Part 1

Dr. Hans Petter Thue

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Introduction:

Beyond the Nativity to the Eternal Christ

Most of us think of Jesus primarily from His birth in Bethlehem to His crucifixion and resurrection.

But to truly understand who Jesus is, we must follow the red thread that runs through the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation.

Jesus is not just a historical figure. He is the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End.

Today, we begin a deeper journey into His eternal identity, His divine nature, and His active presence throughout Scripture.

#### I. Jesus Is the Eternal Word (John 1:1–18)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1, NKJV)

Jesus existed before creation. He was with God, and He was God.

All things were made through Him—nothing was made without Him.

In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The darkness could not overcome that light.

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#### **Key Truths:**

Jesus is the Light, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). No one comes to the Father except through Jesus—not through religion, morality, or even the Holy Spirit alone.

#### Salvation is found in Him alone.

John the Baptist came to bear witness to the Light, so that all might believe through Him.

"He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God..." (John 1:11–12)

We are born not of blood, nor of human will, but of God.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us—full of grace and truth.

Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ—not through the Law (which brings condemnation), but through His finished work.

#### II. Jesus Is the Alpha and Omega

(Revelation 1:8; 21:6; 22:13)

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"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." (Revelation 1:8)

This title appears multiple times in Revelation—affirming Jesus' eternal sovereignty.

He is the First and the Last—the One who holds all of history in His hands.

John, the beloved disciple (who leaned on Jesus' chest), received this revelation on the island of Patmos.

In his vision, John saw the Son of Man—clothed in glory, with eyes like fire, voice like rushing waters (Revelation 1:12–16).

This same majestic figure appeared to Daniel by the river (Daniel 10)—confirming that Jesus has been active throughout redemptive history.

### III. Jesus in the Old Testament: The Pre-Incarnate Christ

Long before Bethlehem, Jesus was present and active in the Old Testament:

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The Wisdom of God (Proverbs 8)—King Solomon sought wisdom, and in doing so, he sought Christ (more on this next week!).

The Word who created all things (Colossians 1:16–17).

The Pillar of Cloud and Fire that guided Israel out of Egypt (Exodus 13:21–22).

The Rock that gave water in the wilderness (1 Corinthians 10:4)—"that Rock was Christ."

The Bronze Serpent lifted up in the desert (Numbers 21)—a picture of the Cross (John 3:14).

The One who fought for Daniel during his 21-day fast (Daniel 10).

The Fourth Man in the Fiery Furnace with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3).

Jesus is the Cornerstone and Foundation of the living temple—we are living stones, built on Him (1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:20).

#### IV. Jesus Is Yahweh — The "I AM"

In Exodus 3:14, God revealed His name to Moses:

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"I AM WHO I AM."

Jesus claimed this divine name for Himself:

"Before Abraham was, I AM." (John 8:58)

When soldiers came to arrest Him in Gethsemane and asked, "Are you Jesus?"—He replied, "I AM"—causing them to fall backward (John 18:6).

Isaiah 44:6 declares:

"I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God."

Yet in Revelation, Jesus says the same words—proving His divine identity.

Jesus is Yahweh—the Lord of Hosts, the Commander of Heaven's armies.

# V. Jesus Is Unchanging — The Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever

Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Malachi 3:6: "I the Lord do not change."

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Psalm 102:25–27: The heavens will perish, but You remain—Your years have no end.

Colossians 1:17: "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."

Jesus sustains the universe by His powerful word (Hebrews 1:3).

# VI. Our Identity in Christ: Living Temples of the Living God

When you receive Jesus, you are born of God—not by human effort, but by His will.

You become a child of God, a king and priest (Revelation 1:6).

Dominion is restored to you—just as Adam had before the Fall.

The living water of the Spirit flows from within you (John 7:38; Revelation 22:17).

You are not the source—but a channel of His grace, truth, and power.

You are called to reflect the living God—just as Jesus did on earth.

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## **Conclusion: The One True God Who Gave Himself** for Us

There are many gods in the world—but only one true God.

This God created us, loved us, and gave His own blood to wash us from sin.

No other god has ever done that.

"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever. Amen." (1 Timothy 1:17)

### Preview: Next Week — "Jesus Is the Wisdom of God"

We'll explore how King Solomon, when he asked for wisdom, was actually seeking Christ.

We'll see how wisdom in Proverbs points directly to Jesus.

And how you, as a born-again believer, have greater wisdom than Solomon—through the indwelling Holy Spirit!

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#### Final Encouragement & Call to Action

We're developing a ministry training program—with certificates for those called to serve.

God bless you!