

# The hope of Christmas night

Or: What Christmas has to do with Easter?

Christmas. The most stressful but still the most dearly awaited time in the year. Everyone buys presents (in Great Britain, even 70% of the dogs get a Christmas present), Amazon has a sale of 17 billion Dollars, German chocolate industries produce 145 million chocolate Santas, 9% of all children born in this world were procreated in the time around Christmas and the Germans drink about 36% more alcohol than they do in “normal times”. But Christmas is not for the reason of coming to sense our just to have one more party. It’s not about presents and even not all about family and friends!

Let me tell you a story:



**Once upon a time, there was a boy called Joshua. Joshua had some special little friends: an ant colony. Every day he went outside to watch them, no day passed without him going to his ants! Joshua loved them!**

**One day, a human friend told Joshua that the field the ant hill was situated on would be flooded soon. What to do now? As everyone knows, ants don't understand the language of human beings but anyway Joshua tried to tell his friends that they have to go to a higher place. He shouted at them, tried to take them to another place - nothing helped. Every single ant kept climbing the anthill, those he took away came back and no one followed his advice.**

**Joshua sat down and thought about what he could do to save his little friends and soon an idea came to his mind: the only way to contact the ants in a way they would understand was to become an ant. But becoming an ant... This means to shrink, to look totally different, to crawl on six legs and to eat rotten leafs! And what if they didn't believe him when he would tell them he was a human being in the shape of an ant to tell them about the threatening death? What if everything was for nothing in the end?**

**There was no way out. Joshua exactly knew that all his little friends would die if he didn't become an ant to tell them about the danger they were in.**

What if YOU were the ant?

What if you are in a danger and Christmas is the beginning of a story that saves you from that danger?

Look: Of course Christmas is about coming home and being with those we love. Of course it is nice to make and to get presents and of course nobody wants to celebrate Christmas without a Christmas tree and without Christmas cookies. But Christmas means way more than traditions and sweets.



Many people wanted themselves being honoured like Gods: King Nebukadnecar from Babylon (560 b.C.), Emperor Nero (60 a.C.), King Ludwig XIV (17<sup>th</sup> century).... Just to mention some famous personalities. But only one God became human. Christians believe that Jesus is God and in this Christmas night, he was born. The God of creation, the one who called the stars to shine and the winds to blow was born because he loved us so much. He came as a little baby, crying, cold, homeless, without means, he had to flee, because in his first years they already tried to kill him. But why? Why should a God give up his divinity and his glory to come into a world filled with injustice, war, hardship and poverty?

The answer is:



Every single Person is in a big danger which Christians call “sin”. Sin means every lie, every theft, every evil word, every indifference and ever moment you were unkind! And let’s be honest: there is none who had never said an evil word in his anger....

Maybe you say: I do good deeds, it will be enough in the end to come to heaven.

Well... would you eat scrambled eggs if you knew that one of 10 eggs was a rotten one? No? So God thinks.

One sin is enough to be not good enough to face God!

Thus the problem is the following: God is good. And anyone else is not! God is righteous and his reaction on our sin will be punishment.

The bible says: There is no difference: They all are sinners and are not able to have the glory God provided for them.

That’s the meaning of the “X”



But God loves us! He doesn't want to punish and to forsake us! God so loved his world that he didn't spare his son to come down and show how great God's love is. That's it what happened in Christmas night: Jesus came to be born once, to warn us and to save us out of our danger. He came to show us what God is like and to give us a new life! That's what the heart stands for.



But to finally save us, something else was necessary:

Every sin a person does is comparable to take money from an account with 0\$ capital. Obviously after the first sin you are in negative and you cannot pay back any cent. And after a lifetime God won't have any reason to reward us.

So God had a perfect plan: Jesus is good enough. He is the only one who could pay our debts and he did it. But not with gold or silver, Jesus had to die on a cross. And in this moment he took his last breath, the cost was paid. If the devil may want write red numbers of death onto our "bill", Jesus comes, signs with his blood and says: **It is paid in full!**

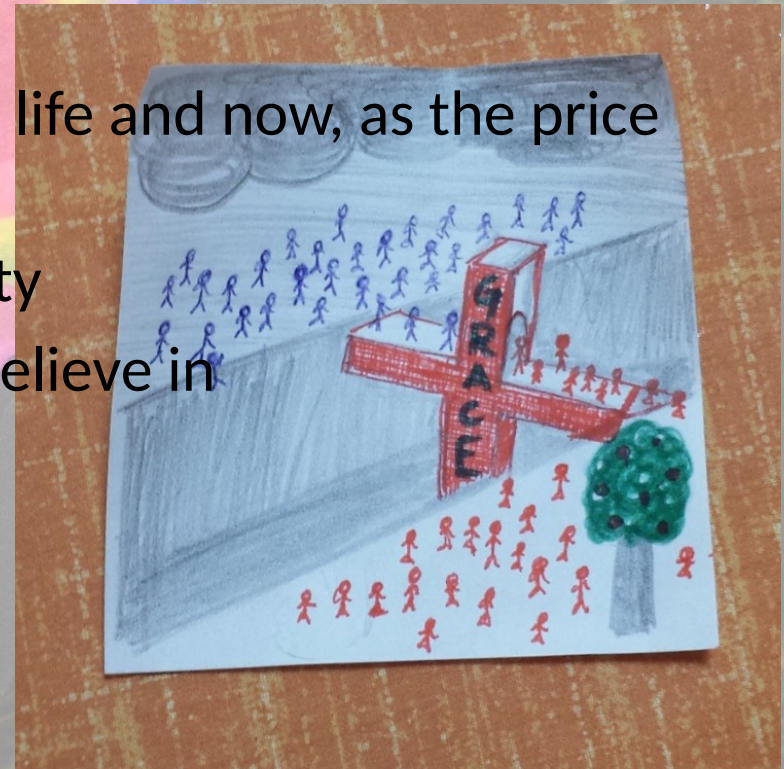
No one would deserve it. But his love and his grace are perfect!



Jesus died. But the story is not finished yet, because after three days the stone of his grave was rolled away and Jesus rose again. He rose because his father, God, is the lord over death and life and when he was able to wake Jesus up again he will make *us* rise again as well! The story begins in Christmas night and ends on Easter morning, meanwhile the end of the story is the beginning of a new storyboard: The story you and Jesus are the protagonists in.

God always wanted to give us eternal life and now, as the price is paid, the way to heaven is free!

The resurrection of Jesus is the security that we will live on after death if we believe in the grace God gave us!







There's one symbol left: the question mark  
I could write so much more but I think this is enough to understand one thing: The price God paid to save YOU was *very* expensive! But God doesn't want to force anyone to believe and so I do. I did my task to write an article and to tell about the hope I carry and now it is up to you: Do you want Jesus to sign your bill and to pay your debt? His pen is already open but he won't sign if you don't allow him. That's what the question mark stands for. If you want to learn more about this love story, the best option is to read the gospel of Luke in the bible which begins with the story of Christmas and tells the whole love story between God and his people.

May be you think I'm psychopathic!

Well I can get along with that, we live in a country of tolerance, freedom of expression and liberty of religion and in my opinion this is the most important story in the world, everyone needs to know: God's love did the first move in Christmas night. Love personally – Jesus – came down. He showed the world what real love means and even that real love is not afraid to bleed. Shouldn't we be grateful therefore?

*" It's about the cross, it's about my sin,*

*It's about how Jesus came to be born once so that we can be born again*

*It's about the stone that was rolled away*

*So that you and I could have real life some day.*

*It's about the cross!"*

*-It's about the cross, the Ball Brothers*

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