

## The Great Surprise: The Word among Us

How is the White House press secretary like Jesus?

The White House Press Secretary is a senior White House official whose primary responsibility is to act as spokesperson for the government administration.

The Press Secretary speaks for the president, so he has to study carefully all White House documents and study the president, so he says nothing the president would not say. The Press Secretary interacts with world, particularly the media, and deals with the White House press corps on a daily basis, generally in a daily press briefing.

The present Press Secretary is Sarah Huckabee Sanders. In her position, how is she like Jesus?

What does this have to do with our Christmas message today? Today, our message is all about who is and why Jesus came to the earth. We are going to be wonderfully surprised that the one who created us became a creature.

John's gospel starts out radically different from the other gospels. John's Gospel does not start with a nativity scene or the start of Jesus ministry starting in Galilee.

- In the beginning = not at the start of creation, but before that, before time itself, infinity in the past.
- There was someone with God the Father.
- He was the Word
  - The second person of the Godhead is the spokesman of the Godhead
  - Who represents God in His dealings with His creation
  - When the Old Testament prophets talk about "the Word of the Lord came to me"...
  - Today the Word of the Lord is not just another name for the Bible.
  - The Bible is a personification of the Word
  - Sort of a subset of the larger set.

Not only is he the spokesman but the second person of the Godhead is the acting agent by whom the Godhead spoke into being the created order, visible and invisible.

- Life and light came into existence by this second person of the Godhead
- Then came the darkness into the world. We are not talking about the absence of light in the created order, we are talking about spiritual darkness.
- Fall of the angels, the fall of man, sin, death and hell.
- Confusion, misunderstanding, and futility, and lose of relationship with God
- Mankind is lost, disoriented, alienated, and idolatrous

Now the creation had to be rescued, redeemed and saved from this darkness.

Ever have those times of frustrations when everybody is falling short of your expectations or not doing things to your satisfaction and you have to do it yourself?

God had to come into creation and straighten things out. But he did it with joy.

This is the mystery of Christmas  
God shows up in time and space  
Incomprehensible Word = becomes tangible  
The uncreated one = born  
Infinite one = wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger  
Eternal one = living in mortal skin and fragile, breakable, dependent.

Illustration: Guys handling babies. Why the awkwardness?

The creator becomes a man.

The glory of God is seen in the face of Jesus Christ  
The light of the world – light shining in the darkness – that no darkness could overcome

So look into that manger scene and the little baby in the manger.  
Do you recognize who that is?  
Your maker and Lord  
Do you see your salvation, O sinner?

Did He think about that as he was molding Adam out of the clay?  
Did He think about that as he was designing the first tree, that he would die on one?  
As he worked in his father Joseph's carpentry shop, did he realize that he would die on a piece of wood?

After he told Abraham to take Isaac to mount Moriah, did He know what Abraham was feeling those three days journey to the mount, that His father would feel the same thing?  
As he was wrapped in swaddling clothes, did he realize one day he would be wrapped in funeral linens in a tomb?

The mystery and miracle of this day is that he did.

The one who made the wheat and the vine comes now in bread and wine for you.

- True body present
- Eternal life, light of the world, so near that you can taste it
- God himself our nourishment
- Now salvation, now forgiveness, now light, now life

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sab-a-oth

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, O Blessed is He,  
blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

We do not think of this Sanctus as a Christmas Carol, yet it is.

Merry Christmas!

John 1:1-18; Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38; Titus 3:4-7

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The Nativity of our Lord

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