

Beginning

What does beginning mean? In Strong's Concordance, in both the Old and New Testaments, it means: a commencement, start. If you trace it back to the root word, it means: to be first in political rank or power, to reign, to rule over. Let's look at an application of the root definition to be first, reign or rule.

1Jo 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. We know from scripture; the devil is the beginning of, and ruler over, all sin. We know this by reading Genesis, and the account of the deception of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. This was the beginning of death by sin. This is further testified of in scripture in: *Heb 2:14-17; 14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. 17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*

"that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;" How does the devil have the power of death? The same way he had it in the Garden of Eden. He has the power to tempt man to sin, which leads man to death by sin, as it did Adam and Eve.

Have you ever wondered why Christ had to be manifested in the world? Why did he have to put on a body of flesh? **1Jo 3:8 For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.** We are told in this text; it was for the purpose of destroying the works of the devil.

How did the incarnation of Christ destroy satan's works? In his life incarnate, Jesus demonstrated his power over the devil, when he was tempted by satan, after a 40 day fast in the wilderness. We remember; Jesus did this by answering all the temptations of death by sin, from the devil, with "thus saith the Lord." *Heb 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.* In incarnation, Christ reconciled us to God the Father, when he gave his life on the cross. It was on the cross where Christ offered himself as the one true sacrifice for sin. This was the only blood sacrifice, which would appease the judicial wrath of God against the sins of his people. By this action, which could only happen in incarnation, Christ demonstrated; that his power was greater than that of the devil.

We know; Christ is more powerful than satan by the scripture in: **1Jo 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.** You understand; this is what happened when you were born again. Christ came into you, in the form of the Holy Ghost, which he sent to fill his place on earth. For each child of grace, this was a beginning.

Christ was before the world began, he was created a body of flesh in time, and now has ascended back to the eternal heaven from whence he came. So it is with each of us. How can this be? Let's look at a couple of scriptures and see:

- **Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:**
- **2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,**

Do you understand? Before time was, you were in the mind of God; and in time you are created in a body of flesh; and when time is no more, you will be resurrected and transformed into an eternal

body, to ever exist with the Lord in the eternal heaven, as seen in the resurrection of Christ. Remember the scripture in: **1Jo 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**

Now let's look at some other beginnings made possible by Jesus Christ as seen in scripture in: **Col 1:12-20; 12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.**

As we consider the definitions of beginning (a commencement, to start, to be first in rank or power, to reign, to rule over) and read this text; we see the definition proven, to be a true definition, by the scriptures. We see from this text in Colossians:

- "**which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light**" Christ has made us worthy to be called the sons of God, "saints in light"
- "**Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness**" Christ has delivered us from the power of darkness, by filling us with the light of Christ, and giving us the glorious light of the gospel
- "**and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son**" Christ has adopted us into the family of God, into the church of Salvation by Grace, which is the kingdom of God on earth.
- "**Who is the image of the invisible God**" God gave us a visible image, Christ in a body of flesh, that we may see witness of God in Christ. Christ came, in a body of flesh, so we can remember and understand, we are created in the "image of God" as seen in: **Ge 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:**
- "**the firstborn of every creature**", "**who is the beginning**", Christ is the beginning
- "**For by him were all things created**" Christ is the creator
- "**And he is the head of the body, the church**" Christ is the beginning of the Church of Salvation by Grace. Christ is the head of the church in that Christ is our King and Supreme Ruler.
- "**the firstborn from the dead**" Christ is the first whose body of flesh was resurrected and ascended into the eternal heaven
- "**that in all things he might have the preeminence**" Christ did all this to demonstrate that he is ruler over all things
- "**For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell**" Christ is the root of every blessing we have in life on earth and in eternity
- "**having made peace through the blood of his cross**" Christ hath made peace between an offended God and offending man
- "**by him to reconcile all things unto himself**" Christ has reconciled, paid, our sin debt, and thereby purchased us unto himself.

- "**by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven**" Christ not only did this for us on earth, manifested in being born again and given salvation by grace; He also has made our eternal life and salvation sure.

Here are a few beginnings, and gifts to us, in which we can rejoice. Aren't you glad?

- Jesus Christ is the beginning of, and is, our salvation, both in time and eternity?
- Christ is the Supreme Being.
- We have the bible to testify to us of the wonderful gospel of Jesus Christ?
- Christ has finished, and secured, our eternal salvation?
- When time is no more; we will be moved from time to eternity, to the place that Christ has gone to prepare for us?
- Christ shed his blood for the remission of our sin debt?
- We have the memorial of the Lord's Supper to remind us of what great things the Lord has done for us?
- We have knowledge of such things as: life, grace, mercy, salvation (both in time and eternal), and eternal life?
- We know who is in control of all things?

As we consider all these great gifts from God; we understand why we take time to sing, songs of praise and worship, to the name of the Lord. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord! Great is thy faithfulness!

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Lloyd Hymnal 250 C. M.

The triumphal feast of Christ's victory.

1 JESUS, the God, invites us here, To this triumphal feast, And brings immortal blessings down For each redeemed guest.	5 'Justice unsheathed its fiery sword, And plunged it in my heart; Infinite pangs for you I bore, And most tormenting smart.
2 The Lord, how glorious is his face! How kind his smiles appear! And O what melting words he says To every humble ear!	6 'When hell and all its spiteful powers Stood dreadful in my way, To rescue those dear lives of yours, I gave my own away.
3 'For you, the children of my love, It was for you I died; Behold my hands, behold my feet, And look into my side.	7 'But while I bled, and groaned, and died, I ruined Satan's throne; High on the cross I hung, and spied The monster tumbling down.'
4 'These are the wounds for you I bore, The tokens of my pains, When I came down to free your souls From misery and chains.	8 Victorious God! what can we pay For favors so divine? We would devote our hearts away, To be forever thine.