

Introducing Jesus

(John 1:1-18)

John wrote simplest words of NT

John describes the loftiest concepts

- **Matthew** – **Luke** begin with Jesus' birth.
- **Mark** begins with work of John (baptizer)
- **John 1** begins with pre-existent Word . . .

John's introduction (1-18): chiasm

A The Word, with God, was God, 1-5

B Testimony of John, 6-8

C True Light shining in world, 9-11

X Right to become children of God, 12-13

C' Word...became flesh, dwelt among us, 14

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“In the beginning” recalls Gn.1:1

- Moses begins at the beginning and goes forward (Gn.1:1).
- John begins before the beginning.
- As the Father existed before creation, so did Jesus: ‘was’ (*not ‘became’*). Jn.17:5
- ‘Was’: 3x (v.1), each different :

Was the Word – existence

Was with God – relationship

Was God – affirmation

“Word was with God”

- Not just ‘there’ but ‘facing Him.’
 - Denotes equality and intimate relationship
- Godhead in John 1 –

Jesus with God (v.1); bosom of Father, 18.

God, the Father (v.1); Lamb ‘of God’ (29).

Spirit descended from heaven (32).

‘Word was God’

- Did not ‘become’ God
- ‘Was’ = continuous state.

“God” – Deity

- What Father was, Son was.
- Kingdom Interlinear – “a god” (no article).
 - BUT: v.6, 12, 13, no article; of Father
 - Jn.8:58; 10:30; 20:28

Verse 2 repeats v.1

Verse 3: Jesus, the Creator

- God made all things ‘through’ the Son
- He not only existed before all things, but created them

4: being Deity, Jesus shares in life of God.

- Jn.5:26

Verse 5:

- Gn.1, darkness yielded to light.
- Darkness hates Jesus' light (10-11)
 - “**Comprehend**” (NKJV; NASB); “grasp” [12:35]
 - “**Overcome**” (ESV; NRSV); “grasp”
 - “...darkness has never *put it out*” (ISV)
 - “Darkness” in John usually means evil environment / system / people, etc.

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6: name

- John never mentions himself by name
- “Sent from God” – a prophet. Mt.21:26

7: bear witness to light

- Preaching baptism of repentance (Mt.-Lk.) that all might “believe.”

8: John was not the Light

- Ac.19:1-5
- John was a witness of the Light.

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9-10: true Light

- Bright enough to enlighten “world” (78x)
- World did not know Him.
- “True” light: not in opposition to false light, but imperfect, incomplete light.
- The “Word” is the spiritual “Sun” (8:12).
 - Jn.3:19-20

‘Ignorance puts a person in the dark; immorality keeps him there.’

11: He came to His own

- His own place. (19:27)
- His own people. (13:1)

His own did not receive Him

“Rome registered His birth, enrolled Him to be taxed, but were as little aware as the oxen with whom He shared His first sleeping-place that this was God; they saw Him with the same stupid, unconscious, bovine stare” – Dods

- Jews did even worse . . . Mt.21:33-41

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12: His own

- From those who did not receive Him (11) to those who did...
 - He gave right to become children of God.
- To those who believe (79x; always verb).
 - **Believe** is comprehensive: 6:27-29; 8:39.

repent, repented, repentance
do not occur in John

13: born...

- **Not of blood(s):** cf. ashes; bloodline
 - Not owe one's descent to physical nature
- **Not of will of flesh:** carnal desire; natural procreation (Jn.3:4)
- **Nor of will of man:** procreative urge of father; human initiative.
- **BUT: born of God:** 3:12, heavenly things
 - 3:3,5
 - Ga.3:7, 26-27

Faith of Abraham's
seed includes baptism

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14: born

- Nature of the incarnation: God, the Word (v.1) became flesh.

‘The Word did not cease to be what it was before; but it became what it was not before’ – Le.

- Life of the Incarnate Word: dwelt among us
 - Lit., pitch a tent. Take up residence.
 - Ex.40:34-35

14: born

- Apostles' witness of His character: we beheld His glory (as Ex.40)

Jesus' deity, shining through His flesh. Jn.2:11; Lk.9:32.

- Character of the incarnate Word in revealing God: His glory . . .
 - Only begotten: only, unique.
 - Only One “from above” (3:31); can make Father known (v.18).
 - Full of grace and truth (v.17; 3:16).

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15: explains content of the testimony (6-8)

- Comes after me: in birth; in ministry
- Preferred before me: in rank; in time
- Was before me: existed before John (1-3)

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16: continues v.14

- 14: full of grace and truth
- 16: of His fullness . . .
 - Full of grace; fullness: totality of divine powers and attributes; limitless supply.
 - Because Jesus IS Who He IS, we receive one blessing after another.

Grace: 4x (v.14-17)

17: expounds on 'one blessing after another'

- Grace and truth of Jesus replaced Law of Moses [14 || 17]
- Grace corresponds to revelation that God is love (1 Jn.4:8).
 - Law cannot supply grace.
- Truth corresponds to revelation that God is Light (v.5).
 - Truth is the reality that types of the Law pointed to but could not supply.

17: expounds on 'one blessing after another'

Contrasts

Law	Grace / Truth
Law was given	Grace and truth 'came'
Law exposed sin	Grace removes sin
Moses	Jesus

18: have not seen God

Ex.33:19-20 [Jn.5:37; 6:46]

- Jesus, the Son . . .
 - In bosom of Father. Jn.13:23
 - Has declared Him: expounded, interpreted Him through His life, words, works. Mt.11:27
 - Moses saw only ‘after-effects of God’s glory (God is Spirit) – Ex.33:21-23.
 - Jesus (Son) shares nature of His Father, gives exposition of Him.