

A photograph of a newborn baby's face and arm, held gently by an adult's hand. The baby's eyes are closed, and the hand is resting on the baby's arm. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**FROM
KING
OF
GLORY
TO
HELPLESS
BABY**

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‘From King of Glory to Helpless Baby’
by
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FROM KING OF GLORY TO HELPLESS BABY

Christmas is all about the time God came to earth to be born as a little baby. Imagine God Almighty, all-powerful, all-glorious, all-knowing, all-wise leaving the glory of heaven to be born as a baby into a humble family. Why on earth would He do it?

The answer is because He loves you. John 3:16-17 says – *‘For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him.’* God sent His Son, Jesus, to save you because He loves you so much.

Why Was He Born a Baby?

When God created Adam and Eve, He made them perfect and gave them authority over the whole earth. God said in Genesis 1:26 – *“Let’s make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky, and over the livestock, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*

God gave Adam and Eve just one rule to obey – not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But Satan tempted them and when they ate it, they put themselves under his influence and their authority over the earth passed to him.

This was not God’s plan. He did not want Satan to rule over the earth. But because God will not go back on His word, He couldn’t just take the authority back to Himself. He had to find a way to get it back to man. Only a perfect man, who was not under the rule of Satan, could win it back, but no-one was perfect

anymore. There was only one way to do it, He had to send His own Son – the only one who was perfect. So Jesus couldn't come as the King of glory – He had to come as a human being so He could regain the authority God had given to man. This is why He referred to Himself as 'the Son of Man'. His spirit was fully God but His body was fully human, so He had to come the way every other human being comes into the world – as a baby.

After Jesus had risen from the dead, He told His followers in Matthew 28:18 - *"All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth."* Jesus had won it back as the Son of Man. He then shared His authority over the earth with men, saying to them in Matthew 28:19-20 - *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you."*

People once again had authority over the earth, which was now shared with Jesus. And although Satan can hold sway over individual people if they let him, and influence things on the earth through such people, He can never again have blanket authority over the earth. Praise God!

Why was He Born in a Stable?

Where would you expect God's Son to be born – in a magnificent palace? God had a different plan. He chose a place where animals ate. It would have been dirty and smelly and draughty, if it had a door at all. The only place His mother Mary could find to put Jesus down to sleep was the manger – the animals' feeding trough. What was God doing? But think about it – if Jesus had been born in riches and splendour, most people would never have been able to visit Him and so never get to see Him.

He had to be born in the most basic of places so anyone and everyone could have access to Him.

His first visitors were humble shepherds from the fields. If they had turned up at a palace, they would have been quickly sent away with their tails between their legs. But in a stable the shepherds could just arrive and go in without any problem.

Anyone can enter a stable, but most of the world's population would never be able to go into a palace. Jesus came for everyone, including the poor and hopeless and helpless. Absolutely anyone can come to Him and receive His love, His mercy and His salvation. 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 says that – *'God chose the foolish things of the world that he might put to shame those who are wise. God chose the weak things of the world that he might put to shame the things that are strong. ²⁸God chose the lowly things of the world, and the things that are despised, and the things that don't exist, that he might bring to nothing the things that exist, ²⁹that no flesh should boast before God.'* Not only did being born in a stable mean everyone could come to Jesus, but it sent a message to the powerful and influential people who thought themselves very wise and important, telling them that their earthly position didn't mean anything to God. He simply wants people with hearts that are soft towards Him – the outward trappings mean nothing in the end.

Jesus is for everyone, not just the fine, the strong, the wise and the wealthy. If you are one of those people, let me assure you He did come for you. But if you are someone who is struggling with life, if you are poor, if you are disabled or sick, if you are heartbroken, if you are homeless, Jesus came for you too. Imagine yourself going to that smelly stable and freely walking in with no-one to stop you and seeing God Himself as a baby come down to earth for you.

What changed for Jesus?

It was an amazing sacrifice that Jesus made. He lived in unimaginable glory in heaven and then was born as a helpless baby in a stable. So what did it mean for God to come as a baby?

God is perfect. But a baby can't tell right from wrong. Isaiah 7:14-15 says – *'Behold, the virgin will conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat butter and honey when he knows to refuse the evil and choose the good.'* Jesus had to learn what was good and what was bad. This doesn't mean he was naughty – the Bible says He never sinned. It means that, as a human being, He didn't bring with Him that perfect understanding. He learnt it as He grew.

God is omnipresent – that means He is everywhere. But a baby can only be in one very small place.

God created the world and holds it in His hands. But a new-born baby can't make anything or knowingly take hold of anything.

God speaks in power – He created the world through the power of His words. But a baby cannot speak at all. Jesus would have to learn to speak just like any other baby.

God is almighty, but a baby can't control itself in any way – physically, mentally or emotionally.

God knows all things. But Jesus knew nothing as a baby. He learnt as He grew. Luke 2:52 says – *'And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men.'*

God does not have to submit to anyone or anything. He is above everyone and everything in every way. But as a child, Jesus had to submit to His parents, Mary and Joseph, as He grew. Luke 2:51 says that – *'He was subject to them.'*

God does not depend on anyone. But a baby is totally dependent on others. Jesus depended on His parents for all His needs.

Why did God do it?

So why did Jesus leave the glory of heaven to come to earth as a baby? He came to die. That sounds strange, but Jesus's death was the purpose of His birth. We've already seen that Jesus had to come as a man to win our God-given authority back from Satan. So what else did He do for us through His death?

He Saved Us from Sin

God is perfect and cannot have sin near Him, but we cannot be perfect. Yet God wanted so much to be able to have a relationship with people. How could He do this when they kept sinning – doing, speaking and thinking wrong things?

In the Old Testament God had given the law to His people. He knew they would never be able to keep it perfectly and wanted them to realise that they needed help – that they needed a Saviour. The law included a system of animal sacrifices to obtain God's forgiveness. But none of the sacrifices were sufficient to deal with the whole issue of sin. After being forgiven, the people would sin again and would need to offer yet another sacrifice.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem – a small city about six miles south of Jerusalem. It was in the fields around Bethlehem that the lambs which were used in the sacrifices were born and raised. Many years before Jesus was born He was referred to as a lamb. He was to be the final sacrifice – the one that completely paid for all sins, for all people and for all time. When Jesus died on the Cross, He totally dealt with every sin, past, present and future. He was the perfect Lamb from Bethlehem. God did what

He had always wanted to do ever since Adam and Eve first sinned. Now, because Jesus had suffered God's punishment, God forgave everyone for every sin and was now able to have a love relationship with anyone and everyone who would accept what Jesus had done for them.

Jesus was born as a baby so that He could die as the once-for-all final and perfect sacrifice, so you could enter into a wonderful love relationship with God in this life as well as in the next.

He Saved Us from Sickness

When Jesus suffered and died, His body was broken so yours could be healed. 1 Peter 2:24 says – '*You were healed by his wounds.*' It's when we believe it in faith that we find it's true.

He Saved Us from Poverty

When Jesus left all the glory behind and became poor, He made it possible for you to leave poverty behind when you accept Jesus's sacrifice personally and are born-again. (To read about being born-again, go to the end of this booklet.) 2 Corinthians 8:9 says – '*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich.*' Jesus won prosperity for you if you will believe it and receive it.

He Defeated the Devil

Everything Jesus did for you as He suffered and died can give you victory in your life, because He achieved it all by defeating the devil and his plans. 1 John 3:8 says – '*To this end the Son of God was revealed: that he might destroy the works of the devil.*' So you can stand in the name of Jesus against anything the devil tries to do to you and see him flee. James 4:7 says – '*Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*'

What Happened to Jesus after He had Died?

Jesus came back to life. He didn't only defeat sin and sickness and poverty, He defeated death itself. Hebrews 2:14 says – *'Since then the children (you) have shared in flesh and blood, he also himself (Jesus) in the same way partook of the same, that through death he might bring to nothing him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.'* Jesus defeated the devil and in doing so, defeated his main weapon – death. Death couldn't keep hold of Jesus – nothing could stop Him from coming back to life in a new resurrected body which could never die again. This means that if you are born-again, your earthly body will still die, but you will be given a new resurrected body just like Jesus, and you will live forever with Him in glory. In John 11:25 Jesus said – *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will still live, even if he dies."*

Finally, after spending some time with His followers, Jesus went back to heaven – back to the glory He had left behind. Jesus now sits at the right hand of God, but He still has an appearance of the Lamb from Bethlehem. He still bears the scars of His suffering and death – God's final sacrifice.

More than Just a Baby

This Christmas, as you receive cards with pictures of the stable and sing carols about the nativity, remember how Jesus came to earth as a baby for you; but don't leave Him there in the manger. Remember how He grew and became the final, perfect sacrifice for you and for everyone who would accept what He had done.

Find the true meaning of Christmas as you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. And take time away from all the pressure and all the fun to go deeper into your relationship with Him, knowing

that He did it all for love – Jesus loves you to the point of total sacrifice. He was nailed to a Cross, but He could have come down from it. However, He chose to stay. It wasn't the nails that held Him there – it was His love for you. Jesus became nothing so that you could become everything.

Your relationship with God isn't about how you perform or measure up as it was in Old Testament times – it's about what Jesus did on the Cross for you. Jesus came to earth as a baby to die for you and came back to life so that you could live forever with Him in glory. Christmas is truly happy! Happy Christmas!

Being Born-Again

When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour you become born-again. God becomes your Father and you His child, and you can start to enjoy your personal relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9 says – *'If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.'* Say this prayer out loud and believe it in your heart – "Jesus, I declare that You are Lord and that God raised You from the dead to live forevermore. Thank You for dying for me personally. I receive my forgiveness and my salvation now. Thank You Jesus, my Lord and Saviour."

You are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. All your sins are forgiven, past, present and future, and you have a new perfect spirit. And after this life is over, you'll live in love, peace and joy with your Father God for ever.

Life in Jesus

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Christmas is enjoyed by so many people,
but what really happened all those years ago
is more amazing than anything you could imagine –
God Himself came to earth.
Jesus left behind all the glory of heaven
to become a helpless baby.

Find out what it meant for Him, why He did it,
and what it can mean for you.



Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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