

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY
JOHN 1:1-3 / 12-8-19 / A.M.

I. THE CHRISTMAS STORY BEGAN AT THE VERY BEGINNING.

A. The gospel of John confirms that Jesus existed long before he was born in Bethlehem.

1. John tells us that Christmas began before time itself began—John 1:1-3.
2. This is where Christmas begins, not at Bethlehem but at the very beginning.
3. The beginning of what? Of everything!

B. This means Jesus wasn't born in a stable.

1. This is to say: Jesus' existence didn't start with his birth in a Bethlehem stable on December 25th.
2. So when did Jesus and Christmas begin?
 - a. Jesus began before Mary and Joseph were born.
 - b. Jesus began before Bethlehem existed.
 - c. Jesus began before King David was born.
 - d. Jesus began before Adam and Eve were created.
 - e. Jesus began before the world came into existence.
 - f. Jesus began before the universe was created.
 - g. In fact, Jesus didn't begin at all. As God, Jesus has always existed—John 1:1.

II. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO KNOW THIS?

A. It's important because if we get the Christmas story wrong, we also get the gospel wrong too.

1. We aren't saved by the death of a baby born in Bethlehem. That's infanticide.
2. Neither are we saved by the death of a man. That's homicide.
3. We are only saved by the death of God's Son—John 3:16.

- B. The Christmas story is the story of the incarnation of God that began in Bethlehem.
1. Incarnation means the time when God became a real flesh and blood human being according to Paul's words in Philippians 2:6-7.
 2. As the incarnate Son of God, Jesus did something we could not do for ourselves. He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins—Phil 2:8.
 3. Also, as the incarnate Son of God, Jesus was raised from the dead and exalted as the gloried Son of God—Phil. 2:9-11.