

Why Jesus Came

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. (Luke 2:4-10)

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). (Matthew 1:20-23)

"Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word." (Luke 1:1)

"An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them."

"The big problem of the human race is self-centeredness. We're curved in on ourselves. I don't want to go down that path to the deep darkness of self-centeredness, so I became a monk. Now I care for the poor, I help the poor, but I've come to realize I don't help the poor for the sake of the poor, I do it so I can feel noble, I do it so that God will bless me. When I come to confess my sins to you, I realize I'm not doing it for the sake of humility, I like to think of myself as humble and noble, unlike these proud people around me, I felt this way God would bless me. I left that lustful lifestyle and now I am chaste and religious, but I'm just as curved in on myself, I am just as self-centred in my morality as I was in my immorality. I'm on the same path. I'm still curved in. I'm just as addicted. I can't change my heart." **Martin Luther**

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature.^[c] For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

(Romans 7:14-25)

Jesus, the God whom angels fear, Comes down to dwell with you;
Today he makes his entrance here, But not as monarchs do.
No gold nor purple swaddling bands. Nor royal shining things;
A manger for his Cradle stands, And holds the King of kings.

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life". (Romans 6:23)