



The Supreme Gift in a Plain Wrapper

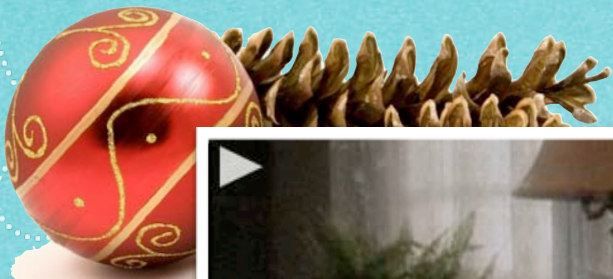
















GIFT



GIVER



RECIPIENT



He has given us
his *presence*

He is Immanuel –
God *with* us

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel,” which means “God with us.”

Matthew 1:22 – 23 – 22 (NIV)

Hebrews 2:14 – 18

¹⁴ Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. ¹⁵ Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

Hebrews 2:14 – 18

¹⁶ We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.

(NLT)

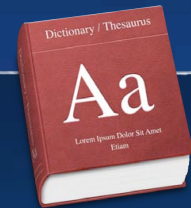


He has given us the
gift of *reconciliation*

He has given us his
presence

rec·on·cil·i·a·tion

the ending of conflict or
renewing of a friendly
relationship between
disputing people or groups



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Colossians 1:15 – 20

¹⁵ Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, ¹⁶ for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.

¹⁷ He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.

Colossians 1:15 – 20

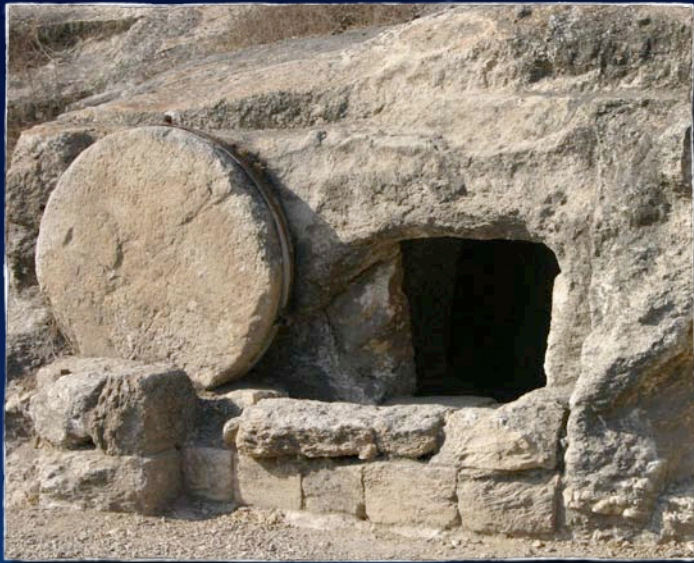
¹⁸ Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.

¹⁹ For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, ²⁰ and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. (NLT)

Colossians 2:13 – 14

¹³ You were dead because of your sins . . . Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.

¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. (NLT)



He has given us an
intercessor
a mediator

He has given us his
presence

He has given us the gift of
reconciliation

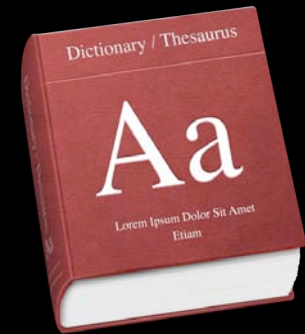
Acts 2:22 – 24

²² “People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. ²³ But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. ²⁴ But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. (NLT)

Romans 8:31 – 34

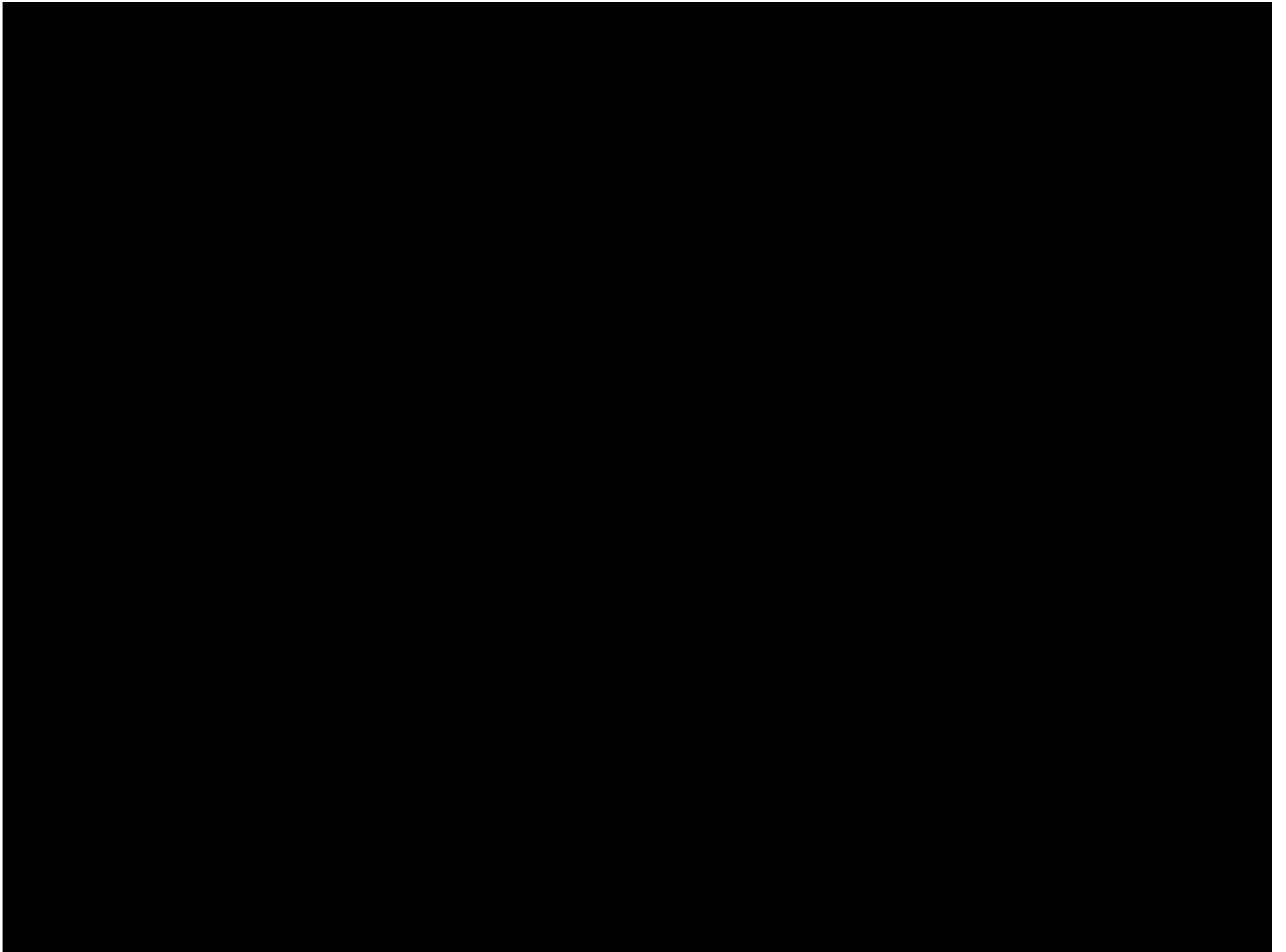
“³¹ What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³² Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? ³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, *interceding* for us.

(NLT)



in·ter·cede

1. to plead with somebody in authority on behalf of somebody else, especially somebody who is to be punished for something
2. to speak in support of somebody involved in a dispute
3. to attempt to settle a dispute between others



Luke 2:25 – 38



²⁵ At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him ²⁶ and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ That day the Spirit led him to the Temple.

Luke 2:25 – 38

So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law



required, ²⁸ Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised.

³⁰ I have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared for all people.

³² He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!”

Luke 2:25 – 38

³³ Jesus' parents were amazed at what was being said about him.



³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, but he will be a joy to many others. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. ³⁵ As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul."

Luke 2:25 – 38



³⁶ Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. ³⁷ Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer.

Luke 2:25 – 38



³⁸ She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began to talk about the child to them. They had been *waiting expectantly* for the Messiah in Jerusalem. (NLT)



² He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isaiah 53:2 - 3 (NIV)



“I have seen your
salvation . . .”

Luke 2: 30



“Take him away!
Take him away!”

John 19:15

John 1:1 – 18

¹ In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He existed in the beginning with God. ³ God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. ⁴ The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

John 1:1 – 18

¹⁰ He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. ¹¹ He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

John 1:1 – 18



¹⁴ So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

John 1:1 – 18

¹⁶ From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.



(NLT)

“I have seen your
salvation . . .”

Luke 2: 30



“Take him away!”

John 19:15

³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.

³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!” . . . ³⁵ “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.”

Luke 1:31 – 35





²⁰ . . . “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:20 – 21



Reflection Nebula NGC 1435



Joseph's Lullaby
Song By: Mercy Me
Video by: Robert Magee

Joseph Magee

