

The God of Details

Five Reasons the God of Details Wanted Jesus Born in a Manger

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Prophecies about Jesus Reveal God Is in the Details

1. Born in Bethlehem

- **Micah 5:2**

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.

2. Called a Nazarene

- **Isaiah 11:1**

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

- “Branch”—*Netzer*, Nazareth, out of the root of Jesse

3. Out of Egypt

- **Hosea 11:1**

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.

- **Matthew 2:15**

... and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

Question—*How could Jesus have been born in Bethlehem, from Nazareth, and called out of Egypt?*

ANSWER—*The God of Details will make the right place and the right time converge together in order to fulfill detailed prophecy and destiny.*

God of the Details within the Details—Jesus Born in a Manger

- **Luke 2:1–7**

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. ⁴Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. ⁶So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

- **Luke 2:12**

And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.

- That the manger is listed twice should draw our attention to what the God of Details is saying to us in mysterious and divinely orchestrated ways. Jesus being born in a manger reveals the predetermined purposes of God.

Today we are going to talk about five reasons the God of Details wanted Jesus born in a manger.

**TO SHOW JESUS' HUMILITY
TO CONNECT WITH THE COMMON PEOPLE
TO REMOVE THE FEAR OF APPROACHING
TO ANNOUNCE THAT JESUS IS FREE TO ALL
TO ALLOW BEASTS TO FEAST IN HIS PRESENCE**

To Show Jesus' Humility

Jesus' humility is the defining characteristic of His life.

- **Isaiah 53:2-3**

² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

- Jesus was born in a manger to display His humility and fulfill what the prophets said about Him.

- **Matthew 8:20**

And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

- Jesus' life bespoke his humility in every way.

- **Luke 23:50-53**

⁵⁰ Now behold, there was a man named Joseph, a council member, a good and just man. ⁵¹ He had not consented to their decision and deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God. ⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before.

- Jesus was laid to rest in a *borrowed* tomb.

**Jesus' life started with humility,
was lived with humility,
and ended in humility.**

Question—*If God orchestrated all of Jesus' earthly life around humility, how should we as His followers be orchestrating ours?*

ANSWER—*The Lord requires that we do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him.*

- **Micah 6:8**

He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

To Connect with the Common People

1. The poor, despised, dirty shepherds were first to hear about the Savior's humble birth in Bethlehem's manger. Imagine their shock, their hope.

- **Luke 2:8–20**

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” ¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart. ²⁰ Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

2. This Savior would not be another tyrannical Caesar of Rome, another maniacal Herod, a pompous High Priest, or an arrogant Pharisee.
 - This Savior is one of us. He is lowly, common, and poor, as the manger of His birth underscores.
 - Charles Spurgeon said, “In the eyes of the poor, imperial robes excite no affection, a man in their own garb attracts their confidence.”¹
 - **Mark 12:37**
Therefore David himself calls Him ‘Lord’; how is He *then* his Son?” And the common people heard Him gladly.
3. Jesus was born in a manger to connect with the common people.
 - The poor, the widows, the sick, and the sinful found real connection with Jesus!
 - If we ever get to the point where our Jesus is not relatable, we are doing the Kingdom damage.

**Christ’s humility and connection with the poor
needs to speak to us about our own connection with them!**

To Remove the Fear of Approaching

1. People might quake with fear when approaching a monarch’s throne, but all fear vanishes when one approaches a humble manger.
 - Through the manger God is letting us know that Jesus is humble, approachable, without guard.
2. The shepherds were afraid of the angels but went with excitement to see the Savior, Christ the Lord in the manger.
3. The ability to fearlessly approach Jesus never changes because Jesus maintained the humility, approachableness, and the connection of the manger His whole life.
 - The blind were so unafraid to approach Jesus that they shouted for Him—regardless of the opposition—knowing that He would not reject or overlook them.
 - A woman who had bled for twelve years was so unafraid to approach Jesus that she pushed

¹ Spurgeon, Charles. *Spurgeon’s Sermons on Jesus and the Holy Spirit*. Hendrickson Publishers, 2006.

through the crowds just to grab a tassel of His robe, knowing that she would be healed.

- A prostitute was so unafraid to approach Jesus that she came into a house where He was staying and wept at His feet. Her shame was no match for His approachability. She knew if she could just be in His Presence she would receive life-changing freedom.
- **Hebrews 13:8**
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
- **Hebrews 4:15–16**
¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**The thrones of men
may intimidate with fear,
but the manger of Jesus
invites us, removing all fear!**

To Announce that Jesus is Free to All

In first-century Middle Eastern culture hospitality was highly valued and inns were free to all travelers. There was typically room available in the inn, but due to the census, there was an unusually high number of travellers, so the manger it was for Jesus.

1. **Isaiah 55:1**

Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

- We buy without money and price by having faith in the Person who is making the offer.

2. **Romans 6:23**

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. **Revelation 22:17**

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

4. **Rock of Ages**

Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling; naked, come to Thee for dress, helpless, look to Thee for grace: foul, I to the fountain fly, wash me, Savior, or I die.²

- Toplady's lyrics say we have nothing to offer. We need the free gift of Jesus' salvation. We need the freedom that the manger offers us.

**The manger says
you are free to choose Jesus
and He is free for you to have.**

² Toplady, Augustus M. "Rock of Ages," Composed by Thomas Hastings, The Gospel Magazine, 1775.

To Allow Beasts to Feast in His Presence

Jesus was born in manger in a stable surrounded by the beasts that accompanied the overflowing crowds of people who were staying in the inn.

- “Brute beasts” is symbolic in scripture of the corrupt and depraved of humanity. Peter, Paul, and Jude all make this connection in their writings.
- People become “brute beasts” through heinous sin, the depravations of lust, or having a conscious that is seared. Almost all semblances of tameness and temperance have departed them. They’re filled with the nature of the Beast, and as beasts they do his lustful bidding.
- Saul of Tarsus, Aurelius Augustinus, John Newton, Nathan Bedford Forrest—there have been countless “brute beasts” throughout human history.
- All “brute beasts” can be saved and transformed by feasting in the Presence of Jesus.
- **Hebrews 7:24–25**
²⁴ But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

**The manger shows us
that brute beasts
are welcome to come,
to feast in His Presence,
and to receive life.**

Conclusion

The God of Details

orchestrated a census
that precipitated a journey
that fulfilled prophecy
that led to an overcrowded inn
that culminated in a manger to . . .

1. Show us Jesus’ humility.
2. Reveal that Jesus connects with common people.
3. Remove the fear of approaching Him.
4. Announce that Jesus is free to all.
5. Allow beasts to feast in His Presence.

If you are here today and you are without Jesus, I know God has orchestrated your attendance here to bring you to the manger, to Jesus Himself. Do you have room for Him?

Discussion Questions

1. How is Jesus' humility the most defining characteristic of His life? Why does this matter for us?
2. How easy is it for you to show Jesus' compassion to the poor?
3. Have you ever been too fearful, too ashamed, too guilt-ridden to approach the Throne? How does the manger offer freedom from this fear?
4. How does the manger show us that Jesus is free for everyone? Why is the manger alone uniquely positioned to announce this wonderful news?
5. Who is a "brute beast"? What good news does the manger offer to "brute beasts"?

NOTES