

Jesus The Word

John 1:1-18 is commonly known as The Prologue. No portion of the New Testament captured the imagination and the attention of the Christian intellectual community for the first three centuries more than this brief section of prologue in the gospel of John. Some may question and wonder why John penned this gospel as he did and not as Matthew, Mark and Luke. I believe that John's primary goal, throughout his gospel, was to make a case for the identity of Christ. Before John enters into an overview of the life of Jesus and His ministry, he opens up with a quick look at the ultimate credentials Jesus has. John 6:35-48, "Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life."

In John 1:1-15 we see that **JESUS: THE WORD OF GOD**. The Gospel of John was penned by the aged Apostle in about 85 AD. It was the last of the four Gospels to be written. By the time this book was circulated among the Christian community, the other Gospels were household words. People the world over had already the accounts of the life of Christ as recorded by Matthew, Mark and Luke. These first three Gospels are called the Synoptic Gospels. The word "synoptic" means "to see together." This means that the first three Gospels

contain many of the same stories and teachings, but told from a different angle. Yet, each fully inspired by the Lord, but John's Gospel is different! In the pages of this wonderful book, we see a side of Christ that the other Gospel writers do not touch on. John was part of that blessed inner circle. That handful of Disciples that was with Christ during some of His most intimate moments. In this Gospel John gives us 21 chapters. Chapters that, as each unfolds, presents a new facet of Jesus' divine character. In this opening chapter, John chapter 1, John paints a picture of Jesus: The Word Of God, and it that image that we want to focus in on tonight. Let's look together at **Jesus: The Word Of God**. Three truths are revealed in these verses about the Word of God.

In verses 1-3 we see that **JESUS IS THE PREEXISTENT WORD**. In verse 1 we see **He Is The Constant Word** - According to this verse, Jesus has simply always existed! He didn't come into being in Bethlehem on Christmas day, simply brought into creation and existence on Christmas day, but He, JESUS, has been here throughout all the endless ages of eternities past. The word "was" in verse 1 equals or means "always has been." And we can contrast this with the word "was" in verse 6. This word "was" used concerning John the Baptist means simply "to become." In other words John became, as it states in verse 6, but Jesus always has been, as stated by verse 1. Jesus is the constant, unchanging Word of God - Heb. 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." -- Hebrews 13:8. That is why we as Christians can depend on Jesus. He will never fail us nor leave us. -- Heb. 13:5-6 makes that very clear when Jesus said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, (just as the Psalmist said) "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" Secondly in verse 1 we see **Jesus Is The Communing Word** - This phrase says that Jesus "was with God." That is, He was present in the heavenlies. He was and is and will always be in the presence of God, yet He, Jesus, stood as a distinct Person. When this phrase is taken along side the other two in this verse, the reality of the Trinity is on display. This verse teaches us that Jesus is God and yet He is still a unique being. Jesus Christ wasn't an after thought with God the Father. Jesus wasn't something conjured up when things got out of control. Jesus was there when God moved to make man in His image in Genesis 1:26, when He said, "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." Jesus was there in Heaven when

The Plan to redeem the world was formulated - Rev. 13:8 speaks of, "and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. If anyone has an ear, let him hear!" Eph. 1:2-6 – "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved.", In Titus 1:1-3 – "Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;", 1 Peter 1:17-21 – "And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. **He was foreknown before the foundation of the world** but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God." Since before time began Jesus was with the Father in Heaven. We also see that **Jesus Is The Controversial Word** - When Jesus came preaching repentance, in Mark 1:15, saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Men thought He was strange! When He began to heal and perform miracles, men thought He was a prophet sent by God, as seen in John 3:2-3, "This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.". When He spoke the Word of God with power, men thought He was Amazing! Luke 4:31-37 "And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, and they were astonished at his teaching, for His word possessed authority. And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an

unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are! The Holy One of God!" But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" And reports about Him went out into every place in the surrounding region." However, when Jesus claimed equality with God, men thought He was crazy, John 19:7 "The Jews answered and said, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." Jesus in their minds had stopped being a blessing and became a controversy to them when He claimed to be God, John 14:9, "*Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father**; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*" Men still grapple with these truths! They are willing to accept the humble Christ, the teaching Christ, the meek Christ, the dead Christ, the serving Christ. However, they will not give acknowledgment to the God/Man Jesus Christ. He is still 100 % God and 100% man all wrapped up in one. It is best summed up by Paul in Philippians 2:5-8 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." In these verses, the Apostle sets forth in clear, concise language, the fact that Jesus existed before Bethlehem. That He willingly humbled Himself and came to this world in the condition of a servant. Jesus: God in human flesh! In verse 3 we see that **He Is The Creative Word** - This verse tells us that Jesus was the energy behind the creation of the universe. He spoke and it was! He stood on the edge of nothing and spoke all this into existence, Col. 1:16-17. "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." I am grateful that this God is my God, that this Savior is my Savior! I am glad that I can know Him the free pardon of sin and that salvation is in His control. The worries and pressures of life begin to grow amazingly dim when confronted with the power

and might of our all powerful Savior - Matt. 28:16-20, "Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." These four truths we just covered, taken as one truth give us the clear teaching that Jesus IS THE pre-existent Word of God. He has always been and He always will be! Thank God, there will never be a day throughout eternity that doesn't include Jesus! No matter where we wind up, or what we have to face as we travel through this world, we can rest assured that the pre-existent One, JESUS, is, was and always will be, there for us. He is the pre-existent Word of the Living God! Moving down to verse 14 we read, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."**JESUS IS THE PERSONALIZED WORD.** This verse is one of the clearest in all of the Bible regarding the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Incarnation is simply a word that means "the bodily manifestation of a supernatural being." What was **The Manner Of Jesus' Incarnation** - Verse 14 tells us that "The Word became flesh and dwelled among us." The manner of His incarnation is a mystery. How could God become a man? The answer to this question lies in the mind of God alone. All we know is that God chose a virgin named Mary and caused her to miraculously conceive and bring forth a baby. I do know that on that night when Jesus was born, God had come to earth. Somehow, the Word, became flesh! While Jesus himself had existed from all eternities past, He took upon Himself a robe of flesh there in Bethlehem. The Creator was born to the creature. God placed His life in the hands of mortals. What a scene that must have been! This verse says that God "dwelled" among us. That word is rich in meaning. It literally means that Jesus pitched His tent here among mortals. He lived among us, worked among us, prayed among us, suffered among us and died among us. God walked upon the earth and was unrecognized by many who came into close contact with Him. What a tragedy it is that men came in contact with Him and still failed to recognize Him. So we have this **Mystery Of His Incarnation** - The Word was "made" flesh. This word carries the meaning "to appear in history, to step onto the stage." There in Bethlehem, God stepped out of eternity and onto the stage of human history. He came as a tangible proof of the existence of God and of God's willingness to save

mankind. When He was here on earth and through the record left to you and me, we can see that Jesus came to this world to reveal God to man. He did this through the medium of His flesh - 1 John 1:1, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life." Often, I envy those men of Jesus' day and then I remember the words of Jesus in John 20:24-29, because not everyone who saw Jesus on this earth came to faith in Him! Jesus said to doubting Thomas in Verse 29, "Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Then, as we look, we see **The Majesty Of His Incarnation**. The verse says, "We beheld His glory" John actually saw the glory of Jesus in a very real sense. In Matthew 17, John, along with James and Peter accompanied Jesus up on a mountain side. There Jesus allowed the veil of His flesh to be pulled aside and He revealed the glory that was concealed beneath. Jesus concealed His heavenly fame within an earthly frame. However, His greatest glory was revealed the day He allowed Himself to be nailed to a cross and died for sinners. On Calvary, the glory of God was in sharp focus! After all, **that was** the reason Jesus left the halls of Heaven and came to live among men. He took upon Himself a robe of flesh so that He might be able to die for mankind. That is what He did for each and every one of us this evening. To me the greatest evidence of the glory of God is the broken body of Jesus Christ having demonstrated His love for me, **for you**, in the clearest of terms, Rom. 5:8, "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." In verse 18 we see that **JESUS IS THE PROCLAIMING WORD**. According to this verse, Jesus came **to reveal** God to man. The word "declare" means "to unfold." Everything the Lord did was simply in an effort to unfold more of the revelation of God to man. Men needed to see God not only as just a Lawgiver, but also as a lover. Not only as a judge, but as a justifier. Not as some stern, hateful being, but as a saving, caring God. And Jesus showed this by His life - John 14:7-9 says, "If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" Colossians 1:15 says, "He, Jesus, is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation." **Cross references:** "Hebrews 1:3 says, "He, Jesus, is the

radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and He upholds the universe by **The Word** of his power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high." Jesus came to put God on display before men and He did this in two primary ways. In verses 4-9 we see **He Came To Proclaim Light** - He came to a world in spiritual darkness and opened the curtains of grace revealing the truth of God to men wandering in darkness. Jesus came to illuminate the pathway of men toward God. This light will accomplish one of two things. It will either cause men to repent of their sins and run to the opened arms of the Lord, or it will cause them to reject the light and continue on their course of darkness. One will lead to salvation; the other will lead to damnation! John 3:36 says, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. Thank God that we have The Light that He gave fallen man! Now, we do not have to be bound by the stringent rules of Law but are free to respond to the lovely pleadings of grace. And as seen in verse 9, this light reaches out to all men! In verses we see 10-13 **Jesus Came To Proclaim Life** - Jesus came to His people, who had His Word and were living in His promised land. He came to tell them that there was a way to come to the Father and to experience eternal life. And then we see in what may be the saddest verse in the Bible, **they refused this call** from the sinner's friend to come to Him. However, verses 12 & 13 make it clear that anyone who will respond positively to the light of God and comes to Jesus and receives Him into their heart their life will experience the new birth and will enter into eternal life. John makes it clear in verse 13 that this life comes not by our natural birth (it's not by blood), it's not by our own good works (it's not the will of our flesh), it's not the work of another or by the will of man, but only through the will of God. And, just what is the will of the Father? If we look back at John 6:36-40 we see Jesus saying, "But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. There is only **one entrance** into life and that is through the Son of God. Jesus is the Door! In John 10:9 Jesus says, "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved" Jesus

is the Way! Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me!" If anyone will enter into life, they will have to enter through Jesus! Jesus is the only way!

In conclusion I can't say that I understand all the truths that are contained in this passage! They are many and they are deep! I can say I KNOW MY REDEEMER LIVES! And His name is Jesus! I praise the Lord for revealing Himself and His Father to people like myself... to us! I am glad that a sinner like myself can come to Jesus by simple faith and can be eternally saved by His grace. I may not know a lot about this Book, but I am glad I know JESUS THE WORD OF GOD personally. So: How about you? If you have never met Jesus possibly, now for you is your time. The Word is clear that Today is the day of salvation! Jesus stands here ready to reveal Himself to you. He waits for you to respond to His light so He can give you of His life. Is there anyone here tonight that believes they need to do what needs to be done this evening and come to Jesus?

Anyone?