



**[4] Second question: How is the mother doing?**

Scripture says...

*[Mary] wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger.*

Apparently, Mother Mary is doing fine.

She is up on her feet.

That same night she received visitors, the shepherds.

Luke tells us that after the shepherds left,

***“Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart”*** (Lk 2:19).

A woman in pain

does not concern herself with singing angels and smelly shepherds.

Mother Mary is doing fine. It’s a boy!

**[5] Third question: Is the baby healthy?**

Scripture tells us...

*[Mary] wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger.*

The word that Luke uses for “gave birth”

implies the live birth of a healthy child.

Had baby Jesus been sick, Mary would not have put him in a feedbox.

Mary would have cradled him in her arms and rocked him  
and prayed for him and kept him warm.

Had baby Jesus been sick, Joseph would have gone for help.

Baby Jesus is doing fine. Thank you for asking.

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**[6] So, there you have it...**

Jesus’ heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit

inspired Luke to answer the first three questions we ask at every birth:

It’s a boy. Mother Mary is doing fine. Baby Jesus is healthy.

So what?

Millions of healthy firstborn sons have been born to healthy women.

Why do we make such a fuss over this one birth 2,000 years ago?

Let’s look at those three answers again.

**[7] First: It's a boy!**

A human baby boy!

In the Nativity of our Lord, the Word became flesh.

God himself became a human being.

He is one of us!

Consider just what that means.

When he needed a substitute to die for our sins,

God did not send a goat, nor a pony, nor a calf, nor a donkey.

He sent a human like us.

Jesus could pay for our sins because he was born a human being. It's a boy!

We need a substitute to pay the price.

And we have a substitute worthy and willing to come for us.

It's a boy!

**[8] Second: Mother Mary is doing fine.**

Jesus was born into a human family.

Like you, Jesus had a mother and father and family.

He knows from firsthand experience

what it is to have parents who do not completely understand him.

He knows from firsthand experience

what it is to have bickering family.

He knows from firsthand experience

what it is to have people who doubt him

and who desert him when he is hurting.

Mother Mary had to be healthy to give Jesus a normal human family.

She and Joseph were there to teach him basic Jewish family values.

Mother Mary is doing fine. Thank you for asking.

**[9] Third: Baby Jesus is healthy.**

He had to be healthy.

Look at what he faced as he grew up:

less than two years after his birth,

he and his parents became nighttime fugitives.

The Gaza Strip is not a healthy place for travelers today.

The Gaza Strip was not safe for the fleeing holy family either.

He had to be healthy.

Look at what he faced:

Jesus spent weeks alone in the desert.

He served in a wondering preaching.

He organized a traveling seminary for his followers.

Then his body and spirit bore the mockery of crowds,

the agony in the garden,

the beatings, the scourging, the thorns, the cross.

Only a strong and healthy body could carry all this for you.

Baby Jesus is healthy.

He grew up to be a strong and healthy man.

He lived perfectly for you.

He died perfectly for you.

He rose perfectly for you.

Now Jesus sits on the throne in heaven with a resurrected and perfect body.

Soon you and I also shall be standing before him with perfect bodies.

Our sins are forgiven.

**[Conclusion]**

This Christmas, let us remember the reason for the season!

**[10]** It's a boy. Mother Mary is doing fine. Baby Jesus is healthy.

Today part of our world says: Ho! Ho! Ho!

Another part of the world says: Bah! Humbug!

You and I have a different message to share: Look! Look! Look! It's a boy!

Amen!

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So we... Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvelous deeds among the people. AMEN! (Psalm 96:3)

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