

WRITTEN BY HELEN BUCKLEY  
ILLUSTRATED BY JENNY BRAKE

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.

MICAH 5:2

If I were in charge  
of the first Christmas...  
Well, things would have  
been very different.  
If I were in charge of  
Christmas... Hmm...  
Let's see...



I'd like pretty things please.  
Soft lights.  
Nice colours.



I'd like matching shepherds please.  
All neat and tidy.



I'd like  
animals all  
behaving  
please.



No mess.  
No fuss.



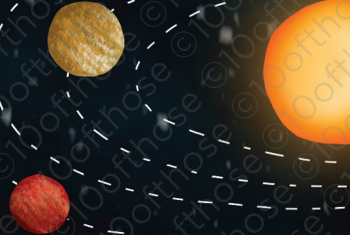
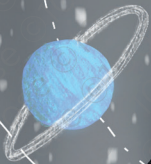
I'd like a smartly wrapped baby please.  
All rosy cheeked and snuggly.

If I were in charge of the first Christmas...  
Well, things would have been very different.

Jesus being born is too important.

God's Son coming into the

world is too precious.



God was in charge of the first Christmas.

He did it just right.





Just as He said He would.  
He gave us exactly what we need.

Long, long, long ago

A piece of aged, yellowed paper with torn edges, resting on a wooden surface. The word "PROMISE" is written in a green, cursive script across the center of the paper. The paper has some water stains and a faint circular watermark pattern.

PROMISE

God made His people a promise.  
He promised to send His Forever King.



A King with  
no beginning  
and no  
end.

A King who  
would love  
and care.



A King who  
would rescue.



What a promise. What a King!

If I were in charge  
of Christmas... Hmm...  
Let's see...



The King would be given to...



A princess  
please?

No.

A prime  
minister?

No.

Then at least  
a film star?

No.

God is in charge of Christmas.

He did it just right. Just as He said He would.

He gave us exactly what we need.

King Jesus was given to Mary.  
Young Mary.  
Small and unimportant Mary.  
What a God!  
He is very great.  
He always keeps His promises.



If I were in charge  
of Christmas... Hmm...  
Let's see...



The King would be born in...



London please? No.



God is in charge of  
Christmas. He did it just right.



Birmingham? No.



Then at least Jerusalem? No.



And just as He said He would.  
He gave us exactly what we need.

King Jesus was born in Bethlehem.  
Little old Bethlehem.  
Small and unimportant Bethlehem.



What a God!  
He is very great.  
He always keeps His promises.

If I were in charge  
of Christmas... Hmm...  
Let's see...





The King  
would be laid in...

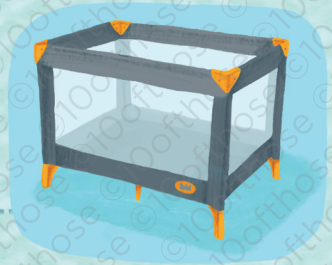
A Moses basket  
please? No.



A growbag?  
No.



Then at least  
a travel cot?  
No.



God is in charge of Christmas.

He did it just right.

And just as He said He would.

He gave us exactly what we need.



King Jesus was laid in a manger.  
An animal food box.  
Small and unimportant.

What a God!  
He is very great.  
He always keeps His promises.




If I were in  
charge of Christmas...  
Well, things would have  
been very different.  
And it would all have  
been very wrong.



After all... Jesus being born is too important.  
God's Son coming into  
the world is too precious.

God is in charge of Christmas.  
He did it just right.





And just as He said He would.  
He gave us exactly who we need.

King Jesus is exactly who we need.  
The Forever King who loves and cares.  
The Forever King who rescues.  
Jesus did just the right rescue  
so that we can be friends with God.  
He did exactly what we need.



What we can't do ourselves.  
King Jesus has done it all.

If I were in charge  
of Christmas...? Oh dear.

It's a good job God  
was in charge of that  
first Christmas!



# For Mum and Dad who gave us lovely Christmases.

If I were in Charge of Christmas

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Published by 10Publishing, a division of 10ofThose Limited.

ISBN 978-1-911272-74-8

Typeset by Diane Warnes. Printed in Turkey.

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