Why Did Jesus Come?

At this time of year, we are all wishing each other a joyous season of peace. After all isn't that what the angels were praising and announcing on the night of the Messiah's birth?... *peace on earth and good will towards men.* (Luke 2:14) Jesus came and we are still vexed by all the political upheavals, disasters due to climate change and threats of war. Is it reasonable to expect peace?



What did Jesus himself say about peace? "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword". (Matthew 10:34)

History proves these words to be true. In the last 2,000 years the world has witnessed only a very short time of world peace.

So, if he did not come to bring world peace at his first coming... *Why did he come?*

• Did he come to teach morals and ethics? He came to redefine the essence of all these moral and ethical laws we already have. But this is not all He came for!

• Did he come to bring new scientific knowledge to a world bent on self-destruction? While he did prophesy about many of the natural disasters we are now facing, this is not all he came for!

• Did he come to establish a new religion as so many suppose? No! Jesus himself said:

"Think not that I have come to destroy the law and the prophets; I have not come to destroy, but to fulfill". (Matthew 5:17)

An examination of the organized religions of the world yields a very interesting observation. In most every case the scenario is the same. <u>First</u> came the man and <u>then</u> the plan. In other words, at the onset of a new religious movement, first a leader steps forward (the man) and then he delivers a new revelation (the plan). In Judeo-Christian theology, the order of events is *reversed* – we

first have the plan and then came the man! Jesus is the only leader who was introduced to those who were already waiting for him,

long before he even came.

The prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures set forth many unique details about Jesus and his mission, centuries in advance. And in particular relating to the Christmas story and the incarnation, we cite here some of what the prophets revealed:

- •He would be conceived of a virgin. (Isaiah 7:14)
- •He would be born in the town of Bethlehem.

(Micah 5:2)

- •He would be an offering for our sins. (Isaiah 53:4-6)
- •He, although a Jew, would become a light to the

Gentiles, and bring salvation to the whole world.

(Isaiah 49:5-6)

He did not come to change the Laws of Moses, He came to fulfill them. His religion is the oldest, hailing from heaven and entering into the Garden of Eden at the time when Adam and Eve rebelled.

He came to take the sins we inherited from our first parents in that Garden. These sins caused them to hide, and brought a separation between man and God. He came to restore that missing relationship we so desperately need with Him. He came so that we might have a personal peace with God. He came to die for our sins. Only his perfect sacrifice has the power over death and hell. He came to pay a debt he didn't owe because we owed a debt we couldn't pay.

What stands in the shadow of Christmas?



Yeshua came to take the sins we inherited from our first parents in the Garden

How else is Christmas connected to the Hebrew Bible?

Jesus has a beautiful Hebrew name: Yeshua

If you were to call out the name "Jesus" in the first century it is doubtful that someone by that name would have answered you. At his birth, the Son of Man, Jesus, was given the Hebrew name Yeshua.

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus (Yeshua), for he will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21) Yeshua means God saves and here is where the Jewish roots of the Christmas story begin.



Many have separated the Jewish people and her history from Yeshua (Jesus), assuming that the Scriptures say that God had cast off His people Israel because of her rejection of the Messiah. In the New Testament, Paul affirms in the strongest terms that she is not cast off. (Romans 11:1) While it is true that Israel today does suffer to some extent because of the Messianic rejection, her disobedience started long before that. But this is the crux of the matter.

The Root of Antisemitism

While on the one hand we have Israel's rebellion, on the other hand we have an unbreakable promise from God, that she would remain the apple of His eye: For this is what the LORD Almighty says...for whoever touches you touches the apple of His eye. (Zechariah 2:8) God has an everlasting eye of protection over Israel and for that reason she continues to exist and even thrive despite millennia of persecution, of crusades, of threats from Islamic Jihad, and the Nazis. Why such protection? It was through the Jewish seed of Miriam (Jesus' mother, Mary) that the Messiah would be born into the world.

Let's consider the first messianic prophecy that was ever given to man. It declared that Satan would be defeated through the seed of the woman. That seed came from Miriam (Mary). This defeat would come about by Messiah crushing the head of Satan, leading to his eventual demise. That is why Satan has always tried to annihilate the Jewish people.

He did not want the Messiah to enter the world through the prophesied Jewish line. This is the answer to such illogical, unwarranted and endless anti-Semitism. There is a spiritual battle going on between Satan and God. The Jewish people are at the center.

No Jewish people? No Christmas!

Salvation is of the Jews. (John 4:22) That is what the Samaritan woman was told by Jesus. The Brit Chadashah (New Testament) clearly confirms that this incredible salvation from heaven would be brought forth through the Jewish people. They were given irrevocable promises by God Himself concerning the Jewish messianic ancestry. (Romans 3:2)

An Unbreakable Ancestry

This ancestry could never be changed or destroyed. It was established through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and then through Jacob's son, Judah. It continued on with King David and then to Yeshua.

If no Jews...

No Jesus! If no Jesus...

No Hope!

This nation needed to survive so that Messiah would be born of the Jewish virgin as was prophesied. His second coming is also dependent on the existence of the Jewish people. They have a special role at the end of the great war called Armageddon.

The prophet Zechariah tells us in 12:10 that they (the Jewish nation) will look upon [him] whom they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only son.



This will trigger the end of the war. Only then will true and everlasting peace come to this earth. The full Jewish Christmas package will then be fully unwrapped!

Faithful to Israel, Faithful to Us

Here is one last thing to remember about the Jewish connection to Christmas. We need only look to Israel and her history to see the incredible faithfulness of God to a nation who was not always that faithful. Since God continues to be faithful to Israel, will He not show that same love for the nations of the world (the Gentiles)?

God is patient, and very longsuffering. He is waiting for you to realize that you do not need to carry the guilt of your sins any longer. He wants you to know that personal peace with God is possible and Christmas is that perfect time to receive Jesus' gift of salvation.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2)

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