



# FAMILY STUDY

From A Throne to A Manger

EPISODE  
**6B**  
NIV

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## "From A Throne to A Manger"

### Leaving His Home...

"It is time." Jesus took one last look around Him. The glories of Heaven surrounded Him. Behind Him was His throne. In front of Him were thousands of angels witnessing the most important time of history at its beginning. Oh, the beauty of this place! Light was everywhere. Peace reigned here. All was as it should be, but this was not His home now. For the next thirty years or so, He would be living on earth, where there was little beauty, little joy, little peace. It was time to leave Heaven and begin the process of becoming a man who would one day die for the creatures He had made Himself. With one last look, He left. There was a hush in Heaven as Jesus, the King of kings, the Creator of the universe, and Mighty God, left.

Have you ever taken a moment to think about all that Jesus gave up for us when He came to earth? Imagine the glories of Heaven, the golden streets, the pearly gates, and the angelic music. Christ gave all of it up for us. If it had been you, would you have left Heaven to save an ungrateful, unloving, traitorous people? And yet, that's what Christ did. He left the glories of Heaven, set aside His own glory, and came to earth to be born in a dark, dank, foul smelling stable. What a contrast and rude awakening that must have been for Christ! The King's first earthly bed was a feeding trough that still had the residue of cow saliva. What humility! What love! Jesus gave up everything for us.

This Christmas, we encourage you to take a moment and read Philippians 2:5-11. Consider all that Christ gave up for us so that we might be with Him in Heaven. That is the true gift and message of Christmas.

### The Pre-Existence of Christ

While most consider Luke 2 and Matthew 1:2 to be the Scriptures telling the Christmas story, the Christmas story really began in Genesis, with the creation of the world. Jesus was there creating the sun, the moon, the stars, the oceans, all the creatures, and us. Jesus was not created. He has always been. John chapter one tells us that Jesus is God, and through Him everything was made. Below are several passages that tell us how Christ existed before His human birth here on earth some two thousand years ago.

Micah 5:2	John 1:1-4, 10-14	John 3:31
John 8:56-58	John 17:5, 24	1 Corinthians 8:6
1 Corinthians 15:47	Hebrews 1:2-3	Revelation 22:13

### The Reason for Leaving Heaven

When was the last time you read Revelation chapters 21 and 22? In these chapters, we read about the streets of gold, the jeweled walls, the crystal clear river, the great tree of life, a land of no shadows, or pain, or suffering. Why in the world, then, would Christ take His leave of this wondrous place?

When read in the context of the Christmas story, we see in Revelation 21 and 22 the reason why Christ left His Heavenly dwelling so that we could be with Him. God wanted to dwell with us in order to fellowship with us. But

we could not be with God as long as our sins remained. We're told in Romans 6:26 that sin's punishment is death. All of humanity is condemned to die for our sins. Yet, God in His mercy sent His Son to take our punishment. God left Heaven to die for us so that we could experience the glories of Heaven for ourselves. What great love God has for us!

Isaiah 9:6-7	John 3:16	John 6:38
John 15:13	Romans 5:5-9	Romans 8:38-39
Galatians 4:4-5	Ephesians 1:3-6	Ephesians 2:3-6
Titus 3:3-6	1 John 3:16	1 John 4:9-10

### The Humility of Jesus

Jesus deserved the best that earth had to offer, but instead, He willingly chose poor and humble parents. His first earthly visitors were lowly shepherds. He had the lowly job of a carpenter. He didn't even own his own home. And at the end of His life, He suffered a criminal's death. The King of kings was humiliated from the first moments of His earthly life, yet that is what Jesus wanted. He didn't come to be served but to serve US. He came in humility and as a servant.

Imagine the President of the United States giving up all recognition and glory to become the local trash man so that he could serve you. That is what Jesus did, except to an infinitely greater extent. No wonder He deserves our worship and praise!

Matthew 20:28	Luke 2:6-7	Luke 22:27
John 13:1-5	Acts 8:33	2 Corinthians 8:9

### O Holy Night!

In the stillness of one holy night and in the quiet of a lowly stable, a baby's cry could be heard. Outside, on a lonely hill filled with sheep and a few shepherds, the angels proclaimed the birth of the King of the universe.

We can imagine that the angels wondered what was going on. Why would God allow Himself to be born in a stinky, dark, unclean stable? Why not the finest palace where He could be laid in a cradle made of gold and jewels? Instead, the Creator of the universe was placed in the feeding trough of animals. But in all this, God had a plan.

Jesus had come to this earth not to be served as the greatest king, although He deserved it. No, Jesus came to serve. He came to bring us back to Himself. We had run away from Him and were lost. Now, it was time for Him to bring us back. Although He was just a baby, soon Jesus would grow up and would die on a cross to pay for the sins of everyone on earth.

The Creator of the world, the one who owned the riches of Heaven, gave up everything for us because He loved us.

Jesus not only died for us. He LIVED for us too. Jesus gave up everything so that we could have it all. Have you accepted this great gift? If not, make this your Christmas gift to Jesus. He gave His life for you, now give your life for Christ. Merry CHRISTmas!