

A background image of a dense forest of evergreen trees shrouded in thick, white fog. The fog is most prominent in the upper half of the image, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. The trees are dark and silhouetted against the lighter fog.

CAROLS

Promise

When God makes a promise,
all reality begins moving
in the direction of God's promise
in order to bring the promise
into reality.

**This is the genealogy of Jesus
the Messiah the son of David, the
son of Abraham:**

Matthew 1:1 NIV

He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants
forever, just as he promised our
ancestors.”

Luke 1:54-55 NIV

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David

Luke 1:68-69 NIV

For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

Luke 2:30-32 NIV

In those days Caesar Augustus...
issued a decree that a census
should be taken of the entire
Roman world. (This was the first
census that took place while
Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

Luke 2:1-2 NIV

And everyone went to their own town to register.

Luke 2:3 NIV

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

Luke 2:4 NIV

He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Luke 2:5 NIV

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in clothes and laid him in a manger.

Luke 2:6-7 NIV

The incarnation is
the part of the story
that makes sense of
the rest of the story.

Completely meaningless
or
Infinintely meaningful

The Reality of God

Who is Jesus?

Liar, Lunatic, or Lord?

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1:3 NIV

and into an inheritance that can
never perish, spoil or fade. This
inheritance is kept in heaven for
you,

1 Peter 1:4 NIV

In all this you greatly rejoice,
though now for a little while you
may have had to suffer grief in all
kinds of trials.

1 Peter 1:6 NIV

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care,

1 Peter 1:10 NIV

trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.

1 Peter 1:11 NIV

If a single man had written a book foretelling the time and manner of Jesus' coming, and Jesus had come in conformity with these prophecies, this would carry infinite weight . . .

But there's much more here.

There's a succession of men, over a period of four thousand years, coming consistently and invariably, one after the other, to foretell the same coming. There is an entire people proclaiming it, existing for four thousand years, to testify in a body to the certainty that they feel about it,

*from which they cannot be deflected
by whatever threats and persecutions
they may suffer.*

This is quite a different order of importance.

Blaise Pascal

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors,

1 Peter 1:18 NIV

but with the precious blood of
Christ, a lamb without blemish or
defect.

1 Peter 1:19 NIV

Through him you believe in God,
who raised him from the dead and
glorified him, and so your faith and
hope are in God.

1 Peter 1:21 NIV

Jesus introduced to the world
a God whose greatness is
only rivaled by His goodness.