

ENDORSEMENTS

Perhaps one of the most important questions one could ever ask is “Why did God become man?” With the skill of a theologian and the heart of a pastor, Tom Ascol answers this question in a series of devotions that even a child can understand. The greatest event in history came to pass when God the Son became man to save us from our sins and to reconcile us to the holy God of heaven and earth. No one who belongs to Him can ever be the same again because He graciously changes His people by His love and His wise kingly authority. I highly commend this little volume for family worship during Christmas or to incorporate in your private devotions. I trust it will be a blessing to you as it was to me.

Dr. Tom Hicks

Pastor | First Baptist Church
Clinton, LA

With his characteristic pastoral insight, my dear friend Tom Ascol unveils the Lord Jesus Christ as the center of Scripture—from Genesis to Revelation—in this simple but profound collection of devotions on the incarnation. Rich in biblical theology and exegesis, this journey from creation to the cradle to the cross will lead you to greater wonder and admiration of the God-man who, though veiled in flesh, has perfectly revealed the Triune God to us and brings full and free salvation to all those who put their trust alone in Him.

Dr. Joel R. Beeke

Chancellor | Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary
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Grand Rapids, MI

The eternal Son of God humbled Himself by taking on frail human flesh—He entered into the world He made—to save us from our sins. Far from being the Triune God’s “Plan B,” this plan was decreed in eternity past. The glorious truth of the incarnation and what it means for us is worthy of our sustained attention, and Tom Ascol demonstrates in his book, *From the Realms of Endless Days*, how the Old Testament promised and anticipated what God accomplished in the New Testament. Not only is this devotional food for the soul, but Ascol also shows us how to do biblical theology well. He also helps us think and speak about God and the humanity of Christ well. And he does all of this in a way that leads readers into deeper devotion to the Lord. This book will make you worship. Take up and read and give glory to God for the salvation He has provided in Christ.

Joey Tomlinson

Pastor | Deer Park Fellowship
Newport News, VA



**FROM THE
REALMS OF
ENDLESS DAY**



FROM THE REALMS OF ENDLESS DAY

THOMAS K. ASCOL



FOUNDERS
MINISTRIES

From the Realms of Endless Day
25 Daily Devotions on the Promised Incarnation

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To

*Emily, Liam, Jason, Ezekiel, Isaac, Elliot, Calista, Elise,
Evelyn, Eila, Arden, Caleb, Everett, Maggie, Wulfric, Ian,
Edmund, Theodore, Josiah, Talia, August, Trudy, and Eliza*



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Begotten of the Father's nature,
 offspring of eternal love,
Human child of Mary's nurture
was conceived from pow'r above.

One with God's eternal being,
 one with us except our sin,
Opened God's redemptive wisdom,
 promised mercies to begin.

Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 from the cross into the grave,
This the death planned from the cradle,
 this the only death to save.

This the only Kin-Redeemer,
purchase price was Him alone.
He the God-man, intercessor,
none else could for sin atone.

From a manger of man's making,
to God's bless'd eternal throne.
He will judge the dead and living,
take the saved to be His own.

Never may we fail to worship,
never may we fail to bow.
Fathomless the grace that saves us,
worship ever, worship now.

TOM NETTLES



PREFACE

This book would not have been written were it not for the vision, thoughtfulness, and diligence of Kerry Regnier. He was the first to suggest that a collection of devotional reflections on the incarnation of the Son of God could be useful to individuals and families during the Christmas season. His work to make my words more readable in both this book and an earlier one, *As the Darkness Clears Away* (2024), cannot be overestimated.

One of the great joys of my life is to work with such competent, joyful colleagues at Founders Ministries. Their zeal for and devotion to the Lord Jesus encourage and challenge me to greater faithfulness in my own responsibilities. Randy Starkey, our Publications Director, has been especially helpful in getting this book off the press.

My wife, Donna, has been a constant blessing and help to me over our forty-five years of marriage. That has been particularly true in the production of this book. I thank the Lord for the privilege of being her husband. We loved celebrating the birth of our Savior with our six children as they grew up in our

home. Now it is our immeasurable blessing to celebrate the incarnation with our children's children. It is to those twenty-three (and counting!) wonderful grandchildren that this book is affectionately dedicated. My daily prayer is that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith and that the Lord will make them men and women who will joyfully stand for Him in their generation. May He do it for the glory of His own great Name.

INTRODUCTION

Around AD 140, a wealthy Christian ship owner named Marcion moved from Sinope, in what is now Turkey, to the city of Rome. Upon joining the Christian church in Rome, he fell under the influence of a false teacher named Cerdo. From Cerdo, Marcion started imbibing a gnostic view of the world, specifically a view that regards all matter as evil and only the spiritual world as good.

This, in turn, led him to conclude that a good God, who is Spirit, could not create a material world, which is evil. Since the Old Testament describes God as the Creator, Marcion reasoned that He must be inferior to the God we read about in the New Testament. He taught that the God of the Old Testament was a God of law, judgment, wrath, and war. But in contrast, the God of the New Testament is full of love, grace, and mercy. The New Testament God is the God of Jesus Christ.

Because he separated the God of the Old Testament from the God of the New Testament, Marcion rejected the Old Testament as being sub-Christian. The church at Rome excommunicated Marcion in AD 144 for his heretical teachings. So

he went on to establish his own church. He rejected the Old Testament completely and tried to remove all the Old Testament references from the New Testament Scriptures.

Marcion spent the rest of his life traveling around the Roman empire spreading his false views. According to the early church apologist Tertullian, Marcion started new churches as “wasps make nests,” and taught people “to deny that God is the maker of all things in heaven and earth.”¹ For about a hundred years, a growing number of people came to accept his teaching that the God of the Old Testament is not the God of the New Testament.²

Marcion and his teachings were roundly and repeatedly condemned as heretical. What he taught is diametrically opposed to true Christianity. Sadly, however, his views still have influence in the minds of some contemporary religious teachers.

That is one reason that the Old Testament is downplayed in many modern churches. It is why we are told to “unhitch” the Old Testament from the New Testament. The New Testament, which is the final revelation of God, is too often regarded as the *only* revelation of God—or at least the only

1. Quoted in Kevin DeYoung, “Marcion and Getting Unhitched from the Old Testament,” *The Gospel Coalition*, May 11, 2018, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/marcion-getting-unhitched-old-testament>.

2. See Sidney Greidanus, *Preaching Christ from OT* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 199), 18–19.

part of His revelation that truly matters. This is a dangerous, anti-Christian view that, if consumed, will ultimately undermine our faith.

Why? Because all sixty-six books of the Bible are inspired of God. As 2 Timothy 3:16–17 puts it, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” In other words, we will not profit from Scripture as we ought unless we receive all Scripture as being God-breathed for our instruction, correction, and training in the ways of Jesus Christ.

This certainly applies when we think about the incarnation of Christ. Too often our brains simply jump to Luke 2 and stay there when considering this miracle, but that is a limited view of the story that the entire Bible is telling. The whole Bible tells the story of redemption—the story of God’s redeeming grace in the person and work of Jesus Christ. From Old Testament to New Testament, the point of Scripture is to reveal God’s salvation of sinners through Jesus Christ.

Thus, the goal of this book is to take a brief flyover of the entire Bible. My prayer is that through this overview, our faith can be strengthened and our resolve can be renewed in the truth that the Bible is one grand narrative showcasing God’s glory and His plan of redemption through the person and work of His Son, Jesus Christ.

This little book is designed to be used as a daily devotional guide through the weeks leading up to Christmas. It is broken into five sections of five devotions. Each section focuses on a passage of Scripture that we will consider verse by verse. It can be easily used as an aid in personal or family devotions. Each individual study has some questions to help apply the passage and each section has a text to commit to memory. As a bonus, there are several original poems in this work from my dear friend Dr. Tom Nettles that I am sure will be an encouragement to you.

The incarnation of Christ is a grand mystery. Our minds cannot fully comprehend how God could become man to rescue us, His people, from the death and destruction that our sins rightly deserve. But this is the truth that the Bible shows us from Genesis to Revelation—that God *has* come to us. Jesus is “the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day.”

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

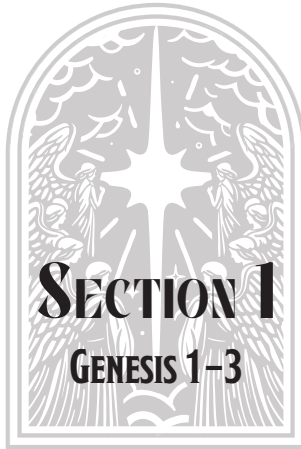
Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
“Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

—Gerard Moultrie



MEMORY VERSES:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

*I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.*

Genesis 3:15

The Lord will come to judge
Each nation, tongue, and race.
Though none can plead their innocence,
Yet many thrive in grace.

Planned before creation,
Before there was an earth,
The Son of God agreed to bear
The mystery of birth.

A virgin did conceive
And bear within her womb
A sinless child of innocence
With pow'r to rob the tomb.

“God with us” was His name,
A Savior, Christ the Lord;
Jesus, the one who felt our tears,
Took to Himself death’s sword.

No wonder kings brought gifts;
No wonder angels praise.
Their Master took the lowest place
That sons of God be raised.

TOM NETTLES





In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1



“IN THE BEGINNING, GOD”

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, better known as NASA, says, “According to the theories of physics, if we were to look at the Universe one second after the Big Bang, what we would see is a 10-billion degree [Kelvin] sea of neutrons, protons, electrons, anti-electrons (positrons), photons, and neutrinos.”³

But the real question is, what would you see one second *before* the Big Bang—you know, *in the beginning*? Where did those neutrons, electrons, positrons, photons, and neutrinos come from? What gave them their form and substance?

Speculative physicists contemplate what was before the Big Bang, but they know—just as every honest scientist knows—that pure science cannot give an answer. That is not a put-down of science; it is simply a recognition of its limitations.

3. NASA, “The Big Bang,” Space Daily, January 18, 2011, https://www.space-daily.com/reports/The_Big_Bang_999.html

At the heart of the scientific method is objective observation. And the simple fact is that, *in the beginning*, no one was there to objectively observe what took place. No one, that is, except God.

If you have ever heard me preach, then you have probably heard me say that Genesis 1:1 is the most important verse in the Bible. It sets the stage for how you understand everything else in the Bible and in your life. There was a time when nothing outside of God existed. Everything that is not God had a beginning. That means the world is not the result of random chance nor the product of impersonal forces. This truth provides us numerous, vital insights about God. However, I want to focus on just one: God's eternity.

God is eternal. The Bible repeatedly teaches us this truth about God. In Genesis 21:33, Abraham "called . . . on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God." Revelation refers to God as "the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end" (21:6; 22:13). This is a hard concept for us to conceive because we are time-bound creatures.

We often run out of time to get things done that we want to do, but God never runs out of time. Time itself is a creation of God, which means that He is not bound by time. He created time and uses it to fulfill His eternal purposes. Our God sees the end from the beginning. He is never in a hurry and is never late. Though He is eternal and exists outside of time, He sees what to us is past, present, and future with perfect clarity.

He fully understands the succession of seasons and moments that we experience because He created them, but He is not bound by them.

“Has it ever occurred to you that nothing has ever occurred to God?”⁴ That is a question worth pondering. He can enter time, and He has done exactly that when at just the right moment—what the Bible calls “the fullness of time” (Gal. 4:4)—He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus, to be born of a virgin as a human. All that Jesus accomplished in space and time was to provide salvation for everyone who turns from sin and trusts in Him. In Jesus Christ, God, the Creator—the self-existent, self-sufficient, eternal, transcendent, and immanent God—has come to us to dwell with us by becoming one of us.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think some people believe that everything came from nothing, instead of believing that God created everything?
2. What are some reasons that Genesis 1:1 is such a crucial verse for us to understand?
3. Why should Christians be comforted that our God exists outside of time?

4. I first remember hearing this question from Tom Nettles around thirty years ago.