



The Story Behind the Story



*“Lucy, you got some
‘splainin to do!!”*



John Has Some Splainin to do

- Christmas in the other Gospels is story-driven – tells what happened
- Mark – earliest, approx. 45 AD – no story at all
- Matthew – early 60s – written for Jewish audience to confirm Jesus was Messiah – focuses on the story of Herod and the Kings
- Luke – also early 60s – written for Greek and Roman converts – explains Jewish history and customs – focuses on Mary and the story of the Shepherds



John's Christmas Story

- No Story – no kings or shepherds or annunciation
- Different time – somewhere in the 90s
- By now everyone knows those stories
- What they don't know is the WHY of the Gospel, the theology behind the stories
- Christianity is under attack from false doctrines like Gnosticism that minimize the nature of Jesus or dramatize dualistic battles between the Light and the Darkness
- John explains the meaning and plan behind the Christmas stories



Jesus' Character Revealed

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 [a] He was in the beginning with God. God is a Planner – from before time began, He knew our need and prepared a plan to take care of us



Light versus Darkness

⁶ There ^[c]came a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ ^[d]**He came** ^[e]**as a witness**, to testify about the Light, *so that all might believe through him*. ⁸ ^[f]He was not the Light, but **he came to testify about the Light**.

⁹ There was the **true Light** ^[g]which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, **and the world did not know Him**. ¹¹ He came to His ^[h]own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the **right to become children of God**, *even to those who believe in His name*, ¹³ who were ^[i]born, not of ^[j]blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, **but of God**.



People Can Handle the Truth

- ⁶ There [c]ame a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ [d]**He came [e]as a witness,** to testify about the Light, *so that all might believe through him.* ⁸ [f]**He was not the Light, but *he came to testify about the Light.***
- The Message of Jesus must always be driven by our testimony, our stories of living in relationship with Him. People are looking for authenticity, and there is nothing more authentic than sharing truth that you have personally experienced!



Darkness Hates Light

- ⁹ There was the **true Light** [g] which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, **and the world did not know Him.** ¹¹ **He came to His [h]own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.**
- People looking for “truth” in all the wrong places, like Where (or What)?



Simple Step of Faith

- ¹² But as many as **received Him**, to them He gave the **right to become children of God,**
- *even to those* **who believe in His name**,
- ¹³ who were [i]born, not of [i]blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, **but of God.**



Message Behind the Story

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY