

God has concealed himself in Jesus

A Sermon for Advent

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Isaiah the prophet says in one place, “Truly you are a God who hides himself, O God and Savior of Israel.” (Isaiah 45:15) Christmas is a time when we reflect on God coming to us and revealing himself in Jesus. But we should also reflect on the fact that God has concealed himself in Jesus. By coming in the flesh, it did not make it easier for human beings to come to recognize and acknowledge God. In fact, it made it harder. How could a good, covenant-abiding Jew acknowledge Jesus as God? How could a pagan, who was used to the idea of many gods appearing in all manner of places and guises, accept that there was one God who had come in the flesh only in this Jew, in an obscure corner of the Empire?

For a Jew to acknowledge Jesus as God was to run counter to all his convictions – in fact to state this was in the eyes of the Jews one of the greatest sins – blasphemy. God was not