

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS - Part 1 - Why Christmas?

November 28, 2020

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We need to come home to the ____ Christmas, and not something manufactured by our culture.

It would be easy to begin in the Gospels of Matthew or Luke, but we need to back up in order to understand ____ the events of Christmas occurred.

Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!...

—Genesis 1:31 (NLT)

At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

—Genesis 3:7 (NLT)

Worse than committing this sin, Adam and Eve become ____ by sin.

I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate.

—Romans 7:15 (NLT)

Our very nature has been corrupted by ____.

The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature

desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

—Galatians 5:17 (NLT)

God had always had a bigger plan - to send a ___ to liberate us from our sinful natures.

The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will honor. (fulfilled in Matthew 1:2, Luke 3:33)

—Genesis 49:10 (NLT)

Moses continued, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellow Israelites. ...' (fulfilled in Acts 3:22,23)

—Deuteronomy 18:15 (NLT)

Anointed One = Messiah (Hebrew) = Christos (Greek) = Christ (English)

The LORD says, 'The time is coming when I will choose as king a righteous descendant of David. That king will rule wisely and do what is right and just throughout the land. When he is king, the people of Judah will be safe, and the people of Israel will live in peace. He will be called "The LORD Our Salvation."' (fulfilled in Luke 1:32,33)

—Jeremiah 23:5-6 (TEV)

The Israelites primarily thought of the messiah as being a ___ king.

'...Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means "God is with us").' (fulfilled in Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-35)

—Isaiah 7:14 (NLT)

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will

shine. ... For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies will make this happen! (fulfilled in Matthew 4:12-16)

—Isaiah 9:2,6-7 (NLT)

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past. (fulfilled in Matthew 2:1, Luke 2:4-7)

—Micah 5:2 (NLT)

Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey's colt. (fulfilled in Matthew 21:1-11)

—Zechariah 9:9 (NLT)

The Jews missed the boat on the messiah's actual ____ and ____.

My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on me. They have pierced my hands and feet. I can count all my bones. My enemies stare at me and gloat. They divide my garments among themselves and throw dice for my clothing. (fulfilled in Luke 23:33, 24:36-39, John 19:31-33, Luke 23:34, among others)

—Psalms 22:16-18 (NLT)

But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all. He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent

before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave. But it was the LORD's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the LORD's good plan will prosper in his hands. Then he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. (fulfilled in Matthew 26:62,63; 27:12-14,50, 59,60, among others)

—Isaiah 53:5-11 (NLT)

There are over ____ identifiable prophecies in the Old Testament that all come true in of one man.

Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.'

—John 1:45 (NLT)

Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him.

—Luke 24:27 (Message)

Jesus: 'For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.'

—Luke 19:10 (NLT)

Christmas marks the beginning of Jesus' mission here on earth to ____ all humanity.

But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing

in Jesus Christ.

—Galatians 3:22 (NLT)

And that's the way it was with us before Christ came. We were like children; we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this world. But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.

—Galatians 4:3-5 (NLT)

**If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an educator.
If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.
If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist.
If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer.
But our greatest need was forgiveness,
So God sent us a Savior.
- author unknown**

Next Week: The Unlikely People of Christmas

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