

# Christmas Adorations

For thousands of years, the Israelites had been looking for the coming of the Messiah. There in Bethlehem, by the miraculous power of God, Mary, a young virgin, gave birth to the Savior of the world. Most people missed that glorious event, but a few did not.

Who are the biblical examples for us to follow in showing adoration to the Lord Jesus Christ? They are:

1. **Mary** ... having a heart that is completely surrendered to the will of God. Mary, the chosen mother-to-be of Jesus, responded to the angel Gabriel's startling announcement with, "I am the Lord's servant ... may it be to me as you have said." We do not know all that Mary went through after she conceived the Christ Child by the Holy Spirit. We do know that Joseph, not understanding at first how his beloved Mary had become pregnant, had it in his mind to quietly divorce her. But God intervened for His faithful servant Mary. An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, and told him not to be afraid to take Mary home to be his wife, that the child in her was of the Holy Spirit. Joseph and Mary obeyed God even at personal expense. (*Matthew 1:18-24*)
2. **The shepherds** ... believing, responding, witnessing. Believing the announcement of the angel of the Lord, the shepherds hurried to find the Baby Jesus lying in the manger. Then they spread the word concerning what had happened and what was told them about the Child. (*Luke 2:16-17*)
3. **Simeon** ... living a Holy Spirit-led life full of praise to God. The Holy Spirit directed Simeon, a righteous and devout man, to go into the temple courts just as Joseph and Mary came to consecrate Jesus to God when He was eight days old. Recognizing that salvation had surely come to both the Jews and the Gentiles, Simeon took Jesus into his arms and praised God. (*Luke 2:21-28*)
4. **Anna** ... being thankful and always about the Lord's work. The elderly prophetess, Anna, never stopped worshiping the Lord in the temple. She often fasted and prayed. When she saw the Baby Jesus, she gave thanks to God. (*Luke 2:37-38*)
5. **The Magi** ... physically giving of themselves, their hearts and their gifts to the Lord. The Magi from the East had come on a long and dangerous journey with one purpose in mind – to worship a newly born King. Having thus presented themselves in worship, they then gave their gifts: gold, a tribute worthy of a King; frankincense, a fragrance often used to honor God with the smoke of incense; and myrrh, a spice used to embalm the dead, foretelling Jesus' sacrificial death to come. (*Matthew 2:11*)

Do their stories of praise, obedience and worship inspire you?

How will you show your adoration of the Lord Jesus Christ this Christmas season? It starts with inviting Him into your heart as Lord and Savior. And it is demonstrated in acts of service and compassion to others.

O come, let us adore Him – Christ, the Lord!

– Beecher Hunter