

CHRISTMAS EVE 2015



“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

A gift is of no value whatever unless it is given in love. Jesus was the “ultimate gift” and that the “real” presents we give each other are supposed to serve as a reminder of our ultimate gift in Christ. It is absolutely fitting that because death entered the human race because of the disobedience of man, through the obedience of man life could be restored. Christ is the divine title of our wonderful Lord and Savior.

Did you know that Jesus was NOT Born December 25th "there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8). This never could have occurred in the month of December.

According to Song of Solomon 2:11, and Ezra 10:9, winter was a rainy season not permitting shepherds to abide in open fields at night. The shepherds always brought their flocks from the mountainsides and fields and corralled them not later than October 15, to protect them from the cold, rainy season that followed that date. The exact date of Jesus' birth is unknown.

The word "Christmas" means "Mass of Christ" or, as it later became shortened, "Christ-Mass." It came to us from the Roman Catholic mass.

Facts about the virgin birth:

- Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit in a woman who had never had any sexual relationship. He, therefore, did not have any male seed contributing to his humanity.
- The miracle is in the conception, not the birth.
- It is said to fulfill a prophecy predicted in Isaiah 7:14 (Matt. 1:22-23).
- Matthew and Luke are the only two to explicitly mention the virgin birth.
- To point to the uniqueness of Christ
- Substantiate his deity.
- Substantiate his humanity

A PRAYER OF THANKS (Max Lucado)

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son to earth as a baby so many years ago. Thank you that He paid the punishment for my sins by dying on the cross. And thank you that He rose again to

prove that death was truly defeated. I place my trust in You to be my Savior. Guide me through the dark times of my life Christmas prayer and give me courage to live for You. Amen

On December 24th, 1968, Apollo 8 made its final pass around the moon and the crew, in turn, sent home this message from a tiny, and rather flimsy little capsule was orbiting the moon on Christmas Eve 1968. Far from home, three astronauts traveled to the moon and slowed to enter orbit as a test demonstration before the actual landing on the moon by Apollo 11 (The video is only 2.48 minutes):

Click link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vvNxlP1jA>

*Give us, O God, the vision which can see Your love in the world in spite of human failure.
Give us the faith to trust Your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.
Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts.
And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace.
(Frank Borman, Apollo 8 space mission, 1968).*