

... these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, ...

John 20:31

Store In My Heart 2Chronicles 1:1

Solomon the son of David established himself in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him and made him exceedingly great.

Second Chronicles continues the story of Judah. It begins with the reign of Solomon and looks at the glory and splendor of his time as king over the nation of Israel. Much of the book, though, relates the sad story of the fall of Judah into sin. This led to the exile of the nation to Babylon. God is faithful to His people and the close of this record tells of the decree which allowed the Jews to return to their land.

Even though Judah as a nation failed to serve God and thus suffered punishment in exile, God remembered His promise to the fathers and a faithful remnant was allowed to return. We need to remember God's faithfulness. He is always ready to lead us when we submit to His Will.



Before Jesus was Born

Doy Moyer

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke both speak to various details concerning the birth of Jesus Christ. The Gospel of Mark says nothing about these details, but rather jumps right into the work of John and then immediately to the baptism, temptations, and beginning of Jesus' public ministry. The Gospel of John is entirely different in how it begins, for John starts not from the birth of Jesus or His public ministry, but rather even before Jesus came into the world. John established something vital about the identity of Jesus prior to His becoming a man. He is God. He is Creator. He is the Life and Light of the world:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:1-5, ESV).

"In the beginning" ties back to the opening words of Scripture (**Genesis 1:1**). "God created," but John now reveals how involved Jesus was in the creation. Jesus was already there with the Father, and He is not a created being. Rather, He is Himself God and "all things were made through Him." In fact, John says, there was nothing created that was made without Him. If nothing was created without Him, then He is not created. He is the Creator.

John not only refers to Jesus as God, but also as the Word. Jesus is the Logos, and while this term has deep implications about Jesus, this stresses that Jesus is the communication of God to man. In verse 18, John wrote that Jesus has made the Father known. This same concept is found in other places. For example, Jesus affirmed his unity with the Father in **John 14:9**, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." In **John 10:30**, Jesus claimed, "I and the Father are one." While no one has seen the fullness of God's glory (cf. **1Timothy 6:16**), Jesus came to reveal God to mankind, to communicate God's message and God's will. God has indeed "spoken to us by his Son" (**Hebrews 1:1-3**).

Before Jesus was born, He was life and light, and He came into the

world to communicate and manifest His life and light to a world that had plunged into death and darkness because of sin. Once again, John connects to **Genesis** and the first recorded words spoken by God, *“Let there be light.”* While God provided physical light for the creation, the provision of light pointed to a much greater Light that would come through Jesus. This highlights a theme of John’s Gospel. *“I am the light of the world,”* Jesus claimed (**John 8:12; 9:5; 12:35-36**). This theme culminates in the new heavens and new earth where there is no night, *“for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it”* (**Revelation 21:23-24**). *“The Lord God will be their light”* (**Revelation 22:5**).

As Jesus is light, so also He is life. That anyone could be born into this world at all required a source of life in the first place. John affirms that Jesus is that source even before creation. Jesus has *“life in Himself”* (**John 5:26**). This also speaks to the power Jesus has for resurrection. As He claimed so powerfully before raising Lazarus, *“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die”* (**John 11:25-26**). Because of who Jesus is and what He did, we have the hope of resurrection and eternal life.

Jesus, then, in whom is life and light from eternity, *“became flesh and dwelt among us”* (**John 1:14**). John now affirms the incarnation. Before He was born, the identity of Jesus is clearly divine. He is the *“I AM”* (**John 8:58**). Yet He came in the flesh to communicate God in such a way that we may behold His glory, *“glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”* He “tabernacled” among us as God’s temple. He is *“God with us.”* Yet John also shows that the great display of God’s glory through Jesus was found in the love He demonstrated by going to the cross. *“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself”* (**John 12:32**).

Before Jesus was born, He was, and is always, God. He was manifested in the flesh to bring His light into the dark world so that *“you may become sons of light”* (**John 12:36**). While the birth of Jesus is a marvelous event, what makes that event so great is the fact of who Jesus is from eternity.

(I think this article fits well with our study in the Gospel of John on Wednesday evenings. Doy makes some of the connections that we have talked about as well as a few we have yet to study. I hope you will take some time to look at John’s Gospel in “light” of what is written here. I think it could help with our understanding of John’s points about our belief in Jesus as God’s Son. DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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For Our Information

Gloria Hurst still has a good deal of pain though her fluid removal surgery was successful.

Vickie McNees has an infection.

Marvin Butler is continuing to improve slowly.

Sue Soliday has been recovering from a fall.

Paula Laubach’s poison ivy is getting better, but it will take a few weeks to get cleared up.

Deana Leshner is doing better as she recovers from surgery.

Shannon Soliday has been in Indiana this past week.

Sunday Evening – **Nehemiah 3** Wednesday - **John 3:22**

The
CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study