



GOSPEL OF JOHN

JOHN 1:1-5

SUNDAY EVENING • 14 OCTOBER 2007

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

In the beginning was the Word,

- “In the beginning” looks back to the time of **CREATION**. In the beginning, when all was created, the Word already existed.
- This statement speaks of the eternal, **SELF**-existence of the Word.
 - He is before anything was created, therefore He is not created and is self-existent and **ETERNAL**.
- “The Word” is the Greek word *Logos*. It is far more than a simple word, it is a concept well known in Greek and Hebrew thought.
 - While the concept of *Logos* was well known in Greek thought, it is clear that John is thinking in Hebrew terms; of creation and the Word of God that **CREATES**.
 - God **SPOKE** and the world was created.

Psalm 33:6

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

- Other references to the Word of God in the Old Testament portray it as the active communication of God which reveals Him and also accomplishes His **WILL**.

- *Logos* is the living, active Word of God that communicates and accomplishes the will of God.

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son.

and the Word was with God,

- Before creation, before time began, the Word **WAS**. Here is another declaration of the eternal, self-existence of the Word.

The imperfect tense is used. It refers to a mode of existence that transcends time. Time is a device to help finite beings relate to their mode of existence. The verb John uses takes into the sphere of the timeless. In other words, the one John calls “the Word” belongs to a realm where time does not matter. The Word did not have a beginning. The Word will never have an ending. The Word belongs to eternity. – John Phillips.

- The Word is also distinguished from God.
- The Word was face to face in the very presence of God as a distinct and separate **PERSONAL** being.

and the Word was God.

- The Greek is clear. It leaves no room for any other translation: “the Word **was** [before anything was created] God. **NOT** “the Word was *a* God”
- Here is a clear declaration of the **DEITY** of Christ.
- The Word was a distinct personality but also God. This affirms the existence of two of the persons of the **TRIUNE** God-head.

2 He [this one] was in the beginning with God.

- John reaffirms the personality and **PRE**-existence of the Word.

3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

- The Greek word, *panta* refers to all things individually and separately.
- John states the Word’s creative activity both positively and negatively to strongly emphasize that **EVERY** single thing that exists is a result of His creation.
 - Positively: Every single thing in existence came into being by the Word’s creation of it.
 - Negatively: Not one single thing that exists has come to be except by His creation.

Colossians 1:16

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him.

Hebrews 1:1-2

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

- This statement again makes it clear that the Word is not **CREATED**, but rather, before all creation and in fact the **CREATOR**.

4 In Him was life,

- Now John uses a masculine personal pronoun “*Him*”, indicating the personality of the Word. The Word is not a thing. The Word is a **PERSON**.
- The Greek preposition “*in*” means the Word is the **SOURCE**, all life finds it’s origin in Him.
- In nearly every case, John’s use of the word “life” refers to **SPIRITUAL** life, not physical.
- True life is only found in the Word, Jesus.

- All life finds its origin in Him and there is no life except through Him.
- This is true physically and spiritually.
- You cannot experience physical life as the Creator intended without also experiencing spiritual life with the **CREATOR**.
- There is not true life outside of Jesus!

1 John 1:1

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life.

Jesus, who is called the Word, speaks God’s words with absolute authority. He reveals the will of God and “testifies [to man] to what he has seen and heard” (John 3:32) in the presence of God. Furthermore, Jesus not only reveals the message of life; he also possesses life (John 1:4; 11:25; 14:6) and shares it with all who listen to his Word in faith. He is the life giver. – New Testament Commentary

and the life was the Light of men.

- The eternal, self-existent creator of life gives life and reveals **TRUE** life to man.

John 8:12

Then Jesus spoke out again, "I am the light of the world. The one who follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

- The only way to have life is through Jesus. The only way to understand what life is all about and how to live life is to receive that understanding from **JESUS**.
- We cannot know how to live without knowing it from Jesus.

5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

- “Darkness” here refers to the fallen world of mankind characterized by inability to understand truth, futile thinking, and complete SPIRITUAL darkness.
- “The light keeps on giving light.” The Logos, the only real moral light, keeps on shining both in the Pre-incarnate state and after the Incarnation. – Robertson, A.T.
- “The Darkness did not comprehend or overpower it [the Light]”
 - The Greek word, *katalambano* can mean, to lay hold of so as to make one's own or, of evils overtaking.
 - “*the darkness did not comprehend the light*” would mean that fallen humanity did not UNDERSTAND Jesus and what He revealed.
 - “*the darkness did not overpower the light*” would mean that fallen humanity cannot OVERPOWER Jesus and the truth He revealed.
 - The immediate context favors “*the darkness did not comprehend the light*”

John 1:10

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

John 1:11

He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

- John's use of the same word in chapter 12 favors “*the darkness did not overpower the light*”

John 12:35

Jesus therefore said to them, "For a little while longer the light is among you. Walk while you have the light, that darkness may not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.

- Both translations are supported in other scripture. Perhaps, the lack of clarity is intentional and it should be translated, “*the darkness cannot understand the light but though it try, it cannot overpower it.*”

Principles from John 1:1-5

1. Jesus is the eternal Son of God, the second person of the triune GOD-HEAD.
2. Jesus is self-existent, not CREATED.
3. Jesus is the creator of every single thing that has been CREATED.
4. The only way to understand and experience true life is to live in the light of the revelation of God in JESUS.
5. Jesus [through the ministry of the Holy Spirit Jn. 16:13] is the only one who can give us understanding of TRUTH.
6. Apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, man cannot understand spiritual TRUTH.
7. The dark, evil world system, though ruled and empowered by Satan, can never overpower the glorious CHRIST!