

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.*

*5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

I remember a Prego commercial from long ago. Someone was asking for a spaghetti sauce that would contain garlic and oregano and basil and marjoram and after each ingredient was named came the response – “It’s in there.” Everything you might dream of in a spaghetti sauce is already “in there”. I like to think of that line – “It’s in there.” when I consider all the things that have been invented in recent years – cell phones, blackberries, i-pods, lasers to do surgery, drugs to treat most every condition, MRI machines, LCD screens and lights. I could go on and on. Did God know that all of this would be when God created the first electron and the first quark - did God know what a human mind might invent when God caused life to begin? Did God foresee tsunamis and hurricanes and eclipses when God first spoke creation into being? Now I cannot know the mind of God – whether it is possible that God would ever be surprised or experience something new. But that line from the Prego commercial does answer my question in part – for ask if the possibility of a cell phone existed in the very beginning of creation and the answer is, “It’s in there.” No matter how we may marvel at what humans create every day – just think, God has created a creation where every one of these marvels could happen. It is already in there – before we even know it is or could be.

At the beginning of the gospel of John we hear these words: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Everything created through the Word even life itself.

Sometimes when I am on an airplane I marvel that so much weight could be supported by the movement of air over the curved surface of a wing. The Word created a world in which it is already in there.

I wonder about the human body and the experience of consciousness – digestion – emotion – movement - reproduction – creativity - all possibilities packed into the creation. It's in there.

And the Word that is God is so wise and wonderful and so much greater than all we can imagine - as far beyond my comprehension as the number of sub-atomic particles packed into this room – this Word became flesh and lived among us.

Born of Mary – a baby she named Jesus. The very Word that spoke all things into existence now clothed in diapers. Having to learn to walk - learning words one by one - being taught the names of the colors and the seasons - speaking a child's prayers to his Heavenly Father. We cannot comprehend God who has created all things but a baby we can hold and give our heart to.

“The Word became flesh and lived among us and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.”

We have seen his glory, glory as of a father's only son.

Glory. When shepherds came they saw a baby like any other –like a baby born to a sheep herder's wife, or a baby born to a princess, or a baby born to a soldier's wife or a baby born to a prostitute, a baby. They came and saw a baby like every other baby.

Glory. I doubt that they saw much glory in this child.

In his life there would be glorious moments – feeding five thousand, walking on water, healing the blind and the lame, even raising his friend Lazarus from the dead. But as John will write the rest of his gospel it is not in these events that he will speak of God's glory being revealed but in the moment that looks least glorious of all – Jesus dying. Glory.

“Greater love has no man than this that he lay down his life for a friend.” That is what Jesus would one day tell his followers. “Greater love has no man than this that he lay down his life for a friend.”

Glory. The Word became flesh and lived among us and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

You have seen Jesus glory for he gave his life for you. When you believe in him you are his new creation. If we think of all that was already “in there” in the first creation imagine what might be possible in the new creation he is making of you. Imagine all the love and faith and hope – all the caring and sharing that will be in you as you believe in him.

The inventions of our time may be glorious but how much more glorious is a life made new in Jesus. May God grant it to you and to me. Amen.