

Jesus' Origin Story

John 1:1-5 | Ryan Pfeiffer | December 7, 2025

INTRO.

If you ask about Jesus' origin story... What first comes to mind? Christmas?

1. The prophecies... Zechariah in the temple... Gabriel with Mary... the star...
2. This is where Matthew, Mark, Luke begin.

John takes us deeper- goes further back

CS Lewis: "There is a deeper magic from before the dawn of time."

Dale Bruner: "One feels on holy ground when entering the Prologue to the gospel. Here we have the overture to the symphony of the whole gospel, the preface to the greatest story ever told, the introduction to history's central fact, the forward to the Last Word, and the preamble to the realities most trusted by the worldwide Church."

FOCUS. Why do we need to know Jesus' origin story?

John gives us 3 key insights... JESUS IS... 1) Begotten 2) Creator 3) Savior.

BEGOTTEN. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning.

In the beginning... takes us back to Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created...

In a surprising turn... John goes even further back... BEFORE CREATION!

- It's here Jesus' story... How do we say it... Begins w/ no beginning...
- It's better to say... it's where... our glimpse into Jesus begins...
- Before creation, before the universe, before time itself...

John uses the Greek philosophical notion of Logos (the Word).

- 1) A spoken word.
- 2) Active rational principle that gives order and structure to the cosmos.
- 3) Nature's Software... an impersonal force... or code undergirding reality

John goes on... the Word was with God and the Word was God.

The Word is in relationship WITH God... and IS God.

1. In v2 the Word is described as a "He" ... not gender... a personal being.
2. Then in v14 which we get to on Christmas... the one and only Son...

It's one Greek word... monogenēs... begotten... think John 3:16. For God so loved the world he gave his only begotten Son (KJV)... (only John!)

What does it mean that Jesus is begotten? ... Not about his birth thru Mary!

It's how the Bible helps us understand Jesus' origin story... not in time... in an eternal relationship with God the Father.

Eternal Generation: The purpose of the doctrine is to safeguard both unity of essence (there is one God) and personal distinction in the Trinity (Father ≠ Son).

Jonathan Edwards: "Therefore as God with perfect clearness, fullness and strength, understands Himself, views His own essence... that idea which God hath of Himself is absolutely Himself. This representation of the Divine nature and essence is the Divine nature and essence again: so that by God's thinking of the Deity must certainly be generated. Hereby there is another person begotten, there is another Infinite Eternal Almighty and most holy and the same God, the very same Divine nature."

Jesus... the Word... the only Begotten Son... is from all eternity 1) co-eternal 2) Co-equal 3) Co-essential with the Father.

Nicene Creed: "I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made..."

CREATOR. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

Is it fair to say Jesus is our Creator? This is exactly what John is showing us.
Begotten relationship to Father & Creator is his relationship to creation
Then why don't we see him in Genesis 1? But we do... in Genesis 1:3 "God said, "Let there be light... sky, plants, people..."

Jesus is so much more than a perfect man... a good teacher... or a fulfillment of prophecy... even a savior...

Psalms 139 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

If all things are made through Jesus then it helps us understand Jesus better when he says... I am the Way, the Truth and the Life...

It's not about being exclusive ... it's the fact of his ID- Creator-Giver of LIFE!
And if the Father created everything through Jesus... creation can only be reconciled to the Father through Jesus.

SAVIOR. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it

The light of Jesus' eternal relationship with the Father

- Shines in our spiritual darkness... where we feel distant from God
- Jesus is the Bridge back to living relationship with the Father.

The light of Jesus Life... shines into the evil in this world.

1. Let him speak his life into your heart... give you hope, peace, comfort.
2. Let him his life shine through you ... to bring love, forgiveness to others.

COMMUNION is an act of faith...

- To Receive Jesus' body broken for you as God's saving love for you.
- To Receive the blood of Jesus as his cleansing forgiveness for you.

1 John 4:15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

Here's the mystery... All who receive Jesus... become children of God!