



In the Beginning... The Gospel



Jesus was Present in the Beginning

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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Colossians 1:15-20

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church.

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He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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“Jesus is first: Jesus is the Creator of everything, the template on which it was made, and the one for whom it was made.”

- J.D. Greear

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Jude 25

25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time[a] and now and forever. Amen.

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2 Timothy 1:9

9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began

Jesus is Central in Creation and the OT

Patterned

Promised

Present

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Patterned:

The flood and the ark, the Passover and the Red Sea, the wilderness and the Promised Land, exile and return, war and peace, kingdom and kings, prophets and priests, the temple, its sacrifices, and its rituals, wisdom in death and in life, songs of lament and rejoicing, the lives of faithful sufferers and the blood of righteous martyrs — the Old Testament is extraordinarily Jesus-shaped.

Jesus is Central in Creation and the OT

Promised:

New Testament writers Luke, Paul and Peter declared the Old Testament shape as one proclaiming “Christ’s sufferings and glory,” yet, at the same time, each of them maintains that this message is what Moses and the prophets themselves “wrote,” “said,” “prophesied,” and “predicted.” All along, true faith was messianic faith, centered on Christ himself. He was the one held out and the one trusted by the faithful.

Jesus is Central in Creation and the OT

Present:

- *The “I Am” in whom Abraham rejoiced was Jesus (John 8:56–58).*
- *The Lord who motivated Moses was Christ (Hebrews 11:26).*
- *The Redeemer who brought them out of Egypt was Jesus (Jude 5).*
- *The Rock in the wilderness was Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4).*
- *The King of Isaiah’s temple vision was the Son (John 12:40–41).*

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8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

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12 The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

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14 The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring[e] and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Jesus is Central in Creation and the OT

All the promises of God lead back to the first promise concerning Christ of Genesis 3:15. The faith of the fathers in the Old Testament era, and our faith in the New Testament are one and the same faith in Christ Jesus. . . . Time does not change the object of true faith, or the Holy Spirit. There has always been and always will be one mind, one impression, one faith concerning Christ among true believers whether they live in times past, now, or in times to come.

- Martin Luther

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The world went from a perfect state to an imperfect state (which is why we need a new heavens and a new earth, by the way). But in the middle of all this, there is a beautiful promise—Genesis 3:15 mentions the seed of a woman, which Isaiah further speaks about when he says:

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

- Bodie Hodge (Answers in Genesis)

Jesus is Central in Creation and the OT

When we read in sacred history what God did, from time to time, towards his Church and people, and how he revealed himself to them, we are to understand it especially of the second person of the Trinity. When we read of God appearing after the fall, in some visible form, we are ordinarily, if not universally, to understand it of the second person of the Trinity.

- Jonathan Edwards

Jesus First Leads to Different Living

JESUS CAN NOT JUST BE IMPORTANT, HE MUST BE FIRST...and HE MUST BE FIRST IN ALL THINGS

Jesus First Leads to Different Living

The Gospel is not the diving board we jump off into our salvation, it is the swimming pool in which we swim.

IT CHANGES EVERYTHING!