

Introduction: The story of the birth of Jesus Christ is a miracle hidden in plain sight. In our modern world that has little place for the supernatural, so many Christmas cards and pictures show a young mother and her baby son. The birth of THE Son of God is reduced to a heartwarming Hallmark special. The reality is much more mind-blowing. *** God is Spirit. For all eternity, going back to before the physical universe was created, there was always God. Then He created spirit beings. Before creating the physical universe the three 'persons' of God agreed that the second 'person', God's Son –The Savior-King, would one day take on the body of humans (God's final creation) to rescue rebellious people from themselves (Revelation 13:5-10; Genesis 3:14-19). *** Think about what happened. A young virgin conceives a boy-child when the third 'person', The Holy Spirit, comes over her. Because she is a human, the baby boy born to her is The Son of Man; but, because His Father is God, He is also at the same time The Son of God (Luke 1:26-38). There has been nothing like this before or since. The eternal Spirit second 'person' of God became a flesh and blood human after a supernatural miraculous conception! *** This is so much more than a young mother and her baby son. Can our finite human minds ever truly grasp how the infinite second 'person' Spirit God became human by becoming a fertilized ovum in a young virgin? The contrast is unimaginable; but, this is how God brought salvation to a broken human race. *** With this scratching of the surface of the miracle that brought The Savior of the world into the world some two thousand years ago, let's look at the introduction to John's Gospel account of Jesus, written in poetic language, with the open hearts and minds of children.

I. The Word is God, The Light to whom John witnessed so all may believe; He comes to those not knowing or receiving Him, but all who receive and believe become God's children. (John 1:1-13)

A. The eternal Word is Creator God, The Light of Life shining in darkness; John witnessed to this Light so all may believe. (Verses 1-8)

1. In beginning was The Word, and The Word was with The God, and God was The Word; this One was in beginning with The God. (Verses 1-2)

The Word – God: The Word (later equated with Jesus Christ) is eternally both with and equal to God; but, the grammar indicates The God is more than just The Word. So, God is more than one 'person'.

2. All things have been through Him, and without Him has been not one which has been. (Verse 3)

Creator: The Word created everything – as God, with God.

3. In Him, Life was being, and The Life was being The Light of the men; and, The Light in the darkness is shining, and the darkness it has not overtaken. (Verses 4-5)

He is The Life: Jesus, The Word, is in His very essence Life – a Life shining Light.

The Light of men: The Light that is The Savior-Word, is light given to all mankind, all people.

Darkness: This living Word-Light is always shining in the darkness, and darkness has neither understood Him nor been able to apprehend, grasp, or overcome The Light. Commonsense affirms this metaphor: when a light-switch is flicked in a dark room it is no longer dark but full of light.

4. A man was [who] had been sent by God, his name: John; this one came to witness that he might bear witness concerning The Light, that all might believe through him; this one was not being The Light, but in order that he might bear witness concerning The Light. (Verses 6-8)

John: John's name means 'Yahweh (is) Grace'. He was God's gift preparing the way for his younger cousin, Jesus (Isaiah 40:3; Matthew 3:3; Mark1:3).

Witness: He was not The Light. His assignment from God was to bear witness (beforehand) concerning The Light.

Result: God intended that because of John's ministry of 'tough' Grace (Repent!) all might believe in The Word.

B. The True Light is coming into the world that did not know Him, and His own did not receive Him; but as many as received became God's Children. (Verses 9-13)

1. The True Light was being, which is enlightening every man, is coming into the world; in the world He was being, and the world became through Him, and the world not knew of Him. (Verses 9-10)

The True Light: The Truth of The Word's Light makes the light of lamps, even the light of the sun, unnecessary (Revelation 22:4-50).

Coming: He and His Light are continually coming into the world of darkness where we all live.

Not knowing: But, sadly, people of this world cannot know The Word, The True Light, without the Grace and enabling power of God (John 6:43-44, 63-65).

2. To His own He came, and those, His own, Him they did not receive. (Verse 11)

Own not receive: The Jews had the books of Moses, the former (historic) and latter (Torah updaters and enforcers) prophets, and the writings – both Psalms and wisdom. In all of these books, The Holy Spirit had given much about the coming Messiah-Redeemer; but, many Jews failed to see Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of God's inspired written Word.

3. But as many as received Him, He gave to them power, children of God to become – those believing IN His Name. (Verse 12)

Gift of power: By Grace, God gave people the ability to both decide and act concerning the eternal Word, The True Light who brings Life to people with dead spirits.

God's children: No one can earn the right to be a child of God, but 'as many as' – anyone – who will receive The Word becomes God's child.

Believing: And, God's children are given Grace to continue to believe in The Name of His Son.

4. Which [children] not from blood, nor from will of flesh, nor from will of man, but from of God they have been born. (Verse 13)

Nothing of men: Human flesh and blood and willpower are insufficient to become children of God.

From God: But, as Jesus would later tell Nicodemus, whoever continually and fully believes IN Him, will be 'born from above' (from God, John 3:1-21).

II. The Word became flesh: from His fullness all have abundant Grace, through Jesus Christ is Grace and Truth; no one has seen God: the unique God has revealed Him. (John 1:14-18)

A. The Word became flesh and 'tented' with people full of Grace and Truth, John bearing witness to His priority. (Verses 14-15)

1. The Word, flesh became, and He lived among us and we contemplated His Glory, Glory as the only (unique) from Father, full of Grace and Truth. (Verse 14)

Became flesh: The incarnation, Spirit-God taking on human flesh, is an incredible miracle! The conception was not by a human man, but by The Holy Spirit of God, so people might be saved.

The eternal Spirit-Savior took on human flesh

Tabernacled: The word used for living (or dwelling) among people is literally 'tabernacled in a tent'.

Grace and Truth: People who saw Him, by looking at Him intently, perceived He was paradoxically full of Grace AND Truth. How many times are truth-telling people graceless? And how many times do people show grace at the expense of being totally truthful?

Jesus became man to Love us by showing Grace and Truth

2. John is bearing witness of Him and had cried out [even now], saying, 'This one was being of whom I spoke, 'He after me is coming had been before me because first over me He was being'. (Verse 15)

John witnessed: John continually witnessed to the Truth of The Word who is The Light of life,

Eternal priority: Humanly speaking John was five months older than his cousin (Luke 1:26-31).

But because The Word has been eternally God, John knew He has supreme priority over him.

B. From His fullness believers received Grace for Grace, because law from Moses, Grace and Truth through Jesus Christ; no one has seen God: The unique God, in the Father, He has revealed Him. (Verses 16-18)

1. Out of the fullness of Him we have all received, and Grace upon Grace. (Verse 16)

From His fullness: From The Word who took on human flesh, those who have received Him and are believing IN Him experience the fullness of salvation.

The eternal Spirit-Savior took on human flesh

Grace upon Grace: Salvation is one gift of grace after another: forgiveness of sins, light after darkness, spiritual life after spiritual death, adoption after estrangement ...

2. For the Law through Moses was given, The Grace and The Truth through Jesus Christ has come. (Verse 17)

Gift of 'Law': The 'Law' is detailed instructions from God on how to live in His Grace and blessing – if people could in their own strength. But, soon after Creation, the man and the woman failed to live in obedience to God.

From then until Jesus Christ became human, the 'Law' was curse not a blessing.

Through Jesus Christ: In the first coming of The Savior-King (translating His Name into English) He loved people to the extent of dying in their place so they could perceive His Grace and Truth.

Jesus became man to Love us by showing Grace and Truth

3. God, no man has ever seen at any time; the only (unique) God, who is being in the bosom of The Father, this One has revealed [God]. (Verse 18)

Invisible God: God was invisible until His Son, The Word of Light and Life, took on human flesh to save people who received Him and continue to believe IN Him.

Son revealed: This Son revealed to people the character of God. He taught with authority (Matthew 7:28-29), and the works His Father gave Him to complete and that He did (John 6:36), were all done as The Son of Man – God in human flesh.

The eternal Spirit-Savior took on human flesh

C. The heart of faith. (Psalm 130:5-8 – Song of Ascent)

1. I wait for Yahweh, my soul does wait, / and in His Word I hope: // my soul for Adonai / more than watchmen for the morning / for the morning. (Verses 5-6)

Wait: The psalmist waits by binding himself to The Covenant God and hoping in His Word. His soul waits for his Lord more than a night watchman waits for dawn and a lessening of danger.

2. Hope, Israel, in Yahweh; / because with Yahweh there is steadfast Love, / and abundantly with Him [is] ransom. // And He will ransom, Israel / from all his iniquities. (Verses 7-8)

Steadfast Love: The steadfast Love of Yahweh for people was most demonstrated when He sent His Son to take on human flesh to ransom (buy-back) sinful humanity, saving them by Grace and faith in His death and resurrection for them.

The eternal Spirit-Savior took on human flesh

Last word: We all need to have hearts filled with the hope born of the patience of waiting for The Savior's second coming, while we enjoy the peace that comes from experiencing His strong, self-giving, life-changing Love.

Conclusion: The eternal Word is God, The Light who came into the darkness of a world that had not seen God. Those in the world did not know Him and His own did not receive Him, but John witnessed to Him as The Word who became flesh, full of Grace and Truth, the revealer of the invisible God. All who receive Him by believing Him become God's children with abundant Grace and having hearts filled with faith.

The eternal Spirit-Savior took on human flesh.