

Dec. 15, 2013

Before He was Born, He Was
Luke 1:30-35, John 1:1-13

All Stand and Read Scripture

Luke 1:30-35

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

John 1:1-13

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹ 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 came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

⁶ There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light.

⁹ There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Prayer

INTRODUCTION:

Many prophecies in the Old Testament proclaimed the birth of Christ, the Messiah. It was an event that had been planned by God even before creation. He knew that man was going to sin and would need a savior. This morning we are going to talk about Jesus before He was born as a baby in the manger.

Who was He?

What was He doing?

Why did He need to come to earth to live among men?

Some people may even question whether he existed prior to that point. If we want to know the truth, we must go to the Word of God to learn it.

BODY:

John 1:1-2

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

1 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.

Verse 1 sounds a lot like the beginning of Genesis.

Genesis 1:1

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1 is talking about the beginning of God's creation, the beginning of time. John 1:1-2 is much more than that.

The reason this verse is written here is to point out that:

before time began,

before Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem,

even before Genesis 1:1 when He created the heavens and the earth,

God existed and Jesus existed. It points to the eternal existence of God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is referred to as the Word. The Bible contains the Word of God. We do not worship the Bible, but we know that it contains the Word of God and through our study of it, we can know how to live our lives for God.

An interesting thing about this passage is it says Jesus **"was God"** which would indicate that He has the **same characteristics** as God and was **absolutely identical**, but, it also says Jesus **"was with God"** which indicates that He was somehow also a **separate entity** from God.

From a human perspective, you cannot be absolutely the same and also be **"with"** God.

You want me to explain that to you? **I can't**. It really does defy human explanation. That doesn't mean you should not meditate a lot on it. The idea of the trinity is that God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all one, living eternally. They are a unity, yet they are individual, yet they are one.

Is it beyond my comprehension? Yes!

Is it worthy of my thought, praise, worship, and study of scripture? Absolutely! It does not mean that I will fully comprehend it, but it is still true and it deserves me meditating on it and studying about it.

The fact that I cannot comprehend it says a lot, doesn't it? It suggests how much above and beyond God is to mankind, but yet He makes Himself available to us through His written Word.

I have **five points** that I would like for you to think about this morning.

POINT 1:

I. Before He was a Baby in a Manger, Jesus Was the Word and He Was God.

John 1:3

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

When we think of Jesus and His birth in a manger, we tend to think of His ministry on earth. We often do not tend to think of Him as the creator of all things. But that is exactly what He is. Jesus was a member of the trinity in charge of creating. He created by speaking words with authority and creation appeared. Not only did He create, but He also was in charge of **sustaining creation**.

Colossians 1:16-18

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

This is a powerful statement. Everything that exists was created by Christ for Christ and He is the sustainer of creation. Mankind was created because “The Son” spoke the Word with authority and mankind was created. It says He was “**before all things**” which, again, talks of His preexistence or eternal nature and it says that He will be preeminent. Everything that is created is to bring glory to Christ.

POINT 2:

II. Before He was a Baby in a manger, Jesus, The Word, was the Creator and Sustainer of All Things and All Creation Exists to bring Him Glory.

What a powerful statement! It is much more than just a cute little baby in a manger. It gives perspective on **Who** this baby is!

John 1:4

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

We know in Him was physical life because He spoke and life was created. In Genesis He brought LIGHT first and then He brought LIFE. We know here that He brings light and life. The light would have to come first in order to have illumination. Jesus does not only bring **physical** life, but **spiritual** life. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were told **not to eat of the tree of good and evil for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die**. The devil comes and tempts them and they eat. At that point they did not immediately die, but **physical death** started at that point. Their bodies started deteriorating with decay and disease and eventually caused them death. **Spiritual death** started on the spot. God’s eminent and personal relationship was taken away from them.

I have got **physical life** standing here, but my **spiritual life**, because of sin, needs to be fixed. Just as **light was needed and created for physical life**, I need **light now** to bring about **spiritual life**. The problem with spiritual life is that it follows us beyond the grave. If we just had physical death to worry about, it would be over when we die. Spiritual death is an eternal problem. It

must be fixed and solved now because one day it will be unfixable and unsolvable. So, I have to have a solution. John is looking back to the fall of man and pointing out what needed to be fixed.

POINT 3:

III. Before He was a Baby in a Manger, Jesus, the Word, Was Life and Light and Was the only Hope of Spiritual Rebirth and Salvation.

Christmas is much more than a holiday of symbols such as Christmas trees, lights, and merry Christmas signs in stores. It is about a baby who has the power to speak physical life and speak spiritual life.

Now we want to get beyond eternity past and consider what happens when Christ did come to earth.

John 1:5

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

A better word for comprehend might be that the darkness could not stop the light. It might be true that without enlightenment, we might not understand the light, but the main point is that Jesus came and He shone into the darkness and the darkness could not do anything about it. When Jesus said “Let there be light”, the darkness did not have the ability to stop it or push it back.

John 1:6-8

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁶There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light.

The Old Testament prophesied of the one who was to come to be a forerunner of Christ. Can you imagine being the one chosen to testify about the Light as John the Baptist? John’s call is very unique in that he was called before he was born and God knew that he would accept that calling. Before creation, God had John’s plan and purpose in place. That would be a very important calling. Wouldn’t you agree?

Consider:

Acts 1:8

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

We are not talking about John the Baptist here are we? There is not a lot of difference between us and John the Baptist. Jesus knew as much about us before creation as He knew of John the Baptist before creation. The only difference is John’s calling was prophesied. God calls us to do the very same thing, to be witnesses to testify about the Light. It is not the same time, the same place, or the same way. But, in our time, our place and in our way He calls us exactly as John the Baptist was to be witnesses of the light, if we have seen and know the light.

John 1:9

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁹ There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

The word **true** is used here to point out that Jesus is the only light. He is the only way to salvation. We cannot come up with an alternate way to be saved. We have the advantage of prophecies that told what was to happen so we could know that the Bible is the true Word of God. We are told that Christ came for all men, Jew and Gentile. The Jews had trouble with this because they felt that they were the chosen people and Gentiles were not part of God’s plan. Christ is the **ONLY light** that can create a **spiritual birth** and fix a **spiritual life**.

John 1:10-11

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

Isn’t it hard to believe that the Creator of the world could to earth and the world would not recognize Him or accept Him?

Have you ever thought, if God would show me a sign, it would be much easier to believe in Him? Jesus worked miracles (raising from the dead, healing the sick, giving eyesight to the blind, rebuking nature, multiplying food, and driving out demons) and yet, despite all of that, the world rejected Him. We took a sinless man and crucified Him on a cross.

He even came to His own (the Jews) who was studying the scripture and was looking for the Messiah and even they rejected Him.

Humanity has proven that even the most obvious signs are not enough for sinful man.

POINT 4:

IV. After He was a Baby in a Manger, Jesus, the Word, was Rejected and Crucified by His Own.

You would think that was the end of the story wouldn't you? He came and we rejected Him. We asked Him to give us signs and He did. We asked Him to fulfill all of the prophecies and He did. Then we rejected Him and crucified Him. You would think He would just wrap up the world and throw it away and start on another creation.

But what did He do?

John 1:12-13

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

You might ask, If the world did not know Him and the Jews did not receive Him. Who did receive Him? This scripture is saying that those who believed in His name received Him. When it says we were given the **“right”** to become children of God, it is saying that were given the power or authority or the means was made available for us to become a child of God.

Verse 13 talks about our inability and God's ability to make us children of God. We cannot be saved based on our physical birth or our Jewish ancestry. We must have a spiritual birth, not physically of blood, but of God.

It is not by the “will of the flesh”. We cannot save ourselves by human effort and works. If it is the Word of God that has life and light and power, we can only get salvation from Jesus, not by our efforts. We tend to think, “I will just try harder”. You cannot try harder. You need to go to Him and He will give it. He is the source.

POINT 5:

V. After He was a Baby in a Manger, Jesus the Word, Provided the Right to Those Who Receive Him and Believe in His Name to Have a Renewed Spiritual Life.

CONCLUSION:

The good news is that Christ's death on the cross provided a way for us to have our sins forgiven. He died on the cross for our sins. Once we have sincerely asked for forgiveness of our sins, Christ has provided the way for our spiritual life to be made whole, without sin. Christ took the wrath that God should put on all sinners for our sins and put it on Jesus Christ. Jesus paid the penalty and rose from the dead proving that He had the power to save sinners like us. We must believe in God's son and obey His commands to become children of God.

When we think of Christmas and the birth of Christ, we must go beyond the manger and understand the reason Christ became man and lived among us.

Because of the Power of Jesus, The Word, We Know that the Baby in the Manger is Also God, He is The Word, He is The Creator, He is the Light, He is the Life, He was Rejected and Crucified by the World and His Own, He Arose from the Dead, and by Receiving Him and Believing in His Name, We can Become Children of God.

The Family of God

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God.
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family, the family of God.