

A close-up photograph of a simple wooden manger. The manger is made of dark wood and is filled with dry, golden-brown straw. It is positioned on the left side of the frame, angled slightly towards the viewer. The background is a dark, warm-toned wood panel, which provides a rustic and historical feel. The lighting is soft and focused on the manger, highlighting the texture of the wood and the straw.

*Miraculous
Births*

Jesus

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

*⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless
peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it with justice and
with righteousness from this time onward and
forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

Psalm 96

*O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.*

*Sing to the LORD; bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.*

*Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.*

*For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.*

*For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.*

*Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.*

*7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
 ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.*

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
 bring an offering, and come into his courts.*

*Worship the LORD in holy splendor;
 tremble before him, all the earth.*

*Say among the nations, “The LORD is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
 He will judge the peoples with equity.”*

*11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that fills it;
let the field exult and everything in it.*

*Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the LORD, for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth.*

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Mary's Song of Praise

*46 And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.*

*51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”*

*And Mary remained with her about three months and then
returned to her home.*

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*“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.”*

- Luke 1:46-48a

*And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be
called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God
will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.
He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end.”*

- Luke 1:31-33

*He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”*

- Luke 1:52-55