

**Recalculating: The Bible Study – January 20, 2021**  
**Messiah/Birth of Jesus – Elizabeth Bryce**



This image by Everett Patterson imagines what it would be like if Jesus were born in our world. Patterson says his goal was to include as many “signs” pointing to the Messiah as possible. What do you see?

**Foretelling a Messiah in Hebrew scriptures:**

Genesis 49:10;

Daniel 9:29;

Deuteronomy 18;

Ezekiel 37:4;

Hosea 11:1;

Isaiah 7:14; 8:14, 23; 9:5; 53:5;

Micah 5:1;

Psalm 2:1-2; Psalm 110

**Luke 2:1-12**

*In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

***8** In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”*

**Questions:**

- How would this shape the people of God who chose Jesus’ Way?
- Would it make a difference if you were Jewish or Gentile? Wealthy or poor (or somewhere in-between)?
- In what ways do we as a church reflect this turning in the story of God’s people? (e.g. His humble origins, his deep spirituality, his inclusivity, his critique of the powerful.)