



A child is born

Advent 1—Isaiah Tells of the Promised Child
Isaiah 9:2-3, 6

"I think this is the last one," Pops said, setting a big box down on the porch.

Granny B smiled at Pops and looked at all the boxes. "Let's get to work," she said cheerfully. As Pops began to open a box, Delbert and Lello ran up the steps.

"Haw! Look at all these boxes!" Delbert exclaimed with wide eyes.

"Baa. You're not moving, are you?" Lello asked nervously.

Pops laughed and rubbed Lello's ears lovingly. "Of course not," he answered. "These boxes are filled with Christmas decorations," Pops explained.

"Oh," Lello sighed with relief. "I love Christmas," she added.

"Me, too!" chimed in Delbert. "Celebrating Jesus' birthday is so much fun!" He was peeking into a box near him when he began to frown.

"What's wrong, Delbert," Granny B asked.

"I wish I had some decorations," he said.

"You could make some," Granny B suggested. "I love to make Christmas decorations."

"Baa! That sounds like fun, but what could we make?" Lello asked.

Pops smiled and pulled something out of a box. In his hand he held a Bible with beautiful colors on the front. He sat down and motioned for Delbert and Lello to sit with him.

"Why don't I tell you part of the Christmas story first. Maybe that will give you some ideas," Pops said, as he opened the Bible. He continued, "Did you know the beginning of the Christmas story happened long before Jesus was born?"

"How long? A whole day?" Delbert asked.

"More," Pops replied, smiling slyly.

"A whole year?" Lello asked.

"Even more! 700 years before Jesus was born, God made a promise," Pops said.

"God always keeps His promises," Lello added.

Pops nodded his head in agreement, "That's right. God told His promise to a man named Isaiah."

"Was the promise about Jesus?" Delbert asked.

"It was. God promised to send His Son to us," Pops said.

Lello smiled and said quietly, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given."

Delbert looked at Lello curiously. "What was that, Lello?"

"That's God's promise which Isaiah told us about," Pops answered. "Would you like to learn it, Delbert?"

"Haw! I sure would! Lello, can you say it again?" Delbert asked.

Lello smiled and said, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given."

Delbert tried and asked Lello to repeat it again. After a few more tries, Delbert had the verse memorized.

Granny B set down the lights she had been untangling. "Delbert, have you thought of what decorations you would like to make?"

Delbert was quiet for a minute, then his face lit up. "Haw! Christmas is about baby Jesus. We could make a special baby Jesus."

"Why don't you and Lello make your own manger scene?" Granny B suggested. She got up and walked over to another box.

"What's a manger scene?" Lello asked.

"Well, a manger is a box that holds food for stable animals," Delbert offered.

"When Jesus was born, He was placed in a manger. A manger scene includes everyone in the Christmas story," Pops explained.

"Like this," Granny B said, pointing to some pieces for an outdoor manger scene.

Delbert and Lello ran over to look at all the pieces. They thought about which piece they should make first.

"Lello, let's get started by making our special baby Jesus," Delbert said. Lello agreed. They said goodbye to Granny B and Pops and trotted down the steps. Then, Pops and Granny B returned to unpacking the decorations and readying the farmhouse for Christmas.