

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



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John 3:16 “ 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.”

JESUS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

Dear Heavenly Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, may we always give You thanks and praise. May we all take time out of our daily schedules, to pray and study Your word. May we try not to let life's disappointments harden our hearts for You, in these times of troubles and uncertainties. May we all clearly understand, that there is nothing out there, greater than You Father. So Father, please keep us all close to You with Your everlasting love, grace, and mercy. I ask this in Jesus name hallelujah, Amen.

Well it is almost that time again, Christmas. What does Christmas really mean to any of us? Also, what does it really symbolize? To most of us, Christmas is an annual holiday celebrated on December 25th that marks and honors the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. His birth, which is the basis for the Anno Domini system of dating, has been determined by modern historians as having occurred between 7 and 2 BC. The date of the celebration is not thought to be Jesus' actual date of birth, and many have been chosen to coincide with ancient Roman solar festivals that were held on December 25th.

Modern customs of the holiday include gift-giving, church celebrations, and the display of various decorations—including the Christmas tree, lights, mistletoe, nativity scenes and holly. Santa Claus also referred to as Father Christmas, (although the two figures have different origins) is a popular mythological often associated with bringing gifts at Christmas. Santa is generally believed to be the result of a syncretization between St. Nicolas of Myra and elements from pagan Nordic and Christian mythology, and his modern appearance is believed to have originated in 19th century media.

Christmas is celebrated throughout the Christian population, but is also celebrated by many non Christians as a secular, cultural festival. The holiday is widely celebrated around the world, including the United States, where it is celebrated by 96% of the population. Because gift-giving and several other aspects of the holiday involve heightened economic activity among both Christians and non Christians, Christmas has become a major event for many retailers.

*The word Christmas originated as a compound meaning "Christ's mass". It is derived from Middle English *Christemasse* and Old English *Cristes maesse*, a phrase first recorded in 1038. "Cristes" is from Greek *christos* and "maesse" is from Latin *missa*. In early Greek versions of the New Testament, the letter X (*chi*), is the first letter of Christ. Since the mid 16th century X, or the similar Roman letter X, has been used as a abbreviation for Christ. Hence, Xmas is often used as an abbreviation for Christmas.*

The New Testament does not give a date for the birth of Jesus. Until the nineteenth century, Christian writers generally contend that December 25th was the actual date that Jesus was born. Isaac Newton, however, argued that the date of Christmas was selected to correspond with the winter solstice.

Although the modern solstice date is December 21 or 22. The Romans marked it on December 25. In 1889, Louis Duchesne proposed that the date of Christmas was calculated as nine months after March 25, the traditional of the conception of Jesus. Early Christians believed that Christ was crucified on March 25, the date of the spring equinox on the Roman calendar.

The idea that incarnation occurred on the same date that Jesus died, is consistent with a Jewish belief that a prophet lived an integral number of years. March 25 is now celebrated as Annunciation and Christmas is exactly nine months later.

Well enough for history, lets get in to the real biblical purpose for the birth of Christ Jesus. As believing Christians according to the Bible and our faith, Jesus is the only way to acquire Eternal Salvation. As for the unbelieving world, there is no statement further from the truth. Why is this statement so offensive to so many non-believers?

The only conclusion that I can make at this time is that their souls have been darkened from this sinful world, causing a hardening of their hearts to the word of the Lord Jesus. His words of love and peace for our brothers and sisters, has been distorted and rejected by many. Why have so many people rejected Christ? There are several references in the Bible, in John 1:6 the Lord says, There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize Him. In John 1:4-5 it is written that, Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. That light that God is referring to, is His Son and our Savior Jesus Christ.

Through His light, comes that peace that surpasses all understanding, as the Bible tells us. You see, there can never be any lasting peace in darkness, only in the true word of the Lord Jesus Christ. For Him and Him alone, is the author of everlasting peace.

In Colossians 3:15 it is written: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful!

In Isaiah 32:17 God says: The fruit of righteousness will be peace: the effort of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. In John 14:27 the Lord says: Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. Also, in Thessalonians 3:16

Our Savior tells us: Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way.

In closing let me just reiterate the theme of this month's message and that is. Jesus Christ is Savior of the world. So my friends in the Lord I pray at this time, that we all celebrate the free gift of eternal peace, and salvation for our weary souls this Christmas, and not miss another opportunity to embrace Jesus as our true light, in this troubled world of darkness. I ask this in name of Christ Jesus Hallelujah...Amen.

DECEMBER'S EDITION OF HOPE FOR LIVING

THE NIGHT OF LIGHT By Billy Graham

John 8:12 I am the light of the world, he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness

This month the birthday of Jesus Christ will be celebrated all over the world. It will be celebrated in various ways, in many languages, by people of all races. For a few hours many in this world will stop talking of satellites, rockets, and war. For a few hours they will talk of peace and good will toward men. People will exchange their gifts and talk about the Prince of Peace.

Imagine the scene in Bethlehem two thousands years ago. It was the night of nights, and yet it had begun as every other night before it.

But it was to become the greatest, most significant night in history. This was the night that would conquer darkness and bring in the day when there would be no more night.

This was the night when those who sat in darkness would see a great light.

This was the night God brought into the world the One who is "the light of the world."

May His light shine in your life this Christmas season/



THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS PRAYER LIST

Please pray daily with this ministry for: Evan Goldglantz, Arlene Santarpio, Chris Valques, Jamie DeCosta, Russ Holman, Mike Buttner, John Longo and family, Robert Lambert, Ro, Marian Ortez, Robert Sommers, Robin Weiss, Sherry Arzillo, John McGibbon, Rose Robinson, Greg McClade, Anna Granato, Marian Ortez, Lucy Cartogeno, Rene DiMatteo, Peg Ballerino, Nancy Flecker, Jeff Rafter, Felicia Romboe, Penny Howe, Janet Neil, Jeff Haines, Candice Kiana, Joe Hinley, Johnathan Baker, Marian Wilson, Michael Monforto, Keith Ruggero, Jim Flynn, Anne Marie Kolgridis, Denise Lathrop, Carl Napolliello, Marian Johnson, Jim Rich.

Also a special prayer for the sick, the poor, the homeless, the helpless, the hungry, the broken hearted, the weary, the poor in spirit, the hopeless, the persecuted, the lost souls.

Furthermore, please pray daily for our troops in harms way, and for all the economic crisis that we all are faced with at this time. A prayer for all the hatred, violence, and genocide throughout the world.

Father, I ask these prayers in Jesus name.Amen.

Please go to the next page for contact and new web-site information

*The new Spiritual Connection's web- site, is now on the internet!
This site can be used for numerous purposes, things like;*

1 A place to read present and past journals online.

2 A place to order free journals for your friends and family.

3 A place with numerous study tools, to enhance your spiritual knowledge,

and to help further your faith and spiritual growth in the Lord.

(No donations necessary for these study tools, please ignore any request)

4 A place to submit prayer request for family, friends or whoever.

5 A private place where you can get saved, when your soul is finally ready.

6 A place for spiritual questions and comments about this ministry.

Please note that the Spiritual Connection's store is not up and running at this time. Hopefully in the near future if it is God's will, it will be open.

Also please note, that any proceeds in the future from the store, will go to support the poor and the needy. www.makethespiritualconnection.com

From the Spiritual Connection to you and your family we wish you a





Also, may God bless you and your family always.