

Comparisons and Contrasts of Events Surrounding the Birth and Death of Christ

| The Manger | The Cross |
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| People filled Bethlehem to fulfill the command of Caesar | People filled Jerusalem to fulfill the command of God |
| Jesus came to earth and was born in a cave | Jesus died and was placed in a cave |
| At his birth he was wrapped in swaddling clothes to protect him | At his death his clothing was stripped from him to shame and expose him |
| At his birth he was given the name Jesus, which means Savior or Deliverer | At his death he became the the Savior and Deliverer of the world |
| At birth we experienced God with us—he came to live among us | At his death we experienced us in God—we died with him |
| At Bethlehem the black night was lightened by the appearance of the angels | At Calvary the bright day was darkened by the withdrawal of God’s presence |
| At Bethlehem the angels sang | At Calvary heaven was silent |
| Jesus was worshipped at the manger | Jesus was cursed at the cross |
| Eight days after his birth he was presented to the priest and dedicated to God | At his death he was presented by priests as a blasphemer of God |
| At his birth wise men called him the King of the Jews in homage | At his death Pilate called him the King of the Jews in scorn |
| At his birth he was given gifts from men | At his death he was the gift of God to men |
| At his birth he was given the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh | At his death he was anointed with spikenard, sold for silver and prepared for burial with myrrh |
| Herod issued a death sentence but Jesus escaped to Egypt | Pilate issued a death sentence but Jesus escaped the grave |
| His birth was witnessed by people from every strata of society—men, women, Jews, Gentiles, rich, poor, believers and unbelievers | His death was witnessed by people from every strata of society—men, women, Jews, Gentiles, rich, poor, believers and unbelievers |