

The Gospel of John: The Living Word

John 1:1-5

Background

John wrote this gospel account of the life of Christ in ad. His account is different from the other gospel accounts (synoptic gospels). John is never mentioned by name in the book, but refers to himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” He was always in wonder and awe over the love shown him in Christ. As one of the “sons of thunder,” God tempered his heart and changed him such that he was later known as the “apostle of love.”

John speaks of love over 80 times in his writings. He speaks of truth 45 times. And he speaks of believe nearly 100 times. The concern that John overwhelmingly advocates is the truth of God, found in the loving work of Christ as Savior and Lord, and our need to believe in His name. Never let his concern leave you.

John 20:30-31—*Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.*

In the opening chapter, his message is clear: the eternal God has become human. God became flesh and dwelt among us.

We must get Christ right! To have eternal life, one must believe in the true Christ.

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.*

3 evidences that Jesus really is God

I. He existed before the beginning

John 1:1—*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

Beginning—source, origin; ruler, authority, or one in authority¹

¹ The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, John 1-11, p. 15

Colossians 1:18—*He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.*

Revelation 3:14—*“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:...*

If He existed before the creation, He is not a created being; therefore, anything before creation is eternal.

A. Time began with creation

Genesis 1:1—*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

B. He already existed before the creation

The Word (logos)—Here, representative of Christ as the definitive expression of God in physical form.

1. Jesus only speaks of himself in the continuous tense

- a. **John 6:35**—*Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.*
- b. **John 8:12**—*Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”*
- c. **John 10:7** (I am the door); **John 11:25** (I am the resurrection and the life); **John 14:6** (I am the way and the truth and the life); **John 15:1** (I am the true vine)
- d. **John 8:58**—*Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.”*

C. He was with God

John 1:1—*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

I John 1:2—*and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us*

From all eternity Jesus, as the second person of the trinity, was “with the Father” in deep, intimate fellowship. The Word is a person, not an attribute of God or an emanation from Him. And He is of the same essence as the Father.²

D. He existed as God

² Ibid. p. 17

John 1:1—*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ²He was in the beginning with God.

1. He is the eternal God—The Word was God
2. He is distinct from the eternal God (The Father)—The Word was with God

II. He created all things

John 1:3—*All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*

- A. **Positively**—*All things came into being through Him...*
- B. **Negatively**—*...and apart from Him nothing (not even one thing) came into being that has come into being*
- C. God is the Creator

Genesis 1:1; Psalm 102:25; Isaiah 40:28; 42:5; 45:18; Mark 13:19; Romans 1:25; Ephesians 3:9; Revelation 4:11

- D. Jesus is God's agent of creation—the Son; the Word

Hebrews 1:2—*in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.*

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 through Him and for Him.*

- E. The Holy Spirit's work in Creation—moving and bringing life

Genesis 1:2—*The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.*

III. He is Life

John 1:4-5—*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.*

- A. God has life in Himself—aseity or self-existence

Exodus 3:14—*God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

Acts 17:28—*for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'*

- B. God gives life
 1. Physical life (Bios)
 2. Spiritual life (Zoe)
 - i. By Sovereign grace

Ephesians 2:1, 4-5—*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ... ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)*

Ephesians 2:8—*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God*

- ii. To those who believe

John 1:12—*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name*

C. Life and light are essentially the same

- a. Light emphasizing the appearance of the Life
- b. Light shines in the darkness

2 Corinthians 4:4—*in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

- c. Light exposes our sin
- d. Light refers to truth

Psalms 119:105—*Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.*

D. Darkness does not overcome the light

John 1:5—*The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

Comprehend--better translated overcome

1 John 2:8c—...the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.

E. Unbelievers know the truth but reject it

Romans 1:18-21—*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*