

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

“Christmas” Philippians 2:5-11

“Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not demand and cling to His rights as God. He made Himself nothing; He took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form.” Philippians 2:5-7 (NLT)

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

I. THE RELEVANCE OF CHRISTMAS: GOD CAME TO **EARTH**.

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature GOD, ...” Philippians 2:5-6 (NIV)

“... He has always been God by nature ...” Philippians 2:6 (Ph)

There are people who say that Jesus was a great man, even a great prophet. There's only one problem with that: Jesus never claimed to be a great prophet. Over and over the Bible repeats and Jesus proclaims that He is God. I have a problem with a man who was just good, saying he is God. Jesus repeatedly said, “I am God.”

“In the beginning the Word (Jesus) already existed. He was with God, and He was God.” John 1:1 (NLT)

“Christ is the exact likeness of the unseen God. He existed before God made anything at all, and in fact, Christ Himself is the Creator who made everything in heaven and earth ...” Colossians 1:15-16

II. THE REALITY OF CHRISTMAS: GOD BECAME **A MAN**.

“but (He) made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, ...” Philippians 2:7-8 (NIV)

“... He became like men and was born a human being.” Philippians 2:7 (AMP)

- He was **born** like us. (Luke 2:6-7)
- He **grew** like us.
“Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man” Luke 2:52
- He was **tempted** like us.
“... He was tempted in every way that we are. But He did not sin!” Hebrews 4:15 (CEV)
- He **suffered** like us.
“... The sorrow is so great it almost crushes Me.” Matthew 26:38

III. THE REASON FOR CHRISTMAS: JESUS CAME TO **REDEEM US**.

“... He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!” Philippians 2:8 (NIV)

Why the Cross:

1. To demonstrate God's **love**

“God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Romans 5:8

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13 (KJV)

2. To pay for my **sins**

“He personally carried the load of our sins in His own body when He died on the cross, so that we can be finished with sin and live a good life.” 1 Peter 2:24

“... the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life ...” Romans 6:23 (NIV)

“For unto you is born this day ... a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11 (KJV)

IV. THE RESULT OF CHRISTMAS: JESUS IS **LORD**.

“Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, ...” Philippians 2:9-11 (NIV)

Because Jesus humbled Himself, God has done two things:

1. He has given Jesus the place of **top honor** in the universe. He is honored above all else—the highest place.
2. He has been given a new name or title – **LORD**.

What does it mean to call Jesus “Lord”?

- It means to acknowledge that He really is **God**.
- It means that I believe that He has everything **under control**.
- It means that I have committed all **my life** to Him.

“... If you confess with your mouth, ‘JESUS IS LORD,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

“so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father.” Philippians 2:10-11 (NLT)