

WHERE DOES

SANTA

COME FROM?

“Christmas Joy”

Christmas is a time of joy, a time of hugs and laughs, a time of not understanding magic that makes Santa come and his flying reindeer. What a perfect time for me!!

By: Carolyn MacDonald

Everyone knows who Santa is. He is that funny little fat man people see at Christmas time. He is surprising. What a strange looking person. Why does he look like that? What does he do? Where does he come from? And the story of Santa is told again. We learn that he lives at the North Pole. He travels throughout the world on Christmas Eve and brings presents to children.

Can this be true? Some say yes and some say no. Children love this idea of Santa. Why wouldn't they? They would love to have someone bring them presents wouldn't they? Some children make a list of the presents that they want and mail it to the North Pole. It will soon be Christmas Eve and children will be watching the sky. He will be coming soon, but will you be ready?

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

Did you know that the idea of gift giving at Christmas time goes back a long time? At the first Christmas, shepherds and others visited the Christ child. Jesus was born into the poorest of towns - Bethlehem. They brought him presents to worship him. The wise men from the east brought gold, frankincense and myrrh. Jesus offered them something in return. “To those who received him, he gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust him to save them.” (John 1:12)

CHRISTMAS WAS FORGOTTEN

For many years, the birth of Christ was not considered an important event. When people thought of Jesus, they considered his death and resurrection the most important events of his life.

It is amazing that Jesus died on the cross as a criminal. God put the sins of the world upon him and for three hours the day turned black. Then Jesus shouted out “It is finished”, dismissed his spirit, and died. The curtain in the Jewish temple was ripped from top to bottom and the earth shook, and rocks broke, and tombs opened and many godly men and women who had died came back to life again. After Jesus' resurrection, they left the cemetery and went into Jerusalem, and appeared to many people there. The soldiers at the crucifixion and their sergeant were terribly frightened by the earthquake and all that happened. They exclaimed, “Surely this was God's Son.” (Matthew 27:50-54, the Living Bible)

The friends of Jesus put his body in a new, unused tomb cut into the rock (at the side of a hill). This was done late on Friday afternoon. The temple police sealed the tomb with a stone and posted guards to protect it from intrusion. (Luke 23:52-54, Matthew 27:65-66)

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled aside the stone and sat on it. His face shone like lightning and his clothing was a brilliant white. The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and fell into a dead faint. Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be frightened!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified, but he isn't here! For he has come back to life again, just as he said he would. Come in and see where his body was lying..."

The women ran from the tomb, badly frightened, but also filled with joy, and rushed to find the disciples to give them the angel's message. And as they were running, suddenly Jesus was there in front of them! "Good Morning!" he said. And they fell to the ground before him holding his feet and worshiping him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid".... (Matthew 28:1-10)

The birth of Jesus was further into the past than what most people could remember. Probably the only person who would remember the details of the birth of Jesus would be Mary. The exact date of his birth might have been difficult to determine too. The Bible doesn't mention the exact date of the birth of Jesus and it is a mystery to be solved.

THE FIRST SANTA

There was a man who loved children and became famous for the things he did. He was a Christian and his name was Nicholas. Nicholas was born in the town of Patara in 245 A.D. That is in the area of modern day Turkey. It is near the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and the ruins of ancient buildings can be explored there still today.

Nicholas was the son of rich parents who raised him to be a strong, faithful Christian. Unfortunately his parents died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Nicholas didn't keep their money for himself. He used all of his money to help the poor, the sick and the suffering, especially children.

Nicholas dedicated himself to serving God and was made the Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children and his concern for sailors and ships.

WHEN SANTA SUFFERED

There was a Roman Emperor named Diocletian who hatefully persecuted Christians. Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith and was put in prison. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests, and deacons that there was no room for the real criminals.

THE DEATH OF SANTA

Nicholas died on December 6, 343 A.D. He was buried in his cathedral church.

THE MEMORY OF SANTA

Every December 6th people remember the death of Nicholas. He is famous because of the things he did so he has the special name of Saint Nicholas. He is respected by many people including sailors, travellers and children. There are many stories of what Nicholas did when he was alive.

BAGS OF GOLD

One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. In those days a young woman's father had to offer prospective husbands something of value- a dowry. The larger the dowry, the better the chance that a young woman would find a good husband. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. This poor man's daughters, without dowries, were therefore destined to be sold into slavery. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home-providing the needed dowries. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from Saint Nicholas. Sometimes the story is told with gold balls instead of bags of gold. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols for St. Nicholas. And so St. Nicholas is a gift-giver.

PROTECTOR OF CHILDREN

One of the oldest stories showing St. Nicholas as a protector of children takes place long after his death. The townspeople of Myra were celebrating the good on the eve of his feast day when a band of Arab pirates from Crete came into the district. They stole treasures from the Church of Saint Nicholas to take away as booty. As they were leaving town, they snatched a young boy, Basilios, to make into a slave. The emir, or ruler, selected Basilios to be his personal cupbearer, as not knowing the language, Basilios would not understand what the king said to those around him. So, for the next year Basilios waited on the king, bringing his wine in a beautiful golden cup. For Basilios' parents, devastated at the loss of their only child, the year passed slowly, filled with grief. As the next St. Nicholas' feast day approached, Basilios' mother would not join in the festivity, as it was now a day of tragedy. However, she was persuaded to have a simple observance at home—with quiet prayers for Basilios' safekeeping. Meanwhile, as Basilios was fulfilling his tasks serving the emir, he was suddenly whisked up and away. St. Nicholas appeared to the terrified boy, blessed him, and set him down at his home back in Myra. Imagine the joy and wonderment when Basilios amazingly appeared before his parents, still holding the king's golden cup. This is the first

story told of St. Nicholas protecting children—which became his primary role in the West.

TALES OF THE SEA

Several stories tell of Nicholas and the sea. Once when he was young, Nicholas took a trip to the Holy Land. There as he walked where Jesus walked, he sought to more deeply experience Jesus' life, passion, and resurrection. Returning by sea, a mighty storm threatened to wreck the ship. Nicholas calmly prayed. The terrified sailors were amazed when the wind and waves suddenly calmed, sparing them all. And so St. Nicholas is the patron of sailors and voyagers.

Since Nicholas died in December, Christmas is celebrated in December.



Saint Nicholas bringing gifts
Artist: Elisabeth Jvanovsky



Celebrating St. Nicholas
Artist: Elisabeth Jvanovsky

TRADITIONS OF CHRISTMAS

Advent Custom Of The Shoes

This is an ancient custom, widespread in Europe, Canada, and South America. When the children go to bed on the eve of St. Nicholas' Day (December 5), they put upon the window sills little notes which they have written or dictated, addressed to the Child Jesus. These letters, containing lists of desired Christmas presents, are supposed to be taken to heaven by Saint Nicholas or by angels. In South America the children write their letters to the "little Jesus" during the days from December 16 to 24 and put them in front of the [Christmas] crib, whence, they believe, angels take them to Heaven during the night.



CELEBRATIONS IN MANY COUNTRIES

Following his baptism in Constantinople, of Russia brought St. Nicholas' stories and devotion to St. Nicholas to his homeland where Nicholas became the most beloved saint. Nicholas was so widely revered that more than 2,000 churches were named for him, including three hundred in Belgium, thirty-four in Rome, twenty-three in the Netherlands and more than four hundred in England.

Many different countries have their own traditions of St. Nicholas. He is widely celebrated in Austria, Greece, Switzerland, Italy, Russia, Belgium, Russia, Lebanon and other countries. St. Nicholas' feast day, December 6th, is kept alive the stories of his goodness and generosity.

In Germany and Poland, boys dressed as bishops begged for money for the poor—and sometimes for themselves!

In the Netherlands, Saint Nicholas' Eve (December 5) is the primary occasion for gift-giving, when he is celebrated. His name in the Netherlands (Holland) is "Sinterklaas".

In the days leading up to December 5 (starting when Saint Nicholas has arrived in the Netherlands by steamboat), young children put their shoes in front of the chimneys and sing special 'Sinterklaas-songs'. Often the shoe is filled with a carrot or some hay for the horse of St. Nicholas (called *Amerigo*). On the next morning they will find a small present in their shoe, ranging from a bag of chocolate coins to a bag of marbles or some other small toy. On the evening of December 5th, *Sinterklaas* brings presents to every child that has been good in the past year (in practice to all children). This is often done by placing a sack with presents outside the house or living room, after which a neighbour or parent bangs the door or window, pretending to be *Sinterklaas*' assistant. Another option is to hire or ask someone to dress up as *Sinterklaas* and deliver the presents personally. *Sinterklaas* wears a [bishop](#)'s robes including a red cape and mitre, rides a white horse over the rooftops and is assisted by many mischievous helpers with black faces and colourful [Moorish](#) dress.

THE NAME SANTA CLAUS

European celebrations came to North America when the Europeans arrived here. Most importantly were the Dutch celebrations which is where Santa's name comes from. New York used to be called New Amsterdam. Amsterdam is the capital of Holland. The Dutch name for Saint Nicholas is "Sinter klaas". This was changed to "Santa Claus" in America.

HOW SANTA CHANGED

In recent years, Christmas (along with Santa Claus) has been pushed by shopkeepers as another gift-giving festival, with some success; although, especially for young children, Saint Nicholas' Eve is still much more important than Christmas.

After his release from prison, Nicholas went to the Council of Nicaea in AD 325.

Children are surprised when they see him There are many names for Santa

WE CAN BE SANTA

When children grow older, they sometimes pretend that they are Santa. Children love to dress up like Santa. They like to give out gifts to others like Santa does. They sometimes write on a present "From Santa", they sometimes tell the story to younger children about where Santa lives and what he does.

But did you know that God also wants us to be "Santa". God wants us to be loving and generous to others. He wants us to make other people happy by being kind to them.

WHY DOES SANTA WEAR RED?

The first Santa was a Christian. He was a leader of Christians. Some leaders of Christianity wear red robes during their service for the Church. The reason they wear red clothing is to remember that the blood of Jesus was red. When he died, Jesus gave his life for us. The power of God is in the blood of Jesus and the red blood can save us.

MYTHS ABOUT SANTA

SANTA LIVES AT THE NORTH POLE

I'm sorry but nobody lives at the North Pole. It's too cold up there. There is only ice and snow and freezing cold wind.

SANTA HAS FLYING REINDEER

I'm sorry but there is no such thing as flying reindeer. There are reindeer that live in

Although Santa is not true or real there was such a person as Saint Nick (Or Saint Nickolas) There are historical records that Nic

The true story of Santa cauls begins with Nicholas who was born during the third century in the village of patara. At the time the area was greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey.

THE COMING OF SANTA

Sinterklaas wears a [bishop](#)'s robes including a red cape and mitre, rides a white horse over the rooftops

Advent Custom Of The Shoes

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"Kris Kringle" #47 [\[url\]](#) [-]

Member

Posts: 4677

12/28/05 14:10:07

Member

"Kris Kringle" is the totally pagan version of Saint Nicholas, or his anglicized modern-equivalent of Santa [Saint] Claus
[nicK-'claus]....

Someone else, a gentleman of Spanish origin, asked me the same thing today!!!
Before that, I thought everyone knew "Kris Kringle" !:

Liechtenstein, December 1867.

Otto Grinch, Ebenezer Scrooge and Kris Kringle celebrate a deal with the devil for immortality.

Come each and every holiday season ever after the world would not be left in peace and instead be victim to the tiresome machinations of this cruel and heartless triad.



DAYS OF OUR LIVES "FAUSTIAN GREETINGS"

www.dazeofourlives.com/991209.htm

Does this prove to any of you that the secularization of Christmas is Satanic???

Remember our Papa's first Christmas address!

At least, the less volatile version of "Santa Claus" looks a bit like a monk:

or, "Father Christmas" [who was based on St. Nicholas, Bishop of Nurcia*]:



(A Vatican insider said: "The Pope was told it was cold outside and he said he had just the thing. He came out holding the hat and said he would wear it. He even joked that it made him look like Father Christmas.")

You can note that the original depictions of "Fr. Christmas" or "Santa Claus", does not reveal a gluttonous "fat-man"



[that was the beginning of the vice-filled prankster, who became known as "Kris Kringle": who would put coal in children's stockings, and do other mean things to make children cry!].

Surely this would scare any child:



The idea of his "elves" as his helpers, too!

The next may be a little tamer; but where is Christ in all this? Besides, "Mr. Claus" is not in the warmth of the Mediterranean...[remember Bari*]; but is now in the freezing North Pole!!!



*the real St. Nicholas lived in a warm, sunny town on the Mediterranean Sea -- in what is now Turkey.

St. Nicholas was born in the town of Patara in 245 A.D. When he was young, his father died and left Nicholas a great fortune. Instead of spending it on himself, Nicholas started anonymously giving the money to the needy, especially children.

Nicholas eventually became the Bishop of Myra (modern-day Demre in Turkey), where he performed several miracles, including saving sailors from drowning and resurrecting three boys who had been killed by an evil butcher. ["Magnificat" (monthly missal) ran a beautiful reading of this true, but gory story; and subsequently of St. Nicholas' three resurrections of the murdered boys found in lard-barrels, a few years back.] Today, St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children, sailors, teachers, students and merchants.

But the most famous St. Nicholas story led to the legend of Santa Claus. A nobleman who lived with his three daughters had fallen on hard times. The daughters had no chance of marriage, since their father could not pay their dowries.

One night, St. Nicholas threw a sack of gold through a window of the nobleman's shabby castle, which was enough for one daughter's marriage. The next night, he tossed another sack of gold through the window for the second daughter.

But on the third night, the window was closed. So, St. Nicholas climbed onto the roof and dropped the sack down the chimney. The next morning, the daughters found the gold in the stockings they had hung to dry by the fireplace.

Hence the tradition of hanging stockings on Christmas Eve, awaiting a visit from St. Nick.

<http://theratzingerforum.yuku.com/topic/510/t/Papal-clothing-and-liturgical-practices.html?page=3>

On Sunday Ian sent me a copy of the cover of this book with Santa flying through space. I hadn't even started to write anything or be too serious about it. I mentioned the title to Joram and he said "the North Pole" which is exactly the answer I thought someone would say about my title. Ian was eager to do this book cover.

I feel that God wants me to do this because of some events that happened today I prayed that this could be the best day of my life and R's life and C and K too How could that happen? I knew that R would be late and so I urged K and C to come so that we could drive R to work. She got there on time and then we drove home. When I got K to school there was a boy sick and his mom came to take him home. I paid attention and it was a Christian family and the boy's name was Nicholas. I wondered if this was a sign to write a book about St Nick. Then I thought if God wants me to do this he should give me another sign – I thought that if the computer was free and Carolyn wasn't on it I would think that God wanted me to work.. As I was walking home I saw a van go by that had Christian lettering on the windshield. I looked at the back of the van and it had Christian writing there too. It said glory to God. When I got home, the computer was free.

Seasonal Favorites:

The Origins of our Christmas Traditions



by Chuck Missler

Each year at Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. After the New Year, we struggle to remember to add a year as we date our checks, which should remind us that the entire Western World reckons its calendar from the birth of the One who changed the world more than any other before or since.

Yet, it is disturbing to discover that much of what we have been taught about the Christmas season seems to be more tradition than truth.

When Was Jesus Born?

Most serious Bible students realize that Jesus was probably not born on December 25th. The shepherds had their flocks in open

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fields,¹ which implies a date prior to October. Furthermore, no competent Roman administrator would require registration involving travel during the season when Judea was generally impassable.²

If Jesus wasn't born on December 25, just when was he born? Although the Bible doesn't explicitly identify the birthday of our Lord, many scholars have developed diverse opinions as to the likely birthday of Jesus. (It reminds one of the rabbinical observation: with two Jews, you have three opinions!) See our briefing, [The Christmas Story: What Really Happened](#) for more information.

Then Why December 25th?

The early Christian church did not celebrate Jesus' birth, and therefore the exact date was not preserved in festivals. The first recorded mention of December 25th is in the Calendar of Philocalus (A.D. 354), which assumed Jesus' birth to be Friday, December 25th, A.D. 1. This was subsequent to Constantine's Edict of Toleration in A.D. 313, which enabled the persecuted Christians to exchange the rags of hiding for the silks of the court. But the predictable expediency to adopt the inevitable cultural changes caused many of the former pagan rituals to be adapted to their new "Christian" trappings.

The date of December 25th, which was officially proclaimed by the church fathers in A.D. 440, was actually a vestige of the Roman holiday of Saturnalia, observed near the winter solstice, which itself was among the many pagan traditions inherited from the earlier Babylonian priesthood.³

Babylonian Traditions

All forms of occultic practices have their origins in the original city of Babylon. Isaiah Chapter 47 clearly brings this out. Most of what we associate with pagan Rome had its origins in ancient Babylon. Babylon is mentioned in over 300 references in the Bible; it is even alluded to three times in Christ's own genealogy.

The Tammuz Legend

Tammuz, the son of Nimrod and his queen, Semiramis, was identified with the Babylonian Sun God and worshipped following the winter solstice. As the days became shorter and shorter through the winter, they become the shortest at the winter solstice, about December 22-23. Tammuz was thought to have died during the winter solstice, and was memorialized by burning a log in the fireplace. (The Chaldean word for infant is *yule*. This is the origin of the "yule log.") His "rebirth" was celebrated by replacing the log with a trimmed tree the next morning. Sound familiar? (Jeremiah 10 contains an interesting verse which talks about trimming trees, etc.)

There are numerous other examples. The wassail bowl, the mistletoe (a fertility rite), and others are documented in such works as Alexander Hislop's, *The Two Babylons*. When Babylon was conquered by subsequent empires, this entire religious system was

transplanted, first to Pergamos under the Persians, and then to Rome. As the pagan Roman (Babylonian) religious system was integrated with Christian ceremonial observances, many of our current traditions surrounding Christmas emerged. And it appears that an "ecumenical" integration of all the world's religions, including the ancient Babylonian occult forms that presently masquerade as the "New Age," is destined to be the final religious climax.