

# Phenomenal Cosmic Powers... Itty Bitty Living Space!

Brad Jersak

"Phenomenal cosmic powers ...  
Itty bitty living space."  
—Genie, Disney's *Aladdin*

When Disney's writers penned that line for the animated motion picture, *Aladdin*, they brilliantly and unknowingly encapsulated a central theme of Christian faith: the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Indeed, that we should find the Creator and Sustainer of the universe



laying in a manger infinitely exceeds jamming a powerful genie into a hand-held lantern. We cannot overstate the extremes:

## CONDESCENSION

On the one hand, consider the "cosmic Christ" who holds the whole world—no, the entire universe—in the palm of his hands. In fact, God the Father is called "Almighty" because through his Son, all things came into being:

*Through him [Jesus Christ] all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made (John 1:3).*

*For in him [the Word] all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together (Colossians 1:16-17).*

*... in these last days [God] has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe (Hebrews 1:2).*

And on the other hand, this same Christ who contains the universe within himself and fills the universe with himself also emptied himself into the world and took on the form of that singular child. God almighty (phenomenal cosmic powers) IS that baby nursing at a virgin's breast (itty bitty living space) and the Lamb who revealed God as infinite Love by dying on a Cross. You can't make this stuff up. It is the mystery that could only be revealed from the heavenly kingdom.

Talk about condescending to our lowly estate!

## UNION

But what neither Disney nor the genie myth ever imagined was how the condescension of Jesus Christ also accomplished a three-fold grand *union*.

Even when John's prologue says, "the Word became flesh" (John 1:14), we are sure to understate what that union of divine Word and human nature implies.

Beginning on the macro level, the Incarnation reveals the union of our Creator with *all of creation*. To resist our propensity for idolatry of created things, the Bible usually emphasizes the Creator-creation distinction. But in the body of Christ, Creator and creation become indivisible ... and maybe always had been. All the fullness of the Godhead AND all the fullness of creation are held together in that glorious unity which is the person of Jesus.

Narrowing our focus, the Incarnation specifically unites God and humanity. God the Word not only assumes a human body, soul and spirit. In Christ, *God unites himself to all humanity*. The life of the eternal God is poured into the human race through Jesus' identification with every man, woman and child on the planet.

And finally, since the Incarnation marks the unification of Creator and Creation, of God and humanity, it follows that Christ has identified with and united himself to you. And that union is



likewise indivisible. No separation! No abandonment! No condemnation! In him, you live and move and have your being. And conversely, he is forever with you and in truth, lives in you.

So many people, even Christ-followers, seem blind to this. That's sad because it impacts their experience of such a great

salvation. But the fact is that God no more turns from the "sinner" than the sun ceases to shine on the blind person. It's true anyway. But knowing it's true is life-changing good news! □

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