

The Given
Jn.3:16-21
12-19-2010

Jesus was born a little over 2000 years ago to a young woman named Mary. By God's design she suited His need for just the right human to be the mother of His first born. The firstborn of Mary's. (Luke 2:7) The firstborn of God's. (Heb.1:6; Col.1:15-20)

We celebrate Christmas each year because God showed us the importance of ritually and ceremonially and ordinarily honoring events for times of education and times of remembrance. We know that birthdays are the oldest forms of remembrances, not because God said that they celebrated them with parties but rather that they were marked down for the sake of age. (Gen.5:3)

God placed importance on the firstborn by giving them greater honor and responsibility than the rest of the children. Often God used the firstborn to name a people and so He did with us. (Heb.12:23) It was through the first born that God showed His intent for our redemption. (Ex.13:15-16) The first born was to be given (dedicated) to God to teach us about His on first born. (Ex.22:29-30; Num.3:11-13; 8:15-19)

When God sent His firstborn son to Bethlehem He was bringing into the world the very means of our redemption. God's gift was Jesus, Jesus' gift was himself. His gift was to live in such a way as to qualify as the true sacrifice for sin.

Jesus became flesh to redeem flesh. (Jn.1:14) Jesus by giving gained more, a kingdom, which was what He was purposed for. (Luke 1:23-38, Heb.2:14, 1Tim.3:16) The given, that Jesus, the gift most precious to us, is our salvation, our life, our Lord and our God. (1Jn.4:9-12)

^{1Jn.4:9} This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Every Christmas we honor the birth of God's Son because His Son Jesus provides us life and teaches us love and we praise Him He is Lord and God.