

# LOVE DECODED



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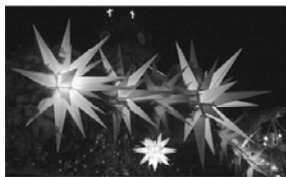
**CHRISTMAS DAY**



We frequently abbreviate **Christmas as X-mas** because of ancient tradition. X is the Greek letter "chi", an abbreviation for the word "Christ" in Greek



**Sharing is caring:** Since 1993, a popular project called Samaritan's Purse, has collected and delivered more than 135 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 150 countries and territories.



**Christmas Shopping:** Did you know that red stimulates spending? Because of which retailers purposefully weave red into their advertisements and displays.



Christmas would be incomplete without a delicious **Christmas plum cake**, It is a very old recipe. Christmas cake is said to date back to the Roman Empire. The Romans used a mixture of pine nuts, barley, raisins and pomegranate seeds to make a version of the Christmas cake.



**BOXING Day** is a holiday not just in US and UK but celebrated in most countries worldwide.

It is celebrated on December 26. Boxing Day gets its name from all the money collected in alms-boxes for the poor.

## LOVE DECODED

Come Christmas season, the pace of projects all over the world slows down as the clientele take a vacation. It is not uncommon to watch people sharing gifts, greetings and goodies. While Christmas truly is all about sharing love, joy and wishes of peace and goodwill, is there all that is to it?



Is there a special message for you this chilly wintery season? An orator once said that Christmas is not about religion but only about love. Come and know more about this day, which is considered so important worldwide. Let times of refreshing come upon you!!

## **“True Love” Decoded For Us!**

Christmas is all about “true love”! Humans are relational beings. We love and desire to be loved. There is a longing inside each one of us that we need people to love us, care for us and be good to us. Whether you are rich or poor, educated or uneducated, whether socially high-class or middle-class, we all desire one thing and that is, “love”. We dream of a world full of love, peace and joy.



But what we actually see around us is a complete contradiction to our expectation. Just open the newspaper today! You will find many things you don't want to see/read.



## GANG RAPES IN MOVING VEHICLES

■ **August 11, 2012:**  
 Woman gang-raped by acquaintance and eight of his friends near the Ballabhgarh flyover on the Delhi-Agra highway, first in a car and then in a field

■ **December 13, 2010:**  
 A woman is gang-raped inside a moving car in Outer Delhi's Mangolpuri by an acquaintance and three friends. The acquaintance wanted to 'teach her a lesson'

■ **December 26, 2006:** A Class XII student is gang-raped by four men in the Janakpuri area of West Delhi. The girl is dragged into an SUV near her residence and sexually assaulted

■ **October 14, 2003:** A Swiss diplomat is raped by two men, who force their way into her car in the parking lot of Siri Fort Auditorium and rape her as they drive around

## Passenger Train Robbed; One Shot

**MARTINSBURG, W. Va., March 9** — What was happening. The gunmen rapt. — Two gunmen in a minivan, about twice into the car, near bullet-magic reminder of Wild ransacking and suffering a Dash West days robbed everybody wound on a chef's leg.  
 After making a clean sweep of passengers among the passengers, the slugged several Wednesday night. The robbers forced the Ambassador, Detroit bound from Baltimore, who had come back to investigate the emergency signal. St. Louis in the eastern peninsula of West Virginia. They were joined by two accomplices and escaped in a car they stole from a nearby night club.  
 A chef was shot in the leg when the robbers fired twice to make passengers open the club car which they had locked. A passenger and Martinsburg police in mourning

## Today's world is full of contradictions!

We are at the prime of technological revolution. Explosion of software and IT industry has placed India on global map. No doubt, technology can solve some of our difficulties and give us a reasonably comfortable life. However, it can not solve many of our core problems. The arrival of

social media and smart phones helped us to connect with a lot of old friends, yet we feel alone most of the time.

**The problem of evil and wickedness:** Each day we come across heart-less, cold-blooded attacks of terrorism, violence and injustice all over the world. We read of corruption and crores of blackmoney in foreign banks. In our own personal lives, we do not get along with some people, may be even our own family. We find ourselves in the paralyzing grip of self-destructive habits that we are helpless to break away from. We ruin ourselves, our health, finances, family and future because of these sinful addictions.



**The problem of suffering:** Science has definitely done much to combat certain types of human suffering, but think of the travails that we still face in the world today: new chronic health problems, financial struggles, racism, caste-system, rich-poor disparity etc. Why do we suffer? That is an age-old question that none of us can answer.



**The problem of death:** Some find it difficult to comprehend death, and many live as if they are never going to die. However, death is inevitable. Neither money nor education nor the advanced Science and Technology could ever solve this age-old problem.



## Hope of Christmas

Christmas is God's solution for man's problems. It is the season of love, joy and peace. It is the celebration of "Love-descended" to spread the fragrance of love, joy and peace to all of us.

There is a story from the World War II period in England. It is about a mother who tried hard to keep alive the memory of her little son's father, fresh in the boy's mind. Often she would take the boy into their library where a beautiful portrait of her husband hung proudly. They both would stand gazing at it for long. One day the young boy looked wistfully at the portrait and said to his mother, "Mom, wouldn't it be wonderful if only daddy would just step out of the frame and come down to us?"

For centuries people looked to the heavens, longing for God to step out of the frame. Over 2,000 years ago God did exactly that! He stepped-out of the frame and came down to dwell amongst us. Before He came, God revealed

some of His characteristics through nature, through relationships, through prophets, through visions and dreams. Through these, people could not understand who He really is and what His real characteristics are. Hence God Himself decided to reveal Himself fully to us. Since we are humanbeings, He came down in the form of a humanbeing to live with us, to sympathize with us in our problems and to provide a solution to the struggling world. He came to show His love towards the entire human race and to give us identity, purpose and meaning. Christmas is nothing but Love-Decoded, i.e., "God" became a "man" to reveal or decode the 'True Love' that mankind had been craving for!



## Who is Jesus?

- Some think Jesus is a ***miracle maker***. Indeed Jesus performed many miracles. He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, made lame walk, healed the paralytic, cleansed lepers and even raised the dead. But that was not what He came for... He is more than a miracle maker!
- Some think He is a good ***moral teacher***. Jesus' teachings are unparalleled in the history of mankind. Many people, independent of nation/religion background, followed His teachings. That however, was not the fullness of what He is!
- Few others think He is a ***social activist and a religious leader***. He did not come to establish any religion, neither was social service His main agenda.

**Jesus is the answer to all human needs:** physical, social and spiritual. He is none other than God Himself, who took upon human form

and came down to save us. There are many historical facts, archaeological proofs, prophetic writings that prove that He is real, believable and a historical person.

## **Uniqueness of Jesus Christ**

- **Unique in His birth:** Jesus was born at the center of the timeline of human history: The time period before His birth is called BC (Before Christ) and the time after Him is called AD (Anno Domini – Year of the Lord). His place of birth was unique - He was born at the center of the ancient world civilizations. His virgin-birth was unique - He was born of a virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit. He was conceived super naturally but was born in a natural way. 'Virgin-birth' proves He has no beginning, He is the beginning. His lineage, ancestry, tribe and the fact that he would be a descendant of King David were foretold (i.e., prophesied) long before He was born.

- **Unique in His life:** Jesus lived a perfect and holy life. No one, not even His enemies, were able to point fingers at His character! Many lawyers, judges, kings and religious gurus examined Him but found Him without sin. His perfect holiness makes Him unique.
- **Unique in His teachings:** Jesus' teachings were radically different from other world views. His 'Sermon on the Mount' inspired many great leaders all over the world independent of their religions, backgrounds and beliefs. For example, His teachings about love, morality, relationships and money were unique in the history of mankind.
  - o **Love:** The movies, media, videos and TV shows direct us to love the most beautiful girl or the handsome guy in your college/ neighbourhood. Many tell us to "love your friends, love your parents, love your spouse, love your children etc". But, only Jesus said, "that is not enough... love your enemies" (Matt. 5:44)!

- o **Morality:** The world tells us, “If you have sexual relationship with a man/ woman who is not married to you, you are an adulterer”. But, Jesus taught us “If you look at a woman with lustful eyes, you are an adulterer” (Matt. 5:28)!
- o **Money:** The world tells us, “Get more money. Earn more money. Increase your riches. You will be happy and live in luxuries when you have more money...” But, Jesus taught us – “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). His teachings tell us that - “True happiness comes when you give the money away, not when you get the money... Give your money to uplift the poor, to educate the illiterate, to bring health to the sick... Power of money is manifested when you give it away for noble causes”.

- **Unique in His miracles:** Jesus did many miracles that have been historically and archeologically proven. He exercised complete authority over nature, over demonic forces of the dark world, human sicknesses and even over human death. His miracles were so unique and unparalleled that no other person in the history could repeat them!
- **Unique in His death and resurrection:** Jesus died a unique death. He also uniquely rose again from death-the resurrection. He was born to die and died to rise again. The “empty tomb”, still lying empty in Israel today is the biggest proof of resurrection. There are hundreds of eye-witnesses and archeological proofs of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. Resurrection proves He has no end!

## His love is unique

We all crave for love. Our personality is developed based on the love that we receive from various people. We long to be loved and cared for. Unfortunately, we are living in a world of fake love and false promises. We are living in a world of confusion caught-up in between love and lust. We are living in a world of 'me first'; It is self-love and selfish love. In contrast, Jesus' love is the highest and the purest form of love. He is the embodiment of love. His love is greater than that of a mother's caring love; a father's disciplining love; a spouse' intimate and romantic love; a siblings' helping love and a friends' sharing love. It is a self-sacrificing and unconditional love. He came to show that 'True Love' which we were unable to find in any of our relationships. His love has no limits. It is a forgiving love. Even though we are sinners by birth and by deeds, He still loves us. Though we struggle with addictions





and often give-in to temptations, He still loves us. He came into this world to deliver us from the sin, addictions, bad habits, struggles and stress. We read stories about many 'gods' that took an avatar with a special purpose to kill an evil person (raakshasa) and deliver good people. Jesus is unique in the way that he did not come to kill the bad people. He came to forgive the bad people! He came to pay the penalty of sin of the mankind. *Without shedding of the blood there is no forgiveness of sins.* Only the blood that is pure and holy can cleanse our sins. That is what Jesus accomplished through His death. He shed precious, sinless and holy blood for the remission of the sins of the whole world. When He was nailed to the cross and the blood was oozing out of His body, He prayed for them saying – "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). Even though He died, death could not contain Him as He was sinless. He rose again on the third day to give hope to all those who believe in Him that there is life beyond death. Those who put their belief and trust in Him will also rise just as He rose again!

## Dear friend, are you struggling today with...?

- ***Guilt and regrets of the past:*** The mistakes we committed, the hurtful words we spoke, the relationships we strained continue to haunt us and make us feel guilty. Our conscience continues to accuse us of our failures. Many times we regret and say “Oh! I should not have done that”!
- ***Stress and burdens of the present:*** We face the realities of life every day – the disappointments, failures, frustrations, sickness, poverty and so on. For many of us these realities have become burdens in our lives. When the burdens increase, instead of enjoying God-given life, we merely endure it and somehow drag on life day after day!
- ***Fear and worries of the future:*** Many people worry about their future. They worry about the security of their jobs, career growth, the future of their children etc. The problem of life after death continues to haunt millions.

Jesus came down to the earth, on Christmas day, in order to deliver us from these struggles. He came to transform us by His love. Transformation in your life begins when you believe and receive Him as your personal Saviour and Lord. He died on your behalf so that you can be forgiven and set free. He paid the penalty so that you can have eternal life. To experience this love, all you need to do is to come to Jesus Christ, confess your sins honestly and ask him to forgive your sins and fill you with His love. “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

### **A simple 3-step solution:**

1. **Admit** that you have sinned and that you need God to forgive and restore you.
2. **Believe** that Jesus died on the cross and paid the penalty on your behalf to redeem you.
3. **Confess** and choose God to be your Lord and Saviour. “If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

When you receive the Lord as your personal Saviour, you will understand the ocean of His heavenly love. You will experience a joy which is unspeakable and full of glory. The peace that surpasses all understanding will be poured into your heart, mind and life. That day is “real Christmas” to you!

*May the Lord make this day a real and true Christmas day in your life!  
May Christ be born in your heart!!*

**Wish you a Merry Christmas!!!**



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### **Disclaimer:**

The ideas expressed in the booklet are the viewpoints of the author. Freedom of speech/expression is the right to articulate one's opinions and ideas that includes any act of seeking, receiving and imparting information or ideas, regardless of the medium used. The Constitution of India provides the right of freedom, given in articles 19, 20, 21 and 22, with the view of guaranteeing individual rights that were considered vital. Freedom of religion in India is a fundamental right guaranteed by Article 25-28 of the Constitution of India according to which every citizen of India has a right to profess, practice and propagate their beliefs peacefully.

Joy to the world the Lord is come!



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