



NEWSCAST 11. A KING IS BORN

. . . In this broadcast we hear of the birth of Jesus and the attempt of King Herod to have him destroyed . . .

The Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would bear a son, before she was married, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Joseph and Mary who usually lived in Nazareth in Galilee, had to come to Bethlehem in order to register for taxes since Joseph was a descendant of the house of David, which had always come from Bethlehem. Here Jesus was born in a stable, visited by shepherds and later by some astrologers ('Wise Men') who had been guided by a special star.

Herod, old and ailing in Jerusalem, and concerned about who would succeed him as King, was clearly worried by the astrologers' report about the birth of a King and saw this baby as a future threat. But before the slaughter of the innocents in Bethlehem was carried out, Mary and Joseph were warned by an angel to leave Judaea and go down to Egypt for safety. They later returned to Galilee where Jesus grew up.

Analyzing Herod's reign, we see the clash of cultures and the tensions between traditional Jewish ways and the Greek-Roman practices that Herod was trying to introduce into Judaea.

Biblical references:

Matthew: Chapters 1 -2;

Luke: Chapters 1 – 2.