



In the beginning, God created everything (Gn 1:1). At the peak of His creating, God made us in His own image, that we would have a relationship with Him and reflect Him throughout the world (Gn 1:26-28). But when sin entered the world, we lost our connection with our Maker (Gn 3). Our sinfulness was against His holiness and forced us out of His presence. Left up to our own devices, we grew further away from the Lord (Gn 4-11).

But through one family, God quickly began to work to restore us and bring us back to Him. God promised to grow them, love them, and bless them so that all other nations would see that He is God (Gn 12; 15; 17). If these people would obey His rules and follow His instructions, He would live among them again and they would be to Him a treasure (Ex 19-20; Dt 7). But they couldn't obey (Dt 29:4; 31:16-18, 26-27). Over and again, they failed to live as His people, and eventually the very promise of His presence with them seemed like an elusive dream.

But God continued to work and make good on His promises. Even as His people were defeated and scattered, God waited for the right time to bring the ultimate solution to the problem of sin (Gal 4:3-5). As it is written: Read Luke 2:4-14.

All of God's promises lay right there in a lowly stable. Where we once couldn't be with God, He became flesh and dwelled among us (Jn 1:1-18)! The longawaited Savior of the world finally arrived. He lived the life we couldn't, died in our place, and rose from the **dead** to defeat all the brokenness brought in the beginning (Luke 24:45-

What do we celebrate on this Christmas morning? That this Jesus who was born today is the only One who can restore what was lost in creation. This truly is good news that brings great joy! Jesus, the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace reconciled us back with God so that now God may be with every person who calls on Jesus's name to be saved (Is 9:6; Jn 14:26; Rom 8:1; 2 Cor 5:17-21).

On this Christmas morning may we be reminded that God has been working since the beginning to save us. May we praise God for His love, grace, power and glory in sending His Son Jesus to restore us. And as we praise God on this Christmas morning, may our thanksgiving overflow in a life of faithfulness, obedience, and worship.

Merry Christmas!