

God became man at Christmas

John 1:1-4,14

Christmas is a contradiction

- Most significant event in the history of mankind since creation, yet it is only celebrated annually like another religious event.
- Even for Christians, it is often celebrated culturally without its true significance.

Ponder about Christmas

- What God did for us at Christmas....
- What is our response to Christmas...

The Word (John 1)

- **1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.
- **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.

The Word

- In the beginning was the Word(1)
- He was(2), in Him, through Him and without Him(3)
....pronoun of a Person
- **Eternal**...had no beginning
- **A Person**...a distinct personal being.

Word was God(1)

THE SON IS THE RADIANCE OF
GOD'S GLORY AND THE EXACT
REPRESENTATION OF HIS BEING,
SUSTAINING ALL THINGS BY
HIS POWERFUL WORD.

NIV[®]

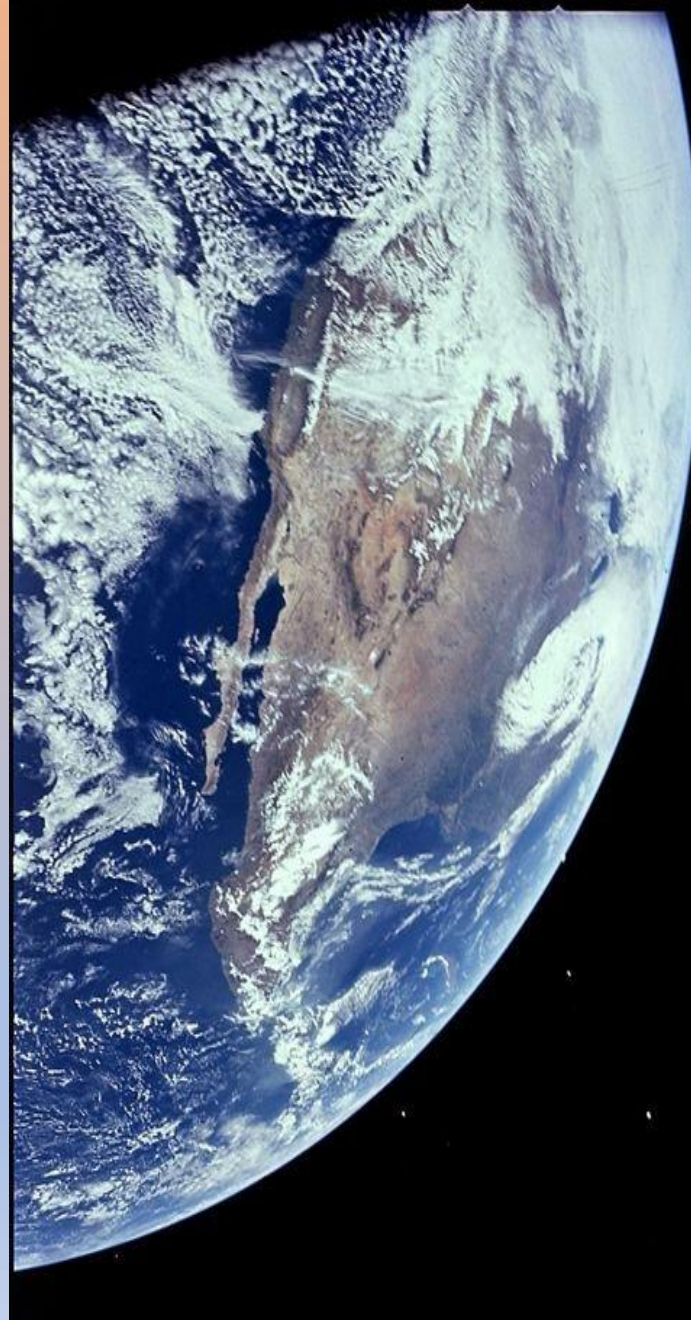
from
HEBREWS 1:3

- Second person of the Trinity
- Revelation and representation of God

Creator and giver of life

- Through Him all things were made(v3)
- the agent of every creative act of the Father.
- In Him was life(v4)
- Giver of life...origin and continuance of life.

- And that life was the light of men(4)
- Each person's life is an evidence of God in this world



For since the creation
of the world God's
invisible qualities-His
eternal power and
divine nature-have
been clearly seen,
being understood from
what has been made,
so that men are
without excuse.
Romans 1:19-20

Word incarnate

- Word became flesh...seen the glory of the one and only Son(v14)
- The baby in the manger at Bethlehem was none other than the eternal Word....the Son of God



INCARNATE

the Word became flesh and dwelt among us

John 1:14



- Latin word
'*carnis*'...flesh
- God became man in
Jesus Christ

The baby born...

- Real human baby



The baby born...

Fully God:

- He had not ceased to be God, was no less God then than before, but He had begun to be man
- He was not now God minus some element of deity, but God plus all that He made as man

Fully a man

- The Creator was now learning/ experiencing what it meant to be man.
- he was tempted by the devil (could not avoid it)
- the perfection of his human life was only achieved by his conflict with the devil like us.

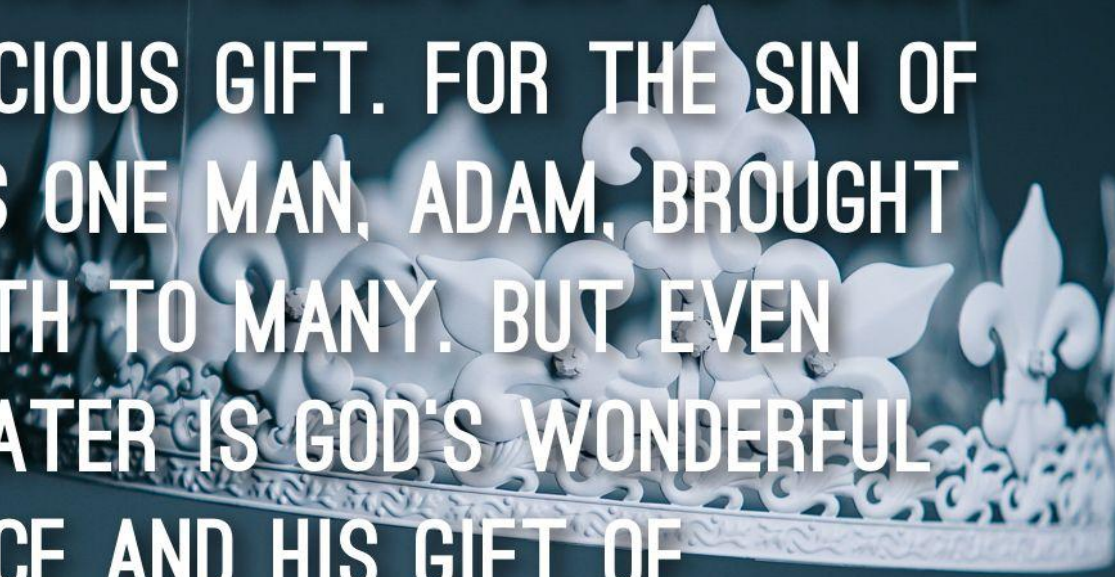
Hebrews 2: 17-18

- ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Reason...

made fully human

- Make atonement for sins
- Only a sinless man could die to pay the penalty of sin.
- Can the death of one man atone for the sins of many?



BUT THERE IS A GREAT DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN ADAM'S SIN AND GOD'S
GRACIOUS GIFT. FOR THE SIN OF
THIS ONE MAN, ADAM, BROUGHT
DEATH TO MANY. BUT EVEN
GREATER IS GOD'S WONDERFUL
GRACE AND HIS GIFT OF
FORGIVENESS TO MANY THROUGH
THIS OTHER MAN, JESUS CHRIST.
ROMANS 5:15

- Through Adam sin entered the world
- through Jesus Christ is atonement for sin

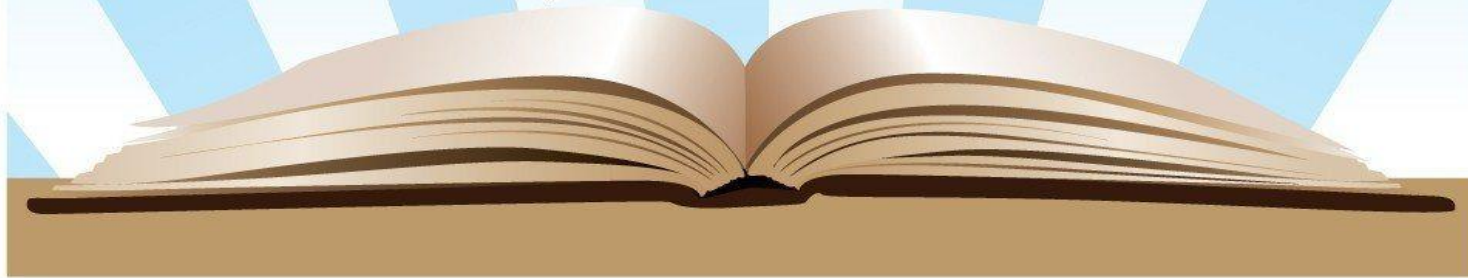
But it meant...

Human limitations:

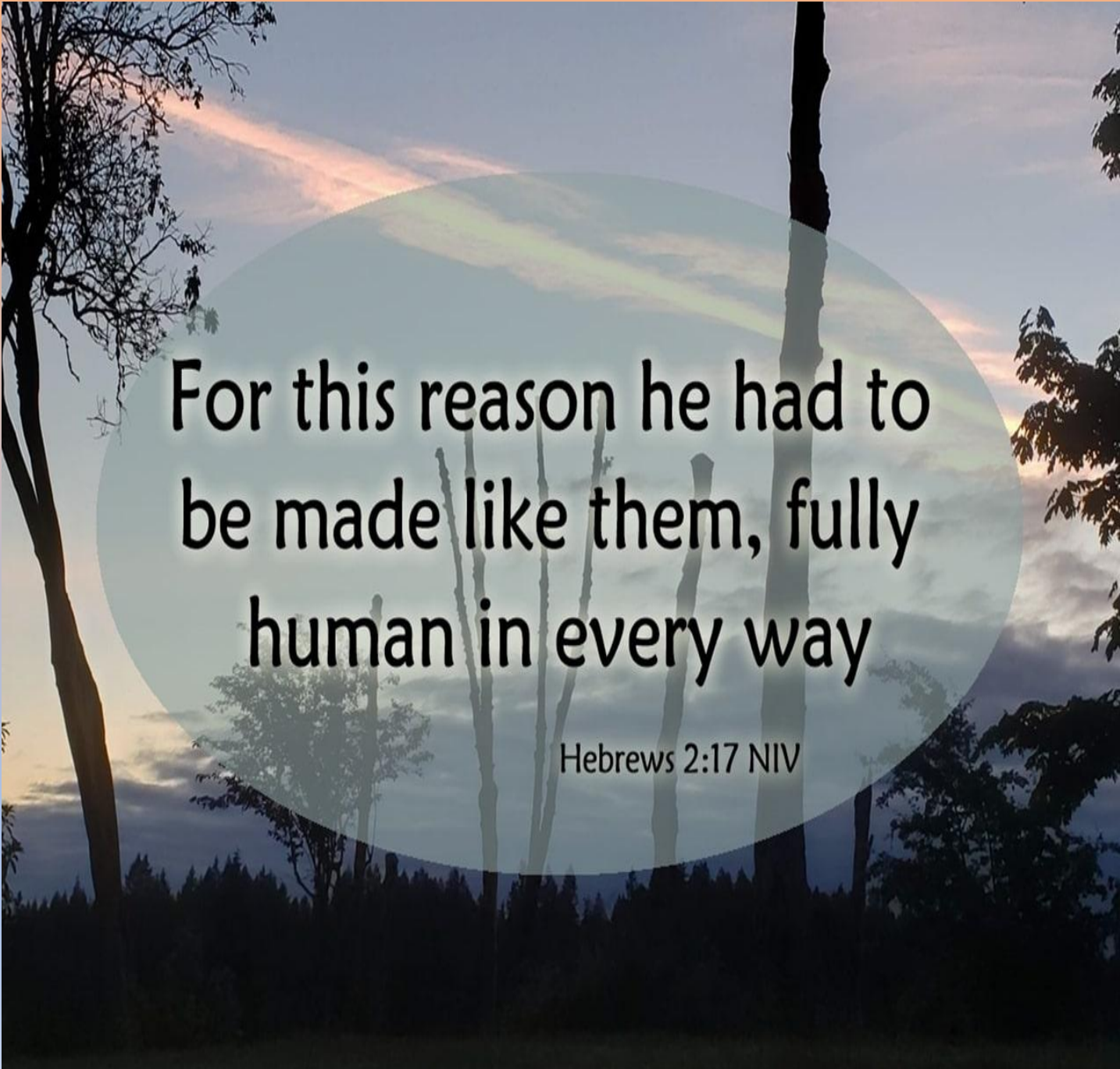
- He walked...was tired, thirsty and hungry
- He was sad...cried
- He slept.
- He also suffered disappointment, denial and betrayal
- He died a cruel and painful death

**For we do not have
a high priest who is
unable to empathize with
our weaknesses, but we have
one who has been tempted
in every way, just as we are
-yet He did not sin.-**

-Hebrews 4:15



- He was tempted but did not sin



For this reason he had to
be made like them, fully
human in every way

Hebrews 2:17 NIV

- A merciful and faithful High Priest
- He understand the suffering of temptation and human weaknesses.
- (Heb 2:17)

Athanasian creed:

- Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and man; ...perfect God, and perfect man: yet is he not two, but one Christ; one, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh: but by taking of the manhood into God
- **Perfect God, perfect man**

Became poor

**Our Lord Jesus Christ
... though He was rich,
yet for your sakes
He became poor,
that you through
His poverty
might be rich.**

2 Corinthians 8:9



John Piper

- You would think that if God so rule the world as to use an empire-wide census to bring Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, he surely could have seen to it that a room was available in the inn.
- Yes, he could. He absolutely could have! And Jesus could have been born into a wealthy family (or even of royalty)
- The question is not what God could do, but what he willed to do

God's purpose..

- That the birth at Bethlehem...
- Ended at the cross of Calvary.
- According to His Father's will, our Lord Jesus Christ was born into poverty, in a smelly stable, so that



HE MADE HIMSELF NOTHING BY TAKING THE VERY
NATURE OF A SERVANT, BEING MADE IN HUMAN
LIKENESS. AND BEING FOUND IN APPEARANCE AS A MAN

**HE HUMBLED
HIMSELF BY
BECOMING OBEDIENT
TO DEATH**

PHILIPPIANS

2:7-8

- 30 years later he might suffer and die on the cross for us.

Response

- Mary and Joseph
- Elderly Simeon
- Prophetess Anna
- Surrender /obedience
- Awaiting the Savior
- Rejoice and proclaim the birth

Mary's surrender

- ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus ³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” (Luke 1)

Surrender to God's will

- Mary was worried at the task ahead but she surrendered to the word of the Lord for her

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“I am the Lord’s servant,”
Mary answered. “May your
word to me be fulfilled.”
Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:38 NIV

B BIBLE PORTAL

“Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:20-21)

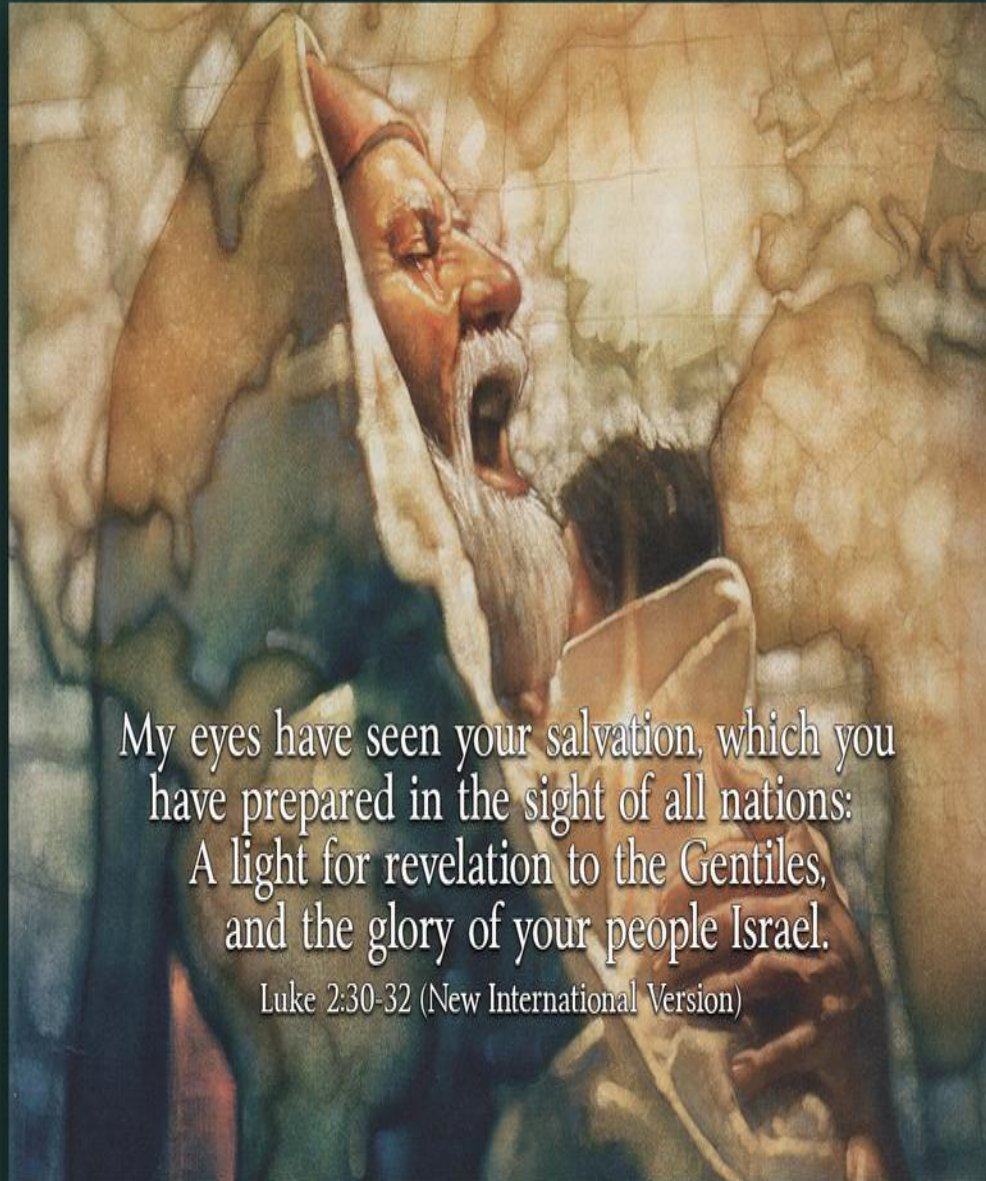
Obedience

- Planned to divorce Mary quietly.
- Joseph agreed to take Mary, who was with child, as his wife



Simeon's longing

- ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.
²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, (Luke 2)



My eyes have seen your salvation, which you
have prepared in the sight of all nations:
A light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2:30-32 (New International Version)

- My eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared for the nations

Acts 1:11

“Men of Galilee,” they said,
“why do you stand here
looking into the sky? This
same Jesus, who has been
taken from you into heaven,
will come back in the same
way you have seen him go
into heaven.”

Acts 1:11 NIV

- Christmas is a time to await the coming Savior
- Jesus will come as King and Judge, not a baby

Expectant attitude

- The first coming of Christ at Christmas and His return is one big event in the overall scheme of God's plan.
- Our Lord Jesus Christ brought the Kingdom of Heaven to earth...will return to bring its completion
- Phil 3:20 : But our citizenship is in heaven. And we await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ

Anna

- ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old... ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. (Luke 2:36-38)

Christmas is a proclamation

Joy to the world
The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart
prepare Him room

- Gratitude for God's gift
- Proclamation of Jesus



- Christmas is a time to share the Gospel of salvation (to our family, friends and colleagues)

Christmas reflection

- **Move out** of our comfort zone in obedience and surrender His word
- **Move in** to an expectant lifestyle consciously awaiting for the coming King and judge
- **Move on** to share the good news of Christmas

Move out

- Is the Lord leading you to move to a different work or life station for 2026 (that is out of your comfort zone?)
- Mary and Joseph was busy with marriage and starting a new life together until God intervene to upset them in their comfort zone.
- Moving out in surrender and obedience may mean going through tough and challenging times.
- Will you say yes to the Lord this Christmas?

Move in : Expectant heart



**BUT FIRST, BE CONCERNED
ABOUT HIS KINGDOM AND
WHAT HAS HIS APPROVAL.
THEN ALL THESE THINGS
WILL BE PROVIDED FOR YOU.**

MATTHEW 6:33 GOD'S WORD TRANSLATION

- Kingdom business and purpose
- Live to please Him

Move on

- To proclaim the good news of great joy

