

Jan 1 Mary, Mother of God

Numbers 6:22-27 Numbers is one of the first five books of the OT

The LORD said to Moses:

“Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them:

This is how you shall bless the Israelites.

Say to them:

The LORD bless you and keep you!

The LORD **let his face shine upon you**, and be gracious to you!

The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!

So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites,
and I will bless them.”

God’s great blessing to us
is that HE lets us see HIM
AS HE IS, face to face.

Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

R. May God bless us in his mercy.

May God have pity on us and bless us;

may he **let his face shine upon us**.

So may your way be known upon earth;
among all nations, your salvation.

May God bless us in his mercy.

May the nations be glad and exult
because you rule the peoples in equity;
the nations on the earth you guide.

May God bless us in his mercy.

May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you!

May God bless us,

and may all the ends of the earth fear him! **May God bless us in his mercy.**

GALATIANS 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters:

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son,

***born of a woman**, born under the law,

to ransom those under the law,

so that we might receive adoption as sons.

As proof that you are sons,

God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,
crying out, “Abba, Father!”

So you are no longer a slave but a son,

and if a son then also an heir, through God.

*Paul’s point is that since XT was born
of Mary he is true MAN.

Because of that HE—XT—has made us
also SONS of GOD

in ways Jews had never considered.

Alleluia from HEBREWS 1:1-2

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the **prophets**;
in these last days, he has spoken to us through the **Son**.

Alleluia

Prophets speak for God.

Who can tell us what God
wants better than **XT**
who **IS** God?

GOSPEL LK 2:16-21

The **shepherds** went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child.

All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the **shepherds**.

And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

Then the **shepherds** returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen,

just as it had been told to them. [told by the **shepherds!** Who here 'speak for God' = Prophets]

When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

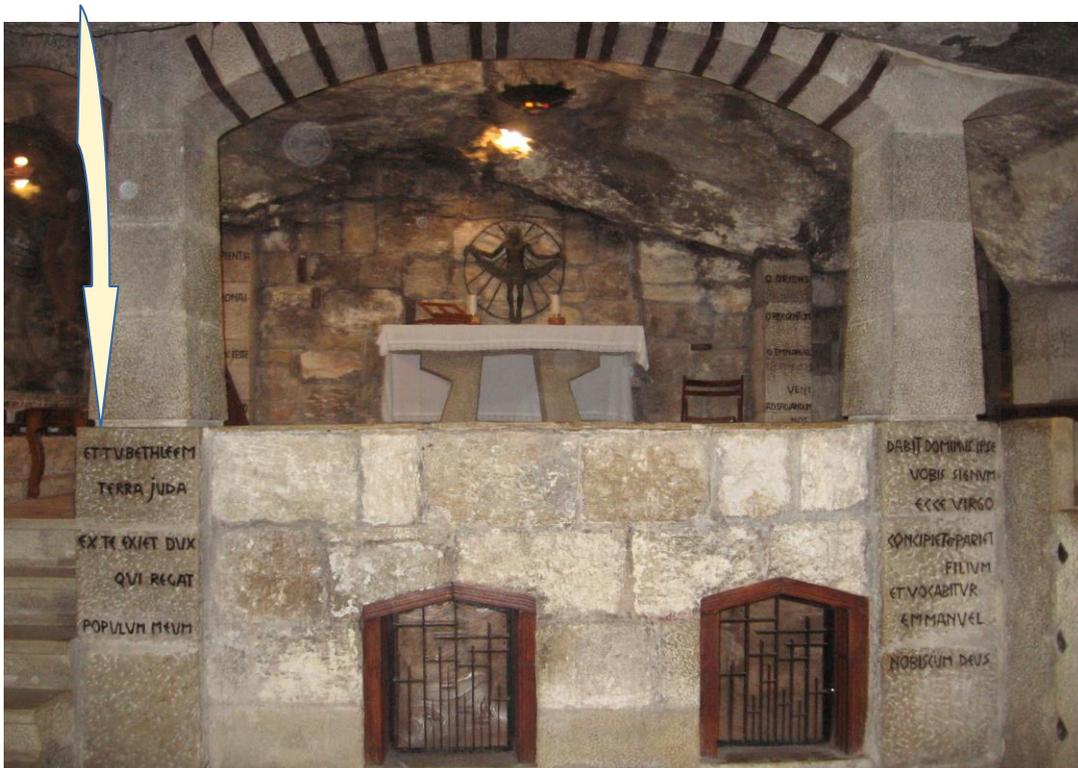
*In this situation the 'Prophets' were the lowest people, simple **shepherds**—not Rabbis!*

Circumcision made Jesus an official JEW. Since most babies, who died, would die before 8 days, Jews waited 8 days to circumcise. There were special way to mourn them then.

This was the first shedding of XT's BLOOD. Since BLOOD is a symbol of life, many cultures practice circumcision. Some at birth, some at puberty.

Girls don't need to be circumcised because when they reach puberty (and are fertile) they offer some of their BLOOD each month, so they can transmit LIFE for the NATION.

Actual **House Cave** in Bethlehem, under the Church of the Nativity. [Pictures I took in Israel]
The inscription is from Micah 5:2 *But you, Bethlehem, least among the clans of Judah, from you shall come a leader who will rule my people. "et tu Bethlehem terra Judah"*



'Home' of the Holy Family in Bethlehem. Air conditioned!



Shepherds TODAY outside Bethlehem. I took all these pictures when I was in Israel.



Young boy, like David. A simple shepherd. Remember God picks the least likely—the lowest.



Just outside Bethlehem today!

Bethlehem is this way

