

Because his parents arrived late in the day, the city was crowded, all the hotels were full. They found shelter from the weather in a stable that night in Bethlehem, two-thousand years ago. When he was born, his mother laid him in the animal's feeding trough, the manger. His birth was the fulfillment of words written by Micah the prophet seven-hundred years before — *“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, little among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity”* (Micah 5:2). Isaiah the prophet lived about the same time as Micah. He foretold that this child would be like no other, he would be conceived without a human father. Because of this, he would be the Son of God — *“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a*

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son, and she will call His name Immanuel (Immanuel means “God with us” (Isaiah 7:14)).

You have seen the manger scenes in neighborhood yards, you have seen the Christmas story on TV. But this child was born not just to be admired as the beautiful babe in the manger. He came from eternity and was born to die, to rise from the dead, and then to ascend into Heaven to sit at the right hand of God. In this way, the babe in the manger became the bridge between people and the God who created them. This baby became the only road by which you can come to God.

When the baby had grown and reached the age of thirty, he gave his life as a ransom for you. The Bible says you are separated from God because of deeds you have done. The death he died paid for the guilt of your sins. His death on the cross removed every barrier between you and God;

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every barrier except one—your response toward him. God has done all that is necessary for your sins to be forgiven, and for you to become a beloved son or daughter of Him who created you.

This Christmas season can be the beginning of an entirely new life for you. By accepting Jesus, the babe from the Bethlehem manger, you can have what the Bible promises: *“As many as received Him (the Babe in the manger, the Christ on the cross, the Resurrected Savior, the King on the throne at God's right hand), to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name”* (John 1:12). This Christmas, come to God who made you by opening your heart to Jesus, by praying the simple prayer that follows, by growing to know Jesus through the Bible, and by finding others who love Jesus and are dedicated to following Him.

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Pray like this — Dear God, I believe the baby in the manger is your special son. I believe he came to live and die for me, that he has been raised from the dead, and that he is now with you in Heaven. The Bible says that if I receive him, he will give me the right to become a child of God. I receive him now, through this prayer. I pray in sincerity and openness, and I receive Jesus, your Son, as my King, and my Lord. Please forgive my sins which I now confess to you. Please enable me to live, no longer for myself, but for you, by the power of the Spirit of Jesus whom you promise to give those who obey you. I call on the name of Jesus, and ask you to do these things for me. Amen.

You can find the complete CHRISTmas story in the Bible by opening to the first chapter of one of the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke or John.

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If you would like to talk with someone who is interested in helping you to grow in your love and obedience to Jesus, call:

Eugene and Edna Clingman & Family would love to speak with you more about Jesus the Savior, the true love and life of Christmas.
Call: 573-226-1312 or Eugene@4HisName.com

Written by Eugene Clingman, Artwork by Talitha Clingman

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The Story of Christmas

The Baby from the Manger



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