

What is True Freedom?

What is really “true freedom”? If we knew that we would have eternal life when we died, then that would definitely be true freedom, right?!

The true meaning of Christmas really *is* about gifts. Eternal life is a gift that comes from God. Let’s try to understand the gifts of God – and never forget them!

Gifts

Gift #1 – life. God gave us life – he created us. How did that happen? In the beginning God spoke and created the world by his Word.

Gift #2 – the prophets. God gave men like Moses and Abraham the task of giving his message to people so that they would obey God with their lives.

Gift #3 – Jesus. Because God loves us, he gave us an amazing gift – he sent Jesus to us! Many years before God sent the Prophet Jesus to the world, his birth was predicted by some of the prophets that had lived before him.

Jesus is special and like no other prophet that we have ever known. He is the gift of God **for the whole world**, not just for one group of people. Here’s why:

- (1) Jesus’ mother was a virgin.
- (2) The place of Jesus’ birth was prophesied. He was born in the city of Bethlehem (the city of King David).
- (3) Thousands of God’s angels announced Jesus’ birth: his mother, her husband, and some

shepherds were told about his birth.

(4) The Star of Jesus brought some “Magi” (kings from the East who studied the stars) to his home so that they could worship him. (Read the story on page 3.)

Why did Jesus become a person and come to us? To free us and so that we could have the true light:

“The Spirit of the LORD God has taken control of me! The LORD has chosen and sent me to tell the oppressed the good news, to heal the brokenhearted, and to announce freedom for prisoners and captives. This is the year when the LORD God will show kindness to us and punish our enemies. The LORD has sent me to comfort those who mourn.” (prophecy of Isaiah 61:1-2)

Gift #4 – eternal life. We and the people God created in the beginning are disobedient to God and are therefore separated from God – spiritually dead and in the end of life on the earth physically dead. However, God wants people to be *with* him (alive) and doesn’t want people to be *separated* from him (dead). God wants us to be with him eternally (for ever).

Jesus is life! Jesus came so that those who believe on his name will have the right to become spiritual children of God. Through Jesus, God turns our darkness into light.

We are saved by God’s grace and by faith and *not* by our actions. If we accept this gift from God (Jesus) and believe in him, we will have eternal life. And after our bodies die, we will stay with God forever.

And *that* is true freedom.