

IN BE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD

John 1:1-3

Key Verse: 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The Gospel of John was written by John the Apostle, one of the 12 disciples of Jesus. This book is his eyewitness account. John was there with Jesus when Jesus performed the miracles recorded in this book. He lived and traveled with Jesus for three and half years, day and night, 24/7. Interestingly, John often calls himself as “the one whom Jesus loved.” Jesus loved the disciples equally, but John felt the love of Christ personally. I am excited to learn more about the love of Christ as we study this gospel together!

Let us read verses 1-2. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.*

From the very get-go, John makes it clear that Jesus is God. In these verses, the Word refers to Jesus Christ. So we can read the verses again like this: “In the beginning was Jesus, and Jesus was with God, and Jesus was God. He was with God in the beginning.”

In the beginning was Jesus. Jesus was with God. Jesus was God. The fact that John declares this at the beginning of the book tells us how important it is for us to know this. It seems that John is saying to us, “If you don’t know that Jesus is God, you know nothing about him.”



Now, more than anyone else, John knew personally about the humanity of Jesus. He followed Jesus closely. He ate many meals with Jesus. He took many boat rides with Jesus on the Sea of Galilee. Unlike all of us today, his interaction with Jesus Christ was up close and personal. When Jesus healed a blind man, he was right there. He saw clearly how Jesus spat on the ground and made some mud balls with his saliva and put it on the man’s eyes. Jesus was not a ghost to him. Jesus was not a figment of his imagination. Jesus was a living, breathing human being.

Perhaps because of this, John had a difficult time in believing Jesus as God. It took him a long time to realize who Jesus was, because he knew Jesus as a human being just like himself. He saw how Jesus fed a crowd of 5,000 with only 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. Clearly, Jesus was more than an ordinary man. And yet, the next day, he forgot who Jesus was, just because Jesus was there with him as his human friend and teacher. Jesus raised a dead man named Nazareth from his tomb. Jesus rebuked a raging storm with the words, “Be still.” Jesus demonstrated to them that he was God through his miracles and teachings. Still, time and again, John and his buddies had a difficult time in believing Jesus as the Creator God. After more than 3 years of following, when Jesus died on the cross as the Lamb of God, just as he predicted, John and his fellow disciples

were overwhelmed with fear and sorrow. Their faith in Jesus as God was wavering like a candle light in the wind.

In retrospect, John realized how slow he was in accepting Jesus as God and how this caused pain to the Lord Jesus. Realizing this was also painful to himself. So he does not want us to go through the same pain from failing to believe that Jesus is God. John wants us to approach this book with a right attitude. This book is the account of what God did among his people—God who came to this world and lived for a while in order to reveal his love. John wants us to know that this is not just a book about an interesting man, but it is about God. He will tell us many things about who Jesus is and what Jesus said and did so that we may know who God is.

So why did John call Jesus the Word? In Greek, “word” is “logos” (λογος) which means “reason” or “wisdom.” The Word represents God’s infinite power and wisdom. Word is a means of communication. John wants us to know that God came to this world to communicate with us about who he is and what he wants us to do. Jesus is the truth from God. Jesus came to tell us the message from God. In fact, the life of Jesus is the truth and message of God.



We can also learn several things about Jesus in verses 1-2. **First, Jesus was in the beginning.** The words, “In the beginning,” are the same words used in the first verse of Genesis, the first book of the Bible. John tells us that Jesus existed in the beginning, that is, before anything in the universe was created. Jesus was there. Jesus was there before time began. One time, Jewish leaders criticized Jesus when he told them that their father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing Jesus. “You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!” “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, **I am!**” (Jn 8:56-58). When Moses asked God what his name was, God told him he was “I am” (Ex 3:14). Jesus is also “I am” because he was in the beginning. Jesus was there before the Higgs boson (the extremely small particle that scientists recently discovered) ever existed. John wants us to know that.

Second, Jesus is God. Once again, this is the point John wants us to accept from the very beginning. This is Jesus’ identity. All throughout his public life, the religious leaders rejected this truth, despite the overwhelming evidence they had about his identity as God. In fact, they became furious when Jesus told them he was the Son of God. It took a long time even for the disciples to accept this truth. After seeing the nail marks on Jesus’ hands, Thomas declared, “My Lord and my God” (Jn 20:28). This was a particularly meaningful confession, coming from a man who was scientifically-minded. Thomas was the kind of person who would say, “Show me and I will believe.” His confession, “My Lord and my God,” captured the essence of Jesus’ identity. I pray



that each of us may come to know Jesus personally so that we can say to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Third, Jesus is the Son of God. Verses 1-2 say that Jesus was with God and he was God. This sounds strange. How can we say, “Yesterday, I was with my father and I was my father”? Well, Jesus was with God in the beginning and he was God. This is not strange when you know the truth about the Trinity—the one God in three persons (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit). Jesus the Son of God was with the Father God. Jesus is the Son who came to us to reveal the Father. Jesus is God as the part of the Trinity. Jesus often talked about his intimate, father-and-son relationship with God. In John 5:17, *Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."* In John 10:17, Jesus said, *"The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again."* In John 10:30, Jesus said, *"I and the Father are one."* John 10:21 says: *Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."*

Fourth, Jesus is the Creator God. Look at verse 3. *Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.* I want to ask you a question. Do you personally believe that Jesus is deeply involved in your life? John says that the answer is yes. He tells us that Jesus made each of us! Jesus is not some stranger to us, whether we believe in him or not. He is closely related to us. In fact, he created us. He is the maker of our lives! He made us in his own image. He even recreated us by giving his life on the cross, because we were dead spiritually in our sins (Eph 2:10). How can we deny his involvement in our lives if he made us? Sadly, this is happening to many people.

Before Jesus stretched out his merciful hand to this sinner, I thought Jesus had nothing to do with my life. I made all my decisions without asking him first. I indulged in all kinds of sinful activities as if Jesus weren't there watching me. I ignored him. I treated him as a stranger in my life.

But verse 3 declares that nothing was made without Jesus. I was created in his image for a purpose in him (Ge 1:27-28). My life is not an accident. Jesus put me here in this world at this time so that I may enjoy him and serve him. My life has a meaning and purpose because of Jesus. I have to remember that, as the Creator, Jesus is intimately involved in my life. I must be aware of his presence in my life. I must consult with him through prayer and meditation of his words before I make all kinds of decisions. Jesus created me. He recreated me through his blood when I was spiritually dead because of my sins. May God help me to worship him, enjoy his blessings and serve him forever!

Let us read our key verse together and pray. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (1).*