

# NATIVITY SCENE –RELIGIOUS PROPAGANDA!

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A nativity scene is a depiction of the [birth of Jesus](#) as described in the gospels of [Matthew](#) and [Luke](#). While the term "nativity scene" typically includes two dimensional depictions in [film](#), [painting](#), [printmaking](#), and other [media](#), the term popularly refers to static, [three dimensional](#), [commercial](#) or [folk art dioramas](#), or [pantomimes](#) called "living nativity scenes" in which real humans and animals participate. Nativity scenes exhibit figures representing the [infant Jesus](#), his mother [Mary](#), and Mary's husband, [Joseph](#). Some nativity scenes include other characters from the [Biblical](#) story

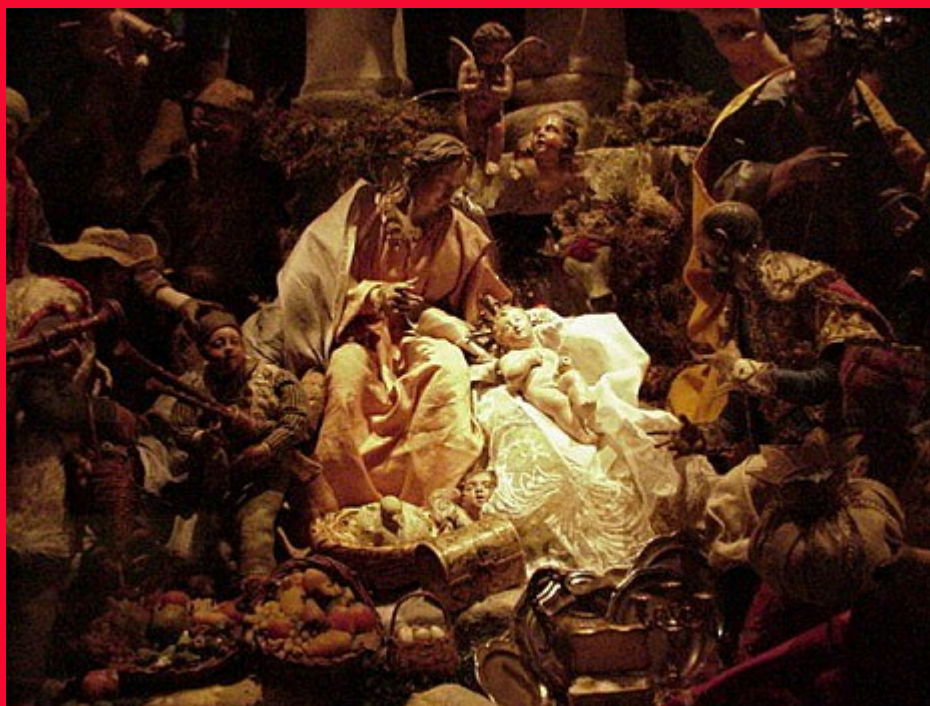
such as [shepherds](#), the [Magi](#), and [angels](#). The figures are usually displayed in a [stable](#), [cave](#), or other structure. But remember this is just propaganda! Nowhere is the Bible is the nativity scene depicted as stated by the Christians. These are make believe depictions such as Santa Clause. [Saint Francis of Assisi](#) is credited with creating the first nativity scene in 1223 intending thereby to cultivate the worship of Christ. The scene's popularity inspired communities throughout [Christendom](#) to stage similar make believe scenes leading eventually to create elaborate exhibitions complete with [wax](#) and [ivory](#) figurines garbed in rich fabrics set against intricate [landscapes](#).



This scene is complete with onlooking animals wishing baby Jesus the best.

Distinctive nativity scenes and traditions have been created around the world and are displayed during the Christmas season in [churches](#), homes, [shopping malls](#), and other venues, and occasionally on public lands and in public buildings. The Vatican has displayed a scene in [St. Peter's Square](#) near its Christmas tree since 1982 and the [Pope](#) has for many years blessed the mangers of children assembled in St. Peter's Square for a special ceremony. The [White House](#) exhibits an eighteenth century [Italian presepio](#) during the Christmas season. [Folk art](#) traditions in [Europe](#) include the hand-painted [santons](#) of [France](#) and the colorful [szopka](#) of [Poland](#).

A nativity scene takes its inspiration from the accounts of the birth of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Luke's narrative describes an angel announcing the birth of Jesus to shepherds who then visit the humble site where Jesus is found in a manger. Matthew's narrative tells of Magi who follow a star to the place where Jesus dwells, and indicates that the Magi found Jesus around two years after his birth rather than on the exact day. Which by all counts is a serious discrepancy. Matthew's account does not mention the angels and shepherds, while Luke's narrative is silent on the Magi and the star. With no basis in scripture, however, three dimensional nativity scenes usually bring the shepherds and the angels of Luke together at the manger with Matthew's Magi and the star. Further, and without scriptural basis, the ox and the ass are present at the manger as well as other animals such as sheep, goats, and camels. I expect that eventually Dinosaurs may be added as well.



St. Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first nativity scene in 1223 at Greccio, Italy, in an attempt to place the emphasis of Christmas upon the worship of Christ rather than upon [secular materialism](#) and gift giving. Staged in a cave near Greccio, St. Francis' nativity scene was a living one with humans and animals cast in the Biblical roles. [Pope Honorius III](#) gave his blessing to the exhibit. Such pantomimes became hugely popular and spread throughout Christendom. Within a hundred years every church in Italy was expected to

have a nativity scene at Christmastime. Eventually, statues replaced human and animal participants, and static scenes grew to elaborate affairs with richly robed figurines placed in intricate landscapes. The problem is most Christmas decorations are considered incomplete without the nativity scene. The traditional nativity scene has never been an attempt to accurately depict a gospel event. **With no basis in the gospels**, for example, the shepherds, the Magi, and the ox and ass are displayed together at the manger. Some traditions bring other scriptural characters to the nativity scene such as [Adam](#) and [Eve](#) and the serpent, [Noah](#) and his animals, the twelve sons of [Jacob](#), the twelve prophets and the twelve apostles.



With no basis in the canonical narratives of the birth of Jesus, an [ox](#) and [ass](#) are usually part of the nativity scene. The tradition may arise from an extracanonical text, the Pseudo-Matthew gospel of the eighth century: "And on the third day after the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, Mary went out of the cave, and, entering a stable, placed the child in a manger, and an ox and an ass adored him. Then was fulfilled that which was said by the prophet [Isaiah](#), "The ox knows his owner, and the ass his master's crib." Therefore, the animals, the ox and the ass, with him in their

midst incessantly adored him. Then was fulfilled that which was said by [Habakkuk](#) the prophet, saying, "Between two animals you are made manifest." The ox, the ass, and the infant Jesus in one of the earliest depictions of the nativity, (Ancient Roman Christian sarcophagus, 4th century) Considerable symbolism is attached to the ox and the ass. The ox traditionally represents patience, the nation of Israel, and [Old Testament](#) sacrificial worship while the ass represents humility, readiness to serve, and the [Gentiles](#). The ox and the ass, as well as other animals, became a part of nativity scene tradition. In a 1415 [Corpus Christi](#) celebration, the *Ordo paginarum* notes that Jesus was lying between an ox and an ass. Other animals introduced to nativity scenes include elephants and camels.



Since the nativity scene is never described in the gospels it grew to popularity because of the imaginations of gullible people. The problem with this is that most Christians are brain dead when it comes to science but then again are most Americans.

Instead of studying Science to improve the Human Existence, these fools spend their lives chasing fairy tales believing them to be true and ironically dismissing the facts of Science.