

The Word Was Made Flesh

The Significance of Christmas—part 1

John 1:1-18

December 10, 2017

DAY 1: The prologue of the gospel of John

1. This month we'll look at the basis of Christmas.
2. What can we know about Jesus Christ? Astoundingly, there are some people who merely *speculate* about who they think He is. It's difficult to take someone seriously who speculates about Jesus Christ far removed from first century experience.
3. Thankfully, the Christian faith is rooted in human history, and we have a multitude of eyewitness accounts by people who were with Him!
4. The apostle John was one of those men. The gospel of John is dedicated to chronicling the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. This is how John begins.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² *He was with God in the beginning.*

³ *Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*

⁴ *In him was life, and that life was the light of men.*

⁵ *The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.*

5. The word “Word” is used to both identify Jesus in this passage, but also to tell us something of His person and work. The word “Word” in the Greek language is “logos,” which means the answer or the reason. Greek philosophers used this term to try to understand the universe and explain the nature of life.

6. John picks up on that same understanding but says that the answer to life, the reason for existence is not a principle or an idea. It is a person!

7. What four things do we learn about Jesus in John 1:1-2?

DAY 2: The divinity of Christ.

1. We continue with the prologue of John.

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2. John 1:1-2 describes different aspects of the divinity of Jesus Christ.

a. He is eternal.

“**In the beginning** was the Word,” does not mean He “began.” It means that in eternity past, before anything had been created, He existed.

b. He is relational.

“...and the Word was **with** God...” He was already in relationship with God.

c. He is divine.

“...and the Word **was** God.” He was not “made” God, or made “a god,” as some cults teach.

d. He is personal.

“**He** was with God in the beginning.”

3. Which of these attributes strikes you most? Why?

DAY 3: Christ, the agent of creation

1. We continue with our look at the prologue to the gospel of John.

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2. John 1:3 adds another crucial attribute of deity. What is it?

3. This verse (and passage) parallels Genesis 1, where God is the Creator. Here, in John, He is depicted as the agent of creation, the One who “makes it happen.”

4. Let’s look at a few other verses which depict Jesus as the divine agent of creation.

1 Corinthians 8:6 ... yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

Hebrews 1:2 ... but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

5. Not only is Christ the creator, He is also the sustainer of life!

Colossians 1:17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

6. What do these verses add to your understanding of who Jesus Christ is?

DAY 4: The life of Christ in the hearts of His people

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

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1. John 1:4 adds another attribute of Jesus Christ. He is life-giver.

2. Being life-giver includes giving people physical life. But there is more than physical life that Jesus gives us. A hint as to what kind of life He also gives is illustrated by the last part of verse 4 – “*and that life was the light of men.*”

3. What kind of “life” do you think John means?

4. Let’s look at a few verses that may shed some light on what John means by Jesus giving us “life.”

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ..."

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

¹² *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

¹³ *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5. The apostle Paul tells us that we were “dead in sins,” meaning, we were so absorbed with our own interests and needs that we were, in essence, “dead” to the things of God even though we may have been very “religious!”

6. To have the life of Christ in us means that we are alive to God and the things of God. It also means that we are becoming other-centered as a way of life, like His life was. Being other-centered is not just an occasional deed that we do here and there. It means to we find our truest identity and joy when we reflect Jesus to those around us as we love God with all our hearts and seek to love those around us like He loves them.

DAY 5: Christ, the light of men

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1. John tells us that Jesus was “*the light of men.*”

2. To understand that let’s take a look at the nature of man before Christ comes into our hearts.

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.

2 Corinthians 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

3. What do these two verses tell us about our spiritual and personal condition before we came to Christ?

John 3:19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

²⁰ *Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.*

²¹ *But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”*

4. What does John add in these verses about the nature of darkness in your lives?

5. What does John tells us about the light and life that Christ can give us?

6. The baby Jesus was no ordinary baby. God invaded our desperate planet to rescue and save desperate people! If He had not subjected Himself to the life of a human, salvation of people would have been impossible.