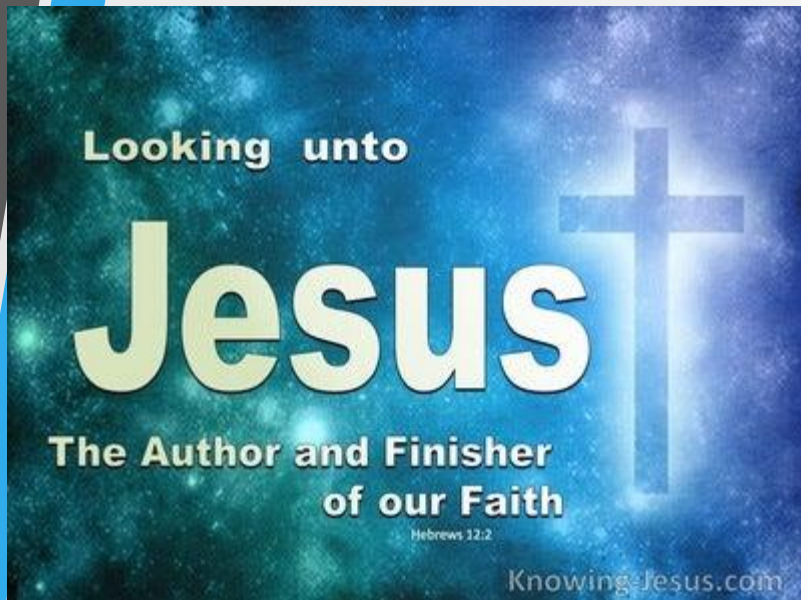




# Looking to Jesus, the pre-eminent Christ

Colossians 1:15-17

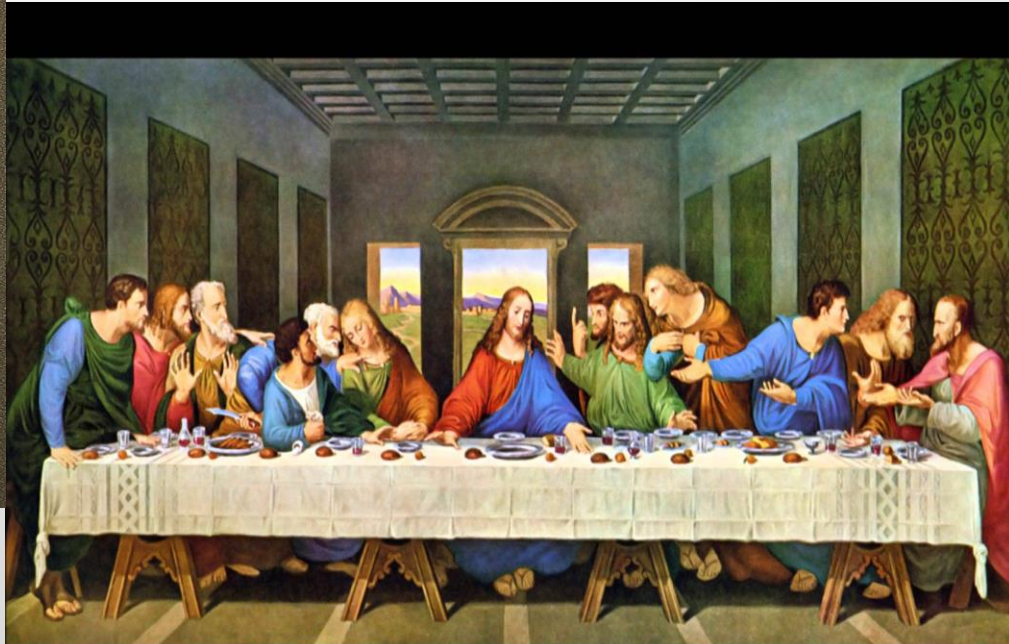


- Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

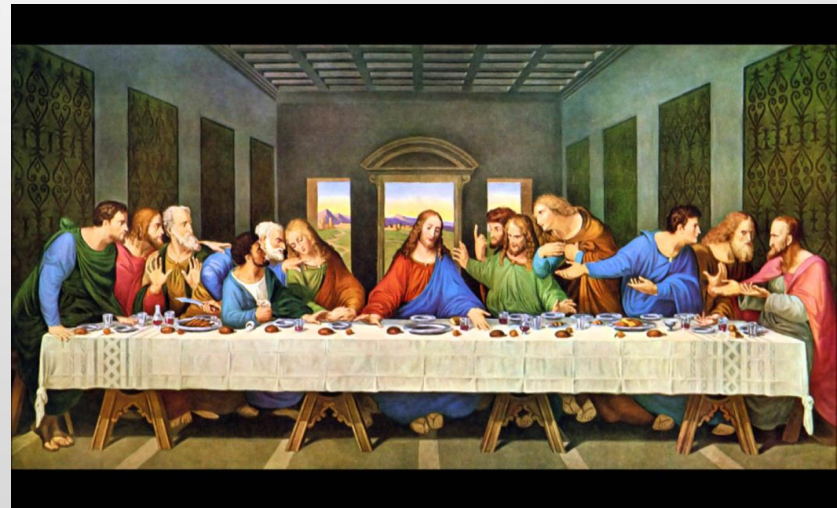
# Who is this Jesus?

- Either the Son of God or a lunatic. (C S Lewis)
- Jesus, the pre-eminent Christ (Colossians 1:15-17)

# Pre-eminence



- Nothing in my painting shall attract more attention than the face of my Master!



# Christ is pre-eminent

- the king in the kingdom of Light ( 1:13-14).  
Our hope of redemption is in the Son
- pioneer and perfecter of our faith ( Hebrews 12:2)
- We are 'dead to sin, alive in Christ (Romans 6)

# Heresy: danger

- Devalue Christ's status
- Withhold honor from Christ.

**Defend the gospel truth**

# Colossians 1:15-17

- The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.





Christ is  
pre-eminent:

- He is the image of God
- He is firstborn over all of creation

# Image



St Catherine  
Monastery,  
Mt Sinai  
(Eastern  
Orthodox)

'eikon' or icon :  
Exact representation  
and revelation



# Image of the invisible God:

- Revelation of God
- Representative of God

# Christ reveal God

- Through His teachings
- Through His person

God is unknowable but in Christ  
God is known to us. (John 14:9)

Jesus said...  
"He who has seen Me  
has seen the Father"

*John 14:9*

# Teachings



Christ's words reveal:

God's nature.  
His will for us.

# Chairman Mao



# Mao's teachings



# His Father's words

- that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me (John 8:28)
- The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work  
(John 14:10)



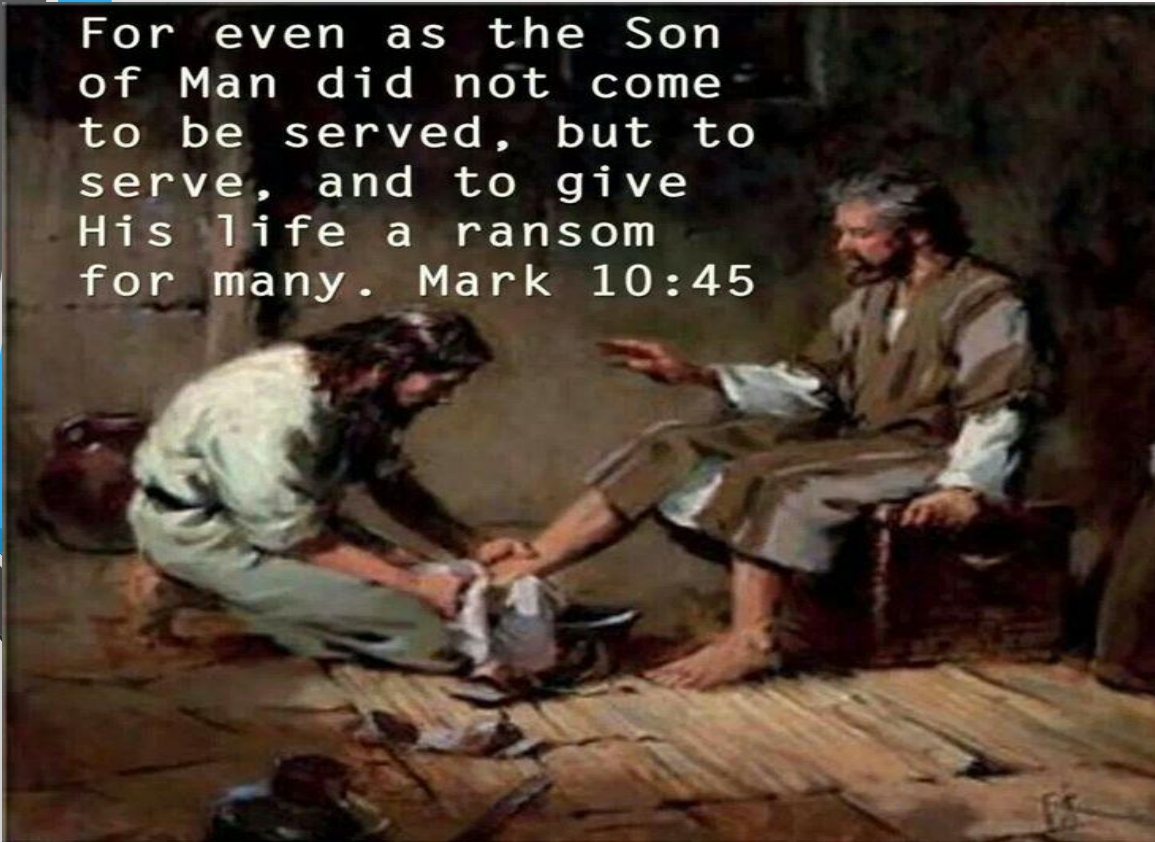
## His person:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped but made himself nothing, taking the very nature (form) of a servant, being made in human likeness

( Philippians 2:6-7).

# Servant nature

For even as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. Mark 10:45



Revealed in the incarnate Christ

John 13:1-17

# God is love

- His teaching - love God and neighbour

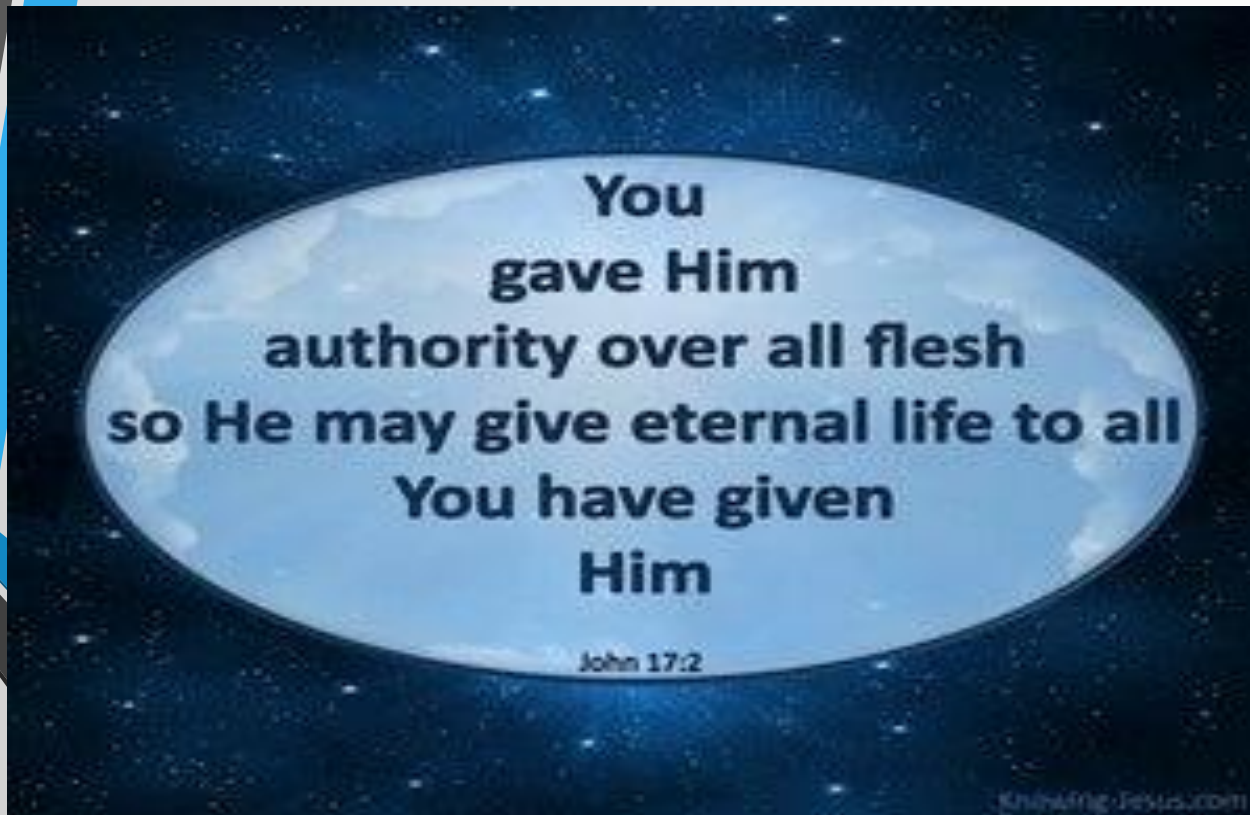


# God is love

- His teaching - love God and neighbour
- The Cross : demonstration



Representative:  
His authority



Authority  
To give  
eternal life

# Representative: His authority

He Has  
Given All  
Judgement  
To The Son



John 5:22

Knowing-Jesus.com

Authority to  
judge

# Image of God: Christ

- Reveal God's nature and person
- Represent God's authority
  - Savior and Judge

# Image of God

*The Son is the radiance of God's glory  
and the exact representation of His being,  
sustaining all things  
by His powerful Word.*


*Hebrews 1:3*



# Firstborn over all creation

- The firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.
- He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:15-17

- 
- All things were created by Him.
  - All things were created for His glory.
  - All things are sustained by Him.

# Firstborn over all creation

- Firstborn – rank or supremacy
- As Creator, He is superior to all created things in heaven and on earth.
- Superior to angels – Hebrews 1:4-6

# Created for Him

- The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.

(Psalms 19:1-2).

- everything was made for him and to bring him glory.

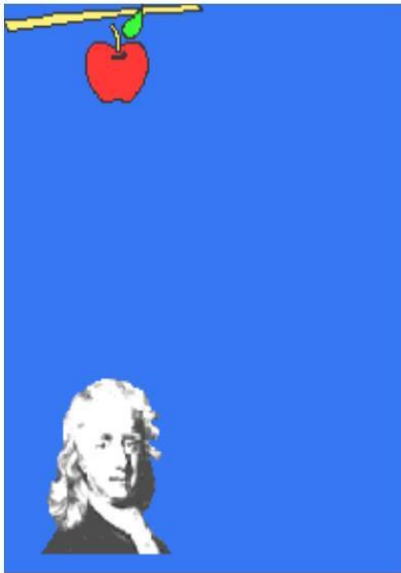
**Do we declare His glory?**

# Sustains creation:

- In Him all things hold together ( 1:17)
- The Son is..... sustaining all things by his powerful word ( Hebrews 1:3).

# Science: A discovery of creation

## Section 2: Newton's Law of Gravitation



In 1686 Isaac Newton published his **Universal Law of Gravitation**.

This explained gravity as a **force of attraction** between all matter in the Universe, causing e.g. apples to fall from trees and the Moon to orbit the Earth.

*(See also A1X Dynamical Astronomy)*

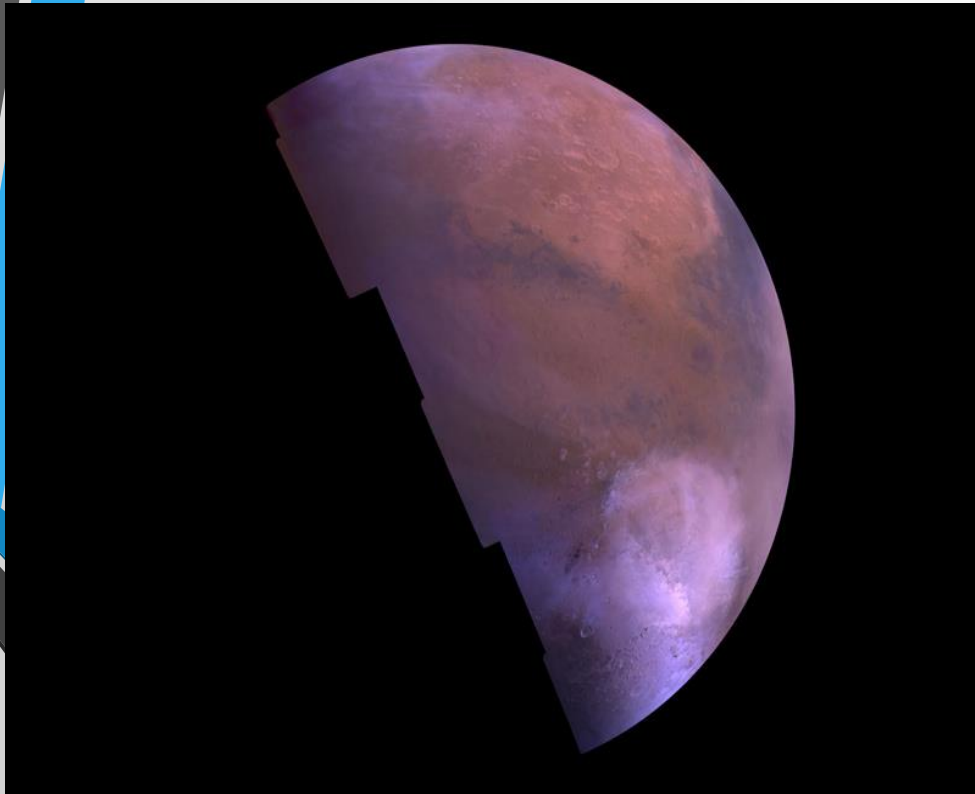


# Sci fi : Star Trek



Boldly go  
where  
no man has  
gone.

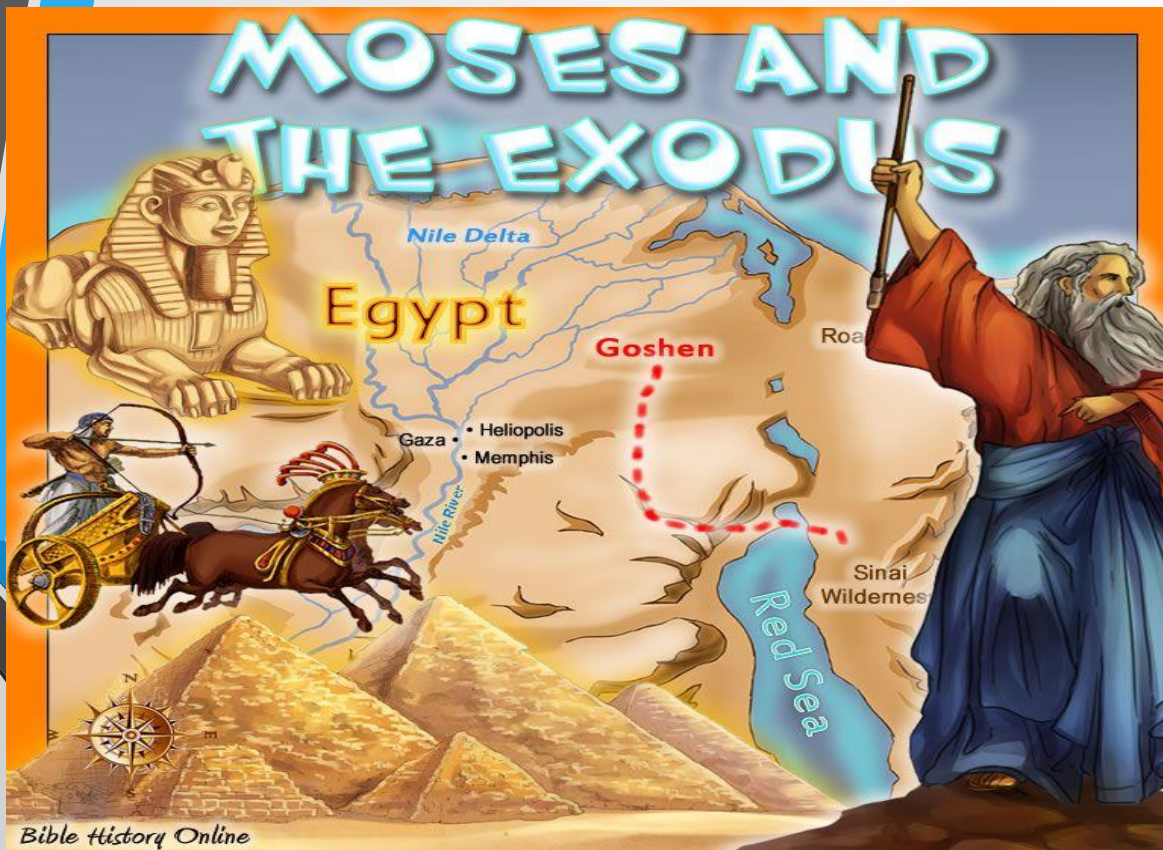
# Mars exploration



Science can discover,  
not create. Most  
advanced exploration,  
still far from reaching  
Star trek hope



# God sustained His people




He sustained  
Israel in the  
wilderness

# God sustained His people

- He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD

( Deuteronomy.8:3).

**40 years miracle**



God sustains and provides us with every good thing:

- Every good & perfect gift comes from above. (James 1:17)
- He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. ( Acts 17:25)

# Before all things...

## John 1:1-3, 14 ESV

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.

<sup>3</sup> All things were made through him . . .

<sup>14</sup> 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 & truth.

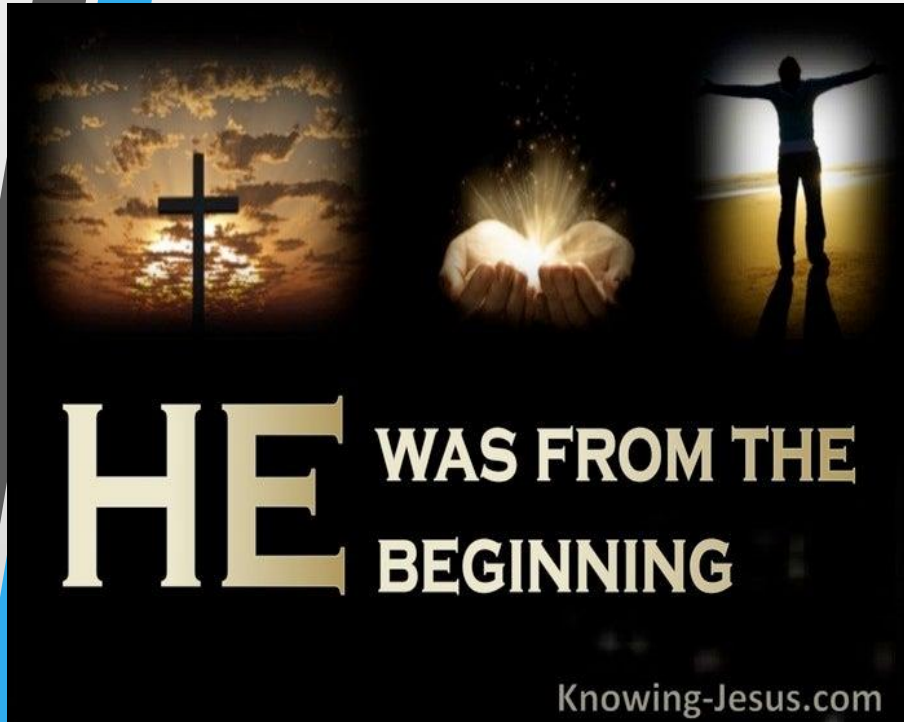
In the beginning....  
the Word.....was God  
...all things were  
made through Him

**Not part  
Of creation**

unwrapped  
Coming Up Christmas in a Big Way

# The Logos

- Word from the beginning.
- Was with God... is God.
- Came in flesh, incarnation
- To show His glory.



- 'I tell you the truth,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!' ( John 5:8)

# Lesson:

Christ is pre-eminent

- As Creator of all things.
- As pre-existent God who is before all things.

**He should be the  
centre of our lives!**

# Pre-eminent Christ

- He is worthy to be worshipped.
- He is worthy of first place in our life.
- He is worthy to be trusted.
- He is worthy of our hope.

**Christ-centred life**



# Because He sustains us

- We should not worry.
- We should pray to him for our daily bread.
- We should always give him thanks.

**He is the Vine from whom we draw our life.**

And when I turned I saw .. among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup> The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. <sup>15</sup> His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. <sup>16</sup> In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.



Revelations 1:12-16