

Christmas Unmasked

The **PURPOSE** of Christmas: The Baby came to **deliver** us.

 1 John 1:1–4 (NLT) “We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw Him with our own eyes and touched Him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. ² **This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen Him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that He is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then He was revealed to us.** ³ We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.”

Jesus was born to **LIVE** His life.

 Luke 2:8–11 (NIV84) “...there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.”

 Isaiah 53:2b–3 (NIV84) “He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.”

 1 John 1:2a (NLT) “This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen Him.”

Jesus was born to **GIVE** His life.

 1 John 1:2b (NLT) “...And now we testify and proclaim to you that He is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then He was revealed to us.”

 Matthew 1:21 (NIV84) “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”

 Romans 3:23 (NIV84) “...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

 Romans 5:19 (NASB) “For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.”

 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV84) “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

 Matthew 2:11 (NIV84) “On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.”

 John 19:38–40 (NIV84) Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate’s permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰ Taking Jesus’ body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.”

 Luke 2:11–12 (NKJV) “For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

 1 John 2:2 (NIV84) “He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”

 **Digging Deeper** Christmas is God unmasked. The One that was unapproachable approached us. What does “living like Jesus” look like in today’s world? In what ways do you celebrate the life of Christ? Has Christmas been hijacked in your home? —Has it been Santitized? In a sentence, what would you say is the **Purpose of Christmas**? How does it make you feel to hear that YOU are the reason for the season? Saving you was the reason that Jesus came. How certain are you that heaven will one day be your home? Who do you know that needs to hear this message? Who will you invite to Christmas Eve?