A close-up photograph of a wooden manger, likely a nativity scene prop. The manger is made of dark wood with vertical slats and is filled with dry straw and hay. It sits on a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a rug or mat. The background is a warm, brown wooden wall with horizontal planks. The lighting is soft and warm, creating a cozy atmosphere.

Miraculous Births

Isaac

Isaiah 40:3-5

*A voice of one calling:
“In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.*


*Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.*

*And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”*

Genesis 21:1-7 NRSV

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

- Genesis 21:1-7

A close-up photograph of a wooden manger, likely a nativity scene prop. The manger is made of dark wood with vertical slats and is filled with dry straw and hay. It sits on a light-colored, textured surface, possibly sand or a coarse rug. The background is a warm, out-of-focus wooden wall. The lighting is soft and warm, creating a cozy atmosphere.

Miraculous Births

Isaac

Advent is a time of preparation
for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ,
and also a time of preparation
for the Second Coming of Christ.

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

- Genesis 12:1-3

God made promises to Abraham before he could prove anything. It isn't about us, but it's about God and his grace towards us

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

- Romans 4:13-25

¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore “it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

- Romans 4:13-25

It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

- Romans 4:24-25