

*In 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 without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.*

*5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

Mohammed wrote ninety-nine beautiful names for God. One alone God. Transcendent, Unique, Unfathomable, Beyond all description. Almighty, Wise. Nothing is like unto Him. Mohammed made clear that God's being is hidden from us. He wrote: "No human visions can encompass him, whereas He encompasses all human visions, for he alone is unfathomable, All Aware.

In the 1800's a Christian hymn writer wrote in the same vein, "Immortal, invisible God only wise. In light inaccessible, hid from our eyes. Most blessed most glorious the ancient of days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

John begins his gospel with these words: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people."

Mohammed said that he wrote the very words of God yet those words do not contain God. They simply reveal what God wants to disclose. God reveals His Will but not His nature.

But John wrote, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

Mohammed taught that God is not affected by anything outside of God's own self – cannot be changed by what humans do.

John wrote, “And the word became flesh and dwelt among us – full of grace and truth.”

Today we celebrate the Word that is God being joined for all eternity to humanity in the birth of Jesus. Not God above it all – apart from what has been created, but God and humans forever bound together in one life. Not God revealing God’s will but God’s own self to be known by humans. Not God above it all but God in this world as vulnerable as a newborn baby.

“And the word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

Some would teach that the religions of the world are all the same – many different paths to one God. But on this day and every day we affirm that God became human in Jesus -as tiny and fragile as a newborn at this mother’s breast – feeling her warmth - sensing her breathing in – breathing out – calmed and comforted by her closeness. The one who called into existence the sun and the moon, the stars and the seas, the God that called into existence fruit flies and dinosaurs, protozoa and horses knew hunger and thirst, sleep and waking in Jesus. The God who created humans life at the beginning and will judge all human life at the end played in sand, tasted apples, felt the wind and the rain, and sang praises to the Father in Jesus.