

## Advent Devotions: Jesus, Everlasting Father

### ❑ Monday - Christ, the Everlasting God.

What was there before the universe existed? Nothing. There was no time, matter, or space, no heaven and no angels. There was nothing but God, and that not for a day, or a year, but for all eternity past. But where did God come from? Nowhere. He is without origin, without beginning or end. He eternally is. From this comes His name Yahweh, I AM (Ex. 3:14). "Before the mountains were born or the earth was created, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God" (Psa. 90:2). As we look at the names of Christ given in Isaiah 9:6, the prophet has already established that Messiah is "Mighty God," and after this He is called "Everlasting Father." Setting aside for a moment whatever Scripture means by calling God the Son, our "Father;" we see that Christ is eternal. Elsewhere we read that, "His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity" (Micah 5:2), and "He is before all things" (Col. 1:17). He is called "the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God" (1 Tim. 1:17). And so we sing at Christmas, "Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ the *everlasting* Lord" (Hymn: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*). Here is a Christmas mystery: The conception of the God-Man Jesus within the womb of Mary was the union of finite humanity and eternal Being.

Read John 17:5, 24

### ❑ Tuesday - The Dwelling Place of God.

When the first temple was built in Jerusalem, Solomon declared, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain Thee, how much less this house which I have built!" (1 Kgs. 8:27). We remember from the first Christmas that there was no room for Christ in the inn (Lk. 2:7), but in truth there is no room for Him in the entire universe! So if the universe cannot contain Him, where does an infinite and eternal God live? Scripture declares that He "inhabits eternity" (Isa. 57:15, KJV). So here is our second Christmas mystery: When the God-Man Jesus was born in Bethlehem, His human nature was laid in a manger, but His Deity continued to fill the only place that could contain Him -- eternity.

Read Isaiah 66:1

### ❑ Wednesday - Creator of Time & Eternity.

God is One with respect to His essence (Deut. 6:4), and three with respect to the internal distinctions of that essence: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But if Scripture makes a distinction between Father and Son, how is it that Christ is called "Everlasting Father" in Isaiah 9:6? In this case, many commentators understand the word "Father" in a more generic sense to mean "author" or "originator". As Satan is called the father of lies (John 8:44), so also Christ may be called the "Father of eternity," as some have interpreted this title. Here is a third Christmas mystery: Mary's son was a father: the Father of eternity.

Read John 1:3; Col. 1:16

### ❑ Thursday - Immutability & Christ's Two Natures.

Creaturely existence takes place within the realm of time, which may be defined as the continuous, linear, forward, no-repeatable progression of events. But God is not bound by time which He created, for "with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day" (2 Peter 3:8). But what about the God-Man, Jesus Christ, who lived in two worlds, both in and out of time? Was He bound by time and was He subject to change? Here is the fourth mystery of Christmas: The infinite, eternal and unchanging Son of God, who entered time through the portal of Mary's womb, was subject to change in His human nature (Lk. 2:52), but in His Divine nature remained immutable.

Read Hebrews 13:8

### ❑ Friday - The Eternal Golden Age of Christ.

Christ is called the "Everlasting Father" (Isa. 9:6); Hebrew *abi ad*, literally the "Father of eternity" or "Father forever" as it sees Christ as the father of an eternal golden age yet to come for all of those in Christ. Yet the emphasis is not just that Christ is the father (cause) of this eternal age, but that His fatherly care of His people will be forever.

Read Romans 8:17, cf. Galatians 4:7