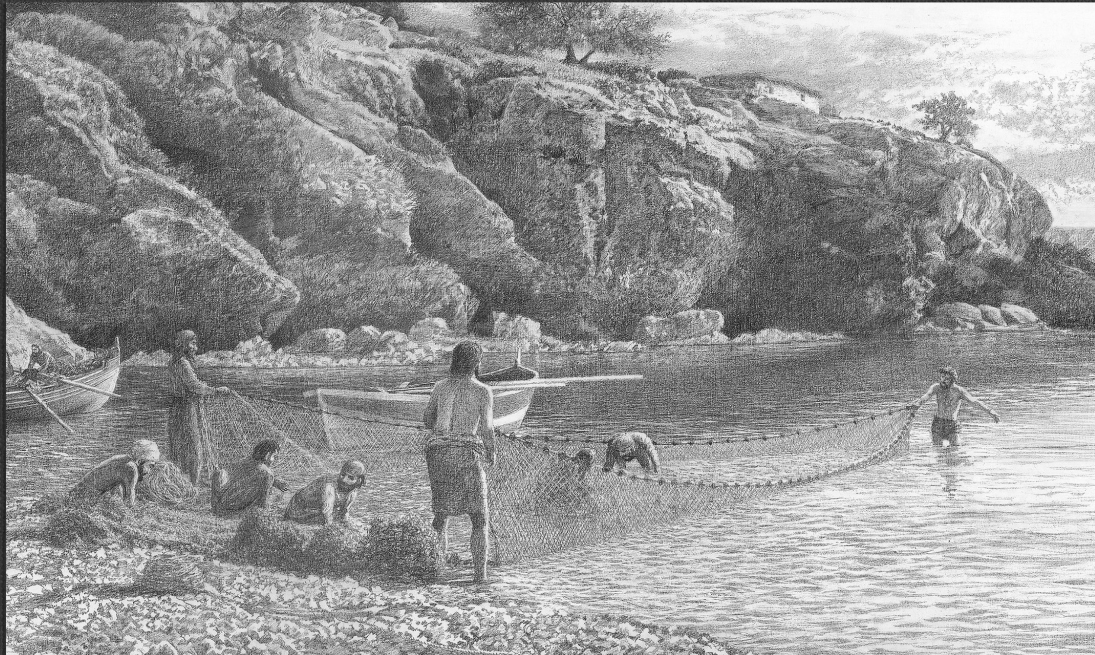


IMMANUEL

The Story of Jesus, God with Us



Artwork by ROBERT DOARES

Reflections by PAUL DAVID TRIPP

Immanuel

I M M A N U E L

The Story of Jesus, God with Us

Artwork by

R O B E R T D O A R E S

Reflections by

P A U L D A V I D T R I P P

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Immanuel: The Story of Jesus, God with Us

© 2026 by Paul David Tripp

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PUBLISHER'S PREFACE

THE FIFTY-FOUR DRAWINGS AND PAINTINGS reproduced in this volume comprise the entire collection of a most remarkable series. Created by artist Robert Doares over nearly thirty years, the *Immanuel* work is a remarkable accomplishment.

Those who have seen the series on exhibit are often astonished by its magnitude. The intricate detail, the panoramic vistas, the depth of expression, and the biblical reality are almost beyond comprehension. Certainly no one in modern times has undertaken to illustrate the Scriptures on this scale and with this level of technical expertise.

Here, in the creation of this volume, we have sought to make this experience available to the many thousands of readers who would otherwise be unable to see the *Immanuel* collection in person. At the same time, publishing the collection in book form presents a formidable challenge—perhaps the most difficult being how to capture the panoramic perspective of the original 48x15-inch art within the pages of a book. The greatest care has been taken, therefore, in the production of this volume—to capture the intricate detail, the subtle play of light and shadow, the nuances of tone and color. The result is an art book of the highest quality, which seeks to do justice to the brilliance of the art itself.

Remarkably, artist Robert Doares never intended the *Immanuel* series for public display or publication. Doares created the series purely as a personal expression of his faith and his desire to create works of art that would glorify God—never expecting that there would be any

public interest in his work. Wherever the pieces have been shown, however, the response has been extraordinary.

Doares began the work in the 1960s as a group of paintings on the life of Christ, which he hoped to complete sometime in the future. At that time, he was well established in his career as a commercial artist. The project, however, was set aside as he continued his career and then entered the field of fine art in 1969, which included shows at The Coliseum in New York and the New Jersey Master's show at the Heritage Gallery.

By the late 1970s, however, he realized that fine art had become just as commercialized as the work of illustration and lost interest in the field. Since an artist must “produce art or perish,” he was relieved when the idea for the life of Christ series resurfaced in his thinking. Because of his commitment to Christ, this undertaking put him on an entirely new and exciting path, and he picked up where he had left off nearly twenty years earlier.

Doares shared, “I always wanted to become an artist. So immediately following my high school graduation in 1929, I set out from Maxton, North Carolina, for New York City to begin my career.”

With only twenty-five dollars in his pocket, he took whatever odd jobs he could find while developing his talent in his spare time. It took ten years before he got his first big break at Wanamaker's Men's Store, where he convinced the store that some of their blank walls could be enhanced by murals.

With his career as a commercial artist just beginning, Doares studied at the Grand Central School of Art, taking courses briefly under Harvey Dunn, fondly remembered as the “dean” of American illustrators. In 1941, classified as an artist, Doares entered the military, where his duties included mural painting, training aids, and teaching art.

After World War II, Doares continued his career as a freelance illustrator, doing cover and story illustrations for such leading publications and publishers as *Outdoor Life*, Doubleday, and Harpers.

One of the most striking features of his work is his intricate attention to detail and historical accuracy. Doares noted that a wealth of archaeological material on the life and times of Christ became available. He supplemented these findings with trips to the Library of Congress and to Israel, including numerous photographic excursions, contacts with archaeologists in the field, and research in Greek dictionaries and other sources. All of this provided him the extensive background information he needed to approach each drawing from a historic *and* religious point of view.

At the same time, Doares cautioned that authorities in every field sometimes differ. Therefore, he had to decide in some cases how best to use the research material. Whenever the available information conflicted with the biblical narrative, Doares noted, the Bible was the authority he followed. But since the Bible gives little detail about settings and locations, it was necessary to use imagination in the pictures. “If people have a better idea than what I have drawn,” Doares explained, “I urge the viewers to

keep their own idea of the way they see the scene. My hope is that in the next life the Lord will let me do a new, completely accurate version!”

As we present this new edition, we do so with deep gratitude for the enduring significance of Doares’s work and with great joy in introducing a new dimension that enriches the artwork. In this edition, *Immanuel* not only portrays the biblical scenes with artistic beauty, but now also includes devotional reflections from Paul David Tripp. Each illustration is accompanied by a short passage from one of the Gospels and a brief meditation from this bestselling author, offering a thoughtful and worshipful glimpse into the meaning of Christ’s life and ministry. Together, the visual artistry of Robert Doares and the devotional insights of Paul Tripp serve to illuminate the profound truth embodied in the title of this work: “Immanuel”—God with us.

It is our earnest prayer that the Lord would again be pleased to use this book to draw readers into a deeper understanding of the glory of Christ, and that through the combined gifts of art and biblical reflection, many will behold more clearly the wonder of the one who came to dwell among us.

LANE T. DENNIS

Founder of Crossway

and

JOSH DENNIS

President and CEO of Crossway

INTRODUCTION

IT'S NOT INACCURATE to say that the Bible is the biography of Jesus. From the earliest chapters of Genesis, the Old Testament references him, points to him, and with divine surety, predicts his coming and his work. The Gospels invite us to see and understand the essential substitutionary nature of his person and work. With the Gospels, we stand up close and personal, eavesdropping on the most important person who ever lived. As we read, we celebrate his wisdom, we are in awe of his power, we are stunned by his righteousness, we weep as we view his torturous death, and we go away from his empty tomb and his ascension with renewed hope. The rest of the New Testament books exegete and apply the redeeming work of Jesus that the Old and New Testaments record.

Jesus is the hero of the biblical narrative, every promise of God rests on his shoulders, and he is the grace of God come in the flesh. The Jesus-focus of the biblical narrative is meant to comfort us with the fact that God's anger with sin results in the pouring out of his mercy. And the Immanuel-focus of the biblical story is also designed by

God to confront us. We are not okay on our own. We are in desperate need of what only Jesus can give us. To look at ourselves any other way is a grand and destructive delusion. The preeminence of Jesus in Scripture is meant not just to theologically inform us, but also, more importantly to spiritually transform us.

But we have a problem. With all of God's loving zeal to keep Jesus always before our eyes, we can fall into living grace-forgetful, gospel-forgetful, and Jesus-forgetful lives. The grace that he has given us and the life that he has called for us to live somehow fade into the background with the tyranny of our own desires and the busyness of our lives. Although most of us don't forsake the faith, we fall into shrinking our lives down to the narrow confines of what we want, what we feel, and what we think we need. This results in a dichotomy and disharmony between what we say we believe and how we live in the situations, locations, and relationships of our everyday lives. So, when it comes to money, marriage, sex, parenting, friendship, work, our education, and our possessions, what we desire and choose and what

we do and say isn't formed and directed by the cover-to-cover gospel message that God has so lovingly recorded and preserved for us.

But God knows our weakness and stoops to help us. He has many tools in his toolbox of grace that are designed to pull us away from our easily distracted and self-oriented ways of living. He gives us his word; the teaching, preaching, and worship of his church; and the fellowship of brothers and sisters who are on this journey of grace with us. He raises up people with communication, writing, and artistic gifts to help us remember Jesus, seek and celebrate his grace, and surrender all that we are and have to him. He knows that Christianity is not an individual pursuit but that we need to be touched by many hands if we are to grow in grace and in love of Jesus.

This book is one of those gifts. When I first saw the Robert Doares's drawings, they took my breath away. It's not just that the artistic skill employed in each is amazing, but also that they empower you to see and consider the person and work of the one who is God's greatest, most precious, and most essential gift to us. Whether it's the angels

announcing his birth to lowly shepherds, his childhood visit to the temple, the late-night visit of Nicodemus, the Sermon on the Mount, the glory of his transfiguration, or his trial, death, and resurrection, each scene bursts to life with beauty, clarity, and power. Not only does this book capture fifty-four moments in the life of Jesus, but each is accompanied by a brief devotional that applies these moments to your heart and life.

I don't know when I've felt more honored to be part of a gospel project. I am moved by the thought that the drawings and devotionals together will be used by God to help you see Immanuel and rest in the hope that can only be found in him. This isn't a book that is designed for a single viewing and reading. No, here is something you should go back to again and again so that God's gift of his Son would be always in your eyes and the central love of your heart.

PAUL DAVID TRIPP

August 27, 2025



1. THE NATIVITY

Luke 2:1–7 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem,

because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

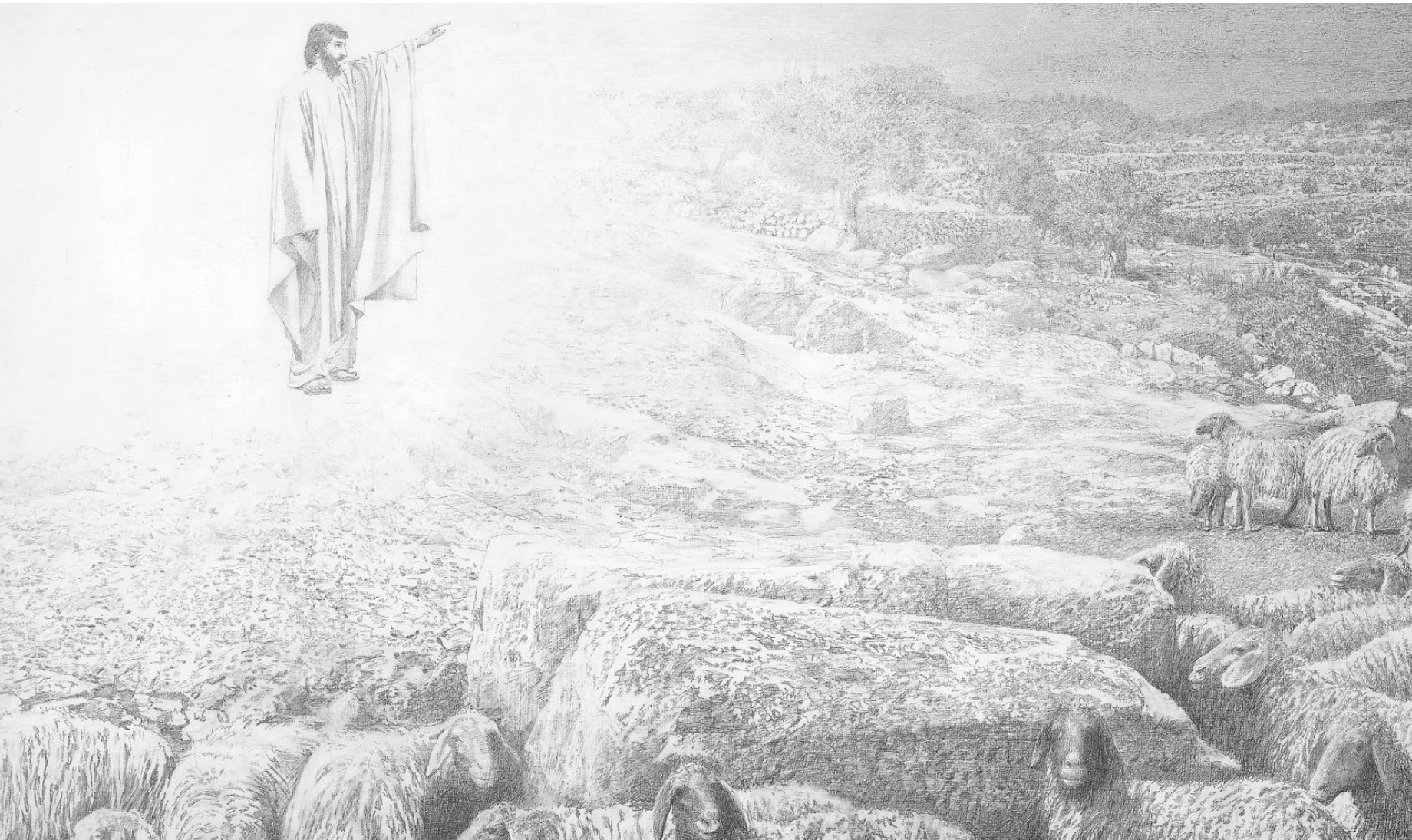
Reflection At the first Christmas, something radical happened: the gift was the giver. God knew that the only thing that could rescue us from ourselves and repair the horrendous damage that sin had done to the world was not a *thing* at all. It wasn't the establishment of an institution. It wasn't a process of intervention. It wasn't some new divine



program. It was a person, his Son, the Lord Jesus. God's response to our rebellion was to give us himself. Look into that manger at that baby boy and see grace. The Christmas story is about grace in its most shocking and surprising form. The Lord of lords, one of incalculable glory, humbles himself and takes on human flesh and blood. The Creator,

in a way that boggles the mind, becomes the created. The one who made a perfect world now exposes himself to a world stained with imperfections. The judge of all things places himself under judgment. The one who deserves worship becomes the Lamb of sacrifice. The one who deserves everyone's love subjects himself to being despised

and rejected. The one who owns all things lives with no place to call home and no place to rest his weary head. That's worth celebrating, not just on one special day but on every day of your life and for the rest of eternity too!



2. THE ANGELIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Luke 2:8–19 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,

who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over

to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.



Reflection It was the most important event ever, accompanied by the most important song ever, containing the most important announcement ever. “Glory” and “peace” are the two principal words of this hymn. And while this hymn is one of celebration for the birth of the Messiah who was promised, these two words also define our deepest need, and in defining our need, they define the mission of that

baby in the manger. Everything you think, say, and do is done in pursuit of some kind of glory. We were created to exist with the glory of God in view every moment, but we choose to live for the glory of ourselves and chase the glories of creation rather than the glory of the Creator. You and I were also created to live at peace with God and with others, but because of our glory idolatry and glory confusion, our

relationships—both vertically and horizontally—are anything but peaceful. Upward peace with God leads to both inward peace and outward peace with others. The only hope of restoring our hearts to worship the glory of God alone and live at peace was the birth of the Messiah, who would willingly suffer and die to free us from our glory slavery and restore peace, not just for eternity but right here, right now.