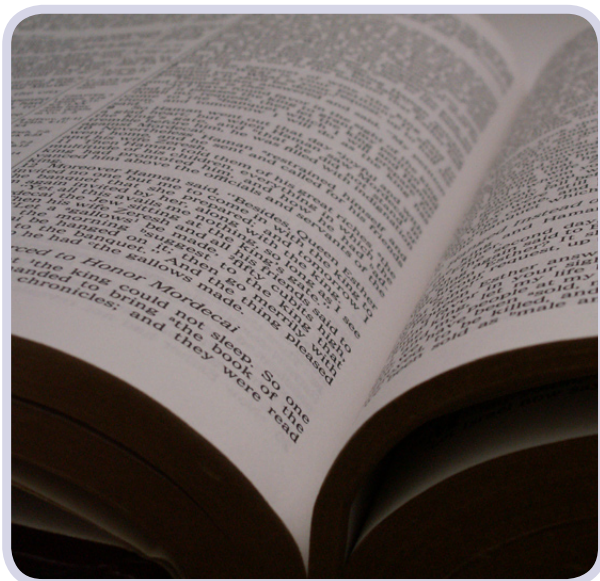# happyhealthy®.com

CHRISTMAS

According to the people who study such things, the word Christmas originates from the Old English or Dutch. Political correctness aside, it is by any investigation a celebration of a people's faith. Christmas, a compound word, separates into two parts. The first is 'Christ' and the second is 'mas'. Few would be surprised that the word 'Christ' is from the Latin 'Christus', and before that, from the Greek 'Khristos'. These words attempt to translate the Hebrew construct for 'Moshiach' or 'Massiah' as recorded in the ancient writings (Torah, Talmud, and Bible) from the Judeo-Christian faiths. The ending 'mas' derives from various renditions of Old English for the meaning of a feast day or festival. Thus, literally, the word Christmas derives from a festival for those who believe in a Messiah. If you wish to celebrate Christmas, then you are participating in a festival of faith, and you are recognizing that Christmas is the assigned day to regard the birth of this Messiah.

Before participating in this Messianic Birthday Festival, shall we consider if we agree with the message? From the discovery of Israel's Qumran Caves we may read the oldest manuscripts on earth. University men have translated scrolls that predict a Messiah who is a child born as the Prince of Peace. By every dictionary definition I read, peace is a very desirable thing. I will welcome those who will bring it to me, my family, my community, and my country.

Every christian congregation would believe that the the beginning of the Messiah's work is evident in the New Testament biblical account. It is found in the book of Luke, chapter two, where a supernatural messenger announced to some poor folks watching sheep, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

While the entire teaching of any faith is impossible to summarize, we can accept the witness of one who wrote that he was there to see the Messiah celebrated by Christmas. A man named John wrote in a letter, "Let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us. Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. God is love." See 1st John, chapter 4, verses 7-16, New International Version, 1995.

I will be celebrating this.

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