

The Story of Jesus and the World

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The Bible is the story of Jesus Christ. From the beginning of creation, it explains who Christ is, what He has done, what He is doing now, what He will do, and how and why He came into the world. Even the Old Testament books that do not explicitly mention Christ are filled with the historic events, foreshadows, and prophecies that led to His coming and His kingdom. Truly, Jesus is the main character in all of Scripture.

If there is one verse in the Bible that summarizes the story of Christ, perhaps it is John 1:10. Someone may argue that another verse is a better choice, such as John 3:16, but John 1:10 gives an amazingly simple view of Christ's relationship to the world. Consider this verse carefully:

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

Let's notice the second clause first: "the world was made through Him." When, "in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1), it was Christ who made it all. This is asserted emphatically in John 1:1-3:

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

As both God and the Creator, Christ possesses immeasurable power and authority over the world. He owns all things, and they exist for Him. Notice Colossians 1:16:

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Even now, He "upholds all things by the word of His power" (Heb. 1:3). Christ's place over the world is undeniable: He is preeminent over all (Col. 1:15).

Next, John 1:10 tells us that our Creator was in the world. Matthew and Luke both record the details of Christ's incarnation (Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-7), but John explains the Lord's entrance into the world very simply in John 1:14:

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

Why did the glorious, gracious, and truthful Creator come into the world? Of course, John 3:16 tells us that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." Paul explains "that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1Tim. 1:15). How did He accomplish this? It was by "taking the form of a bond-servant and being made in the likeness of men" and by "becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Phil. 2:7-8). By doing so "He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him" (Isa. 53:4). Indeed, our Creator came into the world to die for the world.

Although the world should have embraced the Savior when He came, John 1:10 says that "the world did not know Him." Despite the undeniable evidence of the miracles He performed and the prophecies He fulfilled, the world did not recognize Jesus and it did not approve of Him. Jesus even said that the world

hated Him (John 15:18). He, who was life and the light of men (John 1:4), explained, “For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed” (John 3:20). Most of the world chose to do evil rather than to come to Christ, 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” (John 1:12).

This is the story of Jesus and the world from John 1:10. However, this is not the end of the story. In John 16:28, Jesus said, “I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father.” After Jesus was crucified, He was raised from the dead and ascended to the Father in heaven. There, He is now reigning as Lord and will continue to do so until He comes again (Acts 1:11; 2:33-36; 1Cor. 15:20-28). When He returns, it will mean the end of the world and the judgment of all men (Matt. 25:31-33; 2Pet. 3:7-13). Those who are righteous through faith in Him will enter into eternal life, but those who are unrighteous will go away into eternal punishment (Matt. 25:46). So ends the story of Jesus and the world. How will it end for you?

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