

Christmas Eve 12-24-01
The Word Became Flesh
Luke 2:1-20, John 1:1-14

John the Beloved wrote a different account of the birth of Christ than Matthew and Luke. Writing much later, he contemplated the birth from an eternal spiritual perspective. He wrote: "In the beginning was the Word (logos) and the Word was with God and the Word was God, the same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made...The Word (logos) became flesh, and dwelt among us." John 1:1-3,14 Eternal God began the existence of time and space with LOGOS. That is, He spoke. And the Word – LOGOS – issued forth in His creative splendor. Scripture tells us that the angelic hosts were in such awe that burst into song. (Job 38:6,7) We think of Jesus as the painting in the vestibule – a likeness of his incarnated form. For a moment, consider Him before the birth in Bethlehem. LOGOS – the heart of God – eternal, unchangeable truth, utter holiness, eternally existing in perfection.

In Col 1:15-17 (NIV) the Apostle Paul wrote of Jesus, ¹⁵ *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*¹⁶ *For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.*¹⁷ *He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

That babe in the manger is the promised Seed of Eve. He walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden. He covenanted with Abraham. He appeared to Isaac and Jacob passing the promise down through them. He met with Moses in the burning bush and on the smoking mountaintop. He was the Rock from which a river flowed to quench a nation's thirst. He is the One the prophet Moses said would come to Whom we must listen. He stood before Joshua as the Captain of the Armies of Heaven. He was with Gideon like a mighty warrior. He whispered Samuel's name when Samuel was still a child. LOGOS met with David under the night sky and delivered him from the paw of the lion, the bear, Goliath, and Saul. He gave Solomon a portion of His wisdom. He spoke in a still small voice to Elijah the words of warning and comfort. He told us through Isaiah that we would call Him Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, and Prince of Peace. And through Isaiah and David, He told us how He would die for us.

For 400 years He did not speak, creating a hunger in the heart of man for His appearing. For 4000 years He prepared man for the perfect moment to step out of eternity and into this world of time. And then after that long period of silence He shouted through John the Baptist, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is imminent." With sudden words of warning like that, you would think He would be born the son of a Caesar. But He did not choose the body of a nobleman or a warrior, but that of a baby born to a peasant girl. LOGOS became a man! Yet He has never changed. He is still all that He was in ages past, but now in human form.

And Dwelt Among Us

The Seed that God told Eve would come from her and crush the head of Satan, the same Savior promised to come through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David, was born. The persistent promise of 4000 years had finally been fulfilled. The hands that made the stars and set this earth in orbit became the hands of a newborn. The One that caused Moses face to glow had set aside His glory. The Captain of the armies of heavenly angels who stood before Joshua was now a defenseless child. The Instrument of Creation had entered His own creation. WHY?

Please consider this. He set aside His scepter so that you could one-day rule with Him. He left His throne in heaven so that He could share it with you. He abandoned His glory so that you would be clothed in it. He left heaven so that you could one day leave earth. No wonder angels had to burst into song before the shepherds, "Glory in the highest, peace on earth toward men of good will." They broke out in song when He made it all, and again when He came to redeem it all. Unlike man who stingily clings to anything that sets him above others, Jesus joy is sharing it with you. Would you want any other Lord?

LOGOS in a feed trough – How could that possibly be?
He's Manna from heaven – Bread of Life to you and me!

That little baby would grow up to die the most torturous death ever invented, but through it conquer death and hell and be crowned forever King of kings and Lord of Lords. He **will** return to this earth and every knee will bow and every being in heaven and earth **will** declare Him Master over all! Just as the prophecies of His birth were fulfilled, you can be as certain that those of His coming again will surely take place. He will judge the living and the dead and reign forever in righteousness and justice. This is the ONE whose incarnation we celebrate. This is the baby in the manger.

To share in the victory His innocent death accomplished for you, you need only forsake your rebellion against Him, and receive all that He has done for you. I recently heard what is said to be a true story of man whose family had gone to church. He didn't have time for religion; felt it was for weaker people who needed a crutch. He thought the myth of God becoming man was a great story but nothing more. As he was running over these thoughts in his mind, a bird flew through his open window. Opening the largest window in the room he tried to chase the bird out the window. The more he tried the more panicked the bird became. Then the thought crossed his mind, "If only I could become a bird and show it the way to safety." Then, like a bolt of lightning, it dawned on him. That was exactly what God had done for him. It was a moment of revelation that gripped his soul and dropped him to his knees.

God in a feed trough – How could that possibly be?
He's Manna from heaven – Bread of Life to you and me!