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THE MEANING OF CHRISTmas...Literally

Luke 2: 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

INTRODUCTION :

We are celebrating Christmas on December 25. We all know as Christians, our Lord Jesus Christ wasn't born on December 25. But the fact, that God became man, born of a virgin in order to die on the cross for our sins is the reason we are celebrating Christmas.

One time an atheist complained to a Christian friend, "You Christians have your special holidays, such as Christmas and it's national holiday!!! But we atheists have no recognized national holidays. That's unfair!

His Christian friend replied, "That's not true. Don't you know that atheists also have a special day."

The atheist replied, "Really? When?" His Christian friend replied, "April 1"

It's good to start the season by understanding the meaning of CHRISTmas – and when I say the meaning, the literal meaning.

Etymology : *Christmas "Cristes moesse" the festival of Christ.*

So when somebody asks you, what is Christmas, it literally means "festival of Christ" or piesta ni Kristo.

And in order for us to understand, let's study also the meaning of the word "Christ."

Etymology : *Christ from "Christos" which is the Greek equivalent of "Mashiyach" or Messiah.*

Both of them means "anointed" or "anointed one"

(Jews who became Christians call him "Yehoshuah Mashiyach")

To be anointed means to be smeared by oil or perfume.

Luke 7:46 "You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume.

In the Old Testament, anointing is a symbol that a person is being separated by God (sanctified) for a divine purpose.

Now if Christ or Messiah means "Anointed One", **what is He anointed for?** The Old Testament which is the Bible of Christ when He was here will give us the answer.

Three types of anointing in the Old Testament :

1. The Anointed Priest

Exodus 30:30 Anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them so they may serve me as priests

What is the job of a priest?

A priest is someone who represents the people before God.

Jesus is the Anointed Priest.

Hebrews 4:14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

WHAT IS THE PRIEST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT'S MAIN JOB?

The priest's job is to offer a sacrifice in behalf of the people so that God will forgive the people of their sin.

The great news is the Jesus who offers the sacrifice is the sacrifice Himself that's why we know God has already forgiven us because what our High Priest is offering is Himself who is the Son of God.

*Hebrews 7: 27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this **once for all** when he offered up himself.*

Nowadays, we have lost the meaning of the word "forgiven". So to give it a fresher look into our lives, we can interchange the word "forgiven" with "accepted".

To be mad at someone is to reject that person. But to forgive that person means to accept that person back. That's the Biblical concept of forgiveness.

BIBLICAL Illustration : You remember the story of the Prodigal Son. That is what precisely our Lord is saying to the people. The son rejected his own father and in that culture, asking for your inheritance while your father is still alive is like saying to your father, "you're dead to me." And that's what we have done with God before as if he doesn't exist. And then famine hit the country and he squandered all his money until he got hired to feed pigs. Look at the story :

Luke 15: 17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father.

What did the father do? Did he say? "I told you." "Now he comes back to me."

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

And you know the rest of the story, that he was even given a feast and confirmed his sonship again by giving him a ring.

That's one of the reasons we celebrate Christmas, we are not only forgiven but we have been confirmed and accepted as the son of the Great God of the Universe because of Jesus.

That's what Jesus was saying to the people, that's the reason why I came to show you that God has forgiven you because I am the sacrifice for your sin.

BECAUSE OF CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE CROSS AND RESURRECTION, OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN IS SAYING...I FORGIVE YOU. I ACCEPT YOU.

The Great God of the Universe accepts you.

IMPORTANT: People are not going to hell because they are bad. People are going to hell because they rejected the forgiveness or acceptance of God through Jesus Christ. People are not going to hell because God rejected us. It is because people rejected God.

So when you hear the word Christ, remember, it means the Anointed One who represents you before God, our High Priest. **And again, it's a win-win situation, the one who represents you is the Son of God and He is also the one who already paid for your sin.**

This is the reason when we sin and confess our sins, this is what the Bible says :

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Why is He faithful and just? It's because God remembers that He sent His own Son to die on the cross and has already died for our sin. THE ANOINTED PRIEST, THE ONE WHO REPRESENTS US BEFORE GOD IS THE ONE WHO DIED FOR US.

That's why nowadays, we don't need a priest in order to confess our sin. Again,

Hebrews 7: 27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

2. The Anointed Prophet

Psalms 105:15 Touch not my anointed ones, do my prophets no harm!

The prophet's job is to reveal who God is to the people. In the Old Testament, God used prophets to speak to His people.

Today, there are no more "prophets" because God has revealed Himself to us through the Anointed Prophet who is Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 1: 1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,

You want to know who God is? Look at the Son! You want to see His heart. Look at the Son! God loves you. God wants to give you joy! God wants you to live life, life to the full.

Here are some of the things how Jesus Christ describes Himself :

Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Isaiah 42:3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

Illustration: People go crazy for celebrities. People go crazy for Taylor Swift, for BTS, and recently for KathNiel. People know the lives of these celebrities but I saw these quote :

QUOTE :

Celebrities do not know you and don't care about you.
Christ knows you and in spite of that, died for you.

So when you see the word "Christ", think of Him as someone who wants to reveal the heart of God to you. **What is the heart of God to you? He loves you. How much? Look at the cross!** It is said, that Jesus is the only one who was born whose sole purpose is to die – yes, die for you and for me.

3. The Anointed King

Kings are anointed in the Old Testament. David was anointed as king.

1 Samuel 16 : 1...I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.

11 Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." 12 And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward.

There are several passages of God in the Old Testament which shows that the anointed one will be in the line of David. Here's one of them.

*Jeremiah 23:5 "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "**when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King** who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.*

During Jesus' time, some people will call out to Him in a loud voice, "Son of David!"

Matthew 21:9 The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David; BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Hosanna in the highest!" –

500 years before Jesus was born, Zechariah wrote :

*Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!*

*Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

We are very familiar with the fulfillment of this prophecy in John 12 and Matthew 21. The Jews who knew their Scripture know that the Christ, their King is going to reveal Himself riding on a donkey.

We need to remember that when we hear the word “Christ”, we can equate it with the word “King”.

That’s the reason the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming Christ reveals who He is.

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders

And that’s why he is called *Christ the Lord*. You can only call someone Lord if He rules or King of your life.

But what kind of a King is Christ?

1. He is the Servant King

And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger

ILLUSTRATION: When Prince William and Catherine (Duchess of Cambridge) gave birth to their first son George on July 22, 2013, this is how CNN reported it.

“With fanfare fit for a prince, Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, and husband Prince William welcomed their first child Monday.”

"Her Royal Highness and her child are both doing well," read an official bulletin placed outside Buckingham Palace, where crowds erupted in cheers.

People from all over the world had gathered outside Buckingham Palace to await news of the birth. At least one group of well-wishers brought flowers, champagne and a card for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge." (CNN)

But our King, WHO IS THE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE WHO PAUL DESCRIBES HOLDS THE WORLD AND WITHOUT HIM, WE ARE NOTHING. WHO IS ALL POWERFUL AND MIGHTY, showed His humility even in His birth

- **BORN IN A MANGER**
- **BORN WITHOUT FANFARE AND FIRST VISTORS WERE SHEPHERDS.**

Why? To show to us that anyone can approach Him, from the lowliest to the most privileged.

Kings are supposed to be served but what about our King?

Matthew 20:28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,

2. He is the Divine King.

But let us also not forget, ALTHOUGH He is a servant King, He is also a Divine King.

Going back to the birth of Prince George, CNN reported "A multigun salute is set to happen that day to mark the birth."

But our King when He was born, we know He is the God-King because this is how they marked his birth.

*13... suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

This is the reason we call also Jesus as the Lord of hosts. Jesus is the Divine King and not just an earthly king.

John 18 : 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."

And if Jesus is your King, He is a King who is loving, merciful, full of grace, holy, All-Powerful, Almighty. When we are serving others in His name, we are not serving only people, we are SERVING THE KING.

SERVING THE KING!

If you are fixing the church, you are serving the King! If you are leading people in praise and worship, you are serving the King! If you are in charge of sound system, you are serving the King! If you are an usher, you are leading people to the King! If you invite people to church, you are inviting people to meet the King! If you are sharing God's Word, you are a messenger of the King! And if you are listening to God's Word, you are listening to the Words of the King.

Keep on serving the King! Keep on bringing people to the King! Keep on sharing the Word of the King! Soon our King is coming back and this is what He says upon His coming back,
Revelation 22:12 Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.

The reason we celebrate Christmas is because we are celebrating the BIRTH of our KING!

(Show video of "That's My King!" by S.M. Lockridge)

And the reason why He was born is in order to die on the cross to pay for our sin...THAT'S OUR KING!

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

S.G.D.