

The Christmas Story

The Cast of Characters

Part 3 - The Leading Role, John 1:1-14

#1 - Jesus Is God, John 1:1-5

Within these opening verses, John gives a couple of titles to Jesus: the Word, the Light.

Biblical scholar, pastor and teacher Warren Wiersbe had this to say about Jesus being the Word:

“Much as our words reveal to others our hearts and minds, so Jesus Christ is God’s “Word” to reveal His heart and mind to us. “He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father” (John 14:9). A word is composed of letters, and Jesus Christ is “Alpha and Omega” (Rev. 1:8), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. According to Hebrews 1:1–3, Jesus Christ is God’s last Word to mankind, for He is the climax of divine revelation.”

Theologian D. A. Carson adds:

“In short, God’s ‘Word’ in the Old Testament is his powerful self-expression in creation, revelation and salvation, and the personification of that ‘Word’ makes it suitable for John to apply it as a title to God’s ultimate self-disclosure, the person of his own Son.”

John presents to us the reader of his gospel, that Jesus of Nazareth, the Word, predates creation and takes us back to the beginning of all that exists and establishes that He was already in existence—just as Moses did in Genesis 1:1. ***“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”***

Back in John’s gospel, Jesus is said to be God for these reasons:

- He is the pre-existent One, “In the beginning **was** the Word”
- He works in harmony with God, “and the Word was **with** God”
- He **is** God, “and the Word was God.”

John, then circles back, for added emphasis in verse 2, to make it abundantly clear that Jesus, the Word, is the eternal One.

John adds with both a positive and negative argument, Jesus was the agent of creation, in verse 3.

- The Positive Argument: “All things came into being through Him”
- The Negative Argument: “and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into

being.”

#2 - Jesus Had A Human Witness About Who He Is: John The Baptist, John 1:6-13

John the Baptist’s purpose in this world was to be a witness of Jesus as the Light of the world.

- This witness was on mission from God Himself (John 1:6)
- This witness’s mission was to testify about the Light so we might believe in the Light (John 1:7)
- This witness’s identity was NOT the Light, but was to give credible witness as to Who the Light was (John 1:8)

Then, we learn the testimony of John the Baptist:

- The Light of the world, the Light of men, was the Creator (referring back to verses 1-3) and yet, the crowning achievement of the creation = man, did not recognize Him for Who He Is, vs. 10.
- Not only that, more specifically, He came to His own people (the Jews) and even they did not acknowledge Him for Who He is, vs. 11.
- But, for all who receive Him for Who He is, they get adopted into the family of God, vs. 12.

#3 - Jesus Is God Taking On Human Flesh, John 1:14

Going back to the original title given to Jesus in this opening chapter of the gospel of John, the Word is said to take on human flesh. In theological terms, this is the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Jesus is both 100% God, but as we have said previously in this series, He is also 100% human.

- Jesus birth is the act of bringing God to us.
- In His incarnation, Jesus dwelled with His creation in a way that had never been done before. And, through His earthly life, we, the created ones, got to behold the glory of God.

Jesus was later say of Himself in John 14:9, Jesus said to him, **“Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”**