The Heart of the Matter

The birth of Jesus was an extraordinary event in human history: God became a man without ceasing to be the one and only God. While Israel's high-born, well-educated elite advanced their status and pretended to seek God's favor, their Messiah quietly slipped into the world in the unassuming hamlet of Bethlehem. Yet for all their knowledge of prophecy and in spite of their anxious hope for a deliverer, few could see beyond the humble circumstances of His birth to appreciate the immense implications. Ironically, Israel's outcast and forgotten people had no trouble at all welcoming Him.

Discovering the Way

1. Jesus Was (and Is) God (John 1:1–2)

Before Jesus came in the flesh, born to a young couple in a stable in Bethlehem, He existed.

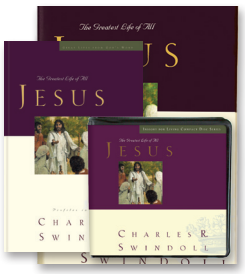
2. Jesus Became a Flesh-and-Blood Man (John 1:14; Philippians 2:5–8)

Jesus has always existed, but He set His divine glory aside to become like us.

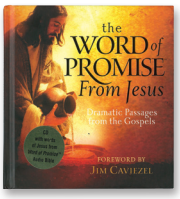
Starting Your Journey

When God walks into your life—and He has—will you be like Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds, recognizing that Jesus was deity in diapers? Or will you be like the innkeeper, shutting your doors and relegating Him to the stable?

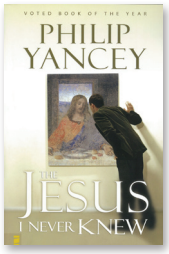
Tools for Digging Deeper



Jesus: The Greatest Life of All
by Charles R. Swindoll
softcover book, CD series, and Bible Companion



The Word of Promise from Jesus
by Thomas Nelson Publishers
hardcover book



The Jesus I Never Knew
by Philip Yancey
softcover book

For related resources, please call:
USA 1-800-772-8888
AUSTRALIA 1300 467 444
CANADA 1-800-663-7639
UK 0800 915 9364
or visit **www.insight.org**
or **www.insightworld.org**

Original outline copyright © 1998 and Message Mate copyright © 2008 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application