

## Word in the Flesh

In the beginning was the Word. The Word preceded the beginning of the entire created order it was before all there is, or was, or ever will be. Think about what that might mean. If you believe in God you are in the broadest sense of the word a creationist. By that I mean you do not see the universe or even multi-universe as a random occurrence but instead believe it was authored. Authored itself is an interesting word, the use of words in creation is what an author does. God is the author of creation. The methods that God used are no doubt quite complex, as modern science tells us, and I imagine far beyond my comprehension but the universe itself seems comprehensible. There is order and it is at least clear to me that God is not just a bystander in that, all things are indeed held together through the Word. At the onset of creation there appears to be a direction if you will, and that direction does not lead to an infinite number of random possibilities but rather precisely leads to where we now are. Exactly where we are. If that is all true then creation was aimed before the first moment in time and space was triggered. Something else seems to me to be objectively true and follows from our belief in God and the revelation we have of God in Christ Jesus. At some point in our history as a human race there must have been a first person that realized by the gift of revelation or some inherent property given by God that something exists beyond our immediate ability to see it and that something is a someone who is interested in us. Perhaps that person who first had a God consciousness also was able to understand that God had a will for us or perhaps it was some other person on down the line of life. This is however sure, eventually someone knew that there is a God and that God has a will for the way we behave. The earliest sites of our human ancestors seem to contain artifacts that were buried along with the bodies in the graves of those people. The nature of the artifacts, tools, jewelry, and even food suggest a belief in life after death. All that understood, one day some human who understood that there is a God and that God has a will, one of our ancestors for sure, said yes God is, and God expects me to behave this way but today I think I'll do it my way. From that day on the descendants of mankind had fallen from grace by willful disobedience. All that, we seem to have abundant evidence for. So what was God to do? How would a loving God correct humanities rebellion? Genesis seems to suggest that a divine exile from the garden was the first Godly form of discipline. Later God formed the nation of Israel in the womb of Egypt taking the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob from an embryonic tribal group too a nation. Their birth into a nation was messy, as births usually are, but after being cleaned up a bit they learned to walk in the wilderness and in a sense were taught to read God's law by Moses, the largest home school project in history. But it seems we failed to receive the law of God into our hearts and so God sent prophets to teach us anew. God used the teaching of the law like a nanny to look over us and discipline us until we could understand. Exile and return, try again, try again, but we still didn't get it. God's law was not clear and we conflated it with hundreds of commandments to try to flesh it out but still failed. God's Word in fact had to be quite literally fleshed out if we were to come and learn and fully understand that God did not need or want servants, who slavishly followed the letter of the law, rather God wanted children whose very moral DNA was changed to mirror God's own. We in fact needed to be recreated in the image of the eternal God to see that we could become God-people. So Christ, the source of light and life,

the beginning of all righteousness, the Word and law of God became incarnate, literally took on flesh so that we could finally see what righteousness and the love and mercy of God looked like living among us. We call Christ the light because we could finally see illumination of the truth an example we could see, touch, commune with, laugh and cry with, but unfortunately for the most part only a small group got it, and they only got a small part in the beginning. Jesus the Word and law of God incarnate did not look like the God we dreamed of. Full of grace and not judgment, full of mercy instead of extracting justice, upending all our preconceptions it was just too much for us to take. This was a God of peace and not war, and God of surrender and not domination, not God a king, but God a servant. We thought he must be an imposter, and so we got rid of him, or so we thought. We tried to put that light away in a dark tomb and cover it with a heavy stone to keep it away from us. We wanted to exile this sort of God but the Spirit of God knew a deeper way and more profound wisdom and death could not hold this God in flesh. Not until the road to Emmaus did our hearts begin to burn with understanding within us as Jesus reviewed all that the prophets had told us about this coming. Pure righteousness took on the mantle of flesh, so that we in the flesh could be clothed in righteousness. We found out that when God sends his Word that it is swift and will accomplish that for which it is sent. The Word of God became known to us in the breaking of the bread. When Jacob wrestled with the word at night, the word of God was declared to him and he was forever changed. When the Word of God rained down upon the children of Israel, they ate the manna in the wilderness and drank living water, which flowed from the rock, the rock of our salvation. The Word of God became part of their very flesh as they ate and drank but they did not yet know it. Through Moses the people received God's statutes and judgments; but it was grace and truth embodied in Jesus Christ sacrificed for us that redeemed us. We are changed by a life that we could not understand. God's Word born of a virgin redeemed us so that we could cry out to God and call God Daddy. We saw in Jesus the person of God the Father and were prepared to receive God's Holy Spirit. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being will exult in my God for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness. Just like the father covered the Prodigal, who willfully sinned in exile, when he welcomed him home again. Look to Jesus and this resurrected God in flesh will change your heart, and then feed on him in your heart by faith and with thanksgiving.