

WHY IN THE WORLD

To Communicate and Demonstrate

Andy Stanley

Note: The following content is a raw transcript and has not been edited for grammar, punctuation, or word usage.

00:00 Speaker 1: Christians, we believe a lot of crazy things. One of the crazy things that we believe is this right here, that God actually became one of us, which is kind of a strange thought. If you grew up in the United States, if you grew up in church you hear that all the time. But when you stop and think about this, this is really... This is kind of a, "Hold on, hold on, hold on, I'm not sure I can go with you on that. God became one of us." In fact, the person who explained this best was the Apostle John. There was Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. John was an eyewitness. In fact, if you're new to Christianity, you're kinda skeptical, which of course you would be, we believe some pretty crazy things.

00:32 S1: One of the reasons we believe, is because eyewitnesses are the ones that told us the story and John was one of those eyewitnesses and he followed Jesus through his ministry and he believed Jesus was the son of God. And then he saw Jesus crucified and went, "Oh, not son of God. Son of God's can't be crucified." Then he peered into an empty tomb and he was back, "Now I'm back, son of God." And then, he told people about it and Emperor Domitian got sick of it, 'cause everywhere John went people became Christians and he decided, "Maybe I should put John to death." But every time they killed a Christian 10 more sprang up, kind of strange how that happened. So he took John, the Apostle John, and put him on the Isle of Patmos. And we got a photograph here, this is John, kind of rockin' that Moses look a little bit.

[laughter]

01:10 S1: And he's writing here for us. And on the Isle of Patmos we know that he wrote the Gospel. He wrote three letters called, so creative, First, Second, and Third. John, yep. And then, he wrote the Book of Revelation. But John, who was an eyewitness, when he sat down to summarize the life of Jesus... And this is important to understand. And to summarize what he had seen and what he had heard and what he had experienced himself, here's what he tells us. "And the word became flesh and dwelt," literally camped out, tabernacled, pitched a tent "with us, among us And we saw..." "Now, you didn't see. This isn't you, this isn't me. This is literally, we saw. Who's we? Well, Matthew was there and Peter was there and James and John. The other... A couple of other James' and Johns'. "And we were all there and we all saw his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

02:05 S1: John's reflecting, he's writing it down. He's realizing, "I'm an old man and Jesus hasn't returned yet. And so, I need to write this stuff down, so people will know what happened. And the best way I can describe it, my summary of spending about three years with this man, Jesus, is that God showed up in a body and he dwelt among us." What if that's true? What if that really happened? What if John's right, Peter's right? And James, the brother of Jesus was right? So we're gonna answer this question. Assuming that that happened, why did it happen? Why in the world would God become one of us, live as one of us, among us? Why would he do that? Now, this is very important, nobody was expecting this. Jewish people, some Jewish people, were expecting a