

Notes on Columbus from the works of:

Dr. Carol Delaney - 'Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem'

And

Dr. Elise Bartosik Velez - 'Legacy of Christopher Columbus and the Americas'

1. Columbus - the pioneer of his day, being judged by 20th century standards who have no understanding of the times in which he lived;
2. Extremely devout Catholic and partial to the Franciscans; became lay Franciscan. Possible to have had Jewish heritage as did many of his day.
3. Columbus Day is actually probably Oct. 21 or 22.
4. Colorado was the 1st state to celebrate Columbus Day;
5. Columbus had apocalyptic beliefs - when he calculated he saw the end of the world to be 3240 and then recalculated it to be 155 years left or 1645.
6. Saw Jerusalem as the center of the world [the confluence of 3 continents] and needed to take it back from the Muslims to prepare for the 2nd Coming of Christ;
7. Believed they were in the last days because of war [especially with Islam], pestilence, schisms in the church, Christianity under siege and ascent of Islam;
8. Needed to evangelize the world before the end and again prepare for Christ's return;
9. Gold and spices to help pay for the taking of Jerusalem;
10. 39 years old in 1492; has 4 yr old son, his wife died; he intended to reach Cathay [China] with only 90 sailors;
11. Had no interest in conquest, only evangelizing, as China was probably the largest and most powerful empire at the time;

12. Made the journey in 33 days; most people of the day knew the world was round but of course scared;
13. Columbus wrote his own book of prophecy in Latin, which was never revealed until 1892 at Princeton University Library.
14. Columbus encourage those who followed him in exploration to take up the cross and continue; he saw himself as 'Christ Bearer', the meaning of his name, Christopher;
15. Referred to the natives as natural Christians who could be easily converted. Observed that most were peaceful, good natured, brotherly love, quite intelligent, fully human.
16. Columbus had good relations with the Natives; remained good friends with one of the chiefs until Columbus' death;
17. He told his men - no marauding, no stealing, no raping but they did;
18. Las Casas [author noted by the Colorado legislature] saw Columbus as a very devout Catholic who prayed daily with his men and recited the Ave Maria nightly.
19. Because not all of the Natives were friendly, but rebellious, there were conflicts and Columbus was forced to defend himself and his men capture some; some returned as slaves but he instructed them to treat them well since they were ripe for conversion.
20. Observed them as mostly peaceful but other groups warlike and man eating, sacrificial cultural practices [children and women];
21. In the Caribbean islands, Arawaks were man eaters but passive while Caribe Indians waged war against the Arawaks.
22. Native American cultures throughout were disintegrating and many at war.

23. Indians lacked power compare to the Europeans as their civilization began to permeate the Americas;
24. Subsequent explorers actually invigorated and helped revitalize Indian culture, and they began to convert. It was the northern European immigrants of the 18th and 19th centuries, who were part of a violent culture conflict process - those who populated the Midwest, descendants of today's white liberals, not Columbus;
25. Explorers who followed Columbus did not have a good relations with the Natives. Relationships varied in different parts of the Americas.
26. Spain under Ferdinand and Isabella believed themselves as heirs to the Roman Empire and descendants of Anneas [actually a mythical figure] who founded Rome. And saw Columbus as the new Anneas;
27. They saw the new world as an opening for a new empire - the 5th empire in prophecy, which would then lead to the coming of Christ;
28. Washington, D. C, Columbia and 15 American cities are named after Columbus as well as universities, rivers, film companies, etc.; Columbus was also considered an original name for America and the Americas;
29. Jefferson's America was referred to as an Empire of Liberty;
30. Columbus was viewed as a hero in the 18th century -primarily because he was Italian and not tied to England, our former colonizer;
31. 18th century also viewed the west as the rising glory of America [the western world] and Colonial America;

32. Columbia expedition world's fare of 1892 was visited by 27 million people because he was so popular. America only had 65 million people at the time.
33. The name Columbus is tied to the concept of Empire; specifically the 5th empire that was to eventually be created before the coming of Christ.
34. The American colonists saw themselves as a part of a building of this 5th empire originally set out by Ferdinand and Isabella and their Imperial Christian Agenda toward a universal Christian Empire.
35. Finally, to accuse Columbus as forcing Christianity is totally antiethical to Christianity. Christianity is a choice, you make that decision everyday of your life. It cannot be imposed. Native Americans in both North and South America are mostly Christian and they make that choice to remain Christian or not. Columbus is not around any more; they are Christian on their own volition.
36. The only religions today that impose and bully their beliefs are Muslims and liberalism.
37. Referring to contributions of Native Americans is admirable but cannot compare to the development of western civilization and science due to Christianity and the values that resulted from it . See D'nesh D'Souza - 'What is so great about Christianity' Volumes about that issue.