

- 1  **“Mysteries of the Manger”**
[John 1:1-3,14 & 29]
- 2  **Mysteries of the Manger**
 - Who was in the manger?
 - How did he come to be there?
 - Why was He there?
- 3  **Who was in the manger?**
 - “The Word” is one of the titles given the Son of God, Jesus Christ, in Scripture.
 - “Logos” has the basic meaning of “the expression of thought,” “... the embodiment of a concept or idea.”
 - John 1:18 confirms the application of “Logos” to Christ as the one Who communicates God to mankind, He is the revealer of God to us
 - “*No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.*”
- 4  **This same function of God the Son is clearly spelled out in two other N.T. passages:**
 - Hebrews 1:1-3
 - Colossians 1:15-17
- 5  **John 1:3 also declares that the one Who was in the manger [the Logos] was also the ‘Creator’ of all things!**
It does not here describe an abstract and impersonal thought or idea, rather, it is referring to a personality, an individual, Who is obviously on a par with God Himself!
- 6  **The text also strains to emphasize the pre-existence of this individual**
 - “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.*”
 - “was” = Greek past imperfect ... which indicates past continuous action or existence!
 - This indicates that at the beginning, when God began the work of creation, something was already in existence!
 - “The Word” had always been ... and continued to be in existence!
 - These four uses of the word “was,” all have the same form, and all point to a timeless, continuous, past existence!
- 7  **Three things the text tells us**
 - The Word existed from eternity! [i.e. there never was a time when the Word was not!]
 - He has existed in eternity ever in distinction from, and yet ever in close relationship with God!
 - He has existed from eternity as a distinct person within the Godhead, yet possessing all the essence of God!
- 8  **John 20:31 - John explains the purpose for which he is writing:**
 - “*But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*”
- 9  **John is writing that you may believe that Jesus is “the Christ” [i.e. the promised “messiah”]!!! - This is His office!!!**
 - Prophet - Deut. 18:15, 18; John 6:14; Acts 3:22-24
 - Priest - Psalm 110:4; Jer. 23:6; Psa. 40:6,7; Heb. 6:20
 - King - Gen. 49:10; II Sam. 7:12-13; Psa. 72; Daniel 2:44-45
- 10  **John also says that he is writing that you might believe that this babe in the manger is the very Son of God!!!**
 - John 6:38 - “*... I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.*”
 - John 17:5 - “*And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.*”
- 11  **How did he come to be there?**

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." - John 1:14

He took upon Himself a true, real, completely ordinary human existence!

"... For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. ..." - Rom. 8:3

... yet Scripture explicitly declares He was without sin [II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; I Pet. 2:22; I Jn. 3:5].

Therefore, when it says He was "in the likeness of sinful flesh," it means He was subject to weakness and weariness; and He was subject to death [mortality]!

12 Two classic passages which describe this miracle of incarnation:

Hebrews 2:14-18

Phil. 2:5-8

13 So, - what was in Mary's womb?

- John 1:14 says very clearly that it was "the Word" that became flesh!!!
- He was not stripped of what He was from all eternity - He was truly God and truly man; "the God-man!!!" There was no diminution or dilution of His essential Godhood.
- Colossians 1:16-17 & Heb. 1:2-3 - Tell us that He was the Creator of all the billions and trillions of galaxies, - "upholding all things by the word of His power!"

14 Why was He there?

- "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" - John 1:29
- "... he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." - Heb. 2:14
- That is why He is called "The Savior of the world" [I Jn. 4:14 & Jn. 4:42]!
- He [Christ] is the "propitiation" [Rom. 3:25; - "satisfactory sacrifice"] for our sins! His sacrifice of Himself on the cross satisfied the righteous demands of God for our breaking of His law!!! [cf. I Jn. 2:1-2]!!!

15 So, why did "the Word" become flesh"?

- **Hebrews 10:4-7**
- **Galatians 1:4**

16 And How did He accomplish this on our behalf?

Galatians 3:13 - "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'" [cf. II Cor. 5:21 & I Pet. 2:24]

17 Think of the mystery of the manger!

- Think of all He left in heaven to come to earth to redeem us!
- All so that we could find in Him deliverance from our guilt and condemnation - and the hope of eternal life!!!
- The greatest Christmas gift: John 3:16 & Ephesians 2:8-9!!!