

KB Christmas 2025

The Good Shepherd

Week 2 - Good Shepherd Became Flesh

The sheep celebrate in awe and wonder that the Good Shepherd is born.

Call To Worship

Read Scripture (Stand for the reading)

John 1:9-14 ESV (SLIDE 2)

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pray

Gratitude – Thank you for being born – God being born as a baby!

Petition – Help us to understand that Jesus Christ was born – Fully God and Truly Man – The Good Shepherd

Sermon

Series Graphic (SLIDE 1)

Opening Idea

Childhood myths create a sense of mystery and fantasy for children. They are influenced to believe that something exists beyond their natural senses and that there is something magical in the world. But there comes a day when those myths collapse. The thing they believed in wasn't real nor did it ever exist. Some children accept this reality and cope easily. Other children struggle since they have believed in something that doesn't exist.

Take the idea of God. An all powerful and perfect being who exists outside of the limits of time and physical space. Who is God? Listen to the 17th century confession of Baptist about God.

The Lord our God is but one only living and true God; whose subsistence is in and of Himself, infinite in being and perfection; whose essence cannot be comprehended by any but Himself; a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; who is immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, every way infinite, most holy, most wise, most free, most absolute; working all things according to the counsel of His own immutable and most righteous will, for His own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him, and withal most just and terrible in His judgments, hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.¹

This perfect, powerful, and holy God then, while still being God, became flesh and lived among people. That would be a fantastic thing, in its self, but God didn't just appear as a person in the flesh, He came as a baby. As a baby, He simultaneously possessed all the aspects of God while also being truly human. This is mind-blowing to any person. Yet, by faith, God's people can hear this fantastic truth, believe it, and celebrate it. The Good Shepherd is born!

Let's look at John's words about The Good Shepherd fantastically stepping out of heaven and coming into the world. A truly amazing moment that seems impossible but is real.

Christmas Reminder

Jesus is the Good Shepherd!

Read

John 1:9-14 ESV (SLIDE 2)

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 3)

Notes on John 1:9-14

¹ <https://www.the1689confession.com/1689/chapter-2#:~:text=The%20Lord%20our%20God%20is,the%20light%20which%20no%20man>

Light Shines in the Darkness (v. 9)

John describes Jesus Christ coming into the world as the true light. This light came into darkness, wicked men ruling and oppressing people, and the light shone in the darkness. People saw it and responded. There are a couple of interesting points in this verse. First, John describes Jesus Christ as coming into the world. It isn't that Jesus gradually appeared and eventually became the Messiah. It is better understood that the light came, and people saw more and more of Jesus as being the Messiah. Jesus was not a vision or an epiphany, but He was real and in human flesh. The God of the universe took on flesh and was born. The Good Shepherd was born in darkness, but He was light!

Present Yet Unknown (v. 10-11)

The situation into which God the Son arrived was complicated. This baby had been prophesied about. The prophecies were fulfilled and affirmed in His conception. God affirmed the coming of the Messiah in bringing other people into the birth narrative. The herald, one to make way for the coming Messiah, would be born. God caused Elizabeth and Zechariah to conceive their first child, John. John is conceived by the will and work of Zechariah and Elizabeth, but this baby is formed and commissioned by God. Joseph will care for Mary, protect her, and take her as his wife. God causes Mary to become pregnant and He is joining Joseph and Mary together as husband and wife. There are other affirmation actions with the star, wisemen, geography, timing, and events, but there is a strange response from people who know about the arrival of the Messiah and even anticipate His coming. But they are blind to Jesus being the Messiah born and reject Him. John writes that Jesus Christ wasn't just a burst of light or an apparition, He came! John gives two reasons that the world should have known and received Jesus Christ but didn't. First, Jesus Christ was in the world because He was flesh, muscle, bone, and being. He was born and lived as a person. He was real and present. Second, Jesus Christ, God the Son, is the one through whom that entire universe was made. It seems obvious that anyone would see Jesus Christ and make the connection that the Messiah is coming, Jesus Christ is here, and He is the Messiah come. Yet, the world, who should have known Jesus Christ, did not know Him.

Then John writes that God sent Jesus Christ to the people with whom God had revealed Himself to and given prophecies of the coming Messiah. They were expecting the Anointed One's arrival. They read about His coming, they taught about His coming, they knew He would come. Jesus Christ fulfilled the messianic lineage through Mary and through Joseph. The Messiah would come through the line of David and be Jewish. Jesus is all of that, lineage of David and Jewish. Then John writes that His own people didn't receive Him. The phrase, "His own people" can be understood to mean two things. One, the Jewish people anticipated the Messiah's arrival but did not believe Jesus was the Messiah and rejected Him. Two, Jesus Christ's family, outside of Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Zechariah, and John, did not believe that Jesus was the Christ and did not receive Him as such. In both ways, Jesus Christ's own people did not receive Him as the Christ.

Known and Adopted (v. 12-13)

John also writes that there is a group of people who would and will receive Jesus as the Christ. Belief in Jesus as the Christ is the fruit of faith. God giving faith to people who then believe in Jesus as the Christ receive Him. These believing people do what everyone else doesn't, they receive Jesus as the Christ and do not reject Him. The benefit for those that believe is that they become adopted children. They are sons and daughters of God. This is in comparison to those who do not believe and reject Jesus as the Messiah. Those who reject and do not believe are not children of God. Faith is the power given that causes a person to believe and belief is the evidence of salvation. Those who believe are sons and daughters of God.

John continues writing that this belief is like one being born. This isn't an actual birth, but a spiritual birth. The cause of their spiritual birth is God. Their physical birth was the work of people, a mother and a father, but John writes that this spiritual birth that is connected to believing in and receiving Jesus as the Christ, is not like physical birth, but it is the work of God. This belief, salvation, and adoption is by God's will and work. The sons and daughters of God know Jesus as the Christ!

Goodness in the Flesh (v. 14)

John, then writes that when Jesus Christ was born, something supernatural happened. God the Son united with Jesus the son and become one person. The spiritual person united with the physical person and God took on flesh. John refers to the Christ being the Word. John introduced Jesus Christ as the Word in the beginning of his letter (John 1:1). John writes that the Word was there when the world was formed. The Word wasn't alone in that He was with God. The reason He was with God is that He was God, the three person of God existing together in the one God. The Word becoming flesh is that God the Son stepped out of heaven and was born. Not only did Jesus Christ come as a baby born, but he also lived among people. God the Son, the Messiah, Jesus the Christ, wasn't born into royalty and isolation, but He was born and lived among people, both those who didn't believe and those who did believe. Those who, by faith, believed, saw Jesus Christ glorified. John writes that this glory that Jesus Christ possessed was from God and that it revealed Jesus Christ as the Son who came from the Father. Jesus Christ came as a baby, lived, grew up, taught, revealed God, did miracles, and died. Jesus Christ is God the Son and with Him being God the Son, He is the only one who is Good. Jesus Christ being born is the action of God becoming flesh and living among us. Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd.

The Good Shepherd Is Born (SLIDE 4)

God Became Flesh - He Left Heaven and Came to Earth (SLIDE 5)

Fully God and Truly Man – Hypostatic Union

(One Person – Two Distinct & Natures)

He Arrived with a Mixed Response (SLIDE 6)

The Goats Don't Know Him – Not Their Shepherd

- Matthew 25:31-46

His Sheep Know Him – The Sheep belong to Him

The Shepherd is Gloriously Good (SLIDE 7)

Glorified – Lifted up and elevated above all creation

God the Son in Flesh

Bringing Favor and Truth

Christmas Response

Because God Gave Goodness to Us – The best gift

Because God came as a baby and the baby is the Good Shepherd

Be Filled with Awe and Wonder (SLIDE 8)

Awe – God is Real – Spiritually and Physically

Wonder – He came as a baby – All powerful God of the universe came as a vulnerable baby

Take many moments and take them often to

Feel the Awe – The Good Shepherd is Truly Born

Embrace the Wonder – God the Son is born as a baby

Read

Isaiah 9:6 ESV (SLIDE 9)

6 For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 10)