

Selected Stories of the Bible
(The New Testament)

圣 经 故 事 选
(新 约)

1. ELIZABETH AND ZACHARIAS

Centuries passed. The country of Judah was conquered yet again and became part of the Roman Empire. It was called Judaea and remained a separate kingdom, ruled by a Jewish king named Herod. The real power, however, was in the hands of the Roman governor.

During Herod's reign a priest lived in Judaea whose name was Zacharias. He and his wife Elizabeth loved God and obeyed his commandments, but they were sad because they had no child. "Oh God, give us a son," they prayed.

One day Zacharias was taking part in a service in the Temple at Jerusalem when an angel appeared.

"Do not be afraid, Zachariase," the angel said, "God has heard your prayer. You will have a son and you will call him John. He will be a great teacher and a man of God. He will be filled with the spirit of the prophet Elijah; he will bring the people back to God and prepare for the coming of our Lord."

"How can this be?" Zacharias asked. "We are too old to have a son."

"I am Gabriel," the angel replied, "and God has sent me. But because you doubt his word you will be struck dumb and you will remain so until the things I have told you come true."

1. 以利沙伯和撒迦利亚

许多世纪过去了。犹太国再次被占领，成为罗马帝国的一部分。它被叫做犹太，依旧是一个独立的王国，被一个叫希律的犹太国王统治着。但是真正的权力还是在罗马总督手中。

在希律统治时期，一个叫撒迦利亚的祭司住在犹太。他和他的妻子以利沙伯都爱上帝，遵从他的诫命，但是他们因没有孩子而难过。“主啊，给我们一个儿子吧，’他们祈祷。

一天撒迦利亚参加了在耶路撒冷的圣殿中的一个礼拜，这时一个天使出现了。

“不要害怕，撒迦利亚，’天使说；上帝听到了你的祈祷。你将有一个儿子，你要叫他约翰。他将成为一个伟大的教师，一个上帝的人。他将充满先知以利亚的圣灵；他将带人们回归于上帝，为我们的主的来临做准备。”

“这怎么可能呢？撒迦利亚问；我们太老了，不可能有儿子。”

“我是加百利，’天使回答道；上帝派遣了我。但是因为你怀疑上帝的话你必变成哑巴直至我告诉你的事成真。”

When Zacharias came home, he could not tell Elizabeth about his vision because he was dumb. But Elizabeth told him:

“We are going to have a child. God has arranged it—he has heard our prayers.”

2. AN ANGEL VISITS MARY

A few months later God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to visit a young girl. She had been promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was descended from the family of King David. The girl's name was Mary.

The angel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, Mary, God's blessing is on you.” When Mary saw the angel and heard what he said she was filled with wonder and unease.

“Do not be afraid, Mary,” the angel continued, “God loves you; he has filled you with his grace. You will have a child, a son whom you will call Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Highest. God will give him the throne of his forefather David, and he will reign over Israel for ever. His kingdom will never cease to exist.”

“How can this be?” asked Mary. “I have never slept with a man.”

The angel Gabriel replied, “The Holy Spirit of God is

撒迦利亚回家了,因为他哑巴了,他不能告诉以利沙伯他的梦幻。但是以利沙伯告诉他:

“我们将有一个孩子。上帝已安排好——他听到了我们的祈祷。”

2. 天使拜访马利亚

几个月后,上帝派天使加百利到加利利的拿撒勒域,去访问一个年轻姑娘。她已许配给一个叫约瑟的人,他是大卫国王家族的后裔。这个姑娘名叫马利亚。

天使出现在她面前说:“祝贺你,马利亚,上帝赐福与你。”当马利亚看见天使并听到他所说的话,她感到迷惑和不安。

“不要害怕,马利亚,”天使继续说,“上帝爱你。祂给你恩典。你将有个孩子,一个名叫耶稣的儿子。他将会变得伟大,人们将叫他为至高者的儿子。上帝把他祖先大卫的位置赐给他,他将永远统治以色列。他的王国将会永存。”

“这怎么可能呢?”马利亚问,“我从未与一个男人睡过觉。”

天使加百利回答:“上帝的圣灵与你同在。上帝将

with you; God will take possession of you. And because of this, the holy child that will be born from your body will be called the Son of God. ”

The angel went on, “Through God’s will your cousin Elizabeth will also have a son. You know she could not have children before and seemed too old to bear any now, but she will give birth before you. God can make everything possible. ”

Mary said, “I am God’s servant. May everything happen just as you have said. ”

3. THE BIRTH OF JOHN

Mary hurried to visit Elizabeth, who was staying in a town in the hills. When her cousin saw her coming she was suddenly filled with the spirit of God. She ran to welcome Mary and the two women embraced.

“You are blessed among women, ” Elizabeth told her cousin, “and so is your child! You are the mother of our Lord, and you fill my house with light. Why, when you greeted me just now, my child leaped for joy inside me. How important it is for a woman to believe in God, for you and I are proof that he can make wonderful things happen! ”

占有你。因为这 ,神圣的孩子将从你的身体里诞生 ,他将被称为上帝的儿子。”

天使继续说：“根据上帝的意愿 ,你的亲戚以利沙伯也将有一个儿子。你知道她以前从未有过孩子 ,现在好象太老也不能生育 ,但她将在你之前生产。上帝能使每一件事变为可能。”

马利亚说：“我是上帝的仆人。愿你所说的每一件事都发生。”

3. 约翰的诞生

马利亚匆匆去访问住在山中城镇里的以利沙伯。当她的亲戚看到她的来临 ,她忽然充满了上帝的圣灵。她跑去欢迎马利亚 ,两个女人拥抱在一起。

“你是妇女中有福的 , ”以利沙伯告诉她的亲戚 ,
“你的孩子也是有福的 ! 你是我们主的母亲 , 你给我的房子带来光明。噢 ,你刚才向我问安时 ,我的孩子就在我体内欢喜地跳动。对于一个女人来说相信上帝是多么重要啊 ,因为你和我都证明了他能使美好的事情发生 !”

In time a son was born to Elizabeth. When he was eight days old he was taken to be circumcized, which was—and still is—the custom of the Jews, and be given a name.

“Of course you will call him Zacharias, after his father,” the people said.

The old man could not speak, except by signs, but he remembered the angel’s words. They brought him a slate and he wrote on it:

“His name is John. ”

Immediately Zacharias could speak again and he cried: “Praise God! This child will be a prophet of the Lord who will free us, and rescue us from our enemies. He will go first to prepare the way for him . He will tell the people that their sins are forgiven and that they are saved. Then God in his mercy will send us a light. It will shine on everyone who feels lost and afraid, or frightened of dying, and guide us all towards peace. ”

4. THE BIRTH OF JESUS

The months passed from spring to summer, and then to autumn. The child that Mary carried slept in her and grew. Winter came, and Mary’s body was heavy and full. It was time for her child to be born.

Now that Judaea was part of the Roman Empire

后来以利沙伯生了一个儿子。当他八天时，他受了割礼，这在当时是——而且到今天一直是——犹太人的习俗，接着又被命名。

“你当然应该随他的父亲，叫他撒迦利亚，”人们说。

老人除用手势比划外不能说话，但他记得天使的话。他们拿给他一块石板，他在上面写道：

“他的名字是约翰。”

撒迦利亚立刻就又能说话了，他喊道：“赞美上帝吧！这个孩子是上帝的先知，他将使我们获得自由，把我们从敌人那里解救出来。他将先去为上帝做好准备。他将告诉人们他们的罪孽已得到宽恕，他们被解救了。上帝的仁慈会带给我们光明。光明将照耀那些感到迷惑和害怕或恐惧的要死的每一个人，并引我们走向和平。”

4. 耶稣的诞生

春去夏来，接着是秋天。马利亚怀的胎在她腹中睡觉长大。冬天来了，马利亚的身体很笨重。该是她的孩子诞生的时间了。

这时犹太是罗马帝国的一部分，马利亚和约瑟必

Mary and Joseph had to obey the laws of Rome. "Every man and woman who lives in our lands must pay tax," went the proclamation of the Emperor Augustus. "A new register will be drawn up, on which the name of every citizen is written. The Emperor wants a complete record of his people."

When King Herod heard this command, he ordered everyone in his kingdom to return to the place of their birth to be put on the register. Because Joseph belonged to the family of David, he had to leave Nazareth where he lived and worked, and go back to Bethlehem, which lay some 70 miles to the south.

As his wife, Mary had to go too, although her child was expected any day. Together they set off on their mule over the hills to Bethlehem. In the evening they arrived in the city, and tried to find somewhere to stay. But Joseph was poor and the streets were crowded with people.

"Go away," the people said, "Bethlehem is full of outsiders like you, coming in from the hills and valleys to be registered." They looked at Mary, who sat tired and heavy on the mule. "Move off," they said, and sent her away.

Night had fallen, and Joseph wrapped his cloak around Mary and led her down the street. He knocked at the door of another house. A woman opened it a crack to look at them. "No room," she said firmly, and shut the door in their faces.

须服从罗马的法律。“在我们国家居住的每一个男人和女人都必须纳税，”亚古士督皇帝颁布的法令规定。“将设立一个新的名册，每一个公民都要在上面登记注册。帝国对于他管辖的人民要有一个完整的花名册。”

希律王听到这个旨意，便命令他国中的每一个人都返回出生地去进行登记。因为约瑟属于大卫家族，他不得不离开他居住和工作的拿撒勒，返回南面约七十里外的伯利恒。

作为他的妻子，马利亚也必须去，尽管她的孩子可能随时降生。他们一起骑着骡子翻山越岭去伯利恒。晚上他们到达了这个城市，想找到地方歇脚。但是约瑟很穷，街上挤满了人。

“走吧，”人们说；“伯利恒到处是你这样的外来者，从山上和村庄来这里登记。”他们望着马利亚，她疲惫笨重地骑在骡子上。“离开吧，”他们说，并把她送走。

黑夜降临了，约瑟用他的外衣裹着马利亚，把她放在街旁。他敲着另一家屋门。一个妇女把门打开一条缝望着他们。“没有房间，”她粗暴地说，在他们面前关上了门。

Now Mary slipped gently off the mule, because it too was tired. They walked on until they came to an inn. Lamps burned in every window and the rooms inside were full of people eating and drinking. Horses, camels and donkeys stood munching their hay in the courtyard. Joseph knocked on the door. The landlord opened it.

“No room at the inn!” he called out, and waved them away. As they moved on, the light from the door fell on Mary.

“You can sleep in the stable, if you like. The straw there is fresh,” the landlord called after her.

So Mary made a bed for herself in the sweet-smelling hay. And there, with the ox and the donkey beside her, she gave birth to her son. She wrapped him up well and laid him in a manger filled with hay. She called him Jesus, which means, “God Saves”.

That night the words of the prophet Isaiah came true:

*“For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given;
And the government shall be upon his shoulders,
And his name shall be
Wonderful, Counsellor, the Prince of Peace,
The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father.”*

马利亚轻轻地从骡子上下来，骡子也太累了。他们继续往前走，直到来到一个小旅店。每一个窗里都点着灯，房间里坐满了吃喝的人们。马、骆驼和驴在院中嚼着干草。约瑟敲门。店主打开门。

“旅店没房间了！”他喊道，并挥手让他们走开。当他们走开时，门内的光线照到马利亚身上。

“如果你愿意，你可以在马厩中睡觉。那儿的稻草是新鲜的，”店主在她后面喊她。

于是马利亚用散发着香味的干草为自己铺了个床。在那里，在她周围的牛和驴子旁，她生下了她的儿子。她把他裹好，放在铺满干草的马槽中。她叫他耶稣，意思是‘上帝拯救’。

那天夜里，以赛亚先知的预言灵验了：

“为我们生一个孩子；给我们一个儿子；

国家落在他的肩上，

他的名字是

美妙，顾问，和平王子，

强大的上帝，永久的神父。”

In the hills around Bethlehem shepherds were out in the fields, taking care of their flocks during the night. Suddenly an angel appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them. The shepherds were terrified because there was so much light.

“Don’t be afraid,” the angel said to them. “I have good news for you——tonight a Saviour has been born to you in Bethlehem, the city of David. His name is Christ, the Lord.”

Then the light increased so that its splendour lit up the fields as if it was day, and the sky was filled with the angels of God. Their voices rose like the wind and swept over the hills and valleys as they sang:

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men!”

Then the light and the music gradually faded away and the shepherds said to one another:

“Come, let’s go to Bethlehem and see the holy thing that has happened there!”

They ran down into the town and came to the stable where Mary and Joseph were resting. They saw the baby sleeping in the manger, and knelt down and worshipped it.

Then they went out and told the people of Bethlehem what had happened, and everyone was astonished.

Mary treasured all these memories and thought about them often as Jesus grew up.

在伯利恒四周的山上，牧羊人在晚间常到田野中照顾他们的羊群。忽然一个天使出现在他们面前，上帝的荣光照耀他们。牧羊人很害怕因为这里太亮了。

“不要害怕，”天使对他们说；“我有一个好消息告诉你们——今夜在大卫的城伯利恒为你们降生了一个救世主。他就是主基督。”

接着光更亮了，照耀着田野有如白天，天空中布满了上帝的天使。当他们歌唱时，他们的声音如风飘散，传到山上，传到村庄：

“在至高之处荣耀归于上帝，在地上平安归于人！”

后来光明和音乐逐渐远去，牧羊人彼此说：

“走，让我们到伯利恒去，看看在那里发生的神圣的事！”

他们下山进入城镇，来到马利亚和约瑟休息的马厩。他们看见一个婴儿睡在马厩中，就跪下向他顶礼膜拜。

然后他们出来告诉伯利恒的人们发生的事，每一个都很惊愕。

马利亚铭记着这些事，并在耶稣长大的过程中常常想起。

5. THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN

The people of Judaea did not realize that a star had risen over Bethlehem. They did not notice that the nights were no longer dark, that a new star, brighter than any other had appeared in the sky, directly above the stable where Jesus had been born.

King Herod himself first heard of the star through strangers when three wise men came to visit him from the East.

“What is this light that has appeared over your country?” They asked. “We have noticed a new star in heaven. It does not move like the other stars, but stays fixed in place above one spot in Judaea.”

Herod looked at the wise men. They were old, and obviously skilled at understanding and interpreting the movements of stars and their meanings. But he could not understand what they were talking about. Their next question took him quite by surprise.

“Where is this child who is born to be king of the Jews?” they asked.

“Born to be what?” he exclaimed.

“King of the Jews. We think he is the Messiah, the Saviour that all the world is waiting for. That is why we are here.”

Herod did not like the idea at all. He was king of the Jews and he wanted no one to take his place. He called for his high priests and scholars.

5. 智者来访

犹太国的人没有意识到一颗星已从伯利恒升起。他们没注意到夜间已不再黑暗，没注意到一颗比其它任何星星都更加明亮的新星出现在天空，就在耶稣诞生的马厩上空。

希律王自己首先是从三位陌生人那里听到这颗新星的₁消息，这三位是从东方来访问国王的智者。

“贵国上空出现的光是何物？”他们问。“我们观察到天上出现一颗新星。这颗新星不象其他星星那样一直在移动，而是固定在犹太一个地方的上空。”

希律望着这三位智者。他们年纪高迈，显然懂得也会解释星星的运动及其含义。但希律王听不懂他们谈话的意思。他们的下一个问题使他大为惊讶。

“那生下来作犹太王的孩子在哪里？”他们问。

“生下来作什么？”他惊奇地问。

“作犹太人的国王。我们认为他是弥赛亚，是整个₂世界都在等待的救世主。这就是我们到这儿来的原因。”

希律对此一点儿也不高兴。他是犹太人的国王，而且也不想任何人取代他。他把祭司长和文士都召来。