

in Israel, because of Him. Jesus said to Martha, *I am the resurrection and the Life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die*"? (John 11:25,26).

1. It is said there are _____ predictions of Christ's coming in the Scriptures. (Study Guide, p.20)
2. Were all these predictions fulfilled in the coming of Jesus? Yes ___ or No ___ (Study Guide, p. 20)
3. What is the Incarnation of Christ? (Study Guide, P. 20) _____
4. The Great Creator of heaven, lay down His heavenly attributes and stepped into _____ - _____ (Study Guide, p.20)
5. Give Scripture for this. (Study Guide) _____
6. In Romans 8:3, we read: *God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for* _____
7. The birth of the Messiah was looked over by the _____ (Study Guide, p.21)
8. Who wanted to kill Jesus from His birth? (Study Guide, p.21) _____
9. The virgin birth was the fulfillment of what Scripture? (Study Guide, p.21) _____
10. In what Scripture is the law requiring Jesus' mother to bring an offering forty days after the birth of the Child? (Study Guide, p.22) _____

FIFTH STUDY

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

(Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 1:1-25; John 1:14)

1. When did God send forth His Son? (Galatians 4:4)

The Scriptures are full of prophecies that God's Son would eventually come to redeem mankind and lead many sons to glory. It is said there are 332 predictions of Christ's coming. All were completely fulfilled in the coming of Jesus. Time moved forward, and was to climax in the birth of Jesus Christ.

THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST

Incarnation is defined as the embodiment of God in human form, as in the person of Jesus. The Great Creator of heavens and earth was about to lay down His heavenly attributes and step into the garment of human flesh, in His place of humility. Jesus said in Matthew 11:29, *For I am meek and lowly in heart*. This is the nature of Jesus which brings Him down to human level. Philipians 2:5-8—*He made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men*. He accepted the manger in a humble stable for His bed. There is nothing too lowly for Him. Hebrews 1:5,6 states, *For unto which of the angels said He at any time, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee? And again, I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son*. And again in John 1:14, *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,*

full of grace and truth. In Romans 8:3 we read, God sending His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin (sacrifice for sin), but He did no sin (I Peter 2:22).

HIS VIRGIN BIRTH (Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25) The birth of the Messiah was looked over by the Jewish religious leaders and they continued to pursue their religious rituals, but Herod had more concern than they: he believed enough to want to kill Him. In contrast to them, we find Simeon and Anna, who knew the leading of the Holy Spirit and spake prophetic utterances upon seeing the Christ Child. There's no doubt that Jesus was born of a virgin and is the Son of God, for as we read and study the four Gospels, this story is very clear. The virgin birth is fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14 - *a virgin shall conceive*; and Genesis 3:15 of God's promise to Adam that the seed of woman would defeat and crush Satan's power over mankind. The Hebrew word *Almah*, means a lass, damsel, maid, virgin. In Isaiah 7:14 it can only be translated, *virgin*. Children are born everyday, but a normal birth could not be a sign to mankind of a Redeemer. No, this is the seed of a woman: *Immanuel-God With us*. Mary, in Luke 1:34,35 says, How can I conceive a baby, for I have never had sexual relations with a man? This was God's way to enter into the realm of mankind, The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:1-14). He became like us, that we might become like Him.

THE CIRCUMCISION AND NAMING OF JESUS (Luke 2:21)

Galatians 4:4 reads, *He was made under the law.* He was

born as a Jew, therefore his parents were instructed under the Mosaic Law to circumcise Him on the eighth day from birth (Leviticus 12:3). Jesus was given the name *Jesus*, (designated for Him before He was conceived) on the day of His circumcision. Jesus means The Lord our Salvation. (Matthew 1:21) It is the Greek form of Joshua who was a deliverer himself. MARY'S PURIFICATION BY LAW (Luke 2:22-24)

The Law also required that Jesus' mother should bring an offering to the Lord at the end of forty days after the birth of the Child (Leviticus 12:4-8). It was preferred she bring a one year old lamb, but she couldn't afford it, so she brought a pair of turtle doves which was acceptable, if she could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:22-24). As she came into the temple, she was greeted by the prophet Simeon, who took the baby into his arms, and blessed God, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Luke 2:29-32, - *Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word: for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.* The Gentile wise-men worshipped Him when He was still in Bethlehem, but even before their coming, the Holy Ghost gave through Simeon the prediction that Christ was to be a blessing to the Gentiles as well as to the people of Israel. In verses 34,35, Simeon spoke of the shadow that was to fall upon that light and the sword that was to pierce the soul of Mary, His mother. Many were to fall because of the Child, but many would rise again