

### Luke 2: 7-11

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.



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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thespruceeats.com/the-history-of-gingerbread-1135954>

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Created in  
His image  
For a purpose



**Gingerbread** has a long and developed history which dates back to the 11th century here in Europe. It was pressed into moulds to make various shapes. "The first gingerbread man is credited to Queen Elizabeth I, who knocked the socks off visiting dignitaries by presenting them with one baked in their own likeness."<sup>1</sup> The gingerbread man has widely become a symbol of the Christmas season!

However, beyond the sights and scents of the gingerbread man, Christmas is really about a different man. Christmas is about Emmanuel—**God with us**. The gingerbread man is a lifeless, doughy figure. It looks good, and potentially makes us "feel" good. But the God-man, Jesus Christ, is the living Son of God who came to deliver mankind from their impossible plight—which does far more than simply make us "feel" good at Christmastime.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." John 1:1-3

"The Word" is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who created all things. The Bible tells in Genesis 1:26 that in the very act of His creating, Jesus Christ created **us** in His image and likeness. It also declares that **we** are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). Queen Elizabeth's gingerbread men represented various dignitaries. But more than these lifeless men of dough, **we** have been created by and for Jesus Christ to live for a purpose. Sadly though, our sins have separated us from this purpose, and we hear of death's intrusion in various man-made forms: abortion, euthanasia, murder, suicide,

war, genocide, and holocaust thus cutting short the fulfilment of that Divine purpose. The very **life** and **purpose** for which man was created is being devalued and eroded by these various forms of death. So, is death then simply the end of it all?

**No!** You see, God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, into our world in human flesh. He was born as that baby in the manger many years ago, not to simply make us "feel" good, but **to save us!** He came to do what we could not do for ourselves. The Bible tells "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy **he saved us.**" (Titus 3:5) Because of sin, we are in need of the salvation that Jesus brings. Each of us have an appointment one day which will not be missed. That appointment is with death. It is vital that we have made our peace with God first! Acts 4:12 says "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Man must turn from his own way, his own effort to appease God, and accept His free gift of salvation— "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God:** Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Why not make this Christmas something more than a feel-good, festive season? Why not accept Jesus Christ, God's great gift, to be YOUR Saviour? You can discover a whole new meaning to what Christmas is all about! "For the wages of sin is death; **but the gift of God** is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23) This Christmas, as you experience the delight of gingerbread, think on this—"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him** should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)