

JESUS, THE INCARNATE ONE

By Rick McKinney, December 2002

Before time and space began you were present with God.¹
Before the mountains were born from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.²
You are the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being.³
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.⁴
But how can it be that the transcendent One has been clothed in human frailty?⁵
Who is this God who so humbles himself as to be knit together in a mother's womb?⁶
Who is this God who was born as a helpless baby with a soiled body to be cleaned?⁷
Who is this God who was bound in strong strips of cloth and laid where cattle feed?⁸
Who is this God who gently nursed at his chosen mother's breast?⁹
Who is this One to whom angels sing and shepherds come and see?¹⁰
Who is this One who wise men seek and come on bended knee?¹¹
This is Jesus, Immanuel, God with us, the promised savior of broken men.¹²
Come all you who are tired. Come all you who are thirsty. Come and worship your king.¹³

1 Genesis 1: 1 & 26, Colossians 1: 16, Ephesians 1: 4-10, 1 John 1: 1-4.

2 Psalm 90: 2.

3 Hebrews 1: 3.

4 Psalm 57: 5.

5 Philippians 2: 6-9.

6 Psalm 139: 13.

7 Luke 2: 21-22.

8 Luke 2: 7.

9 Luke 11: 27

10 Luke 2: 8-20.

11 Matthew 2: 1-12.

12 Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1: 21-22, 9: 11-13.

13 Matthew 11: 28, John 7:37, Matthew 2: 2, John 18: 33-37.

When people suffer real pain, humiliation or grief, the attempt by others to give explanations for such suffering seem inept indeed. Instead, what the suffering and grieving need is someone who will either relieve their suffering or someone who will sit alongside them and just be there for them, especially if they have been through suffering themselves. In Jesus, God has come alongside us in human form and He himself has gone through suffering, humiliation and grief. In Jesus, God has revealed the completeness of his life and sacrificial love and shown us that even the agony of a painful death is and will be swallowed up in everlasting life. If God could not or would not come down in human form then he is, in his essence, immune from human suffering, pain and humiliation and thus not really able to inspire our love and adoration or be worthy of it. Without Jesus there is really little for God to show that human suffering, humiliation and death will not continue to reign triumphant. But what happened in Bethlehem and what happened in Jerusalem has changed that forever.
