

“The First Noel and the Second Adam”

The Ministry of the Gospels

December 7, 2025

GENRE ...the Gospels

Heb 1:1-4 ¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

...v. 1 ...God "spoke"

- "...at many times and in many ways"—

Rom 1:19-20

- We began this journey under the heading of "**The Ministry of the Word**"
 - There is a "**ministry**" ...this word has to do with some kind of "exchange"
 - There is a "**means**" of this "**ministry**" ...the means is "**Word(s)**" ...God's "**Means of Ministry**" to us is NOT Vague Human Intuitions or Feelings! ...it is Clearly Revealed Words!

...v. 2 "in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son"

- The Language Construction of This statement ... "He has spoken to us in the Son" ... "He has spoken in a Son-kind-of-language"

2 **Tim 3:15** and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

...**This Brings us to the "Incarnation"!** ...what we know as the Babe Born in a Manger—is actually, "in these last days, He has spoken to us in His Son" ...the incarnation is a unique manifestation/display of the ministry of the Word!—It is a "Communication" from God!

The Incarnation

John 1:1-18 ...The Word Became Flesh

Jn 1:1-4 ..."**CREATION**"

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

...**The "Person" of Jesus Christ (Who He is) ...Is Critical to My Story!!** (This matters to every moment of my "life-planning", my "life-boundaries", my "life-goals", my "self-definition")

Col 1:15-17

- **Our Understanding of Who He is Does NOT Start in a Bethlehem Manger!!** (v. 1 ...his "birth" is NOT him receiving life—He is the SOURCE of Life!!—v. 4)

- **It is Critical That we Know HE is THE CREATOR!** ...the Originator; the Upholder; the Manager! ...He is NOT merely another "religious human character"!!

Jn 20:30-31 ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

?? - Signs of What? ...Signs of His "Exousia" (Gk.) - His 'right' to exercise power over all that exists!

Earth is filled with people who are "in conflict" and many "undecided" about who Jesus is. ...From "earth's perspective" this might make perfect sense! ...But from the Sovereign, Perfect God's perspective--He has already spoken/revealed in such a way that belief is completely possible and reasonable!!

"The Incarnation"

...Critical to God's Purpose ...is that "The CHRIST"—Must be a Man! (A member of the race of men). ...Thus, it is No Small Thing that Our Christmas Carols Speak of this "INCARNATION"

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;

Hail the incarnate Deity.

Pleased as man with man to dwell,

Jesus, our Emmanuel

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Jn 1:1-5, 14

Heb 1:2-3

December Messages: ...What is being "revealed/spoken" to us—by the Incarnation—"The Word Becoming Flesh" ...What "Insight/Understanding" was going to come to us by the Incarnation of the Son of God?

- (1) That God Would Fulfill His Purpose in a Human Being
- (2) That God Would destroy the works of the Devil
- (3) That God would satisfy His Righteous Requirement for the Race of Man—and Restore Man to Himself

The 1st Noel and the 2nd Adam

...to be the Image Bearer Man was Created to Be!!

Gen 1:26 "Then God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness"

...The Great Design and Purpose for the Race of Adam ...was to "Image God" into the World!

... Yes, Adam has a mind, feelings, emotions! ...He has 5 senses to experience the world—he sees beauty, he tastes flavors, he feels music, he has relational affections, he finds pleasure in creation. ...Thus, life has an ability to bring him satisfaction, fulfillment, enjoyment!

... But BEFORE we seek to interpret or Describe Adam's "Best Life Now"—We need to embrace the Genius, the Love, the Meaningfulness, and the Ultimate Design that God Placed in Adam—"IMAGE BEARER"!!

"The man [Adam] was more than the first image bearer; he was the head of the human race. Given this headship, his responsibility carried with it the potential for profoundly devastating consequences. If Adam was sent out of Eden, we were sent out in him too. When Adam acted, he acted in our place. The impact of his decision, therefore, was far-reaching and ongoing. When Adam took and ate, we were in him taking and eating. His problem became our problem; his fall, our fall.

...The apostle Paul wrote that "in Adam all die" ([1 Cor. 15:22](#)). ...Paul says that "by a man came death" ([1 Cor. 15:21](#)). We are born into a world of death and are on our way to death. All of this teaches us that when the Lord promised Adam that "in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" ([Gen. 2:17](#)), "you" was referring to Adam and everyone in Adam.

What we need is a new federal head. If being "in Adam" brings condemnation and death, we need an agent of rescue and life. We need someone who can stand in our place and whose deeds can be reckoned to us. We need our humanity revived and our condition remedied. ...We need a new Adam, a last Adam. If the first man failed, we need an Adam who will be faithful and whose faithfulness will impact the present and future of all who are united to him." **Mitchell Chase**, "Understanding the First and Last Adam" (Crossway article)

1 Cor 15:21-22 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Rom 5:15 For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

1 Cor 15:45, 47-49 ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ...⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

...Jesus came from heaven, became A MAN (he was fully human)— in order to "fulfill all righteousness"

Matt 5:17

John 4:34

John 8:28-29

Matt 3:15

"Truly God and truly man, Jesus was not a transgressor like the first Adam. Our hope is the perfect righteousness of Jesus, which is credited to us sinners, whose standing without it would be condemnation. The gospel is good news because it proclaims Christ's substitutionary death, which flowed from his substitutionary life. Jesus lived the life we should have lived but couldn't have lived. Theologians refer to Christ's earthly obedience as his active obedience, which secures and demonstrates his role as our new federal head." **Mitchell Chase**, "Understanding the First and Last Adam"

The Incarnation & the Glory of God

Jn 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

...this "imaging" of God was/is a "revealing of God's Glory"

"God's GLORY"

...THIS is a massive word in our attempt to "figure out" our existence! ...When life's journey proceeds, and we build up thoughts, ideas, education, experiences, and expectations ...it's just a matter of time before we begin to ask the question—WHY? ...things as simple as "delay" and as weighty as "death" and all the "disease" and "disappointment" in between--will present the opportunity for "WHY"?

-- We ask "Why" for a critically important reason! ...because there's something in our 'design' that knows "there's a PURPOSE" in this world!

Hab 2:14

Is 6:3

Rev 4:11

...Why Does Anything Exist?

“Why marriage? Why is there marriage? Why does marriage exist? Why do we live in marriages? This means that my topic is part of a larger question: Why does anything exist? Why do you exist? Why does sex exist? Why do earth and sun and moon and stars exist? Why do animals and plants and oceans and mountains and atoms and galaxies exist? The answer to all these questions, including the one about marriage is: all of them exist to and for the glory of God. ... That is, they exist to magnify the truth and worth and beauty and greatness of God. ...God is unimaginably great and infinitely valuable and unsurpassed in beauty. Everything that exists is meant to magnify that reality.” **John Piper**, Building Strong Families, p. 91

>> THIS is even true within the Godhead ...Php 2 ...Though He Existed as God, revealing Glory Prevailed

Php 2:5-11