The Glorious Glitch

The Christmas Story for the Digital Age

On my flight from Amsterdam to Edmonton, I watched a documentary that asked a question that caught my attention: *Is it possible that our reality is someone else's virtual reality?* Maybe there's someone out there, some person or being, who is a master programmer; and we are the products of their highly advanced computer code.

When I first started watching the documentary, I chuckled; but the longer I listened the more interested I became. In fact, I started to see parallels between what the documentary was saying and what I believe as a Christian. In particular, I saw a parallel between it and the Christmas story.

The Supreme Programmer – Genesis 1:1; Proverbs 1:7; Romans 1:20-22;

- By describing the universe as someone's created reality, the documentary was acknowledging that there was Someone who flicked the switch, who wrote the program, who created it all. Unfortunately the documentary stopped short of acknowledging God as the Supreme Programmer.

The Creative Code – Isaiah 55:9-11; John 1:1-5; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:2; 4:12-13

- Just like there is a code behind everything that you see on your computer screen, so there is a Code behind everything you see in the world around you, including yourself. The Bible calls that Code the Word of God: *Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.* Further, *He sustains all things by his powerful word.*

The Christmas Glitch – Luke 1:34-38; John 1:14

- In the world of computers, glitches are bad; they represent bad coding. In the Bible, glitches are good and are called miracles. Miracles are irregularities in the normal operation of the universe; they happen because the Creator interrupts the code by which his creation runs.

- At this time of year, we focus on a particular irregularity: the conception of Jesus Christ. With this glorious glitch, the Creator overrode the code, caused a virgin to become pregnant and wrote himself into the program. The theological word for this glitch is Incarnation.

Ongoing Glitches – 1 Corinthians 12:27

The Incarnation didn't end with Jesus. After he left this earth, he began giving his Spirit to every one of his followers. Rather than living by the code of this world, when the Spirit of God controls us, we live by the code of heaven. We become ongoing glitches in the reality of this world; we become incarnations of God's Word.