

Why Is 25th December Called Christmas?

The 25th of December was originally chosen by the Christian Church because it was a time of year linked by people to the birth of the New Year.

People celebrated the visual change in the light period of each day as it lengthened, and the darkness receded.

The sun god many worshipped was returning to bring with him light, warmth and growth to their life giving crops.

This very visible physical change was linked to an event that would bring an equally dramatic spiritual change to the lives of all humanity. The celebration of the birth of the Saviour of humanity, Jesus the Christ.

This tradition has continued within the Christian community down through the centuries.

The true meaning given to this time of year is revealed in the name itself.

Christmas is the combination of two words “*Christ*” and “*mass*”.

Christ – the original use of the word is “*the anointed one*”.

This was used with the anointing with oil of a king or a priest at their ordination, at the commencement of their taking up this office.

The office of a king points to rulership.

The office of a priest points to a mediator reconciling God and humanity.

Jesus of Nazareth was God born into the human race to fulfil both of these offices.

This birth or incarnation [God as spirit becoming flesh] was prophesied long before it happened in the God inspired writings of the Israelite people recorded in the Old Testament of the Holy Bible.

A fuller explanation of the incarnation is given in our article titled “*The Incarnation,*” on this website.

When we consider the situation in which humanity finds itself today there is a desperate need for peace in the world.

History tells us that this lack of peace has always prevailed in society. Every generation has experienced hostility between nations, religions and individuals.

The peace we all long for can only come with reconciliation, the job of a priest.

Jesus the Christ came to the world the first time some 2,000 years ago to bring about this reconciliation.

How will this happen?

Jesus as the Word and Son of God became a human being to begin His work as High Priest to be the Mediator between humanity and the Creator and bring about through that office reconciliation between all people and their Creator.

John 1:1-3 [New Jerusalem Bible] *“In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things came into being, not one thing came into being except through Him.”*

Genesis 1:1, 4, 6, 9, 11 [New Jerusalem Bible] *“In the beginning God created the heaven and earth”*
... [v4] *“God said”* ... [v6] *“God said”* ... [v9] *“God said”* ... [v11] *“God said...”*

It was the Word of God that conducted the initial creation of all things.

Colossians 1:15-17 [New Jerusalem Bible] *“He [Jesus Christ] is the image of the unseen God, the first-born of all creation [as the Son of Man not Son of God] for in Him were created all things in heaven and on earth, everything visible and everything invisible, thrones, ruling forces, sovereignties, powers, all things were created through Him and for Him. He exists before all things and in Him all things hold together...”*

All things were created by Jesus the Christ therefore the value of His life is far greater than anything that has ever existed or will ever exist in the future.

Isaiah 64:8 [New Jerusalem Bible] *“Yahweh, you are the Father [Creator] we are the clay, You our potter, all of us are the Work of Your hands.”*

Just as the value of the potter vastly out-measures the value of the clay, so our Creator is to us the created.

Colossians 1:18-19 [New Jerusalem Bible] *“He [Jesus Christ] is the beginning, the first born from the dead. So that He should be supreme in every way, because God wanted all fullness to be found in Him.”*

Jesus Christ as the Son of Man, the man/god, is the key to all reconciliation between God and humanity and between all humans.

The fullness of everything that God seeks to accomplish for and in all humans.

How will this happen?

Colossians 1:20- [New Jerusalem Bible] *“And through Him [Jesus Christ] to reconcile all things to Him [God the Father] everything on earth, by making peace through His [Jesus Christ’s] death on the cross.”*

The sacrificial death of the man/god [the Word] Jesus the Christ [anointed one] pays in full the justified penalty of our sins [rebellion against our Creator] which is our death.

In this way a Holy [separated by perfection and purity] God can allow in His presence former sinful human beings.

I suggest you pause at this point and re-read, several times if needs be, what is above to receive the depth and the importance of what has been expressed.

Our eternal lives totally depend on our understanding and accepting the substitution that has already been accomplished in our Saviour Jesus the Christ.

All we have to do is repent [change our direction in life away from rebellion against our Creator] and humbly accept the death of Jesus the Christ in place of our own deserved eternal death.

King David of Israel understood this necessary change that has to be made in our lives if we are to be resurrected from our eventual physical death, into eternal life.

Psalms 51:1 [Amplified Bible] *“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your steadfast love.”*

God is true love itself.

This love our Creator God has for us, His Creation is an outward going love that continues to seek the welfare of the object of that love [created human beings] irrespective of our response to that life-giving love.

Matthew 5:43-45 [Amplified Bible] *“You have heard it was said, you shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy. [This is how most of the society thinks and reacts.] “But I [Jesus Christ speaking] tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, to show that you are the children of your Father [Creator] who is in heaven, for He makes His sun rise on the wicked and on the good, and makes the rain fall upon the upright and the wrongdoers alike.”*

Psalm 51:1 continued [Amplified Bible] *“According to your tender mercies and loving-kindness blot out my transgressions [rebellion against our Creator God].”*

Psalm 51:2 [Amplified Bible] *“Wash me thoroughly and repeatedly from my iniquity [perverseness, our persistence in error] and guilt, and cleanse me and make me wholly pure from my sin [to miss the goal aimed for, that is to miss the whole purpose of life to become a child of our Creator God].”*

Psalm 51:3 [Amplified Bible] *“For I am conscious of my transgressions [rebellion] and I acknowledge them, my sin [missing purpose of life] is ever before me.”*

For most people this is **not** their attitude of mind.

Most do not consider themselves as rebellious against a Creator God because they have accepted the lie told them that they are the product of evolution.

[Please download and study the articles on this website listed under main heading ‘*Evolution – The Delusion Of*’].

Most people do not know the reason and purpose of life because not knowing the Creator God have become blind to such true knowledge.

To make such a transformation of thought and attitude demand a complete change of mind.

Romans 12:2 [Message Bible] *“Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on [your Creator] God. You will then be changed from the inside out. You will readily recognise what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God will bring the best out of you, develop well-formed maturity in you.”*

Our first step towards reconciliation with God and other human beings is to acknowledge what we have done and what we are.

Psalm 51:4 [Amplified Bible] *“Against You, [Creator God] You only, have I sinned [missed the purpose of life] and done evil [actions that have brought pain, and hurt to other human beings] in Your sight, [God saw it all happen] so that You are justified in Your sentence [eternal death] and faultless in Your judgement.”*

What was King David’s request to his Creator God when he realised what he was and what he had done.

Psalm 51:9-12 [Message Bible] *“Don’t look too close for blemishes, give me a clean bill of health. God make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life. Don’t throw me out with the trash or fail to breathe holiness in me, bring me back from grey exile, put a fresh wind in my sails!”*

David asked for a total new beginning in his life with God's Power bringing about all the needed changes.

With such a change in his life King David knew he could be a living example for others to follow and bring peace and honour to our Creator God.

Psalm 51:13-15 [Message Bible] *“Give me a job teaching rebels your ways so the lost can find their way home. Commute my death sentence, God, my salvation God, and I'll sing anthems to Your life-giving ways. Unbutton my lips, dear God, and I'll let loose with your praise.”*

Such a change is a very humbling and humiliating experience, but this is exactly what our Creator God is seeking in us, so we can live for ever in His Holy presence.

Psalm 51:16-17 [Message Bible] *“Going through the motions doesn't please You [this must be an inner change **not** an outward show] a flawless performance is nothing to You [this is not the way to worship God] I learned true God-worship when my pride was shattered. Heart-shattered lives ready to receive God's Love will not for a moment escape God's attention.”*

Acknowledging our total dependence of God's Love for us expressed in the birth, life and death is the “mass” [Christ's sacrificial death] part of the Christ-mas title given to 25th December.

This is the only way that “*peace on earth*” will be possible by allowing Jesus Christ to be our High Priest and reconcile us to our Creator God and to other human beings.

This is what Christ-mas is about!!