

CHRISTMAS: KID OR KING?

WHAT'S IN YOUR MAILBOX?

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government will be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

WHO'S IN YOUR MANGER?

Isaiah 9:6

A **Child** is born

Luke 2:1-19 Philippians 2:5-8 & 1 Corinthians 15:45 Hebrews 4:15

A **Son** is given

Mark 1:8-11 Mark 9:1-7

The **government** will be upon his shoulders

Luke 23:2-3 Revelation 19:11-16 Philippians 2:10

Wonderful **Counselor**

Matthew 7:21-27 John 14:15-23 & 15:9-12

Mighty **God** & Everlasting **Father**

John 10:30-33 John 14:6

Prince of **Peace**

Matthew 1:21 Ephesians 2:13-18

Food for Thought for the week of December 20, 2015

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Most houses have a manger scene that comes out every year during Christmas. After Christmas the manger gets packed back up with the rest of the Christmas décor and stored away until the next year. While mangers are a great tradition, there's a far greater purpose to the birth of Jesus that can be easily forgotten. How might the following verses broaden your view of the manger scene?

John 3:16-18

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. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. *[NIV]*

John 6:38-39

³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. *[NIV]*

John 10:10

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. *[NIV]*

John 12:46

⁴⁶ I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. *[NIV]*

Romans 8:3-4

³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. *[NIV]*

1 John 4:10

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. *[NIV]*

Galatians 4:4-5

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. *[NIV]*

After reading the above verses, how would you explain to someone why Jesus came to earth?

How might the above verses impact someone asking the question, "If God is loving, why is there so much suffering in this world?"

2. Many people and religions have a differing understanding or belief about who Jesus is and what he came to earth to do. What can be learned from the following verses that sheds light on the truth about who Jesus is?

Isaiah 9:6

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *[NIV]*

John 1:1-5

The Word Became Flesh

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. *[NIV]*

John 1:14

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. *[NIV]*

John 14:6-7

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." *[NIV]*

John 5:17-18

¹⁷ In his defense Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working." ¹⁸ For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. *[NIV]*

How would you answer someone who asked who Jesus is to you?

In light of the above verses, is there anything you want to intentionally thank God for this Christmas season?