

THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

CHAPTER 22 – THE BIRTH OF THE KING

DISCUSSION OF GENERAL QUESTIONS

- ❶ What is God saying?
- ❷ For what does this section lead me to give thanks? (See God's grace and promises!)
- ❸ What sins does this section lead me to confess? (See God's expectations for his people)
- ❹ For what does this section lead me to pray? (As you ponder the Word, what needs of heart and life for yourself and others come to mind? Consider every word you read as an invitation to turn it into a prayer you speak back to your Lord!)

Key Events: the birth of the Savior announced, birth of Jesus, visit of the Magi, flight to Egypt, the boy Jesus visits the temple

DIGGING IN

- 1) The first page of this chapter is taken from the beginning of John's gospel. Make a list of all the things we learn about Jesus in this introduction. Explain the significance of each of these descriptions of Jesus.
- 2) In Mary's song she said, "From now on all generations will call me blessed." (pg 311) We do not worship Mary but we certainly do hold her in high regard as a woman of faith. In what ways did Mary demonstrate a tremendous faith?
- 3) Some people claim that Jesus was nothing more than a prophet or a religious teacher. Use details from the account of his conception/birth to disprove these ideas.

- 4) Why was Jesus born in such humble circumstances? What was God teaching us about his ways versus our ways?

Note: On the bottom of page 312 there is a footnote that seeks to explain the word “gospel.” It says that “the good news is that each individual can accept this undeserved gift and enter into a relationship with [God].” This is one area that we, as Lutherans, differ from the editors of *The Story*. The good news is not merely that salvation is available if you accept Jesus. The good news is that Jesus has won salvation for the world.

- 5) Explain why Herod wanted to kill Jesus. There are those today who would love to “kill” the idea of Jesus. What motivates today’s Jesus-haters?

- 6) The magi came to worship their king. What does their account teach us about Jesus and the honor due him? In what ways can we worship him as our king today?

- 7) We know nothing about Jesus’ childhood except for the incident recorded on pages 315-316. Would you have liked to have been Mary or Joseph? Why or why not?

Chapter 23: Jesus’ Ministry Begins

Bible Reference: Matthew 3-4; 11; Mark 1-3; Luke 8; John 1-4