

CHRISTMAS
LOOKING FOR ANSWERS AT CHRISTMAS
GALATIANS 4:4-5

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Introduction

There is most always an excitement in the air around Christmas time!
For both children and adults there is the anticipation of Christmas morning and the gifts that will be both given and received that increase that excitement!

Almost always there are questions that parents and grandparents have to field at Christmas from the little ones.

I. WHEN IS CHRISTMAS?

Children have an anticipation of Christmas! And many of them will drive you nuts wanting to know when Christmas is! (*Short drive!*)

We celebrate Christmas on **December 25** but it is not known for certain the exact date that Jesus was born into this World! I've seen some that have tried to both prove and disprove it was this date!

The Bible simply says . . .*“But when the fulness of the time was come. . .”*

That first Christmas was at a time appointed by God!
No one could rush it or delay it!

I want you to imagine for a moment that you are an Old Testament saint:

A. Adam And Eve Looked For Christmas!

Genesis 3:15–“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

Genesis 4:1–“And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.”

B. Abraham Looked For Christmas!

God told Abraham in Genesis 12:3–“ . . .in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

As he went up on Mount Moriah to offer Isaac as a sacrifice unto the LORD, he got an early look at Christmas—the ram caught in the thicket! A type of the Lord Jesus Christ!

C. Isaac Looked For Christmas!

God told Isaac in Genesis 26:3-4–“ . . .I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father. . .in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.”

D. Jacob Looked For Christmas!

God told Jacob in Genesis 28:14–“ . . .in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.”

E. Jacob’s Sons Looked For Christmas!

As Jacob called his sons to him prior to his death to tell them what God had revealed to him was in their future, he said in *Genesis 49:10–“The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.”*

F. Moses Looked For Christmas!

God told Moses in *Deuteronomy 18:18-19–“I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.”*

G. The Prophets Looked For Christmas!

Isaiah 7:14–“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

Micah 5:2–“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting”

Many other prophecies related to the first coming of Christ!

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That first Christmas came right on time! Many thought it would never get here, but it came right on time!

There is also an anticipation about the second coming of Jesus! It may seem as though it will never get here, but Jesus will come right on time!

So the first question, is *WHEN IS CHRISTMAS?*

II. WHO GAVE ME A GIFT? “...God sent forth. . .”

When the gifts would be placed under the tree our children would go through looking for their name on the gifts and also to see who gave them the gift.

(The same thing would happen when we would go to relatives houses!)

There are some gifts we anticipate are going to be better than others just by knowing who is giving the gift!

The closer (in relation or love) that the person is, usually the better the gift is! (e.g. *Mama and Daddy*)

The richer the person is usually the more expensive the gift is. (e.g. *Aunt Net & Uncle Charles*)

Well, you can't get any richer than God! Amen!

A. God Knew Exactly What We Needed!

Hebrews 4:13—“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

1. **He Saw Our Great Perverseness!**
We needed Him to give us new life!
2. **He Saw Our Great Poverty!**
We needed Him to pay our way!
3. **He Saw Our Great Pain!**
We needed Him to heal our pain!

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4. **He Saw Our Great Paralysis!**
We needed Him to come to us!

5. **He Saw Our Great Predicament!**
We needed Him to lift us out of the miry clay!

6. **He Saw Our Great Potential!**
We needed Him to love us enough to bring out that potential!

God Knew Exactly What We Needed...

B. God Put All Of His Love Into Giving Us His Gift!

John 3:16—“For God so loved the World that He gave. . .”

Romans 5:8—“But God commendeth His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

1 John 4:9—“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.”

WHEN IS CHRISTMAS?. . .WHO GAVE ME A GIFT?. . .

III. WHAT GIFT DID I GET? “God sent forth His Son. . .”

Our children would shake the boxes and try to guess what was in the boxes!

Sometimes we would put small gifts in big boxes to throw them off!

I remember putting gravel in a box one time so that it would shake and sound like they broke what was in the box!

When we would open the gifts they would rip off the paper and rip open the box to reveal what the gift is—all except their Grandma's gifts (Susan's mom)! I think Grandma used a roll of tape per present and it took for ever to unwrap her gifts!

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God's Christmas gift came to this world wrapped in flesh—"The Word became flesh. . ."

God's Christmas gift was then wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.

Someone said this about God's gift to us:

If our greatest need had been technological, God would have sent a scientist.

If our greatest need had been informational, God would have sent an educator.

If our greatest need had been financial, God would have sent a billionaire.

If our greatest need had been diversional, God would have sent an entertainer.

However, our need was for forgiveness, so God sent us an Atonement!
Our need was for redemption, so God sent us a Redeemer!
Our need was for salvation, so God sent us a Saviour!
Our need was for love, so God sent His Son!

A. For A Gift To Have Its Full Impact In Our Lives, It Must Be Appreciated!

Did your children ever show a lack of appreciation for something you gave to them?
(i.e. By playing with the boxes or old toys!)

God has given us something Spiritual, but many just wanted something material!

God has given us something of eternal value, but many just wanted something to play with down here!

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It Must Be Appreciated...

B. For A Gift To Have Its Full Impact In Our Lives, It Must Be Accepted!

Did your children ever refuse a gift you gave to them?
How did that make you feel when it happened?
If that has never happened, how would that make you feel if that were to happen?

God's gift can be refused! In fact, there are many people who have rejected God's Christmas Gift!

C. For A Gift To Have Its Full Impact In Our Lives, We Must Know About It!

Aren't you glad that you heard about God's Gift to you?
Don't you think others deserve to hear about God's Gift to them?

WHEN IS CHRISTMAS?, WHO GAVE ME A GIFT?, WHAT GIFT DID I GET?

IV. HOW DOES IT WORK?

In order to use the gift properly, you need to know something about the gift.

When all else fails, read the instructions!

The Bible is our Instruction Book!

A. God Sent Jesus Made Of A Woman.

1. God The Son Was Made Flesh—Why?
(Hebrews 2:14-18)

- a. To Die.
- b. To Destroy.
- c. To Deliver.

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- 2. God The Son Was Made Flesh--Virgin Birth.**
Isaiah 7:14--“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name, Immanuel.”

Luke 1:30-35

Matthew 1:20--“...that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.”

HOW DOES IT WORK?

God Sent Jesus Made Of A Woman.

B. God Sent Jesus Made Under The Law.

- 1. He Was Sinless With Regard To The Law.**

Matthew 5:17--“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

- 2. He Was The Substitute As Required By The Law.**

2 Corinthians 5:21--“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

(Hebrews 9:12-14; 24-26; 10:10, 14)

C. God Sent Jesus To Redeem Those Under The Law.

This is not speaking of our redemption from the curse of the Law, but primarily our redemption from the slavery to the entire old Mosaic system.

The emphasis here is not on the penalty of the law but on its bondage.

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Question—Since Christ redeemed and set free those of us who were under the Law, why should we who know Christ now seek to be placed under it? Answer—We shouldn’t!

D. God Sent Jesus So That We Might Receive The Adoption Of Sons.

The word “*adoption*” literally means the full placing as sons!

That means that all the enjoyments and privileges of a mature son in a family belong to those who have entered into the benefits of Christ’s redemptive work!

CONCLUSION

Here’s the point: God sent Jesus right on time for each of us!

Not just any gift would do—He sent His only begotten Son made of a woman and made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

What are you doing with the Gift of God?

God paid the ultimate price for His Gift for you.

Are you griping because you didn’t get something else you wanted?

Are you neglecting the Gift because you are distracted by the things you already have or some new things that have come along?

Are you rejecting the Gift because you don’t want it? (The Sin of Ingratitude)

Accept the Gift!

Embrace and Cherish the Gift!

Share the Gift!