

A manger filled with straw and hay, illuminated by a beam of light from above. The text "Leaving the Manger" is overlaid in white.

Leaving the Manger

Matthew 1:23-25

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- Matt. 1:23-25 - “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, God with us. 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.”

Leaving the Manger

- The virgin birth of Jesus is a central truth of Christianity, second only to the resurrection.
 - 1Cor. 15:12-15, 17-18 - “Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead do not rise... 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.”

Leaving the Manger

- The fact that God left heaven to come to the earth and live as a man is endlessly fascinating and glorious.
 - John 1:1-4 - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”

Leaving the Manger

- John 1:10-14 - “He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Leaving the Manger

- It is ironic that ten times as much is said of the last three years of His life than is said of His first 30 years.
- His childhood vs. His adulthood were paradoxical contrasts. It's what happens when God becomes man.
 - Heb. 2:9-10 - "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. 10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings."

Leaving the Manger

- Heb. 2:14-15, 17-18 - “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage... 17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”

As A Baby, He Was Helpless; As A Man, He Was All Powerful

- As a Baby, He was totally dependent on others for survival.
 - Luke 2:41-52



As A Baby, He Was Helpless; As A Man, He Was All Powerful

- As a Man, we are totally dependent on Him for survival.
 - Col. 1:17 - “And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”
 - Heb. 1:1-3 - “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

As A Baby, He Was Helpless; As A Man, He Was All Powerful

- Matt. 28:18-20 - "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
- John 11:43-44 - "Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth! 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, Loose him, and let him go."
- Mark 9:39 - "But Jesus said, Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me."

As A Baby, He Was Helpless; As A Man, He Was All Powerful

- Matt. 8:28-34
- Matt. 14:22-33
- This power demands our respect and submission.



As A Baby, He Was Loved; As A Man, He Was Hated

- John 15:18-20 - “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”
- John 3:19 - “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

As A Baby, He Made Demands Of His Family;
As A Man, He Makes Demands Of Everyone

- He called all men to repentance that generates a change of life.
 - John 8:11 - “And Jesus said to her, Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”
 - Luke 13:3 - “I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”
 - Matt. 16:24 - “Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

Jesus Was Born To Die So That We Can Be Born Again To Live

- The doctrine of Christ is full of paradoxes. It was God's plan from before the creation of the world to send Jesus to earth to die for our sins.
 - Rev. 13:8 - "All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

Jesus Was Born To Die So That We Can Be Born Again To Live

- Luke 24:44-47 - “Then He said to them, These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me. 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. 46 Then He said to them, Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

Jesus Was Born To Die So That We Can Be Born Again To Live

- Today, those who are born again can have life.
 - John 3:3-5 - “Jesus answered and said to him, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus said to Him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

Jesus Was Born To Die So That We Can Be Born Again To Live

- 1Peter 1:23 - “Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”
- 1John 5:4 - “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.”