

REFLECTIONS

December 24, 2006

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

God's Christmas Gift

It would be rather hard to believe if it happened today. Can you imagine walking back to the chicken coop behind a rickety frame house in the poorest part of town and finding a baby in the place of a laying hen? And then someone came and told you that the baby was your Savior! Would you believe that in this lowly place, you were looking at The Light of the World? Well, it wasn't in a chicken coop, but that *is* what happened.

The son of God came into the world born to a Jewish virgin, trained in the Jewish law, and grew up following Jewish practices. As a man He healed the sick, fed the hungry and raised the dead. He calmed a storm and walked on the sea.—He wept.

He taught Jews and Gentiles alike to “*love God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself.*” Yet He was crucified and became the sacrificial lamb for the sins of all that believe in Him.

He was not just a man; He was not just a teacher; and He was not a prophet. He was *God incarnate!* In Jesus, *God came to us in living flesh*—a man with all of the human needs and all of the human emotions. He was a man,

“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (*Philippians 2:6-11*)

It would be rather hard to believe if it happened today. But it did happen. God so loved the world that He sent us his son. It is God's Christmas gift to us.

It is the greatest gift we will ever receive.

Merry Christmas

“*You are the light of the world.*”

Richard +

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