

The Statement of Promise

John 1:1-5*

'Joy' is the focus this fourth Sunday of Advent. This joy is found in the discovery of God's plan of redemption throughout history. In our survey of select scriptures, God provides the careful reader with testimonies of His grace fulfilled in the Messiah. Genesis 3 sets the stage for the first Christmas pageant, while in Genesis chapter 22 we are given four signs pointing to the coming Christ. Isaiah 7 foretells the coming of this baby born to a virgin. Isaiah chapter 9 reveals the all-consuming identity of this child. Christmas is a continuation of God's redemptive plan—a plan that was in process at the very beginning of time and can be traced throughout the entire Bible.

What do you think of Jesus Christ? Who is he? According to Christianity this is the most important question you or anyone else will ever have to face. It is important because it is inescapable—you will have to answer it sooner or later, in this world or in the world to come—and because the quality of your life here and your eternal destiny depend upon your answer. Who is this child?

Consider the person of Christmas (1-2)

Consider the power of Christmas (3)

Contemplate the purpose of Christmas (4-5)

ὁ λόγος The Logos

Just as our words reveal our mind and heart, so Christ reveals the mind and heart of God to men. "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9, NKJV).

A word is composed of letters; and Christ is the Alpha and Omega (first and last letters of the Gk. alphabet; Rev. 22:13) who spells out God's love to us.

In Genesis 1, God created everything through His Word; and Col. 1:16 and 2 Peter 3:5 indicate that this Word was Christ.

While God can be known in part through nature and history, He is known in full through His Son (Heb. 1:1-2).

Christ as the Word brings grace and truth (John 1:14 and 17); but if men will not receive Him, this same Word will come in wrath and judgment (Rev. 19:13).

The Bible is the written Word of God, and Christ is the living, incarnate Word of God.¹

Blessed Christmas!

*These notes are prayerfully prepared to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's word.

¹Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament* (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1997, c1992), 211.