

## Why did Jesus Come at Christmas Time?

How do we answer the above question?

A simple but excellent answer to the question is to say that He came to save us. We can elaborate on that in various ways depending on who's listening. A small child will need to be taught what the word "save" means. A pastoral conference, however, will be interested in something deeper, possibly an in-depth study of Hebrew or Greek texts.

Scripture itself answers "Why did Jesus come into the world at Christmas" in many ways—each with a different emphasis, a specific focus, or a nuance that gives us a special "aha" moment!

Consider the following:

*"The saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: that Christ Jesus has come into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the chief"* (1 Timothy 1:15)

This answer is universal. Every honest, penitent sinner can identify with it. Christ Jesus came into the world (Christmas) to rescue everyone from their sins—yes, even the very worst sinners!

*"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets! I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them"* (Matthew 5:17).

Jesus came (Christmas) to fulfil for us what we were required to do but never could. More than that, He fulfilled every Gospel-centred prophecy and promise!

*"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us. For the Scriptures have said, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"* (Galatians 3:13).

He has delivered us from the curse we deserved! Notice that the Apostle didn't merely say Christ experienced the curse instead of us; he said Christ actually *became a curse*. He was so immersed in that curse that He became the curse—personified! What an astonishing reason for Christ coming into the world (Christmas)!

*"Therefore, since the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also in just the same way participated in the same things, that, through His death, He might destroy the one who has power over death, that is, the Devil,<sup>15</sup> and that He might release all those who were subjected to slavery all their lives by fear of death"* (Hebrews 2:14-15)

The infant in the manger was flesh and blood (Christmas), even as we are. He came to die, that through His death He would destroy the devil who, through deception, made death our reality. Jesus, however, undid what happened to us, making life our reality. Jesus Himself is the resurrection and the life—personified (John 11:25)!

*"See what great love the Father has given to us, that we are called "the children of God"! That is what we are"* (1 John 3:1)

How did God bestow His love on us? He gave His only-begotten Son (Christmas)! The Father's love was laser-focused on making us His very own children. Jesus made it happen.

*"His love has been brought to maturity with us in this, that we have confidence on the Day of Judgment"* (1 John 4:17a)

The expression *"has been brought to maturity"* means "has been brought to its goal." Judgement Day is a very unsettling (terrifying) day for sinners! The ultimate goal of Jesus coming into the world (Christmas) was being able to welcome us, on the Last Day, into the kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34)! Embrace as your very own, therefore, what the angel said: *"Stop being afraid! For look! I am bringing you Good News of great joy"* (Luke 2:10)

Ready for more good tidings? Jesus promised He's coming again!

*"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"* (Revelation 22:20)