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# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas



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*Simple Manger*

[Next Week](#)

**A LOOK AT SOME  
NEW YEAR'S  
RESOLUTIONS**

## Food for Thought

### Child's Bedtime Prayer

**Psalm 3** has given rise to the child's bedtime prayer,  
"Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep."

*I lie down and sleep;  
I wake again, because the LORD  
sustains me*

**Psalm 3:5 (NIV)**

*(shared by a Class Member)*

## What is the True Meaning of Christmas? Luke 2:1-20

Why was the incarnation necessary, first of all, it was necessary in order for God to cleanse men from sin, and restore them their broken relationship with Him. **Only a man – a perfect, sinless, divine, man – could die in the sinner's place.** It was therefore necessary for the Second Person of the Trinity to add sinless humanity to His undiminished deity, thereby qualifying him to die in man's place, bearing the guilt and punishment of his sin. As such, He became the "last Adam," who provided a reversal for Adam's sin and its consequences.

In addition to this, the incarnation was necessary in order for God to restore fallen man to his former, original dignity and glorious destiny. It is through the work of the perfect man, Jesus Christ, that men can anticipate reigning over all creation. His victory is ours, as His reign will be shared with us as well. And so the incarnation and death of the Son not only saves sinners from the guilt and punishment of their sins, it produces the glorious hope of reigning with Him in His kingdom. One can hardly overestimate the importance of the hope that this gives the Christian, especially in the dark days when we, like all of creation, suffer and groan because of the ravages of sin (see Romans 8:23-25; Colossians 1:25-27; Titus 2:11-14; Titus 3:5-7; Hebrews 6:17-22; and 1 Peter 1:3-5, 13, 20-21).

Our hope should not be diminished by our difficulties, but rather should be strengthened as we see how God sustains us in trials, so that our strength and perseverance increase (see Romans 5:3-11). Those who are currently undergoing testing and trials can be assured by the certainty of their hope that in the future they will reign with Christ.

**At His incarnation, our Lord left the glories of heaven behind to take on humanity, and to dwell among men, ultimately to die as a man (the unique God-man) for men, so that their sins can be forgiven, and they can be restored to the glory they lost at the fall.** After making atonement for our sins, our Lord was raised from the dead by the Father, ascended into heaven, and was seated at the Father's right hand. Because of this, our Lord was exalted above the angels (see Heb 1:13), until the day when He will return to reign over the earth, along with His saints. Those who believe in the person and work of Jesus on their behalf will not only have their sins forgiven, they will be exalted to a position of glory and power as well as our Lord. So our Lord chose to share His glorification and rise to power with His saints, with His "brothers and sisters." He is exalted and glorified as lost sinners are saved and raised to positions of power and glory.

The Son set aside His glory to restore fallen men to fellowship with God and to positions of power and responsibility in His kingdom. He chose to manifest His greatness through us as we seek to manifest His greatness and glory to others.

And so here are **the benefits of our Lord's incarnation**, according to the author of Hebrews:

1. Fallen man is restored to his former glory and authority through the incarnation of our Lord (Heb 2:5-18).
2. As a result of our Lord's incarnation, all believers have become a family (Heb 2:11-13).
3. Because of the incarnation, Jesus defeated Satan and his colleagues, so that we are no longer paralyzed with the fear of death (Heb 2:14-15).
4. Because of the incarnation of our Lord, we have become Abraham's seed, and thus are assured that we will enjoy the blessings God promised to Abraham (Heb 2:16).
5. Because of the incarnation, we now have a merciful and faithful High Priest (Heb 2:17-18).

*(Excerpts from "Near to the Heart of God: A Study of the Book of Hebrews" by Bob Deffinbaugh)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

When Jesus was born, He became the focal point of all history. But people involved in His birth story—Mary and Joseph, King Herod, the innkeeper, shepherds, angels, and wise men—would all have had a different answer to the question, "Do you know who Jesus is?"

Similarly, people today have differing thoughts on His identity and significance. Some might think of Him as an historical religious figure; others would say He was Christianity's founder or a teacher whose main theme was love. Still others think He was "just another baby." And there are those—hopefully we are among them—who understand Jesus is the Messiah, Savior of man, Son of the living God, and our only hope.

The Incarnation was the act of God's eternal Son taking upon Himself—through the Virgin birth—the perfect, unblemished human nature that Adam had before he fell. ([Philippians 2:5-11](#)) He did not lay aside His deity but rather added human nature to it and was therefore able to feel, hear, and experience what man experiences. ([Hebrews 4:15-16](#)) The Scriptures offer evidence that Jesus was God:

1. His pre-existence. ([John 1:1-4](#); [First John 1:1](#); [Genesis 1:26](#); [John 8:57-58](#); [Micah 5:2](#))
2. His relationship with the Father. ([John 17:4-5, 24](#))
3. His miraculous power. ([Luke 18:35-43](#); [Matthew 8:1-3](#); [Mark 2:3-12](#); [John 11:1-44](#))

Jesus came to offer all mankind the gift of salvation and redemption. ([Luke 4:14-19](#); [Isaiah 61:1-2](#)) Jesus came to live among us to do for us what we cannot possibly do for ourselves.

Jesus is elevated above all other men because He is the only man who is also God—He is the ultimate, sovereign, and final ruler of universe. You and I have to decide how to respond to Him. We have three alternatives:

1. Ignore Him and keep Him in the manger.
2. Reject Him.
3. Acknowledge our sinfulness, and receive Him as Lord and Savior.

*(Excerpt from "In Touch Magazine" Dated Dec 2003, Charles Stanley)*

### In Class Scripture Cross-References

Matt 1:21; John 10:10; Heb 10:7; 1 John 3:8; Luke 19:10

Gen 2:16-17; Rom 6:23; Lev 17:11; Heb 9:13-15

Heb 10:1-6; Gal 4:4-5

John 1:14

1 Tim 1:15

Phil 2:5-13

Heb 9:22-28