

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 nothing was made that was made... ¹⁴ And the Word became 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. (John 1:1-2,14)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The claims of Jesus demand that we either despise Him or worship Him. He doesn't leave us space for an in-between response. Some claim that at best He was simply a teacher and a good man. He can't simply be a *good man* because a good man would not lie and Jesus claimed to be the Son of God.

⁶² And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" ⁶³ But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" ⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." (Mt. 26:62-64)

- B. If is who He claimed to be: the Savior of the world, the Son of God, the healer and the leader that is truly worth following and loving until the very last breath. In these dark days we *need* a Savior who will destroy the works of the devil, calm raging seas, drive out the religious, heal the broken, blast fig trees, raise dead men, and extend grace to the sinners.
1. His *power* is great because His *identity* is great. His *identity* is great and so His demands are great.
 2. He will not let us pick and choose between His words. We are either all the way in or all the way out.

II. WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

- A. Jesus is the *bread of life* that came down from heaven to feed the desperate need of our souls.
- B. The starved, sin-soaked nature of the human hearts needs a meal that the world simply cannot offer. A man that is dying of thirst in the desert has no use of gold or silken pillows; he needs water, and unless he gets water he will perish. People need something that no amount of money, fame, pleasure, or comfort can satisfy (Jn. 4:13, 14; Is. 55:1; Mk. 8:4)
- ³³ For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." ³⁵ And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. (John 6:33-35)***
- C. It is said that the bread of the ancient world was a *complete protein*. It was viewed as the source of life because it was the main staple for the majority of humanity. Their breads combined various grains (barley, wheat etc) with legumes (lentils, beans, sprouts etc) to form a diet that would sustain life even if that was the only thing eaten.

- D. What does He mean when He calls Himself the bread of life? He means that when we accept Him as *the only life-giving source* we will live forever with God. He means that if we reject Him, then our souls continue to be starved and will die forever. Christ is the *only* bread (person) that *came from heaven*, and thus He is the only way *to heaven*.
- E. Since He came from heaven, Jesus is the only person to have a pre-history; the only One to pre-exist.

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven...He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. (Jn. 3:3, 31)

III. JESUS BEFORE HE WAS JESUS

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 nothing was made that was made. (Jn. 1:1-3)

- A. Prior to becoming Jesus, the child in Mary's womb, He is the Word. He was in the beginning (of time) with the Father. Everything that the Father made, He made through the Son. Nothing was created that didn't come *from* the Father *through* the Son.
- B. Here, named the Word, means that when the Father *spoke* it was the Son that brought creation into existence.

³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. (Gen. 1:3)

1. God desired there to be light.
2. God spoke Words.
3. Those Words were the Son (Jesus).

¹God...² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; (Heb. 1:1, 2)

4. Through the Son creation came forth.

¹⁵ [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created ... All things were created through Him and for Him.

¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. (Col. 1:15-17)

- C. Everything that exists exists because of God. Matter is not eternal. Everything that is had a beginning, and that beginning came *through* the Father and the Son.

IV. BEFORE BECOMING A MAN

- A. Christ the Word was/is equal with God. He posses the majesty, knowledge, power, wisdom, understanding, character etc. of God. He is fully equivalent to the Father. The Son dwelt with the Father and the Spirit in the eternal glory of perfection.
⁶ [Christ] who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, (Phil. 2:6)
- B. Christ the Word was/is rich. The wealth of God is immeasurable. Not only the material products that we consider wealthy, but in Himself, He is filled with indescribable wealth and knowledge. It can't be measured.
⁹ For 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)
- C. Christ the Word is/was in glory. Dwelling in perfection the Son was author of glory (weight/light). His glory is the *outward* manifestation of His *inner* beauty.
²⁴ "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. (Jn. 17:24)
- D. Christ was forever the Lamb. It was always in the heart of God to be the sacrificial Lamb for humanity. He knew the end from the beginning. Jesus as the sacrifice for sins wasn't an adjustment to a failed plan but a demonstration of *the sacrificial love of God.*
⁷ It was granted to [the Antichrist] to make war with the saints and to overcome them... ⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship [Antichrist], whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:7-9)
- E. All this and more, Christ willingly laid down for His creation that would mostly reject Him, despise Him and kill Him.
⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant (voluntary slave), and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, (Phil. 2:6-9)
- F. It's hard to imagine the great humility that was involved in the Word becoming flesh (Jn 1:14). Imagine putting off your body and taking on the body of rodent; you live with rodents, you eat their food and drink their drink. Two striking humiliations would occur:
1. You must accept the limitation of living as a rat. For no rodent could form the words and ideas of a human being. No rodent could accomplish what a human being could. Further, even if you were to communicate the wonders of living as a human the rodents would not understand you.
 2. Second, you must accept the living condition of rodents. You no longer live with those that you most enjoy, you are *limited* in your reach back to the human world.

...yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. (2 Cor. 8:9)

V. GOD WITH US

Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a son, and they shall call Him Emmanuel, (which means God with us). (Matt 1:23)

- A. The messenger of the Lord, the angel Gabriel, gave this message to the young girl, Mary. It is a reference to the words of Isaiah the prophet:
- ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. (Is. 7:14)***

- B. The Christ, who came from the Father, would be given shockingly high and lofty titles. He was more than an heir of King David, He was more than an awaited conqueror, He was God, the Savior of the World.

³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; 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 of His kingdom there will be no end.” (Lk. 1:31-33)

21 And [Mary] will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Mt. 1:21)