

John 1: Prepare for Awesomeness

If Paul was the Church's first theologian, the Apostle John was its first mystic. His style of writing is very different from the other Gospel writers. Rather like a celtic plait, he weaves together events, dialogue and memorably declared truth, repeating and developing words and phrases to express the wonder that is Jesus, the divine 'Son of God', the Creator living among His creation.

Echoing Genesis 1v1 he begins, 'In the beginning...'

At the start of things as we know them, our Saviour and Master Jesus was already there, divine and eternal just like the Father. Thus He is Co-Creator, the source of life and all that enlightens our existence.

See here a wonder, a tragedy and a promise.

The wonder is that the carpenter from Nazareth, a man, turns out to be God. The Divine chose to become human. The infinite Son of God willingly limited Himself, 'became flesh and made His dwelling among us.' Why? Because the world is enveloped in the spiritual 'darkness' of sin, and our Maker cares about our wellbeing.

As it says later in John 3v16:

'For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.'

We need rescued. Jesus, Son of God became one of us to save us.

The tragedy is that often people choose darkness over light, so even though while here on earth the Lord showed incredible grace and truth, love and generosity, 'His own did not receive Him.' Even those familiar with all the history of the Old Testament and predictions of the prophets like Isaiah and Daniel refused to accept Jesus as the promised 'Christ' Saviour/King. The Jewish leaders of the day set Him up for execution by the occupying Roman forces.

But the Good News at the heart of this Gospel and the whole Bible is the promise that to those who 'repent', that is sincerely turn away from sin, to those who believe in His name, Jesus gives 'the right to become children of God.'

His death on Calvary was accepted in the divine court of loving justice as a sufficient offering of 'atonement', that believers might be forgiven and declared fit for Heaven.

This is why Christians can pray, 'Our Father in Heaven...'