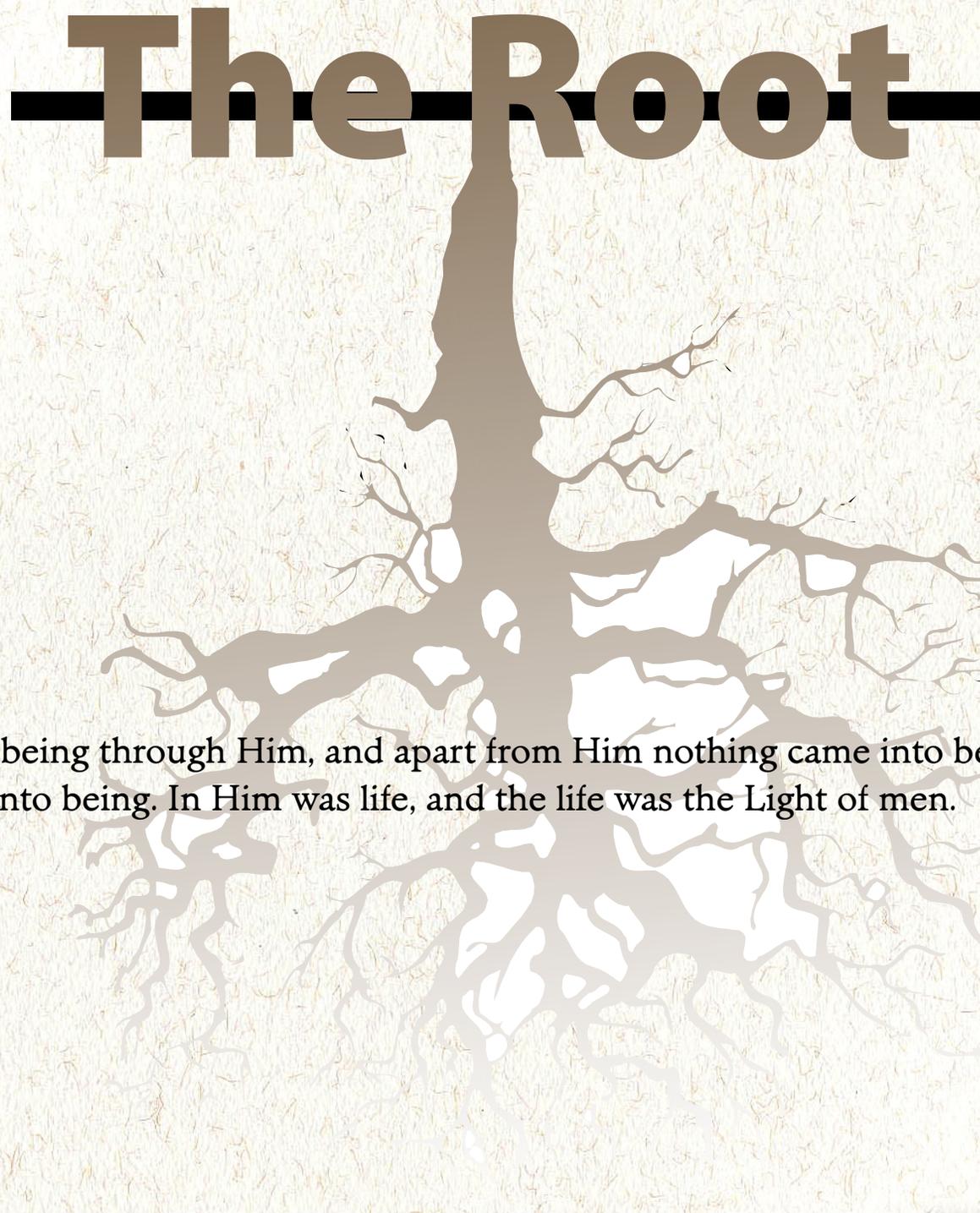


The Root



All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

John 1:3-4

TRYING TO GET A BEAD ON “TIME,” as it relates to heaven, can be an exhausting, frustrating exercise. Like a three-year-old struggling to understand the exchange in a convocation of physicists, in exasperation we throw up our hands and admit that all we can do is translate meager portions of its mysteries into our Neanderthal tongue.

But try we must if we are to consider the “beginnings” of our Savior; we must translate ethereal mysteries into our common, earth-bound concepts. We are forced to speak of heavenly events that have occurred and are occurring outside of space and time, in the base language of our own senses.



In the words of our language, the Son of God—who would be called, on earth and thereafter, Jesus—existed with God before there was an earth, before there was a universe, before there was what we could call “time.” Jesus was a member of God: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

John 1:1-2

God had no beginning. There has never been a moment when God wasn't. So the Son of God never came into existence after a period of time when He was *not* in existence. He always has been. Likewise, since God is spirit, that means that the Son of God and, of course, the Holy Spirit are spirit as well. That is their *type*. Our type is flesh; theirs is spirit.

“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 4:24

At some moment back in the furthest reaches of time, the triune God decided that He would both create man and love him. The raw material of man's creation would be earth's soil, but the raw material of God's love for him would come solely from His heart. God's heart-generated love would be expressed in, of all things, flesh. For God to commune with man, the sin of man would require atonement—a blood sacrifice—and only God Himself could supply the one, spotless, perfect Lamb that would atone for man's sin. God would send down to earth the Son to become that sacrifice. Thus the circle would be complete. Flesh for flesh. Jesus never could cease being God, but, for a while, He would also become flesh.



Before his sin could be atoned for, however, man would need to be created. His world and his universe would need to be created. And, again, the Son part of God would be the agent of this creation.

We may not be able to describe or understand the “beginning” of Jesus, for it is locked away in the mysteries of heaven, but we can know the moment when He stepped into *our* beginning. For He created it.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 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. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:15-17

Jesus is the root. He is the foundation. His is the magnificence behind everything created, the genius that imagined the world into existence.

See the morning glory painted across the sky. It paints the glory of Jesus.

See the vast sea waves that stretch beyond our vision, beyond the horizon, lapping every shore around the globe. They reveal the limitless, encompassing love and grace of Jesus.

Listen to the evening anthem of the birds as they prepare for the nest.

They sing of Jesus.

The natural world is alive, pulsating with praise for Jesus, its Creator. But we, too, mere sin-drenched humans, vibrate to His frequency. Jesus has instilled in the pinnacle of His creative genius some of His own DNA—His own life-force—so that even the smallest expression of man speaks of the Creator. See the little one, toddling unsteadily into her daddy’s arms. There is Jesus. See the pastor ministering to the bereaved and home-bound. There is Jesus. See the wife feeding and bathing her bedridden husband. There is Jesus. See the husband who labors to support his family. There is Jesus. Jesus Christ is the inspiration and architect of all that we know—and all that we do not. Jesus is the navel of the cosmos.

Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

1 Corinthians 8:6