

sWinterHaven 120722 midwk adv. (Rework of J. Schierenbeck) John 1:1-14

Fellow Redeemed by the blood of Jesus, the Eternal Word,

During this Advent - Christmas season we are talking about the names that were given to the baby born in Bethlehem. All these **names** say something about who he is and what he came to do. The Apostle John tells the story of Jesus' birth in these opening chapter of his Gospel. But what John writes in the verses I just read, **does not sound at all** like the Christmas Story we know from the Luke's Gospel! – Did you hear anything about the manger, the shepherds or the angels, as I read from John?

No. That's because John wants to tell us **more about who this Jesus really is**. In chapter 20, John tells us **WHY** this is so important: **“. . . these things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."**

Do you see how many times John speaks of **"The Word"** in the first four verses of our text? John tells the story of **The Word**. Now jump ahead to v. 14 where John says **"The Word became flesh and dwelt or lived among us."** So it is very clear that John is calling Jesus **"The Word" who took on the flesh of mankind and lived on the earth.**

This WORD is the eternal revelation of God's love and God's salvation for lost sinners **in the flesh of man!** So John tells us in v. 18 of this chapter that **"No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has *declared* Him."**

The miracle of Christmas is not the story of a baby born in Bethlehem on a "Silent Night" while shepherds watched their flocks and the angels sang glory to God. The **miracle of Christmas is that this Child was and IS "The Word" – the eternal God!** Whether the message of Christmas reaches the hearts of sinners for their eternal salvation, **depends upon their knowing Who the babe of Bethlehem really is!** This is why John

opening words take us back to the **first words of the Bible** – “**in the beginning.**” Let’s follow along to know ***Who the Bethlehem Baby really is!***

We are told that **The Word** or **LOGOS** in the original Greek, was there in the beginning when there was nothing but God. The WORD was with God when God created the heavens and the earth. But even more than being “**with God,**” **The Word “was God.”** This is beyond our puny human understanding! Yet this is the **miraculous truth** about that Baby born in the manger in Bethlehem! John confesses this Christmas that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal, second person of the Trinity, true God with the Father and the Holy Spirit. This Jesus born of Mary, who grew up to **die** on the cross, **is the eternal Son of God!**

This is emphasized by what the WORD **did**. For John continues in v. 3: “**All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.**” This Babe, born of Mary, was the Creator of the entire universe! The world he came into was **made by him!** As we are also told in Paul’s letter to the Christians in Colossae: “**For by Him (Jesus) all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.**”

What did God create on the 1st Day? – **light**. Light is necessary for physical life **IN** the world, but **The WORD** is the “**Light OF** the world.” The eternal WORD is the light who gives **spiritual** life to a world **dead** in sins and trespasses! When Adam and Eve sinned, death entered into God’s creation. But God in His mercy, restored life by sending **The Word** into this **sin-darkened world!** In the deep, darkness of the Judean night, the light of the world shined in Bethlehem!

God sent John the Baptizer as a witness to prepare the way for the promised Savior of sinners – The Word. But John tells us in vs. 11-12 that **The Word Who IS** the “**Light of the world,**” “**was in the world, and the**

world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him." So, neither the world which was created by Jesus, nor His own people recognized Him and believe in Him as their Savior! Yet God's grace won the hearts of those who **"received Him."** For to all who received him, **God "gave the right to be children of God"!**

Now notice **how it is** that those who **"believe" in Jesus' "name"** become **"the children of God."** John says in v. 13 that **God's children "were NOT born of *blood ancestry (from being a Jew like Jesus)*, NOR because their parents got together as man and wife, NOR because a sinner CHOOSES by His own WILL to believe.**

NO! This **faith in Jesus** which makes sinners **children of God**, is the **GIFT and birthing-WORK of God ALONE!**

As we prepare for the **Advent or coming of Christ at Christmas**, we are reminded by John of **Who the Babe in the manger really IS – "The Word"** that existed before Creation, **the eternal Son of God, Who became flesh like us yet without sin!**

This Babe of Bethlehem, is **"Immanuel – "God with us"!** **THE WORD** made flesh is the revelation of God's love to you today. **Jesus came to take our place!** He became **human** to experience the consequences of **your sins and mine!** In the midst of earthly sorrow, fear and loneliness, God's love is revealed and proclaimed in the **Divine LOGOS** or **WORD made flesh.** God's Son became man in order that he might taste **death for us and free us from the power of death!**

If you are looking for **hope** in this world of sin, look to **"the Child of Hope"** born in a stable, laid in a donkey's feed-box in Bethlehem 2,200 years ago! When you doubt God's love and care for you in your lives, remember that God's saving grace and truth are revealed to your **faith** in the glory of **THE ETERNAL WORD WHO BECAME FLESH!** Amen.