

The Wonder of Christmas

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“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.”

Genesis 1: 1-5

“The earth outside your window is tilted at just 23 degrees, so there are seasons and the vapours of oceans don’t simply amass continents of ice, so the planet’s bulk of six sextillion tonnes (21 zeros) spins perfectly balanced on an invisible axis, spinning you around at 1000 miles per hour. Hurtling you through space even right now in this sun orbit at 19 miles per second, 600 million miles per year.”

“You are held in this moment by this unseen belt of gravity... while the miracle happens all around you... As soon as we acknowledge God to be the supreme architect, who has erected the beauteous fabric of the universe, our minds must necessarily be ravished with wonder.”

Ann Voskamp (The Greatest Gift)

“Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

Genesis 1: 26-27

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

*“Therefore the Lord himself
will give you a sign: The
virgin will conceive and give
birth to a son, and will call
him Immanuel.”*

Isaiah 7: 14

“In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.””

Luke 1: 26-38

“Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Luke 1: 26-38

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.”

Luke 1: 26-38

“For no word from God will ever fail.

*“I am the Lord’s servant,”
Mary answered. “May your
word to me be fulfilled.”
Then the angel left her.”*

Luke 1: 26-38

“Mary, she opens her hands and nods. And the promises come true in the space of her surrender – the pod of the most High God lodging within her willing – YES... There is no need to produce or perform or perfect – simply become a place for God.”

“That is all... Mary kneels before us this Christmas, not as a woman producing, performing or perfecting, but simply bending before a God who has the power to dispatch angels, enfold Himself in embryonic cells, choreograph the paths of stars – a God who quietly beckons every man, every woman to simply come, bend, make space, receive... Your greatest gift is not your gifts, but your surrendered YES to be a space for God.”

Ann Voskamp *(The Greatest Gift)*