

THE LORD OF GLORY

by

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A short biblical narrative written in verse,
about a man named Jesus,
the Son of God,
born of the virgin Mary,
in a stable booth, in the town of Bethlehem.
The Word who became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we beheld His resplendent glory,
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

SCRIPTURE

*“For unto us a child is born.
From the Lord a Son is given;
The rule and the government,
will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called,
Wonderful counsellor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of peace.
Of the increase of His government and peace,
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom.
To order it and establish it
with judgement and justice.
From that time forward, and even forever.
The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this.”*

(Taken from Isaiah 9:6-7)

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INTRODUCTION

The prophet Isaiah speaks of One, whose birth was to come about, in a way which indicated a supernatural intervention (Isaiah 7:14).

This unparalleled act is described beautifully in Luke 1:26-35, it tells of the angel Gabriel (*God is great*), sent by God to the province of Lower Galilee (Luke 1:26) to a sleepy market town called Nazareth (*watchtower*), an out of the way place, situated in the southern-most hills of the Lebanon mountain range [In the territory belonging to Zebulun].

This messenger, came to bring incredible news to a young virgin girl of low state, named Mary (Luke 1:27), who was chosen by God, and that she was to bear His Son (Luke 1:31), Immanuel (*God with us*), the Lord Jesus Christ.

The angel allayed all her fears and told her that she had found favour with God (Luke 1:30), and explained to her that the conception would be encouraged by the “*power of the Highest*” as the Spirit would “*overshadow her*”(Luke 1:35).

The Holy Spirit, then miraculously placed the life of the Son of the Highest, in the womb of Mary, complete and perfect, so that her

body could nourish and protect that precious new life, and eventually, give birth to the long-awaited baby Jesus, the Messiah.

Still the Son of God (John 3:18) but now clothed with the flesh of mankind (John 1:4), the mysterious seed of woman (Matthew 1:6), which God had prophesied way back in Genesis that would *“crush the serpents head with His heel”* (Genesis 3:15).

Mary had indeed, found favour with God, by being allowed to give birth to His child. Mary was quite willing, and she complies passively to the will of God, she submits entirely to His will with meekness and humility and is content for this very thing to happen (Luke 1:38). *“Be it unto me according to Your word.” “Lord I am at Your service and humbly desire it to be so.”* Gabriel then departed, having completed His mission. *“For with God nothing will be impossible.”* (Luke 1:39)

Next we see the amazing providence of God, a decree of Rome, from the emperor Caesar Augustus, requires them to travel to the town of Bethlehem for official registration for the census, just as Mary is near birth, thus God makes this order [command] of a pagan empire to be the instrument of His prophecies.

When they finally arrived in Bethlehem of Ephrathah, there was no room at the inn-house, because of the large crowds having to come

back to their birthplace to be registered, so Mary and Joseph had to settle for a stall in the stable.

It was here that Mary gave birth to her *"first-born"* Son and when she laid Him down she could offer no better crib than the humble obscurity of an animals feed manger.

Immanuel - God with us.

1. He Laid Aside His Deity

In the garden, the first man Adam had sinned after partaking with Eve, of the forbidden fruit,

Having surely fallen into that sinful condition his separation, was complete and absolute.

The alienation of man from his spiritual estate made it necessary for mankind's redemption,

The One who shared the Father's glory of past provided a divine means of reconciliation.

He willingly consented and impoverished Himself laid aside His deity and became of no reputation,

Now there is hope, to bring man back to the Father through the holy Son, 'the first-born' over all creation.

2. Rejoice! Mary, Blessed One

Rejoice! Mary, the Lord your God is with you
blessed among women and highly favoured one,

The 'power of the Highest' will arise over you
and from your womb, you'll bring forth His Son.

It was an announcement of incredible news
sent by God, through the angel Gabriel,
To a lowly, virgin maiden, of the tribe of Judah
at the town of Nazareth, in the land of Israel.

His name shall be called Immanuel
for He is God, living and abiding with us,
Of the Spirit and born of woman
the Son of the 'Most High', Christ Jesus.

3. Bethlehem of Ephrathah

Here we see the amazing providence of God
as Mary and Joseph had to travel for the census,

All citizens were to be counted and registered
was the decree, that came from Caesar Augustus.

A clear prediction, spoken of by Micah the prophet
of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, David's ancestral ground,
In the ancient fertile hills district, known as Ephrathah
in the 'field of the woods', He was to be found.

At an inn-house, in an obscure, stable booth
where the caravans animals were kept and fed,

There the Lord of glory, made His entrance
and was placed in a feed manger for His bed.

4. Through the Virgin Birth

We see the majestic entry, of the eternal Father
bringing His glorious presence, into the earth,

In His most holy Son, Jesus, the Christ
through the miraculous virgin birth.

He was to become flesh and dwell among us
and to offer Himself an atoning propitiation,

A ransom, to free us all from sins evil bondage
and to bring us to righteousness through justification.

This was the magnificent, momentous beginning
of His wondrous, restoration and redemptive plan,
That through His death and shedding of His blood
was a glorious, everlasting salvation for fallen man.

5. To Shepherds at Night

To shepherds at night, out in the fields with their sheep
an angel announced the birth of earth's new king,

Along with a myriad of heavenly angelic host
glory to God in the highest, they did joyfully sing.

Behold, we bring you good tidings of great joy
for there is born to you this very day, a Saviour,
He is Christ the Lord, and in the city of David
you will find this babe, lying in a stable manger.

Upon their arrival at the stable, in Bethlehem
they did pay homage to the child, in the crib allaying,
As they were returning, to their flocks out in the fields
it was God Himself, they were praising and glorifying.

6. Presented to the Lord

At eight days, Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus with offerings of two doves, to the temple in Jerusalem,

To make a presentation of Him, to the Lord God and also for His lawful, customary circumcision.

here a devout man named Simeon, led by the Spirit was waiting, for the 'consolation of Israel' to appear, To see God's salvation, prepared before the people the light to bring revelation, before his time drew near.

Simeon held Him up high and blessed God Almighty and prophesied over the child, a marvellous word.

Along with the prophetess Anna, also in the temple who spoke greatly of Him and gave thanks to the Lord.

7. Wise Men From Afar

God broke in, to make known the event of the ages
to astrologers and priests, gentile wise men from afar,

Of an extraordinary birth, in the territory of Judah
through a supernatural announcement, a bright star.

It prompted their long journey, to make an inquiry
concerning the birth of this prince, this new king,
After many months, they finally arrived in Jerusalem
and went to a house, over which the star was hovering.

Upon entering, they saw Mary with the young child
and bowed before Him, to give honour and worship,
They gave gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, then
by a divine warning, departed on their homeward trip.

8. The Chosen One of God

Here was the prophet John, preaching and baptising
those who came to the river, of the Jordan valley,
When there came a man, from the city of Nazareth
of Galilee, whom John recognises immediately.

He loudly proclaims to the crowd, look, behold!
the 'Lamb of God' who takes away the sin from us,
The Son of the Highest, He is Immanuel
God with us, He is the Messiah, Christ Jesus.

After His baptism, the visible heaven was rent asunder
and the Spirit, like a dove, alighted on God's Son,
Behold, proclaimed the majestic voice of God, this is
My servant in whom My soul delights, My chosen One.

9. Lift Our Hearts and Voices

Through the miraculous virgin birth
the Father gave hope to all of mankind,
That in Him, is everlasting, eternal life
and in Him, our glorious salvation we find.

Let us also, lift our hearts and voices
in jubilant praise and joyful adoration,
To the God of glory, of all Israel
and the light to the gentile nation.

As an act of mercy and unmerited grace
the holy, incarnate One left heaven above,
He is the risen Christ, He is Jesus
the express image of the Father, He is love.

A FINAL WORD

The bible declares, that God is working out His sovereign plan of redemption for the world, and that the conclusion is certain. The whole redemptive story of the Bible is the fulfilment of prophecy.

Isaiah the prophet, revealed that God's ultimate purpose of salvation was to be realised through the coming Messiah. He pointed us to a loving saviour, Jesus, who came to save His people from their sins.

Without the sovereign love of the Father, ministered to us through the Son and the Holy Spirit, there would be no real freedom for man, and no hope of everlasting life, into which the anointed One will bring His people, (saved, healed, comforted, clothed, grounded) bringing with it powers of reconstruction to repair every past breakdown, no matter how long standing through the ancient generations.

Jesus ministered for three and a half years, and in that time He showed for all the ages to come, the will of His father toward mankind. He set the captives free, He delivered those oppressed and possessed by the devil, He comforted the sorrowing, He was a friend to the lonely, He raised the dead, He gave sight to the blind,

He brought peace where there was turmoil and fear, and He gave hope to all mankind. This was His mission, to save the lost ! The world's salvation is wrapped up in a man, it comes out of the cradled Son.

“Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.” (Isaiah 9:6)

He is our Hope, He is our healer,
He is our guide, He is our light,
He is our redemption, He is our life,
He is our resurrection, and He is our salvation.

His name is Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Finally, that God the Father would choose such an obscure place, a stable booth, for ‘The Lord Of Glory’ to make His entrance into the earth is one of the more profound revelations of His message to mankind.

To receive Him this way, we would have to renounce our pride, for He is seeking men and women who are not attracted to external appearances, but by His Spirit.

***“If we are to be the sons of God,
then we are to be led by the Spirit of God,”***

(Romans 8:14)

to follow;

Jesus Christ,

‘THE LORD OF GLORY’

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