

God Revealed  
September 1, 2013  
Allen Power

John 1:1-18

"In the beginning was the WORD." The Greek word here is logos (pronounced La-Gahs). It's the source of our English word LOGO. **What does an effective LOGO for an organization or product do for that product? In what way was Jesus the LOGO for God the father?**

The first 18 verses of John's Gospel are known as the PROLOGUE of the book. In other words, the INTRODUCTION to the book. More than a great introduction, these verses really give us a CONCISE overview of WHO Jesus is; WHY He came to earth; and WHAT He came to do.

Here's the BIG IDEA: The prologue of John's Gospel is MORE than just a great overview. For you and me it represents the story we are to tell...

John 1:12 (ESV)

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

This prologue also represents the marching orders we've been given...

As verse 7 of this first chapter says, like John the Baptist, we are "to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him."

Let's dig in beginning with John 1:1-5 (English Standard Version)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life,[a] and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

- A first time reader of John's Gospel might be confused with verse one as it talks about "the Word." They might ask "What word?" Or, they might assume it means the Bible, God's Holy word.
- **What's unusual about the grammar in verse one that would give a clue?**
- **What about the grammar in verse two?**
- John was a Jew who was living in a Greek city (Ephesus) so clearly he writes this Gospel book to appeal to BOTH Jews and Greeks. We see multiple times when he makes clarifying statements explaining things to a Greek reader. (Examples: (John 1:38, 41–42;)
- Logos was an important word to the Greeks. "For the Greek mind the "Word" referred to the rational principle that supervised or governed the universe. Holman

Bible Handbook (609–610). For the Jews, Word referred to the dynamic word of God. When God spoke things happened!

- **What are some examples from scripture of God's Word or His voice making things happen? (Ps. 33:6;9)**
- There's great THEOLOGY (study of the things of God) in these first verses of John's Gospel.
- **What do verses one, two, and three tell us about Jesus?**
- Back to verse 1. I don't want to run a rabbit, but you should know that some groups mistranslate verse 1. (i.e. Jehovah's Witnesses).
- If you read up on this, the proper translation of the Greek makes it plain: The Word (Jesus) was and IS God.
- **Where do verses 2 and 3 say Jesus was when the World was created? What role did Jesus play in creation?**
- **Why would it be important for John to tell that Jesus was the INITIATOR of creation?**

Chuck Swindoll writes:

*“Anything “not created”—that is, anything that was not brought into being—is deity. For the Hebrew in particular, only God was “not created.” Therefore, anything said to be “not created” is, by definition, God.”*

*“Why is this point so important? Because false teachers—starting in John’s day and persisting even now—claim that Jesus Christ is not God, coequal, coeternal, and coexistent with the Father in eternity past. Many claim that He was the first created being, that the Father brought the Son into existence, who then created everything else. John points to the moment of creation, however, to say that before anything existed, Christ, who is the Creator, called “all things” into being.” — Swindoll, C. R. (2010). Insights on John. Swindoll’s New Testament Insights (pp. 26– 27). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.*

- Verse 3 says "without him was not any thing made." **Question: If people are fully dependent on Jesus for their physical lives, are they not also fully dependent on Him for the spiritual lives? If so, what implications does this truth have for growth in Christian living?**
- **Verse 4 says He, Jesus, is the source of...what two things?**
- **What is the symbolism in scripture of DARKNESS versus LIGHT? How was and is Jesus like a LIGHT?**
- **Why are people afraid of the dark? Every see something in partial darkness that frightened you? How did light help?**
- **Anyone have to have it PITCH BLACK DARK to sleep? Even the alarm clock bothers you? Why?**
- Although darkness always tries, it cannot overcome the light.
- Remember the children's song: "This Little Light of Mine." **Why didn't the writer say this HUGE SPOTLIGHT of mine? What is the point?**
- In verses 6-8 John pauses to introduce his readers to John the Baptist:

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

- I don't think this mention was just historical context. **Based on verses 6 and 7 what do believers in Christ have in common with John the Baptist?**
- Verses 9-11 give us a CONCISE BIOGRAPHY of Jesus' time on earth. Look at what they tell us:

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own,[b] and his own people[c] did not receive him.

- Verses 12 and 13 give us a great description of the PURPOSE of Jesus on earth.

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

- "Being born makes you physically alive and places you in your parents' family (v. 13); Being born of God makes you spiritually alive and puts you in God's family (v. 12) - Life Application Study Bible
- Remember our BIG IDEA?: We have a story to tell and the marching orders to GO TELL IT. Verse 12 IS the Gospel story: Those who BELIEVE in His name are given the right to become the CHILDREN OF GOD!
- But the human race is hard headed! We're all from Missouri, the "SHOW ME" state. Look at verse 14:

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 was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.[d] 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God,[e] who is at the Father's side,[f] he has made him known.

- Verses 16 and 17: **What does 16 say gives us "grace upon grace?" What does verse 17 tell us about the OLD COVENANT versus the NEW COVENANT?**

Wiersbe said:

*"The Law could reveal sin, but it could never remove sin. Jesus Christ came with fullness of grace and truth, and this fullness is available to all who will trust Him."*

- Verse 16 says Jesus gives us "grace upon grace." **What do you think that means? What is the first grace He gives? How does He give us MORE grace?**
- Look back at verse 14 as we wrap this up: **Why do you think the Word (Jesus) had to become flesh and dwell among us?**
- **How is it ENCOURAGING to you to know Jesus was not only God but HUMAN?**
- Now look at verse 18. Since no one living has ever "seen God", **what did Jesus do for us? How does your translation say it?**
- The Greek word for what Jesus did is *ēxēgēōmai*, ex-ayg-eh'-om-ahee;
- It's where we get our word EXEGESIS or EXEGETICAL. Preacher's EXEGETE a text in scripture.
- The meaning is to consider out (aloud), i.e. rehearse, unfold:—declare, tell.

In John 14:6-7, Thomas asked Jesus "How can we know the way?"

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

So, What's the Takeaway?

- Jesus came to earth as both God and man.
- Not only was Jesus not created, HE initiated creation.
- He is not a "good man" or "wise teacher" He is the SON OF GOD.
- Jesus came so that we can have eternal life. So WE can be the CHILDREN of God.
- He came as the ONLY WAY to God. So we can KNOW God.
- Just like John the Baptist, it's our job to point people to Jesus the ONLY way to God.