



The Greatest Mystery of All

DAILY DEVOTIONAL 73



LET'S PRAY Dear God, I love You. There are many things I don't know about You, but please help me learn as much as I can.

Thank You in Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PHILIPPIANS 2:5-7

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but emptied himself."

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Philippians 2:5-7; Hebrews 1:1,2; John 3:16.

KEY TEXT: 1 John 4:19.

"We love Him because He first loved us."

This week's lesson is about the greatest miracle and mystery of all—how Jesus became a human baby. The birth of every baby is a miracle, because only God can give life. But even more amazing is the birth of Jesus. Unlike every other human baby, Jesus' life did not start when His mother Mary became pregnant. Jesus was not only a human baby—the Bible tells us clearly that Jesus is God. That means He is eternal. There was never a time when He did not exist. In Jesus, God became part of His own creation!

Because Jesus is God, we know other things about Him. For one, He is self-existent. From the beginning, He had all power and wisdom. He could be everywhere at once. He created all things. Above all, Jesus is love. It was Jesus' love that led Him to make the choice to become a human being so that He could save you, me, and everyone who believes in Him.

JESUS IS GOD

Match each reference to what it tells you about Jesus.

Micah 5:2	•	•	Jesus is love
Colossians 2:3	•	•	Jesus is God
Hebrews 1:1,2	•	•	Jesus created all things
John 1:4	•	•	Jesus has all wisdom
1 John 3:16	•	•	Jesus has life in Himself
Philippians 2:5,6	•	•	Jesus is everlasting





LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for Your care for me. Please help me trust and obey You today. In Jesus' name I ask, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PHILIPPIANS 2:5-7

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ _____, who, being in the form of ____, did not consider it robbery to be equal with ____, but emptied himself."

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Nehemiah 9:6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 19, 20, 23.

KEY TEXT: Deuteronomy 32:11,12.

"As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings, so the LORD alone led him."

After Adam and Eve sinned, God the Father communicated with people through Jesus. It was Jesus, as God, who came to tell Adam and Eve about God's plan to save them. He was the One who promised Abraham that he and Sarah would have a baby, talked with Moses at the burning bush (see Exodus 3:2, 6, 14 & John 8:56–58), led His people in a cloud, spoke God's law from Sinai, and gave the promised land to the Israelites. All that Jesus did showed the great love of God for His people.

Have you ever seen a mother animal caring for her babies? Deuteronomy 32:11,12 says that is how God cared for Israel, His people. How sad Jesus was when they turned away from Him! Jesus sent the Holy Spirit who send prophets to warn the people about the consequences of their sins. But they still wouldn't listen. Because they were worshipping idols, they came to have many false ideas about God. Finally, Jesus had to come Himself to show us just what God is really like. Jesus would show God's love to, not only people, but to all the angels and beings from unfallen worlds.

JESUS CARES FOR HIS PEOPLE

Can you match each reference with how Jesus worked with people before He came to earth as a baby?

Genesis 3:15	
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Genesis 17:1–7

Exodus 3:4

Exodus 13:21 •

Exodus 20:1, 2

Deuteronomy 33:2, 3 ●

- Jesus led His people in a pillar of cloud.
- Jesus spoke to Moses out of the burning bush.
- Jesus loved His people.
- Jesus told Adam and Eve His plan to save them.
- Jesus promised Abraham he would become a great nation.
- Jesus spoke the Law on Mount Sinai.





LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You that the Holy Spirit can help me obey Your Word. I ask for Him to help me today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PHILIPPIANS 2:5-7

"Let this ____ be in ___ which was also in Christ ____, who, being in the form of ___, did not consider it robbery to be equal with ___, but emptied himself."

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Deuteronomy 6:4; Galatians 4:4; 2 Peter 1:21.

KEY TEXT: Luke 1:35

"And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

Although there are three Persons in the Godhead, the Bible says that God is "one". That is because God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit work together as one on everything. They are one in *character* and *purpose*, but not one body. God said it should be the same with a husband and wife. So although the Bible does not tell us a lot about the Holy Spirit, we know that He is working just as hard as the Father and Son to save us. He works in our hearts and minds.

We have already looked at many important jobs of the Holy Spirit in the plan of salvation. For example, He chose the prophets and inspired them to write God's messages in the Old Testament; He gives us spiritual gifts; He reveals mysteries about God's plan. Our key text today says the Holy Spirit did something extra special so that Jesus could be born. It was through the Holy Spirit that Jesus was created as a baby inside Mary, His human mother. So, although Jesus was born of a normal woman, He was not just human. He was also the Son of God.

JESUS IS IMMANUEL: GOD WITH US

Look up Matthew 1:22 & 23. Complete the blank spaces below to find the meaning of one of Jesus' names. The letters in boxes tell you the name of the prophet who gave this prophecy. Look up the seventh chapter of the book named after that prophet to find the original prophecy. Then complete the verse reference.

"So all this was done that it might be fulfille	ed which was spoken by the Lord
through the prophets , saying: "Behold, th	e
shall be with	, and bear a , and
they shall His nan	ne
	, " which is translated,
«	. "
The original prophecy is found in	7: 7:





LET'S PRAY Dear Father in heaven, thank You that Jesus gave up so much for Me. I give You my heart today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PHILIPPIANS 2:5-7

"Let this ____ be in ___ which was ___ in Christ ____, who, being in the form of ___, did not consider it robbery to be equal with ___, but ____ himself."

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Hebrews 2:14,15; 10:5

KEY TEXT: Hebrews 2:16.

"For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham."

leave as Cadia Heaven

Luke 1:35 tells us that, when Jesus came to earth, He would be both the Son of God and a man. By becoming the Son of a woman, He would have a human body and experience every suffering and temptation that we must face. He would be able to understand our trials, and show us how to say no to every temptation of Satan.

When Jesus became a human, it meant giving up many, many things. We will learn more about what he gave up as we study His life.

JESUS EMPTIED HIMSELF

Let's find some Bible verses about what Jesus gave up for us. Look up the references and write in the missing words.

Jesus—as God in Heaven	Jesus—a man on Earth			
1. " praise and honor the	1. Mary laid Jesus "in a			
of heaven" Dan 4:37.	no room in the inn" Luke 2:7.			
2. As God, Jesus doesn't "slumber or " Psalm 121:3, 4.				
3. We cannot " from Your presence" God is everywhere. Psalm 139:7–10.	3. As a human He could not be everywhere. "He in the place where He was" John 11:6.			





LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You for the prophecies in the Bible. Please help me to understand them. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PHILIPPIANS 2:5-7

	"Let this	be in _	which	was	in Christ	
	, who, be	eing in the	form of _	, did	not consider	it
_	to b	e w	rith, k	out	himself."	

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:19.

KEY TEXT: John 5:39

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

Since Jesus didn't look like a shining, majestic being when He came to earth, how would anyone know He was God or the promised Messiah? The Old Testament prophets didn't get to see Him on earth. But, the Holy Spirit revealed many amazing prophecies to them about the coming Messiah, His work, death and resurrection.

There are many *direct prophecies* about the first coming of the Messiah in the Old Testament. Also, many of the Temple ceremonies and sacrifices pointed directly to the work of the Messiah through symbols. These are *indirect prophecies*. The New Testament gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, show how every one of these prophecies was fulfilled exactly by Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus wanted people to know He was God, not as a shiny, majestic being, but because He fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies of the coming Messiah.

PROPHECIES OF JESUS' BIRTH

Can you match the Old Testament prophecy with its New Testament fulfilment?

Prophecy	Fulfilment
My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Psalm 22:1	● Luke 2:4–7
They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots. Psalm 22:18	• Matthew 27:3–9
Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive ● and bear a Son Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 27:46
But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah Yet out of you Shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel. Micah 5:2	● Luke 1: :26–31
So they weighed out for my wages thirty <i>pieces</i> of silver "Throw it to the potter" Zechariah 11:12–13.	Matthew 27:35





LET'S PRAY Heavenly Father, thank You that Your angels rejoice when we choose Jesus as our Saviour. Help me to tell other people about Jesus. In His name I ask, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PHILIPPIANS 2:5-7

"Let this _	be in	V	vhich	was	in		
, who,	being in the	ne	of _	,	did not	conside	r it
to	be	with	, k	out _		himself.'	"

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Hebrews 1:6, 13-14; Luke 2:8-14.

KEY TEXT: Luke 15:10.

"Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

When God first created our world, the holy angels rejoiced—it was so beautiful. They were delighted to see how happy Adam and Eve were, but heart–broken when Adam and Eve sinned! When Jesus told them His plan to save people they didn't quite understand the plan, but God's great love for us brought them joy.

Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, angels have been working with God to save people. As the time for Jesus' birth came near, they were more and more excited! The angel Gabriel gave special messages to Zacharias, the father of John, and to Mary and Joseph. And when Jesus was born in Bethlehem the angels watched with wonder. They brought the news of Jesus' birth to the shepherds, and with great joy sang, "Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace, good will to men."

MINISTERING SPIRITS

Learn more about the work of angels in God's plan of redemption by completing the acrostic below.

		1	Α		
2			N		
			³ G		
	4		Ε		
5			L		
			⁶ S		

- 1. "For He shall give His angels
 ____ over you...." Psalm 91:11.
- 2. "All the angels stood around the ____ ..." Revelation 7:11.
- 3. "...they are equal to the angels and are sons of _ _ _ ..." Luke 20:36
- 4. "You have made him a little $____$ than the angels." Hebrews 2:7
- 5. "...His angels, Who _ _ _ _ in strength, who do His word..." Psalm 103:20
- 6. "...their angels always $__$ the face of My Father" Matthew 18:10





LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for Your amazing gift of Jesus. Please help me to love You back. In Jesus' name, Amen.

	"Let this	be in	which wa	as in _	
	, who,	in the _	of	_, did not _	
it	to be	witl	h, bu	t	

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

John 3:16; 1 John 3:1; 1 John 4:10.

KEY TEXT: Deuteronomy 29:29.

"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

God has done many great miracles, but His gift of Jesus to all people is truly the most amazing. God the Father gave Jesus to us, to suffer and die for our sins, in our place. God became human when Jesus came to Earth. Now, as God in heaven, He still bears His human form. It is a mystery too hard for us to work out, but it shows us how much He loves us. So, let's add this to our Great Controversy saga.

PART 6: THE GREATEST MYSTERY OF ALL

angels c	ared Fat	ner G	God I	isten	love	King	power
prophecies	prophet	sang	sinned		stable	throne	wisdom
The Bible tells	us that Jesus	is		. Th	at means .	Jesus existe	ed from all
eternity with the and the Holy Spirit. He has a							
power and _				Mos	t of all. Jes	sus is	
	We	see Jesu	s' love be	st in F	His great sa	acrifice for a	all people.
From the mor	nent Adam an	d Eve				, Jes	us has
been working	to save every	one. He				_ for the Is	raelites,
His chosen na	ation, in many	ways. Wh	en they re	belled	d, He sent	them many	
			_ to call	them	back to Hi	im, but they	/ wouldn't
		. At last,	Jesus Hir	nself	came.		
Jesus' birth fu	ulfilled all the _						
about the birtl							
Earth. He gav	e up His				, His	brightness	and His
	n	, Jesus was born to					
poor parents in a smelly				Many people didn't			
recognize His	birth. But the					knew who	He was.
They joyfully welcomed Him when they to						to the shep	herds.





This week we study about how Jesus—God Himself—also became a human being.



Torchlight

"By His humanity, Christ touched humanity; by His divinity, He lays hold upon the throne of God. As the Son of man, He gave us an example of obedience; as the Son of God, He gives us power to obey"

— The Desire of Ages p. 24.



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