

Introduction

- Hope you've enjoyed the clips and the fresh re-telling of the Christmas story!
 - must have been quite fun trying to come up with ways to connect what happened 2000 years ago with today - **angels as parcel delivery guys in their vans**, **wise men on their motorbikes**, **Joseph with his carpenters van!**
- That is the challenge though: to connect a story from long ago with our experience today
 - what does the birth of a baby have to do with me and you?
 - there have been billions of births over the years, many millions of them in less than ideal circumstances, like Jesus'...
 - what makes this one special?
- **Well, the angels are a bit unusual!**
 - **and Mary being a virgin isn't exactly common...**
 - but really, those are **pointers** to the real significance, signs if you like, meant to help folk then and now take notice
- For the significance of this birth lies in the identity of the baby
 - just who is he...
 - one final clip, and I'll read a few verses from various parts of the Bible that connect with the developing picture painted there of who Jesus is...

Final clip

- **(Luke 2:21)** On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived.
 - *(Read as Mary smiles to camera early on)*
- **(Luke 2:52)** And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.
 - *(Read as child does play carpentry)*
- **(Matthew 20:17-20)** Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"
 - *(Read as sawing action comes on)*

Conclusion

- The Bible's portrait of Jesus is not simply a baby album picture:
 - follows his growth as a child into adulthood, and then charts his impact on his community, and the legacy he left behind him....
 - someone whose birth alerted us to his significance
 - someone whose life - bringing hope and healing, setting an incredible example of sacrificial love - invites us to follow him
 - someone whose death, the Bible explains, makes possible a relationship with God
- Difference between a **helpline** and **someone coming** to sort your problem
 - whether NHS 24 compared to a doctor's home visit...
 - or a computer helpline from your ISP compared the the engineer calling...
- To really get to the bottom of a difficult problem, someone really has to enter into the situation
 - and that's what God did - entered the situation
 - at the Cross, and as he rose from death, he's finally fixed it...
 - but to do that, he had to enter in.... **Christmas!**