

# JESUS AND CHRISTMAS DAY



# Wikipedia correctly says...

Christmas or Christmas Day is a holiday observed generally on December 25 to commemorate the birth of Jesus, the central figure of Christianity. The date is not known to be the actual birthday of Jesus, and may have initially been chosen to correspond with either the day exactly nine months after some early Christians believed Jesus had been conceived, the date of the Roman winter solstice, or one of various ancient winter festivals

# Jesus birthday?

- December 25 is very unlikely to be Jesus' actual day of birth.

**The reason is nobody knows the exact day Jesus was born!** We have hints in the bible but no certainty.



Firstly let us just **look at the word Christmas**, it is **built of two words Christ and Mass**. For those not in a church that uses the term “Mass” is a term used to describe a remembrance of Jesus’ death on the cross.

It is interesting that **at a birth of a baby, we name it after remembrance of his death!** This is, I guess, because his greatest life’s work was his death and the subsequent resurrection!



**Perhaps the early Church decided on the date to overwhelm another celebration, that of the Roman winter solstice celebration,** which occurred on 25<sup>th</sup> December. They wanted to celebrate Jesus birth and so this date was useful. This probably happened a few centuries after Jesus lived.



# Okay, so how can we be fairly sure Jesus was not born in December?

Well Luke says...

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were **shepherds living out in the fields** nearby, keeping **watch over their flocks at night.** [



**Okay, so how can we be fairly sure Jesus was not born in December?**

The shepherds were out with their flocks and it appeared to be lambing season. We know from other secular writings that in that part of the world **it was too cold at night to be out in December** and **so the month would have had to have had a warmer night** for them to be out.





Another piece of information that hints it was not winter was Luke 2:1

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a **census** should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register





**To get accurate figures, they would try and avoid a census in winter because due to the cold the people would be less likely to comply** correctly and travel (people travelled on foot and had to stay out some nights). This again points to a warmer month.

**Okay, so now we can assume it's not winter,** and some people suggest Fall (Autumn), but there is no evidence for that either.

The time it occurred is perhaps not the most important aspect, maybe it's the meaning...

...what is the meaning?

I asked a tweenager **what he considered  
Christmas was  
about,**  
and the first words that he spoke were  
**"Santa"**

**(or as in South Africa and other parts of the world we say Father Christmas!)**

**Penny(my wife) and I suggested there may be  
something else that it was about...**

...he offered **"presents"**, **"candy"** and I am sure if we had allowed him to continue he would have said **"lights"**, **"holly"**, **"Christmas jingles"**, **"fun"** and other things that are propounded in the popular culture beliefs.

The time Jesus was born occurred is perhaps not the most important aspect, maybe it's the meaning...

...what is the meaning?

Personally, it seems to me as I review the Christmas milieu, that **from a business perspective, Christmas is all about money and greed.**

These thoughts make me think of Jesus overthrowing the money changers in the temple and saying “‘My house will be called a house where people can pray.’ (Isaiah 56:7) But you are making it a ‘den for robbers.’” (Jeremiah 7:11)” Matthew 21:13  
NIRV.

# How much of Christmas is about praying... (that's talking to God)...

and not about **stuffing ourselves with food**,  
getting more things that cannot follow us into  
eternity, and **ignoring those in need around  
us?**

*Christmas is NOT about the things most  
people have made it out to be! I find it  
saddening that even the nativity scene  
everyone propounds is a lie.*





What's wrong about this?

**The star** appeared after Jesus was born, was around for about two years and moved continually only coming to rest over the place where Jesus was (and not necessarily where he was born) after two years of moving about.





What's wrong about this?

**Those wise men were not there at the birth**







# What's wrong about this?

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

**The stable is gone!**

**The text that refers to where the birth takes place is...**

Guest Room (occupied)

Family Room (everyone else!)



**So, Jesus was born into a middle class home! One artistic rendition of the type of structure is shown below...(okay so I'm the artist...please be gentle)**

**These houses had more than one living area.**

The guest room (or prophets rooms as it is sometimes called) was reserved for honoured guests (so we can see **Joseph and Mary were not considered honoured guests**).

Then there was a **living area where the rest of the family lived and slept, probably the area that Jesus was born in.**

Then there was a **lower area into which the livestock was brought in during the cold nights**. This was their heating mechanism. The animals body heat helped keep the place warm.

**Jesus didn't actually get born on Christmas day** and it's not really his birthday, but **it is the day the world has chosen to celebrate his birthday**. It's great to have a party, but let's not ignore the person for whom the party has been organized

**In Canada it's now become fashionable to stop saying "Merry Christmas" and there is pressure to say "Happy holidays"!**

**Why do we have the holiday?**

*Because Christ came to this world...is the obvious and correct answer!*

**Why should we distort this?**

**Let's enjoy the  
Christmas party but  
not forget that God  
came to this earth to  
improve this world  
for everyone!**

**He came to bring love  
in a new way to the  
unloved!** He came to  
tell us we are  
important, supremely  
important to what he  
wants done on this little  
planet of ours.



**He came to tell us every human being is important and not only to Him,** they should be important to us as well.

He came to teach us to be lovers supreme, and we have screwed it up into rules and regulations, making a religion of a relationship.

*Wow! We suck at **true love** don't we?*

Yet God knows that as well!  
**He provides us with supernatural help for each day!**



**Holy Spirit moves with us, moves in us, and motivates us to do something for this world of ours!**

It is Holy Spirit that makes us cry inside when we see how little the children of this world understand why Christmas exists.

We can make this better!

**The greens and reds, do they remind us of eternal life and the blood of Jesus?**

They should!



**Do we want to hear  
Christmas hymns**, or  
is “Deck the halls with  
holly” good enough for  
us?



*Maybe we need to take  
the young people aside  
and explain the truth of  
the season?*



**Maybe we need to point out freedom of speech is being able to speak truth** as we see it without being made into social outcasts?

Maybe we need to take some time to take food to those needing it without competing with another organization to get there first or do it better?

Maybe we need to extend Christmas to each day of the year and help those in need every day as much as we can?







**Maybe Christmas is  
simply a reminder to  
love our world with  
the love of God?**

*Maybe we need to have  
a year of Christmas  
days?*