

A photograph of a Christmas tree decorated with warm white lights and red ornaments. Several wrapped gifts are visible at the base of the tree. The text "WHY DO WE HAVE CHRISTMAS?" is overlaid in a glowing orange font.

WHY DO
WE
HAVE
CHRISTMAS?

Lots of people look forward to Christmas. It's a time when families come together, give each other presents and enjoy especially good food. Many homes have a Christmas tree with coloured lights and other decorations that only appear at Christmas time. Do you know why we do these things just once a year?

The word Christmas gives us a clue: CHRISTmas is all about Christ. That gives us another question: who is Christ? We find the answer to that question in

the Bible.

The Bible is a very special book because God helped the people who wrote it, to write the words He wants us to read or hear. The Bible tells us that long ago, God promised to send Someone into the world who would save us from our sin (doing wrong things) and from all the bad things that sin had brought into God's wonderful world. God always does what He says He will do, and so when it was the right time, God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ came from heaven and

was born as a baby in Bethlehem.

Each year we celebrate the day we were born on our birthday. We do not know the date of the birth of Jesus, but on December 25th, we remember His birth and say thank-you to God for this.

The coming of Jesus was so important that we started counting the years from that time. So when we look at the calendar, we know that the birth of Jesus was more than two thousand years ago. We call the years before Jesus was born

B.C. which stands for **B**efore **C**hrist. The years since Jesus' birth are called **A.D.** which stands for **A**nno **D**omini, Latin words that mean 'in the year of our Lord'.

We have one more question to answer. Why did we need someone to come from heaven to save us? Once again the Bible tells us the answer. God made a perfect world and He placed the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, in a beautiful garden. He gave them just one rule, to show that they would

love and obey the God who had given them life. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sin came into God's world.

Sin brought trouble into the world and it is like a big wall between us and God. God knew that neither Adam and Eve nor anyone else could put things right. Only God Himself could find a way for us to know and love the God who made us. God's Son, Jesus, is the Saviour we need to forgive us for our sin, so that we can know God as our Friend.

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*The angel said, "... there is born
to you this day in the city of
David a Saviour, who is Christ
the Lord..."*

*Luke chapter 2 verses 10-11
(NKJV)*

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