

If you are like me you were puzzled, you wondered: Why this reading, John 1 “In the beginning was **the Word**, . . .etc.”, for Xmas? What does this have to do with Xmas? With the Birth of Xt? Where are the Manger and Donkey, Angels and Shepherds?

Ans: It has nothing to do with the Birth of Xt, but everything to do with the FACT of XT!
It has to do with **WHO XT IS**. [The NT was written Greek. XT is the abbreviation from the Greek Χριστός]

John, who already knew what MK, MT and Lk had passed on, wrote his Gospel to make it clear that CHRIST was God from the beginning! He didn't become God when John baptized him. (MK) He didn't become God when he was born in Bethlehem. (Matt-Luke) He always HAS BEEN God.

He was there IN the beginning, a part of that first creation and is now the center of this NEW CREATION. God and MAN are now united as never before—as never before even imagined!—God joins up with man in XT, in the GOD-MADE-MAN.

The *God-Become-Man*. The **With-Us-God**. The **Emma-nu-el**.

Who could have thunk it?

At the time of Xt, the Greek word LOGOS had special meaning. LOGOS = word. Think of it for a moment: YOUR words reveal a lot about who you are, don't they? Angry words, a flow of vulgarity peppering every sentence! You get the idea. So God reveals himself through his words. Like he did in Genesis. He created a world just by his WORD, which revealed his thought. So Genesis says: He saw that it was GOOD. Why? Because GOD is Good. So his LOGOS created a good world which reflected the Goodness of God.

Now God reveals his good thoughts by becoming ONE with MAN in XT, in the flesh, which is called “in-carn-ation” [caro/carne – flesh]. XT is a new “creation”.

Now is it starting to make sense?

light and **darkness**

The DEAD SEA SCROLLS are filled with the contrast between **light** and **darkness**. Children of **light** vs Children of **darkness**. John uses this idea in his Gospel.

Dwelt among us

The actual words mean: PITCHED HIS TENT WITH US. During the Exodus God's Presence dwelt with His People in their journey across the DESSERT to the Promised Land—in the **tabernacle**! (taberna=tent). John says now—IN XT—God's Presence is MORE present.

Here is the image. We are on a journey through the difficult and dangerous desert of life. It is almost impossible to make it across the dessert of life unless you are with others in the group. God comes along and joins us! He pitches HIS TENT right along with ours, He shares our Journey. HE JOINS our TRIBE. He becomes one of US, for the trip! He becomes MAN.

So the Gospel of JOHN today celebrates: a new Genesis, an amazing uniting of MAN with GOD in the person of the MESSIAH, CHRISTOS—he one who to the eye simply looks like ‘the son of Joseph the Handyman from Nazareth’ with Mary as His mother.

Something which defies belief: that this MAN, who skins his knee playing as a child, who needs sleep, can be GOD. Who could have ever thought this up? [maybe God?]

No wonder there were so many attempts to explain it for the first 300 years of Xtianity. I can understand why many failed to understand and explain the INCARNATION.

No wonder Muhammad accepts ‘**Isa** as a great prophet, accepts his VIRGIN birth by Mary (the only woman in the Koran), but cannot accept that ‘**Isa** is God. I can understand that.