

A Comparison of the Two Narratives of Jesus' Birth

Matthew	Luke
Mary becomes pregnant, though she is a virgin	see below
no mention	angel Gabriel appears to Mary in Nazareth
Joseph (apparently in Bethlehem) contemplates divorcing Mary	no mention
angel appears to Joseph in a dream	no mention
see above	Mary becomes pregnant, though she is a virgin
Jesus is born in Bethlehem	see below
no journey to Bethlehem	Mary and Joseph journey to Bethlehem
no mention	census
King Herod (the Great)	no mention
magi from the east	no mention
star indicating a miraculous birth	no mention
see above	Jesus is born in Bethlehem
Mary and Joseph live in a house	Mary and Joseph are staying in a stable
no mention	angels announce Jesus' birth to shepherds
magi worship Jesus	shepherds worship Jesus
angel appears in a dream to Joseph and tells him to flee to Egypt from Herod's wrath	no mention
no mention	Mary and Joseph present Jesus in the temple in Jerusalem after (40 days of) purification
no mention	Simeon and Anna praise Jesus in the temple
Joseph, Mary, and Jesus flee to Egypt, remaining there until Herod dies	Mary, Joseph, and Jesus return home to Nazareth after the purification rituals
Herod slaughters all male children two years and younger	no mention
after Herod dies, an angel tells Joseph in a dream it is safe to return to Israel	no mention
Joseph is afraid to return to Judea, because Archelaus is ruler, so they move to Nazareth instead	no mention