

## Top Ten Questions Christmas Answers



The world is all of the time asking a variety of questions about the person and work of Jesus Christ. Some questions spring from **a mocking or overtly antagonistic posture** – like we see in **2 Peter 3:4** “*Where is the promise of His coming?*” It looks to us like the scientific postulates of uniformitarianism (*all things continue just as it was from the beginning of creation*) argue against such a cataclysmic upheaval as that prophecied in conjunction with Christ’s 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. Other questions spring from more of a **wondering mind** – such as the reaction of the disciples of Jesus to Him calming the Sea of Galilee – “*What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?*” (**Matt. 8:27**)

Sometimes God withholds answers to our questions; but often God chooses to answer our questions. “*The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.*” (**Deut. 29:29**). Of course it is one thing for God to reveal answers; quite another thing for man to understand God’s revelation. That requires the enlightening ministry of the Holy Spirit – *natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God.*

This week during the days leading up to Christmas I had a chance to meditate on some of the crucial theological questions that are answered by Christmas.

This morning I just want to very briefly share the *TOP TEN QUESTIONS CHRISTMAS ANSWERS*

## **CHRISTMAS ANSWERS MANY CRUCIAL THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS**

### **1) Has Jesus existed for all eternity and How was the world created?**

**Isaiah 9:6** “*For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*”

**John 1:1-3** “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*”

**Col. 1:15** “*by Him all things were created*”

Don't get confused by Jesus being referred in the KJV as “*begotten by God*” or the “*firstborn of all creation*” – not that He came into existence at His birth in Bethlehem ... designation as the only unique Son of God – special relationship to God the Father

**MacArthur:** *The Gr. Word for “firstborn” can refer to one who was born first chronologically, but most often refers to preeminence in position, or rank . . . possesses the right of inheritance*

**Evolution** is a critical error; undermines sense of **accountability** to the Creator; removes the distinction between men (who have been created in the image of God) and animals  
Until you settle the issue of where you came from – difficult to deal with issues related to one's ultimate destiny.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever – so we can trust Him completely; He created me and knows everything about me and holds my future in His providential hands.

### **2) Is history cyclical and meaningless, headed nowhere?**

**Gal. 4:4** “*But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*”

The ancient Greeks considered that just as the four seasons of spring, summer, autumn, and winter repeat themselves year after year, so does history follow a cyclical course. For them, history was just a repetition of destined events, which could not be affected by human power, so that history had no meaning or goal.

**Biblical view of history** = “His story” – outworking of the sovereign plan of God  
history has a beginning and advances in a straight line toward a definite goal.

Book of Eccles. sheds some light on this topic – take God out of the equation and it looks from a human perspective that everything under the sun is just vanity – no meaning or purpose

Concept of the “*fullness of time*” negates this cyclical view

We are now living in the time of the Gentiles – there will yet be the future kingdom of God established on this earth

It is comforting to know that God does everything in our lives for a purpose – in fact “*God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose*” **Rom. 8:28**. How depressing it would be to interpret life’s events from a worldview of a meaningless cyclical view of history.

### **3) Does God actually intervene in the affairs of men?**

**John 1:14** “*And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*”

**Incarnation** is the answer – *Immanuel* = “God with us”

Def. of Deism: The term is used chiefly of an intellectual movement of the 17th and 18th centuries that accepted the existence of a creator on the basis of reason but rejected belief in a supernatural deity who interacts with humankind. Such a God has no desire for our worship – not a relational God ...

A large number of United States Founding Fathers were deists or had strong deist leanings. Some of them identified themselves as **Unitarians**, a non-Trinitarian form of Christianity that emphasized rationality and skepticism. These deists include Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, James Madison and John Adams.

### **4) How can we understand what God is really like?**

**John 1:18** “*No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.*”

**Heb. 1:3** “*And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature*”

**Col. 1:15** “*He is the image of the invisible God*”

How do we learn about all of the attributes of God? By seeing them in action in the person of Jesus Christ?

How do we know how God would act in different situations?

### **5) Can God perform miracles?**

**Isaiah 7:14** *“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”*

**Luke 1:34-35** *“Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.’”*

The modern world with their enlightened reason based on the scientific method of proof by observation and repetition wants to repudiate all miracles on a presuppositional basis – e.g. miracles conflict with the laws of nature so miracles are impossible.

But that assumes the non-existence of an all-powerful God with whom all things are possible. While we don’t believe that the normal operating plan of God for this age is to perform miracles on a regular basis ... the miracle of the Virgin Birth reminds us of **the power of our God** so that when it comes to our spiritual battles and temptations we should be confident that nothing is too difficult for our God.

## **6) How does God speak to us today? Where can we turn for truth?**

**Heb. 1:1-2** *“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world”*

God is **knowable** because He reveals Himself through His Son in His written Word of truth. People today don’t believe in absolute truth; they want everything to be relative. Jesus pointed to Himself as the source of Truth and the way to learn God’s message from heaven – *“I am the Way, and the Truth and the Life; no man comes to the Father but through Me”*

**John 14:6**

## **7) Is Jesus both fully human as the Second Adam and fully divine as the Son of God?**

**Rom. 1:3-4** *“concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord”*

**1 Tim. 2:5-6** *“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all”*

Can understand our weaknesses and our temptations – so that we can be confident that no temptation is greater than what we can bear but God has provided an escape for those who will put their confidence in Christ

Can empathize with us and minister to us as our great High Priest

Knows all about our situation; cares for us; and is powerful enough to deliver us

## **8) Why did God send His Son into the world?”**

**Matt. 1:21** *“She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”*

How will you be saved from the guilt and penalty of your sins? This is the **fundamental question** that will determine where you spend all of eternity.

The gospel is an exclusivistic gospel – there is only salvation through the name of Jesus Christ – none other

We need to continue to preach to ourselves every day the gospel of salvation by God’s grace through faith in His Son Jesus Christ – that is how we entered into precious new spiritual life; that is how we grow and mature in our Christian life  
Ultimately we will be glorified and saved completely from our sins

### **9) How will peace and righteousness be established ultimately on this earth?**

**Isaiah 9:7** *“There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.”*

**Luke 1:31-33** *“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”*

**Gen. 49:10** *“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes. And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.”*

Newspaper and TV bring us depressing stories every day.  
Human efforts to resolve national and world problems are limited at best.

Our political climate in this next year of Presidential Elections will see each side trashing the other in an effort to make the opposition look as incompetent as possible – not exactly an edifying scenario.

But our hope is not in the political leaders of this age – even though we pray for them that we may enjoy peace as much as possible in our day.  
Our hope is in the Messiah who will come to usher in peace and righteousness on a global scale.

### **10) Does God really love the world?**

**John 3:16** *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*

In this season of gift giving – we need to focus our attention on the greatest gift of all ...

God loved us when we were sinners and enemies; how much more now that we are reconciled does He shower us with every gift that meets our needs

*We love because He first loved us*

For many people, Christmas is an especially lonely time as their vacuum of family and friends leaves them with a sense of deep longing and sadness. We were blessed this Christmas to have our hearts filled with the joy of our entire family staying with us and celebrating together for the entire week. But regardless of your earthly circumstances, the fact that God loves you is sufficient to sustain you and uplift you with inner peace and joy and comfort. What a privilege to be in the family of God and be loved by our heavenly Father.

### **CONCLUSION:**

What's the point of knowing the answers to these theological questions??

You all have seen the little children that just keep asking “**Why**” and don't really care about the answers. Hopefully we care about doctrine because it matters to God and it has practical application to our lives.

Or probably more dangerous is our prideful tendency to want to know truth in order to puff ourselves up –

*“But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith” (1 Tim. 1:5).*