

# Christmas - The Real Story

Most people in the Christian world know of Christmas and look on it as a time for celebration and of giving and receiving gifts.

The vast majority know little if anything about the central person behind this time of celebration, Christ.

Some know His full name, Jesus Christ, others that He was the Son of God who was born to a virgin.

They then ask how can I believe in such a biological anomaly?

**What we are being asked to accept as true is difficult because we are dealing with something that started in the spirit world but ended in the physical world.**

**John 4:24** [NIV] *“God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.”*

The Creator God of this universe is spirit.

Spirit is something that cannot be quantified by any physical means.

Cannot be seen, heard, felt, tasted, smelt or measured, hence science cannot accept its existence.

**The invisible Spirit God had to become flesh for us to relate to Him.**

**John 1:1-5, 14** [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.” ... “**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us**. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

God became a man called Jesus, the divine Son of God the Creator of the whole universe became a Jew born of a virgin in Palestine some 2,000 years ago.

The Almighty God appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, unable to do more than lay, stare, wriggle and make noises. Needing to be fed, changed and taught to speak like any other child.

**Why did Jesus Christ have to be born of a virgin?**

Let us read the account of this event as recorded by Luke.

**Luke 1:26-35** [NIV] *“In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.” Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end.” “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”*

When we understand the reason for the birth of Jesus Christ [*“Christ”* meaning *“anointed one”* – that is one set apart for a certain reason of task such as a king], we will realise He had to be both God and human.

It was the Holy Spirit, one person of the Triune God who impregnated the virgin Mary for her to become pregnant and give birth to Jesus.

Jesus was 100% human yet at the same time 100% God, the Word who had no beginning and has no end.

**Revelation 1:1, 8** [NIV] *“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,” ... “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”*

Jesus Christ introduces Himself to John as God who has no beginning or end.

**John 1:18** [Amplified] *“No human has ever seen God at any time, the only unique Son ... that is, in the intimate presence of the Father. He [the Word, Jesus Christ] has declared Him, has revealed Him, brought Him out where He can be seen, He [Jesus] has interpreted Him [God the Father] and He [Jesus] has made Him [God the Father] known.”*

Because of God's perfection, holiness, righteousness and brightness, no human could ever exist in His presence.

**So God had to become a human for us to get to know Him, have a relationship with Him as human beings.**

**John 14:7-9** [NIV] *“If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered: “Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?”*

When we seek to know Jesus Christ we know God.

How does this happen without Jesus Christ being on earth today?

**John 14:15-19** [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; **I will come to you.** Before long, the world will not see me any more, but **you will see me.** Because I live, you also will live.”*

By seeking a relationship with God the Holy Spirit, Jesus promises He will come to us and we will “see” Him.

**We will get to know Jesus just as well as those disciples who walked the earth with Him 2,000 years ago.**

What is the main thing that Jesus was to reveal about God to all humanity?

**1 John 4:15-16** [NIV] *“If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. **God is love.** Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”*

That God is love.

**John 3:16-17** [NIV] *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”*

That God loves every human being that has ever existed.

Why does the world, every human being, need saving?

Saved from what?

**Romans 3:23** [Living Bible] *“All have sinned, all fall short of God's glorious ideal”* [to become a created child of God whom He could love for eternity]

**Romans 6:23** [Living Bible] *“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

**What is meant by “through Jesus Christ”?**

This is where we come to the second reason why Jesus had to be both 100% God and 100% human.

Sin always brings the pain and suffering we see all around us in the world today. Why?

Because it is the result of our selfishness and pride [self-righteousness] and not love.

**As God is love, He will never tolerate sinning humans in His presence.**

**God will deal with sin, forgive sin, but never tolerate sin.**

Many people think *“how could a God who is love punish harmless, innocent people who have sinned in ignorance?”*

That is not God's problem, for there are no harmless, innocent people.

**God's problem is how to forgive sinners without compromising with His perfection, holiness and righteousness!!**

**Jesus Christ is the answer.**

But Jesus had to be 100% God to live a perfect life totally free from sin, yet 100% human so that He could die in our place, to take our sins on Himself and die for us.

Jesus Christ had to be 100% God the Creator and giver of all life to be worth more than all human beings who will ever exist.

Yet Jesus Christ had to be 100% human to die by shedding all His life blood on the cross in place of our deserved death.

**Leviticus 17:11** [NIV] *“For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.”*

The animal sacrifices of the Old Testament were an atonement [covering] of the sins committed by the people pointing towards the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ the God/man who would cleanse us of our sins, not just cover them up.

**1 John 2:1-2** [Jerusalem Bible] *“My children, I am writing this to prevent you from sinning, but if anyone does sin [and we all have] we have an advocate with the Father, **Jesus Christ, the upright. He***

*is the sacrifice to expiate [pay the penalty of] our sin, and not only ours but also those of the whole world.”*

**Now that is worth celebrating**, the birth of Jesus Christ, and thanking God for the great love this shows He has for all humanity.

What a message for the sinner!

What a message for the failure!

What a message for the lonely!

What a message for those who have lost loved ones in death!

What a message for those bound in habits of abuse and self-gratification!

What a message for the helpless men and women in hospitals and institutions!

**God cares for and loves them personally.**

**John 3:16** [NIV] *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

The Word, the Son of God, was born in a stable to die on a cross for you and I individually.

Our part is to turn to God in faith, confessing our great need, and thanking Him for His love and concern for us through Jesus Christ the eternal Son of God and the first-born of new human race, the Immanuel [God with us] race.