

The Truth About

The Birthday Of Jesus Christ

Introduction

December 25th is a day in human history celebrated all over the world with great enthusiasm in nearly every country by people from many religious backgrounds. This day is called "*The Birthday Of Our Lord Jesus Christ.*" All over the world it is also known by the name "*Christmas.*" In many countries, as early as the end of October people start to decorate their main cities like a bride. Even people who don't believe that Jesus Christ is their Savior celebrate this day with a great honor and respect. Like other religions of the world, Christians also celebrate this festival with great joy and enthusiasm. As usual they decorate their homes, exchange presents, send cards, and children and ladies wear colorful clothing and dresses. In the churches a variety of programs are arranged and Christians praise and worship the Lord their God with a humble spirit.

In our dearest country Pakistan, there are many different television channels where Christian scholars share with the world about the importance of this day. We are thankful to the Government of Pakistan that we have religious freedom. In some of our programs non-Christians also attend and participate. Persons who do so are always open-minded, educated, wise and gentle. I really appreciate people like these who are the seekers of harmony and unity.

I have met a lot of people who do not know the true significance of this day. This type of people just celebrate this day like "Eid Festival" without knowing the truths that are behind it and the plan of salvation that God has for all human beings.

Some of my Muslim friends meet me for the first time and say, "Do you guys drink alcohol on this day or not?" They don't know the reality and that's why they ask such questions that do not have any connection with the reality and truth.

For a long time I've had a burning desire to pick up the pen and write very clearly on the topic: "*What was the purpose for which Jesus Christ came into this world?*" So finally I am privileged to write on this subject so that Christians and non-Christians may come to know about the purpose of Jesus Christ being born into this sinful world. After knowing the truth we will not celebrate this day traditionally anymore, but with true hearts we will sing hymns of praise and thanksgiving in the presence of God Almighty. I have tried my best to write very carefully.

Some of my readers have said that it would better for me to write my booklets in English as well as Urdu. I have started to translate my books into English for printing in both languages. I am thankful for my sister Miriam Jannai who was willing to edit this booklet and has assisted in editing my recent articles and booklets written in English. I try my best to make all my writings available on my website so if you have access then you can read this book on my website too. I pray that this book may bring a great transformation in the lives of many readers around the world. Amen.

The Beginning

The Creator of Heaven and Earth makes man after creating all things in the universe. Man is the supreme creation and is given dominion over all of God's creation. God Himself names this living being. We know this first man as Adam. God allows Adam to eat the fruit of all the trees of the Garden except one but, persuaded by Satan, Adam disobeys God and eats of the forbidden fruit. Disobedience of God is sin, and we know that God does not like sin. Sin creates a gulf and wall of separation between the Creator and His creation. For this reason man falls and sin enters into all human lives through Adam. It is written in Torah about both Adam and Eve that God sent them out of His presence.

In Torah it is written that, due to his sinful nature, Cain killed his brother Abel. The sin of jealousy, inherent in the nature of the brothers due to the fall of their father Adam, was behind this murder. The reason for this jealousy was that God accepted the offering of Abel and not of Cain. Sin continued to grow day by day among humans. Because of sin God wiped out all disobedient people of the time of Noah except Noah and his family because "Noah was a just man and blameless in his generations and Noah walked with God." Likewise, people of Lot's time were so evil that God sent fire and brimstone from Heaven and destroyed all those evildoers.

There was not yet any written law from God to man except man's own conscience regarding what was right or wrong, good or evil, clean or unclean and what should or should not be eaten. Then God gave that written Law through Moses to human beings and that is working until now and will work forever to enable man to have the spirit of discernment. The courts work according to this Mosaic Law even today all over the world.

The Law helped us to know what sin is. The Law said, "You have sinned so you are accused." The Law did not set us free. The Law was reflecting something that was going to happen in the near future. According to the Law and its requirements, there were various kinds of sacrifices that were needed to be made for various kinds of sins and for purifications. Although the Hebrew people were flowing rivers of the blood of animals at the Temple each year on the Day of Atonement, still these sacrifices were not enough to restore their broken relationship with God and, at best, offered the hope of having been forgiven and purified for a year. These sacrifices were not making any sense. That is the reason the writer of Hebrews says that if those sacrifices had been enough then there would have been no need to stop the continual offering up of blood sacrifices.

According to the measurement of the Law of Moses man was measured up but there was no one to be found who was righteous according to the standard of God. Usually I give this as an example of this principle: A thermometer just tells us how high the fever is but the thermometer cannot make a diagnosis of fever. In the same way the Law says, "You are a sinner" but it is not diagnosis of sin nor can the Law restore our relationship with God.

The sacrificial system of the Hebrew nation was a continuation of what began in the Garden as God Himself arranged coats of animal skins for Adam and Eve "to cover" the sin which made them feel naked and ashamed. "The wages of sin is death" and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. So it was necessary that animals must be killed by God to provide the coats of skins for both of them. It seems to me that the reason offerings were made by Abel and Cain was only because they must have seen their parents making sacrificial offerings to God. Although Torah is quiet about it in relation to Cain and Abel, later on Noah, upon coming out of the Ark, offered sacrifices using clean animals and birds from among the seven pairs of each kind he had been

commanded to take with him on the Ark. Then the time came when God asked Abraham to offer his son Isaac. The history of the Hebrew people was written with the blood of sacrifices that they made.

Even though prophets came, the Law was given, and offering sacrifices according to the Law was being performed, still man was under the heavy burden of sin and was unable to be free. When God looks down upon the heart of all mankind says, "No one is righteous, not even one...all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" we can say it like this: According to the standard of God we all are sinners, we are not able to match the standard of God's holiness and righteousness and we cannot have the position that was lost when Adam and Eve sinned in Eden.

Mankind neither paid attention to what the prophets said nor did the sacrificial system enable a man to meet God and to have peace with Him. The reason is that a perfect sacrifice for sinners was needed that would be equal with man. An animal cannot be equal with man. The only possibility was for a man to become the perfect sacrifice once for all. Animals are not the supreme creation of God but man is. God has never said to any animals that they are made in His image and likeness. This means that only a perfect man could be a substitute for an imperfect man, not any animal. There is one more reason that why an animal cannot be the substitute for a sinner. It is that no animal goes through the trials and temptations a man goes through which cause him to commit sin. An animal does not want to be sacrificed but we do it forcefully. That is the reason that for a sinner an equal sacrifice was needed.

I just want to state here that under the Law of Moses it was a very important requirement that the animal to be offered up for sacrifice should be perfect, spotless and blameless. In the same way, it was important that for a man to be sacrificed for others he should have to be perfect, spotless and blameless. It was not possible to find a man such as this. God who is just and righteous had already said, "There is no one righteous, not even one...all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." It was impossible to find such a man who is blameless and pure, without any sin.

There was no one on the face of the earth who had taken birth from male and female who was blameless or without any sin. It is not my own thinking but based upon the Word of God. So God Himself made a plan for the substitute to provide Atonement and Salvation for mankind. This substitute was with God from the very beginning as the Word of God. The world and everything that is in it came into being only because of this Word.

When the time came that God was ready to give a body of flesh and bones to His Word, God sent a message to a virgin girl named Mary through His angel Gabriel saying, "You shall conceive by My power and you will give birth to a son." Even before His birth God gave Mary the name she should give to this son. So finally Mary accepted this message and according to the appointed time the promised Son, the living Word of God, Jesus Christ was born.

Whatever I have said is in response to the greatest need of mankind which is to know why Jesus came into this world. Now Jesus Christ was born and lived in this world for about thirty-three years. In one sense we can say that He attracted the attention of the universe even at the point His birth. Until the end of his physical life on earth Jesus did good for others, taught about moral values and

performed miracles according to the Divine Will of God the Father. He diverted the attention of many of the people from the traditions of men to spiritual realities and Truth.

In His teachings He claimed, "In Me the prophecies of the prophets are fulfilled." He also said, "There is only one Way that leads to Heaven and that is through Me." He asked, "Is there someone who can prove that I have sinned?" There was no one at that time who could prove He had sinned. In explaining about His purpose for coming into this world He said, "I have come to give My life as a ransom for many."

When John the Baptist saw Jesus arrive on the scene as he was baptizing people with water he said: "Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sins of the world." He also said about the Love of God that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall never die but shall have Eternal Life."

The bottom line is that the purpose for Jesus Christ coming into this world was to offer Himself as an atoning sacrifice and as a ransom for all mankind due to the fire of Hell waiting for the sinners. Jesus came as a solution for the problem of sin so that all those who believe in Jesus Christ and that He died for their sins and rose from the dead could be restored to relationship with God. About 2000 years ago, Jesus offered Himself as a ransom for me and for you so that we would not be separated from God anymore. He came down from Heaven that we may become the people of Heaven.

Oh, sinful man, your salvation is not based on what you have done, meaning how many good deeds you have done, but rather on what God has done through Jesus Christ for your redemption and salvation. This sacrifice was according to God's plan. To receive this salvation you do not have to do anything except personally believe that Jesus Christ is your Savior. That He is the perfect, blameless sacrifice for all the people of the world.

The following is my brotherly, friendly and humble suggestion – not a command of Evangelism. If you want then you can receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior right now without any delay. It is already too late. Confess "I am a sinner" and repent from your sins and ask God to forgive you. Then give thanks to God Almighty who arranged a perfect sacrifice to atone for your sins. All sacrifices of the past are a reflection of this one perfect sacrifice. This sacrifice fulfills the requirements of the Law. Ask Jesus, "Come into my life" so that you may live faithfully and only for Him in the future. This is not merely the teaching of Christianity but is a message of Good News for all human beings all over the world.

Remember that Jesus Christ died for your sins and He has not only died but He rose again and ascended to sit at the right hand of the Father as our Intercessor according to the prophecies of the prophets and according to what He Himself said. In human history Jesus is the only one who has not only died but also been raised from the dead and ascended to Heaven. He is alive today and He will live forevermore. His grave is still empty and He is ready to help you at any time.

Worldwide Traditions

On The Birthday Of Jesus Christ

&

Misunderstandings

Use Of Alcoholic Drink

To have a clearer understanding about this subject you need to visit my website at www.newlifeinstitute.org and then click on Questions and Answers in the menu. Sorry to say that these Questions and Answers are in the Urdu language. I cannot write in detail about this topic here but a short note is presented.

Besides drinking strong alcoholic drink, there are many other sins some of the non-Christians think Christians are guilty of during our Christmas (Birthday of Jesus) programs such as that maybe we dance in a worldly manner with the girls and during that time maybe we drink and maybe we do whatever sinful thing we desire to do. May God forgive all those who think or do such things.

I just want to say that strong alcoholic drink is forbidden for the people of the Church, which means Christian believers. There is not any benefit from it for us or for any others. It does not give glory to the Name of our Lord God. Sin takes place by drinking it so it is not good for people of God to drink. In every culture and every religion we can see the sad effects of drinking. In some of the religions, religiously drinking is forbidden but still some followers of those religions drink. In the same way, in Christianity there are some who are disobedient and do not have any concern for what is the Will of God in their lives. Those who are already disobedient think "everything is good for us" although it is their false excuse. So if someone drinks alcohol on Christmas or on other days they and our critics need to know that person does not truly belong to the Assembly of believers. I also want to make it clear, especially in our Eastern culture, that it should not be assumed that a person with white skin is a Christian. He or she could be a Christian or a Muslim. After watching English movies, don't come to the conclusion that those actors who drink are Christians. They could be nothing or maybe followers of any religion of the world.

Worldly dance is not allowed or permitted in the Word of God. Remember that every deed or act that does not give glory to the Name of God Almighty is sin. Believers celebrate their festivals and Christmas with joy and thanksgiving in their hearts.

Christmas Trees

The Christmas tree is not based upon the teaching of Jesus Christ or the New Testament. Although this tradition or custom has been made by men, it has some lessons behind it. The Christmas tree is not a religious issue or a requirement for observing Christmas. It is not necessary to place it in one's home based on Scripture. Let me put it in this way, a Christmas tree is only a decoration piece. It is up to every believer to decide whether or not he or she wants to place this decoration piece in their house. Remember, we worship the Creator not creation.

It has been said that many centuries ago the foundation of having a Christmas tree was laid by Germans. After that this beautiful decoration spread all over the world. Because the Christmas tree is "green" and "greenery" represents "life," the use of this decoration piece during the Christmas season conveys the spiritual lesson that Jesus came into this world to give "Life."

There are some things you must have seen hanging on Christmas trees. These are also decoration pieces but they have some special lesson in themselves. For example "stars" are pointing to that "star" that led wise men in the East to come and seek the face of this newborn Child. Also, stars "shine" and Jesus Christ said, "I am the Light of the World." So shining stars point to the truth that now the Light has come into this world that was filled with spiritual darkness.

Ornaments that hang on the Christmas tree give a spiritual message that the Love of God is not limited to any special nation, religion, people group or geographical area but is available throughout the world. "God so loved the world that sent Jesus Christ to be the atoning sacrifice for many."

The gifts that hang on the Christmas tree or which we see under the tree represent that the first giver of gifts is God Himself who gave us Jesus Christ as His great gift for this world.

Santa Claus

Santa Claus is not proved by the Word of God but is another tradition of men. It has been said that many centuries ago there was man of God who used to come out with gifts to distribute among children who would not otherwise receive gifts due to lack of resources so that they could more fully rejoice during the Christmas season. This old man of God was on this journey of distributing gifts mostly after midnight when all the children were in deep sleep and he was said to put these gifts in their stockings or under their pillows. It was a surprise for the children who would then wonder, "Who did this for us?"

Today also, those dressed up as Santa Claus distribute candies among children in this season. Children and adults like him a lot. I need to confess that the sacrificial spirit of that old man Santa Claus can hardly be found today.

Special Worship Services

In different local churches there are different programs arranged by local believers on this joyful occasion. In some churches the birthday of Jesus Christ is expressed in a dramatic way. The timing of these worship services depends on every local church membership. Mostly these worship

services begin at midnight and go for two hours at least. Some people watch any special video based on the birthday of Jesus Christ. Along with this, Church leaders deliver wonderful messages to the members of the Church. We pray for peace to reign all over the world. Sometimes non-Christians also attend these services but I will suggest to these non-Christians that for security reasons they should come along with any Christian friend.

All children and adults wear colorful clothing and dresses. Adults give gifts to the children and those who know one another present their gifts to each other as well. Everyone is very happy at this time and celebrate this day with a great enthusiasm. Most of the families go to picnic spots with their children or relatives.

In my own thought presently, whatever I have said regarding the birthday of Jesus Christ is sufficient. In these few pages I have presented the Love of God and composing the words is not easy. So if you want to know anything more please write an e-mail and if you are an Urdu speaker then definitely I can provide Urdu courses for you free of charge that can help you to know more about Jesus Christ. The only condition is that you must live in Pakistan.

Spiritual Antibiotics

Dear Church Leaders: Although I appreciate what you are doing in your churches I also want to remind you of some things. Maybe they are already in your minds, but sometimes we become so busy with arrangements, traditions, decorations, dramas and dinners that we forget or even neglect the truth.

There was a huge birthday celebration and people were gathered together from various parts of the city take part in this birthday party. They were worldly and not spiritual people. During the course of the party most of them indulged in alcoholic drink and after many hours of celebrating they were nearly unconscious. Just after 2 a.m. they heard a knock at the door. An unsteady, self-absorbed, confused man answered the door. The one who knocked said, "A child has died from a very bad road accident right in front of your house. I just want to ask you to please check and see if you know this child." The drunken man said, "No, we are fine."

This man knocked at almost at every door on that street but no one accepted the invitation to come out and see whether they might say, "Yes, this is our child." After two hours, the man went again to the door where the birthday party was being held and this time a lady came to the door. She was so bold that she went right out to the spot where the accident took place and started to cry saying, "This is the same child whose birthday it is."

What I want to say is that although this child was the one whose birthday was being celebrated, he was not in the midst of them. What about us? Are you sure that Jesus is in the midst of you when you make busy plans for your people in preparation for and observing celebrations, etc.? I beg you to think about it seriously because I hardly find Him in our celebrations. My question is: "Where is the King of the Kings in our churches and celebrations today?"

The spirit of the celebration of His birth is not to play with the box but with the precious toy it contains, my dears. When God looks down what is it He finds? It seems that we are not playing with the gift of the toy but with the box, and it happens all over the world. Come out of this bottomless pit of traditions and rituals and preach to the lost about "Why did Jesus come into this world?" Do not repeat the stories of the three kings, shepherds in the field, Mary, Joseph and Herod. Most of them have known these things from childhood. For God's sake, change your message this time and give the pure milk of the Word of God to the people.

Let me ask you a question. Do you know when you met Jesus or received Him as your personal Savior? Where did you spend the years after your conversion? Let me tell you the truth. After meeting Jesus the shepherds became missionaries and made it known to everyone that a Savior had been born. After meeting Jesus the three kings of the East became missionaries of Jesus and they made the advent of His birth known everywhere. After meeting Jesus the Samaritan women became a missionary to her own villagers. After meeting Jesus Saul of Tarsus became a missionary to Jews and non-Jews. What about you my dear? Do you have a missionary vision to reach the lost souls or not? Let us serve the Lord rather than serving our own belly. Maybe these points are hard for you to accept but, my dear, please allow yourself to swallow these pills because these are spiritual antibiotics for your spiritual health.

For God's sake, do not take out parties of your youngsters after midnight to sing and dance while most of them are unsaved. That is the time of rest for the people. Don't go to the Christians to tell them the Good News because they have been hearing it year after year. Get yourself ready and go to the lost of your nation who do not know the difference between their right hand and their left like the people of Nineveh. Don't be content to send gifts and cakes to those from whom you are expecting the same. Instead, try to find your way to slums and poor communities to give the priceless gift of the words, "A Savior was born for you!" Don't be hypocrites because Jesus rebuked us about that. Don't repeat what you have been doing in the past but change your focus now and go to the people who have not heard the Gospel of Power.

I pray that may the Lord our God open our hearts and minds to understand the reality and truth concerning the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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