

## GOD'S PERFECT TIMING

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7

When Mary told Joseph that she was with child of the Holy Ghost, Joseph was very upset. Joseph and Mary were not yet married, and according to the law, Joseph had the right to expose Mary for being unfaithful to him. But Joseph was a good and a kind man, and he did not want to do any thing that would harm Mary. While he was trying to decide what to do, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.

The angel said, "Joseph, you son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary for your wife. The child that she carries is of the Holy Ghost. She will deliver a son, and you will call his name JESUS for he shall save his people from their sin."

All these things were done in order to fulfill the prophecy that God gave through Isaiah, saying, "Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

When Joseph woke up from his sleep, he immediately did as the angel had said. He took Mary for his wife, but he kept her a virgin until the child was born.

In those days Caesar Augustus sent out a decree that all the world should be taxed. This taxing took place when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. Every one had to go to the city of their birth to be registered for the taxation.

Joseph took Mary his wife, who was great with child, and they traveled from Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in Judea, which is the city of David. Joseph was a descendent of David, and in order to obey the decree of Caesar he had to travel to Bethlehem, David's hometown. God had said by his prophet Micah that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem the city was crowded with many other Jews who had also come to the city of David to register. The inn was full and there was no place for the two weary travelers to stay, so they were forced to make their bed in a stable. In that lowly place Mary's time came to deliver the child, and she brought forth her first born son, the only begotten Son of God. Mary wrapped the newborn babe in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger of hay.

The King of the Universe, God himself, became a humble little baby. He was born to a poor couple, and a manger of hay was his bed. That is how much God loves us. He gave himself to buy us back from death and sin, so that he could adopt us for his very own children.

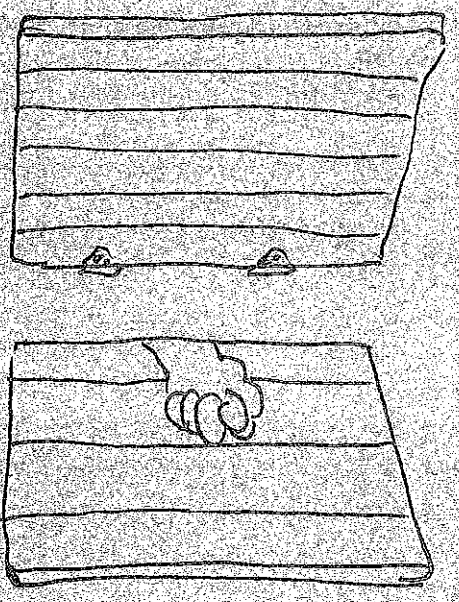
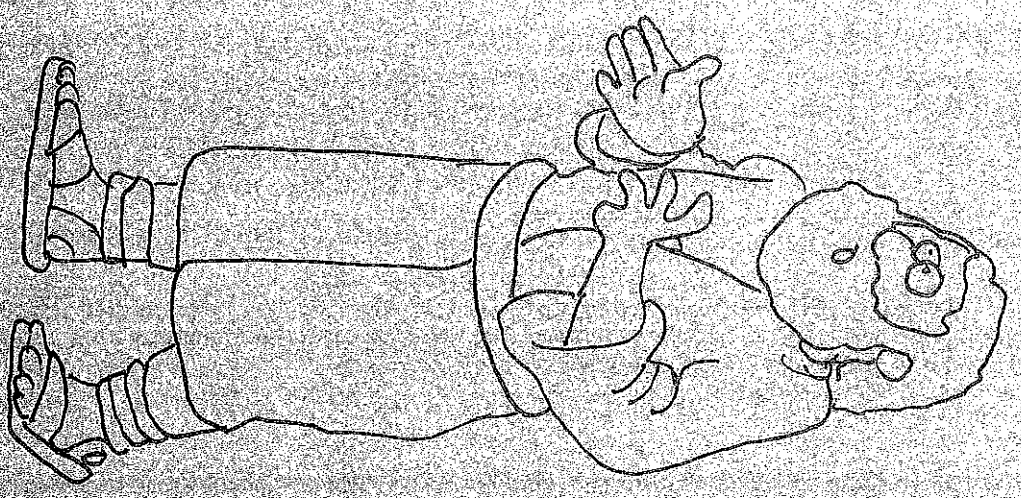
The details of the time of Jesus' birth are very important, for God gives us the exact time of the Lord's coming. Through the years there have been scoffers who said that the Bible is untrue. One of the proofs that these scoffers gave for their ideas was that no one believed that Cyrenius and Caesar Augustus had ruled at the same time. But God has again shown man that He is all true and all knowing, for through recent archaeological discoveries, the Bible has been proven right. We now know that the time when these two men ruled together was 4 BC. That is the year that the Lord Jesus was born. Again and again God shows us that we can depend on His word to be true.

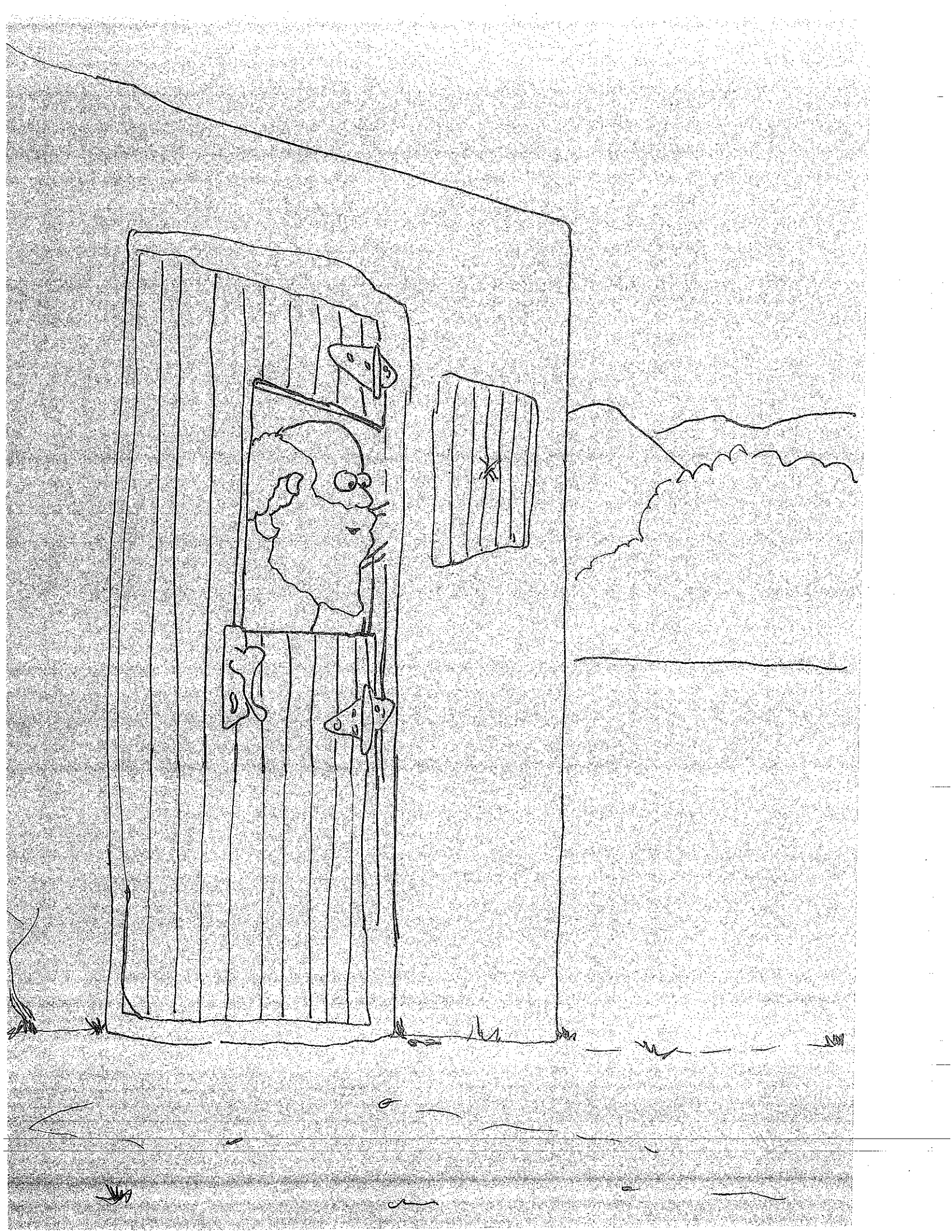
**MORAL PRINCIPLE:** God plans all things perfectly, and he never fails to accomplish his purpose.

**LEARN:** But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Galations 4:4,5

1. Color scene and Joseph and both window-doors.
2. Cut out Joseph and both window-doors.
3. Paste the window doors together so they fit.
4. Tape window door to fit on hinge side only - over the open door with imkeeper looking out.
5. Paste Joseph on grass next to inn.
6. Open and shut window - door to reveal imkeeper









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Galatians 4:4, 5