

THE DEPTHS OF CHRISTMAS

Matthew 1

From Pastor Mark

Welcome to our Advent series, *What Child Is This?* We may know the Christmas story; but do we know the truths, the realities, the theology that makes it so awe-inspiring and life changing? Join us as we dig into four mind-boggling passages that get to the heart of Christmas—the “Incarnation” (Mt. 1, John 1, Hebrews 1, and Philippians 2).

- I. **When God became a man, He Convinced us by PROMISED PROOFS (Mt. 1:1, 16).**
 - A. The Promised Link (Gen. 3:15, Mt. 1:1, 2 Kings 11)
 - B. The Covenant Link (Mt. 1:1, 2 Samuel 7:12-16, Genesis 12:3)
 - C. The Double Link (1:16, Luke 2:23-38, Jeremiah 22:30)
 - D. The Certain Link

- II. **When God became a man, He Surprised us by LAVISH LOVE (Mt. 1:2-17).**
 - A. God Rises Above Gender Prejudice.
 - B. God Rises Above Human Sin.

- III. **When God became a man, He Amazed us by a MIRACULOUS METHOD (Mt. 1:18-25).**
 - A. SUPERNATURAL: Not Limited by Human Means (1:18-20)
 - B. SAVING: Meeting Our Deepest Human Need (1:21)
 - C. SCRIPTURAL: As Promised in God’s Word (1:22-23)
 - D. SOVEREIGN: Using Human Instruments (1:24-25)

God became a man; that changes everything:

- Your Hope for Eternal Life (1:21)
- Your Purpose for this Life (2 Cor. 5:14)

FOR NEXT TIME: Read John 1:1-18 and Hebrews 1:1-3, *What Child Is This?*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR DECEMBER 17, 2023

1. What do you find most surprising about Jesus’ family tree in Matthew 1?
2. How does Jesus’ family tree show God rising above gender prejudice and human sin? How does it show His lavish love?

3. Read Matthew 1:18-25. Imagine and describe Joseph and Mary's feelings during this time.
4. Which of the following is most amazing and encouraging to you about the miraculous method by which God the Son became a man? It was... *Supernatural, Saving, Scriptural, and Sovereign.*
5. How could you make your Christmas celebration more Christ-honoring for you or your family?