

# In the Beginning, the Word was there. . .

NT 1035

## John 1

- 1 In the beginning, the Word was there, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

A doctrine growing in popularity in some circles is that “the Word” John wrote about was not a person and that God had no Son before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. But there are Scriptures whose plain sense seems to contradict that teaching. Here are some of them that speak of the Son of God being with the Father in heaven and acting as God’s agent in Creation:

## John 1

- 2 He was in the beginning with God.
- 3 **Everything was created through him, and without him was nothing created that was created.**

## Colossians 1

- 13 [the Father] delivered us from the domain of darkness and translated *us* into the kingdom of His beloved Son,
- 14 (by whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins)
- 15 who is the image of the invisible God, firstborn of every creature,
- 16 **for by him were all things created in the heavens and on the earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him;**
- 17 **and he is before all things**, and by him all things are held together;
- 18 and he is also the head of the body, the *Assembly of God*; he is the beginning, *the* firstborn from the dead, so that in everything he might be preeminent . . .

## Hebrews 1

- 1 In various and many ways, God in ancient times spoke to the fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He spoke by His Son,
- 2 whom He appointed heir of all things, **through whom also He made the worlds . . .**
- 8 . . . **to the Son** He said, “Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of righteousness.
- 9 You have loved righteousness; you have hated lawlessness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions”
- 10 and, **“You, Lord, in ancient time laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands.**
- 11 They will be destroyed, but you remain; they will grow old like a garment.”

In Genesis 1:26, when God said, “*Let us make man in our image,*” we know He was not speaking to angels because angels were not created with power sufficient to create anything. They are never said to have participated in any act of creation. When the New Testament was established, its chief revelation was that there was a Son of God who had been created by God before all other things, with power to carry out the Father’s will in the Creation.

When John the baptizer warned the Jews that a mightier than he was coming, he was speaking by the unction of the Spirit of God. He could not have known in himself the meaning of the words he spoke when he said, “*Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!*” Nor could he have understood these words of his (Jn. 1:15): “*The one coming after me is greater than I, for he was before I was.*”

John could not have been speaking naturally because he was six months older than Jesus. The Spirit was proclaiming through John the existence of the Son of God, which revelation was not given to man under the Old Testament, and even though the Son’s existence was spoken of through John here, it remained a mystery until the Spirit came and enlightened the souls of men.

In fact, men became angry at the suggestion that the Son existed with the Father in heaven from the foundation of the world:

### **John 8**

54 Jesus answered, . . .

56 Abraham, your father, was overjoyed to see my day, and he saw *it*, and rejoiced.”

57 Then the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and you have seen Abraham?”

58 Jesus said, “**Truly, truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.**”

59 At this, the Jews took up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden, and he went out of the temple, passing through the midst of them. And thus, he went away.

God had to hide His Son from men many times to keep them from killing him while he was here among us. The revelation of the NT was that God also had hidden His precious Son with him in glory from the beginning of Creation.

## Being God

First, we should note that there is no theological problem with the Son of God being called “God”. Anyone whom God anoints to occupy a position of authority qualifies as a “god”. The rulers and elders of Israel were called gods (Ex 22:28), as were all those to whom the word of God came (Ps. 82:6), which would have included most of all, the prophets. God sent Moses to Egypt with authority to rescue His people, and then made Moses a god over Pharaoh and, by extension, over Egypt (Ex. 7:1). Jesus reminded the Jews that God Himself called certain people gods; they did not claim the title for themselves:

### John 10

- 34 Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said you are gods?’  
 35 If **He called *them* ‘gods’ to whom the word of God came**, and the  
 Scripture cannot be broken,  
 36 are you telling him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world,  
 ‘You blaspheme,’ because I said, ‘I am God’s Son?’

God has no problem with others bearing the title “god”, as long as He is the one who grants the title, as He did to the Son:

### Hebrews 1

- 8 **But to the Son He said, “Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever. The  
 scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of righteousness.”**

The author of Hebrews wrote, “he who built all things is God”; that is, whoever creates is “God” over what he created. If the Son was God’s agent in Creation, if the Son created all that has been created (as John said he did, in John 1:3), then the term “God” is appropriate to the Son, as far as what he created is concerned. But if the Son was himself created, then he has a God over him in spite of his incredible power and majesty, and in spite of being called “God” himself. And that is exactly what we find proclaimed throughout the New Testament, as well as the Old. The mere breath of the Son of God caused stars to shine (Ps. 33:6). And while on earth, his word caused a tree to wither (Mt. 21:18-20) and brought dead men back to life (e.g. Jn. 11:43-44). And yet, astonishingly, the Son himself feared the Father, and felt foolish and sinful in His presence:

### Psalms 69

- 5 **O God, you know my foolishness, and my sins are not hid from you.**

### Hebrews 5

- 7 who in the days of his flesh offered up pleas and supplications to Him who was able to save him from death, and **was heard because he feared.**

## Where He Was Before

The Son of God, while on earth, spoke as if he were fully aware of having been with the Father in glory before he lived here on earth:

### John 6

- 32 Jesus therefore said to them, “Truly, truly, I tell you, Moses didn’t give you bread from heaven, but my Father is giving you the true bread from heaven,
- 33 For **the bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven** and gives life to the world.”
- 34 Then they said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”
- 35 Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life.**”
- ....
- 61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Does this offend you?”
- 62 Then **what if you should see the Son of man ascending to where he was before?**”

### John 17

- ¶ 1 Jesus spoke these things, and lifted his eyes toward heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, so that *your* Son might glorify you. . . .
- ... .
- 4 I glorified you on earth; I finished the work you gave me to do.
- 5 And now, **glorify me, Father, with your glory that I had with you before the world existed.**

On Pentecost morning in Acts 2, when the Spirit of God was sent from God, it was sent to earth *from heaven* where God was. That should go without saying, but truth unsaid can quickly become truth forgotten. Thirty-seven times in the gospel of John, the Son of God testified that he was sent by God. But it was more than a being sent by God the way John the Baptist or Paul were sent, for the Son of God said specifically (in John 6 above) that he came “down from heaven” and was going to *ascend* to where he was before. Taking that testimony along with the simple biblical teaching (like the example below from Galatians) that God *sent* His Son from heaven (as well as the Spirit), we conclude that the Son dwelt in heaven with the Father before he dwelt here among us. Otherwise, how could he have come “down from heaven” to us, and how could he, by ascending to the Father, go back to where he was before?

### Galatians 4

- 4 but when the fullness of the time came, **God sent forth His Son**, born of a woman, born under law,
- 5 in order that he might redeem those under law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.
- 6 And because you are sons, **God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts**, crying, “Abba, Father!”

In the next Scriptures, we see the Son discussing his purpose for coming down from heaven *when he came into the world*, not years later! If the Son was speaking to the Father when he came into the world about his purpose for coming, then he was a fully conscious and wise being when he was first sent down here.

**Hebrews 10:5-7** (quoting Psalm 40:6-8).

- 5 And so, **when he came into the world, he said**, “You did not want sacrifice and offering, but a body you have prepared for me.
- 6 Whole burnt offerings and such for sin did not please you.
- 7 Then I said, **‘I come** (in the scroll of the book it is written of me), **O God, to do your will!’**”

Notice in verse 5, that the Son says that the Father prepared a body (an earthly one) for him. What is the name of the body that the Father prepared for the Son to inhabit? If the Son entered the world by entering the womb of Mariam, then “Mariam” was the name of the body that became the tabernacle, or the temple of the Lord. But if he entered into the temple when Jesus came up out of the Jordan River after John baptized him, then “Jesus” is the name of the earthly temple of the Son of God (see Jn. 2:18-21).

Malachi said this concerning the moment of the Son’s entrance into the world:

### **Malachi 3**

- 1 Behold, I will send my messenger before my face, and he shall prepare the way before me. **And the Lord, whom you seek, shall suddenly come to his temple**, even the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight. He shall come! says Jehovah of hosts.

Note first that both the Father and the Son spoke through Malachi in the above verse. One will find other occurrences of them both speaking through a prophet the Old Testament, but men at that time could not see what now is obvious because the existence of the Son had not yet been revealed.

The Messiah, the Son, whom Israel was seeking, came “suddenly” to the fleshly temple called Jesus; he did not come suddenly to Mariam, Jesus’ mother. It took her about nine months to form that temple within her, and then it was not suddenly born.

The central revelation of the NT is that, as Preacher Clark said, “God had a Son before Mary did.”

## Humility

Satan, who was in heaven with God during the time of the OT (1) became proud of the astonishing beauty with which he was created, and (2) coveted equality with God.

**Ezekiel 28:11-19** (excerpts):

Thus saith the Lord GOD [concerning Satan]: You seal up the sum, full of wisdom, and **perfect in beauty**. You have been in Eden the garden of God. . . . You are the anointed cherub that covers, and I have set you so. . . . You have sinned. Therefore, I will cast you as profane out of the mountain of God, and I will destroy you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. **Your heart was lifted up because of thy beauty. . . .**

**Isaiah 14:12-14**

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, **I will exalt my throne** above the stars of God. **I will sit also** upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. **I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.**

The Son of God's example is one of lowering himself from a high position – the highest possible – to a very low one in order to bless others and accomplish the will of God. Jesus' example is one of supreme self-denial and self-sacrifice for the good of others.

**Philippians 2**

- 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
- 6 who, **existing in God's form, did not consider equality with God as a prize to be seized upon;**
- 7 instead, **he divested himself, assuming the form of a slave, made in the likeness of men;** and finding himself as a man in appearance,
- 8 he humbled himself and became obedient unto death – the death of a cross.

The author of Hebrews says that the Son's humble attitude was the very reason God blessed him so greatly:

**Hebrews 1**

- 8 But to the Son He said . . . .
- 9 "You have loved righteousness; you have hated lawlessness. **Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.**"

## Hebrews 2

10 It was fitting for Him, for whom all things exist, and through whom all things exist, in leading many sons into glory, to make the originator of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

...

14 Inasmuch, then, as the children were partakers of flesh and blood, he partook *of them* as they did, and through death, he brought to nothing the one who held the power of death (that is, the Slanderer),

15 and set at liberty those who through fear of death were all their lives subject to slavery.

16 For surely we agree that he did not take on himself *the nature of angels*, but he took on the seed of Abraham,

17 and **for this purpose he ought to be made like his brothers in everything**, that he might become a compassionate and faithful high priest *for them* in things related to God, to make the propitiation for the sins of the people.

If the Son of God wanted to be like us before he became like us, then he existed before he took on flesh and blood. And if he existed, and had such loving thoughts toward us before he took on flesh and blood, then he was with the Father in heaven before he walked on earth as one of us. The Son was not just an idea in the mind of God; he was a living, thinking, feeling being, who loved his Father and us, and desired above all things to heal the breach between us and the Father which our sin had caused, no matter what the personal cost may be.

## Wisdom

*“Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God”*

Paul, in 1Corinthinas 1:24

The Son of God describes himself as the beginning of the creation of God:

### Revelation 3

- 14 “And to the messenger of the congregation in Laodicea write: “The Amen, the true and faithful witness, **the beginning of the creation of God**, says these things . . .”

In Proverbs 8, this same Son of God describes, in striking detail, his life with the Father in glory. There are many other ancient prophecies in which the Spirit of Christ moved upon prophets in Israel to declare both his future sufferings and glory (1Pet. 1:10-11). But the Spirit spoke in ways that kept the Son’s existence a secret, so that even the prophets who spoke of him did not know who the man was of whom they spoke, or when the things would happen that they spoke of. Proverbs 8 is one of the most touching examples of the Spirit speaking through a holy man of God “as he was moved by the holy Ghost.” The prophet here is David, and he did not know that the “wisdom” he spoke of in this chapter was not a concept but a person, the Son of God.

### Proverbs 8 (My translation)

- 1-2 Does not wisdom call? And understanding give her voice? At the top of high places, along the road, between the paths she stands.
- 3 Beside the gates before the cities, at the entrance, the openings, she cries aloud,
- 4 “Unto you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of Adam,
- 5 ‘Understand subtlety, you simple ones!’ And, ‘Fools, be of an understanding heart!’
- 6 Listen! For I speak of noble things, of those things my lips open with are right.
- 7 My mouth will speak truth, and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
- 8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing twisted or perverse in them.
- 9 All of them are right to the understanding person, and upright to those who find knowledge.
- 10 Receive my discipline and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold,
- 11 for wisdom is better than rubies, and all that is desirable cannot compare with her.

- Proverbs 8 continues -

- 12 I, wisdom, dwell with prudence; I discover knowledge and cunning ways.  
13 The fear of Jehovah is to hate evil. I hate pride, haughtiness, and evil manner, and a mouth that perverts truth.  
14 Counsel belongs to me, and sound wisdom. I am understanding; I have strength.  
15 By me, kings rule, and rulers decree righteousness.  
16 By me, princes and nobles reign, and all the judges of the earth.  
17 I love the one who loves me, and he who seeks me early will find me.  
18 Riches and honor are with me, lasting rest and righteousness.  
19 My fruit is better than gold, even pure gold, and my revenue *better than* choice silver.  
20 I go in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment.  
21 I cause those who love me to inherit substance; I will certainly fill their storehouses.  
22 Jehovah created me in the beginning of His way, the first of His creation<sup>1</sup>.  
23 I was set up<sup>2</sup> from eternity, before the beginning, before earth existed.  
24 I was brought forth when there were no depths *of the sea*, when there were no springs abounding with water,  
25 before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth.  
26 When He had not made the earth and the open fields and the first elements of the world,  
27 when He prepared the heavens, I was there. When He decreed a circle on the face of the deep,  
28 when He established the thin clouds above, when He made strong the fountains of the sea,  
29 when He made His decree for the sea, that the waters should not disobey His word, when He decreed the foundations of the earth,  
30 I was at His side, like a master workman, daily His great delight, always laughing in His presence,  
31 rejoicing in the world, His earth, and my delights were with the sons of men.  
32 So now, listen to me, children, for they are blessed who keep my ways.  
33 Hear instruction and be wise, and do not shun it.  
34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting anxiously at my doorposts,  
35 for he who finds me finds life, and shall elicit favor from Jehovah.  
36 He who sins against me wrongs his own soul, and all who hate me love death.”

<sup>1</sup> v. 22 *The Hebrew word signifies a thing made, a work.*

<sup>2</sup> v. 23 *The Hebrew word signifies a being poured out, as metal into a mold.*

## The Mystery of Christ

The question may be asked, “If the Son of God was there with the Father since before the foundation of the world, then why are there no verses in the OT that state plainly that the Son was there with the Father?” The simple answer, found repeatedly in the New Testament, is that God kept the knowledge of His Son hidden from the foundation of the world until “the fulness of time”, as the following verses seem to teach:

### Ephesians 3

- 1 For this reason, I, Paul, *am* a prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles
- 2 (if you have indeed heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you),
- 3 for by revelation, **the mystery was made known to me**, as also I briefly wrote before,
- 4 concerning which you are able, as you read, to perceive my understanding in the **MYSTERY OF CHRIST**,
- 5 **which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men** as it is now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit
- . . .
- 8 To me, the least of all saints, was this grace given, to proclaim to the Gentiles the incomprehensible richness of Christ
- 9 and to enlighten [all] men *as to* what *is* the disposition of **the mystery which has been hidden from the Aeons** in God who created all things,
- 10 so that the multi-faceted wisdom of God **might now be made known to the rulers and authorities among the heavenly beings** through the Called-out people,
- 11 according to an eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Master . . .

### Colossian 1

- ¶ 24 I am rejoicing now in these sufferings for you, and in my body I am filling up what is lacking of the afflictions of Christ for his body, which is the assembly *of God*,
- 25 for which I was made a servant by a divine commission given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,
- 26 the **mystery hidden from Aeons and from generations of man** but now revealed to His saints,

- 27 by whom God has willed to make known among the Gentiles what *is* the richness and glory of this **MYSTERY, WHICH IS CHRIST** in you, the hope of glory,  
28 whom we proclaim, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom so that we might present every man perfect in Christ,  
29 for which *cause* I toil, striving hard according to his working, which works in me with power.

### Chapter 2

- 1 I want you to know how hard a struggle I am having on your behalf, and for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen my face in the flesh,  
2 so that their hearts may be comforted, knit together with love and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, attaining to the knowledge of **GOD’S MYSTERY – CHRIST**,  
3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

In Galatians 1:15-16, Paul magnifies “God, who set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me by His grace, [because He was] was pleased **to reveal His Son to me** in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles. . .” When Paul preached the gospel, he preached Christ because the revelation of Christ *is* the gospel. The gospel is the revelation of the Son of God who had been kept secret from the foundation of the world, and who was moved by compassion for our miserable state to come down from heaven, to join in our struggle, and to help us.

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## The Father and the Son in the Old Testament

Peter said that the Spirit of Christ spoke through Israel's prophets (1Pet. 1:11), but at other times, we are told that God's Spirit spoke through them (2Pet. 1:21). The fact is that both statements are true because the Spirit of Christ *is* the Spirit of God, for the Father gave of His own Spirit to His Son. Jesus said, "*The Father gave me life*" (Jn. 5:26), which is another way to say, "The Father gave me His spirit", for "*the Spirit is life*" (Rom. 8:10).

It magnifies the glory of God found in the Old Testament Scriptures when we discern the Father's voice speaking through the prophets, and then hear the Son speaking through the same prophet, by the same spirit. It makes reading the Old Testament exciting, for it is a constant joy of new discoveries of the hidden wisdom of God.

Psalms 2 provides us with an extraordinary example of this.

First, in **verses 1-3**, the prophet David spoke of the foolishness of men scheming to controvert the will of God by opposing Him and the One whom he anointed, the One whom, a thousand years later, God would reveal:

*Why do the heathen [Gentiles] rage, and the people [Jews] imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers [of the jews] take counsel together, **against the LORD, and against his anointed**, saying, "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."*

Secondly, in **verses 4-6**, the prophet says that the Father (Jehovah) will consider the designs of men against Him and His anointed to be contemptible.

*He who sits in the heavens shall laugh.*

And then he adds that the Son will do as his Father does.

*The Lord [not all capital letters] shall have them in derision.*

The prophet goes on to say that in His wrath, God would speak to the fools that tried to thwart Him in doing His will in Christ.

*Then shall He speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure: "Yet [= in spite of all you tried to do against it] I have set my king [Jesus] upon my holy hill of Zion."*

The Son of God ascended and was set at the right hand of God, in spite of the best efforts of wicked men to stop it. Even the execution of His Son Jesus only served to further God's purpose. That is why God laughed. How vain are the thoughts of men, that they think they have the power to withstand the work of God! Everything anyone among God's enemies does only forwards His purpose! Solomon said it: "*There is no wisdom, or counsel, or understanding against the LORD*" (Prov. 21:30).

But then, in **verse 7**, the Son speaks, and he says something that no man at that time could have comprehended; namely, that God would overcome the opposition of murderous, wicked men by resurrecting His anointed from the dead (Acts 13:32-33; Heb. 5:5):

*I will declare the decree, the LORD has said unto me, "Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee."*

Then, in **verses 8-9**, the Father speaks and tells the Son,

*Ask of me, and I shall give you the heathen for your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession. You shalt break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.*

Finally, in **verses 10-12**, the prophet, moved by the Spirit, gave all people a warning that he himself could not possibly have understood because it was not yet revealed that there was a second person sitting at God's right hand in heaven:

*Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.*

This is the sort of thing we often find in the Old Testament Scriptures, and it is thrilling to see the Father and the Son both speaking plainly through the same prophet and during the same prophecy – and yet keeping the Son's presence a secret until "the fulness of time". It is no wonder that after the mystery was revealed, such wise men as Apollos, using nothing but the Old Testament Scriptures, could travel about the known world and "*mightily convince the Jews, and that publicly, showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah*" (Acts 18:28). The Son was in those Scriptures, and even mentioned in them, but until Jesus Christ paid the price for it, the mystery was not unveiled to the minds of men.

## Recent Correspondence about this Lesson

Dear Bro. John:

Thank you for the opportunity tonight to proof read the revised version of your NT notes, “In the Beginning, the Word was there”! I became so overwhelmed with what I was reading; I felt another part of my heart being opened to receive riches that only God can reveal to man. I’m not quite sure we were able to take in the fullness of what God served up to us this past Saturday night in the NT class. And tonight, my heart is overwhelmed with what I read. What absolute love! Throughout the ages, men have tried to separate God and His Son with their doctrines. Today, if it were possible, men would cause “a rift” and come between God and His precious Son. But the closest those spirits of envy and pride can get to doing that is by causing a division between God and His people. If they only knew the love that is shared and continues between the Father and His Son! That love is inseparable, always has been and always will be. And that is what God wants for us – to feel that same kind of pure, holy love that is shared on a daily basis between the Father and His Son.

This is such a powerful love story, Bro. John. After reading what you wrote on the mystery of Christ, I just had to read John 17 tonight. It took on a whole new meaning. Especially where Jesus said:

[23] I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

[24] Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

I was hearing anew Jesus’ words “for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world” as feelings coming from the Son of God and reflections of home and a relationship with His Father reminiscent of the glory and love that they shared. The mystery of Christ! That’s what makes Jesus’ prayer for the disciples in John 17 so sweet -- he knew of this inseparable love because he was the Son of God before the world even existed! And He wanted the disciples to know of this love, too.

I don’t think I can get all this out -- it is filling up my heart! Every word I read tonight of what you wrote just covered me with love. It takes time to receive the fullness when God gives something so overwhelmingly full of love as this message, so I will just go and read again what the Lord has so beautifully given to you to give to us concerning the mystery of Christ. Just knowing that God had a Son before Mary had a son is pretty big! Not many people in the world (if any) today understand that. And without God, we would not understand it either. It seems there is something bigger in the “mystery of Christ” that God wants us to take in. A love maybe that we have not yet been able to grasp. But He is so good and patient with His children.

One of the things that you wrote I just kept reading over and over because it was like pouring sweet warm oil all over my heart:

“God had to hide His Son from men many times to keep them from killing him while he was here among us. The revelation of the New Testament was that God had His precious Son hidden with him in glory from before the foundation of the earth.”

Thank you, Bro. John, for feeding us this good food. I am truly full tonight and humbled to be hidden with Christ in God.

Sandy

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John,

This is great! Earlier on when you explained what Brother Hemphill was saying about God not having a son before Jesus was born of Mary, and that the Son was just an idea in the mind of God until then, I didn't understand where Brother hemphill was coming from. I sat down to read my Bible one night before bed and I opened it to Proverbs 8, not knowing what it said. I did not see it like this, though, until reading it tonight with your explanation of his “life with the Father” and seeing that it was hidden in the OT.

Then, the section really stood out to me, on “The Mystery”. (This is really good.) Paul is explaining it here in Ephesians 5, “which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men” and then 3:9-10, “the mystery which has been hidden from the Aeons....so that the wisdom of God might be now made known through the called-out people.”

2:2 - God's mystery = Christ. Did *you* even know those verses said that???

It made me think of something that happened to me years ago. I woke up one morning with the word “enigma” very clear. I looked it up, because I had never heard of the word (it wasn't in my everyday vocabulary). It meant “mystery”. 8-)

I am tickled...because I understand this mystery.

This is good. I think everyone would like for you to go over this with them, because I didn't get it like this on Sunday morning, and I don't think many others did either.

Amy

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Hey,

I woke up this morning, after reading your notes, and the first thing out of my mouth was....God revealed it to us (the mystery). How important is that. What does that say about how He feels about us? And, what does that say about how he feels about His Son?

I am still feasting on this. This is very good.

Before I went to bed last night, I looked up scriptures on hidden. I found this from 1Corinthians 2:7: “But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory”

Amy

PS Some added thoughts . . .

Your NT notes have left me flooded with thoughts. I just saw this note on my desk from last week where I heard this while working, “I loved you so much, I sent my Son. I did it for you. That’s the love I have for you.” - God.

Now, reading that over, after seeing more clearly that God had a Son before Mary did (8-)).....it means so much more. God’s Son was what He sent to us to show how much He loves us. To be close to us. To reveal Himself to us. The Son of God is the love of the Father, love coming through him to us; the mediator. And, Him sending His Son, was great love and the Son coming was great love. It’s a relationship. And God wanted to share that love between Him and the Son with us.

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Hey!

Wow, this is good stuff from Amy!

You once told Bob something like that you knew evolution was wrong because it left out the love of God. The idea that Jesus was just a thought in God’s mind leaves out God’s love for us. It diminishes what God did for us in Christ. John 3:16-17 describes the manner in which God loved us. He gave His Son and sent Him into this world. How can you give and send a thought? What value would be in that? The Father loved the Son and if the Son delighted to be in the presence of God did not God feel at least as happy as well? God gave up having His Son delighting in His presence. He loved His Son and He really did GIVE something of great value to Him, to us!

This doctrine of there being no Son of God before Jesus’ birth is being revealed to us as having no love of God in it. “Jesus only” might have been a better place for them to stay rather than this new error. For all its emphasis on the “most high God” it finds itself redefining the greatness of, and the love in, what God did for sinful man. It takes away from both the Father and the Son. It is a doctrine that will be loved by harsh, cold spirits which is just what I began to feel from Brother Joel.

Damien

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For men to say they worship “God” offends nobody. Few say that they do not. “God” is an offense-less name for the most part.... by Himself.

For men to say they love “God” offends virtually nobody, because who shouldn’t?

To say that God was there in the beginning offends nobody, but most know that something created all that is. But ...for men to worship the Son (Jesus is his name) as they worship the Father - many will despise you for that.

For men to love the Son as they love the Father in truth (which can only be done by those who have received Spirit baptism), endurance will be needed to face the opposition to that truth (that the true love of God has some evidence). But I have noticed in recent times, that to say that the Son was CREATED by the Father – whoowie boy – that brings wrath.

And to go the next step now – to say that the Son was with the Father in creation, not as a “part” of God, or AS God himself, but as a beloved Son, created by and separate from His Father. Well – I can’t see most of God’s people embracing that.

God sure has us out there!!

Gary