

Merry Christmas



While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

LUKE 2:6-7 NIV



The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.
¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him,
the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his
own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him,
to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become
children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of
human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.



¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have
seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the
Father, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1:9-14 NIV



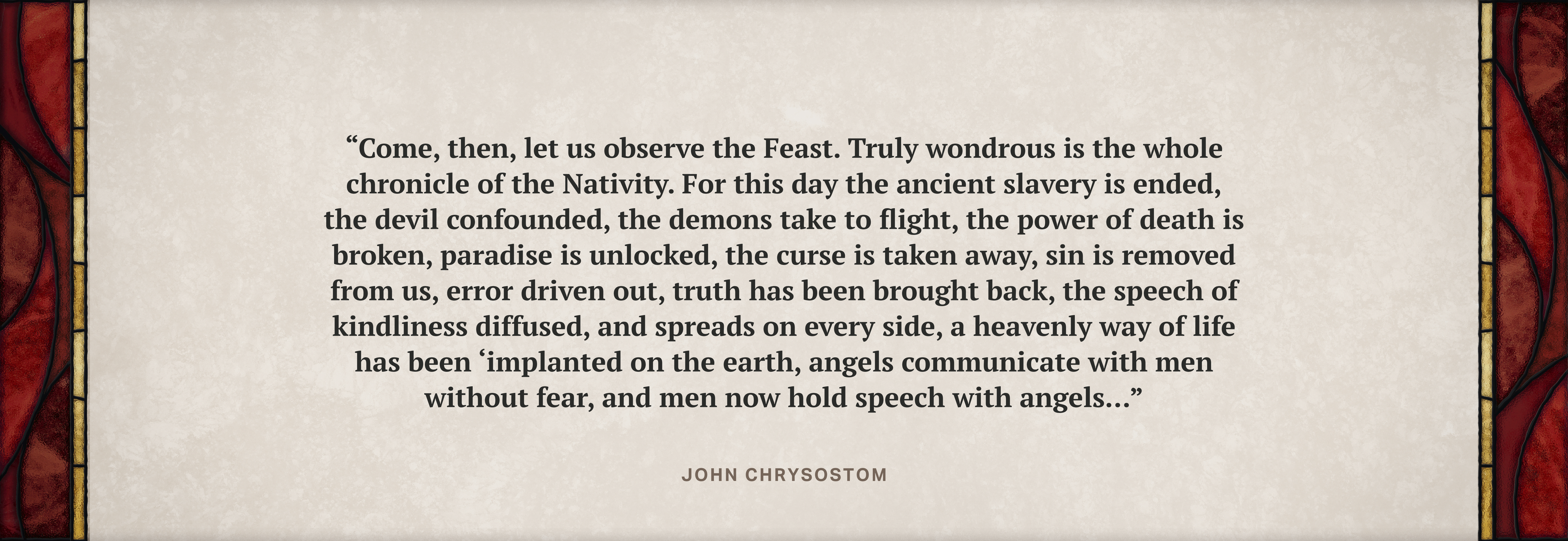
(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ ”) ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

JOHN 1:15-18 NIV

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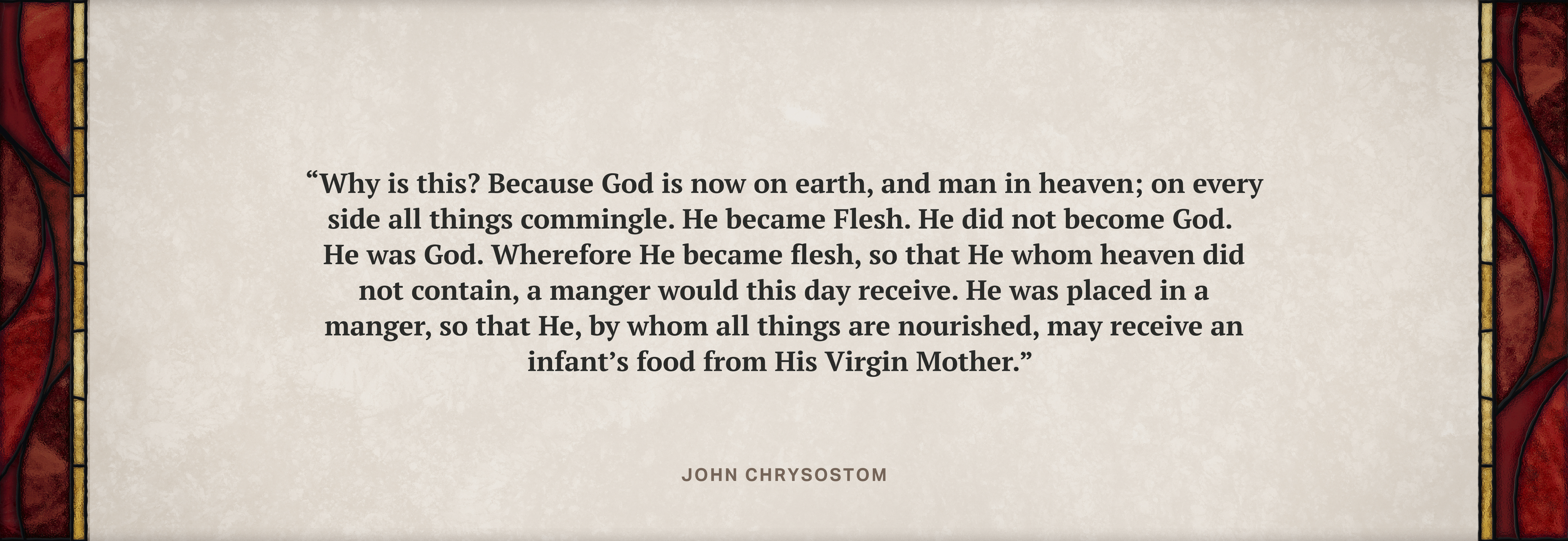
**O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord,
lying in a manger!**

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM



“Come, then, let us observe the Feast. Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been ‘implanted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels...”

JOHN CHRYSOSTOM





“Why is this? Because God is now on earth, and man in heaven; on every side all things commingle. He became Flesh. He did not become God. He was God. Wherefore He became flesh, so that He whom heaven did not contain, a manger would this day receive. He was placed in a manger, so that He, by whom all things are nourished, may receive an infant’s food from His Virgin Mother.”

JOHN CHRYSOSTOM



But Mary treasured up all these things and
pondered them in her heart.

LUKE 2:19 NIV



May we treasure and ponder the
good news that God has come to earth.