

1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6) There was a man sent from God, whose name was John [the Baptist]. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through Him. He was *not* the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

9) The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15) (John bore witness about Him, and cried out, “This is He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.’”) For from His fullness, we have all received grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God --- who is at the Father’s side --- He has made Him known.

Think on these things:

- 1) Skim Genesis 1-2, with particular attention to Genesis 1:26. Now look at John 1:1-3. John mentions the “Word” being present at the very beginning, before creation of our world, and actually the one who made all things (v.2). Let’s learn more about the “Word”:

Who created mankind in Genesis 1:26? **God, in plurality (“Let US make man in OUR image.”)**

The “Word” is called what in John 1:1? **“And the Word was God.”**

What does mankind receive from the “Word” (John 1:4)? **In Him (the Word) was life, and in the life of the Word is the light of men.**

What did the “Word” do (John 1:14a)? **The Word “became” flesh (i.e., put on humanity) and dwelt with people of the earth. He is the God-man.**

What title was given to the “Word” now seen (John 1:14b)? **The ONLY Son from the Father (God). That is, He is the Son of God, God – the Son!**

The “Word” was full of ‘grace and truth.’ What human name was given to the “Word” (v.17), and what does He do for mankind (v.18)?

Grace and Truth come from Jesus Christ. He makes God the Father known to us.

- 2) How do people use light? How would this concept apply to the “Word” being the light of our lives (vs. 4-5, 9)?

We use light to “see” in the darkness. It reveals things and conditions the eyes cannot discern in the dark. John states that God’s Light overcomes the darkness of our world and lives. When we have His life, we have His light, too. He reveals the “true” things about life and the conditions that we need to recognize and understand.

- 3) John the Baptist was a prominent person and preacher during the ministry years of Jesus. The Jewish people revered him as a prophet, but the religious and political leaders opposed him. What does John 1:7-8 say was John the Baptist’s ‘purpose’ in life? Did he claim that he was the one being sent into the world for mankind?

John’s purpose was to “bear witness” about the Word as the light of men to convince them to believe in God through Him. When asked if he, John the Baptist, was this ‘light,’ he declared forthrightly that he was NOT the light, just God’s witness to the light.

- 4) There is a belief in our media and culture that “everybody is a child of God.” Reviewing vs.9-13, what do you find in these verses to support or refute this idea? Is “everybody is a child of God” biblical?

V.13 says that God gives the right to be called ‘children of God’ ONLY to those who receive Him (Jesus). These believers are ‘born (again)’ not by fleshly choices and actions but from God.

- 5) From vs.10-11, broadly speaking, how was Jesus received by both the world and His people (the Jews)?

v.10 says that the world does not know Him, and v.11 says that His own people rejected Him.

- 6) What very important church doctrine is introduced to us in v. 14? Why is this important? See Hebrews 4:14-16.

Jesus -- as Creator God, as God the Son – humbled himself and joined the creation as a man, taking upon Himself human flesh. The church doctrine is that “Jesus is truly and properly man, and truly and properly God.” Hebrews teaches us that He was sinless in His life, and that this human life allowed Jesus to fully understand the trials and temptations of all human beings. He sympathizes with our struggles, and he readily offers mercy and grace in our time of need.

- 7) From v.17, what were Moses and Jesus credited with bringing into our world?

Moses – God’s Law

Jesus – God’s grace (forgiveness & mercy)

- 8) How do these passages support today’s study?

Colossians 1:15-20 – Jesus is the image of the invisible God to us. He created our world, both the seen and unseen things, and everything holds together by His power. He is preeminent above all creation, worldly rulers, and the Church --- making peace for men by His shed blood.

Hebrews 1:1-4 – God the Father chose to speak to us through His Son, who He appointed heir of all things. He created our world, and He is the radiance of God’s glory and the imprint of His very nature. Jesus sustains the physical world today by the power of His spoken word. After He made purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God on High.