

The King of Eternity

John 1:1-14

As we begin this series of messages on the life of Christ we must have a proper understanding of the four Gospel accounts.

1. Matthew presents Christ as the King, the Son of David and was written primarily for the Jews.
2. Mark presents Christ as the suffering servant with the Romans in mind.
3. Luke presents Christ as the Son of Man who came to seek and save that which is lost. His gospel appealed to the Greeks
4. John emphasizes Christ as the Son of God was written to all people might believe on Christ (see John 20:30-31).

With this background in mind we begin our walk with Jesus. It begins in the dateless past (John 1:1).

The opening words of John's gospel are so simple to read, but so profound in truth. Simple enough for the humblest believer to believe, yet so deep the most advanced theologian can study a lifetime without fathoming its depths.

I. His CELESTIAL person (v. 1).

A. He is ETERNALLY God (*"In the beginning was the Word..."*).

1. The life of Jesus Christ did not begin in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago. Jesus Christ existed *"in the beginning"* (cf. Gen. 1:1). Before there was a heaven and earth, Jesus was there (and Mary was not there). **There has never been a time when Jesus was not.**

➡ Bethlehem was just a "comma" in the eternal story of the Life of Christ. Jesus was born at Bethlehem, but His *"goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting"* (Micah 5:2).

2. Jesus told the Jews, *"Before Abraham was, I AM"* (John 8:56-58 cf. Ex. 3:14). They took up stones to stone Him.

3. *“And he is before all things, and by him all things consist”* (Col. 1:17).

As Squire Parsons wrote, He is the *“King of Eternity.”*

- B. He is EQUALLY God (*“...and the Word was WITH GOD...”*).

1. *“WITH”* denotes a relationship. For there to be a relationship there must be more than one person within the Godhead—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (1 John 5:7—*“There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are ONE.”*)

Jesus spoke of the glory He had with the Father before the world began—*“O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had WITH THEE before the world was”* (John 17:5, 24).

2. The Hebrew word for “God” in Genesis 1 is “Elohim”—“EL” = singular aspect of His name (“the mighty One”). “ohim” = the plural form. In Genesis 1:26—*“And God [Elohim] said, Let US make man in OUR image...”*

- C. He is EXPRESSLY God (*“...and the Word WAS GOD...”*).

1. Words are expressions of thoughts. Calling Jesus *“the Word”* means He is the very EXPRESSION of God—*“the express image of his person”* (Heb. 1:3).

- Jesus is the subject of the Bible. The Bible contains words. Words are made up of letters. Jesus said, *“I am Alpha and Omega,”*

What do you say to these cults? Show them Revelation 1:8, "*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and is to come, the Almighty.*" Ask a Mormon or a Jehovah's Witness, "Who is this referring to? He will say, "God."

Then, compare Revelation 22:12-13: "*And, behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*" Ask him, "Who is this that says "*I come quickly?*" He will say "Jesus." But now he has a problem, because if he says Jesus is not God, then he has two Alphas and two Omegas—two firsts and two lasts.

The only logical conclusion is Jesus is God.

II. His **CREATIVE** power (vs. 2).

➡ Colossians 1:16—"*For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible... all things were created by him, and for him.*"

➡ As "*the Word*"—He spoke all things into existence (Gen. 1).

- Hebrews 11:3—"*Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God.*"
- Psalm 33:6, 9—"*By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth... he spake, and it was done...*"

➡ Difference between "create" and "make." To create is to make something out of nothing—**Only God can create**. To make something is to form something out of pre-existing materials.

You may have heard about the group of scientists who decided they could make a man without God. They told God, "God, we're to the point that we can clone people, so we don't need you anymore."

God answered, "So you think you can do a better job creating a man than I did from just a handful of dirt? OK, Show me."

The scientists answered, "You're on!" Then one of them bent down and scooped up a handful of dirt.

God interrupted, "Hold on! You gotta make your own dirt!"

A. Jesus is the LIFE-GIVING Word (v. 4).

➔ **Law of "biogenesis":** Life can only come from that which is alive. Life cannot come from nonliving matter.

1. It is note worthy that life begin on earth until the fifth day (Gen. 1:20). Likewise, He who is Life came to earth on the fifth millennial day.
 2. There is no life apart from Jesus. Jesus told the Jews, "*Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life*" (John 5:40).
 - He called Himself the "*bread of life*" (John 6:48).
 - He said, "*the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life*" (John 6:63).
 - Jesus came that "*they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly*" (John 10:10).
 - "*He that hath the Son hath LIFE, and he that hath not the Son of God, HATH NOT LIFE*" (1 John 5:12).
- ➔ It is noteworthy that no one ever died in His presence. Even on the cross, the thieves did not die until Jesus had already given up the ghost.

B. Jesus is the LIGHT-GIVING Word (vs. 5-9; Ps. 119:105). He said, "*Let there be light, and there was light.*" Jesus is "*the light of the world.*" In heaven, there will be no sun, because Jesus is the light thereof (Rev. 21:23). Without Jesus, men walk in darkness.

III. His CONDESCENDING presence (v. 14).

- ➔ Solomon asked at the dedication of the Temple, "*Will God indeed dwell on the earth?*" (1 Kings 8:27). Our text answers.
- ➔ Man aspires; God alone condescends.
- ➔ As a thought must be clothed in words before it can be known, so God clothed Himself in flesh, to reveal Himself to man (v. 18).

ILLUS: In the Rospigliosi Palace in Rome is Guido Reni's famous painting, "The Aurora." It is painted on a lofty ceiling. As someone stands on the pavement to look up at it, his neck stiffens, his head grows dizzy, and the figures become hazy and indistinct. And so the owner of the palace has placed a broad mirror near the floor. In it the picture is reflected and a person can see it's beauty clearly.

Jesus Christ is the mirror of deity. In Christ God becomes visible and intelligible to us.

- A. He took man's HUMANITY— "*...the Word became flesh ...*" (1:14). He was very God of very God and very man of very man—The God-Man. This was accomplished through the miracle of the virgin birth.
- B. He took man's HURTS. He dwelt on earth among men and suffered all the hurts man suffers—Hunger... thirst... weariness... betrayal, pain—"*...a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief...*"
1. Jesus was not born in a palace or in a mansion, but in a manger. "*... you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich*" (2 Cor. 8:9).
 2. At birth there was no room for Him (Luke 2:7)... in life there was no home for Him (Mt. 8:20), and in death there was no grave for Him (Mt. 27:59-60)?
 3. No one can say of God, "God you don't understand my hurts."
- C. He took man's HELL. He was made "*...sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him*" (2 Cor. 5:21). He suffered the pains of Hell we all deserve (Acts 2:31).

SUMMATION: So we see God's purpose in the incarnation is: (1) To show us what He is like; and (2) to transform us into that same image of the Son of God Himself. Jesus came to where we are in order that we might come to where He is.

ILLUS: In 1799 a big lump of something—a stone supposedly—lay for centuries in a shallow creek in Cabarrus, North Carolina. People passing

saw only an ordinary stone and walked on. Conrad Reed, 12 year old boy, was bow fishing in the creek when noticed the rock and took it home. His father, John Reed, thought it would make a good door stop. Little did he realize this door stop was a 17 pound lump of gold. A geologist who visited one day recognized it as a lump of gold—the biggest lump of gold ever found east of the Rockies.¹

Many people have taken a casual glance at Jesus. Some see only a Jewish carpenter, and go on their way... There are people today who see Jesus as merely a good man, but not God. Others see Him as the Lamb of God who came to die for their sins on Calvary. Others see Jesus as God in the flesh and have received Him as their Savior.

When you look at Jesus what do you see?

He came 2,000 years to His people Israel, but they rejected Him (v. 11).

What will you do with Him today (v. 12).

- 1) BELIEVE on Him.
- 3) RECEIVE Him as your Lord and Savior.

¹ http://libres.uncg.edu/ir/asu/f/Hauser,%20Jason_2012_Thesis.pdf