

JESUS

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It's that time of the year – Christmas!! To many this means getting into the Christmas spirit, family, friends, joy, giving and ...Jesus!

What About Jesus?

According to the National Census in 2021 only 46% of people in England and Wales consider themselves Christian, compared to 72% in 2001? People with no religion has grown to just over 36% with most of these being younger people.

When a survey carried out the Evangelical Alliance and the Anglican Church asked people about Jesus in 2015. 22% said he was God in human form, 17% said he was a normal guy, 29% said he was a prophet (i.e. wise), 22% thought he was fictional the rest weren't sure one way or the other.

Other religions have similar views about Jesus

- Judaism – a respected teacher but a troublemaker
- Islam – a revered, miracle working prophet
- Bahai – a wise teacher and prophet
- Hinduism – “a god”, holy and wise
- Buddhism – an enlightened, wise and holy man

Many people and religions will happily celebrate Christmas on their own terms!

Why is Christmas different for Christians, why was Jesus born a man?

The Purpose of Christ

Jesus is eternal and is part of the Godhead

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. (John 1:1-5, NLT)

There was purpose to the incarnation of Christ

He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. So, the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. (John 1:10-14, NLT)

To destroy the works of the devil

But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8, NLT)

To make people right with God

For they don't understand God's way of making people right with himself. Refusing to accept God's way, they cling to their own way of getting right with God by trying to keep the law. For Christ has already accomplished the purpose for which the law was given. As a result, all who believe in him are made right with God. (Romans 10:3-5, NLT)

Jesus Was Fully Human and Fully God

Virgin birth, no inherited sin, perfect sacrifice

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. (Galatians 4:4-5, NLT)

The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:35, NLT)



If we live, it's to honour the Lord. And if we die, it's to honour the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Christ died and rose again for this very purpose—to be Lord both of the living and of the dead. So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. (Romans 14:8-10, NLT)

His Need to Be Fully Human

Representative obedience

Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:18-19, NLT)

Substitutional sacrifice

We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. (Hebrews 2:16-17, NLT)

Mediator between God and man

For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity, the man Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 2:5, NLT)

Fulfil God's purpose for man to reign over creation

You gave them authority over all things." Now when it says "all things," it means nothing is left out. But we have not yet seen all things put under their authority. (Hebrews 2:8, NLT)

To be an example

Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did. (1 John 2:6, NLT)

His Need to Be Fully God

Only God is perfect and so can be a perfect sacrifice.

Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. (Hebrews 9:14, NLT)

Salvation can only come from God

But I will offer sacrifices to you with songs of praise, and I will fulfil all my vows. For my salvation comes from the LORD alone." (Jonah 2:9, NLT)

To be a mediator

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Reveal God to us

Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? (John 14:9, NLT)

We celebrate Christmas because of Jesus and what His birth enabled!