A large, tall evergreen Christmas tree stands in the center of a field. The background is a dense line of trees under a sky with soft, colorful clouds from a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is peaceful and festive.

UNWRAPPING
Christmas

Christmas From Eternity

John 1 (ESV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

John 1 (ESV)

8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1 (ESV)

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

The Point

The Son of God became a man that men and women could become sons and daughters of the one true God.

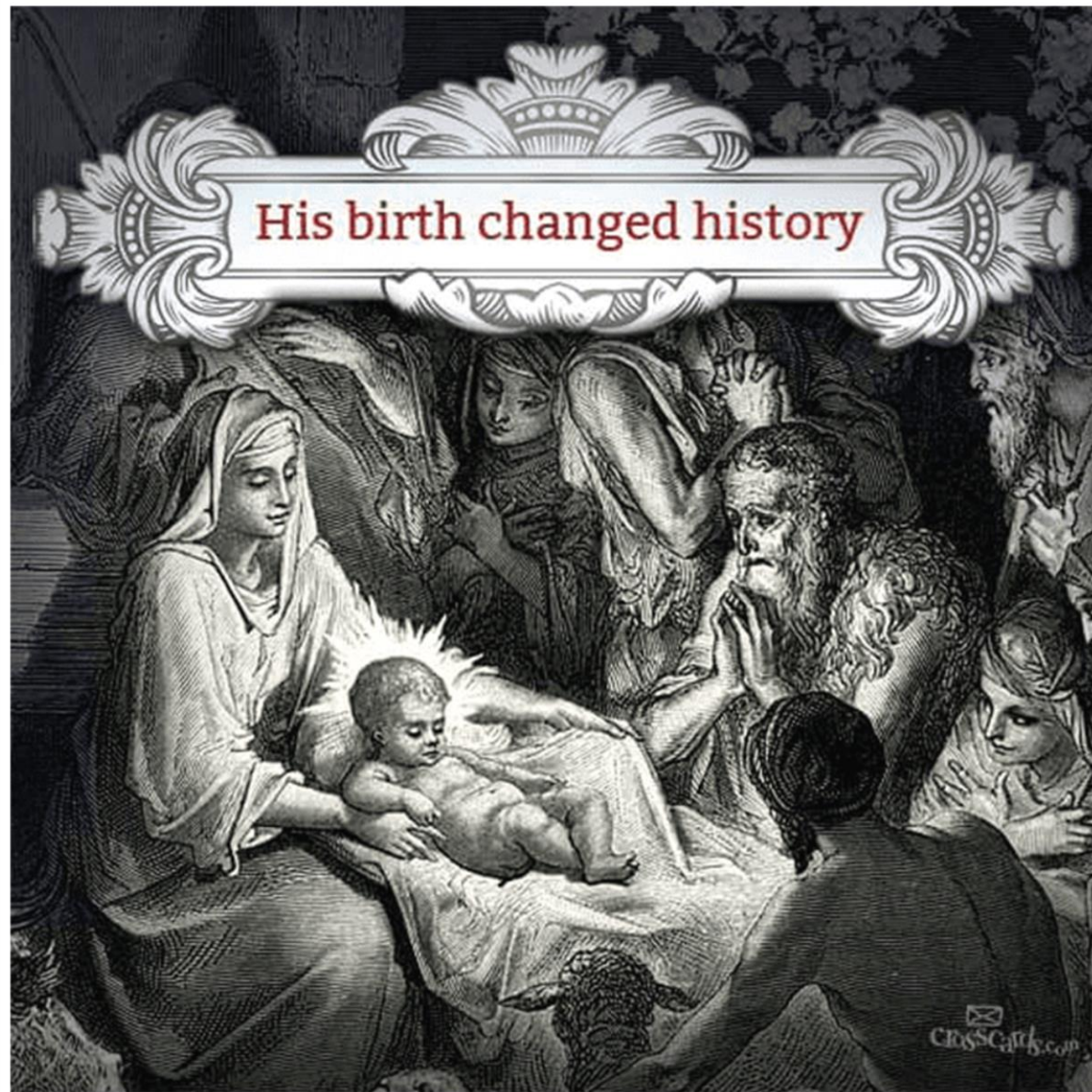
Christmas Memories



Christmas Memories

- Cold & snow - sledding
- Christmas Eve @ Grandma Irish's house
- Midnight Mass
- Presents
 - Tricycle/Bicycle
 - Electric train
 - Snub-nose 38/bow & arrow
 - Record Player
- Mincemeat pie & eggnog

His birth changed history



His Birth Changed History

- Historical event – Rest room at truck stop
- “What if this myth is true?” – Posed to C.S. Lewis
- Protoevangelium - the first gospel

15 “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

(Genesis 3:15 ESV)

- Abraham – Faith & trust (pistos – believe in)

His Birth Changed History

- Mosaic Law & blood sacrifice – works-based righteousness (Santa)
- Prophets – Isaiah
- Jesus (grace-based righteousness) is better than Santa

WHO WAS JESUS CHRIST?

GOD MANIFEST IN THE FLESH | TIM. 3:16

AS THE SON OF GOD, THE FLESHLY, HUMAN MAN:

- BORN A BABY, OR SON MATT. 1:23-25
- INCREASED IN WISDOM LUKE 2:52
- GREW HUNGRY MATT. 4:2
- WAS A SERVANT PHIL. 2:7
- DWELT ON THE EARTH JOHN 1:14
- PRAYED LUKE 22:41
- SACRIFICE FOR SINS HEB. 9:26
- HE DIED JOHN 19:30

THREE BEAR RECORD IN HEAVEN - THE FATHER, THE WORD, AND HOLY GHOST, AND THESE THREE ARE ONE

1 JOHN 5:7

WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US

JOHN 1:14

I AND MY FATHER ARE ONE

JOHN 10:30



WHEN YOU HAVE SEEN ME, YOU HAVE SEEN THE FATHER JOHN 14:7-11

IF YE BELIEVE NOT THAT I AM HE, YE SHALL DIE IN YOUR SINS JOHN 8:24

AS THE SPIRIT, THE GREAT ETERNAL GOD:

- BORN THE MIGHTY GOD IS. 9:6
- KNOWETH ALL THINGS JOHN 21:17
- FED MULTITUDES MATT. 14:19-21
- KING OF KINGS REV. 19:16
- CREATED THE EARTH COL. 1:16-17
- ANSWERS PRAYER JOHN 14:13-14
- FORGAVE SINS MARK 2:5-7
- HE AROSE LUKE 24:1-6

I AM THE FIRST, AND THE LAST, AND BESIDE ME THERE IS NO GOD IS. 44:6

BEFORE ME THERE WAS NO GOD FORMED, NEITHER SHALL THERE BE AFTER ME


IS. 43:10

Who Was Jesus Christ

- Sovereign eternal king
- Humble servant
- Emptied Himself
- Ransom for many
- Finished the work of salvation – Confirmed on Easter
- Advocate in Heaven
- Warning, encouraging, knocking & “supping”
- Lord & Savior or Lord & Judge

Questions

- What can you do this year to unwrap the true meaning of Christmas for you and those around you?
- How are you modeling servant Jesus in your everyday life?
- How does knowing that God knew you before creation & loves you anyway?
- How have you emptied yourself just as Jesus did?

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