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Stable
During this time, inns were rectangular with a courtyard in the center for animals. Because the rooms surrounding the courtyard were filled, Joseph may have cared for Mary’s delivery in that center courtyard.  

Manger
Joseph and Mary placed the baby Jesus in a manger probably filled with sweet straw (see Luke 2:7). Many artists have shown the Christmas manger as a wooden trough. But it may also have been carved from rock.  

Shepherds
The work of a shepherd was to lead the sheep to food and to protect them. Often the shepherd slept at the entrance of the stone-enclosed sheepfold. Those who help with the Lord’s work are like shepherds. Jesus asks them to feed His lambs and sheep (see John 21:15–17; D&C 112:14).  

Joseph
Joseph, the husband of Mary, was a noble, kind man. He was a carpenter. It is thought that he died before Jesus began His ministry.  

Wise Men
The Wise Men came to worship the Savior. They did not go to the stable but to a house some time after Jesus was born. They received revelation not to report the whereabouts of the child to Herod but to return to their own country (see Matthew 2:12).  

Notes:
1. See James E. Talmage, Jesus the Christ, 3rd ed. (1916), 86.
6. See Jesus the Christ, 97–99.  

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