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Recap

- We’re working through the Prologue (first 18 verses) of John’s Gospel.
- Last week we saw how *...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...*
- Jesus became like us in every way except that He had no sin.
- He took on flesh to save us from sin, death, and the dominion of Satan.
- He laid aside most of the privileges of His divinity, but never ceased to be God.
- The Word *pitched his tent [dwelled in a tabernacle]* among us. That is to remind us of the Tabernacle where God's glory dwelt and where He met with Moses.
- John says *we beheld His glory*. His glory is more than His power; it’s also His goodness and holiness. In *John*, the glory of Christ was seen in the signs He did.
- Jesus was especially glorified in His humility and His death on the Cross.

1. The Glory Of The Only Begotten (John 1:14)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

What are we saying when we say that Jesus is the only begotten of the Father? And what does it mean to “beget?”

- Simply put, *to beget* means *to father someone*.
- Is the Scripture implying that Jesus was begotten through procreation?
- ***Only-begotten*** is a translation of the Greek word, *monogenes*, which was used to mean the only one of its kind.
- *Monogenes* means the only one of its kind or, more specifically, it means the only child or the most favored child. It could also refer to a beloved son.
- Believers are Gods' children, but it's also true that Jesus has a unique Sonship.
- John 3:16 shows God's great love in His willingness to give up His one and only: *For God so loved the world that He gave his only-begotten Son [His monogenes], so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

2. Full Of Grace And Truth (John 1:14b)

When John says Jesus is full of grace and truth, once again he's pointing us to Moses' encounter with God in Exodus Chapters 33-34: *...we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

33:7 Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the LORD went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp. 8 So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. 9 And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses. 10 All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose

and worshiped, each man in his tent door. 11 So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.

12 Then Moses said to the LORD, “See, You say to me, ‘Bring up this people.’ But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.’ 13 Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people.”

14 And He said, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” 15 Then he said to Him, “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. 16 For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.”

17 So the LORD said to Moses, “I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.” 18 And he said, “Please, **show me Your glory.**” 19 Then He said, “**I will make all My goodness pass before you,** and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” 20 But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.” 21 And the LORD said, “Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. 22 So it shall be, **while My glory passes by,** that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. 23 Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.”

34:5 Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and **abounding in goodness and truth**, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.” (Exodus 33:7-23, 34:5-7)

- An incredible description of God... and it’s God’s describing Himself!
- Notice that when Moses says, “Show me Your **glory**,” God says, “I will make all My **goodness** pass before you.” God then says that His **glory** will pass by.
- God says His glory is actually His **goodness**.

Chesed v’emmet: covenant love and faithfulness!

- God describes Himself as *abounding in goodness and truth*. This is exactly what John says about Jesus: that Jesus is *full of grace and truth*.
- The word for goodness is the word *chesed*: mercy, kindness, or lovingkindness.
- John translates by using the word *charis*, the grace of God.
- The word *truth* is the Hebrew word *emmet*, which means that God is *faithful*.
- Jesus’ glory, the glory of the only-begotten Son, is that He is full of grace and truth – just as His Father’s glory is that He is full of goodness and faithfulness.

3. The Testimony Of John (John 1:15)

John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’” (John 1:15)

- Imagine John shouting it out!
- John says Jesus is *preferred* before him or ranks above him. The reason? John says Jesus was before him. Jesus existed before John despite being “younger.”
- “*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.*” (Micah 5:2)

4. Grace And Truth Through Jesus Christ (John 1:16-17)

16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

- Christ is abounding with lovingkindness and faithfulness, and John says we’ve all received from that fullness.
- We’ve also received *grace for grace*. In colloquial English, we might say that God has given you grace on top of grace.
- John strongly contrasts Christ and the Law of Moses.
- The grace we have through Christ and the covenant we enjoy with God through Jesus is superior. It surpasses the experience that Israel had through the Law.

5. The Son Has Made Him Known (John 1:18)

No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

- A key concept in the Prologue to John’s Gospel and all throughout John is that Jesus is the Revealer of God.
- Jesus revealed the Father to us in ways that neither Moses nor the Law could do.

*1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 **has in these last days spoken to us by His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 **who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person**, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high... (Hebrews 1:1-3)*

To see Christ is to see what God is like in every way: *8 Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’” (John 14:8-9)*

- God’s appearances to us have been veiled, but the only-begotten Son can reveal Him because He is in the **bosom** (bosom or lap) of the Father.
- This speaks of the love and care of a parent for a child. Christ has the closest relationship to the Father, the relationship of a *monogenes*, a one and only cherished Son.
- In the past, God spoke to us in various ways, but now through the One who could best reveal His heart, the Only-Begotten One, full of grace and truth!

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