

FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH: THE STORY OF CHRIST'S COMING

LEARNING THE BACKGROUND

ISAIAH 7:14; 9:6–7; GALATIANS 4:4–5



The Heart of the Matter

God doesn't rush. Carefully and sovereignly He works to reveal His glory. From the morning sunrise, which slowly spreads its rays across the face of the earth, to the unfolding of His plan in each of our lives, God takes His time to achieve His will.

How unlike us! We are impatient, anxious, and impulsive, wondering why things haven't happened as quickly as we wish. Sometimes we forget the words of Psalm 115:3: "Our God is in the heavens; / He does whatever He pleases."

And it pleased the Father to send His Son to our broken world *at the perfect time*. In eternity past, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit set in motion the unhurried plan of redemption. And God's patient and precise preparation resulted in Jesus's arrival on Christmas Day.



Discovering the Way

1. God's Perfect Salvation Plan

God the Father took hundreds of years to prepare the world for His precious Son's arrival.

2. Preparation for the Person (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6–7; Matthew 1:21–23)

Let's examine several prophecies that prepared God's people for the coming of Christ.

3. Preparation of the Place (Micah 5:2; Luke 2:1–4)

God sovereignly worked to establish peace and a common language throughout the Roman Empire. And when the time was right, His Son was born in the foretold town of Bethlehem.



Starting Your Journey

Do you expect God to hurry up and conform His plans to yours? Remember: God will achieve *His* purposes in your life. So hurry up and turn to Him today.



Tools for Digging Deeper



**From Heaven to Earth:
The Story of
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A Bethlehem Christmas
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**A Promise Kept:
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