

CHRISTMAS GOD'S WAY

Luke 2:1-20

INTRODUCTION: There are many different Christmas celebrations around the world. One tradition we still honor is before a family opens their Christmas presents the parents read the Christmas story from the Scriptures and everyone goes around in a circle and everyone gives thanks to the Lord publicly for one thing they are thankful for in their life. Some people celebrate Christmas on Christmas Eve others on Christmas day. But regardless of how we chose to celebrate Christmas we need to do Christmas God's way. There are ten basic ways that God does Christmas.

I. GOD DID CHRISTMAS IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS!

The Bible tells us when Caesar Augustus issued the decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world, it threw things into chaos: Luke 2:1-7. Every family had to return to the home town of their ancestors. Joseph was from King David's line and had to go to Bethlehem to register. Mary was ready to give birth yet there was no room for them in the inn. God breaks into our chaos and in the midst of our busyness does the best things for us.

II. GOD DID CHRISTMAS WITH OTHERS IN MIND!

God did Christmas for Joseph and Mary by making them parents for the first time. While Joseph was not the daddy of Jesus he did the job of a daddy. The birth of Jesus brought the Messiah to His people. Our Lord thought even of the lowliest of His people as He sent the angles to the shepherds: Luke 2:8-20.

III. GOD DID CHRISTMAS IN KEEPING WITH HIS WORD!

Our Lord Jesus was born in fulfillment of many prophecies that were given about His birth: Isaiah 7:14; fulfilled in Matthew 1:18; Genesis 49:10; fulfilled in Luke 3:23; Jeremiah 23:5-6 fulfilled in Luke 3:28-35. Micah 5:2 was fulfilled in Matthew 2:1-6.

IV. GOD DID CHRISTMAS FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME!

The time span from the birth of our Lord to the coming of the wise men was over two years. Our God was stretching Christmas out! Opening presents one at a time will take a lot longer but be more enjoyable to everyone as we take time to thank each other for our thoughtfulness. Our children will not be with us for long: take the time to enjoy Christmas together well you can.

V. GOD DID CHRISTMAS IN SPITE OF OPPOSITION!

There were many things going on against the birth of God's Son. There were political forces that were opposing the Messiah's coming. Matthew 2:13-18. There was religious opposition as the religious leaders of the day resisted any change to the normal worship patterns.

VI. GOD DID CHRISTMAS IN THE NICK OF TIME!

God used the time of Jesus birth to use a very clear language to tell the story of His Son: "Koine Greek." God used a law from the Roman government to force His Son to be born in Bethlehem at the orchestration of God. Galatians 4:4-5.

VII. GOD ALSO DID CHRISTMAS FOR THOSE WHO COULDN'T WAIT!

Simeon was an aged priest that God had promised to him that he would not die until he saw the Messiah. So, when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to him to be circumcised Simeon said: Luke 2:25-32. Anna also was aged and knew who Jesus was: Luke 2:36-38.

VIII. GOD DID CHRISTMAS FOR PEOPLE FAR AWAY!

The Magi traveled a long distance from the East. Our Lord Jesus came for all kinds of people. Our Lord is still reaching out to people who are far away with the love of Christ. There are those people who are far away from God spiritually and Christmas may be used to draw them near.

IX. GOD DID CHRISTMAS WITH LIGHTS AND MUSIC!

In Matthew 2:1-2 we see the star of Bethlehem that shown for two years to lead the Magi there. In Luke 2:13-15; we find the angels singing praises to God for the birth of His Son. This is the season of lights. Jesus came as the light of the world: John 1:1-5. That is why God had lights and music that first Christmas and we should have lights and music now to celebrate our Savior's birth.

X. GOD DID CHRISTMAS WITH ONE BIG GIFT AND A LOT OF EXTRAS!

God's one big Gift was the birth of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. That is what Christmas is all about. Christmas is not primarily about us! It is about Jesus Christ, He is God's greatest Gift! John 3:16-21.