

The Word Became Flesh

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Text: John 1:1-14¹

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Series: Miracle in the Manger

Introduction: Open your Bibles to the Gospel of John, chapter 1, and let's read verses 1-14. The title of this evening's message is "The Beginning, the Baby, and the Beholding". The title is "The Word Became Flesh".

- First, this evening we are going to look to the **Beginning**. We are going to see the divinity and greatness of Christ who *in the beginning* brought into existence everything that your eye can see, and everything no human eye has ever seen,
- Then we are going to see how this Christ became a **Baby**, how he was "touched with the feeling of our infirmities" and how in all things it "behoved him to be made like unto his brethren" (**Hebrews 2:17**), yet He was "without sin" (**Hebrews 4:15**).
- Finally we are going to "**Behold the Lamb**" and see how God coming to earth has life-changing meaning for all of us! We are told that we should gaze upon and behold "His glory..."

Let's read **John 1:1-14**, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Introduction: Have you ever contemplated the vastness of the universe? When I was a child we were told about the Milky Way within our own solar system. Today we know that most of what we see in the night skies are not simply stars, but clusters of universes. Even after we've sent out our satellite telescopes and explored as far as human technology will allow us, there are still unimaginable mysteries beyond our finite capabilities. The scientists tell us that we've just barely scratched the surface as to what is out there. It is absolutely mind boggling!

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is from the *English Standard Version* of the Bible.

You don't need to simply look up to be amazed. Today, we know the smallest living organisms known to man are making believers out of many scientists today. Did you know that the nucleus of the most basic cell has a digitally organized database with information content larger than the 30 volume set of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*?² This database of information is called DNA. DNA is written in a form of highly intelligent words—**there are even grammatical rules**. If you took the information in just a pinhead's worth of DNA and put it in books, it would take a stack of books 500 times as high as the distance from here to the moon.³ We don't have computers that can do that.

And yet we have tiny-brained professors telling us that there is no evidence that there is a God!

Friend, let's be clear, all of these unfathomable universes and mysteries of molecular biology were created and fashioned by the little Baby born of a pure and untouched virgin 2000 years ago!

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made..”

- I. We need to go back to the **Beginning**. When you see Jesus, you are seeing God! “In the beginning was the Word...” Before the heavens and earth were created (**Genesis 1:1**), the Word already existed. John goes on and tells us, “and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Before the world was brought into being, Christ, as a distinct Person of the Godhead, was always face to face with the Father. He was and is the eternally existing Word of God constantly in loving fellowship with the Father. This Word came to earth. They called His name Jesus. The Word that became flesh has existed from all eternity.

John says in **verse 2**, “The same was in the beginning with God.” Jesus was “in the beginning with God.” Jesus said, “He that has seen me, hath seen the Father” (**John 14:9**). Paul said, “God was manifest in the flesh” (**1 Timothy 3:16**). Jesus said, “I and my Father are one” (**John 10:30**). Listen, that Baby, born 2000 years ago in Bethlehem was the one who was “in the beginning with God”.

What do we learn knowing that Jesus was “in the beginning with God”. What conclusions do we come to knowing that before heaven and earth were created, Jesus already existed?

- A. We first learn that Baby in the manger of Bethlehem is **God's Full Expression of Himself**. “In the beginning was the Word”.

What is the Word? Why use that language? Because He is the very expression of God. He is God. It is absolutely absurd to compare Jesus Christ with the founder of other religions. Jesus stands alone as God's only revelation of Himself. The Bible says,

² Even Richard Dawkins, one of the world's leading evolutionists, acknowledges this in his book *The Blind Watchmaker*, (W. W. Norton: New York, 1996).

³ W. Gitt, Dazzling design in miniature, *Creation* 20(1):6, 1997.as accessed on the Answers in Genesis website: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/creation/v25/i2/dna.asp>. Accessed on 23 December 2006.

God's Word (His full expression of Himself) became human flesh. A word is an expression of oneself. God's Word is Jesus. The Bible says, "God was manifest in the flesh" (1 Timothy 3:16). The Bible says in **Colossians 1:15** that Jesus alone is "image of the invisible God".

John himself explains what he means, **John 1:18**, "No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known" [Literally Jesus is the exegesis of God] – He perfectly expresses God because He is God..

The whole world stumbles on the fact that God was manifest in the flesh. They cannot understand how God could reveal Himself in one person born in a manger 2000 years ago.

- The *humanists* say that God is in everyone and everyone is in God.
- The *Hindus* say: God is in the trees and in nature and He is in three million manifestations and forms that we have all around us.

But God Himself says that He became human flesh in the Person of His only begotten Son! God has revealed Himself fully in the Person of Jesus Christ. God expressed Himself completely *only* in the virgin born Son of Mary.

- B. Secondly, we learn that *if you see Jesus, you are looking at God*. **Hebrews 1:3** tells us that Jesus is "the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power". Jesus came to earth to be the expression of God to us. God has chosen to reveal Himself to all men exclusively through one Person, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. When God decided to show us what His character and nature and mercy and grace and justice were like, He sent His Son. You want to see God? Then take a good look at Jesus! Jesus said "if you've seen me, you've seen the Father".
- C. Thirdly, we learn that *when Mary looked into the eyes of her virgin born Son, She was looking into the eyes of her Creator*.

Verse 3 of our text says, "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." Jesus is the one who not only created all of these universes, but His all things **Hebrews 1:3** says are constantly upheld and sustained "by the word of His power". Do you see that the Creator God was manifested in the flesh in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ? This is the message of Christmas! This is the message of the Christian faith and the Gospel.

Do you want to know where everything came from? I'll tell you. Before that Baby was born in Bethlehem, before the Word became flesh, He was "in the beginning with God." And "all things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

Friend, not only is there a God, but He has revealed Himself in the Person of Jesus Christ. That virgin born Child in Mary's arms is the full expression of deity. And yet Christ is not only fully God, He is also fully man. You see we not only need to go back to the Beginning and see Christ's divinity; we need to go back to Bethlehem, back to the birth of the Virgin-born Baby and see that the Second Person of the Trinity became fully human.

- II. We need to go back to Bethlehem and see the virgin-born **Baby**. Skip down to **verse 14**. We read, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ..." When you look at Jesus, you are looking someone who is fully God and fully man, and He has to be fully God and fully man in order to be the substitute for your sin and mine. He is the Perfect Saviour!

The Almighty, powerful, Sovereign of the universe became so small!

Three words explain what happen:

INCARNATION

PERFECTION

SUBSTITUTION

We will also see IMPUTATION

- A. INCARNATION. His **Virgin birth** demonstrates that He is the Perfect Savior. God became human flesh, but He did so in a miraculous way! Think on Jesus right now. He is here. He is present everywhere as God. He knows your thoughts "afar off". He is very god of very God. When that Baby was born from the virgin 2000 years ago, God Himself was born! Long ago the prophets told of His birth. Isaiah spoke much of the time when God would become a man.

We saw this morning in **Matthew 1:23**, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us)".

If Jesus was born of a virgin, then He is God.

He says again in **Isaiah 9:6**, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Brethren, when that Baby was born, Paul tells us that it was at that time that "God was manifest in the flesh" (**1 Timothy 3:16**). A virgin conceived. Mary had never had relations with a man. She was miraculously impregnated by the very Holy Ghost. Don't worship the virgin. She was simply a "handmaiden of the Lord" who needed a Saviour! Look at the Virgin born Son of God! He is God in the flesh! He is the "Mighty God". The Mighty God was born as a human being. Yet even though He was made in every way like us, He never once broke the holy law of God, but reflected the character of God infallibly! He had to do that to be a Perfect Saviour.

- B. PERFECTION. You see, His **Sinless life** also demonstrates that He is the Perfect Saviour.

Yes, Jesus is the Creator God who brought the universe into being out of nothing. All things are “upheld by the word of His power” (**Hebrews 1:3**). “Without him was not anything made that was made.” And yet, this eternally existing Word, co-eternal with the Father, was “touched with the feeling of our infirmities”. In all things it “behoved him to be made like unto his brethren” (**Hebrews 2:17**), yet He was “without sin”. Jesus felt exactly how you feel and how I feel, but He lived above His feelings. Jesus was tempted in every way like you are tempted and I am tempted, but he never sinned. He never gave into that temptation. **Hebrews 4:15** tells us He was “in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin”.

You see Jesus is the Sinless Son of God! That’s the only way that God could be satisfied. He could only reconcile with us on the basis of someone else who kept His Law and reflected His character perfectly. God accepts nothing less than perfection. And Christ kept the Law to redeem a people for Himself. He kept the Law so that He could “save His people from their sin” (**Matthew 1:21**).

- C. **SUBSTITUTION**. Someone is going to pay for your sins. A great majority of people are on the broad road that leads to destruction. They will perish. But there is a substitute. I want to say with John the Baptist tonight, “Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world!”

Christ’s **Substitutionary death** demonstrates that He is the Perfect Saviour. We learn in **Isaiah 53:6**, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all”. We call this substitutionary death: **IMPUTATION**. Imputation is an accounting term. It means to transfer a balance to one’s account. Through faith, our sin is imputed to Christ’s account, and His righteousness is transferred to our account. Is Christ your Substitute and Advocate?

2 Corinthians 5:21, “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

- III. Finally we need to **Behold** Jesus as He is in trust and faith and love! Look again at **verse 14**. We read, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

It is very likely that John is here referring to the transfiguration of Jesus. He and his brother James and Peter were there in the mount and they saw the human veil of Christ transfigured, and they saw Christ’s divine glory. It was unforgettable. It stopped them in their tracks. It changed them. It took their breath away.

How about you? Have you seen Christ? Is He yours?

Conclusion: Many millions of people know the Christmas story this week.. Many will read it this coming Saturday from the Gospels.

What they are ready is Someone who is SO GREAT, become Someone SO SMALL.

He's done this so that you will come to Him and behold His glory.

Glory is what we all seek after. There are traces of it in all human activity. People aspire to be part of something great.

I heard someone say this week that you cannot meet Jesus Christ and be unchanged.

What if I told you that on the way over here I was hit by a truck.

You wouldn't believe me. You'd say I was lying. Why? Because you cannot be impacted by a truck and be unchanged.

Is it any less true with Christ? Can we be touched by Christ and be unchanged.

Friends, "In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God. The Word was God. The Word became flesh." Will you turn from you sin today, and turn to Jesus Christ today—not for religion, but for a relationship? Today receive the greatest give—your eyes enlightened—Blindness removed and sight given! Turn to the Lord of Heaven and Earth who lived and died and rose again! Turn to Him today!