



OUT OF THE CHUTE!

Jesus Christ
came out
of Heaven's
"chute" for a
rough ride in
this world!

Rodeos showcase the cowboy way of life, with emphasis upon individual achievement, physical toughness, family, and tradition. Rodeo developed from a desire to display and compare ranch skills. The first documented rodeo was a "round up" held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1847. Only after Buffalo Bill Cody took his famous Wild West show on the road in 1883 did rodeos feature steer wrestling, trick roping, and bull riding. Later, cash awards were offered.

One of rodeo's most anticipated moments is the release of a bucking bronco

or bull with rider from the chute. Nobody knows which twist or turn the animal will take. The explosion of energy rivets the attention of the crowd as the cowboy seeks eight seconds of glory!

Read John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in



Photo: Cowboy coming out of chute courtesy of Dreamstime

the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. John 1:1-5

Ropin' the Truth

Jesus Christ came to earth to showcase God and His way of life! Right "out of the chute," John makes sure we cannot miss who Jesus is! He is God's Word to us! When everything began, "The Word" already **was!** "Was" is in past tense but it suggests continuous existence. The Word existed eternally!

A word is an expression revealing one's thoughts. A word is a means of communication. Jesus Christ is the expression of God. He showed us what God is like. By dying for us, He showed us how much God loves us!

The Word was **with** God. He was in eternal face to face equality with the Father, while remaining a Person distinct from His Father. The Word was **God**. Jesus did not become God. He always was God. He didn't have to learn to be God, or to work His way up into being God. William McDonald writes, "It is not enough to say He is 'a god,' that He is godlike, or that He is divine. The Bible teaches that He is God."

Here is a philosophical question: "Why is there something rather than nothing? The answer is: "Because there is God who made everything!" The work of revealing God began with creation (Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:19-20). Jesus Christ made everything (I Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2). Jesus, the God-Man who created all things, is our Elder Brother who came to dwell with us!

Life is only found in Jesus Christ. He created biological life (John 1:3) and He gives spiritual life (John 8:12). Real Christianity, not the façade presented by many Americans today, is Christ. He is **Life** and all life is in Him.

The Life was the light of men (v. 4). Light provides guidance in a fallen, ignorant world. Jesus revealed God in the

darkness and He continues to shine in the darkness. But He was not understood or received by men. Most reject Him today. Yet, the awful spiritual darkness of this world did not and can not overcome Him! The revelation of the Living God and salvation through Christ are superior to ignorance and sin!

In the conflict between light and darkness, **light cannot lose!** When a lighted coal-oil lantern enters a room, darkness must flee! Jesus Christ is the **Light** of the world. He is also the **Truth**. The Truth, no matter how much suppressed by sinful man, keeps rising to the surface like a basketball in a swimming pool. He is God and the only **Way** to get to God (John 14:6).

Men and women respond to the claims of Jesus in one of two ways. First, we can believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. A **minority** believes in Christ with saving faith. Or, we can refuse to believe concerning the Light, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. A hardened heart will result. The **majority** of men and women remain in unbelief. Which will it be for you?

Don't Get Bucked Off

1. How do we know what God is like?
2. Who made everything? (See I Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:16)
3. How does real Christianity differ from the version practiced by many people?
4. Does this world exist in "light" or in "darkness?"
5. Who is Truth? (See John 14:6). Does Jesus claim to be the only Way to get to God and Heaven?
6. To whom does Jesus give light (John 1:9)? How does the majority respond? How does the minority respond?

The Trail of Still Waters

What did you learn from John 1:1-5? How will you apply it?

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