

Brian | [Quite a story...unbelievable, isn't it?](#) | [If Jesus is just a man...should not be believed](#)

- *A virgin gave birth to a child...* Do you believe it? Unbelievable - Virgins don't give birth
- *Tempted in every way...yet was sinless...* Do you believe it? Unbelievable – People aren't perfect
- *Sight...blind – Hearing...deaf – Healing...lame...* Do you believe it? It's unbelievable – People can't
- *Proclaimed He could forgive sin...* Do you believe it? It's unbelievable – A man can't forgive sin
- *Died on a cross taking God's wrath...* Do you believe it? It's unbelievable – A man can't take wrath
- *Rose from the dead 3 days...* do you believe it? It's unbelievable – Men Don't come back death
- *Ascended into Heaven...promise...* do you believe it? It's unbelievable – A man can't fix this world

[If Jesus is just a man...none of this should be believed](#) | [But what if this is true...](#)

[Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel \(Which Means God with Us\)'](#)

If baby born in the manger is 'God with us' all should be believed...[Point]...Man can't - God can!

[Christmas Reminds Us of God's Eternal Plan - Christmas Recognizes God's Eternal Purpose](#)

Came to be 7000 miles & 2000 years away – Bethlehem – Animals – Ordinary – Caught world unaware

[The Lord himself will give you a sign](#) | Mary – Joseph – Shepherds

- People today certainly are looking for signs...especially around Christmas time
 - [Christmas movie – Miracle on 34th St?](#) Girl gets what she's always dreamed of – a home
 - In the home is Santa's cane, the proof that he is real and he does care
 - [Elf – 'Best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear'](#) | Bonus | Hans Gruber

We want a sign, confirmation...verse it's promised...not from Santa Claus or...lightning...wind tickle

[A virgin shall conceive and bear a son...Immanuel...God with us](#) | [Waiting for a sign...Manger!](#)

[That's why when the shepherds heard about it, the night was no longer a normal night in Bethlehem](#)

They were rejoicing, and tonight we rejoice: [Big Idea - This Christmas Rejoice in God's Present Promise](#)

- Prophecy fulfilled...night Bethlehem...shepherds got to see & rejoice over...not just shepherds
 - Promise for us - [God's Promises Us His Presence](#) - Be with Him - Implications are profound:

1. **God's Present Promise: We're Accepted and Welcomed**

One of the greatest things about Christmas is feeling welcomed...

- [Fire is roaring - Dinner is on the table](#) – Neil Diamond Christmas - Family or friends are gathered
 - [Guest = Kicks the tree](#) | [Breaks the presents](#) | [Complains about the food](#) | [Lights the bathroom on fire](#)
[Christmas Miracle – God accepts & welcomes us...we're that guest!](#) | [Not our natural state!](#)
- Because sin...separated...nothing we can do to find way to heaven...God's perfect eternal home
 - [God did what humanity couldn't - Immanuel...came...came with a purpose of sacrificing for sinners](#)
[The manger is the fulfillment of prophecy...star lit the way...manger sits in the shadow of the cross](#)

Because Jesus came, not just to be born but to live and die, paying the penalty we deserved, we can now truly be welcome and accepted

[More than just welcomed and accepted: Christmas also promises our guidance and protection](#)

2. **God's Present Promise: We're Guided and Protected**

Belonging to the family of faith isn't just something that would happen later on in heaven

[He promised that he would continue to be with us here and now through the Holy Spirit](#)

Isn't just a feeling...it's a truth - God is present in our lives, here, now, guiding & protecting

In this verse in Isaiah, the term "son" doesn't just mean a kid

- It means the firstborn, which means the inheritor - The one to whom everything is owed
 - [This means that if we have believed in Christ, we belong to Him](#)
[God cares for the things that are His](#)
- Since we belong to God, we can be completely confident that God cares deeply for us
- Hebrew culture...firstborn = inheritor - Also the designated protector of the rest of the family
 - [God Protects the things that are His](#)
- Christmas = We're celebrating not only that we are welcome because of Christ
- But that we are guided and protected by his love and power every day = God with us!

If Jesus is just a man...none of this should be believed

[But if this is True...it's UNBELIEVABLE](#)

[Christmas: God Left His Home to Provide You a Way Home](#)

- Jesus left his majestic throne to come down, a humble baby in a manger
- To be Immanuel – God...now with us
- This Christmas, let us:
 - Be Reminded of God's Eternal Plan – Recognize God's Eternal Purpose

Rejoice in God's Present Promise – accepted & welcomed | Guarded & protected = Welcome Home

Candles