

1 John 1:1

That Which was from the Beginning

The verb “was” is an interesting verb in this phrase. It is a past tense verb, and this past tense verb means “was already in existence,” not “came into existence” at creation. But, was “already in existence at creation.” The subject matter in chapter 1:1-3 is Jesus Christ, and the verb is a direct reference to Christ. Before the creation of Genesis 1:1, Christ “was,” and this is a direct reference to His eternity.

In Genesis 1:1, Moses refers to the beginning of the universe. Not the beginning of God. It’s the beginning of the universe. “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Just how long ago that was, we do not know. The Bible doesn’t tell us when it was. In fact, there’s so much that we don’t know!

Furthermore, the Apostle John declared, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God” (John 1:1-2).

Then John makes this astounding statement: “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

Before time began, Christ was already in existence with God. It is very true when theologians refer to Jesus Christ as being unique. He was God from all eternity and yet joined Himself to humanity in the incarnation.

It is interesting that in the prophecy of Micah, where he prophesied the coming of the Messiah, he said, “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting (5:2).

If you read carefully that last phrase in Micah 5:2 that reads “... whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting” you will note that the Messiah that would be born in Bethlehem, had always existed (from everlasting). And that Messiah, as you well know, is none other than Jesus Christ Himself.

When Solomon was dedicating the temple, he declared, “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded” (1 Kings 8:27).

What Solomon was saying is that God transcends space, and beyond space. God transcends time. He is eternal; but yet, He entered into time and He entered into this world He created.

John said it best when he said, “He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. Which were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:10-13).

This is the purpose of 1 John 1:1. Jesus came for the purpose of revealing God to man in order that we might understand the purpose and the desire of God for our lives.

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