

The Nativity of Our Lord – 2025

Thursday, 12/25 at 10:00

Who Is the Christ of Christmas?

In the
beginning was
the Word, and
the Word was
with God, and
the Word was
God.



Welcome
to
Bethlehem
Parma

*Let's
Celebrate
the Christ!*

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Text: John 1:1-14 NAS 2020

By the Holy Spirit: Let's ♡understand and ♡apply the Bible in our lives!

Introduction: Dear friends: It is amazing that Jesus:

- *Taught with authority!*
- *Worked mighty miracles!*
- *Lived without sin!*

Those things were **visible** to the people who experienced His ministry, but what about the **invisible** realities? Let's go behind the scenes to learn about:

- *His place from eternity!*
- *The amazing work God did through His Son!*
- *The preparation God made before He sent His Son!*

1. **What Can We Say About the Son of God?** John 1:1-14...

- a. ¹ **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. // The “Word” is the Son of**

God; *He was with God the Father from eternity – before the creation of the world.*

- b. ³ **All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being.**
 - i. **Hebrews 1:2** “[God] has spoken to us in *His Son*, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the world.”
 - ii. Let us pause and think: Regarding every good thing that has come into being, **God brought it into being *through His Son!***
- c. ⁴ **In Him was life** [ζωή – zoe], **and the life was the Light of mankind.** ⁵ **And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it.** // The Son of God is the source of **physical life** and **eternal life**. If only everyone understood ♦why they live now and ♦what God is offering to them through Jesus – *life everlasting!*

2. **What Can We Say About John the Baptizer?** God worked through John to prepare the way for Jesus!

- a. ⁶ **A man came, *one sent from God, and his name was John.***
 - i. He was sent from God: *As a prophet of God!*
 - ii. He was sent: To call people to ♦**be sorry** for their sins, ♦**turn** from their sins, and ♦**receive** the Christ as Savior and Lord.
- b. ⁷ **[John] came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.**
 - i. God sent John to prepare the way for Jesus: When a king was coming to visit, ♦the roads

were repaired and ♦the garbage cleaned up.

John called people to prepare by repenting!

- ii. Jesus said of Himself: **John 8:12** “I am the light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”
- c. **⁸ [John] was not the Light, but *he came to testify about the Light.***
 - i. Even though some thought John might be the Promised Messiah: He was not. *He was not adequate to remove Jesus’ sandals (Mt. 3:11).*
 - ii. John pointed people to know and follow Jesus: John said regarding Jesus, **John 3:30** “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

3. What Can We Say About **Jesus, the Christ?**

- a. **⁹ [Jesus] was the true Light that, coming into the world, enlightens every person.**
 - i. By nature, we were all in spiritual darkness: We were ♦separated from God, ♦unable to understand the truth, and ♦had no desire to know God.
 - ii. But Jesus is the true Light: To ♦show us the truth, ♦show us the path to restoration, and ♦open the way from us to God (**1 Peter 3:18**).
- b. **¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, and yet the world did not know Him.** // To those who know Jesus – *He is everything😊*! But to others, *He is nothing😞*.
- c. **¹¹ He came to His own, and His own people did not accept Him.**

- i. God promised that the Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham: Then, during the OT era, God kept reminding the people of ♦their need to be saved and ♦the Messiah's coming.
 - ii. However, when He came: Jesus was **not** what they expected, so, *sadly*, most rejected Him.
- d. **¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name, ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a man, but of God.**
- i. By God's grace: For some, God ♦opened their eyes to the truth, ♦made them sorry, and ♦gave them faith.
 - ii. By God's action: As our mothers gave birth to us **physically**, God has given birth to us **spiritually**.
Through the Christ we have been born again!
- e. **¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.** // The Word who was with God in the beginning: He put on flesh for our eternal benefit – *to take away our sins*.
Therefore, *today and always*, let us ♦trust in, ♦celebrate, and ♦live for **the Christ of Christmas!**

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, **TYSM** for doing everything to ♦make us and ♦save us! Grant us a season of peace and joy, and a life of love for You and others!