

Christmas tradition, scriptural, and religious trivia –

TRADITIONS - America BIBLICAL celebration / Luke 2:1-20

Trees, presents. Santa Promised messiah, virgin birth

Secular songs sacred songs, fulfilled prophecy

Mark 7 - “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.⁷ They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’

⁸You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”⁹ And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!

- **Question:** What word does the “X” in “Xmas” stand for?
- **Answer:** Christ (from the Greek letter Chi)
- **Question:** What holiday drink is also called “milk punch”?
- **Answer:** Eggnog

Saint Nicholas, a real 3rd-century Greek bishop known for his secret gift-giving and generosity, who was also the basis for the Dutch "Sinterklaas".

- **When was Christopher cringle alive?**

Chris Kringle, or Kris Kringle, is a popular name for Santa Claus, originating from the German "Christkind" (Christ Child) and popularized in America by traditions and stories like the movie [Miracle on 34th Street](#), referring to the figure who brings Christmas gifts, often associated with the German/Pennsylvania Dutch tradition of the Christ Child bringing presents.

The evolution of the name and tradition

From St. Nicholas to Sinterklaas:

The Dutch name for St. Nicholas, Sint Nikolaas, was shortened to Sinterklaas.

From Christkindl to Kris Kringle:

During the Reformation, Martin Luther promoted the "Christkind" (Christ Child) as a gift-giver to de-emphasize the veneration of saints. This figure, originally depicted as an angelic child, was brought to America by German immigrants.

American transformation: The name "Kris Kringle" became a popular name for this gift-giver. The name was further popularized in the U.S. by the 1947 film *Miracle on 34th Street*. Over time, "Kris Kringle" became another name for Santa Claus in America, losing its original connection to the "Christ Child" and merging with the evolving Santa Claus figure.

- **Question:** What mythical figure punishes naughty children in central Europe?
- **Answer:** Krampus

When did people start **decorating trees?**

People started decorating evergreen trees for Christmas in 16th-century Germany, with early decorations including apples, nuts, and paper roses, and candles later added, possibly by [Martin Luther](#), to symbolize stars. The custom spread, gaining popularity in the 1800s

Jer 10 - For the practices of the peoples are worthless; they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel.⁴ They adorn it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so it will not totter.⁵ Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk.

The winter often is known for seasonal death and economic downturn that leads to depression. What could we do to boost joy, and retail spending?

Modern Commercialism - the 1840s, with Santa Claus used in ads and the first in-store Santa appearing at Macy's in 1862, says Yorktown Sentry. In 2025 the ave family spends 1500-2000 on Christmas including travel, food, décor and presents. In essence, the retail Christmas turns winter into a peak economic period driven by consumerism, marked by early marketing and massive spending.

December 25 became Christmas as it evolved, with early Christian leaders like Pope Julius I and theologians in Rome adopting the date in the 4th century, likely to coincide with or offer an alternative to existing pagan winter solstice festivals like [Saturnalia](#), eventually becoming official around 336 CE under Emperor [Constantine](#).

Jesus was most likely born in spring, he was a toddler when wise men brought gifts, not at the nativity.