

He always had the very nature of God but he did not think that by force he should try to become equal with God. Instead, of his own free will he gave it all up, and took the nature of a servant. He became like man, and appeared in human likeness. He was humble and walked the path of obedience to death, his death on the cross. For this reason God raised him to the highest place above, and gave him the name that is greater than any other name. And so, in honour of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is the Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **God's Love in Christ**

Christ Jesus pleads with God for us! Who, then, can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble do it, or hardship, or persecution or hunger, or poverty, or danger or death?

No, in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us! There is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its Judge, but to be its Saviour.

( Luke 2: 8-20, 4: 16-19, Philipians 2: 6-11, Romans 8: 34-39, John 3: 16-17)

*The above passages are taken from the Bible. In it you will find many more passages that will bring you comfort, joy, peace and light.*

**If you want to know more about Jesus Christ  
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# THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS



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## God Comes to Man

*God made man, as he made everything else in this world. But he made man in his own likeness and gave him power to rule over the earth.*

*Pride led man to rebel against God. It made him hate his fellowmen. Love, justice and peace were forgotten; hatred, oppression and strife ruled the world.*

*Into this world came God. He came as a man. This man was born nearly two thousand years ago in a little town in Palestine, called Bethlehem. Because he brought the message of God's unwavering love for this fallen world, he was also spoken of as the WORD.*

## The Birth of Jesus

*Jesus was that Word. It was in a stable that he was born. Bethlehem was so crowded with people come for the census that Joseph and Mary, parents of Jesus, had to take refuge in this lowly place. Mary was expecting her first baby. And that very night he was born. It had been told to Mary that her son would save men from their sins. So great an event happening in so humble a place! No wonder angels announced it to shepherds.*

There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Saviour was born — Christ the Lord! What will prove it to you is this: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a large number of angels appeared singing praises to God,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven  
and peace on earth to those with whom  
he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, that the Lord has told us."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw him they told them what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were filled with wonder at what the shepherds told them. Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.

## Jesus the Saviour

*Jesus was about thirty years when he began his work. He taught that God was king and master of our lives and that he, Jesus, had come to re-establish God's rule of justice and love. Israel was then under the foreign rule of Rome. Her own national leaders — priests and princes — were perverting justice and truth to make themselves rich and powerful.*

Jesus went early in his ministry to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went as usual to the place of worship. He stood up to read the Scriptures, and was handed the book of prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has chosen me to preach the  
Good News to the Poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to  
the captives,  
and recovery of sight to the blind:  
to set free the oppressed,  
and announce the year when the Lord  
will save his people."