

HEAVEN CAME DOWN

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God With Us

ALL BIBLE VERSES ARE IN THE ESV UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

- Christmas is not the story of humanity reaching up to God.
- It's the story of God coming down to us.
- Most religions are built on the same idea: try harder, behave better/well enough, pray long enough, you might reach God.
- Islam - through obedience and submission, a person may be accepted by Allah.
- Hinduism – liberation comes through good karma, death and rebirth and many lives/lifetimes of effort.
- Buddhism – transforming yourself through discipline and enlightenment

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

“The Word became flesh” – God did not stay distant.

Humanity is characteristically weak.

Flesh is associated with weakness.

Christ can associate with your weakness.

Matthew 1:23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

- Jesus lived in an oppressed nation.
- He felt hunger, exhaustion, grief, overwhelmed.
- He was betrayed, despised and rejected.
- He is acquainted with our sorrow.

Isaiah 53:3-4 3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

- This is the expression of love.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Philippians 2:5-8 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Have this mind – think like he thought.

Jesus came down because we couldn't climb up.

You are more broken than you realize and more loved than you could possibly imagine.