

# The Christ of Christmas... Myth or Truth?

By Dr. Henry Harbuck - Omega President/Int'l Overseer

The Bethlehem Babe is no myth. The virgin birth is a fact. Harnack and Lobstein point out that the belief in the virgin birth of Christ can be traced back to the very "cradle of the church" and

that it would take decades for such a myth to be developed from heathen sources. Powerful evidence is seen in the Septuagint Version translated at Alexandria in Eqypt at the request of Ptolemny Philadelphus (285-247 B.C.). It translates "almah" in Isaiah 7:14 by the Greek word "parthenos". It is certain the word means virgin in this passage. "Almah" is used six times in the Old Testament, and in every case means "virgin". Martin Luther once said, "If a Jew or Christian can prove to me that in any passage of scripture *almah* means a married woman, I will give him 100 florins, though God alone knows where I may find them. To this day, no person has taken Luther up on his challenge.

For some reason many people want to look at Jesus. During the Christmas season, we see many symbols, paintings, and figurines that make the Nativity scene come alive to us as Americans. In every race which has embraced Christianity, there is this unconscious desire to depict Jesus in some physical manner. Yet God, in His

wisdom, left no visible portrait on His Son lest people venerate a picture. Before Jesus was born in the Bethlehem manger, many people had prayed for the Messiah to come. One such man was Simeon, to whom the Holy Spirit revealed he would not see death before looking upon the Messiah. In fact, he was allowed to hold the infant in his arms and pronounce a blessing upon him. What a joy!

He is no longer the Bethlehem Babe, but the risen Christ who sits at the right hand of the Father interceding for you and me. As the Christmas season draws near, let us honor Him lest we become slack in our efforts to proclaim His truths. Sadly, some Americans don't know Him as Savior. To them He is only a baby, a myth, a face on a canvas, or some type of Santa Claus. But we know and worship Him as Lord. This is why we must tell others who He really is so they too can experience the true joy of Christmas. Today He reigns supreme as the risen Christ and our soon coming King. Let's put Jesus first during this Christmas season! After all...Jesus is the ONLY reason for the season!



## **Enjoy These Quick & Easy Unique Recipes for Christmas!**

#### Christmas Broccoli & Cauliflower Salad

1 small head cauliflower

1 small head broccoli

1 (3 oz) jar chopped pimiento, drained

½ medium green pepper, chopped

1 small red onion, chopped

Wash cauliflower & broccoli. Drain. Break off cauliflower and broccoli heads into bite-sized

pieces. Toss with pimiento, green pepper, and onion. Set aside.

Yuletide Dressing:

1 cup mayonnaise

½ cup white vinegar

½ teaspoon salt

½ cup vegetable oil

½ cup sugar

Combine dressing ingredients. Mix well. Pour dressing over salad. Place entire salad in a large, airtight container and refrigerate overnight. Will keep several days in refrigerator. Best to make in advance of when needed. Yields 8-10 servings.

#### Coke Salad

1 can black sweetened pitted cherries

1 #2 can sweetened crushed pineapple

1 package cherry JELLO

1 package strawberry JELLO

1 large package cream cheese

1 cup chopped nuts

1 12 oz Coca-Cola

Drain cherries and pineapple. Pour Coke over fruit. Heat juice. Add JELLO. Melt cream cheese in JELLO mixture. Pour in large mold. Chill overnight.

#### **Grassroots Fudge Pie**

1 can Eagle Brand milk

½ cup sugar

2 eggs

½ stick melted butter

3 tablespoons cocoa

1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix sugar and cocoa together. Add milk, eggs, butter and vanilla. Beat well. Bake at 325° for 1 hour.



Merry Christmas!



½ cup Judges 5:25 (last clause)

1 ½ tablespoons I Samuel 14:25 (2<sup>nd</sup> clause)

2 cups I Kings 4:22 (1<sup>st</sup> clause)

½ teaspoon Leviticus 2:13

1 teaspoon Amos 4:5 (use modern powder)

1 teaspoon (or to taste) II Chronicles 9:9 (2<sup>nd</sup> item)

½ cup Judges 4:19 (2<sup>nd</sup> part)

1 cup I Samuel 30:12 (2<sup>nd</sup> item)

1 cup Nahum 3:12 (dried & chopped)

1 cup Numbers 17:8 (chopped)

4 of Isaiah 10:14 (separated and beaten)

Cream Judges 5:25 and I Samuel 14:25 together well. Sift I Kings 4:22, Leviticus 2:13, Amos 4:5 and II Chronicles 9:9 together, and add alternatively with Judges 4:19. Follow Solomon's advice for making a good boy in Proverbs 23:14. Add I Samuel 30:12, Nahum 3:12, Numbers 17:8 and Isaiah 10:14. Fold in beaten yolks and stiffly beaten whites carefully. Bake in lined 9x13 inch pan at 350° for 35-40 minutes. Can be frosted, if desired.

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# Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!