

Christmas 2021

Religious acts do not impress God. God does not want religious acts to be our way of worship. He wants us to administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Don't plot evil against one another. If you want to serve the real God, do what he really wants you to do.

Christmas is about the real God.

This Christmas is a special Christmas. When we open these packages we will see what they really are. Let me show you the gift you are getting from God.

- **People too often fail to grasp the powerful truth that God sent His one and only Son into this world as the sacrifice for sin, to be the Savior of the world. Get this! God the Father sent his one and only Son to be tortured and abused by us. Jesus willingly gave up his place in heaven to become human and buy us back with His sacrifice.**
- **Jesus radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. God promised everything to his Son as an inheritance and through Jesus he made the universe. This is wrapped up in the present before you.**
- **Because I am human, Jesus became flesh and blood so he could die breaking the power of the devil who had the power of death. Jesus did not come to help angels, he came to help me. He is my gift from God. Since he has**

gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help all of us when we are being tested.

- The Lord Jesus Christ was eternally rich, glorious, and exalted; but "though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor."
- On the first Christmas Eve, there were no brightly colored lights on any homes. There were no stockings that had been hung with care and no visions of sugar plums on anyone's mind. It was just another night in Bethlehem.
- But world history was about to change. When Mary and Joseph arrived in town, there was no room in the inn. So the Son of God entered our world in a stable or, most likely, a cave.
- Now when parents have a child, especially their first child, they call their loved ones and tell them the weight and length of the baby and the actual time of birth. On the first Christmas, God the Father also made an announcement that His Son had been born.

[Luk 2:1-20 NLT] 1 At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. 2 (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. 4 And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. 5 He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. 7 She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them. 8 That night there

were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. 9 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, 10 but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. 11 The Savior-- yes, the Messiah, the Lord--has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! 12 And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others--the armies of heaven--praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." 15 When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16 They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. 17 After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. 18 All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, 19 but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. 20 The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.