

Chapter 1 : The True Meaning of Christmas - The Way of Enlightenment

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the.

The form Christenmas was also historically used, but is now considered archaic and dialectal; [35] it derives from Middle English Cristenmasse, literally "Christian mass". In the Luke account, Joseph and Mary travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census, and Jesus is born there and laid in a manger. In the Matthew account, magi follow a star to Bethlehem to bring gifts to Jesus, born the king of the Jews. King Herod orders the massacre of all the boys less than two years old in Bethlehem, but the family flees to Egypt and later settles in Nazareth. History Nativity of Christ, medieval illustration from the Hortus deliciarum of Herrad of Landsberg 12th century Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst depicts the nativity of Jesus The Nativity stories of Matthew and Luke are prominent in the gospels and early Christian writers suggested various dates for the anniversary. The first recorded Christmas celebration was in Rome in In the early Middle Ages, it was overshadowed by Epiphany. The feast regained prominence after , when Charlemagne was crowned emperor on Christmas Day. Associating it with drunkenness and other misbehavior, the Puritans banned Christmas in the 17th century. In the early 19th century, Christmas was revived with the start of the Oxford Movement in the Anglican Church. Around AD , Clement of Alexandria wrote: Solstice date December 25 was the date of the winter solstice on the Roman calendar. He, therefore, who bent low and lifted us up chose the shortest day, yet the one whence light begins to increase. Jesus was considered to be the "Sun of righteousness" prophesied by Malachi: An anonymous work known as De Pascha Computus linked the idea that creation began at the spring equinox, on March 25, with the conception or birth the word nascor can mean either of Jesus on March 28, the day of the creation of the sun in the Genesis account. Christmas was then calculated as nine months later. The Calculation hypothesis was proposed by French writer Louis Duchesne in This holiday was created in the seventh century and was assigned to a date that is nine months before Christmas, in addition to being the traditional date of the equinox. It is unrelated to the Quartodecimal, which had been forgotten by this time. Because Passover was held on the 14th of the month, this feast is referred to as the Quartodecimal. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul mentions Passover, presumably celebrated according to the local calendar in Corinth. According to the Calculation hypothesis, celebration of the quartodecimal continued in some areas and the feast became associated with Incarnation. The Calculation hypothesis is considered academically to be "a thoroughly viable hypothesis", though not certain. This passage is generally considered a late interpolation. But the manuscript includes another passage, one that is more likely to be authentic, that gives the passion as March This conclusion was based on solar symbolism, with March 25 the date of the equinox. As this implies a birth in December, it is sometimes claimed to be the earliest identification of December 25 as the nativity. However, Africanus was not such an influential writer that it is likely he determined the date of Christmas. Who indeed is so unconquered as Our Lord? Or, if they say that it is the birthday of the Sun, He is the Sun of Justice. An explicit expression of this theory appears in an annotation of uncertain date added to a manuscript of a work by 12th-century Syrian bishop Jacob Bar-Salibi. The scribe who added it wrote: In these solemnities and revelries the Christians also took part. Accordingly when the doctors of the Church perceived that the Christians had a leaning to this festival, they took counsel and resolved that the true Nativity should be solemnised on that day. Talley holds that the Roman Emperor Aurelian placed a festival of Sol Invictus on December 25 in order to compete with the growing rate of the Christian Church, which had already been celebrating Christmas on that date first. Irenaeus and Tertullian omit it from their lists of feasts. In , Origen of Alexandria , writing about Leviticus It was prepared privately for Furius Dionysius Filocalus , a Roman aristocrat, in The reference in question states, "VIII kal. The feast was introduced at Constantinople in , in Antioch by John Chrysostom towards the end of the fourth century, [88] probably in , and in Alexandria only in the following century. These elements, including the Yule log from Yule and gift giving from Saturnalia , [92] became syncretized into Christmas over the centuries. Reasons included the fact that less agricultural work needed to be done during the winter, as well as

an expectation of better weather as spring approached. Many modern Christmas customs have been directly influenced by such festivals, including: Gift-giving and merrymaking from the Roman Saturnalia , Greenery, lights, and charity from the Roman New Year, and Yule logs and various foods from Germanic feasts. Horus was often depicted being fed by his mother, which also influenced the symbolism of the Virgin Mary with baby Christ. The pre-Christian Germanic peoples –including the Anglo-Saxons and the Norse–celebrated a winter festival called Yule , held in the late December to early January period, yielding modern English yule, today used as a synonym for Christmas. Post-classical history The Nativity, from a 14th-century Missal ; a liturgical book containing texts and music necessary for the celebration of Mass throughout the year In the Early Middle Ages , Christmas Day was overshadowed by Epiphany, which in western Christianity focused on the visit of the magi. But the medieval calendar was dominated by Christmas-related holidays. The forty days before Christmas became the "forty days of St. Martin" which began on November 11, the feast of St. Martin of Tours , now known as Advent. The coronation of Charlemagne on Christmas of helped promote the popularity of the holiday By the High Middle Ages , the holiday had become so prominent that chroniclers routinely noted where various magnates celebrated Christmas. King Richard II of England hosted a Christmas feast in at which twenty-eight oxen and three hundred sheep were eaten. Caroling also became popular, and was originally a group of dancers who sang. The group was composed of a lead singer and a ring of dancers that provided the chorus. Various writers of the time condemned caroling as lewd, indicating that the unruly traditions of Saturnalia and Yule may have continued in this form. In , King James I insisted that a play be acted on Christmas night and that the court indulge in games. The calendar reform became a major point of tension between the Anglican party and the Puritan party. King Charles I of England directed his noblemen and gentry to return to their landed estates in midwinter to keep up their old-style Christmas generosity. As such, in Scotland, the Presbyterian Church of Scotland discouraged the observance of Christmas, and though James VI commanded its celebration in , attendance at church was scant. With the atheistic Cult of Reason in power during the era of Revolutionary France , Christian Christmas religious services were banned and the three kings cake was renamed the "equality cake" under anticlerical government policies. In , Charles Dickens wrote the novel A Christmas Carol that helped revive the "spirit" of Christmas and seasonal merriment. In , the future Queen Victoria wrote about her delight at having a Christmas tree, hung with lights , ornaments , and presents placed round it. A modified version of this image was published in the United States in Nicholas popularly known by its first line: Twas the Night Before Christmas. In her book The First Christmas in New England, Harriet Beecher Stowe includes a character who complains that the true meaning of Christmas was lost in a shopping spree. He has been called the "father of the American Christmas card". The mass of the population had not adopted many of the Christmas rituals that later became general. The Christmas tree was rare. Christmas dinner might be beef–certainly not turkey. In their stockings children might get an apple, orange, and sweets. Full celebration of a family Christmas with all the trimmings only became widespread with increased prosperity from the s. Post was still delivered on Christmas Day until League football matches continued in Scotland until the s while in England they ceased at the end of the s. Christmas traditions Map of countries where Christmas is a formal public holiday either on December or January

Chapter 2 : Christmas Poem about the True Meaning Of Christmas

Question: "What is the true meaning of Christmas?" Answer: The true meaning of Christmas is love. John says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Staks Rosch is a vocal atheist, humanist, progressive, and Jedi. Here is the godless honest truth. I have even seen a Christian go on a rant about how Santa Claus is "of the devil" because he distracts people from Jesus. Everyone seems to think they know the "true" meaning of Christmas, and that it has something to do with this Jesus guy. First, I object to the view that many Christians hold that the month of December belongs to them alone. Humanists, freethinkers, and atheists are starting to organize, and we are forming traditions of our own. Across the nation we are starting to celebrate things that matter to us. Some atheists like to celebrate Festivus ; others like to celebrate the Winter Solstice, the Pastafarian holiday of "Holiday," or the Humanist holiday of Human Light. Sure, some of these started out as jokes, but atheists tend to have a great sense of humor. The bottom line here is that if religious believers get to use county and state courthouses as billboards for their religions, then other people should be allowed to put up Festivus poles , Flying Spaghetti Monster displays , and even a Tree of Knowledge if they choose. Second, at this point it is pretty much common knowledge that Jesus was not born on Dec. In fact, many puritanical Christians may be shocked to learn that the Christmas wreath was originally a pagan symbol for fertility, and that the Bible actually warns Christians against erecting evergreen trees in the home Jeremiah The story of Santa, loosely based on a Catholic saint, is a mix of folklore taken from Dutch and German traditions, with a tall glass of Coca-Cola thrown in. Yeah, Coca-Cola helped create the image of Santa Claus that we know and love today. So what is the reason for the season? Sure, Christmas was stolen from winter solstice and Saturnalia celebrations, but why did people celebrate those holidays? Both the alleged birth of Jesus and the winter solstice are merely excuses to celebrate. Winter is often cold, it gets dark earlier, and trees have lost their leaves and appear dead. This is a depressing time of year, and that can mean only one thing: It is time to party! The true meaning of Christmas is to cheer people up during a cold and depressing time of year. That means lots of food, getting together with family and friends, giving each other gifts, being kind to others, and helping those in need. Whatever excuse you want to use to celebrate the winter season is great. Whatever you celebrate, have a happy holiday season. Learn more about atheism with my Atheism series , and follow me on Facebook at DangerousTalk. Do you have information you want to share with HuffPost?

Chapter 3 : The True Meaning of Christmas Trees: The Spiritual Abuse Connection – Eric Pańdziora

The answer may just surprise you. For many, Christmas is the time to think of Jesus Christ as a baby in a manger. While the birth of Christ is a special and miraculous event, it isn't the primary.

God delights to disclose Himself to all who seek Him. Knowing the Lord personally and enjoying His greatness is the highest privilege of every Christian! Introduce your child to our awesome God. Encourage your child to know God truly and intimately. Just as a jeweler delights in each facet of a beautiful diamond, your love for God grows as you examine each aspect of His character see 1 Chronicles

The Real Meaning of Christmas

One week before Christmas, a well-known visitor made a surprise appearance! I had just finished the household chores and was preparing for bed when a noise startled me. I cautiously opened the door to the front room. To my amazement, Santa Claus stepped from behind the Christmas tree! He placed one finger over his mouth so I would not cry out. Then I realized that Santa had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. The eager, boisterous soul we all know was very sad. Anticipating my question, with one quick movement he brought forth a great bag from behind the tree. I stood there bewildered. Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. So many people today have forgotten what Christmas is really about! The needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of our prayers that always reach God. God promised to send a Savior to deliver the world. When we see this light remember the One who overcomes the darkness. Real love never ceases. The crook on the staff rescues sheep who have strayed from the flock. God never gives up on people who wander from Him. Peace and good will to everyone on earth! When the wise men arrived in Bethlehem, they bowed before the Child and presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This is why we give gifts to others each Christmas. He stared at the tree and seemed to be pleased. I saw that the twinkle had returned to his eyes. He turned, looked at me, and smiled. Jesus Christ is the real reason for the Christmas season. I am glad to join all others who bow down and worship Him, our Lord and God. This NEW Christmas Story Booklet contains 7 beautifully illustrated stories and is a great way to complement your Christmas celebrations. What makes DiscipleLand different? [Click here for an immediate PDF download](#) – read to your kids, print and give to kids as take home, or email to parents and ask them to read to their kids Share with friends

Chapter 4 : What is the true meaning of Christmas? | calendrierdelascience.com

The "true meaning of Christmas" is a phrase that began to appear in the mid-th century when a shift toward a more secular culture resulted in a national backlash. Christians began to see the secularization of the celebration day of the birth of Christ as the shift toward Santa and gift exchanging replaced the celebration of the advent of Christ and giving to the poor and needy without expectation of receiving anything in return.

I still have questions. In context, this would be the person who carves the wood, not the one who cuts down the tree. Also, nobody worships them. And again, notice in v. I honestly want to believe you and be beyond certain that Jeremiah is not talking about Christmas trees. I finally got the part of the workman being a craftsman. What exactly is the way of the heathen? Is it using things that pagans may have used? Or is there something more to it? By the way are Christmas Trees, Asherah poles? Thanks for your time. The answer is that we need to look at the context. The anti-Christmas-tree doctrine requires us to see trees and seasons as intrinsically evil pagan spiritual objects that we should be afraid of and dismayed about, but that view of them is itself the heathen way of looking at the world, not the Christian one. The way of the heathen is to see the tree as a god; the way of the Christian is to see that God made the tree. Asherah poles were idols made specifically to be worshiped as a fertility goddess. Nobody worships Christmas trees. Is there any merit to this? Is there any evidence that Jeremiah is changing the topic after verse 4? What is your take on this. Eric 5 years ago No bother! If any actual Hebraists are reading this, feel free to chime in. What else could he be talking about in context but the futility of idols? NoRocketScience 5 years ago Thanks Eric, one more thing: Would God ever do something that violates His principles? There are those persons that use the instance of God killing humans, i. That question can be a bit tricky, but I look at it like this: Now compare Romans As well as being the Creator, God has the added advantages of being omniscient and infinitely wise. Thus He is incomprehensibly better-qualified than any of us to judge anyone. By contrast, for instance, we are told that we should not lie because God is the truth and always keeps His word Numbers In each case, the goal is for us to recognize who God is and stay duly humble about it while loving Him and our neighbors. NoRocketScience 5 years ago I understand but as I think about it, anti Christmas Christians will use that fact that since God decorates His trees during the winter with ice crystals and snowflakes, it is not not sinful when He does it but it is a sin when humans do it. In other words, the anti-Christmas Christians may say that it is okay for God to decorate His trees but sinful for humans to do so, therefore, Christians should not place objects on trees. Let me put a finer point on my comment above: But, as I said in my article, and as Jeremiah says too, to say that makes it always and completely evil is simply nonsense. Nowhere does Scripture say that making decorations is inherently a sin. Quite the contrary – read Exodus 35 thru 37 for an account of ministers who were specifically commanded and anointed by God to make decorations out of wood and gold for His tabernacle. Likewise, in our culture, seeing a decorated pine tree will certainly remind many people of the fact that Christ was born for us. I wonder if placing birdhouses, flower baskets and bird feeders are also a sin but such would be seen as decorating a tree. Glad to be of help! I may have to steal some of the comments here and make a new post out of them. They would erect man made objects to honor or please their gods. Father tells us not to copy these practices when we worship or serve him. Any man made object, decorated tree, crosses, idols or any other object. He tells us not to take on these custom or traditions in serving him shalom. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods. God Himself decorates his pine trees every winter with snow and icicles, after all.

Chapter 5 : True meaning of Christmas - Wikipedia

The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus who lived in Israel years ago and who died on the cross for our sins (1 Corinthians 15 ; 1 Peter). More specifically, when we use the word "meaning," we're talking about the purpose of his birth that Christmas is supposed to celebrate.

The best part of Christmas is being with my family. He passed away in August of , 3 weeks before my birthday. He always was the life of every family gathering, especially Christmas when he dressed up as Santa. He got me Santa figurines every year as a present. Now I buy one every year to remember him. Tragedy will always help us recalibrate our values. It shakes us up and brings us back to reality. Those of you who are regular listeners to DM LIVE radio program or who follow us on Facebook, know about the tragedy in my family; that my son, Fulton, was seriously injured in a car accident and was in a coma. There was great uncertainty about if and when he would come out of the coma. Christmas is so much more than presents, receiving them or even giving them. So then, the real meaning of Christmas is about the people in your life that you love – right? There are people all over the world who love their friends and family, but who do not celebrate Christmas. Okay, so what is the real meaning of Christmas? Christmas is partly about giving and receiving gifts and it is about celebrating the family and friends in our lives. But the real meaning of Christmas is something even higher, bigger, and infinitely better than all of that. John was one of twelve disciples of Jesus, and he wrote the book in the Bible known as The Gospel of John. The word gospel means Good News. John, Disciple of Jesus, wrote: For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. I could easily understand how Christmas could be the worst time of the year for her. But she seems to have put it all together, realizing the importance of the people in her life, the real meaning of Christmas, and because of both of those things, the true joy of giving. The hardest part of Christmas was losing my mom on December 26th to cancer. Another best part of Christmas for me is visiting the cancer center where my mom had treatments and giving a teddy bear to a cancer patient from Build-A-Bear workshop in honor and in memory of my mom. Bittersweet moment but well worth the tears: Merry Christmas to you all!

A Christian Christmas Poem about the true meaning of Christmas being Jesus. For use in a Christmas church service, or in a Christmas Newsletter/Bulletin. The True Meaning Of Christmas poem.

Christmas means different things to different people. To most, it is a heartwarming time with family and friends. To merchants, it means a season when many retailers finally begin making money. But if you were to go back seven hundred years before the birth of Christ and ask the prophet Isaiah what it means to him, he would tell you Christmas is about the birth of a special child: This profound message is that God Himself would come to earth as both King and Savior. Most Jews were waiting for the Messiah to deliver Israel from Roman oppression. They were looking for a Messiah of power and authority. But God had a different plan. He chose to send His son as a humble servant whose primary mission was to die for our sins see Philippians 2: The writers of the New Testament present Jesus as both fully human and fully God. Isaiah had said as much when he foretold the Messiah coming to earth as both child and Mighty God. Confirming the words of Isaiah, the apostle Paul writes of Jesus: For in him all things were created: He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Jesus tells us that he came because God loves us—each of us. The wonderful meaning of Christmas is that Jesus came to rescue us from the death sentence caused by our sin, and to give us hope and peace with God. He did it because he cares for you and me, and wants to adopt us into his family—now and forever. The one who created you is the same one who came to earth and died for you! In a world filled with corruption and selfishness, there is tremendous hope in knowing that God cares. And he promises eternal life to all who believe in Jesus. Can you think of a greater reason to celebrate Christmas?

Chapter 7 : What Is the Real Meaning of Christmas? - calendrierdelascience.com

The true meaning of Christmas often gets lost in the rush of the season: the shopping, the parties, the baking, and the wrapping of presents. But the essence of the season is the greatest gift of all time – God gave us Jesus Christ, his own Son: For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The.

This is how it happened. I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out next to the fireplace. The words choked up in my throat and I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement. What did he mean? He anticipated my question and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree. The meaning that now-a-days Christmas has forgotten. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star was the sign of fulfillment of His promise. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly berries represent the blood shed by Him. Next he pulled from his bag a GIFT and said, "Teach the children that God so loved the world that he gave his begotten son. The crook on the staff helps to bring back strayed sheep to the flock. The angels sang Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men. The bell symbolizes guidance and return. Santa looked back and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw that the twinkle was back in his eyes.

Chapter 8 : True Meaning of Christmas

"Wait," you might say, "so your inspirational 'true meaning of Christmas' is that we should remember how our filthy ancestors used to freeze to death on a regular basis?" No, Christmas isn't magical because of what it was or where it came from.

It may kill all of us, it may kill some of us, it may splash harmlessly into the ocean, but there is no stopping it. All we can do is hunker down and see what happens. How would you react? How would humanity as a whole react? Well, I know how: We would prepare as best we could, and then we would surround ourselves with the people we love most and party our asses off. We would do this because we would realize it might be our last chance. I know this because we have Christmas. Allow me to explain. Get some cocoa and get comfy. This is the time of year when my Christian friends remind me via Facebook image macros that Christ is the reason for the season, and my atheist friends remind everyone that "Christmas" is at best a renamed pagan orgy and at worst a crass hybrid of religious conditioning and economic stimulus. The real origins of this holiday are amazing, sacred, and etched into your very DNA. And the context -- which does predate Christianity by thousands of years -- is that December kicks off winter in the Northern Hemisphere. And for most of human history, winter meant a bunch of us were going to freaking die. Every year, you headed into winter with just enough stored food and fuel to get by. Every year, you watched all of the plants turn brown and shrivel into husks, followed by an unrelenting darkness and cold that threatened to swallow you and everything you love. Continue Reading Below Continue Reading Below Advertisement And looking back at that, we see an awesome little portrait of exactly how much humans kick ass. Every year, you see, winter arrived with a short day followed by the longest night of the year aka the winter solstice , and since before recorded history, humans have been celebrating that day with a feast, or festival, or outright debauchery. On that longest night before the frozen mini-apocalypse, in all times and places, you would find light and song and dancing and food. Cattle would be slaughtered to avoid having to feed all of them through the winter , families would travel to be together, and wine would flow. Precious supplies were dedicated to making decorations and gifts -- frivolous things, good for nothing other than making people happy. Sure, some of the kid toys ended up looking like fetish gear, but the spirit and intent were pure. Continue Reading Below Advertisement These celebrations went by many names over the millennia, and everyone did it their own way. But deep down, I think the message was always the same: No matter how black, white, male, female, Irish, German, tall, short, ugly or pretty you felt this year, you are part of a family that has been targeted by an unforgiving cosmos since its inception but has, regardless, survived We not only salvage an otherwise desolate time of year, we make it the best time of year.

Chapter 9 : Christmas: What is its true meaning? â€¢ calendrierdelascience.com

the true story of Christmas starts at the beginning of time Narrated by actor Dean jones and presenting the story accurately and in chronological order. Great for all ages.