



SIMILARITIES THEN & NOW, TRUTHS WE CAN TAKE COMFORT IN

1. IN JESUS' DAY: _____.

They had ...

• _____.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:⁶ " 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. **Matthew 2:1-12** (NIV)

• _____.

Herod saw that the wise men had fooled him, and he was very angry. So he gave an order to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem and the whole area around Bethlehem. Herod had learned from the wise men the time the baby was born. It was now two years from that time. So he said to kill all the boys who were two years old and younger.¹⁷ This gave full meaning to what God said through the prophet Jeremiah:¹⁸ "A sound was heard in Ramah—bitter crying and great sadness. Rachel cries for her children, and she cannot be comforted, because her children are gone." **Matthew 2:16-18** (ERV)

TRUTH: _____.

2. IN JESUS' DAY: _____.

Mary's first son was born. She ... laid Him in a place where cattle are fed. There was no room for them in the place where people stay for the night. **Luke 2:7** (NLV)

When the time of her purification is completed, whether for a son or daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the Tent of the Lord's presence a one-year-old lamb for a burnt offering and a pigeon or a dove for a sin offering...⁸ If the woman cannot afford a lamb, she shall bring two doves or two pigeons,... take away her impurity, and she will be ritually clean. **Leviticus 12:6, 8a** (GNB)

The time came for Joseph and Mary to perform the ceremony of purification, as the Law of Moses commanded. So they took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord,²³ as it is written in the law of the Lord: "Every first-born male is to be dedicated to the Lord."²⁴ They also went to offer a sacrifice of a pair of doves or two young pigeons, as required by the law of the Lord. **Luke 2:22-24** (GNB)

TRUTH: _____.

As for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, seemingly insignificant among the clans of Judah— from you a king will emerge who will rule over Israel on my behalf, one whose origins are in the distant past. **Micah 5:2** (NET)

The angel...said, "You are honored very much. You are a favored woman. The Lord is with you. You are chosen from among many women." **Luke 1:28** (NLV)

3. IN JESUS' DAY: _____.

Shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were looking after their sheep.⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified.¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy. It is for all the people.¹¹ ...Then the shepherds said, " Let's go see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger.¹⁷ After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child...¹⁹ **But Mary** kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. **Luke 2:8-19** (NIV)

TRUTH: _____.

¹¹For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. **Jeremiah 29:11-13** (NIV)