

Why all the joy?

Why? Because Christmas is the day in which we celebrate the faithfulness of God. God provided our original parents with a perfect world. There were no weeds in the garden, no disease, no death, and no superstition. But an envious rebel came and planted doubt in the truthfulness of God's word, and His power to do what He promised. That evil seed sprang up in their hearts and produced its deadly fruit.

There was only one restriction in the newly minted world: "Do not eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good or evil or you will die." Our parents doubted that God meant what He said, and that mistrust corrupted their attitude toward God. They now saw this one command as proof that He was cruel and restrictive. They now believed that God would not let them reach their full potential. The forbidden had become attractive, and in defiant rebellion they ate the forbidden fruit.

This rebellion was not a single act, but the symptom of their heart-deep rejection of God. It is what the Bible calls sin. The result was that they and we, who inherit their bias against God, stand condemned to eternal separation from God because of our doubt and rebellious disposition. Yet happily this is not the end of the record. In the day that man rebelled, God promised a Deliverer. This Deliverer would come and rescue man from both the penalty for his rebellion, and his heart-felt distrust of God. Over the millennia God gave specific details about who that Deliverer would be, and what He would do.

The original promise and all the details that were attached to it have been perfectly fulfilled in Christ, whose coming we celebrate at Christmas. He is the one whom God has appointed to rescue His people. He can change your heart, and has dealt with the penalty that hangs over all who continue in rebellion.

Of course we celebrate Christmas! God has fulfilled His promise. He has provided a way into His presence through His Christ.