



**Café Theology**  
"If it doesn't stretch your mind it probably won't stretch your life"

4. Incarnation

1

**The Word Became Flesh**

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.



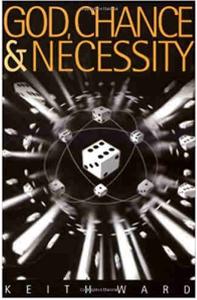
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2

**GOD'S MIND**  
(rational thought, principle, idea)

In the beginning was the Word,



That there exists any matter/energy which is governed by any laws of physics is... an extraordinary coincidence, since there might very well have been no matter at all, or there might have been no laws of physics, or there might have been something to which laws did not apply, or the laws might have ceased to exist soon after coming into being. That is, events might not have continued behaving in the regular and predictable ways that could be described by such laws. The fact that there are laws which continue to operate on matter/energy in regular and predictable ways is a rather surprising fact, which might well have been otherwise. **The whole set-up is not quite as simple as it may seem.**



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3

**GOD'S MESSAGE**  
(Good News for the world)

In the beginning was the Word,

**2:22** After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

**4:41** And many more believed because of his word.

**5:24** Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life.

**Acts 4:4** But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand.

**Acts 6:4** 'while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.'

**Colossians 1:25** I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,



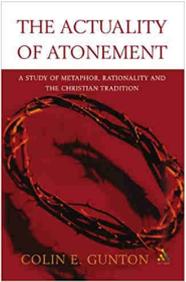
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4

**GOD'S MESSAGE**  
(Good News for the world)

In the beginning was the Word,



"The temporal sacrifice which is the giving up or sending of the Son is not an act foreign to the deity, not an isolated intervention, because it springs from what God is in eternity"



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**GOD'S MESSAGE**  
(Good News for the world)

In the beginning was the Word,



Using the spoken word to introduce the LIVING WORD, through the written word



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6

**GOD's WISDOM**  
(source & sustainer of life)

In the beginning was the Word,

**Wisdom's Part in Creation**  
The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,  
the first of his acts of long ago.

Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.

**Before the mountains had been shaped,**  
before the hills, I was brought forth—

when he had not yet made earth and fields,  
or the world's first bits of soil.

**27** When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
**28** when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established the fountains of the deep,  
**29** when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress his command,  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
**30** then I was beside him, like a master worker;  
and I was daily his delight,  
rejoicing before him always,  
**31** rejoicing in his inhabited world  
and delighting in the human race.

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**GOD's WISDOM**  
(source & sustainer of life)

In the beginning was the Word,

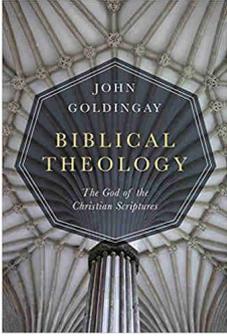
Colossians 2:2 I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself, **3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

1 Cor. 1:23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, **24** but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and **the wisdom of God.**

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8

In the beginning was the Word,



So John's startling insight is that the reasoning MIND of God, which thought the world into existence, and the eternal MESSAGE of God's reconciling love, which defines the very character of God, and the WISDOM of God that binds together life, and which brings joy, **should now be thought of as a PERSON**, one with God himself, who has taken flesh and lived among us. Incarnation.

*adapted*

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9

**GOD's MIND**  
(rational thought, principle, idea)

**GOD's MESSAGE**  
(Good News for the world)



**GOD's WISDOM**  
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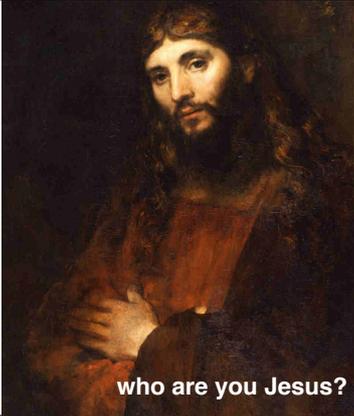
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11

John 17:5 So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.'



who are you Jesus?

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12

## Immanuel

Matt. 1:22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Isaiah 9

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



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13

## I AM

4 Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' 5 They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus replied, 'I am he.' [lit: I am] Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. 6 When Jesus said to them, 'I am he,' [lit: I am] they stepped back and fell to the ground. 7 Again he asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' And they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' 8 Jesus answered, 'I told you that I am he. [lit: I am]

John 18



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14

## I AM

I am = (Heb) *ani hu* = I am the One

Isaiah 43: 13

I am God, and also henceforth I am He;  
there is no one who can deliver from my hand;  
I work and who can hinder it?

10

You are my witnesses, says the Lord,  
and my servant whom I have chosen,  
so that you may know and believe me  
and understand that I am he.



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15

## LORD

Romans 10:9...if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

1 Cor 12:3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

Lord  
(Kyrios Gk)

Lord  
(YHWH - OT)



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"If it doesn't stretch your mind it probably won't stretch your life"

16

## LORD

Lord  
(Kyrios Gk)

Lord  
(YHWH - OT)

9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,  
10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11 and every tongue should confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.



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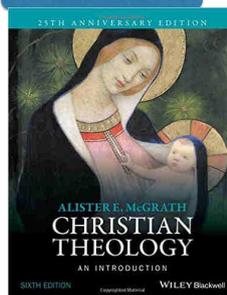


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17

## LORD



"The Greek word *kyrios* thus came to be reserved [in Jewish thought] for God. Jews of the first century refused to address the emperor as 'Lord' (*kyrios*), clearly on account of their belief that this term was appropriate to God alone. The use of the term to refer to Jesus in the New Testament thus draws on this rich tradition of association, **implying a high degree of identity between Jesus and God**"



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18

## Saviour

Ps 68:20 Our God is a God of salvation,  
and to God, the Lord, belongs escape from death.

Matt 1:21 She will bear a son, and you are to name  
him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'



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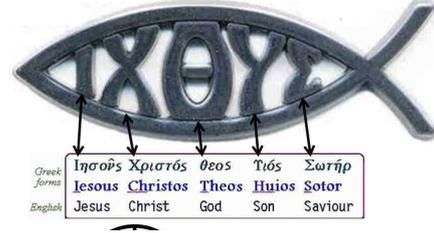


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## Saviour

### The Ichthus ("Fish"): An Acronym



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4. Incarnation

20

## God

John 14:8 Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.'  
9 Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.**

John 20:27 Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands.  
Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'  
28 Thomas answered him, '**My Lord and my God!**' 29 Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'



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4. Incarnation

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## Object of Christian worship

Rev 5:11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 singing with full voice,

'Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!'

13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

**'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!'**

14 And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' **And the elders fell down and worshipped.**



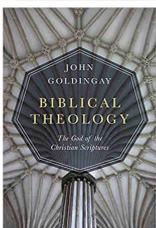
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22

## Object of Christian worship



"It is the clearest indication of worship of Jesus as God in the New Testament"

13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

**'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!'**

14 And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' **And the elders fell down and worshipped.**



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4. Incarnation

23

Immanuel

I AM

Saviour

LORD

God

The object of worship

who are you Jesus?



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4. Incarnation

24

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25

Christ had a human body but not a human mind or spirit,

There are two separate persons in Christ

Christ's human nature and divine nature fused to create a hybrid third nature

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26

We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same **perfect in Godhead** and also **perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man**, of a reasonable soul and body; consubstantial with us according to the manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the virgin Mary, the mother of God, according to the manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, **to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved**, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the prophets from the beginning have declared concerning him, and the Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.

8:10-4:11 451

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27

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28

The 'Last Days' have begun

'Theology' is turned upside down

Authentic human existence is revealed

It assures us of full salvation

It offers a template for mission

Incarnation

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29

If the church is to be in a position to offer all people the mystery of salvation and the life brought by God, then it must implant itself among all these groups in the same way that Christ by his incarnation committed himself to the particular social and cultural circumstances of the men among whom he lived.

Incarnation

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