

Background to the birth of Jesus Christ

People of God had gone from the bondage under one kingdom to another; Assyria to Persia to Egypt to Greek to Rome

At the time of the birth of Christ, major area of current middle east was under the Roman rule.

In 400 years preceding the birth of Jesus Christ, God seemed either deliberately ignorant or indifferent to the plight of his people.

Their cries for help in the last 400 years had not been answered

And then, suddenly after a long silence, an angel, Gabriel, no less appeared to Mary.

And we hear the first prophesy in 400 years (Luke 2). From there emerges the narrative of the Nativity

In recent times, I have noticed, in all the Christmas functions, a message, unintentionally being conveyed to the masses; e.g. in the scene of Nativity, when Herod calls out for the priests and scribes, the character of the scribes dress up as a native Jew but the character of priest is shown in a cassock with a cross hanging around the neck.

In another scene, the wise men are seen wearing a crown with a cross on the top. These crowns only came in print around early 19th century, was a symbol of the Templar Knighthood

The moment one sees a manger, the message conveyed is that Christmas is about Christians and therefore birth of Jesus Christ is only for the Christians.

Whereas, the Holy Bible says, *'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.'* John 1:14 *'made his dwelling among us...'* signifies that he was born not for a while but to make a Permanent stay in the land where his parents had made a home for themselves. It also reminds us that God's gave His son for the world because He loved the world. Christmas therefore, must not be misrepresented.

Christmas is not a religious festival of the Christians

Christmas is a good news for every religious person

Christmas is a good news for everyone who is seeking God

Christmas is good news for everyone who loves his/her country and people

Christmas is a good news for everyone who believes that there is someone greater than us, god himself.

So, let's make this Christmas about responsibility, about brotherhood and about Jesus.

Let us take an oath:

I solemnly pledge that this Christmas I will be more careful about not adding to the sound and air pollution.

I will not disturb my neighbors with loud music, wild parties and foul language.

I will not drink and drive and add to the increasing number of crime in my city

I will not waste food, money and clothing that I can give to someone in need

Finally, I will not employ under aged children on pretext of helping or educating them

To this I solemnly that this pledge!