

Israel My Glory

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ABOUT THIS ISSUE

We commemorate it once each year, but the celebration of the Incarnation is perpetual—conceived in eternity past and delivered to us by way of a rustic stable in Bethlehem of Judea 2,000 years ago. In this issue of *Israel My Glory*, we reach back into the Scriptures to rediscover the supreme act of divine intervention that altered history and made the hope men spoke of for millennia—and yearned for—a reality. We suggest that these articles—which take us from genealogies and promises of the past, through the shepherds' fields, to the stable with the Christ Child, and then to the cross and beyond—be read slowly and reverently, all the while remembering that everything was done for you. (Cover: top right, IIC/Axiom/Getty Images; others, FOI Archive. Digital enhancements, Thomas E. Williams)

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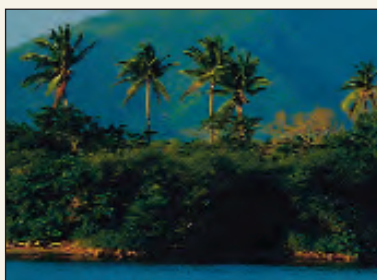
Merry Christmas 2008

by *Elwood McQuaid*8
Gone are the days of Studebakers, five-and-dimes, and the much-anticipated gifts of sweet, juicy oranges stuffed into Christmas stockings. But two important facets of the holiday will remain forever.



The Herald Cometh

by *Thomas C. Simcox*12
Most people are familiar with Luke 2 as the beginning of the Christmas story. But the wondrous account actually begins earlier, with an elderly priest who enters the Temple to burn incense.



The Promise

by *Charles E. McCracken*16
Have you ever thought of this? If God did not fulfill His promises literally, we would never have Christmas. See for yourself!



The Message and the Maiden

by *James A. Showers*18
A backwater town called Nazareth. A common Jewish girl called Mary. An angelic messenger called Gabriel. And a promise of God. These all converged to change history for all time in something called the Incarnation.



Is Anything Too Hard for the Lord?

by *Steve Herzig*20
So you don't believe a virgin can bear a child? You're not alone. But you should believe it, particularly if you're Jewish. Read this article and learn why.

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