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## LIFE IN CHRIST

Have you ever wondered what creation is all about? What is the purpose and meaning of all of history? Most historians have little conception of the meaning and purpose of history. They record and systematize the characters and events, but they have little clue to the interpretation or significance. Many have claimed that the universe is indifferent, there is no plan to be discovered. The ancient Greeks considered history as cyclic, always repeating itself and going nowhere, accomplishing no purpose and having no goal. Modern philosophers have taught that man is an isolated individual in a purposeless universe. Out of this philosophy has emerged the "now generation" who lives only for the moment. Distant goals have no validity and sacrifice in the present for the sake of the future is nonsensical. Almost overnight, society has exploded in lawlessness and crime, rioting and murder, and in the insanity of the drug culture. This is the result of the philosophy of ignorance concerning the past and hopelessness concerning the future. (Excerpts from *Destined for the Throne*, Paul Billheimer, p.20)

There is design, there is purpose, there is an answer. We have only to look at the infallible Word of God to find it. From Genesis 1:1 we can see "In the beginning, God created . ." and when we turn to the New Testament we find the rest of the story.

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. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. John 1:1-4

It is no accident the writer of the Genesis account records "And God said, Let there be . ." It is no coincidence John saw that the Word was the agent in creation. By the Word, the worlds were created. "And God said!" and **spoke** the worlds into existence. The mind of man cannot comprehend the magnitude and the majesty of the creation and the Creator. The pre-incarnate Christ **is** and ever **has been** identical with God. Creation itself could not exist apart from the Word of God. God's purpose is that all of creation will come under the Lordship of Jesus Who is the Living Word of God. God is uniting all thing in Him, both in heaven and in earth that every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God, the Father.

The very life Source is the Logos (the Word) and this life, which when shared with humanity, provides spiritual illumination to man. Without it, we cannot even "see" the Kingdom of Heaven. That life is accomplished in us by the "new birth."

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. John 1:5

Those who remain in darkness do so because they have not received the light fully. Those who have acknowledged Jesus as the Son of God and have acknowledged His power by obedience to Him are comprehending the light; that is, they have fully received it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.  
John 1:6-8

The coming of the Incarnate Word of God to dwell with mankind was such importance that preparation was made so that those to whom He came could not have any excuse they didn't know what was happening. God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way, to bear witness so people could have a basis for belief.

That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. 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 1:9-13

There have been many people before and after Jesus who made claims of being able to shine some light on the mysteries of life. Jesus is the only One Who is presented as the true Light that illumines mankind. Others came to show a way, Jesus came as the Way. Others came claiming to speak truth, Jesus came as the Truth. Others came claiming to help make life better, but only Jesus came as the Life.

The world was made by Him and yet the world system would not accept the One Who brought it all into existence. This rejection is the ultimate expression of rebellion of natural man. It is sure evidence of the sinful nature of man and is proof man needed a salvation that only God could provide. The majority of the Jews who should have been prepared for the coming of the Messiah also would not acknowledge Him as the promised Messiah.

However, some did recognize Him as God's Messiah, the Christ. Those who "comprehended Him" or fully received Him were granted the right to become the sons of God. [The Greek word for comprehended as in "the darkness comprehended it not" is *katalambano* which literally means *to receive fully*. The Greek word for receive as in "as many as received Him" is *lambano* which simply means *to receive*.]

Notice that when we receive Jesus we are given (by grace) the authority (the right or privilege) to become (a changing process) the sons of God (those made in His image). So we see that by receiving Jesus we are restored to the rightful place that we belong as if the Fall of Man had not occurred! Yet this time, we have in us the uncreated life of God (which can never die) dwelling in us by the regenerative power of the Holy Spirit which is responsible for us being "born again."

The initiator of this action is God Himself. It is not something we can do. However, we can participate in this gift of His grace by believing Him and trusting in what He has done for us.

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

This is the proof text for the concept of "the incarnation" of God in human form. Incarnation literally means to take on fleshly form. Since God is spirit, we could not relate to Him in our human condition, so it was necessary for Him to come to us in a manner that we could understand (comprehend). Jesus showed us the Father and the nature of God. He came as the uniquely begotten Son of God and in Him we could see the grace (the unmerited favor) of God. In Him we could hear and understand the truth of God's word that had been given to mankind by the prophets of old and in the law of Moses.

John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. John 1:14-18

The witness of John the Baptist became very specific when he, one day, pointed to Jesus and said., "Behold the Lamb of God!"

Jesus brought to us what the law and the prophets could never accomplish and that was a clear declaration of the nature and person of God that could be experienced. If we cannot see God in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, then we cannot ever know Him. Jesus is as clear a picture as we will ever see of God. He is the Word (the communication) of God to man.