

The Mystery and Magnificence of Incarnation

I. Christmas — Advent — A Central Festival of Christianity

[John 1:14](#) (ESV) And the **Word** became **flesh** and **dwelt among us**

The central miracle asserted by Christians is the **incarnation**. They say that God became a man — **C. S. Lewis**

A. Generosity — Why does God do this?

[John 3:16](#) (ESV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

(NLT) For **this is how** God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

(NET) For **this is the way** ...

(MSG) “This is **how much** God loved the world....And **this is why**: so that no one need be destroyed...

It was **not only** loving...

it was necessary to save us from the genetic disease of sin and its consequences, death.

When we were still weak... while we were still sinners...while we were enemies... at the right time God shows His love ...how much more?

B. Gratitude and Contagious Generosity

[2 Corinthians 9:15](#) Thanks be to God for his **inexpressible** gift!” (indescribable, unspeakable)

For this indescribable gift, *this gift beyond all telling*, Paul gives thanks. The term that he uses, signifies that this gift *cannot be fully recounted, narrated, or told*. It is simply *beyond the scope of human language*. Again and again *calls forth amazement, wonder, and praise*.

The story of **God's gift of himself** for our salvation cannot finally be told in full. It is unspeakably wonderful. Yet it must be spoken and retold again and again. If we could tell it in full, we would cease speaking it. But it can never be exhausted, never fully explored, never fully explained or defined.

When it touches us, we respond in thanksgiving, praise, song—and in our giving of ourselves and all that we are.

C. Wonder (Glory)

The Creator enters Creation... The Timeless One enters time. **Time of Wonder**

[John 1:1](#) In the Beginning was the Word ... 14 And **the Word became flesh...** and **we beheld** his **GLORY**

*Who is God that He would take our frame
inside the paint*

The artisan

*Or breathe the very air His breath sustains
inside the plan*

The architect

[2 Corinthians 1:20](#) For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

II. Mary's Magnificent God ([Luke 1](#))

A. The Girl from Nazareth

MARY asks in wonder, **How can this be,** ? [Lk 1.34](#)

1. The priest & his wife

They were both righteous, blameless, no child (Elizabeth was barren), they were old

Chosen to burn incense. Gabriel appeared at the right side altar of incense.

Prayer has been heard. Elizabeth will bear a son. Call him John (Yohannan - Yah graciously gave)

[14](#) And **you** will have **joy** and **gladness**, and **many will rejoice** at his birth,

He will be filled with the Spirit even from his mother's womb... forerunner... will turn the hearts... make the people ready

“How shall I know?” You will be silent...

[Luke 1:24](#) After these days his wife Elizabeth **conceived**, and for **five months** she kept herself hidden, saying, [25](#) “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, **to take away my reproach** among people.”

2. Mary comes to Faith

a. *Timing* – Fullness of Time

[Luke 1:26](#) In the sixth month the angel **Gabriel** was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, [27](#) to a **virgin** betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was **Mary**.

[Luke 1:30](#) And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for **you have found favor** with God. [31](#) And behold, **you will conceive** in your womb and **bear a son**, and you shall **call his name Jesus**.”

[32](#) He will be great... called the Son of God... throne of David... [33](#) of his kingdom there will be no end..

([Isaiah 9:7](#) Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end...)

b. Q&A

[Luke 1:34](#) And Mary said to the angel, “**How will this be**, since I am a virgin?”

[Luke 1:35](#) And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you...[36](#) And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

[37](#) For nothing will be impossible with God. No specific word from God is lacking inherent power to manifest.

Mary said YES!

[Luke 1:38](#) And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; **let it be to me according to your word**.” And the angel departed from her.”

***The One who had no start and knows no end
confined in time and tense***

Became

The Everlasting God

The Great I Am

In the mercy of a mother's hands

B. Time to Process

[Luke 1:39](#) In those days Mary arose and ***went with haste*** into the hill country, to a town in Judah, [40](#) and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

1. The Power of His Presence

[41](#) And ***when Elizabeth heard*** the greeting of Mary, ***the baby leaped in her womb***. And Elizabeth was ***filled with the Holy Spirit***,

The FIRST PERSON to Recognize Christ was a 6 month Unborn person... (A pro-life personality!)

Elizabeth FILLED with the SPIRIT

2. The Hearing of Faith & Release of Prophetic Insight

[42](#) and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! [43](#) And why is this granted to me that ***the mother of my Lord*** should come to me? [44](#) For behold, when ***the sound of your greeting*** came to my ears, ***the baby in my womb leaped for joy***. [45](#) And ***happy-blessed*** is she who ***believed*** that there would be ***a fulfillment*** of what was ***spoken*** to her from the Lord.”

Prophetic Insight — Mother of my Lord

Fullness of JOY

C. The Song of Mary

Worship is the response to Revelation

[Lk 1: 46-55](#)

*My **soul magnifies** the Lord,
and my **spirit rejoices** in God my Savior,*

for **he has looked** on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on **all generations** will call me
blessed;
for **he who is mighty** has **done great things** for me,
and **holy** is his **name**.
And **his mercy** is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has **shown strength** with his arm;
he has **scattered** the proud in the thoughts of their
hearts;
he has **brought down** the mighty from their thrones
and **exalted** those of humble estate;
he has **filled** the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has **sent away** empty.
He **has helped** his servant Israel,
in remembrance of **his mercy**,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring **forever**.

Mary sees clearly something remarkable: **God is about to change the course of all human history**

the **most pivotal three decades** in all of time are about to begin.

And where is God?

Miraculously involved in the lives of two obscure, humble women—one old and barren (Elizabeth), one young and virginal (Mary).

Mary is so moved by this **vision of God, the lover of the lowly**, that she breaks out in song—

In a few months, **Zechariah, will sing**— declaring in the past tense:

([Luke 1:68](#)) Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people

In the mind of faith, God's promised acts are as good as done

Joseph would have a dream: "You shall **call his name Jesus**, for **he will save his people from their sins.**"

III. He Came and He Comes out of Faithful Love.

He Comes with SHALOM, He comes with Power to deliver

This is HOW God showed his love... This is the WAY

The ARRIVAL of the KING.. He came to save us from our sins,

to change PERSONAL history

to change world history

to exalt the humble, and to humble the exalted.

He came for the lowly, for the forgotten,

for Israel, and for every tribe and tongue.

He came to make his glory known.

He's here

He's involved

Nothing is impossible

He's changing history, moving empires,

He remembers his mercies

He remembers his promises

Do you know him?

Do you feel your situation is impossible?

Sickness, Addiction, Chaos, Confusion...

Our Response... Faith

Let it be *to me* according to your Word

Gratitude

Generosity

(Song — The Arrival)