

In the Beginning was the Word

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

Introduction:

- A. John 1:1-18
- B. The Gospel account of John was penned by the aged Apostle in about 85 AD. It was the last of the four Gospels to be written, and differs from the other three in that it considers Jesus as the Living Word, rather than being a synopsis of His work as the other three Gospels relate.
 - 1. By the time this book was circulated among Christians, the other Gospels were well known. Synoptic means "to see together in a generally similar manner." This means that the first three Gospels contain many of the same accounts, but told from different perspectives
 - 2. John 1:1-18 reveals more about Jesus in such a way that is not seen in any of the other Gospel accounts
 - 3. John was one of Jesus closest three companions, he was called the disciple whom Jesus loved, and is believed to be a cousin of Jesus.
 - 4. Perhaps this made him the uniquely qualified inspired revealer of the innermost nature of the Christ

I. THE PRE-EXISTENT WORD

- A. John 1:1-3
- B. He is the constant word
 - 1. Jesus has always been; He is I AM - John 8:56-58
 - a. He didn't come into being in Bethlehem; He has been forever.
 - b. Contrast this with John in verse 6.
 - 2. He is the constant, unchanging Word of God - Heb. 13:8, 5
- C. He is the communing word
 - 1. Jesus was with God in heaven as a distinct Being - John 1:18
 - 2. Jesus was there when God made man in His image - Gen. 1:26.
 - 3. Jesus was with God when the plan to redeem the world was formed
 - a. Rev. 13:8; Eph. 1:4; Titus 1:2; 1Peter 1:18-20
- D. He is the controversial word
 - 1. When Jesus came preaching repentance, men thought He was strange Mark 1:15
 - 2. When He began to heal and perform miracles, men thought He was a prophet sent by God - John 3:2.
 - 3. When He spoke the Word of God with power, men thought He was amazing - Luke 4:36.
 - 4. When Jesus claimed equality with God, men thought He was crazy - John 19:7, 14:9
 - 5. Men still fight these truths. They are willing to accept the humble Christ, the teaching Christ, the meek Christ, the dead Christ, the serving Christ. But they will not acknowledge Jesus Christ as Almighty God the Son.
 - a. Phil. 2:5-8

- E. He is the creative word
 - 1. He stood on the edge of nothing and spoke all this into existence
 - a. Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 11:3; Matt. 28:18

II. THE PERSONIFIED WORD

- A. John 1:14
- B. The manner of His Incarnation
 - 1. 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.
 - 2. All we know is that God chose a virgin named Mary, and by His power she miraculously conceived and brought forth a child. When Jesus was born, God came to earth to live and die as a man. Somehow, the Word, became flesh.
 - 3. While Jesus existed from eternity, He became mortal, and was forever transformed by the experience.
- C. The mystery of His Incarnation
 - 1. Jesus came to this world to reveal God to man. He did this through the medium of His flesh - 1John 1:1-2; John 20:24-29
- D. The majesty of His Incarnation
 - 1. Matt. 17:1-2 - John saw Jesus allow the veil of His flesh to be pulled aside when He revealed the glory it concealed.
 - 2. 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 brought into sharp focus - Rom. 5:8; John 15:13

III. THE PROCLAIMING WORD

- A. John 1:15-18 - Jesus came to reveal God to man
 - 1. John 14:7; Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3
 - 2. He did this by two means:
- B. He came to proclaim light - John 1:4-9
 - 1. Jesus came to illuminate the path to God for humankind - John 3:36
- C. He came to proclaim life - John 1:10-13
 - 1. Jesus came to His people, who had God's word and were living in the promised land, to tell them that they still had not come all the way to the Father and eternal life. And they refused His call.
 - 2. Eternal life does not come by birthright or bloodlines, not by works of righteousness or will of men, not by the doctrines of men or the good intentions of mothers - John 6:36-40, 10:9, 14:6