



“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.” — Jn. 1:14

Reasons for the Season

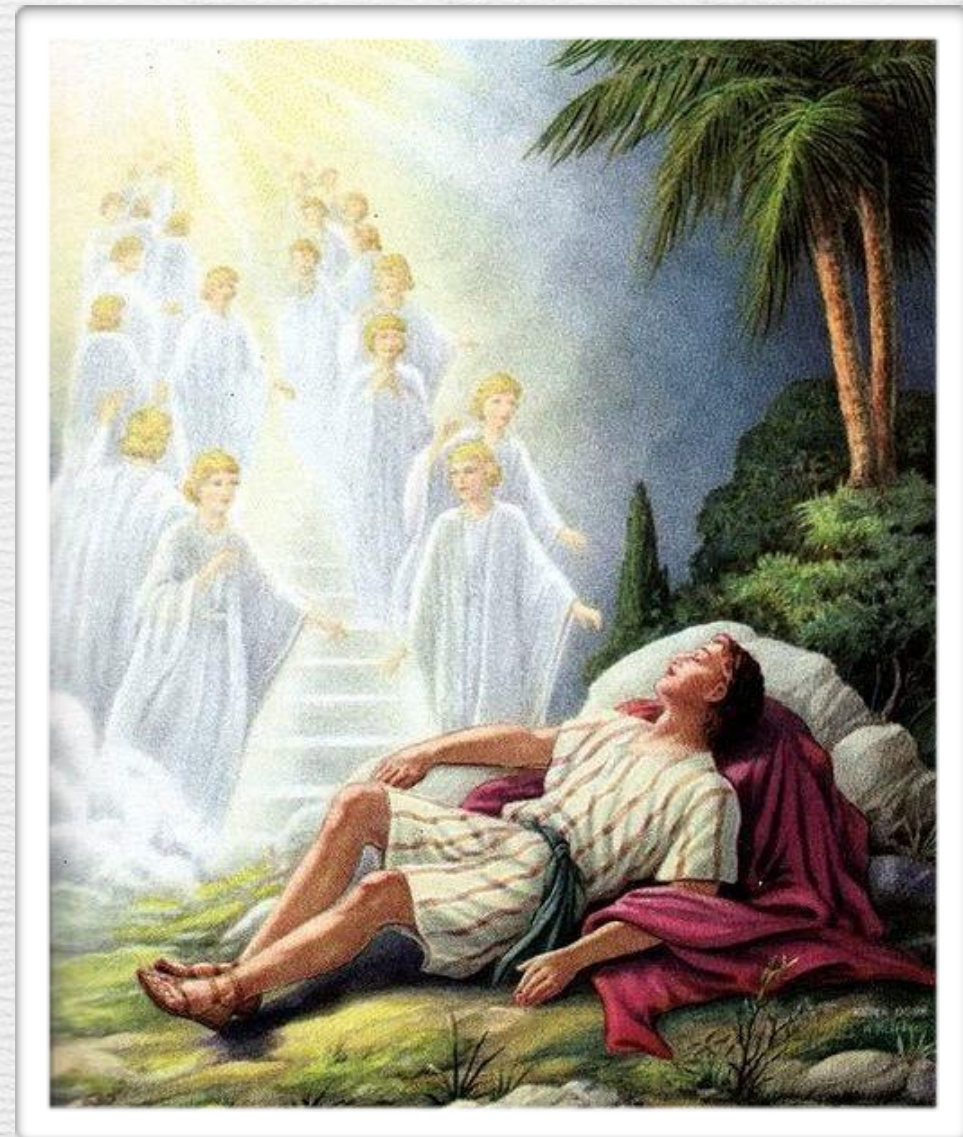
Anticipated by Many

- Matt. 13:17 – “...many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”
- Adam
 - Gen. 3:15 - “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”
- Abraham
 - Gen. 22:13 - “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed...”



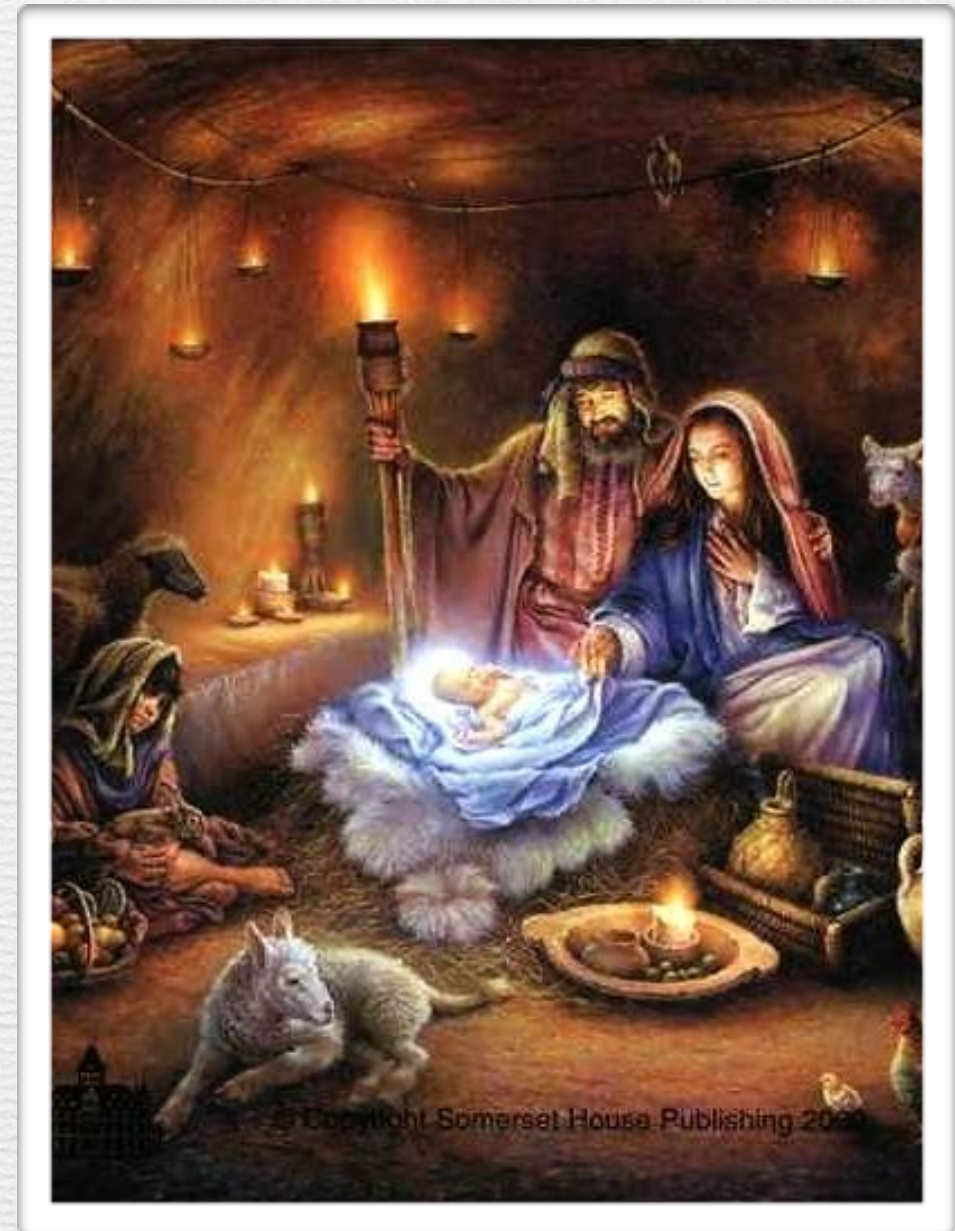
Anticipated by Many

- Jacob
- Ezekiel
 - Ezk. 44:2 – “And the Lord said to me, “This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the Lord God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut.”
- Isaiah
 - Is. 7:14 – “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”



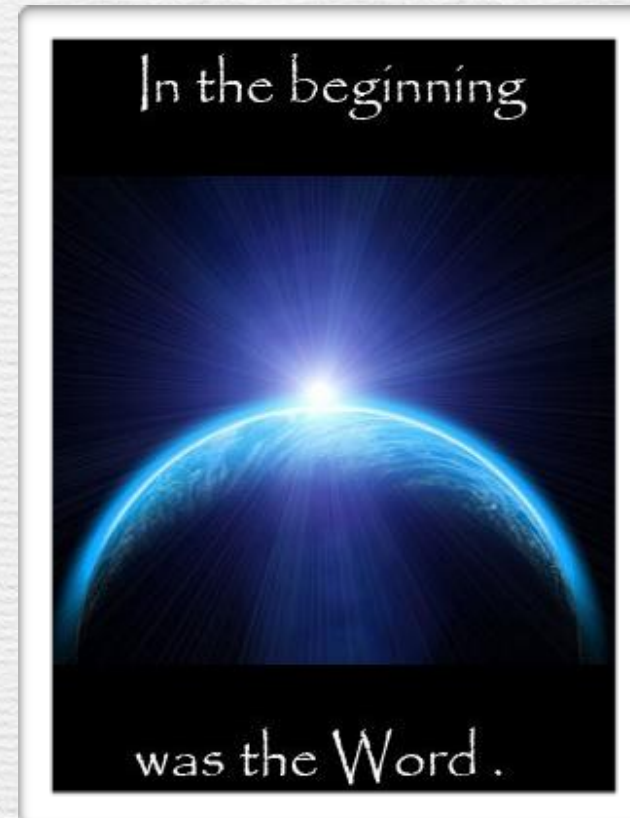
The Sign

- A Virgin gave birth
- The invisible became visible
- The uncontainable dwelt in human flesh
- The uncreated was born from a Virgin



Two Beginnings

- Spiritual
- Jn. 1:1-2 - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.”
- Physical
- Jn. 1:14 – “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.”



The Incarnation

- The invisible God became visible
- 1 Tim. 3:16 – “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh...”



Reasons for the Incarnation

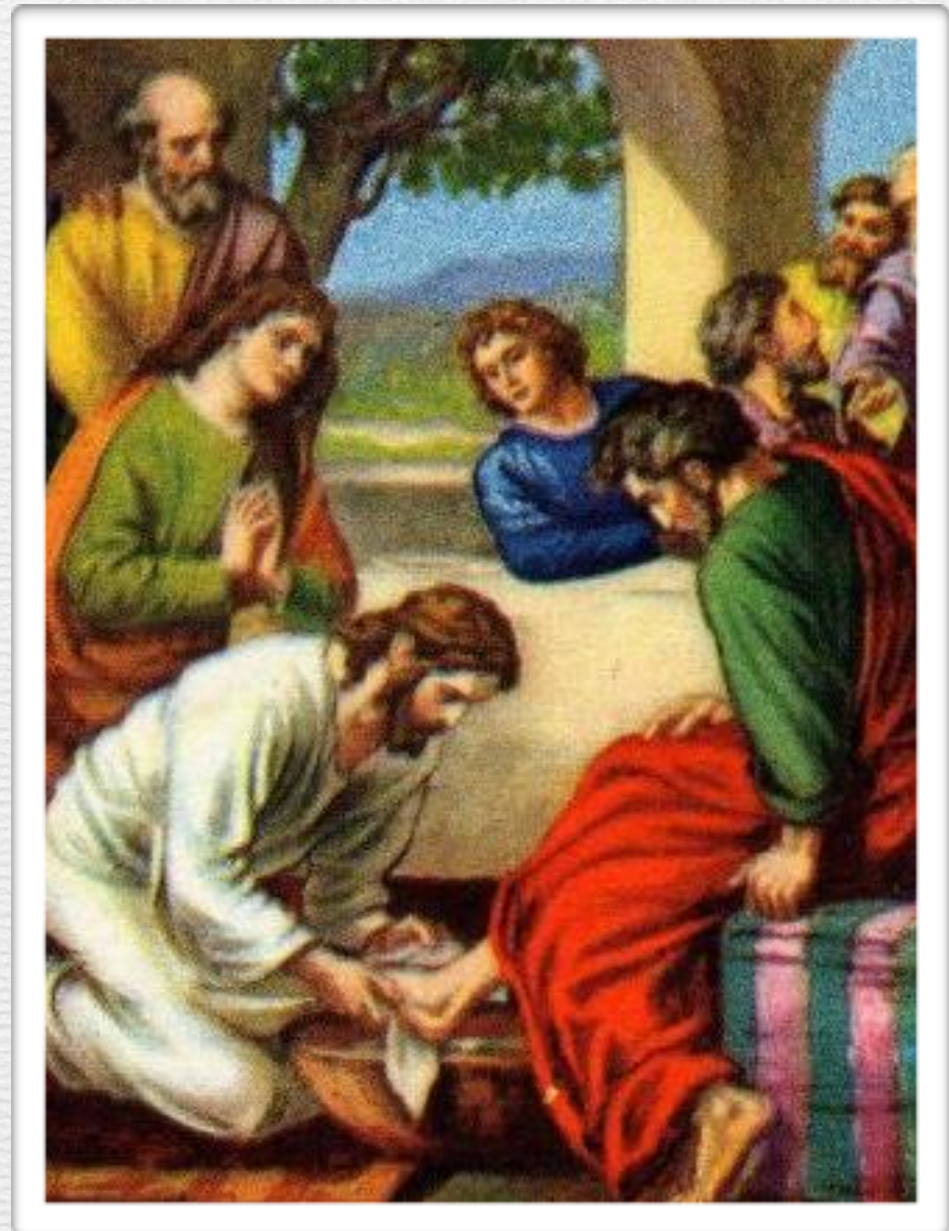
- Redemption
 - Eph. 1:7 – “In Him we have **redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”
- To visit His people
 - Lk. 1:69-69 - “Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has **visited and redeemed His people**, And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David...”

Reasons for the Incarnation

- To bless our nature
 - *“You bless my nature in Yourself.”* (Liturgy of St. Gregory)
- Lk. 10:19 – “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy...”
- Jn. 16:33 – “In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Reasons for the Incarnation

- To be an example
- Jn. 13:15-17 – **“For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”**



Reasons for the Season

- Redemption
- To visit His people
- Bless our nature
- To be our example