

In the Beginning

It was finished before it began

In the beginning, or really *before* the beginning, “the Word was with God,” and “the Word was God.” Before the creation, then, and before Adam was a gleam in the Father’s eye, God was not alone, he was with the “Word.”

After the creation this “Word” became a human being, who told us while here with us that he and his Father were “one.” He also told us about the “Spirit,” a Comforter and Counsellor, who would be with us and in us.

Accepting these statements for what they say, they tell us that God has always existed as a *fellowship* of Father, Son and Spirit, a communion so close, so real, so joyous, so intimate, so connected, so beautiful, so personal and so permanent that it can only be described as actually “in each other,” or as “Three in One.”

What we are not told in these statements, though, is *why* this secure circle of perfect harmony and joy decided to create this vast, complex universe and populate one small planet with beings a bit like himself. Or why he surrounded these beings with all kinds of animals, birds and sea creatures, provided them with plants and trees for food, and filled their world with beauty.

There is an answer, however, in the story of Adam.

In that story, God placed Adam in a garden of unparalleled beauty and brought his fabulous assortment of animals to the man to name them. Then God created a companion for Adam in such a way (flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone) that the relationship of “marriage” thus formed would be close to being like the relationship that God himself experiences: the “two would become one.”

God himself then entered their dimension and actually walked in the garden of his creation in the cool of the day. And it’s in that picture we get our first real glimpse of what God was up to. God the Father, Son and Spirit had created human beings to share life with! And not just to share *their* human life with them, but to share *his* life with them, too.

We see, then, that God is not only a relational Being within himself, he also wishes to share the perfect circle of love that he is with others. So this was the course that the Father set. This was his heart’s desire.

To execute his heart’s desire, the Father gave his beloved Son to us. Such is the Father’s unswerving desire and determination that you, me and everyone should be made ready to share in the Triune life of God as his adopted children. And nothing could or would prevent the Son accomplishing the Father’s purpose in full, even if it meant his own death, so deep is the reciprocal love of the Son and the Father.

And he did this so we could share life as God’s “adopted children!” You mean we’ll actually *live* with God, live in the same house, eat at his table, talk with him, work and play with him, sharing everything he has and does, and be seated at his right hand?! That’s right!

Didn’t Jesus tell us, though, that he was going to *prepare a place* for us, and that in his Father’s house there were *many* such places? And aren’t we told we shall *see* Jesus as he is? And didn’t he pray that we should be *with* him *where he is*? So, where is he? He’s at the Father’s right hand (**Colossians 3:1**). And where are we? “Hidden *with* Christ *in* God (**verse 3**).” Where he is, we are!

This was the Father’s amazing and beautiful plan. But something interrupted it, stopped it in its tracks, and he cries out to his beloved humans in **Genesis 3:9**, “Where are you?”

And where was Adam? He was hiding!

Can you believe it? Adam was actually *hiding* from the bountiful, joyously self-giving, sharing, unstinting love and heart of God himself.

Why? Because he and Eve had been told a lie about God, and believing the lie, they rejected the peaceful, loving family fellowship they'd shared with the Father, Son and Spirit up to this time. Suddenly, all that had been serene, peaceful and totally secure, evaporated into fear and anxiety.

Guilt now stifled their lives and drove them into themselves. Fear destroyed any possibility of joy and sharing. Self-protection and self-interest became their main objective, not the wonderful vision and belief that God wanted to share everything he had with them. So instead of sharing God's wonderful life with him, they ran away from him. And when God came looking for them, crying out "Where are you?" they were too afraid to answer.

Most people have failed to answer ever since, too. Why? For the same reason Adam didn't answer. They've been lied to about God, as well, so that they too cannot see God for who and what he is - or who and what *they* are, either.

So, "what was God to do about this?" - as Athanasius asks in his epic treatise, "On the Incarnation and the Word of God."

The answer rings through the universe: Redemption!

God had not even entertained the thought of giving up on his dream and purpose. Never would he see his beloved creation destroyed, and yet here it was on the brink of devastation and ruin.

So, what was God to do?

There was only one thing that could be done - re-creation. The Father turned to the Son and said, "Go amongst these humans, become one of them, take their dereliction, misery, guilt and anxiety into yourself, and destroy it. Undo the sin of Adam and bring them home to me so they can be in my house forever."

So the Son came and did as the Father desired, and on the cross cried out, "It is finished." His Father's will was done. Adam's fallen humanity had been crucified with Jesus and the Father re-created a new humanity, which is *now* with Christ in God.

Why don't people, including Christians, believe that today, though? Why is it that we can see the road but we can't walk down it? Because we've been lied to, and listened to the lie, as well. What lie? The lie that tells us we are not worthy, we have to measure up to God's rules or he'll punish us, and all the other nonsense that blinds us to what God has done for us, with us and in us, in Jesus Christ.

But God is *Immanuel*. God is *with* us. He passionately loves us and has already included us into his own life and into his own house. Remember the story of the Prodigal Son, and the sheer uncontrolled delight and exuberance of the father's greeting to the son who came home? It was because the boy was back home, to *their home*, the father's *and* the son's home.

This is God, and the Spirit will help us see God as he is, and where we stand with him, if we can stop listening to the lie. Listen instead to the Word of God, who was there from the very beginning, and through whom the amazing plan of God was hatched. He knows the truth about God, and he's made sure we can know it too, in all those marvellous scriptures like:

Luke 15:1-32 - the parable of the lost sheep.

John 8:12, 31-32 + 14:2-3, 6-11, 16-18, 26-29 + 17:1-4, 9-10, 20-23 + 19:30

Galatians 2:20

Ephesians 1:3-12

Colossians 1:12-13, 25-29 + 2:8-12 + 3:1-3

2 Timothy 2:1

Look and listen to them!