

**I was talking** with **someone** the **other day**

**who said** they had a **very “Broad View”** of **God** –  
**Broader** than just **Jesus alone**

**This person** was **very spiritual**,  
**very aware** of the **Divine Presence** in **the world**

**But - as** they **talked** – I **couldn’t help** but **think**

that **Divine Presence**  
**that you Acknowledge & Accept**

**He** is so **much more** **‘PERSONAL’** than **you might think**

That **‘All Encompassing Divine Spirit’** you **refer to**

**He** wants **You** - to **Know Him - Personally**

& the **Christmas Story**  
is the **Beginning** of **WHAT GOD DID**

**SO THAT** you could **know him PERSONALLY**

**IN FACT** – so that you could **know him – BY NAME**

**Let’s Pray**

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Our Key Vs today is

**Matthew 1:23 (ESV)**

*23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).*

*Immanuel - which means, God with us*

Here’s how it all started

**The Eternal God**

who has No Beginning - & No End

The **Creator God**

who has Always existed

The **Indescribable, Immeasurable God**

Who created ALL that has ever been created

**John 1:3 says (speaking of Jesus Christ) (ESV)**

*3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

This **Eternally Creating God**

**AS - The Masterpiece** of his **Creation**

**He Created – US**

**Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)** → → →

**Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)**

***10 For we are God's masterpiece . . .***

**& - MORE than JUST God Creating Us**

**Genesis 1:27 (NLT)**

***27 God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them . . .***

**We are Created in the Image of God**

***(That's getting PERSONAL - Right from the Beginning)***

**Then - Genesis 2:7 says (NLT)**

***7 Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.***

It is **God's "Breath of Life"**

that **makes** us "**Created in God's Image**"

**Job 33:4 (NLT)**

***4 For the Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.***

**We were Created in God's Image –**

**AND we were Given HIS Breath of Life**

**In Order - to make us Eternal Beings**

**So That - we could Spend Eternity with GOD**

**THAT Is Pretty Personal**

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& then - God gave mankind FREE WILL

& Mankind USED that Free Will  
to Choose SIN over God

& that SIN separated us from God

Which left us HELPLESS - & HOPELESS  
to ever be reconciled to God - On Our Own

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& SO - Sin would have to be Dealt with

If we were to  
EVER HAVE a Personal Relationship with God

& if we were to  
EVER BE ABLE - to Live in God's Presence for Eternity

AND - there was NOTHING  
WE could do about it - on our OWN

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If WE were going to REMAIN God's Masterpiece . . .

Then GOD HIMSELF

was going to have to  
REMOVE the SIN Problem - FOR US

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**Which is EXACTLY – What God was going to do**

The **Almighty, Creator God**

**Was about to come to Earth – HIMSELF**

In **order** to **REMOVE** - the **Sin Problem**  
that was **KEEPING US** from **Knowing God Personally**

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**God** was **coming** - **HIMSELF**  
**Because** it was - The **ONLY Possible Answer**

to the **Problem of SIN**  
**that** was **Separating Us** from **God**

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**This would be** the **Greatest Act** of **Sacrificial Love**  
that **All of Creation** would **ever see**

<p>The <b><u>INVISIBLE</u></b> God – Was <b><u>about</u></b> to Become <b><u>VISIBLE</u></b> The <b><u>CREATOR</u></b> - Was <b><u>about</u></b> to Become – The <b><u>CREATION</u></b></p>
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**The UNLIMITED & OMNIPOTENT GOD**  
**Who Existed** - Before **ALL Things**  
& **Who** has **Power** - **OVER All Things**

**Was** about to **take on** a **Human Body,**  
& **Live** a **Human Life**

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## **Colossians 1:15**

**TELLS us WHO was BORN on that 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas Eve**

## **Colossians 1:15–17 (NLT)**

***15 [Jesus] Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,***

***16 for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.***

***17 He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.***

**God – Was going to become - a MAN  
in the Person of Jesus Christ**

**SO THAT the SIN PROBLEM could BE REMOVED**

**SO THAT we could BE RESTORED to God - PERSONALLY**

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**God Himself was going to step into our place  
to PAY the Full Penalty for Our Sin - On our behalf**

**SO THAT we could KNOW GOD Personally**

**SO THAT we could live forever  
in a Personal Relationship with God**

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**Here** – is **how it occurred**

**Turn over to Luke 2:1–4 (NLT)**

**1 At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire.**

**2 . . .**

**3 All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census.**

**4 And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee.**

**The Prophecies in the O.T. were perfectly clear**

**The Messiah would come**

from the linage of King David

& he would be Born in Bethlehem

**Cont'g - Luke 2:5-7 (NLT)**

**5 He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously (or very) pregnant.**

**6 And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born.**

**7 She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger (a feeding trough), because there was no lodging available for them.**

**When God became A Man**

**SO THAT you could Know Him Personally**

**He was born into the most humble conditions**

**Most likely in a Cave  
being used as a Shelter for Animals**

**Which is why there was a Manger (feeding trough) there**

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**& One thing for sure**

**That was a COLD, DARK, & DIRTY place to be born**

**& it has been said**

**Every time Jesus comes into a New Life**

**He is born into a Heart  
that is COLD, DARK, & DIRTY With SIN**

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**Jesus was BORN in that ANIMAL SHELTER**

**SO THAT - He could be Born In Your Heart**

**SO THAT - You could be Born Again**

**SO THAT - You could Know God Personally  
& Live with him - for Eternity**

**The Creator of the Universe**

**DOES NOT WANT TO BE**

**an Impersonal Spiritual FORCE in your life**



**HE wants** to have a **REAL Personal Relationship** with **you**

**SO He became** – **Like You**

**SO He could live** - **A Perfect Life**

**SO He could** - Justifiably be the **Perfect Sacrifice** for Your **Sins**

**SO You could** **Know Him Personally** – for **Eternity**

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**So** (cont'g) - **Joseph & Mary**

had **arrived** at the **CAVE** (or Sheep-Fold)

**& we pick it up in Luke 2:8-14 (NLT)**

***8 That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep.***

***9 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, 10 but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.***

***11 The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!***

***12 And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."***

***13 Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,***

***14 "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."***

**Hmmm . . . Shepherds ??**

**When Jesus Christ (the **God/Man**) **was born****

The ARMIES of Heaven – (The HOST of HEAVEN)  
Cracked the Sky – they Broke the Barrier

For some Nobody Shepherds in a Nowhere Place??

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A Shepherd was one of the lowest  
& most humble lives - a person could ever live  
(*& btw – it is still supposed to be*)

So - WHY the Shepherds?

Was it possibly - because these Shepherds – At this time

Would've been caring for the Baby Lambs that would become  
SACRIFICIAL LAMBS at the next PASSOVER?

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& So - FOR THEM – Heaven had OPENED UP

& the HOST of Heaven - Announced the Birth

Of the FINAL, SACRIFICIAL LAMB  
Who would DIE - for the Sin of the World

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This was The Most Amazing thing  
the Angelic World had ever seen (*or will ever see*)

Their Creator & Ruler GOD  
Had become a Man – as a humble, & lowly baby

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**SO THAT - He could live the life  
that WE Could Never Live**

**SO THAT - He Could Conquer the Enemy of Death  
that WE Could Never Conquer**

**SO THAT - We could Know Him - Personally**

**SO THAT - WE could Enter Eternity  
in the Righteousness of God - that we could never deserve**

**SO THAT – We could Live**

**IN the Personal Relationship with God  
That we were Originally Created to live in**

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Guys - The story of Christmas  
is actually the story – of a Rescue Mission

It began with GOD – becoming a MAN  
in the Person of Jesus Christ

**SO THAT we could be FORGIVEN of our Sins  
KNOW GOD personally  
& LIVE with God forever**

& The Bible says we can ONLY Do that

**By Putting our Full FAITH & TRUST in Jesus Christ  
as our PERSONAL Savior & Lord**

**(again) Matthew 1:23 (ESV)**

***23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).***

**When God became a Man – it was PERSONAL**

**God came into our world  
in the PERSON of Jesus Christ**

He LIVED for us PERSONALLY

& He DIED for us PERSONALLY

**SO THAT we could KNOW HIM - PERSONALLY**

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**ALL that God is – in ALL of Creation  
Is wrapped up in the PERSON of Jesus Christ**

**& if you will make him  
your PERSONAL Savior & Lord**

**Then you will Live forever – in the Glory of Eternity  
with God – PERSONALLY**

**Let's Pray**