

Start Here

When you buy some new product, there is frequently a prominent instruction to “Start Here”. These instructions were created by the manufacturer of the product and are intended to help you understand and use your new purchase.

The ultimate “manufacturer” is the Creator of the universe. We are His ultimate “product”. If you want to know about the Creator and about yourself you need to know where to start.

The most complete “Start Here” instructions are given by the one who was with the Creator in the beginning and who, in fact, was the agent God used to create the universe, including ourselves. He was sent by his Father to earth to personally deliver these words to us. We know him by his earthly name, Jesus of Nazareth.

In the Beginning

When most Jews, Christians and Muslims (almost 60% of the world’s population) think about “the beginning”, they think about this:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

But, there’s actually a “beginning” that occurred before the “beginning” in Genesis:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him. Without him was not anything made that has been made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness hasn’t overcome it.

(John 1:1-5)

Who or what was this “Word”? John goes on to explain:

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world didn’t recognize him. He came to his own, and those who were his own didn’t receive him. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God’s children, to those who believe in his name: who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. The Word became flesh, and lived among us. We saw his glory, such glory as of the one and only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John

1:10-14)

If you want to start at the beginning, start with the son of God. He existed before the beginning of the creation of the universe and was in fact used by God to create the universe.

The Beginning Gets Stuck in the Middle

Christians believe that the Bible is the "Word of God". They place equal faith and credibility in all the words recorded throughout the Old and New Testaments. They approach it from a chronological viewpoint, starting with the Old Testament and ending with the New Testament.

However, if the son of God existed before Genesis, **that** is where we should start. Yes, Jesus came to earth in human form long after the creation recorded in Genesis. However, that was just his physical incarnation. He existed before "the beginning".

Unfortunately, the beginning (the son of God) got stuck into the middle of the Bible. The result is that most people believe that Jesus' words are no more or less important than the words in the rest of the Bible. The author of life got demoted and placed on a par with dozens of other humans who wrote various books of the Bible.

However, if you acknowledge that the son of God is preeminent over history you should start with him as your beginning. Don't make the mistake of accepting the common teachings which would have you believe that you must understand the Old Testament before you can understand Jesus. And don't make the additional mistake that the rest of the New Testament (after the Gospels) add further illumination to the son of God and his teachings.

The son of God came from the presence of God, from **before** the beginning of time. He chose a point in **our** history to bring us the words of his Father. The teachings of Jesus do **not** deserve a "middle" place; they deserve the place of honor at the beginning.

It's Not Rocket Science

There's a common expression: "It's not rocket science". This expression is used to call attention to the fact that a particular topic is not, or does not have to be, complex. The topic is actually a lot more simple than many people might make it out to be.

This is true about topics of a spiritual nature. Jesus said:

"I thank you, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for so it was well-pleasing in your sight." (Luke 10:21)

"Religious" people throughout history have turned spiritual truths into complex systems of theology that the "average" person has no ability to comprehend. In doing so, a separate class of people (referred to as clergy) evolved who were the elite few that could really understand spiritual truths. They were given titles and positions of authority to whom other, less spiritual, people deferred.

Jesus came to teach us that this was not how it works. He basically said, "It's not rocket science". Spiritual truths can be understood by anyone who would listen with the simplicity and innocence of a child. Jesus said:

"Allow the little children to come to me! Don't forbid them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mark 10:14)

We must refuse to subjugate ourselves to "spiritual professionals". They don't know what they're talking about. They turn simple truths into complex theologies.

If we can humble ourselves as little children we will find that the words of the Father, brought to us by His son, are simple and easy to understand.

Where to Start

We now come back to the question about where to start, if we want to know the Creator and our purpose in life. The answer is simple: start at the beginning. Start with the "beginner", the son of God.

Jesus said:

"For this reason I have been born, and for this reason I have come into the world, that I should testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." (Joh 18:37)

"The word which you hear isn't mine, but the Father's who sent me." (Joh 14:24)

"The words that I speak to you are spirit, and are life." (Joh 6:63)

Start with the words and life of Jesus in your search to understand and know the Creator. After all, here is the one who came directly from the Father's presence. This is first hand information. It is based on Christ's real experience in God's presence.

The information that all other humans proclaim is second hand information. There's no comparison. Set aside all other teachings for a period of time and focused solely on what the son of God said. You don't need the opinions and "insights" of other humans.

Remember, it's not rocket science; it's actually quite simple.

The Bottom Line

If we are truly seeking God, we will listen to His son and follow him:

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give eternal life to them.” (John 10:27-28)