

## LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK 2 (FAMVAR INTERNATIONAL SEC. SCHOOL)

**SUBJECT:** RELIGION AND NATIONAL VALUES EDUCATION

**CLASS:** JSS2

**TOPIC:** THE EARLY LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST(1)

### **THE ANNUNCIATION ( Isa. 8:6.-7, Mat. 1:22 & 23. Luke 1:2-35)**

Annunciation means the announcement by the angel Gabriel to the virgin Mary that she would give birth to the saviour of the world, Jesus Christ. Before his physical birth, the birth of Jesus had been announced many years before by different prophets. For example, Prophet Isaiah as seen in Isaiah 9:6 proclaimed:

*For unto us a child is born and unto us a child is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulders; and his name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forever more. The zeal of the lord shall do this".*

Prophet Isaiah also prophesied about the woman to whom Christ would be born and also proclaimed that his name will be called **Emmanuel** which means **"God is with us"**.

Prophet Micah also proclaimed the birth of Jesus Christ in Micah 5:2-4. Apart from that, the angel of God also told Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, about his birth.

God himself also promised the birth of Christ as seen in Genesis 3:15

### **THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST( Luke 2:1-20, 30-32, Mat.1:18-25)**

Angel Gabriel was sent by God to tell Mary about the birth of Christ. The angel also told Joseph, Mary's fiancé, about the wonderful birth of Jesus. After the angel had left, Mary later discovered that she was pregnant, even though she was still a virgin.

Jesus Christ was born some months later in a manger in Bethlehem of Judea (a manger is a place where horses and cattle feed). This happened when Joseph and Mary went to that city to register their names in a census conducted by the Roman emperor Augustus Caesar. He was born in a manger because all the inns were filled up and that was the only space available to his parents. Shortly after his birth, an angel of God appeared to some shepherds while they watched their flocks by night. He informed them of the birth of Jesus in the city of David and told them that the baby would be found in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Happy and excited, the shepherds visited Jesus and his parents and told them all the angel had revealed to them. They later returned to their field, glorying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.

## THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN ( Mat 2: 1-12)

After the birth of Jesus, three wise men came from the East to Jerusalem in search of the birth place of the newly born 'King of the Jews'. They had seen his rising star in the East and had come to worship him. King Herod was greatly worried when he heard this as he feared the new king was an unwanted rival. He called a meeting of the Scribes and Pharisees and asked them where the new king had been born. They told him it was Bethlehem of Judea. He then sent the wise men to search for the child and report back to him so he could come and worship him.

The wise men followed the star until it brought them to the manger and they saw Mary and the child Jesus. They worshiped Jesus and gave him three gifts which were **gold , frankincense and myrrh**.

Gold represented kingship, frankincense represented priestly function and myrrh represented prophetic instruction as well as the death of Jesus.

When the wise men left Bethlehem, they did not return to Jerusalem but instead returned home through another road. This was because an angel had appeared to them in a dream and instructed them not to return to Herod.

### Importance of the Birth of Jesus

The birth of Jesus is important for the following reasons:

1. It shows the love of God for all mankind. Mankind inherited the sin through the disobedience of Adam and Eve but Jesus came to pay the price for our sin.
2. The birth of Jesus is holy and pure. Jesus was sinless and his divine nature was apparent when he was on earth.
3. The name **Emmanuel** given to Jesus means **God with us**. This signifies that God came down to dwell among us in human form.

### MORAL LESSONS

1. We should be law abiding and give due respect to the rulers, just like Joseph and Mary.
2. We must obey God and do His will at all times. If we do this, He will protect us and our families always, despite all efforts of our enemies to frustrate or destroy us.
3. We must also humble ourselves anywhere and in any position we find ourselves.
4. We should learn to give gifts to those in need, the same way the wise men gave valuable gifts to Jesus.

### HOMEWORK

1. What do you understand by the term annunciation?
2. Give a brief account of the birth of Jesus according to the synoptic gospels.
3. List the three presents given to Jesus and their significance