

Christmas Expectations

Christmas According to John

In John's telling of Christmas there

Is no mention of Bethlehem

Angel's do not sing

We do not see Shepherds and Wisemen

Mary and Joseph are never mentioned

And it did not happen in one night

What we do get is the beginning of the end

The Battle Inside Me

But I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.

Romans 7:23

John's Christmas account talks of this battle and how the arrival of Jesus in physical form began the final act in the struggle

Important Reminder

**Christ was not simply born
in a manger for us to create
a moment in time,
He was sent into the world
with a purpose**

A blue-toned image of a manger scene. A wooden manger is on the left, containing a baby wrapped in white cloth. A bright light shines from the top center, creating a lens flare effect. The background is a dark blue, textured surface.

Sent

Into this World

Back at the Beginning

“In the beginning was the Word”

Interesting enough John starts his story at the beginning

Not the beginning of Jesus' physical life

THE BEGINNING



Origin Story 1: Time

In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was **formless** and **empty, darkness** was over the surface of the deep, and the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the waters.

What was there before time?



**Where Did God
Come From?**

I Exist

**What does this have
to do with Christmas?**



EVERYTHING!

Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith.



Romans 16:24-25

God and History

God had been moving through history

His movements through time sometimes are confusing to us

Paul uses the word mystery: something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain

That does indeed describe God



God and History

The arrival of Jesus on earth brings together everything

It brings together past, present and future

It blends time and eternity

It is by far the most time altering event in human history



Origin Story 2: Sin

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Genesis 3:6-7



Just the Facts

God created humanity

God gave humanity the ability to choose

Humanity chose poorly

Sin came into the world



Problems from Sin

Problem 1: Sin separates us from God

Problem 2: I was never designed to live separated from God

Problem 3: I have no way on my own effort to reconnect to God



The Christmas Solution

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Galatians 4:4-5



The Identity of the Word

Spoiler: Jesus is the Word

We also call the Bible the Word of God

**It is the written word of God about the
Word of God**

In and of itself it is just words on pages

**It is best used as a guide to lead you
into a relationship with the true Word**



Mixed Up Words

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

v. 14



Jesus the Word

I am not looking for and it I am seeking an individual

The Bible is not my power source, it merely my extension cord

In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

Revelation 1:16



Powerful Christmas Image



Revelation 19:11-16

A person is silhouetted against a dark blue, starry night sky. The person is standing on a dark horizon line, looking up at a very bright, multi-pointed star that dominates the upper center of the frame. The sky is filled with smaller, distant stars. The overall mood is contemplative and awe-inspiring.

Have You Heard
THE WORD?