

The Book of Colossians
Chapter 1 Part 2
“Our God is an Awesome God”

Return To
All Commentary

In Israel, A shepherd will notch the ear of a lamb that is born into his flock.

Because This lamb was born into his flock, it rightfully belongs to him.

If at some point, that lamb should ever deliberately walk away from the shepherd and become lost, the shepherd will search near and far to get that lamb back.

Though it be a long time later, when the shepherd finds his lamb, many times it will be found at an auction, and they are no longer a baby, but full grown.

The shepherd recognizes his mark upon his lambs ear.

He goes to the auctioneer and says, “I can see my mark there upon the sheep that in your auction, that sheep is mine”.

The auctioneer will tell him, “Listen, you must bid on that lamb and pay for it just like anyone else.”

The shepherd will bid upon his own lamb, and pay an outrageous price to get back that which was already his, but was lost.

Now, he has a double right to the lamb.

It was his by birth. Now it is his by redemption.

This morning, “Our God is an Awesome God”. He created us to belong to him.

Even when we all walked away, He searched for us. When He found us, we were sold into the hopelessness of this worlds auction.

He then paid the highest price possible to redeem us back so that we could belong Him once again.

This is the Awesome God that Colossians declares to us this morning, One who is both Creator and Redeemer.

- **One of the purposes of the book of Colossians** is to teach the fact that Jesus is the eternal, self existent mighty creator of the universe.

When this letter was written by Paul to the churches that were in the area of Colosse, the church was not even 100 years old, and already they had begun to accept false teaching about Jesus from 3 different views.

1. **The doctrine of “Gnosticism”**, said that Jesus is not God.
2. **The doctrine of “Arianism”**, said that Jesus was a created being.
3. **The doctrine of “Socinus”**, said that Jesus is not God, and that we do not need a Savior from sin.

These 3 doctrines, became the basis for all of the false churches that are in existence today.

All false teaching today, came from these 3 basic doctrines that started 1900 years ago when Jesus church had just began.

1. **We need to realize** that the doctrines that many organizations teach today, are not new.
2. **We need to realize, who is really behind** the doctrines that change the Jesus of the Bible into something far less.
3. **Lucifer is the highest order of God’s creation.** He fell because he wanted the worship of angels and human beings.
4. **Lucifer felt that he was entitled to worship,** because of his beauty and his wisdom.
5. **Lucifer tried to destroy God’s plan** to bring a Savior to earth, by destroying the Jewish people that would bring into the world Jesus, the One that would die for man’s sin and redeem us.
6. **When satan could not stop Jesus from coming into the world,** he sought to destroy Jesus church **by persecution.** That never works, because persecution just makes Jesus church stronger.
7. **Lucifer switched tactics in the first century,** by trying to get the church to **compromise.** That worked to a degree, but it did not completely destroy Jesus church. There will always those who believe in Jesus, who will not compromise in their walk with Him.

Then, beginning less than 100 years after Jesus began His church, satan designed his most powerful weapon.

1. **He began to create hundreds of counterfeit religions** that all have a little truth in their teaching.
2. **By its very nature, a counterfeit looks very close to the true,** but it is just false enough to trap and deceive.
3. **The United States Treasury,** teaches their agents how to recognize a counterfeit bill, not by studying counterfeit money, but by spending so much time studying the true currency of the United States, they would recognize the false once it was presented to them.
4. **People stopped reading God’s Word. Pastors Stopped teaching God’s Word.** The results were that today, very few people, even those that really believe in the Jesus of the bible, very few true Christians really know what the truth of God’s Word says.
5. **As a result, today, it is very easy to deceive people.** It is very easy to teach them things that are close to the truth, but just false enough to prevent them from being saved by the One truth that the bible declares.

6. **God gave us One single Truth.** He intended that we would know the truth through the Bible. He intended that we would know it so well, that when other books and other doctrine came along, we would know the truth so well, that we would reject the false.
7. **Because the bible is not being taught today,** many well meaning sincere people are following doctrines that do not save them.

Today, in churches all over the world, they are teaching people the same thing that the Gnostics, the Arians, and those of Socinus taught:

1. Jesus is not God at all.
2. Jesus is a created being.
3. Jesus is "A God, one of Many gods".
4. Jesus alone does not save us from sin.

All of the bible teaches that Jesus is "The Only God", He is not a created being, but He Himself has always existed, and is Himself the One who created all things.

Any doctrine that make Jesus less than the One God and Creator, is not from the bible, is a lie and does not save anyone.

Hey! It is your choice... the Lord created us with the capacity to be like He is. The capacity to choose our own destiny. **No other creation that has ever existed, has the same rights and privileges that you have.**

You can choose to believe or follow, or listen to anything you desire, and it is your business alone to do so.

But remember, One of the laws of the universe is that there is only One truth. Anything else, is a distortion of truth, or a variation of truth.

You can believe anything you want, it just better be the single truth that God the Creator declares, **because everything else is a colossal waste of time!**

This is the purpose of our study in the book of Colossians:

Colossians 1:15-29

15 **Jesus is the image of the invisible God,** the firstborn over all creation.

16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Today, sitting on the throne of God, is a Man, this is true.

1. **The bible declares that Jesus is God.** Jesus is the creator of all that Exists, He is the One the sustains the creation, and He is the One that holds it all together.

2. **Jesus existed as God and Creator, before He appeared as a human baby** and then grew as a man. The bible declares that Jesus has always existed, there never was a time when He did not exist.
3. **Jesus appears many times in the Old testament**, in the form of a man, as the voice of a burning bush, as the captain of the Lords army, as Melchizedek, and as “The Angel of the Lord”, and other places.
4. **All of these previous appearances**, in the old testament, appearing as a man, or “The angel of the Lord”, or others, were only temporary.
5. **When Jesus was born as a baby in Bethlehem, He took the form of a man forever.**

This verse from the book of John, is after Jesus was raised from the dead, and gives us a clue what kind of body Jesus now dwells in forever...

John 20:24-28

24 Now **Thomas**, called the Twin, one of the twelve, **was not with them when Jesus came.**

25 The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” ¶ So he said to them, **“Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”**

26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. **Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst**, and said, “Peace to you!”

27 Then He said to Thomas, **“Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side.** Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

28 ¶ And Thomas answered and said to Him, **“My Lord and my God!”**

Luke, was a Doctor, and as a doctor would, Luke often writes from a more detailed view, than the other 3 disciples, Matthew Mark, and John wrote.

In Luke chapter 24, again after Jesus was risen from the dead, He met is there with the disciples, and they are terrified of Jesus, they don’t know what is going on...

Luke 24:36-42

36 Now **as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them**, and said to them, “Peace to you.”

37 But **they were terrified and frightened**, and supposed they had seen a spirit.

38 And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?”

39 **Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.”**

40 ¶ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, **THE MOST AWESOME VERSE IN THE BIBLE...He said to them, “Have you any food here?”**

42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb.

Acts 1:9-12

9 Now when **He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.** IN BODILY FORM AS A MAN...

10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

11 who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? **This same Jesus, who** was taken up from you into heaven, **will so come in like manner** as you saw Him go into heaven.”

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, ZECHARIAH 14 SAYS HE WILL RETURN TO THE MOUNT OF OLIVES...

Revelation 5:6

6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood **a Lamb as though it had been slain**, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Today, and it appears, forever, sitting on the throne of God, is a Man.

One who has always been God, but One **who became a shepherd** that came and searched for his lambs, bought them back and now reigns as a shepherd forever.

Colossians 1:15-29

15 Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

So, verses 15–17 declares 10 things:

1. **Jesus is the visible**, Physical form of the invisible God.
2. **He is the first in importance** or preeminence in all Creation.
3. **Jesus Created Everything** that exists.
4. **This includes everything** in Heaven, and Earth.
5. **Jesus even created the things that cannot be seen**, those in the spirit realm.
6. **There are Principalities and powers** , THRONES AND DOMINIONS that exist in the spirit Realm, these include the Angels, the demons, and satan.
7. **Everything was created through Jesus.**
8. **Everything was created for Him.**
9. **Jesus was before all things, that is, He has always existed** and Jesus is most important above all things that exist.
10. **Jesus is the power that holds all things together.**

This morning, we are going to focus on just verse 15...

1. **Jesus is the Image of the invisible God”**
 - **The Greek word “Eikon”** (I-kone’), is used here for **“Image”**. The word that a Greek speaking person would use to describe a statue or portrait of someone, a representation of what a person looks like.
 - **Ever wonder why** the bible does not describe what God looks like to us?
 - **That is because He is Spirit**, and A spirit has no image.

John 14:8-9

8 Philip said to Jesus, “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’?”

In other words, If you want to know what God looks like, just look at Jesus. “He who has seen Jesus has seen the Father”.

Whether anyone realizes it or not, what everyone in this Earth is chasing after, is the living God. If they don’t know that yet, they will be trying to stuff all kinds of substitutes into their life.

1. They will stuff Pleasure, in place of Jesus.
2. The pursuit of money and things.
3. They will stuff human relationships into their life as a substitute.

What every person is really desiring, is the Living God, His Love, His life.

One day, a group of children were performing Christmas play.

During one particular part of this play, it had been planned, that in order to show Jesus as The Light of the World, the Manger was lit by an electric light bulb.

At a particular point, a boy in the back who was controlling all of the stage lights, was to turn off the stage lights and then turn on, only the light in the manger where Jesus was.

When the fateful moment arrived, the little boy in the back, got a little too excited, and turned all of the lights off, including the manger light.

Another little boy who was dressed as a shepherd spoke up just then and said: “**Hey, You switched off Jesus**”.

Today, people are having a hard time seeing what God looks like, because they have turned Jesus off in their life.

- **If you are really struggling this morning,** perhaps it is because you have turned Jesus off.
- **Perhaps no one ever told you** that Jesus is the God of the Universe who made all things.
- **Maybe you didn’t know** that the missing piece in your life was a personal relationship with the living God.
- **Maybe you know Jesus,** but have been too busy lately to turn the switch on, and bring Him into every part of your life.
- **Perhaps the reason you feel empty inside,** is that the switch has been off for quite some time.
- **If the switch is not on,** people will stuff just about anything else into their lives, as a substitute, except Jesus.
- **Many people do not realize** that they were born with a God shaped hole inside of them—that only the living God can satisfy.

Psalms 42:1 ¶

1 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

Psalms 84:2

My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

The greatest desire of the human heart is to know God, whether or not they will admit it. How do I know this, because the owners manual for all of human life says so!

Ecclesiastes 3:11

11 ... He has put eternity in their hearts...

Romans 1:20-21

20 For **since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, **so that they are without excuse**,

21 because, **although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God**, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened

Did you get that?

- **We were created by God** with a knowledge of Him already inside of us.
- **Most people will deny this fact**, and go on and live their life without the living God.
- **The most empty an bitter people** I have ever met in my life, are those who have denied that God exists in their life.
- **The most satisfied, happy and loving people** I have ever met in my life, are those who have spent their life, knowing, and loving the living God.
- **So, how important is this...**Let me say that it is the most important thing in your life, that you find Jesus and then live for Him.
- **Without Jesus**, you will find at the end of your life, that you lived for nothing, and you will have nothing.

Philippians 3:8

8 Yes, **everything else is worthless** when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Christ. NLT

2. **The second thing that Colossians** chapter 1, verse 15 declares is that Jesus is the firstborn over all creation.

Colossians 1:15-29

15 Jesus is the image of the invisible God, **the firstborn over all creation**

Now this verse, is one of those that many people have gotten themselves into tremendous trouble.

1. **They use this verse** to try and prove to you from the bible, that Jesus is a created being.
2. **“...He is the firstborn over all creation.**

This is why it is so important to go back to the original language that the Holy spirit wrote this verse in and see what the word “Firstborn” means.

- **Firstborn**, was translated from the Greek word “**Prototokos**”, meaning before all creation, or first in importance.
- **Jesus was not the first created**, as some teach, “Jesus is the first above all creation”, because He is the one that created all things.
- **If Jesus existed before anything else was made**, then it is logical that He also could not have been made.

This is what this book Colossians teaches, that Jesus existed before anything else was made.

It is the same point that John made over and over about Jesus...

John 1:1

- 1 In the beginning Jesus (the Word) **already existed**. He was with God, and he was God.
- 2 He was in the beginning with God.

No place in the bible, does it say that Jesus had His beginning at Bethlehem, when He was born as a baby.

One of the greatest Old Testament prophecies that predicted the coming of Jesus, says that He is eternal, that He is from Everlasting....

Micah 5:2

- 2 “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.”

In Israel, they measured the greatness of a city by the number of “Thousands” of fighting men they had that could go to war.

- **Bethlehem didn’t even have a thousand men**, so in terms of greatness, she was counted by Israel as the least of those in Israel.
- **And yet**, this is where the living God of the Universe chose to enter the earth.

The town where Jesus grew up, was Nazareth.

- **They used to have a saying** about the tiny little insignificant town of Nazareth, “Can anything good come from Nazareth”?

- **They felt this way about Nazareth**, most likely because there was an entire Roman Army Garrison housed in Nazareth, the Jews absolutely despised the Romans rule of them.

So, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

- **And yet, again, this is where the Living God**, who came as a man, chose to grown up.
- **The Lord seems to delight** in making great things happen out of small beginnings.
- **Do you feel small** and insignificant.
- **Do you feel like nothing good** is ever going to come from Holbrook or Winslow?

Let me tell you, Bethlehem was 1/10th the size of Winslow, 1/5th the size of Holbrook!

- **This is one of the reasons that I get so excited about serving Jesus here with you in Holbrook and Winslow.** I know that these two small little insignificant towns, are exactly the kind of place that the Lord could do one of His greatest works.

So, as verse 15 declares:

Colossians 1:15-29

15 Jesus is the image of the invisible God, **the firstborn over all creation**

There are several places in the bible where it says that Jesus is called “The Firstborn”.

1. **Jesus is called “The Firstborn over all Creation”** here in Colossians 15.
2. **Jesus is called “The firstborn from the Dead”** here in verse 18.
3. **Jesus is called “The Only Begotten”** 6 times in the New Testament.

All of these verses, people use to try and prove to you that Jesus is a Created Being.

Then, if Jesus is just a created being, like Michael or Lucifer, then how could Jesus claim that the entire bible that it was all written about Him?

John 5:39

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me

Hebrews 10:7

In the volume of the book it is written of Me—

Why did John in Revelation chapter 19 of the Book of Revelation:

Revelation 19:10

...the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

In the book of Acts, chapter 13, Paul was with Barnabas teaching at the synagogue in Antioch.

Acts 13:15

And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, “Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, **say on.**” KIND OF LIKE WHAT WE SAY TODAY... “RIGHT ON!”

16 ¶ Then Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, “Men of Israel, and you who fear God, **listen:**

Then Paul goes on for quite awhile about how Jesus was the one that all of the Old testament prophecies predicted would come.

In fact, today we know that there are over 300 Old Testament prophecies written hundreds of years before Jesus was born, that Jesus fulfilled all 300 perfectly in every detail.

- **Peter Stoner** computed that the odds of one man in all of history fulfilling just 8 of those 300 prophecies, specifically, 8 that the person would have absolutely no control over.
- **These are very specific, detailed prophecies** with multiple parts that need to be fulfilled.
- **Prophecies that were spoken in the Bible, 500-1,000 years** before Jesus was born.
 1. Place of His Birth (Micah 5:2)
 2. Time of His Birth (Daniel 9:25, Genesis 49:10)
 3. Manner of His Birth (Isaiah 7:14)
 4. Betrayal by a close friend (Psalm 41:9)
 5. The Way that he would die (Psalm 22:16)
 6. The reaction of the people who saw Him die. Mocking, Spitting, Staring. (Psalm 22:7, Psalm 22:8, Psalm 22:13)
 7. The piercing of his hands feet and side. (Psalm 22)
 8. The way that He would be buried. (Isaiah 53:9)

Crucifixion did not even exist when Psalm 22 described in graphic detail how Jesus would die, 1,000 years before Jesus was born.

Psalm 22:16-17

...They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.

Even graphic detail about how the soldiers would not tear Jesus robe into pieces and split it up, but would gamble for it instead...

Psalms 22:18

They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.

- **For any one person to fulfill Just 8 of the 300 prophecies**, the chances of that happening to one person, was 1 in 10 to the 17th power.
- That is a 1 with 17 Zeros behind it 100,000,000,000,000,000.

To give you an idea how great this number is, Lets take the great state of Texas that has 266,807 square miles, cover it with silver dollars to the depth of 2 feet, all across the surface of Texas.

