

Christmas



What's the big deal?

Christmas is on the calendar again this year. So, what does that mean to you? A day off from work. Christmas cards and gifts. Christmas carols and pageants. Fruit cake and eggnog. Christmas trees and tinsel. The list goes on... SO What's the big deal about Christmas? Let me answer that question. To do so I need to go back in history. Way back. Way, way, way back. Back to what the Bible calls the beginning. Back then there was God. Only God. Nothing else. Then, God began to create. He created the heaven and the earth and everything on the earth. That's the beginning of everything we know about today. Finally, God made man—Adam, and his mate, Eve, the foundation of the human race.

God put Adam and Eve in a garden that provided everything they needed, The special thing about the Garden was that God met there with Adam and Eve, just as good friends do. We do not know how long that relationship lasted, but one day Adam and Eve decided to dishonor God by disobeying the one restriction that He had placed upon them. They ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil which God had forbidden. At that very moment, as God had warned them, Adam and Eve died spiritually. As a consequence, they were no longer friends with God. He drove them from the Garden and never walked with them again. Unfortunately for us, the entire human race came under the curse that God placed on Adam and Eve. However, at the time God ejected

Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, He promised them that He would provide **Someone** who could take them out from under the curse of their sin. That promise was fulfilled a little over two thousand years ago. It happened in a very unusual way. God sent an angel to visit a young virgin to give her some astonishing news. **"The Holy Ghost will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you: so that holy thing which will be born of you will be called the Son of God."** (Luke 1:35) At the same time an angel communitated with Joseph, Mary's espoused husband, and said, **"Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife for what is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. She will give birth to a son, and you will call Him Jesus: for he will save his people from their sins."** (Matthew 1:20-21)

The prophet Isaiah foretold the event 700 years before it happened: **"Behold a virgin will be with child, and will bring forth a son, and they will call his name Emmanuel which being interpreted is, God with us."** (Isaiah 7:14) Jesus was the One that God promised to Adam and Eve about 4,000 years earlier. We don't know exactly when Jesus was born. The date is not important, BUT the event is. It's important because once again God would walk among humanity. People could walk and talk with Jesus as a friend, just as Adam and Eve communitated with God in the Garden of Eden. In Jesus, God was with us. Not just a miracle worker, not just a good example, not just a perceptive teacher. He was God... BUT, as you know, Jesus is no longer with us.

God for mankind. Now, we have one intercessor, the God-man, Jesus Christ who is in Heaven interceding on our behalf. Unfortunately, being reconciled to God is not an automatic process. We have to get involved in the process. We have to make a decision. To ignore Jesus is to reject Him. Will you right now recognize that you are a sinner in need of Jesus? Will you ask Him to save you by forgiving your sin?



expected of Him. He was perfect. Any wonder that He was rejected? Fortunately, through His rejection, He was able to do something that only a perfect person could do. Through His death on the cross, Jesus paid the penalty for our sin. As a result, God is able to forgive us. The Bible tells us that if we are willing to accept Jesus' payment for our sin, God is willing to forgive us and restore our relationship with Him. **"If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."** (Romans 10:9) That's why Christmas is such a big deal. Through Jesus' birth, God is once again with us, and through Jesus' death we can be with Him in Heaven. For centuries priests interceded with

He left earth and returned to Heaven about two thousand years ago. So, why celebrate His birth? What's the big deal? The big deal is this. All of the millions who have died since Jesus walked among us are still in the grave. BUT Jesus is not in the grave. He is alive this very moment sitting at the right hand of God in Heaven. What's more. When Jesus was with us He did more than shake hands and say, "God bless you." Of course He caused the blind to see, the lame to walk, and freed many from the disease that tore at their bodies. But, all of that was only to attract people to His ultimate purpose, to save them from their sin. When Jesus was on earth, He did something no one else could do. He lived His life without sinning. He never did anything contrary to what God