

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

The Manger	The Cross
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