



christmas today

a 21st century view

by Andrew Adeleke

What does Christmas remind you of? Shopping? Carols? Santa Claus? Presents?

For some people in today's world, Christmas is a period to become a new person, for some it's a season of joy, a season to remember other human beings who are less privileged but of who's existence we have unwittingly forgotten since the last Christmas. Some even go a step further and remember to care for animals or even plants and the environment.

There is always an atmosphere that pervades the Christmas season throughout the world. Even in countries where this day is not celebrated officially, there is an acknowledgement that a special celebration is ongoing, hence special events are organised and people act in a special way different from how they normally would have acted. Perhaps the fact that it is celebrated at the tail end of an old year and the twilight of a new one also contributes to the celebratory atmosphere during Christmas.

Christmas in the modern world has become a huge commercial event, with various organisations, travel agencies, airlines, grocery stores, toy manufacturers, fashion designers etc investing monumental sums of money in preparing for the season; special deals are offered, special products are placed on the shelves and special promotions are made for the season, and the consumers too go on shopping spree buying everything in sight like they

were Noah on the last days before the flood.

The word Christmas originated from a combination of two words; the Greek word *Christos* and the Latin word *missa*. It is a day that has been designated for the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord's birthday and much of history celebrated His birthday with fan fare.

much of the world today has forgotten that Christmas was originally set aside to celebrate the birth of Jesus

However, much of the world today has forgotten that Christmas was originally set aside to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who the bible said came to the world to save the world, the greatest man that ever lived, God in human flesh. Today, Christ has been taken out of Christmas and what is left is just the celebration, the fanfare, the holiday. In fact, I read somewhere that in Canada there was a proposal that the famous Christmas greeting "Merry Christmas" be changed to Happy Holiday- in order not to offend non Christians. What a travesty!

In today's world, Christmas is still the most important holiday of the year, but not the most important date in the year. I believe the onus is now on Christians the world over to take a break from the

wining and dining of Christmas and go out to tell the world what the date signifies, and who really is the reason for the season. Christmas is worth celebrating because it is the fulfilment of prophecy foretold several years before it happened as acc-ounted in the bible; Isaiah 9:6 *"For unto us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace"*. **It is the birth of God in the midst of humans.**

Christmas is therefore more than Santa Claus - a fictional character who is another element in the effort of mankind to replace belief in God with belief in "good". Christmas is more than the buying and sharing of gifts among friends, relatives and loved ones, Christmas is more than the chocolates, the turkey, the annual church visit - for some who never attend church until Christmas and New year eves; it is more than all these, it is rather a reminder to mankind that God sent His only begotten son to the world to bear the sin of the world and provide a way to salvation. John 3:16. It is a celebration of God's love for the world.

It is time the world return Christmas to Christ.

