

IT WAS GOD IN THAT MANGER

John 1:1

Introduction: Our world would accept Jesus more if He were still that baby in the manger but it doesn't want to recognize nor accept Him as sovereign King and Lord that He is, but that is the truth of the Christmas story: That baby in the manger of the Christmas story

is God! Lots of people would otherwise embrace Jesus as the Messiah don't want Him to be God.

- They will welcome Him as a son of David, but not as the Son of God.
- They don't mind celebrating the birth of a baby, but they don't want to hear about the Lord of lords.
- They sing of His nativity, but openly reject His authority.
- They adore Him as a tiny infant, but will not pay homage to Him as the God-man.
- They tolerate the displays of Christmas, a manger, shepherds, wise men, Joseph, Mary and all the hymns, but:
- They cannot bear to think of Christmas as the advent of God in human flesh.
- In reality the world ignores the central truth of Christmas.
- Instead of honoring Jesus at Christmas, they actually mock Him.

Satan must love the world's Christmas celebration. He must be delighted in the blatant sin and blasphemy and rejection of Christ and all

this by people who think they are celebrating His birth! How Satan must delight in the way people give lip service to the birth of Christ

while ignoring the central truth - it was God in that manger!

I. REAL CHRISTMAS IS NOT ABOUT THE SAVIOR'S INFANCY BUT ABOUT HIS DEITY

1. The humble birth of Jesus Christ was never intended to conceal the reality that it was God being born into the world.
2. The world has changed the real meaning of Christmas.
3. For most people, Christmas has no real Biblical meaning at all other than the scenery, then it's Santa Claus, etc.

II. NO HUMAN CAN EVER GRASP WHAT IT MEANS FOR GOD TO BE BORN IN A MANGER

1. How can it be explained that it was Almighty God stooping to become a tiny human infant?
2. There has been no condescension ever before or after like God becoming a tiny human baby.
3. No mind can begin to understand what was involved in God becoming a human, a man.
4. Who can ever comprehend why He who was infinitely rich would become poor.
5. Why would Almighty God ever want to assume a human nature and enter into the world He created knowing He would be rejected and killed by those He loved so very much?
6. Why did God choose to come into this world as a tiny baby?

- Yet He did.

- Without giving up His divine nature or diminishing His deity in any sense, He was born into our world as a tiny baby.

- Often someone asks, "Did He cry? Did He need normal care that any other baby would need?"

- Of course He did, He was fully human with all the needs and emotions that we have.

- However at the same time, He was fully God. Who can explain that?

- The Bible tells us the story but we will never understand the "why's or how's."

III. IN A WAY, JESUS SUSPENDED SOME OF HIS DIVINE ATTRIBUTES TILL LATER

1. Jesus never gave up being God, but He did give up some of the privileges and powers that He later used as a grown man.

Philippians 2:5-8

2. Jesus chose to subject Himself to His Father's will. *John 5:30* *John 6:38*

3. Through all His infancy, childhood, youth and adult life, He was always God.

4. Ever since Jesus ascended back into Heaven there has been much debate on just who Jesus really was/is.

- Cults and skeptics have their explanations saying that Jesus was just one of many gods, created, a high ranking

angel,

a good teacher, a prophet, and so on, but never the Almighty God.

- The common idea of all such theories is that Jesus was NOT GOD.
- 5. Let the Bible speak for Itself:
 - ***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made." John 1:1-3***
 - Who is "the Word" mentioned in these verses?
 - Verse 14 removes any doubt: ***"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."***

IV. THE BIBLICAL EVIDENCE LEAVES NO DOUBT THAT THE BABE IN THE MANGER WAS/IS GOD

1. Grown from a babe into an adult, that "man" was omniscient.
 - "But Jesus did not commit Himself unto them, because He knew all men, and needed not that any should testify of man, for He knew what was in man." John 2:24-25***
 - Nathaniel was stunned to discover that Jesus knew all about him before they ever met.
 - That was all it took for Nathaniel to be persuaded that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. ***(John 1:40-50)***
 - Jesus also demonstrated His omniscient abilities with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, telling her things that any other person would not have known. ***(John 4:17-19, 29)***
2. Jesus, as a man, also did the works of God.
 - "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me; or else believe me for the very works sake." John 14:11***
 - Jesus' works are convincing proof that He is indeed God.
 - He began His miraculous ministry with a simple act, turning water into wine at a wedding. ***(John 2:1-11)***
 - Only God can create.
 - Jesus also healed people who were hopelessly ill, gave sight to blind eyes, opened deaf ears, restored crippled limbs.
 - Jesus created enough fish and bread to feed thousands at a time.
 - Jesus raised the dead by simply commanding them to come out of the grave.

CONCLUSION:

1. Who is/was this baby in the manger? It was/is God.
2. The Bible is very clear even though the world wants to keep Jesus as a seasonal name, a baby in a manger, not God.
3. Christmas is the time God chose to become human flesh and to eventually make the only way that all who would believe in that Christmas baby, known as Jesus, could have eternal life.
4. Satan and the world has tried to hide, to cover up, to switch attention from the true, real meaning of Christmas by giving Santa Claus, reindeer, a sleigh in the sky, and all the things we now associate with Christmas in order that our time and attention would be drawn from the real to the imaginary.
5. The real truth about Christmas is that the baby in the manger was/is GOD!