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# 4000 Years Of Christmas A Gift From The Ages

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**JAZMIN HARDY**

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Christmas as Religion

Univ of California Press  
In this delightful sleigh  
ride through Christmas

history, Paul Kerensa answers the festive questions you never thought to ask... Did Cromwell help shape the mince pie? Was St Nicholas the first to use an automatic door? Which classic Christmas crooners were inspired by a Hollywood heatwave? And did King Herod really have a wife called Doris? Whether you mull on wine or enjoy the biggest turkey, the biggest tree or the biggest credit card bill, unwrap your story through our twelve dates of Christmas past. From

Roman revelry to singing Bing, via Santa, Scrooge and a snoozing saviour, this timeless tale is perfect trivia fodder for the Christmas dinner table.

**A Multicultural Christmas** Visible Ink Press

Medieval Christmas – roaring fires, Yule logs, boar’s head on a platter and carols. So many of our best-loved traditions have their origins in the medieval period that it would be impossible to imagine the season without holly and ivy,

carol singers calling from door to door and a general sense of celebration in the face of the harshest season. Sophie Jackson investigates the roots of the Christmas celebration in this beautifully illustrated book. She offers guidance for re-creating elements of the medieval Christmas at home, tips on decorations, instructions for playing medieval games and recipes for seasonal dishes. Fascinating facts about some of our most

cherished customs, such as the nativity crib, are unearthed, as are some that are less well known – wassailing the apple trees, the ritual beating of children on 28 December and the appointment of a Lord of Misrule and a boy bishop. Lively and entertaining, this book illuminates the medieval Christmas, showing how the traditions of the Middle Ages continue to delight us today.

*Hark!* The History Press  
From Advent wreaths to  
Chrismon Trees, from  
Mistletoe to Luminarias,

from Hanging of the Greens to Epiphany, Come to Christmas provides families, worship committee members, Christian educators, and clergy with a treasury of information and worship ideas for the season.

Learn about: The Season of Advent  
Advent Wreaths and the significance of the candles  
Hanging of the Greens  
Chrismon Trees  
The Jesse Tree  
The origins of popular traditions such as Santa Claus, mistletoe, and poinsettias. and much, much more  
Includes: A brief set of

Advent services for lighting the Advent candles  
Popular, hard to find songs: "The Holly & the Ivy," "The Friendly Beasts," and more  
This short and simple information can be adapted to children's sermons, Sunday School programs, or family worship. Adult Sunday School classes will enjoy learning more about the seasons of Advent and Christmas, too! Did you know. . . Christmas is centered in the new hope brought by the Christ child; Advent is the

season of preparation leading up to the Event. It is a time when we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Messiah. Advent means "Coming." We celebrate these days of Advent in expectation and preparation for Christ's arrival. The Jesse Tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots." It is a vehicle to tell the Story of God in the Old Testament, and to connect the Advent Season with the faithfulness of God across

4,000 years of history. The tradition of the Jesse Tree comes to us from Europe. The "tree" is usually a branch or sapling; it may be a real tree or a wall hanging, which is decorated with various symbols that remind us of the purpose and promises of God from Creation to the Birth of Jesus Christ. The observance of the Hanging of the Greens is an old English custom of decorating with evergreens and other festive trimmings for Advent and Christmas.

Chrismons are handmade Christmas tree ornaments with various symbols of Christianity. The name Chrismon comes from a combination of CHRIST and MONogram.

*Christmas* Lion Books  
For many, December 26 is more than the day after Christmas. Boxing Day is one of the world's most celebrated cultural holidays. As a legacy of British colonialism, Boxing Day is observed throughout Africa and parts of the African diaspora, but, unlike Trinidadian Carnival and

Mardi Gras, fewer know of Bermuda's Gombey dancers, Bahamian Junkanoo, Dangriga's Jankunú and Charikanari, St. Croix's Crucian Christmas Festival, and St. Kitts's Sugar Mas. One Grand Noise: Boxing Day in the Anglicized Caribbean World delivers a highly detailed, thought-provoking examination of the use of spectacular vernacular to metaphorically dramatize such tropes as "one grand noise," "foreday morning," and from "back o' town." In cultural

solidarity and an obvious critique of Western values and norms, revelers engage in celebratory sounds, often donning masks, cross-dressing, and dancing with abandon along thoroughfares usually deemed anathema to them. Folklorist Jerrilyn McGregor demonstrates how the cultural producers in various island locations ritualize Boxing Day as a part of their struggles over identity, class, and gender relations in accordance with time and space. Based on ethnographic

study undertaken by McGregor, *One Grand Noise* explores Boxing Day as part of a creolization process from slavery into the twenty-first century. McGregor traces the holiday from its Egyptian origins to today and includes chapters on the Gombey dancers of Bermuda, the evolution of Junkanoo/Jankunú in The Bahamas and Belize, and J'ouvert traditions in St. Croix and St. Kitts. Through her exploration of the holiday, McGregor negotiates the ways in which Boxing Day has

expanded from small communal traditions into a common history of colonialism that keeps alive a collective spirit of resistance.

*Holidays and Celebrations in American Life*

University of Illinois Press  
 In *Christmas as Religion*, Christopher Deacy explores the premise that religion plays an elementary role in our understanding of the Christmas festival, but takes issue with much of the existing literature which is inclined to limit the contours and

parameters of 'religion' to particular representations and manifestations of institutional forms of Christianity. 'Religion' is often tacitly identified as having an ecclesiastical frame of reference, so that if the Church is not deemed to play a central role in the practice of Christmas for many people today then it can legitimately be side-lined and relegated to the periphery of any discussion relating to what Christmas 'means'. Deacy argues that such approaches fail to take

adequate stock of the manifold ways in which people's beliefs and values take shape in modern society. For example, Christmas films or radio programmes may comprise a non-specifically Christian, but nonetheless religiously rich, repository of beliefs, values, sentiments and aspirations. Therefore, this book makes the case for laying to rest the secularization thesis, with its simplistic assumption that religion in Western society is undergoing a period of escalating and

irrevocable erosion, and to see instead that the secular may itself be a repository of the religious. Rather than see Christmas as comprising alternative or analogous forms of religious expression, or dependent on any causal relationship to the Christian tradition, Deacy maintains that it is religious per se, and, moreover, it is its very secularity that makes Christmas such a compelling, and even transcendent, religious holiday.

A Keltelven Guide for

Celebrating the Winter Solstice AuthorHouse  
 Christmas characters and food, Christmas-linked holidays and music, Santa Claus and traditions.  
 Related to Annunciation, Incarnation; Crucifixion; Advent, the four weeks preceding Christmas; and the period between the day after Thanksgiving and the Sunday after New Year's Day, the American holiday season. Christmas or Christmas Day is a holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus, the central figure of Christianity.  
 Aspects of celebration

may include gift-giving, Christmas trees, display of Nativity sets, church attendance, the Father Christmas/Santa Claus myth, and family gatherings. Users of the Gregorian calendar observe the holiday on December 25. Some Eastern Orthodox Churches celebrate on December 25 by the Julian calendar, which currently corresponds to January 7 on the Gregorian calendar. These dates are merely traditional; the great majority of scholars agree that the actual

birthdate of Jesus is unknown. In Western culture, the holiday is characterized by the exchange of gifts among friends and family members, some of the gifts being attributed to Santa Claus (also known as Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas, Saint Basil and Father Frost). However, various local and regional Christmas traditions are still practiced, despite the widespread influence of American, British and Australian Christmas motifs disseminated by film, popular literature,

television, and other media.

*A Gift from the Ages*  
Simon and Schuster

Many people are shocked to discover the origins of our most popular religious holidays. They are also surprised to find that the days God commands us to observe in the Bible—the same days Jesus Christ and the apostles kept—are almost universally ignored. Why? Also, why are today's supposedly Christian holidays observed with so many rituals and customs that are not sanctioned

anywhere in the Bible?

Here are some questions to think about... Does Christmas really honor Jesus and His birth? Where did the Christmas holiday come from? How did it begin, and why? Did you realize that historians (and the Bible) agree that Jesus Christ wasn't born anywhere near December 25? Or that this particular date was well known for its pagan religious celebrations long before Jesus Christ was born? Would Jesus Keep Easter? Can we find any historical or biblical record of Jesus



or His disciples keeping Easter or teaching parents and children to dye eggs and display bunnies on this holiday? Did Jesus or His apostles instruct any of His followers to worship His resurrection at sunrise on Easter Sunday—or at any other time, for that matter? If Easter were not sanctioned by Jesus or instituted by His apostles, then where did Easter come from? In other words, if Jesus were living among us today, would He keep Easter or encourage others to do so? Should you, as a

Christian, celebrate Easter? Few people know why they believe or do the things they do—especially when it comes to their religious beliefs and practices. Inside the Bible study aid ebook, *Holidays or Holy Days: Does It Matter Which Days We Observe?*, discover the shocking truths about several of the world's most popular holidays. Perhaps even more surprising is how they came to be connected with Jesus Christ and the Christian religion. Chapters in this

ebook: -- Crucial Questions -- Christmas: The Untold Story -- How Christmas Grew -- Christmas vs. the Bible -- Biblical Evidence Shows Jesus Wasn't Born on December 25 -- Easter: Masking a Biblical Truth -- The Resurrection Connection -- Fertility Symbols: Beneath the Dignity of God -- The Chronology of Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection -- Halloween: A Celebration of Evil -- What About Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and Purim? -- God's Days of Worship --

God's Festivals in the New Testament -- Does It Matter to God? -- An Ancient Cultural Clash -- The Delights of Obedience Inside this Bible Study Aid ebook: "Did the writers of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) consider Jesus' birth to be one of the most significant events for Christians to acknowledge or celebrate?... Did Jesus Christ tell us to celebrate His birth? No." "A careful analysis of Scripture, however, clearly indicates that December 25 is an unlikely date for Christ's

birth. Here are two primary reasons..." "The word Easter appears once in the King James Version of the Bible, in Acts 12:4, where it is a mistranslation." "The New Testament does not mention an Easter celebration. Early Christians had nothing to do with Easter. Instead, they kept the Passover, instituted by God centuries earlier at the time of the Exodus (Exodus 12:13-14; Leviticus 23:5)." "The popular belief is that Christ was crucified on a

Friday and rose on a Sunday. But neither of these suppositions is supported by the biblical record."

### **The Collected Lost Meanings of Christmas**

Metro Publishing

Every person has seen a tree and maybe planted or climbed one! In all world religions, various trees are considered sacred. Trees have the ability to help us reach wholeness if we learn their wisdom and integrate it into our lives. This abecedarian--a book whose contents are in

alphabetical order-- explores the spiritual growth that is possible by reflecting on the wisdom of woody plants, which help humans experience the divine. In these pages you can explore trees from Acacia to Zaqqum. For each of the forty entries, the author presents a text identifying the tree, a reflective study, a question for journaling or personal meditation, and a concluding prayer. Some trees you may have heard about, and some may be new to you. The spiritual

life is enhanced by the trees that surround and share the earth with us while also disclosing the divine to us. **Rethinking Santa, the Secular, and the Sacred** Nicolae Sfetcu A detailed look at the origins of Christmas celebrations ranges from before Jesus's birth and includes Rome's pagan Saturnalia customs, the Druids burning of Yule logs and their use of mistletoe to appease the gods, Saint Nicholas, and many other myths and traditions that will

fascinate and delight readers. IP. One Grand Noise Univ. Press of Mississippi It wouldn't be Christmas without the "things." How they came to mean so much, and to play such a prominent role in America's central holiday, is the tale told in this delightful and edifying book. In a style characteristically engaging and erudite, Karal Ann Marling, one of our most trenchant observers of American culture, describes the outsize spectacle that

Christmas has become.  
Christmas in America  
 Penguin

Traces the evolution of the holiday, showing how Christmas has reflected changes in American society from colonial times to the present and revealing the ambiguous blend of the sacred and the secular behind the celebration

*The religious reading-book, by a diocesan inspector*  
 SAGE

Publications

There's more to Christmas than presents. There's more to Christmas than

presents. The fun and thoughtful ideas in 1,001 Ways to Celebrate Christmas instill how to keep others in mind, especially those for whom the holiday season can be difficult. From homemade cards to cookie recipes and ideas about how to give back to your community, readers of all ages will be encouraged to create joy and good tidings, and be reminded why the holiday season is special.

*Advent Conversations*

McFarland

If you're looking for a

fresh way to make lighting the Advent wreath a meaningful and relevant part of the worship service, this is just what you need.

Richard Hull has written brief conversational dialogues that relate the wisdom of the prophets found in the Advent lectionary readings to modern life. In each "conversation" two people reflect on the assigned reading and talk about life and faith, leading to the lighting of the candles. The presentations are accompanied by an

informative essay explaining the background and history of the Advent wreath. Covering all three lectionary cycles, this is an excellent resource for any size congregation -- and they're also great for devotional use by families in the home. Best of all, the informal tone of the writing will make worshipers feel like participants instead of observers. Use these dialogues to discover ancient truth in a contemporary setting. Richard J. Hull II is pastor

of Riverside Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Jacksonville, Florida. The Riverside Cast, a theatre group in his present congregation, makes regular worship presentations. A graduate of Bethany College (West Virginia) and Yale Divinity School, Hull has also pastored congregations in Indiana and Pennsylvania. While in Indiana, he co-founded the Tipton Community Theatre. Hull is the author of the three-volume Lenten worship series "Symbols Of

Sacrifice" (CSS). Robert G. Alexander, who contributed the background essay, is a retired trial attorney and a freelance writer from Jacksonville, Florida. He is a graduate of Davidson College and the University of Florida College of Law. [A Christmas Compendium](#) Cider Mill Press  
How much do you know about our Yuletide traditions? If you can't see the wood for the Christmas trees, let J. John guide you in this new in paperback compendium of festive facts.

**Encyclopedia of  
Consumer Culture** SAGE

Much of the modern-day vision of Santa Claus is owed to the Clement Moore poem "The Night Before Christmas." His description of Saint Nicholas personified the "jolly old elf" known to millions of children throughout the world. However, far from being the offshoot of Saint Nicholas of Turkey, Santa Claus is the last of a long line of what scholars call "Wild Men" who were worshipped in ancient European fertility rites

and came to America through Pennsylvania's Germans. This pagan creature is described from prehistoric times through his various forms--Robin Hood, The Fool, Harlequin, Satan and Robin Goodfellow--into today's carnival and Christmas scenes. In this thoroughly researched work, the origins of Santa Claus are found to stretch back over 50,000 years, jolting the foundation of Christian myths about the jolly old elf.

*Spiritual Growth through  
Reflections on Woody*

*Plants Little Books*  
Established in 1911, The Rotarian is the official magazine of Rotary International and is circulated worldwide. Each issue contains feature articles, columns, and departments about, or of interest to, Rotarians. Seventeen Nobel Prize winners and 19 Pulitzer Prize winners – from Mahatma Ghandi to Kurt Vonnegut Jr. – have written for the magazine. [The Origins and Evolution of Saint Nicholas, Spanning 50,000 Years](#)  
Oxford University Press

The Mises Institute is thrilled to bring back this popular guide to ridiculous economic policy from the ancient world to modern times. This outstanding history illustrates the utter futility of fighting the market process through legislation. It always uses despotic measures to yield socially catastrophic results. It covers the ancient world, the Roman Republic and Empire, Medieval Europe, the first centuries of the U.S. and Canada, the French Revolution, the 19th

century, World Wars I and II, the Nazis, the Soviets, postwar rent control, and the 1970s. It also includes a very helpful conclusion spelling out the theory of wage and price controls. This book is a treasure, and super entertaining! **Boxing Day in the Anglicized Caribbean World** A&C Black  
The Christmas story is profound, powerful and compelling. It is one of the most historical and wonderful events that the world has ever experienced. As a result of the extraordinary

nature of the events leading to the first ever Christmas, there are many precious lessons to be learnt to enrich our lives. These lessons are as powerful as the Christmas story itself. Unfortunately, the true meaning of Christmas is fast getting eroded in this carnal and corrupt world. This book is an attempt to crystallize the true meaning of the birth of Jesus, emphasizing the spiritual importance of His birth over and above gifts, food and family reunions. Indeed the Christmas

celebration is more than a holiday season of travel, dinners and Christmas trees. Let us now dig into these hidden but powerful treasures that will change perspectives, transform lives and bring great inspiration. Dr. Daniel Armah, preacher, teacher, motivator and entrepreneur is a Pharmacist by profession and a Pastor by calling. He is the founder and General Overseer of Kingslight Chapel Churches worldwide. Dr. Armah is an anointed and gifted speaker, well

sought after in revivals, and conferences around the world. The prophetic and apostolic mantles on his life make him a carrier of a unique ministry grace. He is a prolific writer of international recognition and has so far authored seven (7) powerful books with a readership fan base dotted around the globe. These are: "VICTORY TECHNIQUES", "GOLIATH CAN FALL," "RIDING THE WINDS OF CHANGE," "STONE SEAL & SOLDIERS", "SEVEN EFFECTS OF PRAYER" and

"THE VISITATION OF THE LORD". Pastor Dan is married to the love of his life, Barbara; a highly anointed woman of God who is also a Pharmacist. They are blessed with a daughter named Charis and currently co-pastor a fast growing branch of Kingslight Chapel in Woodbridge, Virginia in the United States. [4,000 Years of Christmas](#) Oxford University Press on Demand  
Written for everyone who loves and is simultaneously driven crazy by the holiday



season, *Christmas: A Candid History* provides an enlightening, entertaining perspective on how the annual Yuletide celebration got to be what it is today. In a fascinating, concise tour through history, the book tells the story of Christmas—from its pre-Christian roots, through the birth of Jesus, to the holiday's spread across Europe into the Americas and beyond, and to its mind-boggling transformation through modern consumerism. Packed with intriguing

stories, based on research into myriad sources, full of insights, the book explores the historical origins of traditions including Santa, the reindeer, gift giving, the Christmas tree, Christmas songs and movies, and more. The book also offers some provocative ideas for reclaiming the joy and meaning of this beloved, yet often frustrating, season amid the pressures of our fast-paced consumer culture. DID YOU KNOW For three centuries Christians did not celebrate Christmas?

Puritans in England and New England made Christmas observances illegal? St. Nicholas is an elf in the famous poem "The Night Before Christmas"? President Franklin Roosevelt changed the date of Thanksgiving in order to lengthen the Christmas shopping season? Coca-Cola helped fashion Santa Claus's look in an advertising campaign? **Christmas History: Insane But True Things You Need to Know About Christmas Day History** Rowman &

Littlefield

Bestselling classic with historical accounts, full-color vintage images, and a selection of recipes from Pennsylvania's Christmas past Originally published in 1959 and written by one of the seminal figures in American folklife studies, this classic work examines the folk origins of Christmas in the

Keystone State.

Composed of interviews and contemporary newspaper reports, it records holiday traditions from the eighteenth century through the early twentieth century, including mummers, Christ-Kindel and Kriss Kringle, Christmas trees and trimming, Belsnickels,

the Philadelphia carnival of horns, Moravian pyramids and putzes, Pittsburgh firecracker celebrations, and holiday treats. Now with full-color images, this edition includes Don Yoder's new expanded afterword on recent research of Christmas customs and a selection of traditional recipes.