

# December 2001: When the Word Became Flesh

by Aaron Greenway

Well, Christmas is upon us again! We are now in the middle of that time of year where the annual Christmas tree is lit in New York City, where people run you over in the isles of the department store trying to get to that last Britney Spears doll, where people crawl from place to place on ice, where students push for the end in their academics so they can go home to be with their families, and where people will gather with their families and friends to open gifts. We are affected by the glamorous advertising, promotions and holiday specials. We notice all the lights, decorations, and glitter. The power of words, thoughts and ideas circle around during this time of year. And it affects what we do, where we go, and what we buy. It affects our attitudes about things.

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The power of the “words” is incredible. God used “words” to form the universe and this planet. He used words to form the seas, the mountains, and human beings. He used words to eject Adam and Eve from the Garden when they were found with disobedience. He used words to declare His judgment upon the earth with a flood. He used words to make a covenant with Abraham, with Moses, and with David. God’s words are significant, because when God speaks, things happen. And God backs His “words” up every single time.

But one day, two thousand years ago, God spoke again. This time, it was so powerful, it rattled the cosmos, it caused angels to rejoice, and thus began God’s plan to bring man back to Himself. The Word became flesh. What was (and is) the second person of the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ became a man. Jesus became the final Word that God spoke to build a bridge back to those He sought to save.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).

“And Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

Unfortunately, the Word gets drowned out too often by the empty noise of advertising, ribbons, Christmas paper, and Harry Potter. Why is this? Because God’s Word, while powerful, many times is heard in the quietest parts of the earth. It is for those who are listening to His voice. This is why Jesus’ birth was not conspicuous or bombastic. There was no parade. There was no fanfare. And yet all of Heaven rejoiced! God became completely a human being and yet only shepherds, three rich men from the East, two elderly folk in the temple, and a threatened King in Jerusalem knew about it. When God is moving, do we know about it? Could we recognize it if we saw it?

For those of us who have placed our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, the Living Word, we have experienced the moving of God. We have been forgiven of our sins through His finished work on the cross. We have been redeemed and although we deserve Hell, God, instead, has made us His sons and daughters. What an incredible miracle! And it all began in a feeding trough with a little baby, where God began His journey as a human being. It is this Living Word that has the power to save, to heal, to forgive, and to change.

If Jesus is not the reason for the season, then what is? If Jesus is a fluke, a joke, a laugh, then we are in trouble. Paul said himself, “And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable” (I Corinthians 15:17-19). Jesus is either ALL hope or there is NO hope at all! Either He is who He claimed to be, or He was the biggest cosmic con-artist of all time! Either Jesus can change me from a sinner to a saint, or He is nothing more than a fairy tale. All this becomes the confidence that I have to overcome my own struggles and shortcomings: the person and the work of Jesus Christ. Getting closer to Him allows me to tap into that power, to become more like God in my character and in my attitudes. There is no greater joy than to have a heart that is close to His!

I recall the scene in “Vertical Limit” where three people are trapped in an ice pit several feet from the surface. As the rescue team attempts to get them out, they end up slipping and falling in themselves. With all of them hanging on a thin piece of rope on the edge of a bottomless pit, one of the most experienced rescuers cuts his own line so that the others could get out.

Where are we this Christmas season? Is the Word powerful enough to penetrate our hardness? Is He strong enough to defeat any bondage or shortcoming? Is He God enough to change me from the person I am to the person I can become? The answer is: YES! What a hope for those of us who continually try to crawl out of our holes only to make them deeper. Jesus becomes the lifeline! The way out! When we see the nativity this year, let us try to remember “Actions speak louder than words”. However in this case, the Living Word was spoken and action (the birth of Christ, the cross of Christ and the resurrection of Christ) was there to back it up!