



Christmas – The Word Became Flesh

Hello everyone, welcome to “Notes from the Presence.” Every now and then, I catch a glimpse of something that is profound. This week I have been submerged in thoughts of how Jesus came to the earth. In my pondering, something struck me at random a couple of days ago. Today’s article is more about me taking the time to explore and flesh out this idea than anything.

So I was thinking about God and who He is. In the bible we are told about God's make-up in the beginning.

John 1:1-2 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.*

So far, not too profound, but God has always been a three part being. The above scripture tells us of two of the three parts - God, and the Word. If we go back to Genesis chapter 1 we can actually see all three parts of God.

Genesis 1:1-3 *In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the **Spirit of God** was moving over the surface of the waters. Then **God said**, “Let there be light;” and there was light.*

In this passage, first we see God, second we see the Spirit of God, and then third, God "said," so we see the Word of God. My point: in the beginning, before the foundation of the world, God was made out of three parts - God, the Spirit, and the Word. We don't know how long God chose to manifest Himself in this triune state, but evidently He existed this way for eternity upon eternity. He then started creating - first the spirit realm and all the hosts of heavenly beings, and then the natural universe and all of the beings that inhabit it. The scripture we just quoted tells us that He used His Word to create all

of these things in conjunction with His Spirit hovering over the creation project. Basically God spoke His Word into a Spirit saturated environment and creation took place.

Now, here is an interesting passage in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the Book of Life of the Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world.

Here we see a reference to the Lamb of God who was slain from the foundation of the world. I often imagine a conversation in heaven on the day that God conceived to create our human kind, a being in His own image. I imagine God saying, "OK, there is huge potential for trouble with this one. In fact, trouble is imminent - so imminent that it will cost us everything to rescue this one. If we create *this* being, we will need to have a plan in place before hand - actually, I refuse to create this class of being without a plan. So, if I follow through with this creation, who will go and rescue him? It will require the rescuer to die, otherwise our "earthy one" will be lost forever."

I then imagine a period of silence in heaven. None of the angels spoke up, none of the other magnificent beings that God had created said anything. Finally there was a single voice that broke through the silence and said, "I will go." To everyone's surprise, it was the Word of God who had volunteered to go and rescue the new created being and so this is how He became slain from the foundation of the world. He volunteered before our world was even created.

In the magnificent season of Christmas, we celebrate the Word of God taking on flesh in the form of baby Jesus and coming to rescue us. What strikes me about this scenario is that one third of God came to rescue us. It was a move that, should it have gone wrong, would have left God speechless for the rest of eternity. His Word, and thus His ability to talk, would have been lost forever. So God's Word did as He had promised, became a human being, and laid down His life to rescue us.

Philippians 2:5-8 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

What struck me this week was that after Jesus went to the cross and succeeded in His rescue mission, He went back to join God once again. But now, after the reunion of the trinity, God is different than He used to be. Before, He was God, the Word, and the

Spirit - but now He is God the Father, Jesus who is now the Word of God and also human, and the Holy Spirit. Now for my profound thought: God changed His very make-up to rescue us. He is not the same being as He was in the beginning, He is now one third human. I guess I had never considered before that God became part human in order to save us. The Word of God is not the same as it used to be before creation. He is now human and named Jesus. Also, in order to accommodate this new family venture God became known as God the "Father."

In the beginning - God, the Word, and the Spirit

Now - Father God (Abba - daddy), Jesus (the Word who is now human), and the Holy Spirit

Friends, I am thankful that God deemed the potential of a relationship with our human kind valuable enough to risk eternal laryngitis, and to morph His very core make-up into a new Divine shape that now includes 1/3'rd human DNA! This thought, combined with the fact that as a father, God has made Himself vulnerable to my love, is mind blowing to me. It motivates me to the core to give my life to be intimate with this One who loved the idea of creating me so much that He risked everything just to know me.

Profound ... I am not sure, but as for me, I am forever "wrecked" by such love!

Thanks for reading today. Jesus is real and He is without question the reason for the season!!