

Chapter 12 **How unexpected!**

God's ways startle us.

First, God's Son came to our world gentle, unassuming. Not at all how we would have done it.

Second, he came to our earth bodily - "in him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." Colossians 2.9. The Creator of the universe limited to a human body?

We would never have done that. Surely that was a mistake? Not at all. What better way for God to identify with us? Christ will also return bodily. Acts 1.10-11.

Third, even Christ's resurrection from the grave was restrained - he appeared to believers only. We would have had him present himself in overwhelming power to the unbelievers. But he reserves that for his next coming. Matthew 24.30.

Fourth, his first coming was at a time when Greek philosophy said, "God isn't concerned with us." But that's not true. "God so loved the world" that he gave us his choicest gift - his own Son. John 3.16.

Fifth, at his first coming Jesus submitted to crucifixion on behalf of sinners - not at all what we would have done. At first, even his own disciples misunderstood. And people still don't get it. That's one reason he's coming back to sort us out.

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"Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God." 1 Peter 3.18.