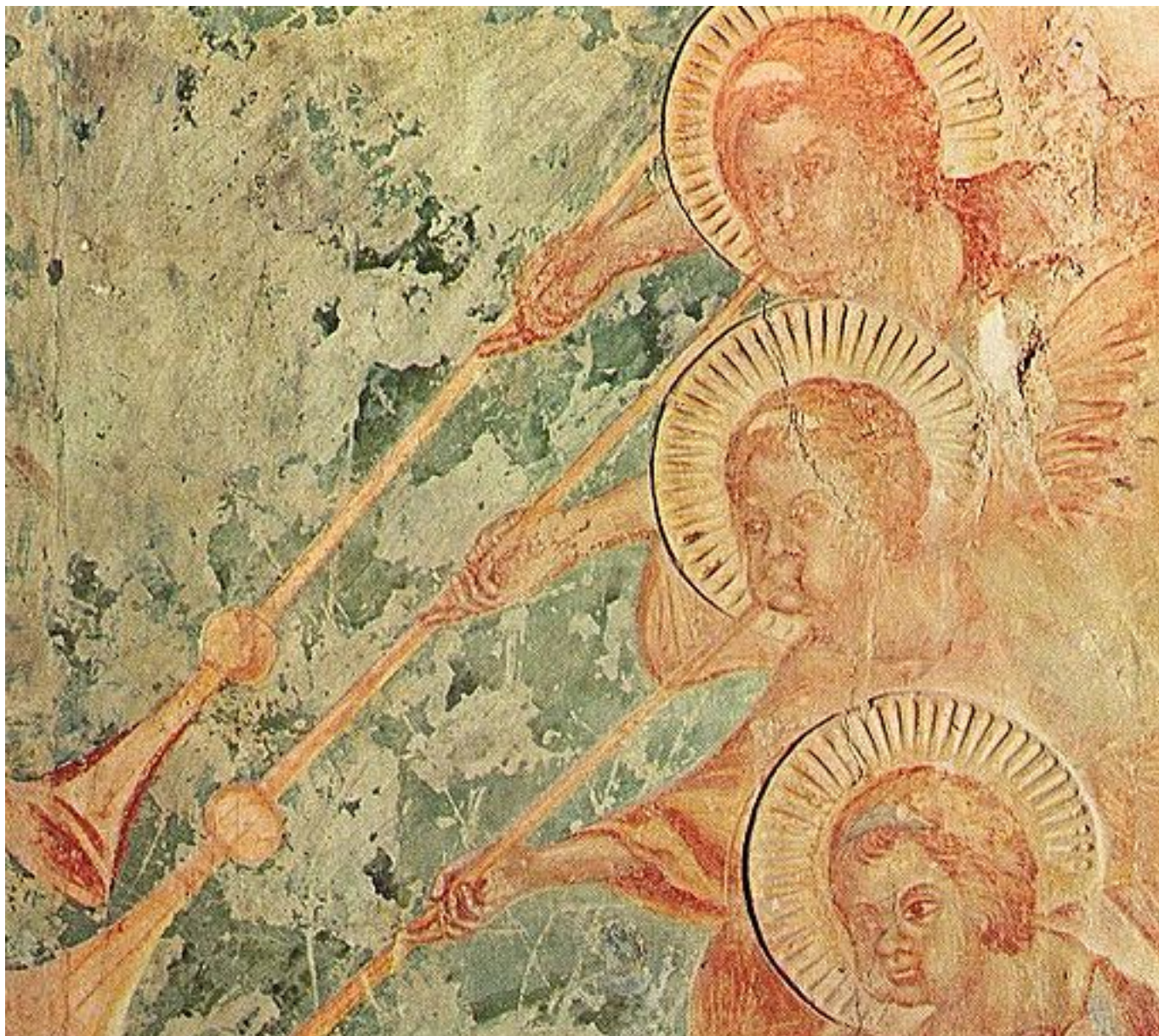




IMMANUEL - GOD WITH US



Apocalyptic Christ (detail #2) by Giovanni Cimabue, 1280-1283

IMMANUEL - GOD WITH US

BIBLE STUDY AND PUZZLES

BY MARY WELSH

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Cover photo: Adoration of the Shepherds by Agnolo Bronzino, 1540

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"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us.'" (Matthew 1:23; Matthew quoting Isaiah 7:14)



Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard von Honthorst, 1622

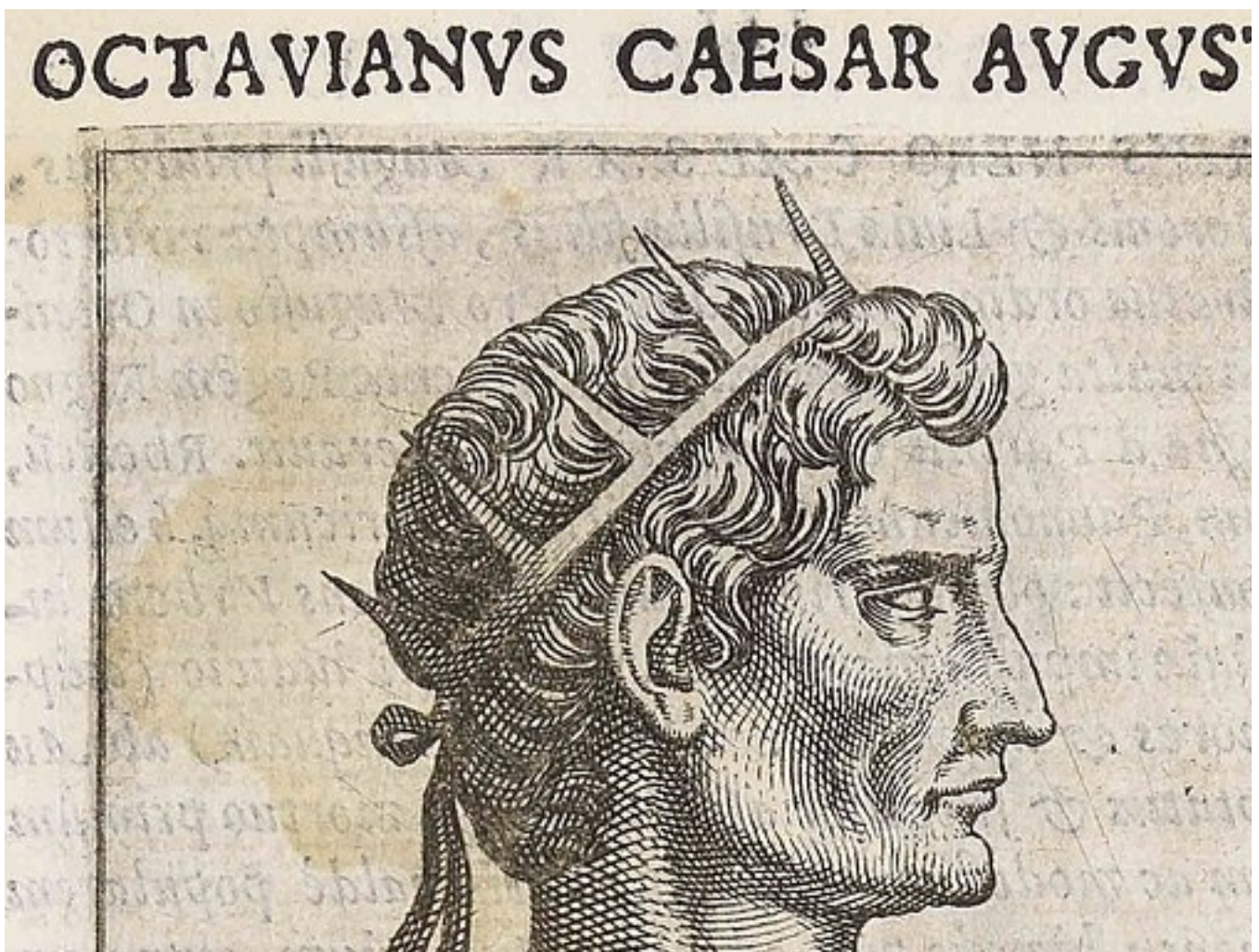
TWO OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES ABOUT THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Isaiah wrote about the birth of Jesus some 700 years before it occurred, in Isaiah 7:14, and Micah foretold that the event would take place in Bethlehem:

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting." (Micah 5:2, written in the 8th century B.C.)

CEASAR AUGUSTUS

"And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child." (Luke 2:1-5.)



Caesar Augustus was the grand-nephew, adopted son, and primary heir to Julius Caesar. The title "Augustus" means "exalted one." He reigned over the Roman Empire from 29 BC to AD 14. Prior to his reign, the Jewish people had not needed to register, as the registration process was primarily to register Roman citizens for military service. Caesar's new census required all families to return to their ancestral home to register. Joseph and Mary left Nazareth and headed south to Bethlehem, their ancestral home, some 80 miles away. It certainly appears as though Caesar was the one in control; right? However, he was being used by God to fulfill the prophecy in Micah 5:2, that Messiah would be born in Bethlehem! God is always in control, no matter who appears to be in power. He will fulfill *His plans* and *His purposes* in *His own time and method*. **"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways." (Isaiah 55:8)**

NO ROOM IN THE INN

"So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was not room for them in the inn."

(Luke 2:6-7.)

No room for Him then, the Lord of all creation, the One who loves all mankind, the One who gave His life so that we might live, the Mediator between God and Man, our Great High Priest, the Light of the World, the Prince of Peace, the Holy and Anointed One, the Alpha and Omega, the Bright and Morning Star...the Son of God. Is there room for Him now?



Arthur Melville, Christmas Eve 'And there was no room for them in the inn' 1900-1904

"Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!'"

(Luke 2:8-14)



Christmas Carols (pg. 14) by Gilbert James, 1906

"So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.' And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger."

(Luke 2:15-16)

At that time, shepherds did not have a good reputation; they were men of humble means and were regarded as social outcasts. But God chose them to be the first ones to see His Son.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

"I am the good shepherd.

The good shepherd gives His

life for the sheep." John 10:11

The shepherds provided both strong leadership and protection as well as tender care for their flock, just as Jesus, The Good Shepherd, does for those who call upon Him.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you."

1 Peter 5:7



Philippe de Champaigne, Le Bon Pasteur, 1883

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.'" (Matthew 2:1-2)

WHO WAS HEROD?

Herod the Great was the first of several rulers from the Herodian family named in scripture. He ruled from 37 to 4 BC., and is believed to be descended from the Edomites, an offspring of Esau.

He instructed the wise men to bring the Child back to him so that he could "worship Him also"; however, his true intention was to kill the Child (Matthew 2:13-18), whom he saw as a threat to his throne.



Giotto di Bondone - No. 18 Scenes from the life of Christ - Adoration of the Magi

WHO WERE THE WISE MEN?

The Magi were astrologers from the East. They were identified by Herodotus as a group who had a priestly function in the Persian Empire (*Herodotus was a 5th century Greek historian*). There is a reference in Daniel 5 to King Belshazzar calling for the astrologers as advisers to the court. Daniel 2:27-28 says that it is God in heaven who reveals mysteries that "no wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain."

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

The star by which God announced the birth of Christ is referenced in Matthew 2:1-2:

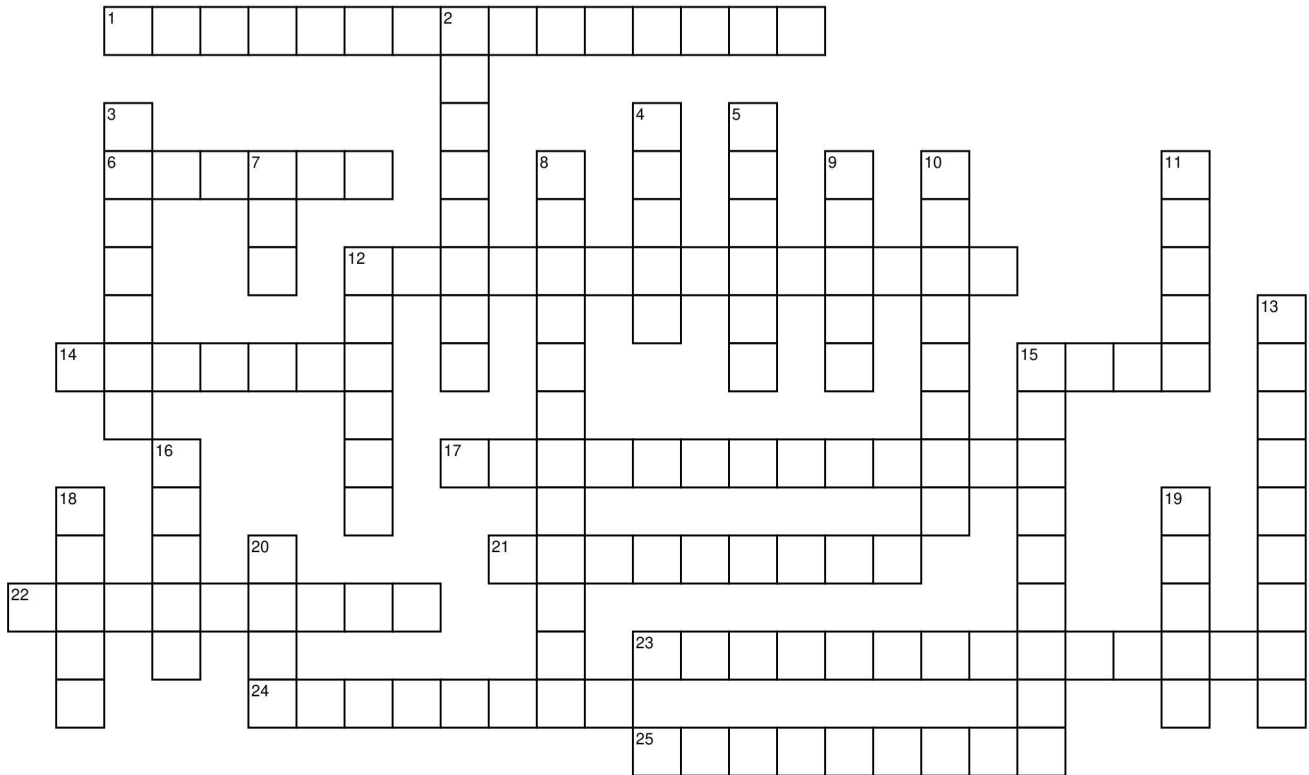
"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.'"



Star of Bethlehem by Elihu Vedder, 1879-1880

Matthew 2:9 says that the star went before them, *"till it came and stood over where the young Child was,"* a supernatural phenomenon, but one which is outshone by the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Immanuel, God with us. In Jesus, God is always with us, even to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20)

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST



<https://questionsgod.com/puzzles.htm>

ACROSS

- 1 Jesus was wrapped in them (2 wds)
- 6 The Old Testament prophet who foretold that a virgin shall be with child
- 12 He decreed that all the world should be registered (2 wds)
- 14 They came from the east (2 wds)
- 15 One of three gifts from the wise men
- 17 What the angel told Joseph (4 wds)
- 21 Where Jesus was born
- 22 The relationship of Mary and Joseph initially
- 23 Shone around the shepherds (4 wds)
- 24 What the wise men did when they saw the star
- 25 Governor of Syria at the time of the census

DOWN

- 2 Joseph and Mary traveled from here
- 3 Herod's intention toward the baby Jesus (2 wds)
- 4 The Old Testament prophet who foretold Jesus would be born in Bethlehem
- 5 Where Jesus was laid
- 7 Wasn't any room there
- 8 One of three gifts from the wise men
- 9 "And you shall call His name _____"
- 10 What Joseph was, as told in Matt. 1:19 (3 wds)
- 11 Joseph was of this house and lineage
- 12 The reason Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem
- 13 They were in the fields tending their flock
- 15 The meaning of the name "Immanuel" (3 wds)
- 16 One of three gifts from the wise men
- 18 How the wise men were warned not to return to Herod
- 19 He was king at the time of Jesus' birth
- 20 The wise men saw it in the east

HINT: Clues for the crossword puzzle can be found in the word search!

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

K G I R H R A R E J O I C E D B I H T C T
 R O Z S R V B J K Q K Z Y D M T N B A N N
 Y L T N A M Z H U S U S N E C J N E T S N
 P D R C T I Y C Z S P M F T E N S P H D A
 L F X K Q L A M H L T K F S C A V T E E D
 A R P Q P B M H D B Z M U R R J O H D T O
 C A R K L I T N T B T S A A N L T U L T N
 E N Z Y C M L L R A T S U N C O J T D P O
 O K D A X G M W R R X G P G R F L L E Y T
 F I H N N M G A L N U G N T O N D S S G B
 J N P D I V A D E S T I E M L E M U T E E
 E C K T P M Z Q T R L B E N T M B I R C A
 S E H P G N B U L D D H V C R E L N O K F
 U N Z Y B A S H D H E R O D Z S R I Y D R
 S S R N K K L A T L R C W M R I W R H J A
 B E Y L K W W I H D T E R J T W L I I P I
 I M Y L B S H T L C R R G L F F L U M M D
 R Y C M Z F E Z W E F H R N G P T Q G R K
 T R R X W B B M Q Y E M X M A L D D K M R
 H R X T P Q N G R P K L J K M M W W M Q B
 K H G O D W I T H U S P M G C L W C B K K

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

A JUST MAN	EGYPT	MICAH
BETHLEHEM OF JUDEA	GALILEE	PLACE OF JESUS BIRTH
BETROTHED	GOD WITH US	QUIRINIUS
CAESAR AUGUSTUS	GOLD FRANKINCENSE MYRRH	REJOICED
CENSUS	HEROD	STAR
DAVID	INN	SWADDLING CLOTHS
DESTROY HIM	ISAIAH	WISE MEN
DO NOT BE AFRAID	JESUS	
DREAM	MANGER	



Angels Adoring the Sleeping Christ by Jacques Stella (1596-1657)

ANGELS APPEARING

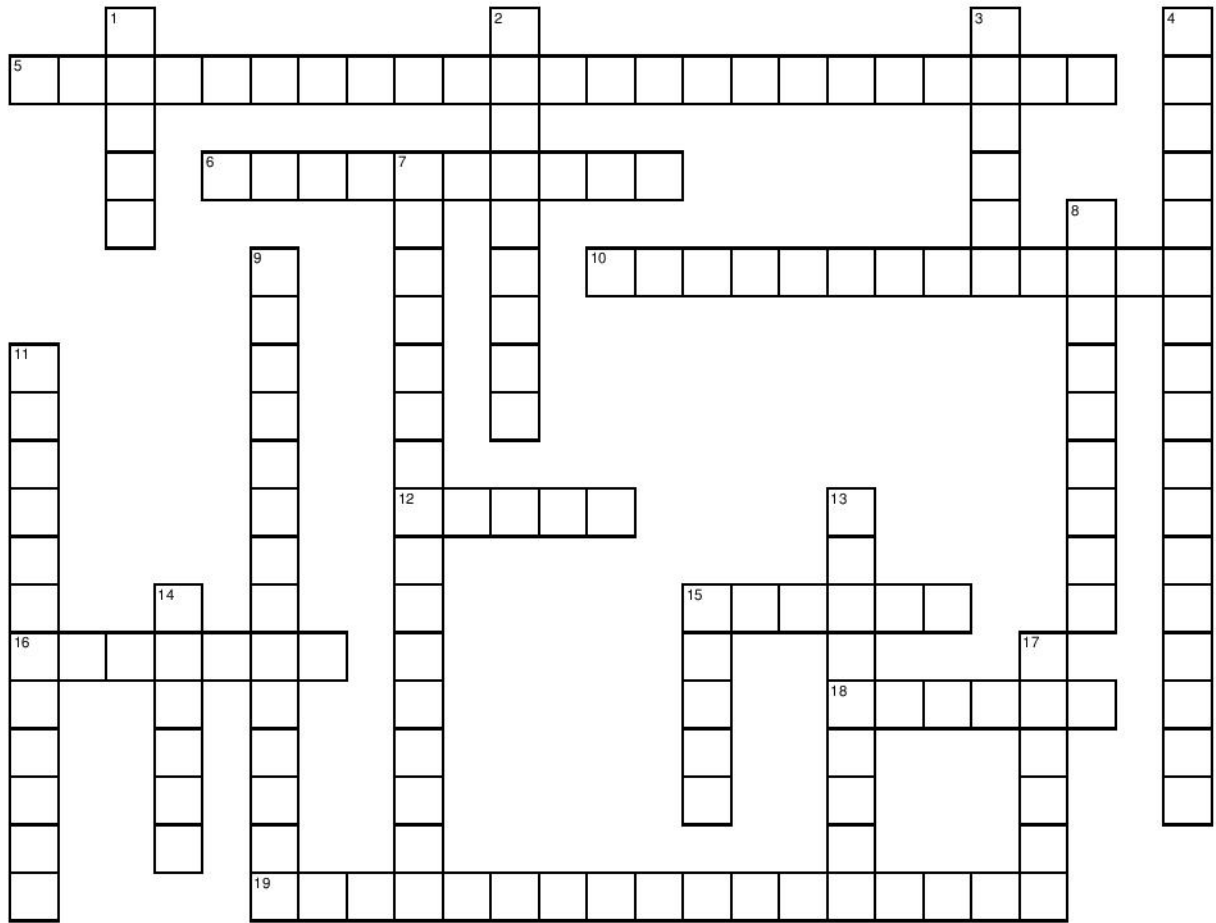
Angels appear many times in the Bible to make announcements, assist, and give direction. There are twenty instances of such visitations in the crossword puzzle on the next page.

Here is the passage from Matthew which recounts an angel's visit to Joseph:

Matthew 1:20: *"But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.'"*

Hint: If you need some clues to answer the crossword puzzle, look in the word search!

ANGELS APPEARING



ACROSS

- 5 When the apostles were put in prison, an angel of the Lord did this (6 wds)
- 6 Place John was carried away to by an angel
- 10 An angel instructed John not to do this (2 wds)
- 12 Two angels appeared to Lot to announce the destruction of this city
- 15 Told by an angel to flee to Egypt with his wife and child
- 16 Three angels appeared for this announcement to _____ that he would have a son
- 18 John saw an angel coming down from _____
- 19 An angel of the Lord told Joseph not to be afraid to do this (5 wds)

DOWN

- 1 Mary was told of His birth by an angel
- 2 An angel told him to send for Peter
- 3 Manoah was foretold of the birth of his son, _____, in this angelic appearance
- 4 John saw an angel standing _____ (6 wds)
- 7 An angel directed Philip to _____ to an Ethiopian man (2 wds)
- 8 This angel appeared to measure _____, according to Zechariah
- 9 Zacharias had a visit in which the angel announced the birth of _____ (3 wds)
- 11 They heard two angels say, "Why do you stand here looking into the sky?" (3 wds)
- 13 They were watching the fields by night when an angel appeared
- 14 An angel appeared to John when he was on this island
- 15 Angels ascended and descended a ladder in this dream of his
- 17 An angel instructed John to measure it

ANGELS APPEARING

Find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

Y R T P T F H E A V E N L Z D Q T H H N D O J
 K K T Y W C R D K W W Z J W M Y Y L L R X P Y
 Y Z H Z Z S O M T A P B Q Y Z K N C M T P E G
 R P K R J L V M R F N B W T M Z T X J N D N B
 F R D Z M S H E P H E R D S N B J L F Y G E N
 R N N M N P M V K Z C P J P N H N K E T F D K
 N Q A H E T J L M M F W X W X G G X T I M T S
 W T L G M N Z H T G T Y V T V N P T W G Z H L
 T S N H P K O X P R M L E S D L P S R C H E E
 N S O D Y M T F L E F M U L A Q I J J K B D G
 L E D B X T G K G R S I R I P H R O Y F W O N
 T N N L J A C O B A L O N X S M H M R M L O A
 Y R A L R J H B G E L S J A N N E N R A K R P
 M E A J R K W X N R C I Y D T T X T G H R S I
 Y D E E D W T R F R X R L H C X C X Y A M O H
 P L S R B L O L I P A Y E E N T P G M R B F S
 W I E U M C N P P M D B N P E S L R P B N T R
 T W H S R L T G E Y A M C C K P A N G A K H O
 W R T A T U W K H P M W N M D L M M J K Z E W
 T M N L R R A D T D K Z R H R O Y L S X T J P
 C M O E K T D I X D P K T M D X W G N O X A V
 T W C M P T S K J P W X Q O F L F M V T N I G
 M J N B N T Q B V M V N S H S U S E J T C L D

ABRAHAM
 CORNELIUS
 EXPLAIN SCRIPTURE
 HEAVEN
 JACOB
 JERUSALEM
 JESUS
 JOHN THE BAPTIST
 JOSEPH
 MEN OF GALILEE

ON THE SEA AND ON LAND
 OPENED THE DOORS OF THE JAIL
 PATMOS
 SAMSON
 SHEPHERDS
 SODOM
 TAKE MARY AS HIS WIFE
 TEMPLE
 WILDERNESS
 WORSHIP ANGELS



THE GREATEST GIFT

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

When Christ came to earth as a baby, it meant leaving the glory of heaven behind. This side of heaven, we can't imagine all that Jesus gave up to clothe Himself in flesh. He was rich in every possible way and chose to become poor for our sakes. He chose to have less, so that we could have more, and the opportunity to have heaven and be forever with Him. He came in the quiet of the night, without fanfare, to a young couple without prestige or position. He chose a stable, not a stage. He chose the cross instead of heaven. He came to do His Father's will:

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of Him who sent me."

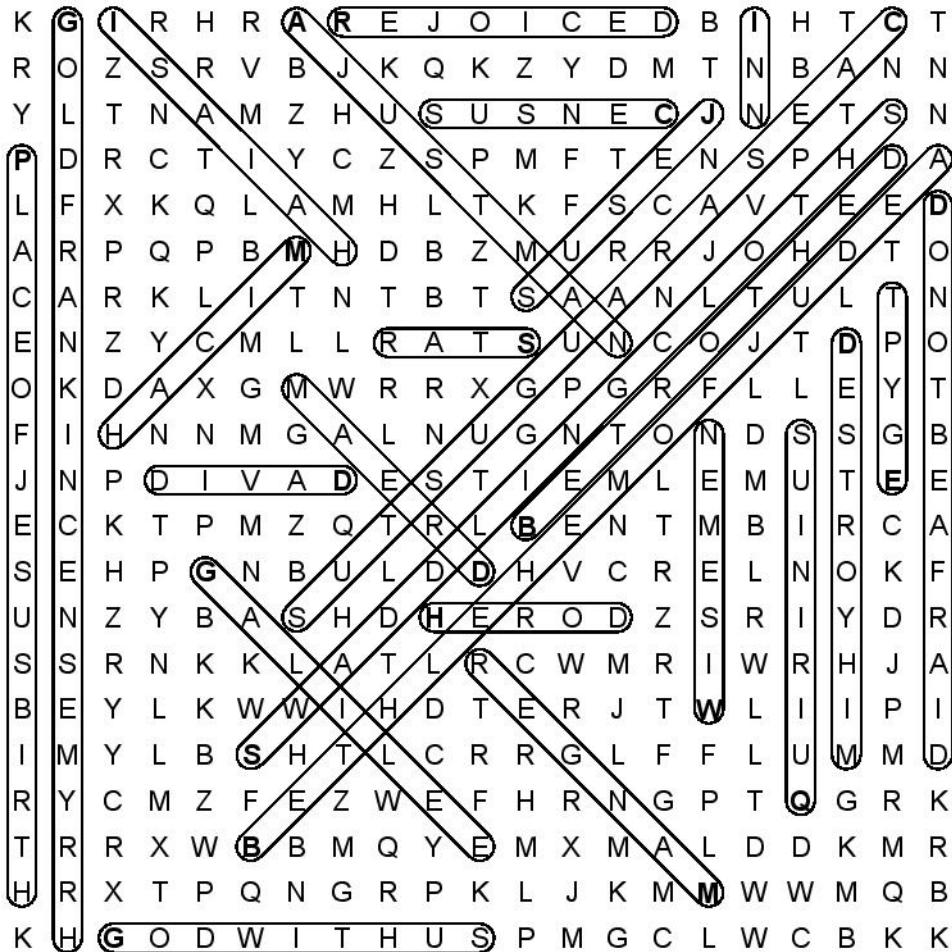
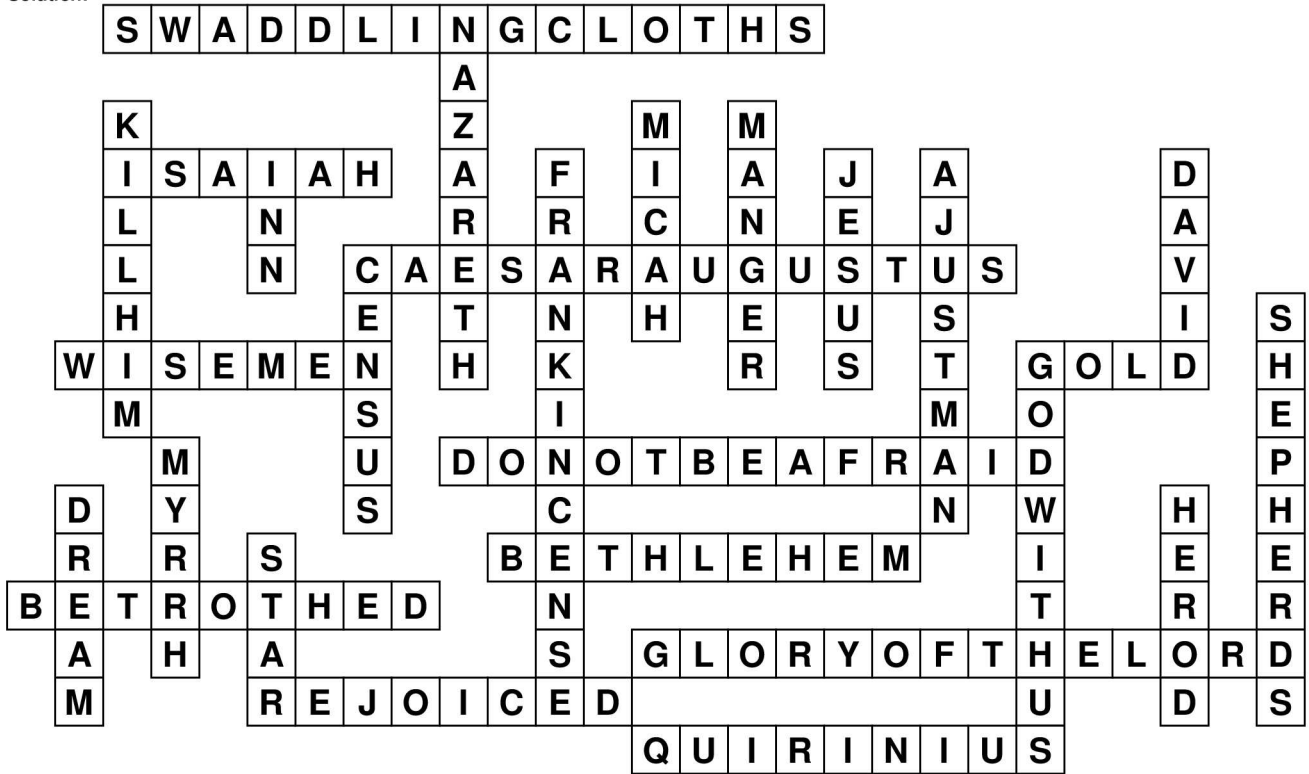
(John 6:38)



THE GREATEST GIFT THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN IS JESUS.

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Solution:



ANGELS APPEARING

Solution:

	J							C				S			O										
O	P	E	N	E	D	T	H	E	D	O	O	R	S	O	F	T	H	E	J	A	I	L			
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			A	B	R	A	H	A	M				A									P			L
			T				P		T				C									H	E	A	V
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Y	R	T	P	T	F	H	E	A	V	E	N	L	Z	D	Q	T	H	H	N	D	J	
K	K	T	Y	W	C	R	D	K	W	W	Z	J	W	M	Y	Y	L	L	R	X	P	Y
Y	Z	H	Z	Z	S	O	M	T	A	P	B	Q	Y	Z	K	N	C	M	T	P	E	G
R	P	K	R	J	L	V	M	R	F	N	B	W	T	M	Z	T	X	J	N	D	N	B
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L	E	D	B	X	T	G	K	G	R	S	I	R	I	P	H	R	O	Y	F	W	O	N
T	N	N	L	J	A	C	O	B	A	L	O	N	X	S	M	H	M	R	M	L	O	A
Y	R	A	L	R	J	H	B	G	E	L	S	J	A	N	N	E	N	R	A	K	R	P
M	E	A	J	R	K	W	X	N	R	C	I	Y	D	T	T	X	T	G	H	R	S	I
Y	D	E	E	D	W	T	R	F	R	X	R	L	H	C	X	C	X	Y	A	M	O	H
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T	W	H	S	R	L	T	G	E	Y	A	M	C	C	K	P	A	N	G	A	K	H	O
W	R	T	A	T	U	W	K	H	P	M	W	N	M	D	L	M	M	J	K	Z	E	W
T	M	N	L	R	R	A	D	T	D	K	Z	R	H	R	O	Y	L	S	X	T	J	P
C	M	O	E	K	T	D	I	X	D	P	K	T	M	D	X	W	G	N	O	X	A	V
T	W	C	M	P	T	S	K	J	P	W	X	Q	O	F	L	F	M	V	T	N	I	G
M	J	N	B	N	T	Q	B	V	M	V	N	S	H	S	U	S	E	J	T	C	L	D