

12/12/2022. Who is the Baby Jesus? A television interviewer was walking streets of Tokyo at Christmas time. Much as in America, Christmas shopping is a big commercial success in Japan. The interviewer stopped one young woman on the sidewalk, and asked, "What is the meaning of Christmas?" Laughing, she responded, "I don't know. Is that the day that Jesus died?"

In a sense there is a profound truth to her answer. I don't know!

This world is happy to let Jesus Christ be a baby in a manger, but do not want Him to be God. Yet that is the central truth of the Christmas story: the Child of Christmas is God!

The core of all Christmas truth. God with us...Immanuel

NLT Matt 1:22 All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: ²³ "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" The prophecy of Isa 7:14

- People love Him as an infant, But they cannot bear the thought of God in human flesh.
- People even sing of His nativity, but reject His authority.

I. Christmas is not just about the Savior's infancy; it is about His deity. The humble birth of Jesus Christ was never intended to conceal the reality that God took on a human body to be born into the world.

But that is the world...Yet often we who believe Jesus is God in the flesh still walk in great fear even though He is with us!

Why? our biggest fears are based on a misunderstanding of who God is...

- **Our first mistake is thinking he is like us by nature...He is not like us by nature ...He is God.....**
- **Even when he became human...he did not give up his God DNA...he is God with us!!**

****NU 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?*

- **He is not a man...so he does not have the fallibilities or limitations of man**
- **What God says he will do he does**
- **What he promises he fulfills...**

There are two things about God which should really really impress us...to the degree it is pressed into us!

1. **He never fails... You will find no scripture not one that says...God failed...God tried really hard but it did not work out**
2. **He is never afraid... You will find no scripture not one that says: God was afraid...trouble came and God was paralyzed with fear...or ran away and hid in some tall grass**

So this means that anything God ultimately wants to happen will...100% happen... .. God is not afraid of failure for he cannot fail...nor be thwarted in his plans.....

Understood this truth...

*ISA 46:10 I make known the **end from** the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.*

you see God...he is never afraid of anything... for he knows the beginning from the end... because he is the beginning and is the end.. He knows how it will turn out...and it will turn out as he wants it to....he is Almighty! Nothing is more mighty than he!

NLT Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end," says the **Lord God**. "I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the **Almighty One**."

- He never fears that what he does will not turn out well...that is why following God is the wisest choice you can ever make, at any time in any circumstance...
- Our problem is we are four dimensional...height/length, width and depth...time....in other words we are in one place....at a time

We live in time and time linear...it move along a line...start to finish.....so we are linear...we are at one place at a time...if I am here, I am not there...

Now God has no such problem... for he exist Beyond these four visible dimensions...in dimensions beyond the physical/natural...into the invisible/supernatural... and had absolute control over them both...

But he has given us a way to kind of grasp his power...using our own visible dimensions

We humans are vastly different than The Lord!

ISA 55:8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD

Then he gives us two comparisons using our own visible dimensions

ISA 55:9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- **Let's put this into perspective ...How much higher and different is that? How much are his ways better than ours?**
- **Let look at the heavens are higher than the earth..**

Astronomers have located Galaxies 12.3 billion light years from earth.

- **To grasp this...consider the fact that the sun is 93 million miles away...and that light escaping the sun travels at 186,000 miles per second reaches the earth in about 8 minutes.**
- **If we walk outside right now...the light rays you feel will be eight minutes old.**
- **Tim put this up Now light from the furthest galaxy traveling at 186,000 miles a second takes 12.3 billion years to reach us....that distance is virtually incomprehensible!!**
- **His ways or methods or plans are at least 12.3 billion light years better and more comprehensive than ours...**
- **So God has taken into consideration over 12.3 billion possible unforeseen events that could hinder his will, and 12.3 billion possible attempts to derail his will while also devising the appropriate counter moves to still accomplish his will... without breaking a sweat!**
- **It is embarrassing how routinely We give our thinking way to much credit. And sell him way to short... by at least 12.3 billion light years....**
- **So... your most thought out descision taking into every contingency you can think of on your best dayof planning, falls 12.3 billion light years short of God planning capabilities.**
- **But wait there is more...**

- **Not only are his ways that much more comprehensive...His thinking is that much more comprehensive than ours...**

ISA 55:9.....so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- Let me give you another example... comparing his thinking and processing power to ours...
- According to the TOP500 rankings for 2022, is the Frontier Super Computer.
- The USA made Frontier is built by Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) and is housed at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Tennessee, USA.
- **The Frontier is the first exascale supercomputer. This means it is capable of more than a billion times a billion operations a second (known as an Exaflop).**
- **Tim put this up...To give us some perspective A billion is 1 with 9 zeros behind it**
- **A billion times a billion $1,000,000,000 \times 1,000,000,000 =$ a quintillion..... that is, a 1 followed by 18 zeros. $1,000,000,000,000,000,000$ or 10^{18} ...a quintillion has 6 groups of zeros in 3s**
- To achieve such formidable processing speeds, a supercomputer needs to be big. Each of Frontier's 74 cabinets is as heavy as a pick-up truck, and the \$600 million machine has to be cooled by 6,000 gallons of water a minute.
- However, **A quintillion calculations a second is painfully slow and laughable to God who took every contingency of creation into account from beginning to end before a nanosecond had even ticked off the clock of time.**
- You cannot see it, hear it, imagine it or conceive it...but it is there...

- Which is exactly what the Bible says about Jesus!
- John's gospel begins with a clear statement that Jesus is God: And **Jesus Christ is the Agent of Creation.**

John 1: 1 In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He existed in the beginning with God. ³ God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.

- He was there at the beginning and he will be there at the end. And he is the Lord of everything in between.
- Truly he is the Alpha and Omega, the Creator, the Lord, the King.

He is also the Heir of all things...

Nlt Hebrews 1:2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

- **To say that God has appointed Jesus heir of all things means that God has given everything to his Son.** The deepest oceans. The farthest stars. The darkest corners. The highest mountains. It all belongs to him.
- Today it doesn't appear that everything belongs to Jesus because Satan is a squatter who illegally claims the earth as his domain. But in the end Satan will be overthrown and Jesus installed as the rightful king of the universe.

Because Jesus will also exert all authority

Eph 1:9 God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. ¹⁰ And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.

- **This means that when you come to the end of everything, Jesus is there! It may seem from a brief glance at the scoreboard that Satan is winning in the cosmic struggle between good and evil. But those who stand with Jesus will find themselves on the victorious side.**

So lets make this personal...Not only did the Lord Jesus create the universe, he also created you and me.

*NLT Psa 139:*¹³ *You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.* ¹⁴ *Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.* ¹⁵ *You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.*

¹⁶ *You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.*

¹⁷ *How precious are your thoughts about me,^[b] O God. They cannot be numbered!*

¹⁸ *I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand!*

- **Another comparison to something we can relate too...sand...and something we cannot see...God's thoughts...**
- **It is an amazing and wonderful thing to realize that God devised His plan, and is perfectly executing the plan, so that we could be with him forever...**
- **That God would want his messed up creatures to live for eternity in a relationship with Him as family is beyond comprehension.**
- **I cannot understand it, and neither can anyone fully comprehend the This child in the manger was the incarnation of God. end**

End

- *We owe every part of our physical existence to the Lord Jesus Christ.*
- **And he chose us to be his before he made us!**

NLT Eph 1:3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.^[b] ⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

¹¹ Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God,^[c] for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

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- **The US has taken the top spot in the race to build the world's fastest supercomputer.**

end

Light Rays Meaning

The term **light rays** often brings to mind a stream of light flowing through the sky or off of car headlights in the dark. However, not all light rays are visible, as there are infinite rays off of any given light. These infinite rays make up the electromagnetic spectrum. The human eye can only see visual light wavelengths between approximately 400 and 700 nanometers on the spectrum. The spectrum also contains light that we cannot see. Things like ultraviolet waves, x-rays, and gamma rays are contained on the blue side of the spectrum. Whereas radio waves, microwaves, and infrared waves are on the red side. None of which are visible.



Electromagnetic Visible Spectrum

In physics and optics, **light rays**, such as the stream from a flashlight, are simply a model of light. Although light is considered a wave with peaks and troughs, a line drawn through them at 90 degrees will produce a light ray in the direction the energy flows. Light can be reflected in other directions, like bouncing off of mirrors. It can also be refracted, like bending light through transparent materials. Both reflection and refraction are considered **ray tracing**.

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he past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ([Hebrews 1:1-3](#)).

I. He is the Heir of All Things.

“Whom he appointed heir of all things” ([Hebrews 1:2](#)).

- God has appointed Jesus as heir of all things. I understand this from a personal point of view. When my mother died earlier this year, I found out that my name had been written in her will. That meant that along with my brothers and sisters, I shared in my mother's estate.
- Just as my children are named in my will. And after I'm gone, they can go through my clothes and take anything they like. It's fine with me because I'm planning on a new wardrobe when I get to heaven.
- To say that God has appointed Jesus heir of all things means that God has given everything to his Son. The deepest oceans. The farthest stars. The darkest corners. The highest mountains. It all belongs to him.
- Today it doesn't appear that everything belongs to Jesus because Satan is a squatter who illegally claims the earth as his domain. But in the end Satan will be overthrown and Jesus installed as the rightful king of the universe.

- This means that when you come to the end of everything, Jesus is there! It may seem from a brief glance at the scoreboard that Satan is winning in the cosmic struggle between good and evil. But as they say in the election business, those are just “partial returns.” When all the votes are counted, those who stand with Jesus will find themselves on the victorious side.

And we are part of that inheritance...

⁴The Word gave life to everything that was created,^[a]
and his life brought light to everyone.

⁵The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.[†]

- Who is "the Word" spoken of in these verses?

2. Verse 14 removes any doubt:

¹⁴ So the Word became human^[a] and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.^[a] And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son. ¹⁵ John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, “This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.’”

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- It is an amazing and wonderful thing to realize that God devised His plan, created us, and is perfectly executing the plan, so that we could be with him forever...

- **That God would want his messed up creatures to live for eternity in a relationship with Him as family is beyond comprehension.**
- **I cannot understand it, and neither can anyone fully comprehend the This child in the manger was the incarnation of God.**
- ***Philippians 3:** ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

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- **This child in the manger was the incarnation of God.** The light of the world....

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So God's plan in a sense is hidden in plain sight!...it is working but you cannot see it all

- He gives enough to believe in and stand under...but not enough to know how, when or with whom...until necessary...
- Now that is power!
- HIS plans will take place in HIS ways in HIS time...and that I am not the one who gets to direct His will...but rather participate in it!
- When things seem most out of control...He is most in control! We cannot proclaim to be believers in the Sovereignty of God and then freak out at the first sign of the wheels coming off!

- **Understand this...no matter what happens...no matter WHAT happens...God is still God...He still reigns...He is not worried...we shouldn't be either!**
- **NLT Matt 1:22** All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:
²³ "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" Isa 7:14 **The Lord's strategy...of choosing the family disguised in plain sight...**
- And his work in your life ...is hidden in plain sight

Merry Christmas...

end

end

This child in the manger was the incarnation of God.

So no wonder he never has fear...he never fails...

When we follow God ...we will get to where he wants us to go...so we ought to be the most stress less people in the world...but alas...we often are not...why???

Because God will usually ask us to do things that appear to us to be against the odds...usually coupled with poor timing...

- *Ever notice that when God asks us to do something... It goes against our better judgment...now that's an oxymoron*
- *It goes against our best thinking*
- *Goes against our logic*
- *Doesn't make sense...*
- *Were afraid it will fail...*
- *or possibly it seems like a good idea...but not now...bad timing!!*

F. Nor can anyone explain how God could become a baby.

1. Yet He did.

2. Without forsaking His divine nature or diminishing His deity in any sense, He was born into our world as a tiny infant.

3. People often ask He cried, or if He needed the normal care and feeding one would give any other baby.
4. Of course He did ... He was fully human, with all the needs and emotions that are common to every human.
5. Yet He was also fully God - all wise and all powerful.
6. How can both things be true? I don't know.
7. But the Bible clearly teaches that it is so.

III. In some sense, Jesus voluntarily Suspended the full application of His divine attributes.

- A. He didn't give up being God, but He willingly gave up the independent use of the privileges and powers that were His as God.

NLT Philippians 2: ⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- B. He chose to subject His will to His Father's will.

John 6:38, ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

- C. Through all that He remained fully God.
- D. For nearly 2,000 years, debate has been raging about who Jesus really is.
 1. Cults and skeptics have offered various explanations.

2. They'll say He is one of many gods, a created being, a high angel, a good teacher, a prophet, and so on.
3. **The common thread of all such theories is that they make Jesus less than God.**

E. But let the Bible speak for itself.

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end

IV. this child in the manger was the incarnation of God.

A. For one thing, He was omniscient.

1. Nathaniel was shocked to discover that Jesus knew all about him before they ever met.

2. It was enough to persuade him that Jesus was the Messiah.

NLT John 1: ⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Come, follow me." ⁴⁴ Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter's hometown.

⁴⁵ Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, "We have found the very person Moses[Ⓜ] and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth."

⁴⁶ "Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

"Come and see for yourself," Philip replied.

⁴⁷ As they approached, Jesus said, "Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity."

⁴⁸ "How do you know about me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus replied, "I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you."

⁴⁹ Then Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!"

⁵⁰ Jesus asked him, "Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." ⁵¹ Then he said, "I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth

3. Also at Jesus' meeting with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, He knew everything about her .

Jn. 4: ¹⁶ He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”¹⁷ “I have no husband,” she replied...Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet...²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

²¹ “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

²⁵ The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,

²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

When he argued with the Pharisees...

John 8: ²³ But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.” ²⁵ “Who are you?” they asked. “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,” Jesus replied. ²⁶ “I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.”

...⁵⁴ Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. ⁵⁵ Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷ “You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!”

⁵⁸ “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” ⁵⁹ At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

John 6:51 *I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats **this** bread will live forever. **This** bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”*

B. He also did the works of God.

John 14:11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

1. Jesus' works are convincing proof that He is God.
2. He began His miraculous ministry with a simple act, He created wine at a wedding in Cana (John 2:1-11).

John 2:1 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴ "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.⁸ Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so,⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside¹⁰ and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

3. Only God can create.
4. He also healed people who were hopelessly ill.

John 5:7 "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."⁸ Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

5. He gave blind man eyes to see.
6. He opened ears that had never heard.

He controlled nature...

Mark 4:⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”
⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

7. He restored withered limbs.
8. He created enough fish and bread to feed thousands.
9. He raised the dead by simply commanding them to come forth from the grave.

NLT John 5:³⁹ “You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! ⁴⁰ Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

NLT John 6:²⁸ They replied, “We want to perform God’s works, too. What should we do?”

²⁹ Jesus told them, “This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent.”

³⁰ They answered, “Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do? ³¹ After all, our ancestors ate manna while they journeyed through the wilderness! The Scriptures say, ‘Moses gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

³² Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, Moses didn’t give you bread from heaven. **My Father did.** And now he offers you the true bread from heaven. ³³ The true bread of God is the **one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**”

³⁸ For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. ³⁹ And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For it is my Father’s will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day.”

⁴¹ Then the people[Ⓜ] began to murmur in disagreement because he had said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴² They said, “Isn’t this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know his father and mother. How can he say, ‘I came down from heaven?’”

⁴³ But Jesus replied, “Stop complaining about what I said. ⁴⁴ For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up. ⁴⁵ As it is written in the

Scriptures,[□] 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. ⁴⁶ (Not that anyone has ever seen the Father; only I, who was sent from God, have seen him.)

⁴⁷ "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ Yes, I am the bread of life! ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness, but they all died. ⁵⁰ Anyone who eats the bread from heaven, however, will never die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh."

Let make this personal...

NLT Eph 1:3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.[□] ⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

⁹ God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. ¹⁰ And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. ¹¹ Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God,[□] for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

Who was this child? He was God. The Scriptures are clear even though the world seems content to keep Him as a seasonal decoration, the baby in the manger was God Almighty! He was the Savior of the world.

This Christmas...can you see Him for who He really is? Do you know Him as your personal Savior? **He came into this darkened world that we might literally see the light of His love and accept the greatest gift ever offered...eternal life!**

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- A. How do we explain the Almighty stooping to become a tiny infant?
- B. It was, of course, the greatest condescension the world has ever known or will ever know.

C. Our minds cannot begin to understand what was involved in God's becoming a man.

D. We will never comprehend why He who was infinitely rich would become poor.

E. Why He would assume a human nature, and enter into a world He knew would reject Him and kill Him.

And he chose you... **Think for a moment about these first two great statements. Jesus Christ is the Agent of Creation and the Heir of All Things.**

- **He was there at the beginning and he will be there at the end. And he is the Lord of everything in between.**
- **Truly he is the Alpha and Omega, the Creator, the Lord, the King.**
- **Let's make this more personal.** Not only did the Lord Jesus create the universe, he also created you and me. [Psalm 139:14](#) says that we were "fearfully and wonderfully made." **We owe every part of our physical existence to the Lord Jesus Christ.**

John 21:25 *Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.*

Who was this child? He was God. The Scriptures are clear even though the world seems content to keep Him as a seasonal decoration, the baby in the manger was God Almighty! He was the Savior of the world.

This Christmas...can you see Him for who He really is? Do you know Him as your personal Savior? **He came into this darkened world that we might literally see the light of His love and accept the greatest gift ever offered...eternal life!**

He is the light to whatever it is that cause darkness in you...

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by

his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ([Hebrews 1:1-3](#)).

I. He is the Heir of All Things.

“Whom he appointed heir of all things” ([Hebrews 1:2](#)).

- God has appointed Jesus as heir of all things. I understand this from a personal point of view. When my mother died earlier this year, I found out that my name had been written in her will. That meant that along with my brothers and sisters, I shared in my mother’s estate. Just as my children are named in my will. And after I’m gone, they can go through my clothes and take anything they like. It’s fine with me because I’m planning on a new wardrobe when I get to heaven.
- To say that God has appointed Jesus heir of all things means that God has given everything to his Son. The deepest oceans. The farthest stars. The darkest corners. The highest mountains. It all belongs to him.
- Today it doesn’t appear that everything belongs to Jesus because Satan is a squatter who illegally claims the earth as his domain. But in the end Satan will be overthrown and Jesus installed as the rightful king of the universe.
- This means that when you come to the end of everything, Jesus is there! It may seem from a brief glance at the scoreboard that Satan is winning in the cosmic struggle between good and evil. But as they say in the election business, those are just “partial returns.” When all the votes are counted, those who stand with Jesus will find themselves on the victorious side.

II. He is the Creator of the Universe.

Through whom also he made the universe” ([Hebrews 1:2](#)).

- *Jesus is the agent of creation and the Lord of the epochs of history.* At the Father’s command, he brought the universe into being and he wrote the script for the unfolding ages.
- Through him God made everything. There are really only two choices a person can make as he studies the universe.
- Either you believe that everything is the result of infinite time plus blind chance or you believe that the universe is the result of divine design. This means that all true science leads back to God a designer. All true biology leads to God. All true botany, all true chemistry, all true physics, all true geology, and all true astronomy leads back to God. The Father delegated to his Son the work of bringing the universe into being and nothing was made except through him.

Think for a moment about these first two great statements. Jesus Christ is the Agent of Creation and the Heir of All Things.

- **He was there at the beginning and he will be there at the end. And he is the Lord of everything in between.**
- **Truly he is the Alpha and Omega, the Creator, the Lord, the King.**

- [Let's make this more personal.](#) Not only did the Lord Jesus create the universe, he also created you and me. [Psalm 139:14](#) says that we were “fearfully and wonderfully made.” *We owe every part of our physical existence to the Lord Jesus Christ.*
- As one simple example, consider the intricacies of your own blood. [Leviticus 17:11](#) declares that “the life of the flesh is in the blood.”
- Here is a statement made 3500 years ago that scientists now tell us is 100% accurate. Blood is truly the fluid of life. Your blood is made up of cells and plasma. As the blood flows through the heart, it is pumped through arteries, veins and capillaries to every part of your body.
- The blood delivers oxygen and nutrients and removes waste products. Adults have about 5.3 quarts of blood—almost a gallon and a half. A little over half is plasma, which contains electrolytes, nutrients and vitamins, carbohydrates, cholesterol, hormones, clotting factors, and proteins such as albumin and immunoglobulins which are really antibodies that fight infection.
- The cellular portion contains red blood cells (carry oxygen from the lungs), white blood cells (fight infection), platelets (help clot the blood so you don't bleed to death). Plasma (the liquid portion of the blood) is 90% water, yet the 10% of material dissolved in it is absolutely crucial for proper bodily function.
- These various elements are pumped by the body as directed by the brain to the places where they are needed most.
- Plasma also contains substances called electrolytes, such as sodium, potassium, chloride, bicarbonate, calcium and magnesium. These vital chemicals help in such things as fluid balance, nerve conduction, muscle contraction, and blood clotting. At the same time the plasma removes waste and sends it to the kidneys and to the lungs.
- All during this never-ending process, there is pressure from the heart that sends the blood outward and there is pressure inside the vessels produced by proteins in the blood that keep the blood level constant and the pressure rightly adjusted.
- When you take medication, it is the blood that rushes it along to the place where it is needed.

The blood flows into the right side of the heart and then goes to the lungs where it deposits carbon dioxide and picks up oxygen. From there the blood goes back to the left side of the heart and then out to the various parts of the body. The average adult heart beats 72 times per minute. In the course of one day the heart beats over 100,000 times. In one year the heart beats almost 38 million times, and by the time you are 70 years old it has beat 2.5 billion times! An average heart pumps 1.3 gallons per minute. In other words it pumps 1,900 gallons per day, almost 700,000 gallons per year, or 48 million gallons by the time someone is 70 years old. That's not bad for a ten-ounce pump!

And this just scratches the surface of what the blood does and how it works. And blood is only one part of your body. How can anyone study the complexity of the human body and think that it all happened by chance? It takes more faith to believe that than to believe that your body was divinely created by God.

Jesus is the Lord of your blood. He created it just for you. Every drop comes from him and every drop is precious to him.

III. He is the Radiance of God's Glory.

“The Son is the radiance of God's glory” ([Hebrews 1:3](#)). The word for radiance was used for sunlight streaming from the sun. *Jesus is the blazing radiance of the glory of God.* What sunlight is to the sun, Jesus is to God. It would be easier to try to separate sunlight from the sun than to separate the Son from God.

- *If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus.* He is not some grimy, blurry image of the Almighty. He isn't the sun peeking through the clouds. He is the blazing, magnificent revelation of God himself.
- Jesus is a clear picture of God. He radiates the glory of God. Theologians have a word for this. **They say the Son is “co-essential” with the Father. That means the Father and the Son share the same essence. The Father is God and the Son is God.**

IV. He is the Exact Representation of God's Nature.

“**The exact representation of his being**” ([Hebrews 1:3](#)). The phrase “exact representation” comes from the Greek word *charakter*, from which we get the English word “character.” Jesus shares in the character and essence of God. This word was used for the impression made by an engraving tool when it was stamped into metal in order to make a coin. The image on the coin was precisely the image on the engraving tool. So Jesus is stamped with the image of God. This is why Saint Athanasius declared, “Jesus whom I know as my Redeemer cannot be less than God.”

He is the “radiance of God's glory” and the “exact representation of his being.” *These two expressions taken together are a powerful statement of the Son's full deity.* Theologians refer to Jesus as the “only-begotten.” **That term means “one-and-only.” We can truly say that not only is Jesus the Son of God, he is also God the Son. When we see Jesus Christ, we have seen as much of God as it is possible for us to see.**

V. He is the Sustainer of All Things.

“Sustaining all things by his powerful word” ([Hebrews 1:3](#)).

- There is a vast movement in science today seeking to discover what makes the universe hold together. What is the power behind the power behind the power? What is the Ultimate Force in the universe?
- *Our text makes clear that the answer is not a what but a who.* What makes the universe hold together? Jesus Christ is the power behind all power. He holds the universe in place by his powerful word.
- **Note that this is a present tense. Even now Jesus is “sustaining” the whole universe.** All things hold together in him and for him and by him. His power is greater than nuclear power and his force is mightier than the mystical Force of the Star Wars movies. His might is mightier than the might of all the mighty men on earth.

- Think of it. Were he to say the word, the universe would be no more. Just a word and we would all perish. Do you realize that if Jesus stopped thinking about you, you would cease to exist? You owe your next breath to the fact that Jesus Christ is thinking about you.
- He sustains you so that you can breathe. Without him, you would not be reading these words.
- Jesus is the nucleus of creation and “the glue of the galaxies.”

VI. He is our Savior.

“After he had provided purification for sins” ([Hebrews 1:3](#))

- Note the tense. It is “had provided,” not “will provide” or “is providing.” He died once for all time. *His death on the cross was the complete payment for our sins.*
- That is why he cried out, “It is finished.” He purged us from our sins. I was dirty ... he was clean. He became dirty ... that I might be made clean.
- This means that all efforts at self-reformation as a means of salvation are doomed to failure. *You can clean yourself up if you like, but it will not help you gain merit with God.*
- It is only by Jesus’ atoning death that we are forgiven by God. To add anything else to the work of Christ is of no benefit.
- Salvation means trusting Jesus Christ so completely that if his death is not enough to take you to heaven, you aren’t going to go there.

Jesus died that he might save us. This is why the angel declared in [Luke 2:11](#) “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord”

VII. He is now seated at God’s Right Hand.

“He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven” ([Hebrews 1:3](#)).

- He sat down when he returned to heaven because his work was done. Nothing can be added to the work Christ accomplished on the cross.
- When it comes to salvation, *God is fully satisfied with the sacrifice of his Son.* Nothing can ever be added to the merit of his blood.
- Until you come to the end of your striving and trust in him, you can never be saved. Until you are satisfied with what Jesus has done, you are still in your sins.

[He sat down at the “right hand” of God. This is the place of highest honor. Jesus sits today at God’s right hand because it is the highest honor God could give his Son.](#)

- If there were another crown, he would wear it. If there were another honor, he would have it. But the “right hand” of God the Father is the highest honor in the universe. That’s where Jesus is today.

[We may therefore say with confidence that Jesus is at the very center of the universe. He is Lord and he is King. He is where God is.](#) Even now Jesus reigns from heaven. Even now he reigns over the devil. He reigns over the elements of nature. He reigns over the past, the present and the future.

He reigns over cancer and heart attacks and over death itself. Someday soon he will return to the earth and reign visibly from David's throne in Jerusalem.

God has given him a name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father (cf. [Philippians 2:9-11](#)).

Today we confess this by faith. One day the whole universe will bow—willingly or unwillingly—to openly declare that Jesus is Lord.

Who is that Baby? Let us heed the answer of our text. He is ...

The Heir of All Things.

The Creator of the Universe.

The Radiance of God's Glory.

The Exact Representation of God's Nature.

The Sustainer of All Things.

Our Savior.

Now Seated at God's Right Hand.

That's who Jesus is. That's the One whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. This is the true identity of the baby born to Mary that night in Bethlehem 2000 years ago.

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To the architect he is the chief cornerstone.

To the banker he is the hidden treasure.

To the baker he is the living bread.

To the builder he is the sure foundation.

To the doctor he is the great physician.

To the educator he is the master teacher.

To the farmer he is the Lord of the harvest.

To the florist he is the lily of the valley.

To the geologist he is the rock of ages.

But who is Jesus to you? Do you know him? Do you know this Jesus? Is he your Savior?

This week a friend sent me an e-mail containing the following poem. It seems to summarize some of the truths we've talked about in this message:

The Word of God became flesh.

The Son of God became man.

The Lord of All became a servant.

The Righteous One was made sin.

The Eternal One tasted death.

The Risen One now lives in men.

The Seated One is coming again.

As we come to the close, let me encourage you to think carefully about who Jesus really is. You don't have to take my word for it. Check it out for yourself! *This is far too important an issue to decide lightly.* And you don't have to believe what I am saying just because I said it. Take the time to check things out. Read the New Testament. Make up your own mind. But whatever you do, don't be casual about Christ. What you believe about the Babe of Bethlehem is a life and death matter with eternal implications.

In just a few days Christmas will be here. Then all too soon we will launch into another busy year. Before you take down the ornaments and put away the Christmas music for another year, take time to discover who Jesus really is. *Don't walk away from the manger this year without coming to grips with the tiny baby who sleeps there.* Who is he? Where did he come from? Why was he born? And what difference does his coming make to you? Find out if what the angels said is true. And if it is true, make this a time to get to know him better. There is no more important quest in all the universe! If you will truly seek to know God, you will eventually be led by the Holy Spirit to Jesus Christ.

All that God has to say to us can be wrapped up in one word: "Jesus." And not just any Jesus, but only the Lord Jesus Christ revealed in the New Testament. He alone is the Lord from heaven. He alone can

save us. *All that God has for you and me is wrapped up in his Son.* No matter what difficulties we face or the decisions we must make, in the end God leads us back to that simple one-word answer: “Jesus.”

In an interview with David Frost that was broadcast on PBS, Billy Graham said he hoped the last word he uttered before dying was simply this: “Jesus.” We can’t do any better than that.