

Introduction: Christmas is about “The Baby” that changed the world

- An angel tells Mary about – the Baby!
- Mary couldn't comprehend having – the Baby!
- Joseph's problem with Mary is – the Baby!
- An angel tells Joseph to raise – the Baby!
- A manger is the birthplace of – the Baby!
- Shepherds come and worship – the Baby!
- Wise men follow a star to find – the Baby!
- Herod wants to kill – the Baby!

Let's shift the focus from the “Christmas Story” to the profound questions it raises:

1. Why did He come?
2. Who is He?
3. What does He want?

**The Christmas Story – From Heaven’s Perspective
and Three Questions that Demand an Answer**



Question #1: Why did He come?

Answer: Colossians 1:1-14

Author and Context:

Colossians 1:1-2

- The Apostle Paul – A.D. 61
- Affluent town, multi-cultural, the new Church
- False teaching attacking God and Christ

1. Jesus left heaven to GIVE us a _____ that will never disappoint.

Colossians 1:3-8

- He gives thanks to the Father...
 - For their faith in Christ.
 - For their love of other believers.
- This faith and love springs from the hope...
 - Stored up in heaven for them.
 - Since they received the Gospel of grace.
- This Gospel (Good News)...
 - Is the Word of Truth
 - Went around the world
 - Consistently bears fruit and increases
 - Came via Epaphras

2. Jesus left heaven to REVEAL God's _____
_____ for each of our lives. Colossians 1:9-11

- For this reason,
- He asks God to fill them with the knowledge of His will -
 - In all spiritual wisdom and understanding.
- He prays that they will walk worthy of the Lord.
 - Pleasing Him in all respects.
 - Bearing fruit in every good work.
 - Increasing in the (experiential) knowledge of God.
 - Strengthened with all power according to His glorious might.
So that they may have:
 - Great endurance.
 - Great patience.

3. Jesus left heaven to RESCUE us from the _____ Colossians 1:12-14
of darkness.

- He joyously gives thanks to the Father who...
 - Qualified us to share in the inheritance of saints in the Kingdom of Light.
 - Rescued us from the dominion of darkness.
 - Brought us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption – the forgiveness of sins.

- How did He rescue us?

1. He _____ you – your account has been approved.
2. He _____ you as an heir – you're in His will.
3. He _____ sin, death, and Satan through the cross and resurrection.
4. He _____ you out of the slave market of sin and _____ you from all your sins.

Conclusion: Why did He come?

He came because He _____ and wants to have a personal, intimate, _____ with you forever.

Questions for Application and Discussion:

1. What most amazes you about God's plan revealed in the Christmas story?
2. Which of the 3 reasons for Jesus leaving heaven resonated most deeply with you? Why?
3. How might you allow heaven's perspective of Christmas to transform how you experience and celebrate the holiday?
4. For whom did Jesus come? How will they know?