
THE CHRIST

IN SANTA CLAUS UNMASKED

TRACKING SANTA LEGENDS BACK TO EARLY CHRISTIAN BELIEFS THAT JESUS WENT TO OTHER NATIONS

{JESUS CHRIST'S WORLD WIDE TREKS AS THE ROOTS OF LATER CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS, LEGENDS, ART WORKS & WRITINGS ABOUT THE WORLD WIDE GIFT GIVING ADVENTURES OF CHRISTKINDL, KRISS KRINGLE & SANTA CLAUS}

DARELL D. THORPE

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CR 1994, revised text & first illustrated edition 2013 restoredgospel evidences@live.com

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH: *MMM*

3RD MILLENNIUM MUSIC/MOVIE MAKERS & *RH&PS* RELIGIOUS, HISTORICAL & POLEMICAL STUDIES REVISED TEXT & FIRST ILLUSTRATED EDITION, 2013

DEDICATED TO MY FAMILY AND ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THE HUMAN FAMILY WHO FINDS THIS *The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked* {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} BOOK HELPS THEM IN THEIR OWN PARTICULAR QUEST FOR TRUTH.

PRAYER & PRIESTHOOD BLESSING ON ALL READERS: MAY ALL READERS' FEEL CHRIST'S LOVE FOR THEM & EACH MEMBER OF THE HUMAN FAMILY FOR WHICH HE WAS WOUNDED FOR. MAY THE HOLY SPIRIT BEAR WITNESS *The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked* {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} TO THE TRUTHS IN THIS BOOK. MAY GOD BLESS AND GUIDE ALL HONEST SEEKERS AFTER TRUTH TO THIS BOOK, & TO OTHER GOOD BOOKS WHICH WILL HELP US GAIN A STRONG TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST. MAY WE ALL BECOME MORE CHRIST LIKE, AND REACH OUT WITH UNCONDITIONAL LOVE TOWARD EACH MEMBER OF THE HUMAN FAMILY, IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, AMEN.

TESTIMONIAL

If you will inform yourself of the historical facts, and the revealed truths of the restoration and

humbly call upon the Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, he will also give you a testimony of the restoration by the power of the Holy Ghost too.

Marion G. Romney, October 1972, General Conference.

After you've reasoned, & after you have presented the best case you can from logic, evidences, & scholarly research. You have to give a divine seal on the witness that you have presented from all these other areas. You have to bear testimony of the truth of these things, & state how the Holy Spirit of God has testified to you concerning the truthfulness of the restoration, how that Jesus is the Christ, and that Joseph Smith is a true Prophet of God.

Bruce R. McConkie, April 1973, General Conference.

I would like to say to students, that there is nothing more challenging to you, or anyone else, in any field of activity than our article of faith which says: "We not only believe what God has reveal, and now reveals, but we believe that he will yet reveal many important things concerning the Kingdom of God." That is a challenge to research, that is a challenge to check on what you believe. That is a challenge to bring you beliefs, your thoughts, your education, and lives up to date.

Huge B. Brown, *Profile of a Prophet*.

I testify, by the power of the priesthood which I hold, as an Elder in *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, that the testimony of history testifies that Jesus Christ is at the roots of later Christmas traditions. Many of us suspect and know this, but are not sure The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} how it all works out. This book shows how it does. How Jesus Christ's world wide treks is at the roots of later Christmas traditions, now almost lost in the materialism & the *Black Friday Syndrom*, after *Thanksgiving*. This is where some rude customers seem to be going crazy over gathering up as many *x-mas* gifts as they can, while they can.

What compliments early Christian beliefs of Christ's world wide treks are Christ's visits to the ancient Americas as contained int *The Book of Mormon*, as written about by ancient American prophets, as a second witness for Christ's atonement, and The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} his visit to them, not too long after his resurrection. I testify that *The Book of Mormon* is true, notwithstanding my many weaknesses and imperfections. I also testify that historic Christianity shows that the Great Apostasy did happen, during which many plain and precious truths were lost, while others faded off into legends. This is why the Lord Jesus Christ raised up the prophet Joseph Smith to bring about the restoration. The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} May the spirit bear The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} witness to any and all who may read this testimony. And may this book edify and bless any and all readers with a deeper desire to read and study *The Book of Mormon*, & the other scriptures, and the testimony of history. May we also prayerfully consider the testimonies of the ancient and modern prophets in order to understand more The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} about Jesus Christ. The main focus of this book is *Christmas traditions*. For another study of other nations' traditions see: *Jesus Christ, The World Wide Wounded Wanderer*. I write these things in the name of Jesus Christ, amen. Darell D. Thorpe, July 24, 1998, revised The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} 2013.

DISCLAIMER NOTICE

This book does not represent the official doctrines in any particular church that might be mentioned here. The opinions express here in are of the The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} author's and are based on years of research.

“SEEK YE OUT OF THE BEST BOOKS”

“And The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith. . . . And set in The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} order the churches, and study and learn, and become acquainted with all good books, and with languages, tongues, and people. . . . And . . . to obtain a knowledge of history, and of countries, and of kingdoms, of laws of God and man, and all this for the salvation of Zion. Amen.” (*Doctrine and Covenants 88:118; 90:15; 93:53*).

PROPHECY: As more and more historical data come to light, the higher the mountain of evidences will become. We are now seeing the fulfillment of a prophecy made in 1842 by Joseph Smith which says: “We cannot but think the Lord has a hand in . . . proving the *Book of Mormon* true in the eyes of all people. . . . Surely ‘facts are stubborn things,’ It will be as it ever has been, the world will prove Joseph Smith a true prophet by circumstantial evidence, . . .” (Joseph Smith, *Times and Seasons*, 3:921—22, September 15, 1842). [Art by Darell Thorpe, about 1994. The Christ behind the The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} mask of Santa Claus].

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GLOSSARY, ABBREVIATIONS & KEY TO NOTES & BIBLIOGRAPHY Christkindl, Christkind,

& Christ-kinkle: Various names given The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} to the wandering Christ-child by German speaking people of Europe and America.

Epiphany: in greek means "manifestation". Thus, the Epiphany or "manifestation" of Christ to the nations.

Mandorla: () a symbol which represents other realm passage ways, for it is like the tunnels that near death experiencers, angels, saints, Christ, or spirits pass through to go into another realm of existence. It is a symbol of rebirth, or is like the birth canal into another realm of life. It is often seen in early to later Christian art works that depict the spirit's descent from heaven into mortality, Christ's descent into the spirit prison, Christ's ascension into heaven, and while he sit enthroned in heaven.

Mysteries: Rituals and rites that are a type of the soul's journey through birth, life, death and the resurrection. In the early Christian mysteries were rites of passage hand grips that were often depicted in art works of the descent, and ascension, etc.

Near Death Experience NDE: People who have had a life after life The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} experience and have come back from the other side to tell us what it was like to be dead for a certain amount of time.

Orb: A round ball shape symbol that represented power and authority to reign and govern.

Pantocrator: Ruler of the world, of different realms of existences, and of the universe.

Pilgrim and Pilgrimages: Wanderers, travelers, a Christian making a journey from one area to another to fulfill a vow, quest, or to imitate Christ as a pilgrim.

Idid., = the same reference as last cited. (From the Latin *ibidem*).

Op. cit., = the work cited more than one note previously. (From the Latin *opere citato*). TANF = The Ante-Nicene Fathers, Pub. T&T Clark Edinburgh, WM. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., Grand Rapids, Michigan.

DBC = Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah.

HNA = Harry N. Abrams Publishing.

HNA = Harry N. Abrams Publishing.

3601.

F.A.R.M.S. = Foundation For Ancient Research And Mormon Studies, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

D&C = Doctrine And Covenants.

INTRODUCTION

Over the years, traditions plus customs have been stacked up on the early Christian doctrines and beliefs like mountains of lost and forgotten The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} stacks of books left in dark corners of basements in a number of old used book stores or monasteries' archives. However, for researchers like me, these types of places might seem to be good areas to look if one wants to discover many out of date, out of print books, and unpublished manuscripts on a number of subjects. In the making of a book, this may be where paths of research pass through in order to find footnotes that takes one to places like University libraries, to only find footnotes that go into the "electrical cyber-space world" of computers, to eventually pass through the unpublished files and notes of a number of

researchers' collections of source materials, *The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked* {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} and so on. I have undertaken this type of journey so that the reader doesn't have to in order enjoy & discover the historical facts that are presented and considered in this book by simply reading it. However, I believe that my book may help to uncover many areas of research which, to the best of my knowledge, have not ever been considered or explored before. Thus, for people who may be *The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked* {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} interested in understanding what happened to many of the basic doctrines of early Christianity after all these centuries have passed by, my book will raise some interesting issues that might cause others to explore, even further, into the different areas which are considered in this book. The whole point of this book is to point out different areas that need to be explored even further in order to discover that which may have been lost, buried, or masked over the centuries. Thus, areas, that future researchers may want to explore is how the early Christians responded to their critics when they charged that other people in other areas of the world could not be saved by the Christians' God. Or when different ones asked how Christ *The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked* {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} would save those, who had died before the Christian era? Other areas, that may be explored even further are how the early Christians answered the early critics, which simply stated here, was, that Christ as a Spirit, had preexisted before his birth to Mary, and had visited the prophets throughout the world in earlier dispensations in order to give them the gospel. *The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked* {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} After his death on the cross, he had also preached the gospel throughout the spirit prison known in ancient to later times as Christ's descent into hades, limbo, the pit, the underworld, purgatory, and the harrowing of hell. Some time after his resurrection, Christ went to other nations around the world to preach the gospel in far distant countries, islands, and earthly kingdoms. Thus, it seems like the whole human family will eventually get a fair chance to hear and accept, or *The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked* {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} reject the gospel, if not in this life, *The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked* {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} then in the realms to come. Other areas are how these doctrines faded out to eventually become later Christian legends about Christ wanderings throughout realms and the earth. Another would be to discover additional saints which legends say the wandering Christ had appeared to, besides Thomas, Augustine, Martin, Christopher, and the others mentioned *The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked* {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} in this book. Other areas might be to, further understand how these later legends were depicted by artists. How these later legends developed into the stories and customs about *The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked* {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} the wandering Christ-child during Christmas seasons. How these customs and stories helped to shape the making of later traditions and customs, and art works, which shaped later ones about Christkindl, Kriss Kringle and eventually Santa Claus. Therefore, the door is left open to invite researchers and serious students of history in. May you also experience the same loving and comforting spiritual impressions and guidance from the comforting Spirit of truth, (John 15:26; 16:13; Luke 24:31-32), as I believe that I experienced many times while exploring these areas. And may the reader feel the love of Christ while reading the later *The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked* {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} legends and stories that contain positive and moral principles that may help us to become more understanding, kind, loving, and charitable towards one another.

[Art by Darell Thorpe, 1992-2013, numerous drawings combined to illustrate the different guises

that Christ, according to legends, wanders the earth as. A pilgrim, a man of sorrows, a leper, as the The Christ in Santa Claus Unmasked {color illustrated edition 12-17-2013} Christkindl, as Santa Claus. Wandering throughout the world into Russia, Germany, England, the islands of the sea, China, Japan, India, Africa, the Americas, & so forth].

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