

How easy it is to forget what Christmas is about, when the “mad Christmas rush” gets us into a *Twirl!* So let’s take some *Time Out.* Let’s remember that the very best thing about Christmas, “the reason for the season,” is the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Let’s join the shepherds and the wise men and give ourselves a *Boost.* Let’s honour the baby born in Bethlehem: King of Kings and Prince of Peace.



The Story of the FIRST CHRISTMAS *told with chocolate*

This is the story of the first Christmas, which is much greater than Santa Claus and Rudolph and snow *Flakes.* The meaning of Christmas is deeper than the presents we exchange and the food we *Chomp.*

Ln the days of Caesar Augustus, a census was called which counted every man in the civilised world. So Joseph and Mary set out from Nazareth to Bethlehem, following a familiar but **Rocky Road**.

While they were there, Mary gave birth to her son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them at the inn. The King of Kings and Son of God was laid in the feeding trough of **Dairy Milk** cows!

In the neighbouring countryside, shepherds in the field kept guard over their sheep. They were hard men, and poor — the life of a shepherd was no **Picnic**. It was so cold that winter's night, that frost had made their beards **Crunchie**.

But an angel of the Lord favoured those shepherds, and the glory of the Lord lit up the **Milky Way**. The shepherds were terrified, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid! I bring you news of great joy! Today a Saviour has been born to you! He is Christ the Lord! And here is a sign for you: you will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

And then a heavenly choir of angels filled the night sky, adding to the shepherds' **Surprise**. The angels sang a hymn of praise: "Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace to people of good will."

The shepherds were amazed, and hastened to Bethlehem to honour the new-born King. They took with them all their **Furry Friends**.

While, some wise men from the East had arrived in Jerusalem. They had observed a sign in the heavens which the average person would probably mistake for Venus or **Mars**. But these wise men weren't average people — they were real **Smarties**!

"Where is the infant king of the Jews?" they asked. "We saw his star as it rose, and have come to do him homage."

When King Herod heard about this, he was disturbed, as was all of Jerusalem. Herod consulted his advisors, and learnt that according to ancient prophecy, the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

So Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He enquired about the star the wise men had observed, and the likely timing of the child's birth. Then he sent them to Bethlehem: "Go and find out all about the child, and when you have found him let me know, so that I too may honour him."

The wise men set out for Bethlehem at once, and the star halted over the house of the child. The sight of the star filled the wise men with **Delight**. Going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary. They fell to their knees and presented gold, frankincense, and myrrh: gifts of great **Bounty**.

That night the wise men were warned in a **Dream**. They learned that Herod was a cruel and jealous king who intended to kill Jesus. So the wise men returned home a different way. They were too smart to fall for Herod's old **Twix**.