

# The King is Coming – Part 1

## Lesson for Sunday, December 1, 2024

We will be working through John 1 as we lead up to Christmas. Try to stick to the weekly Biblical text and not go ahead in John 1. The other challenge will be trying not to overwhelm your people with such a rich text! Work to organize your lesson around your listener's understanding.

TEXT: John 1:1-5

### INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Icebreaker Question: What's your favorite holiday and why?
  - You can follow-up with some Christmas questions such as: Who has their house decorated? Is it a sin to decorate before Thanksgiving? What is your favorite Christmas song? What is your favorite Christmas tradition?
- ⇒ One of the most important tasks we have as Christians is to not fall into the trap of forgetting what Christmas is about.
  - Family is great, gifts are nice, the music is beautiful, and the decorations are a nice touch. But Christmas is about the arrival of our King!
- ⇒ During these Sundays leading up to Christmas Day, we will be looking at a wonderful Christmas text. Can you guess which one? Not Luke 2 and not Matthew 1...
- ⇒ We will be looking at John 1 – one of the most important chapters in all the Bible.
  - Challenge your class members to study with you during the week! They can get a good study Bible and/or commentary and work through it themselves.

### CONTEXT:

- ⇒ John 1:1-5 is John's introduction to his Gospel account. It is one of the summits of Scripture.
- ⇒ Think about it: What is the most awe-inspiring thought that stands at the peak of human concepts? It can be argued that the answer to that question is: In Bethlehem, God became a man.
- ⇒ In this text we learn some of the essential teachings regarding the incarnation such as: Jesus is the Word of God; Jesus is the Creator of life; Jesus is the very being and essence of life. These are not easy concepts for a Sunday morning! But they are rich enough to deepen your relationship with the Savior!

### BIBLE STUDY:

1. Christ is Eternal (vs. 1-2)
  - a. In these two verses, John makes three profound statements about Jesus.
  - b. First, Christ is preexistent (vs. 1a).
    - i. Jesus existed before creation. He has always existed.
    - ii. "In the beginning" doesn't mean *from* the beginning. When the heavens and earth were created, Jesus was already there.
    - iii. Jesus did not "become"; He was not created; He never had a beginning. In the beginning, Jesus existed along with God the Father (John 17:5; 8:58).
  - c. Second, Christ is coexistent (vs. 1b).
    - i. "With" has the idea of both *being with* and *acting toward*. Jesus Christ was both with God and acting with God.
    - ii. This means that He was by God's side, acting, living, and moving in the closest of relationships. Their life together was a perfect eternal bond.
    - iii. This is what is meant by, "He was in the beginning with God" (vs. 2). (See also 1 John 1:1-2.)
  - d. Third, Christ is self-existent (vs. 1c-2).
    - i. John declared unmistakably that Jesus Christ is God.

- ii. Note that John did not write that Jesus was “the God” or “a God.” He purposefully omitted the definite article “the.” What is John saying?
  - iii. When a person sees Christ, a distinct Person is seen. Jesus Christ is God, but He is a unique, separate Person from God the Father: He is the Son of the Living God.
- 2. Christ is the Creator (vs. 3).
  - a. In verse 3, John reveals another profound truth about Jesus: He is the Creator of all things.
  - b. First, Christ created all things (vs. 3a).
    - i. *ALL* means every detail of creation – not just the whole, but every single part. Whether it is physical or spiritual, angelic or human, it has all been brought into being by Christ (see Colossians 1:16).
    - ii. Scripture makes it clear that Christ was the One who created all things – one by one. Among the Trinity, Jesus was the active Agent, the Person who made all things. Creation was His function and work.
    - iii. See also – 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2
  - c. Second, nothing was created apart from Christ (vs. 3b).
    - i. Note that two statements of facts are made:
    - ii. The positive: “All things were made through Him.”
    - iii. The negative: “Without Him was not any thing made that was made.”
- 3. Christ is life (vs. 4-5).
  - a. Note that Christ is the source of light (vs. 4) and is the answer to darkness (vs. 5).
  - b. Jesus Christ is the light of humanity, the *beam* that showed us the way, the truth and the life.
    - i. Christ showed us the way God intended us to live.
    - ii. Christ showed us the truth of life – the truth about God and humanity and the truth about the world in which we live.
    - iii. Christ showed us the life – how to save our lives and avoid the things that can cause us to stumble.
  - c. Remember that not only did Christ’s light penetrate the darkness, but it also conquered the darkness.
    - i. John states that the darkness cannot comprehend the light.
    - ii. This means that it cannot overcome it, and it cannot even grasp it on its own.

#### APPLICATION:

This is the King we serve! Christmas is all about the King!

- ⇒ One of our greatest challenges is grasping Who Jesus really is. Many times, we create an idol of Jesus in our own minds. We imagine what He is like, but we fail to consider Who the Bible says He is! If we are not careful, we can create an image of Jesus that is comfortable with our sins and doesn’t confront us for our lack of complete loyalty to Him.

Major point of application: The world is His; He made it. This is HIS world, and we are simply living in it. How does this reality apply to us?

1. God is not off in some distant place far removed from His creation, unconcerned and disinterested in what happens here. God cares about His creation. He cares about the smallest part of you and the challenges you may be facing.
2. Since this world is His, we ought to look to Him for how to live while we are here. The answer to our problems is found in Christ: He made this world and knows how it works best. When facing difficulties in life, we need to be sure to turn to Him.

Next week: John 1:9-13 – **I SAY THE WRONG TEXT ON THE VIDEO! THE NEXT LESSON WILL COVER VS. 9-13!**