



The Flame

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Blessed by the Rest of the Story

Paul Harvey, the famous radio personality and motivational speaker of a generation ago, was well known for his catch phrase, “the rest of the story.” His story lines always left the identity of the features figure to be revealed at the end.

As we enter the Christmas season, we will hear the familiar history of shepherds, a manger in a stable, and later wise men from the East. But there is much more. The rest of the story is essential if the meaning of Christmas is to be clear.

In this case, the rest of the story takes place before the manger. Long before. John begins his gospel record with “In the beginning” and “in him was life...the light of all mankind. Those words certainly point to creation, but the significance of those words take form in John 1:14:

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

What an amazing revelation. The Light of Life was there from the beginning, even *before* the beginning. And to shine with clarity, He took on life as one of the created, not in part but fully.

The very Light of Life took the form of a human embryo, entered the world through the birth canal, cried to be fed and changed. He experienced helplessness, dependent on another even to turn Him over. He coo'd and crawled. He had to learn to walk. His knees were skinned. His nose ran. And he slobbered. The One whose Father had spoken a world into existence could only jabber and in time learn to talk.

All the way to the cross and the grave, the Light that came to shine the glory of God into our lives fully embraced the human narrative.

Take Your Next Step

Ponder deeply the utterly amazing choice Christ made. This Christmas ask the Lord Himself to paint the images of His journey in real human terms. Thank Him for experiencing what you face day by day, and in every way, enduring the temptations just as you have to endure.

Share this discussion as a family, and then spend time together in a prayer of gratitude for a Light that has shone so profoundly into the darkness of our world.

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