

December 6, 2020 Terms

Gabriel – in the bible, a messenger angel. The name means ‘man of God’ or ‘mighty God’. Gabriel is specifically named in the New Testament (NT) as the messenger from God sent to announce the births of John the Baptist and Jesus.

December 13, 2020

Mary – the mother of Jesus. Very little is said about Mary, mother of Jesus, after the birth of Jesus. The New Testament (NT) tells us that Mary lived in Nazareth during Jesus’ ministry. Mary also was present at the Crucifixion and afterward with Jesus’ siblings and disciples.

Joseph – the husband of the mother of Jesus. Very little is known about Joseph. What we do know is from the accounts of the birth and childhood of Jesus in the Matthew and Luke. Both Gospels tell us that he was descended from the line of David, and he was a carpenter. It is in Matthew that Joseph, a righteous man, struggled with his conscience and was visited in a dream by an angel of the Lord. Joseph and Mary made the journey to Bethlehem to be registered for the census. Joseph took Jesus to the Temple to be dedicated and circumcised. He took Jesus and Mary to Egypt to escape the wrath of King Herod and returned with them after the death of Herod. He was a faithful follower of the Law, and every year he took his family to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. During one of these trips, Jesus stayed behind teaching in the Temple. Mary and Joseph had to go back to find him.

Jesus – also, Jesus Christ; the central person in the New Testament (NT). Jesus was the personal name of the person whose title was *the Christ*, from which the Christian religion gets its name. In Hebrew, Jesus means “God saves”. Jesus came from the family line that traces back to King David. Through his extraordinary life and mighty acts, Jesus’ disciples and later believers came to recognize Jesus as the Christ or Anointed One from God. Jesus healed the sick and ministered to those that society had cast out. His compassion, justice, and mercy taught the world about God’s love and God’s nature. Through his life, death, and resurrection, the entire world was brought into a new covenant and fuller, personal understanding of God.

NAMES OF JESUS: Alpha and Omega, Cornerstone, King of Kings, Lamb of God, Redeemer Savior, Emmanuel, Holy One, Jehovah, Messiah, Prince of Peace, Son of David, Word; The Bread of Life, I AM . . . , The Light of the World, the Door, The True Vine, The Good Shepherd, The Resurrection and the Life, The Way, the Truth, and the Life!

December 20, 2020

Shepherd / Shepherding – a shepherd is the keeper of the sheep. Shepherding is the taking care of the sheep/flock. The shepherd’s care of the sheep was often used in the Bible as a figure of speech to demonstrate God’s love, God’s mercy, and God’s compassion for God’s people. It also was used to indicate the care that religious teachers and leaders should have toward their people who are much like their flocks. Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep”.

December 27, 2020

Simeon – a righteous and devout man of Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit touched Simeon and promised that he would not die before he saw the Messiah. When Joseph and Mary brought their child to the Temple to present him to the Lord, Simeon took the baby Jesus into his arms and blessed him.

Anna – an 84-year-old widow who was a prophet. When Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple, Anna, along with Simeon, praised God because they recognized Jesus as the Christ, who would save Israel.