

The Christmas story is the most incredible story ever...**the supernatural uniting with the natural...** Majesty with Humanity...God taking on an earth suit...becoming a human being...the DNA of God uniting with the DNA of humans...fully God and Fully man... Why would God do this?...It has always been God's will to live with humans ...it is what the Bible is all about...from beginning to end...

In fact scripture starts with God creating humans in God's image then relating to them, walking and talking and visiting Adam and Eve...the first of His creation as recorded in Genesis...

*Genesis 3;*8 Then the man and his wife heard **the sound** of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day,*

- They knew him well enough to detect his sound...and cold tell his stride as he walked.....they knew him well...this was a common experience for them
- But because they did wrong...and felt shame for the first time...so they HID in fear of rejection...that is why we always hide ourselves...

3:8B and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

- it is the reason we all hide that which shames us...the fear of rejection they were hiding for they had done wrong...it has been our problem ever since..hiding ourselves from God and others... covering up and making excuses when caught.....living with differing levels of shame and guilt..
- God not only looked for us...he became one of us...to remove this curse and bring life...

What God did immediately was to promise he would not reject but instead restore them... He would save fallen man....and deal with the one who harmed them...

We needed Emanuel....God with us!! The real Christmas Gift!!

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (which means "God with us").

- **God had a single plan all along through which he intended to rescue the world and the human race, and that would come to fruition by God taking on an earth suit himself becoming one of us to rescue us, and to live with us forever...**

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

- God would come and save us...but the enemy will try and stop it..."Satan thought he crippled [bruised heel] Jesus on the cross, but the resurrection fatally wounded [bruised head] Satan's power.
- It is an amazing and wonderful thing to realize that God devised His plan, created us, and is perfectly executing the plan, so that we could be with him forever...

However, Before he came himself to finish the task by becoming one of us ...He manifested his desire ...

This visible manifestation of God was seen first when the Israelites left Egypt then second in the Tabernacle of Moses...

EX 13:20 After leaving Succoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. ²¹ By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. ²² Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

*EX 25:8 "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and **I will dwell among them.** ⁹ Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.*

*EX 40:34 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, **and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.** ³⁵ Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.*

Then in the temple built by Solomon son of David

2 Chron 6:7 "My father David had it in his heart to build a temple for the Name of the Lord, the God of Israel. ⁸ But the Lord said to my father David, 'You did well to have it in your heart to build a temple for my Name. ⁹ Nevertheless, you are not the one to build the temple, but your son, your own flesh and blood—he is the one who will build the temple for my Name.'

When it was completed...The people sang and the musicians played...and God manifested his glory for presence

2 Chron 5:13 The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." Then the temple of the LORD was filled with the cloud,¹⁴ and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God.

- but it would not stand forever...for that is not God's final plan.. Solomon's Temple stood for 416 years before it was plundered and burned by the Babylonians in 586BC on the ninth day of Av.

The second Temple... Zerubbabel completed the rebuilding of the Temple in 515BC. Because he did not have the funds and skilled workers available to him as Solomon did, the second Temple was inferior in beauty and workmanship.

None of the restorations or extensions of the Second Temple of Zerubbabel could compare with the work begun by King Herod I (the Great) at the beginning of 19 BC, finished in 18 months.

Herod's temple.... the Temple was refurbished and enlarged by King Herod. The second Temple was burned by the Romans AD 70. and has never to this day been rebuilt...but God's desire was to live with humanity but to live in humans ...where He and they would never be separated again!

Which takes us to the prophecy of Isaiah 700 years before the birth of the God-man Jesus.. Notice this one from heaven is given to us!! He will be God with us...

Isaiah 9: 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called **Wonderful** Counselor, Mighty God....

Isaiah 7:14 *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (which means "God with us").*

- Which takes us to Christmas...and the fulfillment of what Isaiah said over 700 years previously...
- **And Luke records The angel Gabriel speaking to Mary..He will be called Jesus, son of the Most High...**

Luke 1: 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

- **Then the announcement to the Shepherds...**He is the savior given to us...all people!

Luke 2: ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

- Jesus a son given to us, who is God with us, the King and born to be a Savior.
- **However this is the Key!! until you can call him “my Savior,” you will never fully understand what Christmas is all about. Celebrating the birth of Jesus without receiving the gift of Jesus...**is quite odd!!

And here is where the line is drawn...those who receive this gift...the miraculous happens!

John 1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

You become a child of God! born of God into his family! The best gift ever!!

- **Verse 12 has been rightly seen as one of the greatest verses in all of the New Testament for it tells us how to be saved.**
- **A Simple Step—ReceivingThe way of salvation begins with a simple step: “To all who received him.”**
- **The word “receive” means to welcome a visitor into your home.** It’s what happens when someone knocks at your door and you open the door and invite them to come in.
- **To “receive” Christ means to welcome him as an honored guest and to have him make you his home.**

A Wonderful Result—Child of God “He gave the right to become children of God.”
The word “right” means “honor” or “privilege.”

- The moment you receive Christ into your life, God gives you the honor of becoming a member of his family.

- God only gives the privilege of being his children to those who by personal faith receive Jesus as the God who became flesh to save us...

Verse 13 explains how this takes place... we become God's children. There are three **"nots" and one "but"**—and all four are important.

A. Not of natural descent. You aren't a Christian just because your parents were Christians or not.. Your family background nor your background count doesn't count when it comes to Jesus.

B. Nor of human decision. Literally this reads "not of the will," meaning there is nothing you can do to earn Jesus...or earn entry into his family—so don't bother trying.

C. Or of a husband's will. Literally it is "not of the will of a man," No man is big enough to swing open the pearly gates on your behalf.

D. But born of God. Here is the heart of the gospel. Salvation is of the Lord. It's a free gift—totally free and totally of grace. you receive it!! It's not a cooperative venture where you do your part and God does his.

Resulting in a brand new creation...never before has this happened

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

- The birth of Jesus is the beginning of the creation of a new race...and the cross thirty three years later to a new life a different sort of people with different blood, different parents, different DNA, even a brand new extended family.
...**And you have a part. Your part is to be hopelessly lost and God's part is to save you. That way God alone gets the credit. Salvation is a work of God from first to last.**

However God did not only want to live with us...the new creation is that he wants to live in us!! and you know what happens..every promise of God in the Bible becomes your promise

² Cor 2:20 For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. ²¹ Now it is God who

makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²² set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Every promise is a yes in Jesus... not maybe but yes...

Let me give you some promises: to believe God to accomplish.....

- The humble He will exalt
- The Proud he will humble 1 peter 5:5
- To all that call on the name of the Lord he will save Rom 10:13
- To the lost he will find
- To the hurting he will help
- He has promised us a new beginning even today
- He promised if we hear his voice today...he will save us
- He promised the sick he will comfort them
- He has promised to the generous he will give generously
- He has promised to do immeasurably more then we ask or imagine
- He has promised To the compassionate he will show compassion
- he has promised to the repentant he will restore them
- He promised the weary and heavy burdened that if you come to him he will give you rest
- He promised to show us a way out of temptation
- He promised if we confess our sin he will forgive and cleanse us
- To those who believe will never be ashamed
- He has promised that he has overcome the world
- He has promised that nothing is to hard for him
- He has promised to not forget to forget my sins
- He has promised that the moment we leave this body...we will be in His presence
- He promised the devil cannot harm us
- To those that love him, He has promised to bless our families for a thousand generations
- He has promised to hear all our prayers
- He has promised to answer all our prayers according to his will
- What is sown will be reaped
- What he starts he will finish
- All things will work for the good of his children
- He will never leave nor forsake us
- He is our shield
- He has promised that His word is true...the bible

- **He is our great reward**
- **He will discipline**
- **He is preparing a place for us**
- **He will come and take us to be with him**
- **He has promised to wipe away every tear**
- **He has promised us a place where sin and death no longer exist**
- **He has promised us a joy unending**
- **He has promised us a new heaven and a new earth**
- **And a home of righteousness**

Merry Christmas!!

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However the emphasis changes....the line from the external God with us to the personal...we become new creations... internal line God in us!

. How should we celebrate this great day? The first and most obvious answer is this. You should celebrate Christmas by believing in Jesus. After all, this is why He came to the earth from heaven. He was born to be a Savior. And until you can call him “my Savior,” you will never fully understand what Christmas is all about. Celebrating the birth of Jesus without receiving the gift of Jesus...is quite odd!! yet so common!!

John 1:12-13 offers a very simple description of what it means to become a Christian. Here is that simple gospel, by which the most uninformed may be saved.”

John 1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

However God did not only want to live with us...the new creation is is that he wants to live in us!!

*EPH 2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with **God's people and members of God's household**,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.²¹ **In him** the whole building is*

joined together and rises to *become a holy temple in the Lord.*²² And in him you too are being built together to become *a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

[Romans 8:9](#) You, however, are **not in** the realm of the flesh but are **in** the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of **God lives in** you. And if anyone **does not** have the Spirit of Christ, they do **not** belong to Christ.

Without time to develop these ideas throughout history and through the writings of the Scriptures, we would never have understood the AWESOMENESS, power, love, faithfulness or fullness of the Godhead. As Paul prays for this

Eph 3:¹⁷ And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

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Romans 8:11

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living **in you**, he who raised **Christ** from the dead will also give life to **your** mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives **in you**

Colossians 1:27

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches **of** this mystery, which **is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Isaiah 9: 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called **Wonderful** Counselor, Mighty God....

The emphasis on the internal experience of God is one of the central distinctions between the OT and the NT. It is the line!

- **And Luke records The angel Gabriel speaking to Mary..**

Luke 2:⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to 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. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 1: ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

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But someone may object, “Don’t I have a part to play in salvation?” Sure you have a part. Your part is to be hopelessly lost in sin and God’s part is to save you. That way God alone gets the credit. Salvation is a work of God from first to last.

We needed Emanuel....God with us!! The real Christmas Gift!!

God had a single plan all along through which he intended to rescue the world and the human race, and that would come to fruition by God taking on an earth suit himself becoming one of us to rescue us, and to live with us forever...

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As Paul says...

Acts 17 “²⁴ *“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.*”

Why didn't God send Jesus to the earth to die right after Adam and Eve sinned? Why did God wait all that time between Adam and Eve and the birth, life and death of Jesus?

I don't mean to be flippant, but after long studied the question of who God is, the answer to this question is obvious “because God didn't want to.” Just trying to understand what God has revealed is difficult enough. It is way beyond our capacity to try to understand what He has not revealed.

[Deuteronomy 29:29](#) *The secret things belong to **the** Lord our God, but **the things** revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all **the** words of this law.*

So, I really don't know why He designed His plan the way He did. But I do know it is completely and thoroughly thought out and will accomplish exactly what he want it too...

Isa 55:8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.

⁹ *“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

¹⁰ *As the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,*

¹¹ *so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

Having said this, I can suggest some possible reasons that make sense to me as to why God did not immediately send Jesus. They are all related to the fact that we learn within time. As creatures on earth we are bound to time and space.

Why wait then? Because Jesus is God, and the Lamb, a sacrifice, the Passover, Priest, Prophet, King, the fulfillment of the law, the Bread of Life, the Word, Our Savior, The great I am, He is Immanuel God with us!

Without time to develop these ideas throughout history and through the writings of the Scriptures over great amounts of time, we would never have understood the AWESOMENESS, power, love, faithfulness or begin to grasp the fullness of the Godhead.

Through time we learn of the character and qualities of God while we wait by Faith for Him to accomplish what he says he will do...