
Study on John 1

Background

- Author: Apostle John (John 21:24)
- Date: 85 – 90 AD, probably closer to the later
- Purpose: John 20: 30 – 31
- Portrays Christ as the Son of God; genealogy

The Word, the life, the light, and darkness

1. What is the significance of the use of “Logos”?
 - a. To Jews: revelation of God, His Law, His covenant, His will, His judgments and prophesies (Example: Ps. 119: 9, 11, 25, 41, 89...)
 - b. To Greeks: the divine reason or plan that coordinates the entire universe. (Plato)
2. Verse 1: What are the three main points in this verse?
 - a. in the beginning...?
 - b. was with God...?
 - c. was God...?
3. Verse 1: Why is God the Son called “the Word”?
4. The Word is also portrayed as Christ in other verses, can you think of any?
5. These verses give us a complete picture of Christ and His Deity. Scofield: “In the Being, Person, and work of Christ, Deity is told out.”
6. Verses 3 – 5 give a description of Christ in the past tense, before His birth.
7. Verse 3: Can you think of other verses in Scripture where creation is attributed to the Son of God? How does this align with Genesis 1?
8. Verse 4a: What is meant by “in Him was Life”?
9. Verse 4b, 5a: In what way was the life of the Lord Jesus “the light of men? Later in this gospel, Jesus states: “I am the Light of the world”, how does this differ from this statement?
10. Verse 5b: What is meant by the “darkness”, and why doesn’t “darkness” comprehend the light?

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Details

Comparison to other gospels:

- Matthew: Levi, 37 AD, King, Jews, eyewitness; Joseph’s genealogy
- Mark: Nephew of Barnabas, 57 – 60 AD, Servant, Gentiles
- Luke: Beloved physician, 63 AD, Son of Man, Gentiles, Accuracy; Mary’s genealogy

Logos: Greek term means: 1) thought or concept, 2) expression or utterance of that thought

Use of term “Logos” was a term that both Jews and Greeks were familiar with, however, in John, Jesus Christ is the incarnate Word.

How does the Word differ from Immanuel?

How does “with God” tie into the Trinity?

Consider: Example: 1 John 1:1, 2; Rev. 19:13

Genesis 1 uses the title “God” which in Hebrew is *Elohim*. This is a plural form for God and suggests the involvement of the Trinity in creation. It is formed from two parts that signify the Strong One and to bind with an oath as in faithfulness.

There are a number of nouns such as Life, Light, and Word used to describe Christ. These are further expounded upon in the rest of John’s gospel. Consider how Jesus brings out the wonderful “I am” truths: I am the Light of the world; I am the way, the truth and the light....

11. Contrast this to 2 Cor. 4: 3 – 4.

The witness of John Baptist and the Light of the World

12. Verse 6-8: What exactly did John want the people of Israel to believe?
13. Verse 7: The expression of “the Light” changes from “the light” in verse 4, what is the significance.
14. Verse 9: How does the coming of Christ into the world “cast light on every man”?
15. Verse 9: How does John’s ministry relate to Light? Note the similarities between verses 3 and 4 and 9 and 10.
16. Did people before Christ have a chance to see that Light?
17. Verse 10, 11: Consider that John was written nearly 60 years after Christ’s life; this verse is reflective of Christ’s rejection. Why didn’t the people at that time not believe that He was their Creator? What blinded them? They saw His miracles, heard Him teach with authority, and saw His sinless life.
18. Verse 12-13: This section of verses brings out the first expression of the gospel in this book. What is the wonderful truth that it speaks of?
19. Verse 13 details how it happens, what is the significance of the three options and the phrase “but of God”?
20. Verse 12: What does it mean to “believe on his name”?
21. Verse 14: This verse ties together the truths regarding the Incarnation of Christ and the Word, refer to verses 1 and 2. What does “the Word became flesh” mean? Was Jesus still God after the Incarnation? Do you have verses to prove that?
22. Verse 14: There are several key phrases: dwelt among us (tabernacled, pitched his tent with us); beheld His glory; only begotten of the Father; full of grace and truth. some sense it is similar to the tabernacle.
23. Consider how 2 Cor. 4: 5 – 7 relates to this verse.
24. Verse 15: What does John Baptist mean when he says “He was before me”?
25. Verses 14, 16, and 17: The term “grace and truth” are used several times in this chapter as well as “grace” and “truth”. What is the significance of these terms and how do they compare to the Law? Why do you think this was necessary to bring out these terms?
26. Verse 18: What does this verse mean? Can anyone actually see God in His essential being? If not, then in what sense did Jesus “make Him known”? Remember, we read later in John that Jesus said, “He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father”, (14:9).

Verse 13 lists three things it is not and one it is: 1.) not of blood, 2) not of the will of the flesh, 3) not of the will of man. This ends with “but of God”; this is similar to the other “but God..” phrases in Scripture.

The first 14 verses list a number of key attributes of Jesus Christ: 1) He is eternal, He was with God prior to coming to the earth, He is God – part of the Trinity, He is the Creator of all things, He is the giver of life, He took on the form of a man and dwelt among us.

Consider the “commanded” term in this verse.

Do you think that the green hymn book we sometimes sing from has a connection to verse 14?