

GOD INCARNATE, LORD OF ALL

Dr. Faisal Malick

*Luke 2:8-14 NLT—That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. 9 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, 10 but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. 11 The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! 12 And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." 13 **Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."***

For me, Christmas becomes very personal simply for the fact that growing up as a Muslim, I would have never celebrated Christmas the way we do today. And that's because the concept of who JESUS is was very different than what the Bible articulates Him to be. And so if we remove this one fact about Jesus *that HE WAS INCARNATE*, meaning *He became human*, took on human form, then Christmas becomes completely meaningless—because then He just becomes a historical figure. He might even be a prophet like Islam acknowledges Him. The world considers Him a historical figure because Jesus no doubt lived. There's historical evidence. He died. He rose again from the dead. But all of that, *if He's not God incarnate, it changes the whole story.*

So for us, what makes Christmas different for us and real for us, if we're followers of Jesus is not just the baby in the manger, but *WHO the baby actually is*. And Christmas doesn't just begin with the baby in the manger. It begins with an understanding that **God has always wanted Jesus to come to the earth**. That GOD WOULD COME TO EARTH.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7
*Isaiah 9:7 NLT — His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. **The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!***

When we look at the Christmas story we need to look at it from heaven's perspective for a moment. We need to look at it from a perspective that **God intended long before time to bring Jesus to earth**. That's how you need to look at it. *That's why you see these angels around the shepherds and you see the armies of of the Lord actually praising, rejoicing, and singing on the announcement of His birth*. Because heaven has been waiting for this time. All of heaven's been waiting. They didn't quite understand what was going on, but God already planned it. He said,, *"Unto us a child is born, but a son is given."* So in other words, the SON was not born. The child was born because the child is the SON OF GOD who is eternal who is given in the child that was born. On other words, GOD INCARNATE. Isaiah 7:14 says the same thing. There will be a sign given to us that a virgin shall conceive a son.

*Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: **Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel***

So the whole element of Jesus that is unique, it's GOD INCARNATE. That He would take on human form and that He would live on this planet.

This is the whole MYSTERY of godliness that makes the CHRISTMAS story so special to us.

*1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy **great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.***

This is the whole context of GOD INCARNATE and the Christmas story that God became a baby. It was God who was in the manger. And that's why the song, Mary did you know? says, *"When you kissed your baby boy, did you know you kissed the face of God?"*

So this is the part that offends the world. This is the part. The world is comfortable with us celebrating a little bit of Christmas. They'll jump in, too. A lot of religions are okay with Christmas, but they have a problem with GOD INCARNATE. They have a problem with DIVINITY in Christ being expressed and lived out in this world. That's what separates us and that's what makes the Christmas story from heaven's perspective.

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT GOD INCARNATE, **God becoming human and dwelling among us, walking among us, living among us.** That was the whole beauty of it. And that's why all those angels became a heavenly choir because *heaven's intent towards mankind was good*, was kind, was gracious. *It was His desire all along to manifest amongst us and walk among us.* That's why Christmas is so special.

And for God this story is not just in Isaiah 9:6 and Isaiah 7:14 prophetically, but we can go right to the garden where God spoke and He said in Genesis 3 that **the SEED of the woman** will come and crush his heel, **will crush the head of satan.**

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

This is that same SEED God spoke to Abraham about and said that **"In your SEED all families of the earth will be blessed"**, meaning Jesus. He's the SEED OF ABRAHAM. the seed of the woman before that. He's also the seed of Isaac and Jacob, the seed of David, and He's the SEED of God. This is Christ our Lord. He is no doubt Lord of all creation. All things that we see in here and don't see, and even the invisible realm were all created by Him, for Him, and through Him.

Colossians says, this is **God incarnate who came and walked among us.** and *that's why they worshiped Jesus. That's why Gabriel showed up after 400 years of silence.* Heaven had not spoken a word. *From the time of Malachi the prophet until John the Baptist. God had never spoken from heaven.* There was no prophecy. There was no visions. Nobody had dreams from God. There was no encounters with angels or heavenly beings. There was nothing. *Heaven was silent for 400 years.* Generations. Imagine how many generations never heard from God. People would go to the synagogue, carry out their rituals and routines. There was no communication from heaven.

Though God had always communicated with His people throughout history, but for 400 years, no communication. **And then when communication begins to open up, ANGELS are involved.** Gabriel comes to Zechariah who is the father of John the Baptist. He comes to Mary. Gabriel encounters her. She's obviously afraid as often people are when genuine encounters occur with angels from heaven.

And so you see this dynamic of all this ANGELIC ACTIVITY in heaven kind of opening up over earth, announcing the BIRTH OF JESUS with the shepherds. And then you have Isaiah 9:7 telling us that this is going to continue forever and ever and ever where JESUS is truly our King. *And it took angels of heaven to engage in this dynamic and this miracle of Christ's birth,* which is GOD BECOMING HUMAN.

When you think about it, his Christmas, is going to change the way you see Christmas.

For me it was a big deal when I encountered God and I realized WHO JESUS IS. His DIVINITY and who He actually is as the **Son of God** is the revelation given to me. That's why for me when we celebrate Christmas, we always got to come back to that reality because that's what it's really about is GOD INCARNATE. Think about it, if God did not become the baby that we're talking about, then the entire prophecies we're referring to throughout the Old Testament regarding Jesus, his life on earth, His birth, His burial, His death, His resurrection, none of that would mean anything if it wasn't God incarnate. It was God.

This was the CONVERGENCE of eternity past and the convergence of eternity future culminating on earth. *That's why it was a big deal.* That's why heaven lit up. *That's why angels were involved.* I mean, who else have angels come along like that and announced the birth of anybody? That's why they came because *this was a CONVERGENCE of God's heart, His desire, His intentions towards us.*

And *this was also before Adam was even created* because the Bible says, "the lamb of God who is Jesus was crucified, was slain before God in His heart before the foundations of the world were even laid. So God already saw this taking place before Adam was created, yet alone before Adam sinned.

We can go even further back. It's before the heavens and the earth were created. It's before Lucifer was created, before he fell. That's why for God it's a big deal. *That's why God looks at us* and he's celebrating and saying, "*Hey, Good News, good will, good intention towards you. This is my intent. This is My desire for you and all mankind.*"

That's when we celebrate CHRISTMAS, we celebrate GOD INCARNATE.

We celebrate that God became man, starting with a baby and then the rest of the story unfolds. The rest of the story is assured, but this was the CONVERGENCE OF ETERNITY PAS and all that ETERNITY FUTURE has to offer us.

So as we go into our Christmas and we gather with family and we surround ourselves with people, *this is the hope that should radiate through us*. We might have gone through difficult times this year or in other Christmas seasons in our life, but this is where we allow that radiating grace and kindness and joy of God to come forth. You don't have to be ashamed to be happy about this because God became a baby. He became man, He lived. He grew up and walked among us. This is something no one could ever imagine God doing. The sages of the past, the gurus of the past, other religions couldn't think of a plan like this. That's why it's called the MYSTERY. Great is **the Mystery of GODLINESS**. *This is about God himself*. He chose to do this. He designed it. He desired it. He prophetically spoke about Himself, coming, being born of a virgin and walking among us and dying on that cross, shedding His blood, taking our sin nature and sin itself upon himself on the cross. He was dead. He was buried. And three days later, He's also coming back.

And that's the whole point. *If there is no future from our Christmas*, then Christmas almost feels it's all over. But this is actually not just the beginning. It's the CONVERGING MIDDLE POINT that **all that heaven intended is encapsulated in human form in the person of JESUS who is the SON OF GOD** that became the baby that was born of a virgin and walked among us.

The SON was given but the baby was born. That is what's awesome about this. He's always been the eternal SON. He has been the SON OF GOD. **He is God**. Proverbs 30:4 says, "who is this God? And who is His Son? Tell us if you know about Him." So he's talking about God and His son.

*Proverbs 30:4 Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? **What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know?***

Tell me if you know. This is Proverbs. This is way before the baby in the manger.

Remember Isaiah the prophet in Isaiah 6, the year that his uncle died he was grieving because his uncle had died. He loved his uncle. But in his place of a broken heart, GOD ENCOUNTERED HIM. *It's something amazing about God that He will never reject a wounded or broken heart*. And maybe in Christmas Season, you lost a loved one. And we pray that they obviously knew Jesus because they're in heaven. But here's the thing that *in the midst of Isaiah's grief, God encountered him and said, "Come up here."* And He showed him heaven. And he saw the King of Glory seated. He saw these angels. He saw them saying...

*Isaiah 6: 3-5 NLT—They were calling out to each other, "**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!**" 4 Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke. 5 Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for **I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies.**"*

In the midst of Isaiah's grief, God encountered him. So he saw the LORD of HEAVEN'S ARMIES. In Psalm 24 the same story takes place. And the question is being asked by the psalmist, "Who is the King of glory?" Now we know the New Testament answers the question. THE KING OF GLORY IS JESUS who's the Lord of Glory. So we know this is all about the same King, the same God who became INCARNATE, became the baby, became human and walked among us. This is who we're talking about.

*Psalm 24: 8 -10 NLT—**Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty; the Lord, invincible in battle. 9 Open up, ancient gates! Open up, ancient doors, and let the King of glory enter. 10 Who is the King of glory? The Lord of Heaven's Armies—he is the King of glory.***

Who we're talking about? JESUS. This is the same baby in a manger, GOD INCARNATE. Boy, does that ever change the Christmas Story. When you talk to your kids and grandkids around the table, I recommend you let them know, "This is God who became a baby." Make them understand and appreciate what this is really all about. Because folks, it's not just a tradition. It's not just celebration. It's not just eating good food. It's GOD INCARNATE.

Literally the world, Jesus has nothing to do with their concept of Christmas at all. They replace Jesus with Santa, reindeer and all the other stuff they think Christmas is all about. So that's what Christmas looks like to people.—Then there's this other side where CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT JESUS to some degree. About the baby in the manger and we kind of like appreciate Him as the baby. And that's still better than all that, I guess.

But we got to kind of move all the way over to
GOD INCARNATE and LORD OF ALL CREATION.

He is the LORD of all creation—He is the KING OF GLORY—He's the one that's the pre-incarnate Christ in the Old Testament that appeared to Abraham, our father in the faith—He's the King that Isaiah saw seated on the throne—He's the same JESUS.

So that's why heaven was so full of joy. And that was in the ANNOUNCEMENT. That's why those angels had a heavenly choir. They were the armies of heaven. The same armies whom He rules, whom He leads. The same armies according to Revelation 19 that will accompany JESUS when He returns along with the saints and He puts his feet on the Mount of Olives one day.
HE'S COMING BACK.

That's what we have to see because when you have GOD INCARNATE right now in the CHRISTMAS story, then you have God returning. You have Christ coming back because by now we know WHO HE IS. **He is the SON OF GOD**—He is the LAMB who was slain—**He was the WORD that became flesh**, walking among us—He is the KING OF KINGS and the LORD OF LORDS—And we know He's coming back because we look forward to His return. [23:02](#)

*Luke 8:11 NLT— "This is the meaning of the parable: **The seed is God's word.***

PRAYER

Beverley Watkins

Christmas really is God among us. Encouragement to bring the first gift today to Jesus. To honor Jesus. Let's give our best gift to Jesus.