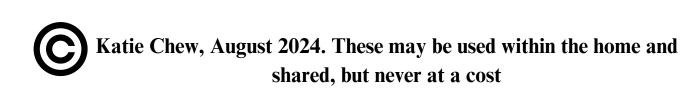
## Bible Ballads The Christmas Story According to the Gospel of John







If you've read the Gospel of John, you may be thinking, "Wait a minute, he doesn't really tell the Christmas story." And you are correct. John begins his gospel as almost a mirror to Genesis. Genesis starts with "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." And John starts his gospel with "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

I sat in church one Christmas season and was struck by the thought that Jesus has always been. I've known it since a child, but boy did it hit me hard that day.

From that thought, I wrote this poem.



You were there before creation:

At the start of the world.

You were speaking, you were moving,

Eternal Living Word.

You were there when man first fell,
When perfect was polluted.
You were there when the first Adam
Stood by, fully muted.

You were there when Noah labored,
Before rain ever dropped.
You were there when the Ark landed
Upon the mountain top.



You were there for the first rainbow,
Your promise in the sky.
You were there when Ham, in sin,
Looked on Noah where he lie.

You were there showcasing stars
In a vow to Abraham.
You were there on Mount Moriah,
Providing him a ram.

You were there when Jacob stole,
When he cheated for his gain.
You were there and wrestled with him
To give him a new name.



You were there with Joseph,
Deep in the pit when he was sold.
You were there in Egypt,
Fulfilling dreams that you foretold.

You were there when your people
Cried to you as Egypt's slaves.
You were there with Moses,
With his staff you drove back the waves.

You were there as people grumbled, You fed them from your hand. You were there when Moses struck, And lost entrance to the Land.



You were there when Joshua Rallied people to his side. You were there for Jericho, You were even there for Ai.

You were there with the Judges
When your people turned astray.
You were there pursuing
'Til they submitted to your way.

You were there when they rebelled,
Seeking kings like other lands.
You were there when Saul, at Carmel,
Built his statue to stand.



You were there when David triumphed
Over the enemy.
You were there promising One
On his throne eternally.

You were there when David faltered
And took Uriah's wife.
You were there when he repented.
His fam'ly filled with strife.

You were there in the exiles:
Assyria. Babylon.
You were there with the remnant,
And your Truth kept them strong.



You were there with prophets,
As they were beaten, mocked, and cursed.
You were there in years of silence...
All waited for your birth.

You were there laid in a manger
On that first Christmas morn.
You were there from the beginning,
But that day you were born.

You were there in each success
And saw every fall of man.
Yet you never quit pursuing
Your perfect, holy plan.



Your plan of salvation
And of redemption for the lost.
Your plan to trample death,
Which you would do upon a cross.

Your plan to make a way
Unto the Father through your blood.
Your plan to cover all our sins
And failures— every one.

Your plan to redeem a world
Of people broke and dying.
Your plan which came on Christmas morn—
A babe softly crying.



Your plan to enter earth
For you so loved our fallen world.
With God in the beginning,
In the beginning was the Word.