
Colossians

Who is this Jesus?

Chapter 1:15-20

Colossians 1

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain
of darkness

and

transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved
Son,

Colossians 1

¹⁴ in whom we have redemption,
the forgiveness of sins.

I would not think it an exaggeration to say that this is one of the greatest paragraphs in the history of the world. It is dense with foundational and all-encompassing truth, and it is boldly Christ-centered. These may be the most important six consecutive verses in the Bible. Here is the heart of what the Christian faith teaches about everything, undiluted, packed tightly into one short paragraph.

David Mathis

False teaching has begun to infect the minds of some of the believers in Colossae, and Paul intends for the clarification and exaltation of the majesty of Jesus Christ to be the theological vaccine that protects the Colossian Christians from the disease of Christ-diminishing, Christ-distorting error.

John Piper

Chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary

Colossians 1

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

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¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

John 1

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 was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1

¹⁴ And the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, **glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

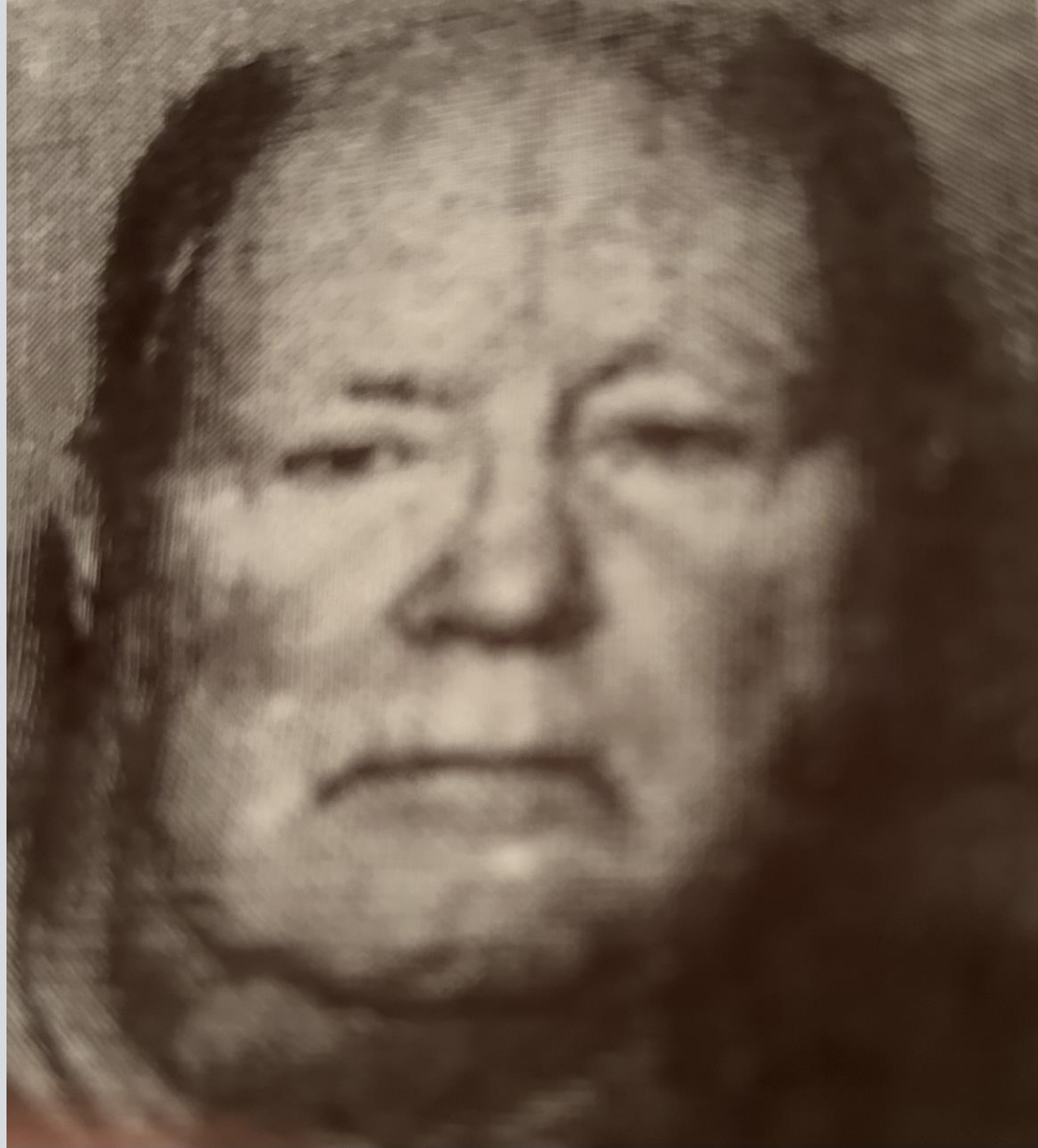
Hebrews 1

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his **Son**, whom he appointed **the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.** ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he **upholds the universe by the word of his power.** After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Colossians 1

15

He is the **image** of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.



Colossians 1

15

He is the **image** of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.

Even before His incarnation He was the image of the invisible God, as the Word (Jn 1:1–3) by whom God created the worlds, and by whom God appeared to the patriarchs. Thus His *essential* character as *always* “the image of God,” (1) before the incarnation, (2) in the days of His flesh, and (3) now in His glorified state, is, I think, contemplated here by the verb “is.”

Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown,

Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible,

vol. 2

Colossians 1

15

He is the image of the invisible God,
the **firstborn** of all creation.

John Piper

“Firstborn of all creation” does not mean he is part of creation. Four reasons:

1. He is God — not part of what God made. We have seen that already.
2. The ground of 15b in verse 16 contradicts that he is part of creation: “He is firstborn of all creation. *Because* by him all things were created.” It would make no sense to say, “He is part of creation because he created all things

John Piper

3. The word “of” in “firstborn *of* all creation” does not have to mean he is part of creation any more than my saying, “David is the coach *of* his son’s little league team,” means he is a little leaguer on the team. “Coach of” means “coach over” and that’s what Paul means here — he is the firstborn *over* all creation.

4. The word “firstborn” came to mean, alongside its biological meaning, “having the highest rank,” as in [Psalm 89:27](#) where God says to David, “I will make him the *firstborn*, the highest of the kings of the earth.” That is, not having his origin from the kings of the earth but highest over them.

Colossians 1

16

For by him **all** things were created,
in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or
authorities — **all** things were created
through him and for him.

Colossians 1

17

And he is before **all** things,
and in him **all** things hold together.

Colossians 1

18

And he is the head of the body, the church.

He is the beginning,

the firstborn from the dead,

that in everything he might be preeminent.

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19

For in him **all** the fullness of God was
pleased to dwell,

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20

and through him to reconcile to
himself **all** things,
whether on earth or in heaven, making
peace by the blood of his cross.

So, who is this Jesus?

- . Jesus Christ is God.
- . Jesus Christ is before all things.
- . Jesus Christ created all that is not God.
- . Jesus Christ holds everything together.
- . Jesus Christ is Head of the Church.
- . Jesus Christ is reconciler of everything.