

The Beginning & Jesus, the Word of God

John 1:1-5

INTRODUCTION:

This morning we are going to be beginning our journey together as we walk through the Gospel of John this year. Today we will walk through the opening verses, or prologue if you will, of John's biography of Jesus. The first five verses of this book are fascinating, confusing, and rather deep in spiritual content. John forces the reality of Jesus on the page of holy writ for us to ponder and grapple with immediately.

When I worked in the music world as a songwriter, my rep at ASCAP, who gave me so much instruction on how to craft a song emphasized the opening line of a song. She would say it's got to be catchy and grab the audience right off. It looks like John took her advice as well because the opening line to his Gospel is catchy and has certainly through the ages grabbed his audience. Now some of you may be saying, "Well, it grabs me but also confuses me too!" That conclusion is completely understandable because we are, nonetheless, speaking of the Incarnation of the Almighty. But if that is the case, then this morning will be a talk you will want to listen to because I hope to sort out some of the confusion.

The Scripture:

John 1:1-5 ESV

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 were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (JESUS)

I. The Word of God (1-2, 14)

- A. *In the beginning was the Word:* We see in this statement that John is paralleling how the book of Genesis opens. John is making a profound statement that the truth he is conveying about Jesus should take the reader back to the beginning. John states when the beginning was so was the Word.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

- B. *The Word was with God:* This verse teaches that the Word was in company with God.
- C. *The Word was God. He was with God in the beginning:* Why was the Word in company with God? Because the Word was God.
- D. *Who is the Word?* Jesus, the Christ, is the Word of God.

Alistair Begg

There was a time when Jesus was God and not man, but there has never been a time when Jesus was man and not God.

- E. *What is John conveying by describing Jesus as the Word of God?* He is the full expression and description of who God is. If you want to make sense of God, look to Jesus.

Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. ¹

- F. *John uses the word “Word” to describe Jesus. What is the significance?* The Greek word translated as “Word” is the word “Logos.” “Logos” is where we get our English word, “logic.” What John is conveying is that life only makes true sense in Jesus because Jesus is the full expression of communication between the God of ultimate reality and the rest of humanity.

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Col 1:15–20). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

G. These verses, 1-2, teach us that God is a community. This would have been unique to the monotheistic Jew who all their life had heard the Shema which states:

Deuteronomy 6:4

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

H. I believe the Shema is a statement of the unity within the Being of God in light of John's gospel because, in Genesis, we see hints of the Godhead community having a conversation regarding the creation of mankind and also after the fall of mankind.

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God, he created him; male and female, he created them.

Genesis 3:22-24

²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

- I. God is in a community within Himself, and since we as humans are made in His Image, it only makes sense why we long for community.
- J. Through the revelation of Christ, He has pulled back the mysterious curtain of the Trinity so that we may know the only living God who is Father, Son, and Spirit.

See the analogy of the Egg

II. The Creator God (3)

- A. Christ is not only the expression of God as the Word of God, but also Jesus is the Creator.

- B. By the very Word of God were the Heavens and the Earth made. “And God said...”
- C. Nothing, that is, was made apart from Jesus. The reason things may get a bit confusing is John is using finite analogies to convey Infinite truths regarding who God is and specifically who Jesus is within the scope of reality.
- D. Can you imagine the irony of Jesus learning from Joseph in his shop how to build things?
- E. God is so humble, He was willing to learn as a human what He already was an expert in doing, as the Creator, which was creating.

Colossians 1:15-17

- ¹⁵ Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.
 He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,
¹⁶ for through him God created everything
 in the heavenly realms and on earth.
 He made the things we can see
 and the things we can't see—
 such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.
 Everything was created through him and for him.
¹⁷ He existed before anything else,
 and he holds all creation together. ²

Christ—The Cohesive Force

In Colossians 1:17 Paul spoke of Christ as the cohesive force that holds the entire universe together as a well-ordered whole—a *cosmos* rather than a *chaos*.³

Hebrews 1:1-3

Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. ² And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created

² Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Col 1:15–17). Tyndale House Publishers.

³ Hobbs, H. H. (1990). *My favorite illustrations* (p. 155). Broadman Press.

the universe.³ The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command.⁴

Dorothy Sayers once said,

It makes sense that humanity is creative because we are created in the Image of a Creator.

In her essay, "Why Work?" from *Letters to the Diminished Church, 1942* she states,

"I have already, on a previous occasion, spoken at some length on the subject of Work and Vocation. What I urged then was a thoroughgoing revolution in our whole attitude to work. I asked that it should be looked upon, not as a necessary drudgery to be undergone for the purpose of making money, but as a way of life in which the nature of man should find its proper exercise and delight and so fulfill itself to the glory of God. That it should, in fact, be thought of as a creative activity undertaken for the love of the work itself; and that man, made in God's image, should make things, as God makes them, for the sake of doing well a thing that is well worth doing.

It may well seem to you – as it does to some of my acquaintances – that I have a sort of obsession about this business of the right attitude to work. But I do insist upon it, because it seems to me that what becomes of civilization after this war is going to depend enormously on our being able to effect this revolution in our ideas about work. Unless we do change our whole way of thought about work, I do not think we shall ever escape from the appalling squirrel cage of economic confusion in which we have been madly turning for the last three centuries or so, the cage in which we landed ourselves by acquiescing in a social system based upon Envy and Avarice (Greed)."

F. Christians should work and have the right attitude about work rooted in whose Image in which they reflect, the Creator's Image.

III. The Light of God (4-5)

A. Jesus is the light of God which illuminates the ways of God, the nature of God, and the character of God.

⁴ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Heb 1:1–3). Tyndale House Publishers.

- B. In Jesus, there is life and that life was the light of men.
- C. Without Christ, and the Gospel, the world is a very dark place, but He has come to give us life in Him so that His light shines through us in this dark world.
- D. Three “L” words point to God: Life, Light, and Love. All three are present within these verses.
- E. All three are present in that Life was in Jesus and this Life was the Light of mankind shining in the darkness out of Love so they may be found in Him by Him.
- F. *Verse 5a* -John still stays close to Genesis 1’s theme considering the Light shining in the darkness. When does light shine into the darkness? It is when a new day is dawning. The coming of God as a human is a new day dawning for human history and the hope for all humanity.

A.W. Pink

The “Englishman’s Greek New Testament” renders the last clause of John 1:5 as follows—“and the light in the darkness appears, and the darkness it apprehended not.” This tells us of the effects of the Fall. Every man that comes into this world is lightened by his Creator, but the natural man disregards this light, he repels it, and in consequence, is plunged into darkness. Instead of the natural man “living up to the light he has” (which none ever did) he “loves darkness rather than light” (John 3:19). The unregenerate (not reforming or showing repentance) man, then, is like one that is blind—he is in the dark. Proof of this appears in the fact that “the Light in the darkness appears, and the darkness apprehended it not.” All other darkness yields to and fades away before light, but here “*the darkness*” is so impenetrable and hopeless, it neither apprehends nor comprehends. What a fearful and solemn indictment of fallen human nature! And how evident it is that nothing short of a miracle of saving grace can ever bring one “out of darkness into God’s marvelous light.”⁵

- G. *Verse 5b* - There is victory in this new day coming forth. The back half of verse 5 points forth to the Victory in Jesus coming back to life on the 3rd day.

⁵ Pink, A. W. (1923–1945). [Exposition of the Gospel of John](#) (p. 26). Bible Truth Depot.

H. In parallel to the days of Creation, there is an 8th day to come when New Creation consumes and takes over this Fallen World when Christ returns. I believe Passion week reveals just this where the true Son of Man condemned to die on the 6th day, the same day mankind was created, and on the 7th day, the Sabbath, His body rested in the grave, but came alive on the 8th day, the Lord's day to give life and light because of His love to all who would receive Him.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

“Death is swallowed up in victory.

⁵⁵ O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

⁵⁶ For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. ⁵⁷ But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁶

CONCLUSION:

Question: Who is Jesus?

Answer: He is the eternal God, Yahweh, in human form.

Question: What has Jesus done?

Answer: He has created everything; even a way to be saved by God's grace.

Question: What is the message of the Gospel of Christ?

Answer: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Will you come to the Light of God as revealed only in Jesus?

⁶ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). [*Holy Bible: New Living Translation*](#) (1 Co 15:54–57). Tyndale House Publishers.