

## THE STORY - ADVENT WEEK 1

Christ the Creator

November 27, 2022

### 1. Introduction

- a. Welcome - Guests - Thanksgiving weekend - Christmas Tree?
- b. Two things this week:
  - i. Elder nominations open Dec 1
  - ii. Dina and I are leading Surviving the Holidays on Tuesday, Dec 6, 6:30-8:30, for anyone who experiences the pain of grief and loss during this season.
  - iii. Check the Tuesday email
- c. Advent begins today
  - i. Theme: The Story (of Jesus, of the Gospel)
  - ii. Candle 1: Christ the Creator (Hope)
    1. We can have hope this Christmas because the one who was born is the creator of everything.
    2. Today I want to show you from Scripture how that is true, both from the OT and NT.
- d. Where do you need to find hope this Christmas?
  - i. For healing (physical, mental, emotional, spiritual)?
  - ii. For connection (to family, friends, community, God)?
  - iii. For purpose (identity, ability, opportunity, calling)?

### 2. **The Old and New Testaments point to Jesus Christ as the creator of everything.**

#### a. **Psalm 33:6-9**

- i. Psalm 33 tells us all things were made by the word of the Lord. This Psalm answers two questions: who created the world and how he did it.
- ii. Who created the world? **Jesus Christ is the Word who created everything.**
  1. **John 1:1-3.** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through him, and apart from

him not one thing was created that has been created.”

2. On the relationship between Father & Son in creation.

- a. Isaiah 55:11. “My word that comes from my mouth will not return to me empty, but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do.”
- b. John 8:42. “I didn’t come on my own, but he sent me.”
- c. **The Son is the Word who does the Father’s will in creating the world.**

iii. How did he do it? **Christ created everything by speaking it into existence.**

1. Effortless & Direct (6&9)

2. Powerful & Dangerous (7)

- a. “Waters in a heap, depths into storehouses”
- b. **Exodus 15:8** on the destruction of Pharaoh's army
  - i. “The water heaped up at the blast from your nostrils; the currents stood firm like a dam. The watery depths congealed in the heart of the sea.”

iv. So what?

1. Let the whole earth & all its inhabitants fear him (8).

- a. “Stand” = enter his service like Joseph stood before Pharaoh
  - i. **Genesis 41:46 KJV.** “And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.”
- b. “Stand” = enter his service like creation itself

- i. **Psalm 119:89-91.** “Lord, your word is forever; it is firmly fixed in heaven. Your faithfulness is for all generations; you established the earth, and it stands firm. Your judgments stand firm today, for all things are your servants.”
- c. “Awe” = behold him, adore him as someone superior and more powerful than we are
- d. ***If you’re looking for connection***, a good place to start is by meditating on Christ the Creator from Psalm 33.
  - i. “Come and behold him ... come let us adore him”
  - ii. Better starting point for hope than ...
    - 1. False Hope. Last Christmas ... this year to save me from tears, I’ll give it to someone special.
      - a. George Michael, 1984.
    - 2. No Hope. Blue Christmas.
      - a. Doye O’Dell, 1948.
    - 3. Long shot. White Christmas
      - a. Bing Crosby, 1942. Holiday Inn.
- e. ***If you’re looking for purpose***, trying to figure out what you’re supposed to be doing with your life, a good place to start is by standing in awe of the creator of the universe becoming part of his creation, standing ready to serve him wherever he has put you.
  - i. STORY. I struggled with this for a long time. I thought I had to go somewhere else to find my calling. Ultimately, God did move me, but only after showing me the purpose he had for me right where I was. It helps to know we’re serving the one who effortlessly spoke everything into existence. He knows what he’s doing with us. We just have to stand ready in his presence.

b. **Colossians 1:15-17**

i. Colossians 1:16 tells us all things were created by Christ, through Christ, and for Christ. This confirms the “who” of Psalm 33 and answers an additional question of “why?” All things have been created *for* him. This means at least two things.

ii. **Christ created the world so that he would have first place in everything.**

1. Firstborn = inheritance & authority, not just sequence

2. Not only firstborn over all creation (vv15-17)

3. He is the firstborn of all who are born of his spirit.

a. **Colossians 1:18.** “He is also the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.”

4. STORY. Passport to Purity theme of Christ being first place.

iii. **Christ created the world so that he would become our hope of glory.**

1. We said earlier that the Son is the Word who does the Father’s will in creating the world. What was the Father’s will, his purpose?

2. Among other things, it was to bring us hope.

3. **The Old and New Testaments point to Jesus Christ as our hope in everything.**

a. **Colossians 1:27.** “God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

i. And so he sent the Son to be born into the world he created and into the people he created. This is good news.

ii. Acts 17:24-27. “The God who made the world and everything in it—he is Lord of heaven and earth—does not live in shrines made by hands. Neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since

he himself gives everyone life and breath and all things. From one man he has made every nationality to live over the whole earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live. He did this so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.”

- iii. Romans 8:10-11. “Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.”
  
- b. **Psalm 33:20-22.** “We wait for the Lord; he is our help and shield. For our hearts rejoice in him because we trust in his holy name. May your faithful love rest on us, Lord, for we put our hope in you.”
  
- c. ***If you’re looking for healing***, a good place to start is by reaching out to God, to Jesus the Creator. He is not far from you. He was born into the world he created, and he can be born in you. When that happens, he begins re-forming you into the person he created you to be.
  - i. Knowing his Spirit is in you not only awakens you to spiritual things, it’s also the source of deep mental, emotional, even physical healing.
  
  - ii. In Acts 17, the way to reach out to God is through repentance. Turning. Away from self-reliance to faith in Jesus. I’ll lead us in a prayer of repentance. You might pray this for the first time or the 1000th time, but join me in turning to Jesus, putting our hope in our Creator, today.