

Jesus in Eternity sermon by Phil Rogers

Today we start our series on the life and teachings of Jesus. Over the next few weeks leading up to Christmas we will be looking at Jesus the Son of God, before he was born. Jesus is in everything. We have a little bible for our boys, the Jesus story book bible. The tag line is every story whispers his name. So let's today start at the beginning.

In John 1 we read the well known verse often read at Christmas, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. Everything came into being through him and without him nothing came into being that has come into being... and the Word became flesh and lived among us and we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's only son, full of grace and truth."

This is a deliberate take on the very first verse in the Bible. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." John wants to take us back to the very beginning, before creation and show us that Jesus has existed right back then. He calls him the Word, which in Greek is very similar to the older Hebrew idea of Wisdom. We have God who is all knowing and all wise, communicating himself.

The Word was with God and is also God himself. Now some say this is illogical, a nonsense. How can he be WITH God and at the same time BE God? We now understand that God is Father and Son and Holy Spirit. Each of these distinct beings, each with their own individual identity and function are God. Only if this is the case can God be with God. We see hints of this right back in Genesis. The very word for God is Elohim, which is plural, (gods) yet we know there is only one God. How can one God be plural? Why does this one plural God say "Let us make man in our image"? Because we have the Father and the Word and the Spirit, one God. We get a glimpse of the Word in Proverbs 8:22. Where God's Wisdom is speaking. "The LORD acquired me at the very beginning of his journey, before his earliest acts. From eternity I was installed, from the beginning, from earth's earliest moments When there were no ocean depths, I was given birth, when there were no springs bursting with water, before the mountains sank into place, before the hills. I was given birth, before He made the earth or its surface or the first cultivatable soil.

When he established the heavens, I was there. When he marked out the horizon on the surface of the oceans, when he made firm the skies above and securely fixed the edges of the deep oceans and set the boundary for the sea so that the waters would not overstep his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth;

Then I was alongside him, a master craftsman. Every day I was his delight and always rejoicing in his presence, rejoicing in the world, his earth, and having my delight in human children."

Where did Jesus come from? He was brought forth, came into being from God before the very beginning of creation. We know almost nothing about this - he is called the first-born of all creation - but he was not a created being, like us. He is God and he originates out of God himself., from his own being. Separate from him but the same as him. That is why he is called God's only Son, (only

begotten).

He was involved in creation - nothing has come into being apart from him. And so we see the Word in Gen 1, because everything God made he created by a word, he spoke and it happened. In Prov. it uses the word rejoicing. But this word actually means to play as children play or enjoy oneself, to have fun. What amazing fun it must have been for the Word to have a part in creating everything things that exists. He is the master craftsman at his Father's side. His job is to speak into being everything his Father has conceived and has told him to say. Within his words are encapsulated every detail (right down to its atomic structure and its DNA) and the powerful Holy Spirit had the job of making them come into being. Can you imagine it? What's first on your list father? Light. OK. Photons flowing everywhere with amazing energy - I've got it Father, can I speak it now? OK Son. Let there be LIGHT! And there was light!

Immediately the Spirit of God who is God's dynamic energy and power, went to work and flooded this black shapeless and empty universe with light. We read ['the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the oceans](#). Don't for one moment imagine a dove -like being flitting here and there over the surface of the vast ocean. God's all-pervading power was actively present surging over the entire surface of these primordial waters. As Jesus got to speak word after word of command, the Spirit brought into being, immeasurable sand on the sea shore, blades of grass, and innumerable different species of plant life of animals life or insects and birds and fish such that the seas were teeming and the land was covered with life. What sort of fun must that have been? But look at the relationship between the Father and his Only Son the joy and delight, the pleasure they had in each other. What a party, what games they played! Do you never think of God as having fun, of playing games? Do you only ever see him as solemn and a bit serious or with furrowed eyebrows, peering with disapproval from his throne at all the sin in this world? Well, yes, the sin and evil that floods this world like filthy stinking water, surely grieves God's heart. Does that make him permanently miserable? No, God is a being of great joy, abounding in love.

Jesus was not only his Father's delight, and had huge fun in bringing into being everything that did not yet exist, he also delighted in the "sons of men". It specifies that his delight was in the 'children of human beings'. Why do children play? How do we feel when we see children having fun and playing and dancing and running and jumping and feeling the exhilaration of this world without the burden of responsibility that we as 'grown ups' have? The Word loves it, he made them to be like this, because that is what he is like. Human children were created like him the only Son of God, to delight in all their new discoveries and to have fun uncovering all that the Son of God had hidden for them find. A parent's role is to help them to discover all the wonders that God has surrounded our children with and to appreciate and wonder at the wonders of God's creation. (David? & sand) Let us never lose the joy and delight in this amazing creation. "Familiarity breeds contempt" so the saying goes. Let us never lose the pleasure, the fun and delight in this world that Jesus had such fun making for us; through the eyes of each new generation Jesus enjoys that fun all over again as he delights in human children discovering his handiwork. He discovered it all for himself again when he was born as a human child - but that is another story.