

WHY CHRISTMAS?

Christmas comes and we all have to prepare. We have to get the gifts for the kids. We have to prepare for the arrival of Santa. Are we going to be able to get all the shopping done? Who is going to hang up the holiday lights... and what if one of them goes out?! What about Christmas dinner? Can we really handle more time with our in-laws? Question after question. The holidays, meant to be a time of joy, can end up being a time of stress.

Have we forgotten why we have this time? Do we all just unanimously agree to give gifts and call it Santa? Why is it that we're making these holiday meals again? Are we having a hard time with our in-laws while forgetting the grace that God poured into our lives through Christmas?

IN THE BIBLE.

Luke 2:1-7

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 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. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 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.

Matthew 1:18-25

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about^[d]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet^[e] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, 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. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^[f] because he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

QUESTIONS.

- 1.) When you think “Christmas,” what words come to mind? Why?
- 2.) Christmas is about Jesus, but what is the significance there?
- 3.) Why is it so easy to lose sight of the reason for the season?
- 4.) What can we do to restore our memory of Christmas?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?