

Christmas

A Gift That Must Be Celebrated and Presented



Scripture

- **Isaiah 9**

But there will be no *more* gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make *it* glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.² The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.

⁶For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness, from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

- **Matthew 4:15-16**

¹⁵“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles... ¹⁶The people who were sitting the darkness saw a great Light, and those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, upon them a Light dawned.”

- **2 Cor. 5:17-18**

¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Other Scriptures

- John 6:54
- John 3:16
- Matthew 25:14-30
- Acts 1:8
- Romans 1:20
- Gen.1:1
- I John 1:1
- 2 Peter 1:16-20

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Main Points

- The birth of Jesus is a fulfillment of Messianic prophecy.
- The mystery of Christmas is the mystery of the incarnation.
- God came to earth clothed in humanity.
- In Jesus, not only do we receive forgiveness, but also the Life of God.
- Christmas is celebrating:
 - God's love for us
 - Forgiveness of sins
 - Receiving the Life of God
- We have victory in Jesus!
- Christmas is not only to be celebrated, but also presented.
- When we received Jesus, we received a commission to be ambassadors of God.
- God wants us to use our time on this earth to build the Kingdom.
- The Holy Spirit was given to us to empower us to be His witnesses.
- The challenges to our witness include rejection of God.
 - Creator: This is a suppression of the truth that is internally set in us.
 - Historical reality: This ignores the clear evidence of credible witnesses like Josephus and the disciples in Scriptures.
- We have been given an assignment to present the gift of Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. The gift of Christmas is the coming of Jesus in the clothes of a man, sent to die for our sins. Have you received the gift of forgiveness Jesus accomplished at the cross and through His resurrection power over sin, offers to you and I? If so, have you made a proactive effort to present this gift to others during this Christmas season? What are some ways you can accomplish the assignment He has given each of us to make Him known?
2. How does the link between the Old Testament prophecies and New Testament fulfillment lend authority to your quest to make Him known?
3. How has God empowered you to be a kingdom builder?
4. You have received the best gift in Jesus. Now go and be a giver of the best gift to all you meet.