

**December 12, 2022**

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

**Gal. 4:4-5** *But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.*  
(NIV)

You may not have known this about the manger that Jesus was laid in. Of course, mangers are animal feeding troughs, but in ancient Israel they were made of stone - not what you would see in a modern-day nativity scene. Not comfortable, but great for protection. That's why those who were experts in this matter, the priests, would put their newborn lambs in them for protection. But not just any lamb, the unblemished perfect lambs that were used in the sacrifice for sins. And Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, was famous for their unblemished lambs that were used for the sacrifice. These lambs had to be perfect, so they would wrap them tightly in cloth and lay them in the manger to keep them safe. This is exactly why the only time mangers are mentioned in Jesus' birth story, it is because it is being told to shepherds. In **Luke 2:12** it says, ***"This will be a sign for you, you will find a baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger."*** The shepherds would have understood this powerful parallel! They knew what the cloth and the manger meant! This baby would be THE PERFECT LAMB OF GOD! The Messiah who would sacrifice His life for the sins of the whole world. He wasn't just a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger, He was GOD: perfect, sinless and Holy, humbling Himself to become the perfect sacrifice to reconcile us back to Himself!! And that, my friend, that Perfect Lamb, is WHY we should celebrate Christmas!

This happened at just the right time, the set time. That is why the angels appeared and began to praise God in the highest. Everything in God's plan is already set. It will come to pass. There is a set time that the Father will look at His Son and say, "Go get Your Bride." I believe that time is coming very soon. Look at the signs of the times. They are all being fulfilled. If you have not already, look to the Lamb as **John 1:29** says, ***The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!"***

**Dear LORD, thank You for coming at the set time to become the Lamb that was slain for our sin. You were willing to be born to die, to rise again and crush the power of Satan's sin. Hallelujah! In Jesus Name, Amen**