

Reason for the Season

Whatever reasons one may argue for this holiday season, Jesus Christ remains the paramount reason for the Christmas season. With Christ comes eternal life. Depreciation of Christ at Christmas deprives us all of a seasonal reminder of the utmost purpose of human life, which is to be united with God. Through God's Son, Jesus Christ the Messiah, unity with God is possible for all persons.

Personal experience and assurance of the way to know God is attainable within the contents of the Holy Bible. The Bible is an accurate and reliable revelation by God of himself. By exploring what the Bible portrays about Jesus we can appreciate the Christian reason for the season. Furthermore, if we choose to believe and follow Jesus, we will know God personally. Jesus, and only He, can provide fellowship with God. The choice to secure that eternal destiny with God, through faith and friendship with Jesus, is ours.

Christmas is a Christian holiday celebrating the humble birth of Christ (Jesus of Nazareth) in Bethlehem more than two thousand years ago.

From eternity past, God designated an exact time when His Son should assume human nature.

(The Bible: Galatians 4: 4-5)

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Approximately 700 years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Isaiah foretold the virgin birth of Jesus.

(The Bible: Isaiah 7: 13-14)

Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of human beings? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. [...]"

The virgin Mary was chosen by God to give birth to the Son of God – Emmanuel – which means "God with us".

(The Bible: Luke 1: 26-38)

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you

are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God [Immanuel]. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me according to your word." Then the angel left her.

Christ, the Messiah, was born of the Jews. Jewish Jesus is not only the glory of God's people Israel, but He is also the Saviour for all people and all nations. Through Jesus salvation to God avails everyone; of every race and every state.

(The Bible: Luke 2: 1-35)

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be **for all the people**. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived. When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of **all nations**: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

God confirmed publicly and audibly that Jesus is God's Son.

(The Bible: Matthew 3: 17)

"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

(The Bible: Luke 9: 35)

"This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."

God became man. Jesus, in one person, is 100% God and 100% human. The Divine and human natures of Jesus Christ are united. In the Divine person of Jesus Christ, God is man and man is God.

(The Bible: John 1: 1-5, 14, 18)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. [...]

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. [...]

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

God's purpose of incarnation (God in human body) was to reconcile people to Himself.

(The Bible: Colossians 1: 15-20)

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

God's reason to become as a human in His Son Jesus was to save the world to eternal fellowship with the Father – through the Son.

(The Bible: John 3: 16-18)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to **save the world** through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

(The Bible: John 12: 44-50)

Then Jesus cried out, "Those who believe in me do not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. When they look at me, they see the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. As for those who hear my words but do not keep them, I do not judge them. For **I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world**. There is a judge for those who reject me and do not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

Jesus of Nazareth himself confessed to be the Son of God. Christ declared he is the true way to eternal life, and the only way of access unto the Father. No other doctrine, merit or intercession leads to God.

(The Bible: John 14: 6)

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. [...]"

Anyone who confesses and believes that Jesus is the Son of God, mankind's only Saviour, will be saved to eternal life.

(The Bible: Romans 10: 9-13)

If you declare with your mouth, "**Jesus is Lord,**" and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Conversely, whoever rejects Jesus as the Son of God has no communion with God, and will therefore ultimately be judged to eternal punishment. God offered Himself as a sacrifice for all mankind's iniquities so that those who believe in Him shall inherit eternal life.

(The Bible: 1 John 2: 22-23)

Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Messiah. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

(The Bible: John 3: 36)

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

(The Bible: Romans 6: 23)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus, being the Son of God, truly offers salvation for mankind. Please do not neglect your opportunity in life to receive reconciliation with God. Only through Jesus Christ can you know God personally. At this season of your life, you are invited by God to believe in His Son, to pursue His Son and to be saved for eternity through His Son.

God loves you!