

THE YEAR IN OUR LORD, 2010-2011

• Nov 28: Ere the Worlds Began to Be (Jn 1:1-4)

- Dec 12: Abraham's Divine Patron (Gen 15:7-21) • Dec 19: The God-Child (Isa 9:6-7)
- Dec 26: The Arrival (Jn 1:14)

ERE THE WORLDS BEGAN TO BE:
AN ADVENT MESSAGE
(JOHN 1:1-4)

I. He Was There

II. In the Beginning Was the Word (Jn 1:1-4)

A. Introducing the Word (1:1).

1. "In the beginning" recalls Genesis 1:1.
2. But instead of quoting Genesis 1:1, John 1:1 directs our attention to the Word.
3. There are two facts about the Word.
 - a. He was with God at the beginning.
 - b. He himself was also God.
4. Some say that since the second occurrence of "God" does not have a definite article ("the"), the Word is only "a god."
5. But John 1:1 is not teaching that the Word is only "a god" because....
 - a. YHWH says that after him, no god will exist (Isa 43:10).
 - b. The gods of the world are demons in disguise (Dt 32:17).
 - c. It is highly unlikely that John is now endorsing another god in God's presence.
6. There is another possible reason why John did not include the definite article next to the second occurrence of "God":
 - He did not want to confuse the Word with God.
7. To say that "the Word was God" means that the Word has the same essence as God—he too, like God, is *God*.

B. The Word was in the beginning with God (1:2).

1. John 1:2 makes sure we see the link to Genesis 1.
2. Where was the Word in Genesis 1?

- a. The eternal God-Word was manifested in all the specific words and directives that God issued to call the universe into being (Gen 1:3, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, etc.).
- b. The Word is the sum total of God's infinite, all-encompassing will.

3. Because the Word is *God's* word...

- a. He is an inseparable part of God's own person (though still distinct from God).
- b. He is also the servant of God.

—The Word does not function as his own Word, but God's.

C. All things were made through the Word (1:3; cf. Col 11:16).

1. 1:3 also shows why the Word cannot be just "a god."

—The Word is the Creator of all things!

2. What comfort can we derive from this?

- a. No power is beyond God's Word.
- b. All things will conform to God's Word.

D. In the Word is life and light (1:4)

1. Life (*zōē*) is more than mere existence.
 - It is living in peace with God and knowing him (17:3).
2. Light (*phōs*) is the opposite of darkness and all that is associated with it.
 - a. The emphasis here is on enlightenment (1:9).
 - b. The Word is the one who gives man the true knowledge of God.
 - i. He reveals God's will to mankind.
 - ii. He makes us the children of God (1:12).

III. The Word of God Is Our Life and Light

The immortal life and light that God gives to save us from our sins, to comfort us in our fears, and to lead us to himself is in the Word through whom he made the worlds—the Word who is also his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God calls us to receive his eternal Word so that he might raise us up into his holy and everlasting glory.