

**The WORD Became Flesh
(Week 1)
John 1:1-18
“The Word Became Flesh”**

Introduction

But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, The Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name. John 20:31

There can be no doubt as to the purpose for John’s writing of his gospel. No doubt, because he tells near the end of it exactly why it was written. It was **“written so you may believe”**. And what does John want you to believe? That Jesus is God incarnate. The WORD made flesh. The opening statements in the *Gospel of John* are a list of the mighty attributes of Christ. John begins his story by explaining just Who Jesus IS, then he backs up his conclusions with sound eyewitness testimony. It’s as if he gives you the final sum to the equation, and then takes you step by step through the process of how he came to his conclusion. And make no mistake, John is out to prove to his readers, beyond any shadow of doubt, that Jesus IS GOD.

John’s Gospel is quite brilliantly composed. The structure of it is so well designed that it is almost like poetry. Upon careful study, you will find specific themes, such as darkness versus light. And then there are the numerical sequences. The number “seven” in the Scriptures is the number of completeness or fulfillment. And since Jesus, being the “fulfillment” of all Scripture, is the subject matter of this writing, John repeatedly uses “sevens” to make his case for Christ. There are the narratives of seven men and seven women. There are seven specific “signs” (miracles) performed by Christ, each one corresponding with a god of Greek Mythology. For you see, John was out to demonstrate that unlike the false gods worshipped by the Greeks Jesus was in fact The One True God.

There are also the seven “I AM declarations Of Christ. These are also listed in order to show that Jesus is The Great I AM Who spoke to Moses from the burning bush so many centuries before his incarnation. Whenever Jesus made an “I AM” statement, He was identifying Himself as God. The seven I AM’s of Jesus are: I AM the bread of life (**John 6:35**), I AM the light of the world (**John 8:12**), I AM the door (**John 10:7**), I AM the good shepherd (**John 10:11**), I AM the resurrection and the life (**John 11:25**), I AM the way and the truth and the life (**John 14:6**), and finally I AM the true vine (**John 15:1**).

So, as you can see, John wrote his story for the sole purpose of reflecting the glory of Christ. He is so consumed with this mission, that he goes to great lengths not to even mention his own name in the story. When it becomes absolutely necessary for John to mention his involvement in a particular event, he refers to himself only as “the disciple that Jesus loved”. John is not out to draw attention to himself, but to give glory to his LORD and Savior. This is actually what every disciple of Christ is to be about, living in such a way that all who see us will be directed to The Savior.

As we embark on our study of this wonderful book, inspired by The Spirit of The Living God, we will behold the splendor and majesty of The LORD Jesus. Taking our time to explore every detail, for He is the visible image of the invisible God, The Great I AM made flesh. This is where the story begins (and ends) as John commences his wonderful book with the most powerful declaration of the deity of Christ in all of Scripture:

In the beginning was The Word, and The Word was with God, and The Word WAS GOD. John 1:1

In keeping with The Gospel of John’s theme of sevens, I would like to point out for us seven realities of Christ found in these first eighteen verses of Scripture. *Jesus: 1) Always Was 2) Was Always With God 3) Always Was GOD 4) Is The CREATOR 5) Is The Light and The Life 6) Is The Word Made Flesh 7) Is the Revelation of The Invisible God.* Please allow me to explain.

Jesus: Always Was (I AM) (vs. 1)**In The beginning was The WORD.****John 1a**

Let us begin where John began... before there was time. The Greek text is far more complex here than the English translation. So let us slowly examine what John is saying. First he establishes that there is something eternal that predates creation. He calls this "something" the LOGOS (Word). It is far more than just a spoken word. Logos to the Greeks would bring to mind the source of wisdom that is the origin for all that exists. Anyone who has ever really looked around at this world of ours would come to realize that everything operates in a systematic fashion. Evolutionist would have us believe that all we experience in this world is the result of some cosmic accident. Which would mean that everything in this universe is simply random happenstance.

It doesn't take a real genius to know that there is nothing "random" about the universe in which we exist. Seasons change meticulously, biological systems are designed so that groups of different cells function in perfect harmony with one another. Ecosystems are specifically designed to work so that every component needs the other. The moon controls the ocean tides and reflects the sun's light in order to light up the night sky. The earth revolves around the sun at just the perfect distance; any closer, and we'd burn to a crisp; or any further away, and we would instantaneously freeze. And we are supposed to believe that this is random?! No reasonable human being would believe this for an instant. Even agnostics are forced to admit that "something" put this all together. And that something is the Logos. It is the source of wisdom behind all that there is. It is The Creator of all things.

The Jewish readers of John's Gospel would know exactly Who He was referring to when he said that in the beginning was the Logos. They knew that he was speaking of The One True God. And they would also understand that John was saying that this Logos/Creator was there before time began. For this is what the Greek text unequivocally states. God predates creation. He always was and always is. So in the beginning, the Logos (Word) was already there!

Jesus: Was Always With God (vs. 1)**The Word was with God.****John 1:1b**

The logos to which John is referring is said to be "with God". The best way to describe to us what the Greek text is stating here is that this particular individual was "face to face", as it were, with God. The subject matter of John's writing, Whom we know to be the LORD Jesus, was with God before the beginning of time. In other words, just as God has no beginning and no end, the One of whom John speaks is exactly the same, and yet, is described as somehow unique.

When the Jews speak of God in *The Old Testament*, they do not often call Him by His Covenant Name, for to do this lightly was considered to be taking the Name of God in vain. Therefore, they often referred to The One True God only as Elohim. Consider this verse called the *Shema* (meaning "hear") in Deuteronomy that speaks of The One God:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: and thou shalt love The LORD thy God (Elohim) with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (KJV)

So then, let us look at the word "Elohim". For although it represents what the Jews call The One True God, the word itself is plural in form. The suffix "im" in Hebrew is plural. Therefore, even the word that they used for The One God suggests that He is somehow more than one. Why is that? Because He manifests Himself in three persons; Father, Spirit, Son. So Jesus, The Logos, was "with God, face to face" before the beginning of time! If you still don't believe it, just go all the way back to the book of Genesis and listen to what God says before He creates mankind:

Then God said, 'Let US make man in OUR image, according to OUR likeness.'

Genesis 1:26a (emphasis added)

Did you catch that? Sounds plural to me! Jesus was with God from before the beginning. He always was.

Jesus: Always Was God (vs. 1)

And The Word was God.

John 1:1c

Now, here we see the very heart of John's Gospel. Jesus always was, He was there with God before time began, and He WAS God. This is the most powerful statement in all of Scripture as to the deity of Christ. And yet somehow, many do not manage to see it. To miss the deity of Christ is to miss out on salvation. But so many want to reduce Jesus to "a good moral man" or a "prophet" or a "good example" or even a myth. Make no mistake. John wants you to see and believe in Christ for Who He is, God incarnate. He is equal to God The Father in every way. The Jehovah's Witnesses refuse to accept this truth, as do many other religious cults, but it is the very cornerstone of our faith.

Jesus: Is The Creator (vs. 2-3)

He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created.

John 1:2-3

When God said, "**let 'us' make man in our own image**", The Father, Son, and Spirit were the "us" to whom He was referring. The Triune God's fingerprints are all over His creation. We are made in the image of this trinity, for we are composed of three parts; Body, Soul, and Spirit.

Now may The God of peace Himself sanctify you completely. And may your whole SPIRIT, SOUL, and BODY be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our LORD Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23(emphasis added)

Not only are we made in God's triune image, but the entire universe is made up of three components; matter, space, and energy. Time is measured in three ways; past, present, and future. The volume of everything is measured by three; height, length, and depth. The water that we require to have life assumes three forms; liquid, vapor, and ice, and the list is endless. These are but a few examples. The point is that our Triune Creator made all things, and The LORD Jesus Christ is part of that Godhead. Therefore, John tells us that nothing that was made was made apart from Christ Jesus.

Jesus: Is The Light and The Life (vs. 4-13)

In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. The True Light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was created through Him, and yet the world did not recognize Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, He gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in His Name, who were born, not of natural descent, or of the will of the flesh, or the will of man, but of God.

John 1:4-13

John gives us two words to describe our LORD and Savior; Light and Life. And these are very important truths for us to understand. Light has to do with “knowing”, and Life has to do with “showing”. For in order to become a child of God and be born-again, we must first have the knowledge (“light”) to recognize the Savior. Then we “show” that we see Him by the way that we live thereafter. According to John, many remained in darkness and could not see. Do you recall what the very first thing that God said at the beginning of creation?

Then God said, ‘Let there be light’, and there was light.

Genesis 1:3

So you see, before there could be life, there must first be light. The same is true for the “New Creation” in Christ Jesus. Before we can be born again into new life, we must first have the illumination to recognize Jesus for Who He truly is. He is GOD. And we need to be given the light to recognize Him, in order to be saved. This illumination is given to those who believe by The Spirit of God. No one comes to Jesus unless he has been illuminated and drawn by The Spirit. Jesus Himself says it this way:

No one can come to me unless The Father Who sent me draws him, and I will raise Him up on the last day.

John 6:44

And would you like to know who recorded this Word from The LORD? You guessed it! John did. For you see, to have new life in Christ, you must first be given the light of Christ in order to truly see Him.

Some are confused when John mentions the name of another “John” in this passage. He is not referring to himself, but John The Baptist, who was himself a cousin of The LORD Jesus. John went about preaching of the Messiah that was to come. And even though John was some six months older than Jesus in terms of life here on earth, John The Baptist was fully aware that Jesus pre-existed long before him (**vs. 15**).

John The Baptist just like John The Disciple was never about self-promotion. He came to bear witness to the light of the world. According to Jewish Law, a testimony could only be considered valid if there were at least two witness to confirm it (**Deuteronomy 19:15**). John will be more than willing to provide far more than two witnesses as to the identity of Christ. John the Baptist is simply the first one “called to the stand” in this writing.

I believe that the Church of Jesus is called to be like John The Baptist. We have been called to testify to the Light. Can I go back to creation for a moment? The moon was created to reflect the sun’s light and to illuminate the world with that light in the darkness. The moon produces no light of its own. It merely reflects the light of the sun. In fact, without the sun, the moon is pretty much dead. And do you know when the moon is no longer needed? When the morning comes and the sun appears. We are called to reflect the light of Jesus until He appears, then the whole world will see the light of The Son. Sadly, for many it will be too late, for they have long ignored the testimony of God’s called witnesses. So, while it is still so dark in this old world, shine for The Son, like the moon. Be like John The Baptist. So that those who will believe in your testimony will be given the right to be called the children of God (**vs. 12-13**). Live as though you’ve seen the true light. Know it, then show it.

Jesus: Is The Word Made Flesh, (vs. 14-17)

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed His glory, the glory as The One and Only Son from The Father, full of grace and truth. (John testified concerning Him and exclaimed, ‘This was The One of Whom I said, The One coming after me ranks ahead of me, because He existed before me.’) Indeed, we have all received grace upon grace from His fullness, for The Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 1:14-17

And here it is: This Logos, this One Who was with God and Who was God. The One Who came to bring light and life to the world which He created. He became flesh, so that He could dwell among men!

John doesn't tell the story here of the virgin birth or the manger in Bethlehem. He assumed that his readers knew that already, for His gospel was written much later than those of Matthew or Luke. No, John wants the entire focus of his story to be that of Almighty God becoming a man, so that He could bring the grace of God down to earth.

The word that John uses for dwelling, actually means tabernacle or tent. So let's get this straight. God Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, clothed Himself in a tent of flesh (humanity), so that He could come and "camp out" with us. If you are a student of *The Old Testament*, you will know that when the children of Israel were traveling through the wilderness God instructed Moses to build a tent, or "Tabernacle", so that His glory could dwell among His chosen people. Now we see Jesus clothed in a tabernacle of flesh, so that He could come and be one of us. And with Him, He brought the light, the life, grace and truth. He brought the very means of salvation down to us, and He brought it personally. He did not send an Angel to do it, but rather, He laid aside His glory, the glory that He had with the Father before the world began ([John 17:5](#)), and "tabernacled" among us! At the tower of Babel, men tried to build themselves up to God. That endeavor never stood a chance, but God came to us instead, clothed in the flesh of a man, and brought with Him the message of grace that offers a salvation that we do not deserve, as well as, the truth we need in order to obtain it, which is by believing on His Name. This is how God revealed Himself to the world, in the person of Jesus Christ.

Jesus: Is The Revelation of The Invisible God (vs. 14a, 18)

No one has ever seen God. The One and Only Son, Who is Himself God and is at The Father's side — He has revealed Him. **John 1:18**

What awesome wonder we see in this verse! The invisible God, Who is Spirit and cannot be seen with the human eye, has revealed Himself to us in the Person of Jesus Christ. I want you to close your eyes for a moment and picture God. What did you see? If you are a believer this morning, I'll bet you had some sort of image in mind, and I would think that image included a man with nail prints in His hands! For you see, Jesus is the image of the invisible God. When we think of God, we think of Christ. For He has come to show the world what God is like. Remember this famous passage also from John's Gospel, when the disciple Phillip asked Jesus to show them The Father:

...Have I been with you all this time and you do not know Me, Phillip? The one who has seen Me has seen The Father... **John 14:9b**

And so, this is the conclusion of John's Gospel given to us at the very beginning. Jesus always was. He was with God, and He was God. Through Him, all things were created. And He is the light of the world that brings life to those who will believe. He is The Logos (Word) of God made flesh and is full of grace and truth. And He is the revelation of the invisible God. Have you seen Him for Who He truly is? Has His light brought life to your spirit, which was once dead, but now alive in Him? Do you believe in His Name? Have you become a new Creation in Christ Jesus? If not, then pay careful attention to the Gospel of John, my friend, for it is written so that you may believe that Jesus is The Messiah, The Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name.

And let all those who believe say... TRUTH!!!