Jesus Month Part One In The Beginning

Of all the disciples/Apostles, one stands out above the rest as a significant relationship:

- John "The Beloved of Christ
- The disciple that Christ loved
- 6 times in The Gospel of John (but not in any other Gospel

John also is the only Apostle to die of old age (natural death)

- Even though they tried boiling him in oil...
- It is written that this was done at the Roman Coliseum and had no effect on him (accounts say that every person there was converted to Christ)
- Then Exiled on the Island of Patmos
- This is where he received "The Revelation of Jesus Christ"

Revelation 1:4-8

4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

In this Word received from Jesus to John, specifically today I want to concentrate on this

- I am The Beginning and The End
- Who was, and is, and is to come

I don't think it's coincidence to hear this from John, as we see in the beginning of his Gospel:

John 1:1-3

The Eternal Word

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

I think it's important for each of us to understand exactly "Who" Jesus is...

- Jesus didn't begin in that manger in Bethlehem
- He is not only "The begotten Son"
- He is very much God

John 10:30

I and My Father are one."

We believe there is One God

- Existing in three equal Persons (separate yet co-existing as One)
- The Father, Son (The Word), and Holy Spirit

On that first Christmas, The Word was made man....

- But The Word has always been here...
- All things were made through Him
- God released The Word...
- The Word did the work!!

Jesus was...

- There in the beginning
- Throughout The Old Testament as "The Angel of The Lord"
- Always loving
- Always caring
- Always wanting the best for every man

This is how in:

Jeremiah 1:4-5

- 4 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:
- 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;

Before you were born I sanctified you;

Jesus was always there!!!

Jesus said I am The One who was... And is

Yes, Jesus was there at creation Yes Jesus was born Yes Jesus died on the cross and raised on the third day Yes He ascended into Heaven....

But Jesus is...

• Here with us now...

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Hebrews 4:12-13

12 For **the word of God is** living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

This is such an important verse, it confirms that Jesus is active in our life!

- Not just a far-away God...
- Not just a someday...
- But Jesus is a part of our lives today!!!

That's how we can:

- Come to me all you weary and heavy laden, I will give you rest (Matt 11:28)
- <u>1 Peter 5:7</u> casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

.Iesus!!

- Our living God who has always been here...
- Has been through everything with you
- Has loved you, forgiven you, helped you, provided for you, healed you...

Who was and is, and is to come....

Revelation 22:20

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Jesus is coming back again

- Not as a newborn...
- But as The King

And the truth is, He's coming back for His church... And looking for those without spot or blemish...

The truth is, nobody knows when that will happen, but Jesus said soon...

• Are you ready?

It's not hard...

Ask Him to forgive you...
Repent...turn from sin...turn to Him
Ask Him to be your Lord and Savior
He doesn't make it difficult...
He makes it easy!!