The Advent of Advent

Chapter 2 of Luke relates the wondrous story of the most celebrated birth ever, that of Jesus Christ! Every Christmas pageant, every Nativity scene, and every other depiction of Christ’s birth is based on Luke 2: 1-20. Only the visitation to baby Jesus by the three wise men is overlooked by Luke and is described instead by Matthew.

As Christians we regard baby Jesus as the ultimate gift FROM God, and rightly so! However, Jesus was also the gift OF God, because for the first time, in Jesus, God became directly accessible to people. At the end of Chapter 2, Luke tells of the 12-year-old Jesus staying behind in Jerusalem after Passover to interact with the temple priests. While the priests were highly impressed with Jesus’ knowledge and wisdom regarding his religion, Mary and Joseph were understandably upset for having to return and find him. Jesus’ response to their chiding – “Wouldn’t you know I needed to stay in my Father’s house?”—was indication that he was well aware of and coming to terms with his true identity.

Lord, thank you for this season of Advent and for the love and sacrifice your gifting represents. Amen!