

First Wednesday in Advent, December 3, 2014 at 11 AM & 7 PM

God With Us

A Chronology of the Four Gospels Regarding Our Savior's Birth!

Part 1

A: [John 1:1-2](#) – The Son was with God the Father *before Creation!*



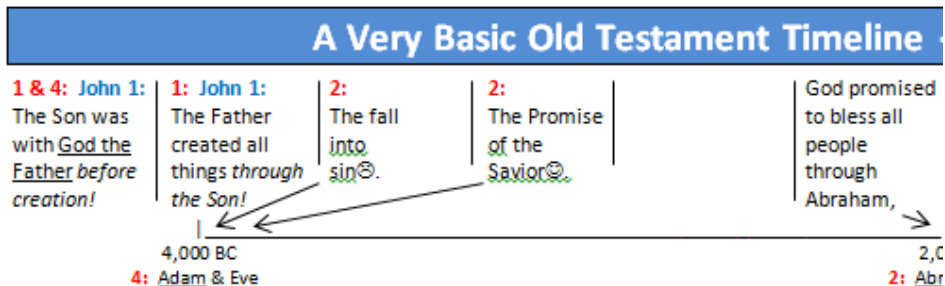
B: [John 1:3-5](#) – The Father Created All Things *through the Son!*

Wednesdays in Advent: 11 AM Services, Noon Meals; 6 PM Meals, 7 PM Services

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today, we begin our eleven-part Advent series entitled “**God With Us.**” These are some key aspects of the series:

- ⇒ Before the Son of God put on flesh and blood, He existed with the Father before creation.
- ⇒ God the Father worked through the Son to create all things.
- ⇒ The Son of God is the golden thread from God to Adam to Abraham to David to others, all the way to Joseph and Jesus.
- ⇒ When the time was right God set in motion an important series of events that surrounded the birth of our Savior.

Today, regarding the “**God With Us**” brochure, we will focus on this part of the Old Testament timeline:



1. **Part 1, A:** [John 1:1-2](#) – The Son was with God the Father *before Creation!*
 - a. See the timeline above: 4,000 BC is when all things were created, including time – *yet the Son was with*

the Father before creation. As the entire Bible begins with these words, “*In the beginning...*,” so John began his gospel *by taking us back to the beginning:* ^{NIV} [John 1:1](#) “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*” ² He was with God in the beginning.” //

- i. So who is “the Word”? God has told us in [John 1:14](#), it says: “*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.*” (NIV) So “the Word” is *the very Son of God!*
 - ii. Is Jesus merely from 2,000 years ago? That is the approximate time when the Son of God put on human flesh, *but He is so much more!* The Son was with the Father before creation. We confess these words in the Athanasian Creed: “*...we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man. He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father, before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age: perfect God and perfect man...*”
- b. Other passages that place the Son before creation:
 - i. ^{NIV} [John 17:5](#) [Jesus said] “*...Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.*”
 - ii. ^{NIV} [John 17:24](#) [Jesus said] “*Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.*”

2. **Part 1, B:** [John 1:3-5](#) – The Father Created All Things *through the Son!* We have already established that the Son was present with the Father before creation. Then,

regarding the Word of God – who eventually became flesh, John wrote:

- a. ^{NIV} **John 1:3** “*Through* [δι’ - or “on account of”] *him* all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. //
 - i. We confess the Father as the creator:
 1. Apostles’ Creed: I believe in God, the **Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**
 2. Nicene Creed: I believe in one God, the **Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth** and of all things visible and invisible.
 - ii. So the Father created, but He did so through the Son! As John wrote: “*Through him* all things were made...” Paul also wrote these words in reference to Jesus: “He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. For **by Him** [*the Son of God*] **all things were created, both** in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible...” (Col. 1:15-16 NAS)
- b. ⁴ In him [*the Word of God*] was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.”
 - i. In him was life [ζωή]: According to a Greek scholar named Gingrich, the “**Word of God**” being “**life**” means “**the life belonging to God, Christ, and the believer**” (Bible Works). So “**life**” in this context refers to spiritual and eternal life; a life that God must *begin* and *sustain* through our union with Jesus who is the Christ (1 Cor. 1:30a; Phil. 1:6).
 - ii. That life was the light [φῶς] of men: In the Old Testament God’s Word was a light; the

Psalist prayed: “Your word is...a light to my path.” (Ps. 119:105 ESV) *That OT Word of God* pointed to the *true Word of God* who is Jesus! In John 8 Jesus said: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (v. 12 NIV)

- iii. The darkness has not understood it: The “darkness” refers to people in the world who are *spiritually blind* and *spiritually dead*. For such people, **Jesus is exactly what they need** but they are *unaware* and *uninterested*☹. Jesus said these words to people who were *lukewarm*, thus *spiritually halfhearted*: “...you say, ‘I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,’ and **you do not know** that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked...” (Rev 3:17 NAS) So what is the remedy? Jesus told us to continue in His Word, *then* “you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32 NAS)

Conclusion: So part 1 of “**God With Us**” has helped us understand that the One who lived and died for us:

- ⇒ Was with the Father in eternity.
- ⇒ Was the One through whom the Father created all things.
- ⇒ Is our source of spiritual and eternal life!

Please join us this Sunday as we connect the dots from Abraham to Joseph to Jesus!

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

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