

WHY WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

TEXT: (Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV)

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

INTRODUCTION

1. "And the word was made man, and dwelt among us" (John 1:14, WYC)
2. "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone" (Hebrews 2:9, NIV).
3. "Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live" (Ezekiel 18:31-32, NIV)!
4. "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon" (Isaiah 55:6-7, NIV).
5. "Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing" (Joel 2:13-14, NIV).

I. WHO IS JESUS?

A. Our Heavenly Father

1. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end" (Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV).
2. "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels" (Hebrews 2:9, NIV).
3. "The Holy Writings say, 'What is man that You think of him and the son of man that You should remember him?' 'You made him so he took a place that was not as important as the angels for a little while. You gave him the crown of honor and shining-greatness. You made him the head over everything You have made. You have put everything under his feet'" (Hebrews 2:6-8, NIV).

B. He Came Bearing His Father's Name

1. "You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus" (Luke 1:31, NIV).
2. "An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins'" (Matthew 1:20-21, NIV).
3. "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11, NIV).

II. WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

A. From the Mind of God

1. "In the bigynnyng was the word, and the word was at God, and God was the word. This was in the bigynnyng at God" (John 1:1-2, WYC).
2. "The Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world" (Revelation 13:8, NIV).
3. "Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come" (Romans 5:14, NIV).
4. "He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him" (John 1:10, NIV).
5. "And the word was maad man, and dwellyde among vs, and we han seyn the glorie of hym, as the glorie of the `oon bigetun sone of the fadir, ful of grace and of treuthe" (John 1:14, WYC).
6. "He is the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15, NIV).
7. "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9, KJV).

B. He Came Down from Heaven

1. "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me" (John 6:38, NIV).
2. "'I tell you the truth,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am'" (John 8:58, NIV)!
3. "God was manifest in the flesh" (I Timothy 3:16, KJV).
4. "Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity" (Hebrews 2:14, NIV).
5. "Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-8, NLT).

III. WHY DID HE COME?

A. To rescue us from our enemy

1. "For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins" (Colossians 1:13-14, NLT).
2. "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work" (I John 3:8, NIV).

B. To release us from the Fear of Death

1. "Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying" (Hebrews 2:14-15, NLT).
2. "By embracing death, taking it into himself, he destroyed the Devil's hold on death and freed all who cower through life, scared to death of death" (Hebrews 2:14-15, MSG).
3. "It is appointed unto men once to die" (Hebrews 9:27, KJV).
4. "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19, NIV).
2. "'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:54-57, NIV).