

**Armagh Baptist Church**  
**Sunday 3rd May 2009 – 7:00pm**  
**“The Significance of Christ” John 1:1-18.**

**Introduction**

I had thought of starting a series on Matthew's Gospel tonight, but I didn't think you would appreciate looking at the Christmas story in the mouth of the summer! It would have felt a little strange!

So I have turned to John's Gospel instead...

John doesn't give us the Birth Stories that Matthew and Luke record in their Gospels. Nevertheless, John has his own way of getting across to us the significance of Christ's birth. He does this in the Introduction to his Gospel - Ch.1:1-18 – often known as His Prologue.

His main purpose, in these opening verses, is to show us that...

**1. GOD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF TO US IN JESUS (v.18)**

This wasn't the first time that God had revealed something of Himself to mankind. There had been earlier revelations (v.17).

(i) Moses and the Burning Bush.

Also appearances to Jacob, Elijah, Abraham and

Isaiah.

(ii) The Law given to Moses.

- Had revealed God's high standard - perfection.

- What he required of men - holiness.

- How He should be approached in worship - with reverence.

(iii) The prophets: (e.g. John the Baptist v.6-9).

The Old Testament prophets had foretold Christ's

coming:

eg. Isaiah, Micah, Hosea, etc.

John was the last of the Prophets who would foretell

Jesus' coming into the world. (Malachi 4:4-6 & Matthew 11:9-14).

14).

So there had been earlier revelations. But...

**2. JESUS IS GOD'S CLEAREST REVELATION OF HIMSELF (v.1-4)**

John is keen to tell us that God was speaking.

And when you speak you use words.

So God was using His Word (logos).

(v.1) The Word, was Jesus.

- Co-eternal with God.

- Co-equal with God.

- Co-essential with God.

(v.14) The Word, who was God.

- Became flesh!

- God became a Man!

- And he literally *“pitched his tent among us for a while.”* (tabernacled).

- And so we were able to “behold his glory”!

Cf. Exodus 3:6. John had seen that glory and survived!  
(v.17) The Law had been revealed through Moses - In judgment.  
Grace and Truth was now revealed through Jesus - The day of grace and mercy had dawned. God was holding out the hand of friendship to men!

(v.18) No-one has ever seen God. But Jesus Christ, God's Son, has made him known. So Jesus now shows us what God is like.

Words on stone tablets couldn't do that.

So Jesus is God's clearest revelation of Himself to us.

But a word of warning:

### 3. JESUS IS GOD'S FINAL REVELATION OF HIMSELF (Heb 1:1-3)

Hebrews 1:2 says *“In these last days [God] has spoken to us by His Son.”*

“God has spoken.” - He has said his final word on the subject.

He has done so through His “Word” - Jesus.

We need to listen to what God is saying to us in Jesus.

- What he is like - Holy.

- What he requires - Perfection.

- How He himself has come and fulfilled these requirements for us in Christ.

- How we can be saved – Not by doing our best, but through putting our Faith in Christ alone.

But what happened when Jesus came into the World?

When God spoke for the last time?

### 4. JESUS WAS REJECTED BY HIS OWN (John 1:10,11)

(v.10) - He came to that which was ‘his own’

- To **the world** he himself had created.

- To **the people** he himself had created.

- To **the country** God had given to his own people - Israel.

- He became a Jew and he went to **his own people** - The Jews.

But his own people would not accept who he was.

They didn't receive or welcome him - But they rejected him!

eg. - “No room for them in the Inn.” - Rejected while in the womb.

- “Fled to Egypt to escape Herod.” - Rejected in his birth place.

- “Rejected in Nazareth.” - Rejected in his home town. (Mark

6:1-4).

- “Rejected by the crowd in Jerusalem.” - Rejected at his death.

On Palm Sunday they shouted “Hosanna, Hosanna.”

One week later they shouted “Crucify Him, Crucify Him!”

So that's how much he was rejected by people in his own world then.  
But has anything much changed in that respect today?  
He was rejected by his own...

## **5. BUT HE WAS RECEIVED BY SOME (John 1:12,13)**

*Many* rejected Him - But *some* received Him.

It says, "*as many as received him*" (a few, some). But...  
Whoever they were, whatever they were, whatever they had  
done...

If they received Him, they were blessed by Him.

No-one who ever came to Christ, has ever been turned away:

- A Religious man - Nicodemus - John 3.
- An woman of questionable morals at a well in Samaria - John

4.

- A Roman Centurion and a Condemned Criminal - Luke 23.
- A Hated Tax-collector - Zacchaeus.
- A Blind beggar - Bartimaeus.

*"But to as many as received Him"* - what happened to them?  
To them He gave the right, (the privilege, the authority) to *become a  
Child of God!*

**How?** - By becoming a new child in a new family, by a new birth.  
- By being born again of God (John 3:7).  
- By being changed by God (2 Corinthians 5:17)  
- By being made a new creation in Christ!

So you don't become a child of God by being born physically.  
Or even by being baptised as a baby in a Church.  
You become a child of God by being born of God, by being born  
again.  
That's why Jesus stressed - "You *must* be born again!" (John 3:7).

Every single person in this world cannot claim God as their "Father."  
God is only a Heavenly Father to those who've been born again.  
To those who've entered His family by faith in His Son.  
Are you in God's Family?      Are You born again?

## **6. JOHN HAD A REASON FOR WRITING HIS GOSPEL (John 20:30,31)**

He tells us in these verses why he wrote his Gospel in the first place.  
He tells us that he witnessed everything that Jesus did and said  
firsthand,  
But he only recorded some things. (v.30)

Why? Because he had a purpose in writing.

- To prove that Jesus was the Christ
  - The Messiah who had been promised.
- To prove that Jesus was the Son of God
  - God come in the flesh.

What did he hope to achieve by this?

- **So that you might believe in Jesus for yourself.**
- **So that you might have eternal life.**

## **CONCLUSION**

God has revealed Himself to us through His Son.

He has spoken to us through Him.

The question is have we listened? Have we responded?

Have you believed in Jesus for yourself?

Are you a child in God's Family?

Do you **know** that you have eternal life through faith in Christ alone?

Have you received Christ, or are you rejecting Him?

That's the reason for Christ's coming the first time.

But He's coming again: The question is, will you be ready to meet him the next time he comes as King?

**On that day he will either be your Saviour or your Judge**

**Which will it be?**

**Accept him by faith as your Saviour now,**

**Or else face him in fear as your Judge then.**

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