

Transforming Daily
“... *the beginning* ...”
John 1:1

John's writing of the gospel introduces the first coming of Christ differently than any of the other gospel writers. Matthew and Luke record the events of His birth, while Mark emphasizes His earthly ministry right from the start of his gospel record. On the other hand, John goes into a long Christological dissertation introducing the God-Man, Jesus Christ. By way of doctrinal argument, John explains who Christ is and why He has come. John is more interested, it seems, in the theological properties of the first coming of Christ than His patriarchal heritage.

John introduces God to the reader by way of Christ's first coming (breaking 400 years of silence). John is very clear to make the case that Jesus is not only as a god, He is *the* God. John's rhetoric includes words and concepts about Jesus as Word, Light, Life, Creator, in the beginning, and everlasting. Because of other pagan religions and false teachings of the day, as well as the misunderstanding of the teachings of Judaism itself, John was careful to make a strong case for the incarnation of Christ. For the purpose of salvation it was important, and still is important, for the reader to understand that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man.

That is what the Christmas message is all about. Jesus Christ, God, taking on the flesh of man in order to later become the substitutionary atonement for you and me. God's plan was to wrap Himself in flesh as the gift of salvation for all of mankind. It is an expression of love, a simple gift to be received, but for many people and for many reasons the proposition is difficult to accept. The offer of Christ is by grace, accepting Him as Savior is through faith.

Have you receive the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ? Are you sharing the good news of eternal life through Jesus Christ with others? As you share gifts this Christmas season with family and friends, co-workers and members of your school's student body, as well as, casual acquaintances, remember to share the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. That has been God's plan from the beginning.