

## What's Really Going On

John 1:1-18

The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day, December 25, 2015

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Broadlands

Ok, we have all seen the baby in the manger. We have seen Mary wrap Him in cloths and lay Him in the manger. Now I am going to tell you what this means.

There is a fundamental principle to the universe. It is a governing principle that guides everything in the universe. Nothing happens in the universe apart from its governance. Everything from the smallest subatomic particle to the largest galaxy operates under one fundamental operating principle. It is the fundamental operating principle of all of the universe. Theoretical physicists are looking for it in an equation. While I do not know whether or not they will find an equation, they may very well do so, the fundamental principle of the universe is in point of fact a person.

The baby born in Bethlehem this day. He is the fundamental principle of the universe. He is the Word which brought the universe into existence in the beginning. He governs its existence yet to this day. He is now made into flesh and born of the virgin Mary.

There is a light in the universe that illumines everything.

If light were everywhere, we would be able to see everything. There would be no limitations on us if we could see everything. But there is darkness in the universe. We cannot see everything. And it wouldn't be so bad not to see everything, but we cannot see the things that we need to see in order to live. We cannot see God.

He is the light. He enables us to see God. And once we have seen God in Him the other things that are still in darkness for us are no longer so important. We can handle the mysteries of life because we have seen God.

The baby born in Bethlehem is the light that is coming into the world. He will make us to see God. He will therefore make us to see everything that we need to see.

In the beginning the word of God created life. He spoke His word and it brought forth life. He said, "Let the sea team with living creatures," and it was so. He said, "Let the birds fly over the vault of the heavens," and it was so. He said, "Let the earth bring forth vegetation with seed in it and plants and trees of various kinds with their fruit and their seed in their fruit according to their various kinds," and it was so. He was the One who said, "Let the earth bring forth the livestock and the beasts of the field and the creeping things which creep upon the earth," and it was so. He was the One who said, "Let us make man in our image and according to our likeness," and it was so.

Everything God spoke happened. The Word made it happen. That word created life. It created life without death. Everything was perfect.

That Word that God spoke in the beginning that created life has now been made into flesh. The Word is born of Mary. He is here to give a new word of life to us. When He gives us that word of life, not only do we live and live forever we are also enlightened by that Word and can see God.

Why then is He a baby?

He is a baby because He has entered into the world.

The One who created the world has entered into the world. He was outside of the world and separate from it. He made it, but was separate from it. The world is not God. He is God. He made all things. There was not one thing that was made that was not made through Him. He is now coming into the world. He is entering into the creation which He created. When He does so, He does so in the same way that He brings forth the life of His creations. He is conceived, albeit by the Holy Spirit and not by the will of any man, but conceived nonetheless. He is born, albeit not by the will of any flesh, but born nonetheless. He, like all of His creatures, will learn and grow up and be human and do human things.

He has entered into the world and why not? After all He made the whole thing.

The world will not receive Him.

The world will refuse Him. It will reject Him. The world will refuse Him because the deeds of the world are evil and He will point them out to the world. The world does not like having its evil deeds pointed out to it. It will therefore remain in the darkness if it can. It will not come into the light, if it can help it.

But when the world remains in the darkness and refuses to come into the light, it dies. The life that the One who came into the world gives is the light of people. If a person remains in darkness, it is because they do not have the life of the One who entered into the world to give them life. They have no light in themselves. They have no life in themselves. They have only death.

But not everyone in the world is like that.

Many in the world did receive Him. Those who received Him believed in His name. He gives them life. And just like receiving life in any other way, they are born. They are born of God. They are not born of flesh or of the will of a man as in fleshly births. They are born of God. They are born of God as He was born of God even in the flesh. Those who receive this word become flesh are born again. They have a life that they never had before. They will struggle to figure out how to live in it. But they will live. They will live with the life that He gives.

They do not give themselves the new birth. Others do not give them the new birth. Just as one cannot bring oneself into existence by conception and birth so also one cannot bring oneself into the new birth that He gives. Only God can give such a birth. And that should not surprise us. He gave life in the beginning. He gives life in the present. He gives life in eternity.

The Word became flesh.

He became a human. In order to do this He was conceived. In order to do this, He was born. When He did this, He became visible. He was not visible before. He is visible now. Now that He is visible people can see His glory. They can hear His words. They can see His deeds and accomplishments. They see that His glory is the fullness of grace and truth.

Do not let His flesh deceive you, He was before John the Baptists. Do not let His conception and birth deceive you. Even though John the Baptist was born three months prior to the Word, the Word is still before John. The Word was in the beginning. Just because the Word was born after John does not mean that the Word is after John. The Word was in the beginning. Therefore the Word was before John. Because the Word was before John, the Word is greater than John.

From the Word we have all received grace upon grace. Thus the Word is greater than Moses. As great as Moses was and as important as his work was, the Word is greater. As much as Moses accomplished, the Word accomplished more. Moses was sent by God. The law was given through Moses. The Word is God Himself. He brings grace and truth. God's name is Jesus Christ.

Since He is flesh everyone can see Him. No one could see Him before. No one could assess His nature before. No one could have told anyone that the Word was in the bosom of the Father. How does one see such things? We cannot see such mysteries. But we can see a baby. We can watch Him grow up. We can see His miracles. We can see His death and resurrection. And in those things finally and at last, we can see God.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.