

*God's Descent
To
Planet Earth!*

By

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Typist and Illustrator

DEDICATION

As author of this book, I wish to express my deep appreciation to Shirley J. Ruiz, who dedicated her great skills, abounding energy, and many hours of her time in typing the entire manuscript as well as adding illustrations in this book. I feel certain that her committed hands will bring great blessings to many persons.

Ron G. Christian



□ 1.



In becoming a man, Jesus has forever sanctified, purified, and ennobled human relationships!

2.



The glory of deity shone through the temple of human flesh, pronouncing a holy benediction forever upon our human frame!

3.



Jesus (The Incarnate One) understands the challenge of involvement with people, for He worked with all sorts of people -- religious and profane, literate and illiterate, high and low, rich and poor, young and old, healthy and sick, urban and rural, Jew and Gentile.

□ 4.



Through all the changes and the chances, due to the ebb and flow of life, Jesus learned to be master of all circumstances!

5.



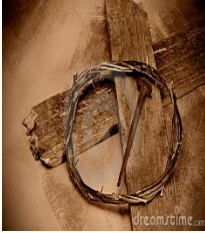
The sorrows and sufferings of life are many and varied, but Jesus' life shows us that God is involved with great sympathy in all of them.

6.



Christ was identified with Humanity in His total incarnation, therefore every person can appropriate Christ's victory over sin which He achieved through that Incarnation!

7.



If God is like Jesus, then that Kind of God can freely and gladly have my heart's loyal devotion!

8.



Jesus is God's thoughts, purpose, plans, and will. The 'Eternal' (God the Father) revealed through the 'tangible' (the Incarnate Son of God)!

9.



Christ's coming to earth - an earth full of poor lost souls, impoverished both physically and spiritually - brought hope for the despairing and transformation for the degenerate! The Incarnate One (Jesus) can give a clear moral sense of reality, right and wrong, and Jesus alone can give the power to impotent humans, to do the Right and to reject the Wrong!

10.



The Incarnate Son of God came into the world to seek and to save only those who are lost, to give His life as a ransom only for Sinners! Is His 'mission' relevant to you?

11.



If Christmas is only for sinners, then Christmas is NOT for me if I claim no need for the forgiveness of my sins!

12.



If you become preoccupied with your sins (guilt and condemnation) then you will totally despair. If you become preoccupied with the Savior (His mercy and love), then you will experience hope and deliverance from your sin's bondages!

13.



Christ, the Incarnate One - is ever contemporary and He always confronts every age with His presence and with His Holy demands. He is the Living Christ who confronts every person in every age, and He seeks entry into each life!

14.



Jesus came to earth 'on a special mission' - to save a 'fallen race' from the devastation of its sins. He came to provide an atonement for all sins of all sinners of all times, through His substitutionary death!

15.



The Christ of Eternity, who embodied Himself in human form, came to seek and to save a lost world - to rescue the perishing, to restore the downtrodden, to befriend the lonely, and to heal

the sick in soul! He came not to condemn, but to save a 'rebel race' that is helpless and hopeless without the merciful Savior!

16.



Jesus is with you in loneliness, for the persecuted Nazarene experienced great loneliness for forty days when He was tempted by the Evil One in the wilderness, and He further experienced loneliness when His one-time followers left Him during a time of great sorrow when He was on His way to Mt. Calvary to be crucified.

17.



Jesus came from Heaven to Earth - to transform the sinner, to cleanse the believer, to disciple His followers, to recover society through the influence of His people. When we (believers) wait upon God patiently and expectantly we will 'see Jesus' in current ways, and we will be empowered to help fulfill Jesus' 'Saving Mission' for the world that Jesus greatly loves.

18.



*To see Jesus is to see everything else,
for everything in life centers on Jesus!*

19.



The God who revealed Himself openly and vividly to the world through the Incarnate Jesus who lived among humans, and who loved humans of every 'stripe and color', is the same God who desires to reveal Himself to you personally, through the 'Spirit of Christ' (Holy Spirit), in new and wonderful ways – if you are willing to open your mind, and tender your heart, and submit your will to the Christ, who lovingly pursues you!

20.



The message (Revelation) which the Living Christ (through the instrumentality of the Holy Spirit) wants to give to you may be so wonderful that you at first will 'shake your head in unbelief'!

21.



The Living (Incarnate) Christ is getting you ready for a new revelation in your life which, if you accept it, will result in deepening your faith and belief in the One who loved you so much that He left the Ivory Tower of Heaven!

22.



The Incarnate Christ walked the shores of Lake Galilee, healed the blind, fed the crowds on the hillside spoke forgiveness to the tax collector, laughed with the children, and gave assurance of new life to the dying thief. This same compassionate, earthly Jesus is ever ready to comfort your aching heart, to strengthen your weakened will, to quiet your annoying fears, to still your dark doubts, and to finally open the Gates of Heaven to welcome you to your eternal home.

23.



The miracle of the Incarnation (God becoming a man) is the source from which all other miracles derive – even the miracle of God's entering your own life (patterned after the miracle of God entering human existence). Christ wishes to 'incarnate' (indwell) your little life with His own divine life. He desires to work with your hands, to think with your mind, to feel with your heart, to speak with your words, to perform miracles in the lives of those around you through your faith!

24.



Experiencing Christ's presence in the commonplace daily events of your own life will someday result in you experiencing Him in some unusual way!

25.



Jesus' plans for you (to save the lost ones, and to edify the believing ones) will always challenge you – as a Christ-follower – to develop

greater trust and greater belief and great obedience!

26.



Followers of the Living (Incarnate) Christ should, by their very presence in the 'world of men', bring peace where there is discord, bring joy where there is sorrow, bring calm where there is crisis, bring hope where there is despair! As Jesus was the 'Incarnation of God's Love', so Jesus' followers should be, in a smaller way, the 'incarnation' of God's Holy (compassionate) Love, in the world of very needy persons!

27.



Jesus, in 'the flesh' for a brief time, brought joy to a joyless sin-burdened world, and even now Jesus, in the 'person of the Holy Spirit', brings 'joy unspeakable' to this present heart-broken world. Jesus will always be the one and only true 'Source of Rejoicing'! Christ is the source of joy, and all persons, regardless of their social status, are the God-intended objects of Christ's Joy! Hallelujah! To all who submit themselves to the

Lordship of Christ, Christ has the gift of 'Heaven like' joy to give away!

28.



The Coming of the Incarnate Christ (with all His benefits to mankind, both personally and socially) is the result of the redemptive plan of God. This plan was fulfilled because God is a God of integrity! What God intended - the sending of His Son to a sin-cursed planet - God fulfilled! In the 'fullness of time' God sent His Son to earth, to be born of a virgin, to live a sacrificial life, to die a substitutionary death, to win victory over sin and death and hell and the devil through His powerful resurrection! These complex and mysterious 'events' - all because "God so loved the world" of sinful human creatures that He desired to rescue them from their head-long 'journey to a terrible eternity'!

29.



The Coming of Jesus (Incarnation), inaugurated the Kingdom of God, and it signaled, not

national victory of the Jews over the oppressing Romans, but spiritual victory for every man who willingly will submit to the Kingship of Jesus!

30.



The 'drawing love' of God, manifested supremely in the 'drawing love' of the Incarnate Son while He ministered to hurting people on earth, and when finally, He was fatally hurt on the Cross of Calvary. This 'drawing' love is the strongest of all motivations for 'Christ followers' to likewise exercise 'drawing love' towards their fellow human beings (saints and sinners alike)!

31.



The most important question in the universe: "Is Love or is Hate at the center of the Universe?" In other words, "What is at the heart of God's Nature?" When Jesus came to earth, Jesus showed mankind what the true 'Nature' of God really is! What Jesus was on earth - perfect Love - God has always been! A most glorious revelation! "God Is Love" - the greatest revealed 'mystery'! Unconditional Love for all persons - this is God's

'Magnet' that strongly draws all men to serve the Living Christ!

32.



The Coming of Christ to Earth (the Incarnation) is the fulfillment of man's ancient longings, the redemption of man's sins, the strength of man's salvation, the protector from man's spiritual enemies, and the enabler for man's call to holy and righteous living! These truths declare that the Incarnate One (the Living Christ) is all-sufficient for you today!

33.



Christ came to reconcile sinners to Himself. If we are to enter the true spirit of Christmas, we must enter the spirit of reconciliation with God and with our fellow men. God, who (because of Christ's 'finished work' on the Cross and through His Resurrection) is now reconciled to the entire (sinful) human race! God gives 'power' (enablement) for human beings (as sinful as they are) to be reconciled, both to God and to fellow human beings. The true meaning of Christmas is spelled 'Reconciliation'! Christ makes it possible for sinful

man to be reconciled with the 'all-holy' God, and with every other God-created being!

34.



The true meaning of Christmas is found in the fact that the God who rules the vast universe, has stepped out of the Universe to dwell upon this little, insignificant, sin infested planet, to live and to die for lost (wicked) human beings! Why such unfathomable Love from an all-holy God? Because God deeply (unreasonably) loves a lost and an undone race of wretched creatures - who were in the beginning created for 'greatness', but who lost their 'greatness' because of the terrible 'intrusion' of willful transgression against God's revealed 'law'! God desperately loves His 'lost creatures', and He has done everything possible (and necessary) to establish intimate 'fellowship' once again with his 'rebel children'!

35.



God, when He came to earth in the person of His Son, provided the world of lost human beings with the clearest and the most focused 'witness' (evidence and demonstration) of the 'truth' of God's eternal nature! By words and by deeds and by per-

sonality, Jesus witnessed to everyone with whom He had 'contact'! God (as clearly seen in His own revealed Son) is a 'God of Love'. There is no greater 'witness' to God's Love than the 'witness' of Jesus - Jesus who was on earth, the very 'personification' of 'Holy Love'. There was not one word, not one action, not one attitude of Jesus that was not a demonstration of 'Perfect Love'! The Incarnation of God is the 'Incarnation of Total Love' (eternal, unconditional Love)! It is 'easy' for 'Christ-followers' (love-motivated disciples of the Incarnate One) to do what their Master did (while He trod the dusty roads of earth), namely, to 'reach out in love' to lost and dying human beings! When the love of God is 'shed abroad' in their hearts, it is 'most natural' for believers to share that 'holy love' with a needy world! Every Christian desires to follow the 'witnessing pattern' of their 'witnessing Lord'! Jesus came to earth to witness for His Heavenly Father. So, Christians follow the 'Lead of Jesus', and they too 'witness' (naturally and joyously) in their 'own world, for the glory of the matchless (incarnate) Lord!

36.



We are a witness first by personally experiencing an encounter with the Living (Incarnate) Christ, and then we do witnessing by telling others about the Christ who has personally touched our

lives. I witness by what I am, before I witness by what I say. Witnessing is first a 'noun', before witnessing is a 'verb'!

37.



God is the 'God Who Acts'. God is the 'Master Initiator'. God, driven by His Eternal Love, made the great leap - down, down, down from the 'Heights of Heaven' to the 'Depths of Earth', from the place of 'Spotless Purity' to the place of 'wretched filth and wickedness'. Only His great eternal love made my Savior come to this 'fallen world'! Incomprehensible (unreasonable) Love - Divine Love!

Sinners who are amazingly transformed by the power of the Living Christ (through the Spirit's 'work of grace') - these changed persons become 'Agents of God's transforming power'! Christ's redeemed children have no intrinsic 'power' to change lost sinners, but Christ through the Holy Spirit, nevertheless, chooses to 'use' believers to 'witness' to sinners (to influence sinners) to turn to Christ. Just as God took the 'initiative' to send His Son to a 'lost world', so God intends for believers to take the 'initiative' to 'reach out in love' to sinners!

Following the 'master example' of God (when He took initiative to send Jesus to earth to become

the world's Savior), believers too are forward-moving, not backward-looking; outward, not inward; extroverted, not introverted' aggressive not passive; experiential, not theoretical; concrete, not abstract; contagious, not drab; persuasive, not coercive; universal, not exclusive.

38.



Following the example of Jesus, you can be a winsome witness for Jesus – by your changed personality, by your clear words, and by your kind deeds!

39.



Because of your transformed character, your personal testimony, and your compassionate deeds, there will be many who will surrender their lives to Christ the Lord, the Babe of Bethlehem, the Very One who transformed the lives and the words of the first shepherds long ago!

40.



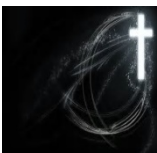
It is hard to imagine that God – the One who is omnipresent (everywhere at one time) – could confine himself to one human body for over three decades! The story of Christmas is the story of the omnipotent (all-powerful) God becoming a Man – a Man who greatly limited Himself while He was embodied in a ‘flesh and blood’ body, subject to human limitations and fleshly weaknesses! How amazing that He who is so far above and so far removed from man (in His eternal ‘dwelling’) could Himself become a finite Man!

41.



The Incarnate Son (Jesus) is God focused, God approachable, God knowable, God touchable, God seeable, God ‘domesticated’!

42.



Is God a ‘detached’ (aloof) God, or is God an ‘involved’ (approachable) God? The Incarnation teaches us that God, far from being detached and disinterested in Man, is, instead, the God who has taken the initiative in seeking and in saving mankind! The amazing news in the Christmas Story is

that God is in our world, that He is not far removed, but, instead, He is totally involved with the deep needs of every person! Jesus, in His Incarnation, teaches that God is personal and warm in His personality, and that He also is personable in His relationship with every one of His creatures!

43.



How amazing that He for whom all riches in creation were made, left all those riches to be reduced to earth's poverty!

44.



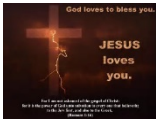
The most amazing reality, of all amazing realities, is this: that He who was so glorified, occupying the center of attention in the Universe (and in Heaven itself), should become on earth an object of cruel scorn and heartless rejection, eventuating in crucifixion!

45.



Jesus has permanently been 'tainted' (as it were) because of his 'dive' into the depths of the 'sea' to recover the precious object of his greatest longing - lost mankind that lay at the bottom of the ocean of sin and corruption!

46.



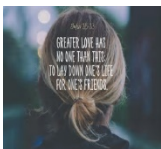
God sent Jesus to this Earth, to be the Divinely-ordained 'Bridge-builder' - to provide a means by which the sinner can have access to the forgiving God'. In other words, Christ came to be the Perfect High Priest - to make it possible for sinful man to come into the reconciling presence of the all-holy God (through the atoning 'blood' of the suffering Savior). The great 'gulf of sin' has been 'bridged' by Christ (the Incarnate One)! Properly to respond to Christ, is to recognize Him as my Priest, and then, boldly though humbly - to come to Christ to become reconciled to Almighty God! The 'bridge' (of Christ) is offered to every person, but only those who (by trust and belief) 'Step over the bridge' are saved (saved from sin and saved for Heaven)!

47.



To stop with the Babe of Bethlehem, without considering the Christ of the Cross, is to miss the meaning of the Incarnation! Christ was born to die! Why? To provide 'justifiable' means by which God would be 'allowed' to forgive guilty sinners, and to reconcile lost persons (i.e., to provide the 'means' by which God could establish an intimate relationship with 'fallen' and rebellious sinners). Properly to respond to the Incarnate Christ means that I affirm the fact (reality) that Jesus died for me personally - the highest possible 'cost' to purchase my salvation (through Christ's atoning blood)! Christ's death spells life (abundant life and eternal life) for me! Wonder of all wonders! The wonder of Christ's accomplishments through His Incarnation 'acts'!

48.



Are you too 'proud' (self-sufficient) to worship Jesus in a 'lowly' (smelly) manger, or to associate with 'lowly shepherds' (lowest in social status), or do you, instead, personally sense that you do not deserve the 'least' of God's favor? There are only two kinds of persons in this world: those who know they are 'in sin' and that they are

helpless and hopeless without a Savior; and, on the other hand, those who feel they are so (inherently) 'good' in their own lives that they do not need a Savior! The 'lowly' Shepherds and the humble 'Kings' from the Orient - these persons found the Christ-child (and they gladly worshipped Him)! On the other hand, King Herold proudly denied the Christ-Child, and he, with great hostility, sought to kill Jesus! You know don't you, who responded (according to 'Reality) to the Incarnate Babe of Bethlehem? Who do you think ended up (finally) in Heaven?

49.



There are only three (basic) responses to Christ: (1) Hate Him, as demonstrated by King Herod (who sought to kill Jesus); (2) Remain indifferent to Him, as demonstrated by the Jewish religious leaders (Scribes); (3) Worship Him, as demonstrated by the 'Wise Men' and the 'lowly Shepherds'! Remember: If you, like the latter persons, respond to the Incarnate Christ in worship and adoration and humble submission, there inevitably comes to you a sense of joy and fulfillment and contentment! In Christ's presence, there is joy forevermore!

50.



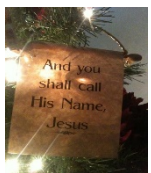
Since God took upon Himself human flesh we have no right to despise, debase, abuse, or destroy our own human form! The human body and human life, into which our Lord was born, is sacred, and it must be cherished (not worshipped, however).

51.



The greatest fact of human history is the fact that the God of the Universe became a man (in the person of Jesus Christ) – God's embodiment in human flesh is stupendous!

52.



The Incarnation is personally meaningful to all mankind because the God-Man (Jesus), who entered the womb of Mary, can enter the life of every person on earth!

53.



When the Incarnate Christ enters a man's life, a 'radiance streams upon him'. Life becomes radiant, filled with mystery, majesty, glory!

54.



Jesus, the Incarnate One, was the very 'essence' of Divine Love; Jesus revealed the greatest 'reality of the Universe', namely, that God, in His inner 'nature', is Absolute 'Love'! Those (humans) who 'fall in love' with this Incarnate Love (Jesus Christ) will overflow with God-like Love - the Love which enfolds all persons, and the love which seeks to introduce everyone to the 'Lover of Men's Souls' (none other than the Incarnate Christ)! 'Love Divine, all loves excelling, Joy of Heaven, to earth come down!'

55.



Jesus came to the broken-down world, to seek and to save lost souls, to transform wicked

persons, to enable the faithless and mundane persons to become faithful and dynamic persons. All of life, for the Christ-follower, changes! The secular becomes the sacred, the common becomes the extraordinary, the 'grays' become 'bright colors'! 'What a change has been wrought, since Jesus came into my life'!

56.



The fact that God loved humanity so much that He became a Man, should forever destroy a man's hurtful attitude of self-contempt. In addition, it should obliterate forever the false notion that God is an angry Judge, ready arbitrarily to strike down humanity! When God embodied Himself in human form (in the person of His Son), mankind learned that human beings are important (redeemable, savable)! Mankind also learned that God is a God of Love (not a God of indifference or a God of hate)! On earth Jesus worshipped His 'loving' Heavenly Father, and on earth Jesus also demonstrated His deep love for 'creatures of clay' (God-created human beings). Those who truly 'believe' (in their heart) that the 'loving Jesus' is God Incarnate, will be lovers of God and, they will be lovers of fallible persons (saints and sinners alike)!

57.



The Incarnate One, when living among men, revealed the nature of the God who is at the 'heart' of the Universe. The 'reality' is that Jesus (by His revealed acts and attitudes) demonstrates that God is merciful towards repentant 'sinners', but that He is also harsh (just) towards unrepentant (hypocritical and hard-hearted and self-righteous) persons! The Incarnation reveals that God is both merciful and just in His 'inner divine nature'. The Incarnate Christ came to earth to 'comfort the disturbed' ones, and to 'disturb the comfortable' ones. In other words, Jesus came to express mercy and to offer forgiveness to the truly repentant ones. He came also to manifest just judgment and condemnation to the Spiritually-Complacent, the indifferent and unrepentant ones. The 'spotless holiness' of the 'lowly Nazarene', in contrast to the 'tattered garments' of the self-righteous scribes and Pharisees, brought scorn and bitterness from the lips of those who chose to reject the message of the Living Christ! Those who reject the Incarnate Christ, reject 'reality' (reject life everlasting)!

58.



God, in the person of Jesus, knows what it is to pass through childhood, adolescence, and manhood - with all the luring temptations unique to each stage.

59.



Jesus experienced both temptations of the flesh and of the spirit. He too felt the pull of materialism; the pull to popularity at any cost; the pull to accomplish the right ends with the wrong means, He was tempted in all points like as we are, yet WITHOUT sin.

60.



Jesus knows what it is to be misunderstood, rejected, and despised, and he also knows what it is to be hailed, praised, and followed. Jesus knew abounding times and abasing times, prosperity and poverty, apparent success and apparent failure, companionship and loneliness, joy and sorrow, acceptance and rejection. Through all the

changes and chances due to the ebb and flow of life, Jesus learned to be master of circumstances. As we might say today, Jesus learned to cope with life, to cope with the challenges and responsibilities of life. Jesus' life demonstrates God's total identification and involvement with man's daily changing experiences.

61.



If God is like Jesus, then that kind of God can freely and gladly have my heart's loyal devotion. God's gift was His all, for God emptied Himself totally for my redemption. What will be my gift to God? Nothing less than the giving of my very Self to God is worthy of God's infinite love for me. Thank you, God that Christmas was for the purpose of Easter! Jesus was born into this sin-cursed earth that He might die to deliver everyone from Sin! What a Marvelous Savior!

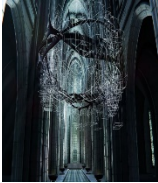
62.



Incarnation can never be rightly interpreted without gazing into the empty tomb and understanding the personal implications of the empty tomb! As Christ was identified with mankind in His

Total Incarnation, so every man can identify with Christ's total victory.

63.



John 1:14 is one of the highest marks of Biblical Revelation: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory of the only Son from the Father."

64.



Christ gave up the glory of Heaven to receive the Shame of earth - all because He loved a lost race!