

## **THE REASON FOR THE SEASON**

### **Matthew 1:18-2:12**

**Introduction:** There is usually a lot of confusion during the Christmas "season" - for there are trees with lights and all kind of decorations, houses decorated inside and out, people going from door to door singing carols, Church services focusing on Christmas themes, then there is Santa Claus, little elves, Christmas cards, gifts, traditional meals and so on.

In spite of all the hustle and bustle around Christmas, the world actually seems to be a better place during the Christmas season. So, really, just what is the real reason for the season of Christmas?

### **I. THE REAL REASON FOR THE SEASON IS REVEALED IN MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT**

1. Read the scripture - retell the account that Matthew gives.
2. "Emmanu-el" means "God with us." (give more detail)
3. "Jesus" means "Jehovah is Salvation." (give more detail)
4. Christmas centers in Jesus Christ and only Jesus Christ.

### **II. "INCARNATION" WAS FOR REVELATION**

1. People have always wanted to know God.
2. The people of the Old Testament times had a partial revelation.
3. In Jesus' day the people asked Jesus, "What is God like?"
4. Christmas is God revealing Himself in human flesh.

### **III. "INCARNATION" IS FOR IDENTIFICATION**

1. Not only identification TO us, but WITH us.
2. God came to "mingle," to live among us.
3. Jesus came from Heaven to earth and kept in obscurity until His last three years.
4. For 30 years Jesus was living as a simple man.
5. Jesus, therefore, understands us.
6. Christmas is God becoming one of us.

#### **IV. "INCARNATION" IS FOR SALVATION**

1. Jesus became the Son of Man so that we might become the Sons of God.
2. Jesus came to save us from OURSELVES.
3. His words from the cross, "...*it is finished...*" meant redemption for us was completed.
4. Without Jesus, there would be NO Christmas.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. The reason for the "season," the Christmas season is Jesus!
2. No matter what else is mixed in, the real reason and meaning is still Jesus.
3. Christians, of all people, should maintain the real reason for the season and not be caught up with all the other things that have been added.
4. The reason for the season is that God loves us so much that He sent His Son to come be among us, to die for us, and then to ascend back into heaven to prepare a place for us - those who would believe in Him.
5. So, have you believed in the ONE who came to make a way for you to have eternal life in heaven?