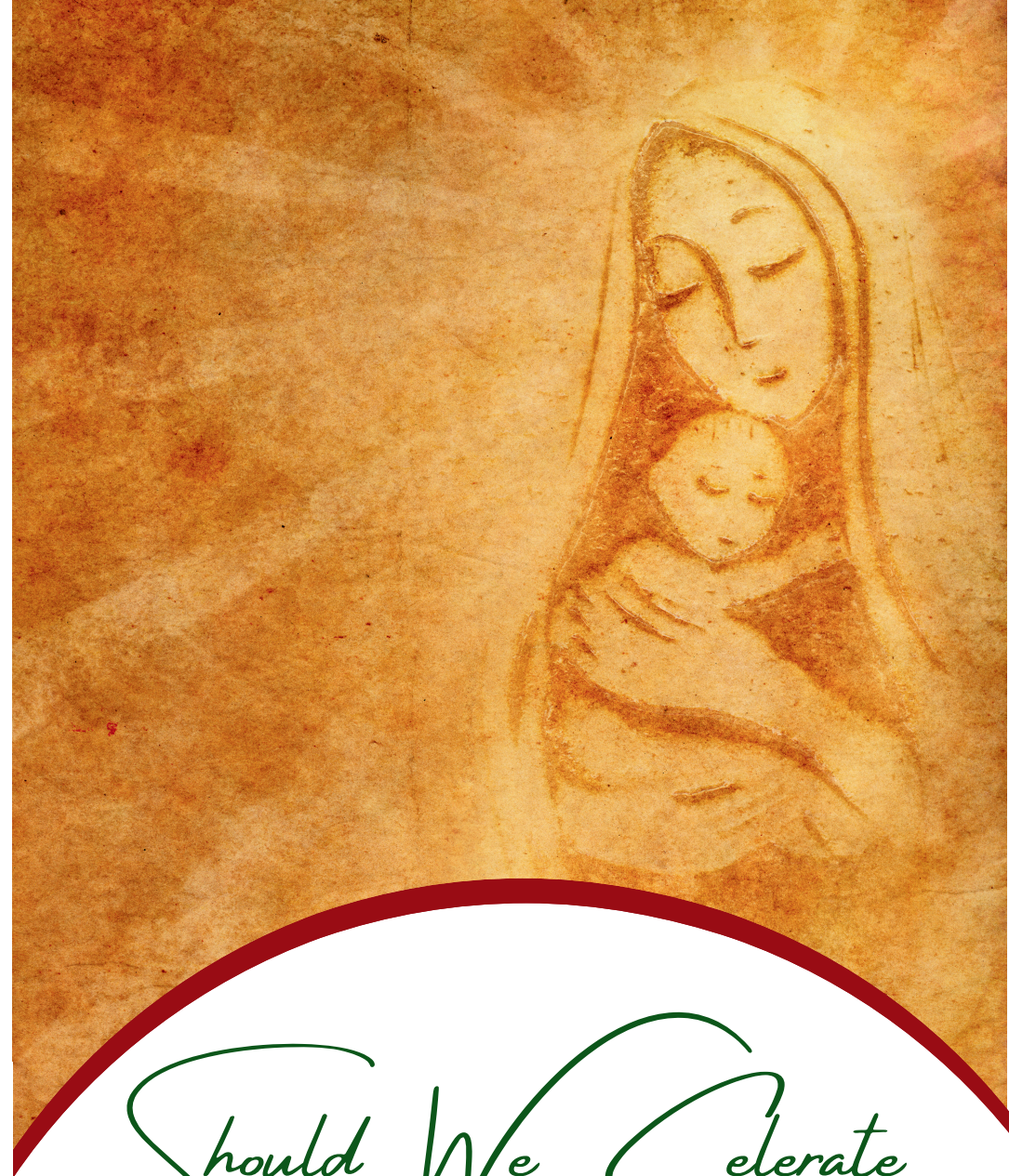


Every Muslim needs to
know the Truth
about Jesus!

How to Find Your Way to God

- **Admit** you are a sinner.
 - "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)
- **Come to God** through Jesus Christ
 - "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5)
- **Repent** of your sins--be "sorry enough to stop sinning."
 - "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19a)
- **Confess** (to tell or admit) your sins to Jesus.
 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)
- **Forsake** your sins.
 - "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy." (Prov. 28:13)
- **Believe** on Jesus
 - "If you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9b)
- **Receive** Jesus Christ into your heart and life.
 - "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." (Revelation 3:20)
- If you decided to accept Jesus as your Savior, talk to the person who gave you this flyer and he or she can help you grow in your relationship with Jesus! **Welcome to the family of God!**



Should We Celebrate
Christmas?

by Fred Farrokh



IN THE

Fullness of Time

*But when the fulness of the time was come,
God sent forth his Son,*

made of a woman, made under the law.

Galatians 4:4

God has given the gift of His Son, which we celebrate in the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Likewise, God offers the gift of salvation paid for by Jesus Christ.

The True Meaning of "Christmas"

The holiday marking the birth of Jesus Christ does not focus on gifts, or even on his miraculous conception through the Virgin Mary. The holiday centers on the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ himself. He is known as Immanuel, or "God is with us." The prophet Isaiah prophesied 600 years before Christ: "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" (Isaiah 7:14). *The true meaning of Christmas is that God is with us.* You may be assured that Christians worship one true God, who became manifest as the Lord Jesus Christ, Immanuel.

When the Presence of God Fills the Heart of the Community

I was born and raised Muslim. I was searching for the straight path and praying that God would guide me to the *Siraat al-Mustaqeem*. God miraculously put a Holy Bible in my hands when I was 19 years old. In the Injeel, I read about this Lord Jesus Christ whom we now celebrate at Christmas.

Christmas is a glorious time because the presence of God fills the heart of the community of believers in Christ. As we treasure Jesus and ponder His many blessings, His presence grows within us. As we sing His praise, that presence only grows stronger. Throughout the entire world, worshippers are joined together spiritually by the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. The presence of Jesus grows very strong at Christmas.

Will you celebrate Christmas with us? You are very welcome to join us!

For those of us who live 2,000 years later, we still must ponder the identity of the one called *Hazrat Isa*. What is the mystery of His presence? Is the presence of Jesus the presence of man, or the presence of God? Like blessed Mary, will you ponder these things in your heart?

Christmas Gifts

People give gifts at Christmas. The original model for this tradition is based on the gifts that wise men (magi) brought when visiting baby Jesus. The Lord Jesus explains that Jesus is both the gift and the giver of gifts. On one occasion, He encountered a Samaritan Woman at the well. He told her: “*If you knew the gift of God*, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water” (John 4:10, emphasis added). This woman appreciated the gift of God and went immediately to tell her entire village about Jesus.

Salvation is indeed a gift; it is not earned. The New Testament states, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as *a gift by His grace* through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:23-24, emphasis added). Jesus paid for our sins. It is a gift of grace—God’s unmerited favor.

Gifts Can Be Accepted or Rejected

Most people like receiving gifts. However, some people are grumpy and don’t like receiving gifts from others. They would rather pay for the items they want, rather than receive them from others. However, rejecting the gift also means rejecting the giver. As we have seen,

Birthdays provide joyful occasions to celebrate throughout the year. Children look forward to their own birthdays, as it marks the completion of another year. They always await some special gift! Parents love to celebrate their children’s birthdays as well.

A few birthdays prompt nationwide celebrations. In the United States, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day marks his birthday and honors his life, legacy, and achievements as an influential civil rights leader. On July 4th, Americans celebrate the birth of their nation. In Pakistan, *Quaid-e-Azam Day*, celebrated on December 25, honors founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah’s birthday!

The Celebration of Christmas

Christmas marks the birth of Jesus Christ. Muslims and Christians esteem this as an important birth of an important person. Mary, Jesus’ mother, is renowned as the most celebrated women in the Gospels, as well as the only woman mentioned by name in the Qur’an.

In Urdu, Jesus is known as *Hazrat Isa* حضرت عیسیٰ. *Hazrat* comes from the Arabic word *haadir* حاضر, meaning “present” or “presence.” The term speaks of an eminent figure. We also use these terms in Farsi, as well as in Urdu. In fact, the most famous Persian Christian worship song was a song by the martyr Rev. Haik Hovsepian, entitled, “I am Thirsty for Your Presence.” The chorus declares: تشنه وجودتم، تشنه حضورتم The song indicates that the believer longs for the presence of God.

Who was Present Inside Mary’s Womb?

Muslims and Christians agree that someone very special was growing inside the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They also agree about the miraculous nature of Jesus’ conception and

birth. He was conceived by the Spirit of God without a human father. *Truly this is remarkable and unprecedented in human history!*

Among these points of agreements about Jesus' miraculous conception and birth, a major question arises: Who was present in Mary's womb? Was Jesus just another prophet in a long line of prophets or was he something more?

The Holy Injeel describes who was to be present inside Mary's womb:

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. 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." 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*. (Gospel of Luke 1:26-35, emphasis added)

The Holy Bible forms the beliefs of Christians. In this passage, the Gospel teaches the following:

1. The Angel Gabriel made the announcement of Jesus' birth (vv. 26-27).
2. Mary was a virgin at the time she conceived Jesus (vv. 27, 34).
3. Jesus would be given an eternal kingdom that would have no end (v. 33).
4. Jesus, the Holy Child, would be called the Son of God (v. 35).

All who believe in God will conclude that the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ is unique in human history. This biblical passage teaches us that the baby growing inside Mary's womb was not simply another prophet. What other prophet had this type of conception or miraculous birth?

The Mysterious Presence

The Angel Gabriel told Mary, "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" (Luke 1:35). The verse associates the Holy Spirit with the power of the Most High. Jesus would not have a biological father since his conception was miraculous. Nevertheless, Jesus always enjoyed unbroken relationship with His Heavenly Father. Indeed, the Holy Trinity is reflected in the conception of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For nine months, Mary carried baby Jesus in her womb. Like any pregnant woman, she felt the baby moving later in the pregnancy. She could feel His presence. Later, when Jesus was born, shepherds came to visit the baby Jesus, saying that angels had appeared to them to announce this joyous occasion. The Gospel tells us, "Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Luke 2:19). No doubt she was pondering and treasuring all these happenings when she felt Jesus moving in her womb.