WHAT ABOUT...#2: Christmas Trees, Decorations, and Santa?

1. Of Course There's a War on **Christmas - There <u>Always</u> Has Been (We Can't Make the World <u>Christian</u>** at Christmas) (Matthew 2:16-18; **Revelation 12:1-6)**



WHAT ABOUT...#2: CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATIONS, AND SANTA? Matt. 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in **Bethlehem and in all that region** who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.



WHAT ABOUT...#2: CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATIONS, AND SANTA? ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, **Rachel weeping for her children;** she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

WHAT ABOUT...#2: CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATIONS, AND SANTA? Rev. 12:1 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.



² She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth.



WHAT ABOUT...#2: CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATIONS, AND SANTA? ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems.



WHAT ABOUT...#2: CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATIONS, AND SANTA? ⁴ His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.

⁵ She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne,



⁶ and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.



2. Of Course Santa (and Frosty, Rudolph, etc.) are Too Much - But We **Can Make Great**, <u>Godly</u> Holiday **Memories for Our Kids Without** Embracing '<u>Elijah</u>' or '<u>Freedom</u> is **Everything!' Spirituality** (1 Kings 19:9-10, 14-18; Galatians 5:13)



WHAT ABOUT...#2: CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATIONS, AND SANTA? ¹ Kings ^{19:9} There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

WHAT ABOUT...#2: CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATIONS, AND SANTA? ¹⁰ He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."

WHAT ABOUT...#2: CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATIONS, AND SANTA? ¹⁴ He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."



WHAT ABOUT...#2: CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATIONS, AND SANTA? ¹⁵ And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria.

WHAT ABOUT...#2: CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATIONS, AND SANTA? ¹⁶ And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.

WHAT ABOUT...#2: CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATIONS, AND SANTA? ¹⁷ And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death.

¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."



WHAT ABOUT...#2: CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATIONS, AND SANTA? Galatians 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

3. Of Course the World Goes Too Far at Christmas (Charlie Brown WAS Right!) - But We Get(!) This **Great Opportunity to Worship and <u>Reflect</u>** Jesus...and <u>Share</u> the Real **Reason for the Holiday!** (Luke 2:8-14)



WHAT ABOUT...#2: CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATIONS, AND SANTA? Luke 2:8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

WHAT ABOUT...#2: CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATIONS, AND SANTA? ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.



WHAT ABOUT...#2: CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATIONS, AND SANTA? ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

WHAT ABOUT...#2: CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATIONS, AND SANTA? ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"



For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.'... That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.

> LINUS VAN PELT A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

