

# The Crime of Christmas

## Fact or Fiction: A Child Was Born?

### *Historical fact or feel good fantasy?*

“Biblical Christianity refuses to separate historical fact from spiritual meaning. Its core claim is that the living God has acted in history, especially in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Other religions tell people what they must do to achieve salvation, or become holy, or reach Nirvana, or connect with the divine. The burden of obligation is on the individual to perform the right ceremonies or perfect the right rituals. The Christian gospel is unique because it is the narrative of what God has done in history to accomplish salvation.”

*Saving Leonardo by Nancy Pearcey*

#### A. The Crime Against the Incarnation

1. **Public versus private:** The great Christian philosopher, Francis Schaeffer warned that the goal of secularism was to relegate values and religion to ‘private’ expression while science and rationalism was the ‘public’ benchmark of truth.

**In other words**, Christianity is categorized as ‘subjective’ and not to be trusted as truth. At best it is fiction—compelling and inspirational fiction—but nothing more than fiction. And, there are many who name the name of Jesus and yet see the incarnation and resurrection as a myth—a story to be inspired by—but not transformed by.

**However**, the Bible teaches ‘**unified**’ truth: God’s truth. God is the source of truth and all truth is God-truth. That includes Biblical and non-Biblical truth.

**The crime against Christmas** is that the world has taken a historical event and layered it with cultural preferences and worldly ideologies, thus marginalizing the **truth** of the most important message of all time.

#### B. The Truth About the Incarnation *Isaiah 9:6-7a*

1. **A Child is Born:** *John 1:14 [The Messiah’s humanity]* The second person of the Trinity (Jesus) was born in the flesh—became human—but did NOT give up His divinity. However, as a divine prerogative He temporarily laid aside certain aspects of His power (*see Phil 2:5-8*) but retained others (*See John 10:15-18*).

2. **A Son is Given:** *John 3:16; Ps 2:7-9 [The Messiah’s divinity]* “The only begotten son” means ‘unique’ one-of-a-kind son who was given for the purpose that He might die on the cross for all of mankind (John 3:17).

**He is the only way**, the only truth, and the only life (John 14:6). He is the only incarnate Son of God. He alone kept the whole law for God’s people, offered a perfect sacrifice for our sins, and was raised from the dead to open the way to eternal life. So he alone deserves our praise.

3. **A Savior is Come for Me:** [The Messiah’s reign] The government shall be upon His shoulders. This is the Lord’s present and future kingdom rule. “Upon his shoulder” can refer to military rank and/or the burden of responsibility. He will fulfill His responsibility as Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace.

#### **Remember these three TRUTHS about Christmas**

Jesus was born in the flesh

Jesus is the divine Son of God

Jesus is the savior that takes away our sins

**“There are only two kinds of people in the end; those who say to God, ‘Thy will be done,’ and those to whom God says, ‘Thy will be done.’”** C.S. Lewis



#### 1 John 4:1-3 (KJV)

1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

#### 1 Corinthians 15:17 (KJV)

17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

#### Isaiah 9:6-7a (KJV)

6 For unto us a **child is born**, unto us a **son is given**:

**And the government shall be upon his shoulder:**

And his name shall be called

Wonderful,

Counsellor,

The mighty God,

The everlasting Father,

The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end...