

*Why We Celebrate
Christmas
featuring
Jesus Tree
Decorations*

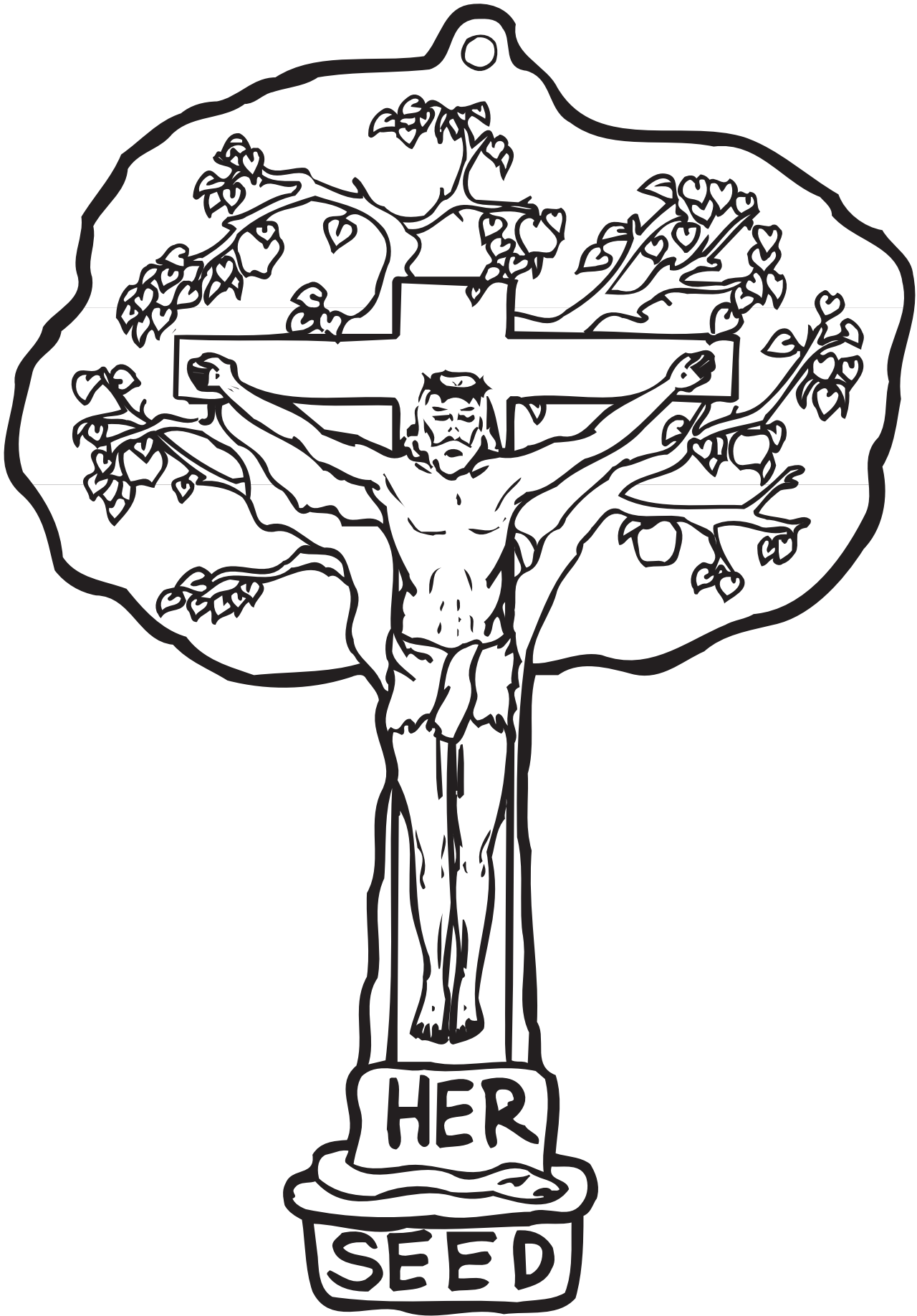
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All Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of
the Bible.

*Create in me a clean heart,
O God; and renew a right
spirit within me. Cast me
not away from thy
presence; and take not thy
Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of
thy salvation; and uphold
me with thy free spirit.
Then will I teach
transgressors thy ways;
and sinners shall be
converted unto thee.*

Psalm 51:10-13



The Original Sin

In the first book of the Bible we are told how long ago when God first created the world he also created the first parents. They were named Adam and Eve. God made a beautiful garden for them named Eden to live in. However, there was one tree in the garden whose fruit was poisonous. God commanded them to stay away from it because if they ate of it they would die. The fruit contained the knowledge of good and evil.

One day an evil spirit disguised as a snake entered into the garden and tricked Eve into eating from the poisonous tree. Adam also ate some of the bad fruit. Immediately they knew they had done wrong and were very ashamed. God cursed the snake and said to him:

*“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and **her seed**; It shall bruise thy head, and thou shall bruise his heel.”*

Genesis 3:15

Because God can't allow any sin to go uncorrected he had to tell Adam and Eve to leave Eden. But God had a future plan to correct their wrong. One of Eve's descendants, Jesus, would someday conquer death and put it firmly under his heel.



Abraham and the Faith

Long after the time of Adam and Eve a descendant of theirs was born who would prove to be a man of great faith in God, his name was Abraham. Once God tested Abraham telling him to travel to a distant land with his only son Isaac, and upon a mountain to offer him as a sacrifice. Abraham followed the Lord's instructions and was prepared to obey when from heaven an Angel called to him not to harm the lad. Since Abraham was obedient God blessed him and said:

*"And in thy seed shall **all the nations of the earth be blessed;**
because thou hast obeyed my voice."*

Genesis 22:18

Abraham's offered sacrifice of his son was symbolic of the future sacrifice that Jesus, the only begotten son of God, was allowed to make as a price for all our sins. One only has to be obedient through faith in Jesus to receive God's blessing.



Moses and the Law

One of the greatest leaders of God's people was Moses, whom God used to bring his people out of Egypt where they had been held in slavery. In addition God gave Moses laws so the people could live in harmony and peace. Moses went on to accomplish many great things for his people, but he knew there was still one to come greater than he. Moses said to the people:

*“The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; **unto him ye shall hearken.**”*

Deuteronomy 18:15

Jesus was the fulfillment of the prophecy of Moses, and he is also the fulfillment of the Law. The Law taught God's people the right ways to love God and their neighbor. Jesus was to teach the same love only that it should come from the heart.



David the Shepherd Boy

The most loved of God, was David, another descendant of Adam and Eve, whom God chose as a mere shepherd boy to become King of all Israel. David loved God greatly and wrote and sang many songs of praise for the Lord. With his simple childhood and understanding of a shepherd's ways to care, defend, and if necessary, give his life for the flock, David understood the meaning of shepherd. He knew God held that special position when he wrote:

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

Psalm 23:1

Jesus would claim to be that Good Shepherd, willing to lay down his life for anyone who wants to believe, and be part of his flock.



Isaiah and the Prophecy

A great prophet of the Old Testament was Isaiah, who prophesied about world events of his time, and of those of the future. A most cherished prophecy of his concerned the future birth of a Messiah.

*“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name **Immanuel.**”*

Isaiah 7:14

Immanuel translated means God with us. This Jesus Christ was, and claims still to be.



Micah and the Scriptures

Another prophet of God was Micah, Micah was also given the ability to see into the future, where it was revealed to him the location the Savior of the world was to be born.

*“But thou, **Bethlehem**... though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”*

Micah 5:2

If one examines the Bible, both the Old and the New Testaments, they will find that all things in scriptures lead to Jesus. It is a book about his coming to the world in want of your love.



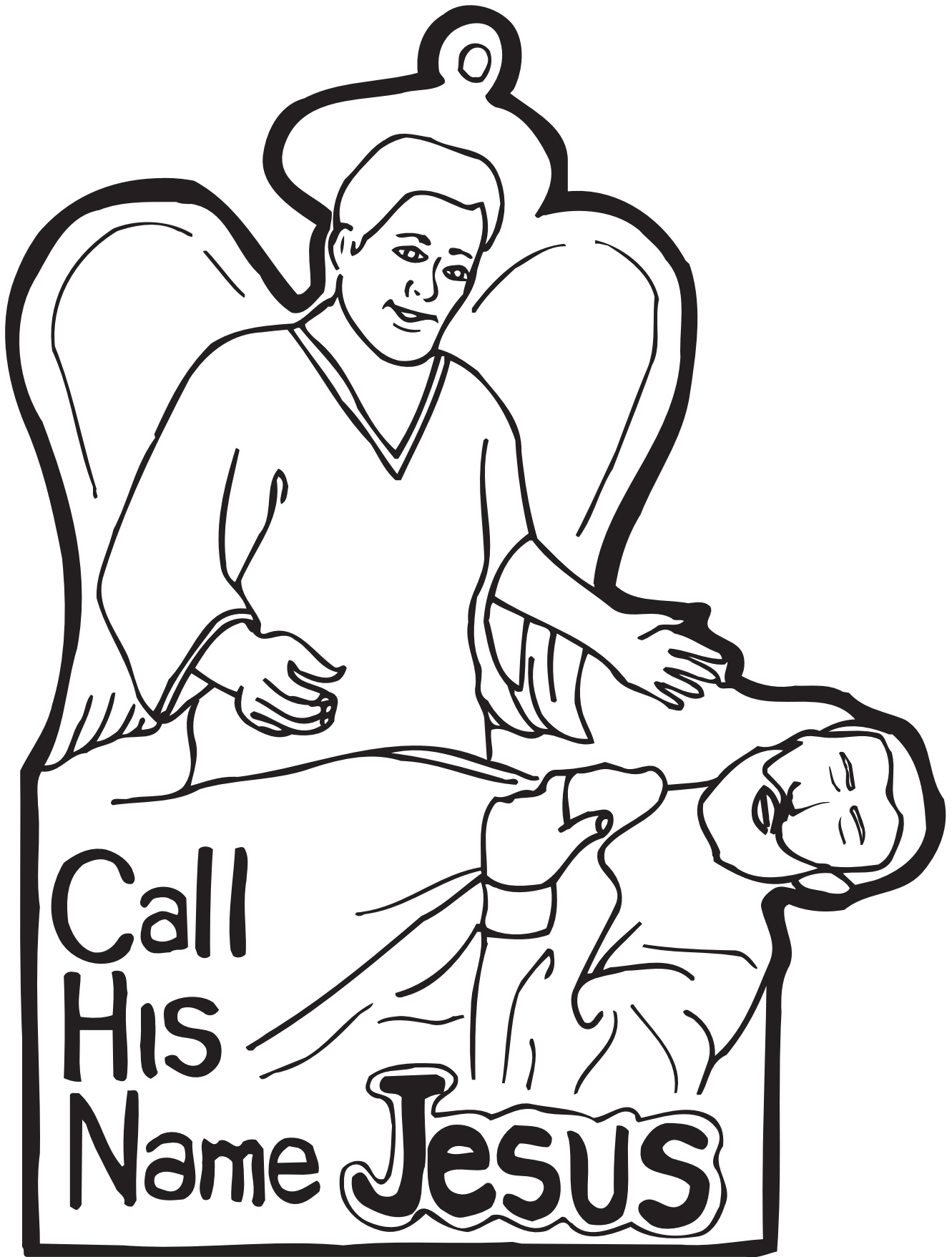
Mary and Gabriel

Many years after the prophets and great leaders of the Old Testament passed away God selected a young maiden named Mary to be the mother of the Savior. She lived in Judah in a region called Galilee, and a city named Nazareth. Mary was a direct descendant of Adam and Eve, Abraham, and David. God sent the angel Gabriel to her with a message. Gabriel told Mary that she was to conceive a child and was to name him Jesus, and that he was to become a great ruler. Mary was troubled because she was a virgin, and she asked Gabriel how this could come to pass.

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."

St. Luke 1:35

Hence the promise given to Eve that from her seed would come a redeemer is to find it's fulfillment in Mary.



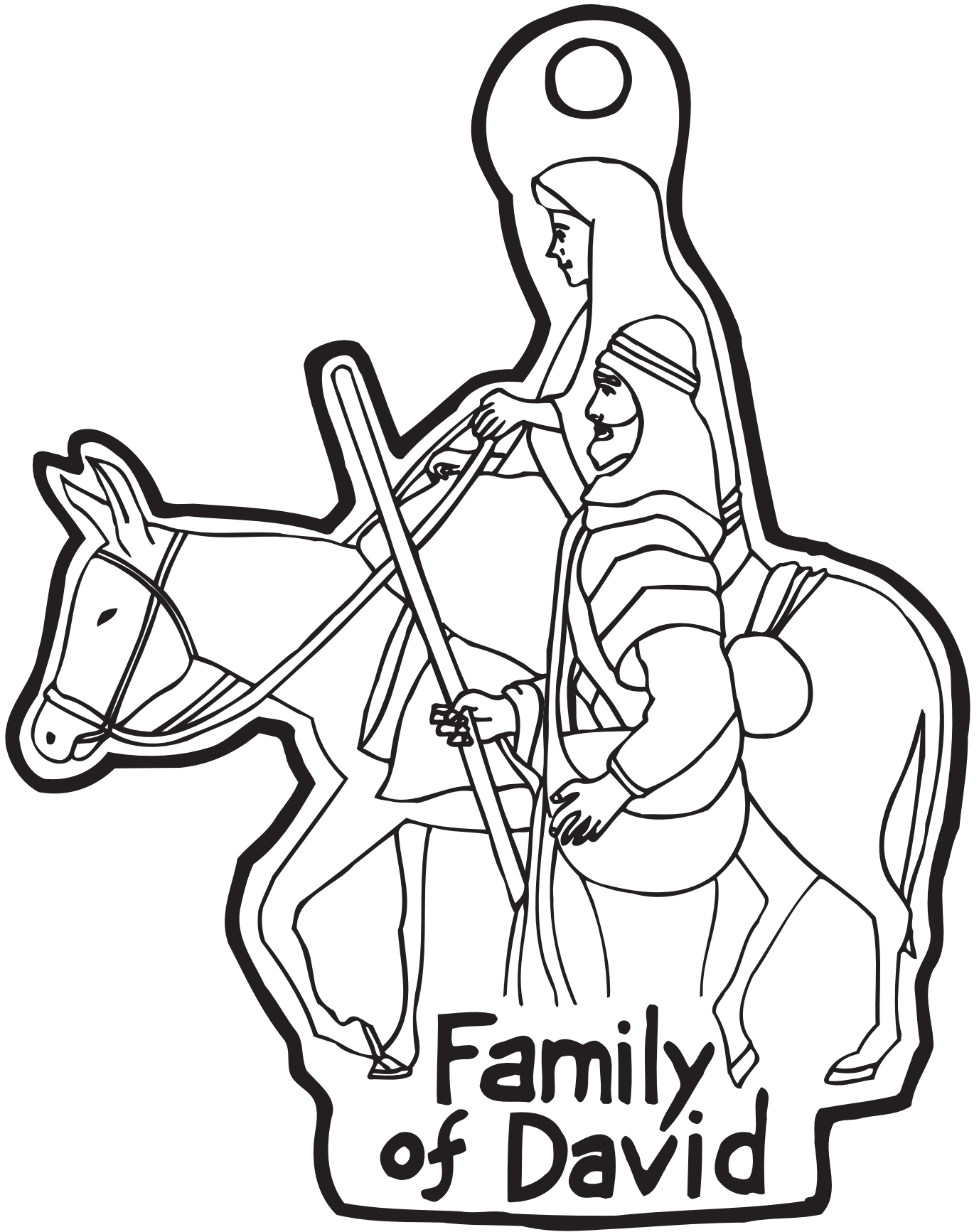
Joseph and the Angel

Mary was engaged to a young man named Joseph, who was of the House of David, and was also a descendant of Adam and Eve, and Abraham. When Joseph found out that Mary was with child, he sought to have her put away in secret, as he was a thoughtful man and didn't want Mary to be publicly disgraced. Joseph contemplated this plan when an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and told him not to worry about taking Mary as his wife since that which was conceived in her was of the Holy Spirit. He also told Joseph;

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

St. Matthew 1:21

Joseph agreed to take Mary, a virgin, as his wife thus fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah.



The Little Town

Shortly before the birth of Jesus, the emperor of Rome, Caesar Augustus, commanded that a count be taken of all the people of the world. Everyone had to go to their own city to register, including Mary, who was engaged to Joseph.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: because he was of the house and lineage of David.

St. Luke 2:4

Therefore the exact location of the birth of the savior spoken about by Micah was to come true.



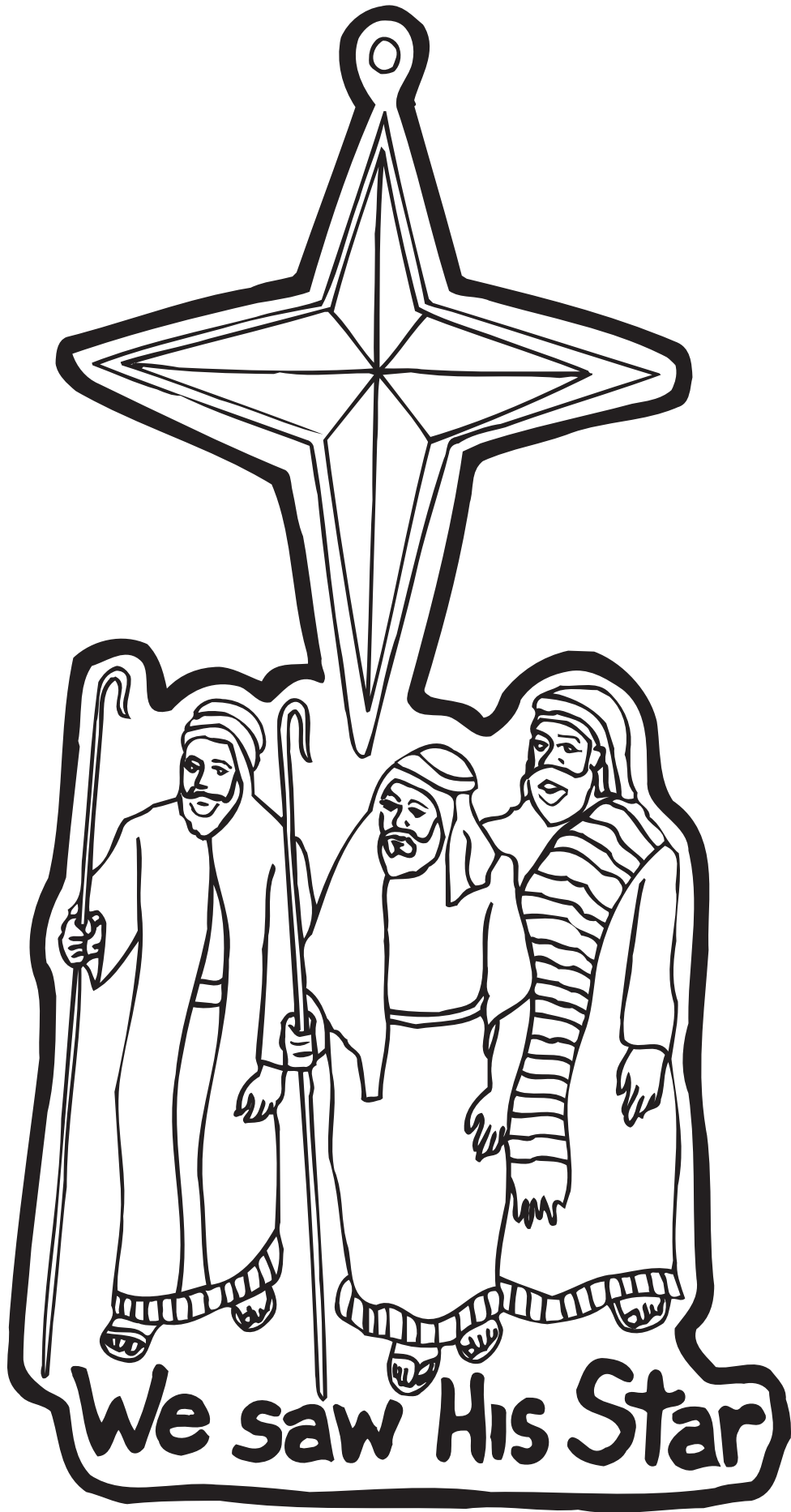
Shepherds, Angels and the Gospel

In the same region at the time of the birth of Jesus, some shepherds were tending their flocks of sheep during the night. When an Angel of the Lord appeared before them, the shepherds were very 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 Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

St. Luke 2:10,11

The angel said the child would be wrapped in cloths, and be found laying in a manger. Other angels then joined the first angel and they all sang praises to God. Then they ascended back to heaven. The shepherds went to Bethlehem and found Jesus, and told everyone what the angels had said. The shepherds then left giving praise and glory to God. **So began the blessing given to Abraham unto all the Nations.**



The Wisemen and the Star

Sometime after the birth of Jesus, in the city of Jerusalem, some wisemen arrived from the East, inquiring about the location of the newborn Messiah.

“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.”

St. Matthew 2:2

When King Herod heard about these wisemen, he asked the chief priests and scribes where this anointed one was to be born. They informed the King that the prophet had written that he was to come from Bethlehem. The King sent for the wisemen in secret to find out when they had seen this star. He told the wisemen to go to Bethlehem and find this child, and to report back to him that he might come and also worship the child. When they went to search for the child, the star they had seen in the East appeared, and led them to a house where it settled above. Inside they found Mary with Jesus, and they gave gifts and worshipped the child. **The wisemen were blessed because of their search, and faith.**



Born Again

When Jesus came into the world, it was in the same fashion of all men. From a surrounding shelter of water within the womb of his mother, he came forth into the flesh.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

St. Luke 2:7

In the birth of Jesus we find the fulfillment of the promise to Eve, the blessing for the Nations, the truth of God's Law, and the prophecies fulfilled.

Jesus had to be born into the physical world to save us. We must be born into the spiritual world to be saved. **One has to be born again.**



The Gift

Ask, and it shall be given you: seek, and ye shall find: knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth: and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

St. Matthew 7:7, 8

When we ask the Lord for something, we ask in prayer. If you would like Jesus to come into your life, say this short prayer and believe.

Father forgive me for I am a sinner. Help me to make a new life through the sacrifice of your son. I accept Jesus as Lord of my life, and through your grace repent of all wrong doing.

If you have asked the Lord into your heart, you are now a born again child of the **eternal family of God.**

If you celebrate Christmas by exchanging gifts this year, give out of love, not based upon merit, just as the heavenly Father gives to you. Let the receiver of the gift know it's from you, and how much they mean to you. Never forget that the greatest gift of all is cause for celebration...forever!

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.



The Tree of Life

In the last book of the Bible we are told that just as there was a tree in the Garden of Eden, there is also a future tree for the believer.

“To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”

Revelation 2:7

Until that time let your present Christmas tree symbolize the way between the two trees by calling it a Jesus Tree, with Jesus Tree Decorations.

And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.

But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

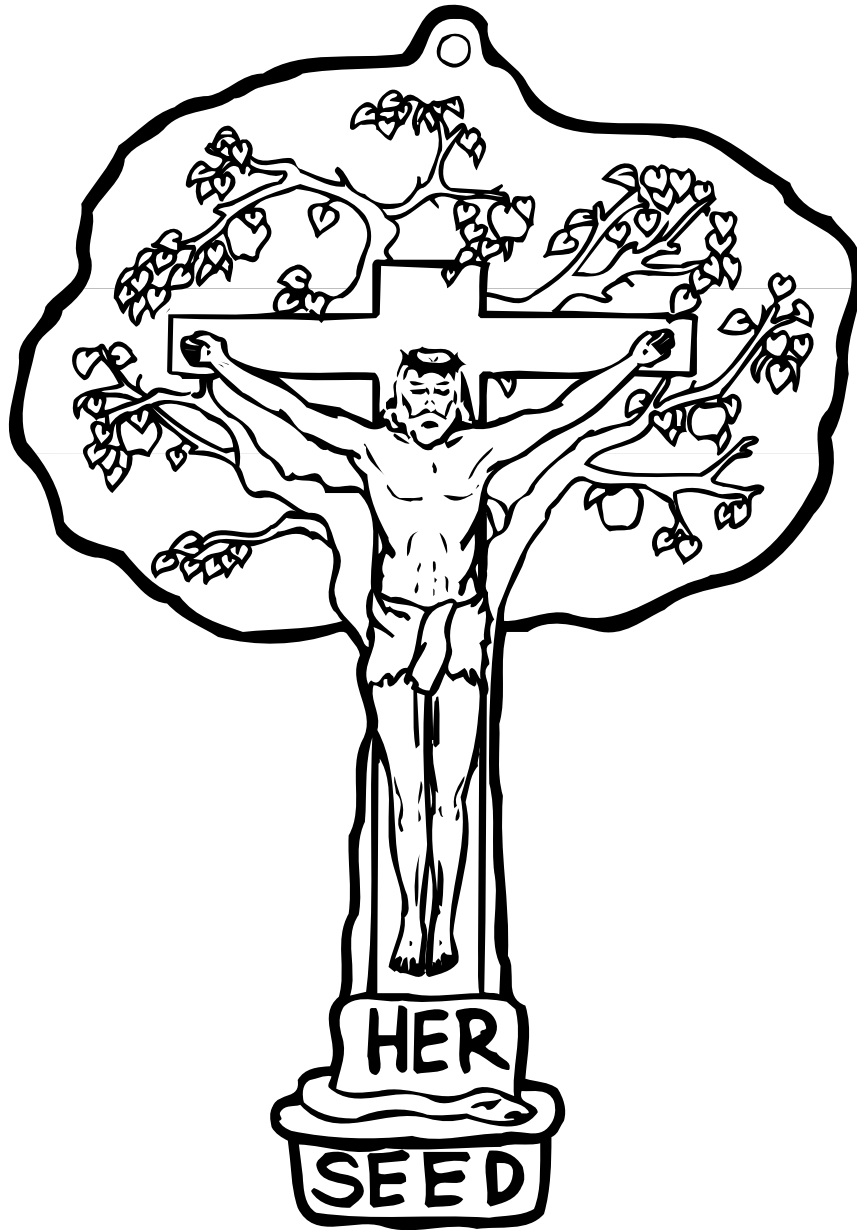
Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein."

And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

St. Mark 10:13-16

Color decorations front and back then cut out the decorations carefully with scissors. Poke a hole using a sharp pointed object through the upper circle of the decoration. Then using thread, string or Christmas hangers, arrange the Jesus Tree Decorations in such a manner on the Jesus Tree which will make it easy for you to explain their purpose. It is suggested you follow the layout of the *Why We Celebrate Christmas* book. Practice with the book until you can explain their purpose to someone else in your own words. You can also leave the book under the Jesus Tree for those who wish to discover the reason of the Jesus Tree Decorations on their own. Another option if you do not have a Christmas tree is to color the large illustrations and tape them to a wall or you may color the illustrations and leave them inside the printed pages. However, you decide to display the message may your Christmas be of great joy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

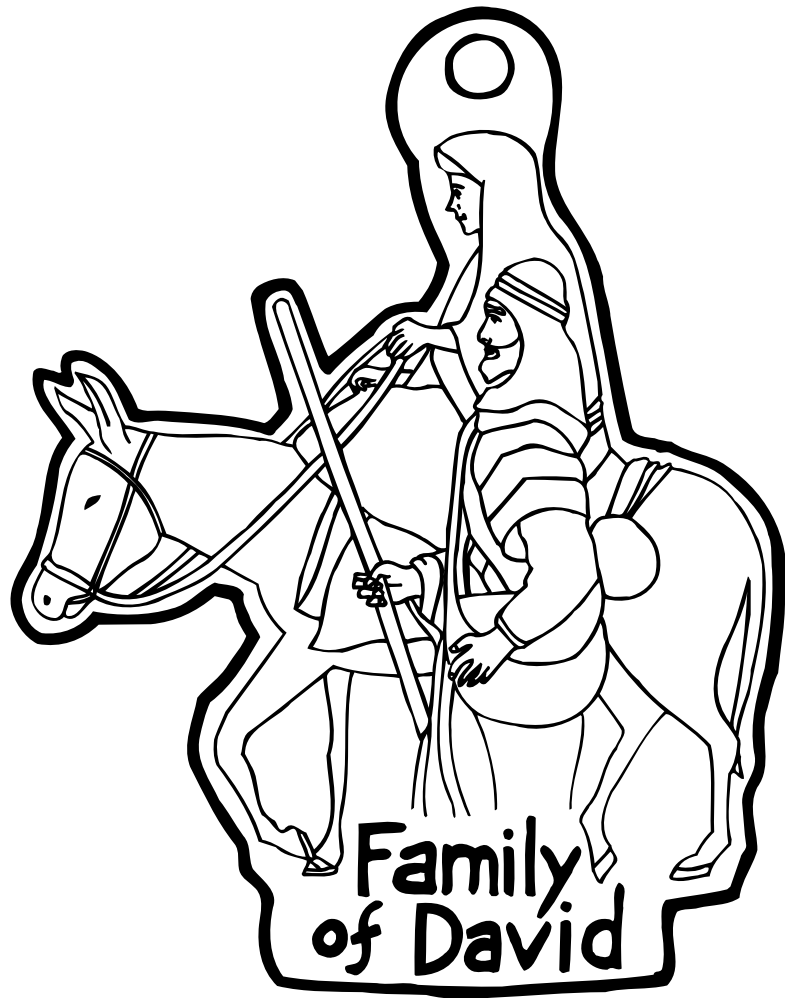
Jesus Tree Decorations











Family
of David



Good
News

