

MYSTERY AND MAJESTY: GOD WITH US

JESUS . . . WHAT A GIFT!

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15; PHILIPPIANS 2:5–8



The Heart of the Matter

The qualities that babies bring into the world never get old. The soft, delicate skin. The beautiful calm of sleep. The tiny hands and feet so perfectly formed. When a baby comes into our lives, we parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, or sisters rejoice in the magnificence of God's gift of life.

But how much more did the family rejoice in wonderment when the child was Emmanuel, *God with us*?

When God took on human flesh at the incarnation, He brought a wonder to the world that had yet to be seen. Dramatic acts of judgment and rescue that we find recorded in the Old Testament did not compare to the union of humanity and deity in the child, Jesus. Let's take a closer look at this awesome gift of God to the human race.



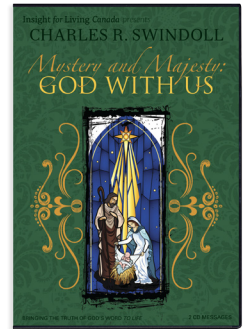
Discovering the Way

1. The Big Picture about Baby Jesus (2 Corinthians 8:7–9)

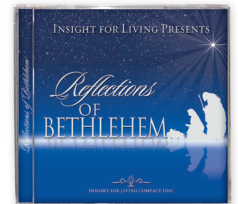
When we consider the incarnation of Jesus, we tend to focus on the infant child born to Mary . . . as well we should. For in that tiny child of flesh and blood dwelt God the Son, a miraculous union of humanity and deity. This union continues to captivate believers some 2,000 years after the birth.



Tools for Digging Deeper



Mystery and Majesty:
God With Us
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series



Reflections of Bethlehem
by Charles R. Swindoll
Music CD



The Child
message series

To order any of these recommended resources, call 1-800-663-7639 or visit insightforliving.ca

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2. The Descent of Jesus (Philippians 2:5–8)

God the Son has eternally dwelt in perfect unity of being and purpose with the Father and the Spirit. And because God the Father has always planned to rescue humanity from sin, God's Son therefore took upon Himself a remarkable descent from the eternal, omniscient, and omnipotent Godhead, and embraced the limitations of humanity by taking on the flesh of an infant child.

3. Jesus Our Gift (2 Corinthians 9:15)

The descent of God the Son led Him to earth in the form of a poor Jewish infant, named Jesus. As He was already fully God, so too did He become fully man. This captivating child grew into an even more captivating man, a gift to humanity that the apostle Paul described as “indescribable.”

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Starting Your Journey

Paul described the incarnation of Jesus—God taking on human flesh—as an indescribable gift. Today, we might use the word *awesome*. This awesome gift of God reveals to us two important truths:

- *God is the One doing the giving.* He alone does the giving. We do not take for ourselves. Nor does He expect us to pay Him back.

- *The awesome gift He has given is singular.* If our life were a Christmas tree and God were the One providing what goes under it, there would be only one gift.

When we recognize God as the giver, how does that impact our response to Him? What kind of response should we have?