

# Is the Christmas Story True?



The term **Jesus as God Incarnate** is the Christian belief that **Jesus is God** in human form. This is the part of the Trinity known as '**God the Son**'. **Incarnation** means 'made flesh'. It is the Christian belief that **God** became a man in the person of **Jesus**, fully human and fully divine.

<b>Bible</b>	The religious book that is important to Christians.
<b>Gospel</b>	The record of Christ's life and teachings in the first four books of the New Testament.
<b>Incarnation</b>	Jesus came to Earth as God's physical presence (the flesh).
<b>Nativity</b>	The story of the birth of Jesus Christ.
<b>Recount</b>	To retell the events of something that has happened.
<b>Compare</b>	To find the similarities and differences between things.
<b>Interpret</b>	To decide on the meaning of something by looking at the evidence. Different people may interpret events differently.

## St Matthew's Account of the Nativity

**Interpretations** of the Nativity are different in the Bible. **St Matthew's** account of The Christmas Story focuses on power. He focuses on:

- the importance of the sign of the star after Jesus' birth;
- the visitors to Jesus being very clever people – the wise men;
- the expensive gifts given to Jesus by the Wise Men;
- Herod, the king, being jealous of the birth of a new king and feeling angry.

## St Luke's Account of the Nativity

**Interpretations** of the Nativity are different in the Bible. **St Luke's** account of The Christmas Story focuses on the poor and vulnerable. He focuses on:

- the angel appearing to Mary to say a baby would be born;
- Mary and Joseph having to go to Bethlehem because of the census;
- Mary and Joseph having to stay in a stable and Jesus being born there;
- the visitors to Jesus (the shepherds) seeing an angel and being poor;
- Jesus being laid in a manger (a food trough).

