

# The Reason for the Christmas Season

**Matthew 1:18-24**

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*18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about<sup>[a]</sup>: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet<sup>[b]</sup> did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,<sup>[c]</sup> because he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"<sup>[d]</sup> (which means "God with us"). 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.*

## Intro:

**Christmas is the celebration of the incarnation** (i.e., God becoming flesh).

**Incarnation:** the belief in Jesus Christ as both God and a human being

When I think of the real meaning of Christmas, (**God becoming flesh-Incarnation**) **three words come to mind**—those three words explain the reason for the season.

## 1. God becoming flesh-The Incarnation Was For Revelation

**John 14:8,9** "Show us the Father and we will be satisfied." "Have I been so long with you and you have not known me? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

**Col 2:9** "In him all the fullness of the Godhead dwells."

**John 1:14** "God became flesh and dwelt among us."

## 2. God becoming flesh-The Incarnation is for Identification

**Heb. 2:17-18.**<sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like them,<sup>[a]</sup> fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.<sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

**Heb. 4:14-16** <sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,<sup>[a]</sup> Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.<sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

### 3. God becoming flesh-The Incarnation is for Salvation

**Gal. 4:4-5** "He was made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons"

**John 19:30** "It is finished." That word has many different meanings---

#### It was used as a:

- **Artist's term** ---As an artist when he completing a painting that he had been working on, they would say, "tetelestai" "**The picture is perfect!**"
- **Servant term:** ---To a servant, when you would come in and you would report to your master that you had finished all the duties of the day you would say "tetelestai". It means **I finished the job. I completed the work.**
- **Judicial term**---Judges would use it and they would stamp it on prison sentences that had been commuted. When a prisoner had gone and served his time and paid this debt to society and made restitution then they would come out and the judge would stamp on his prison sentence "tetelestai". It meant "**justice has been served.**" You've served your time. You've completed the penalty. You have done all that you've needed to do and the demands of justice are fulfilled and this is what Jesus did.
- **Sacrificial term**--When a priest would find an unblemished lamb to be sacrificed, the priest would say "tetelestai" -- it means "**We found the perfect sacrifice.**"
- **Business term**--businessmen and by merchants used it when you had finished paying a bill they would stamp on your bill, "tetelestai", which means you're up to date, **you're paid in full.**

#### What did Jesus mean when he cried, "**It is finished**" He meant:

- "**The picture is perfect.**"
  - I've done the last stroke. Every detail of this picture is perfect."
- "**The job was finished ...**"
  - I have completed the work
- "**Justice has been served,**"
  - the sentence has been completed.
- The **sacrifice was finished.**
  - There was no more need for more sacrifices.
- **The bill has been paid.**
  - Our debt paid in full