

The Word Was God

Introduction. It would certainly not be an overstatement to say that John 1:1-18 is one of the greatest adventures in religious thought ever penned. It sets forth both the deity and the humanity of Jesus Christ.

We live in an immense universe of measureless enormity. We are writhing in a downward spiral of human excesses and degradation. Is there no help? Humanism says, "We can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species. No deity will save us." The gospel of John answers, "There is purpose in our existence; deity has come to save us."

In this lesson and the one this evening, we are going to explore John 1:1-18 and see the affirmation of the fact that Jesus was both human and divine.

I. *The Eternal Word*

A. Jesus was the Word.

1. The Greek for "Word" is *logos* which literally means, "to pick words in order to express one's thoughts." It speaks of a word uttered by the human voice which embodies a conception or an idea.
2. Jewish and Greek philosophers spoke of a mediator between God and man as the "Logos." John tells them that this mediator unknown to them is our Lord. Our Lord is the Logos of God in the sense that He is the total concept of God, deity speaking through the Son of God, not in parts of speech as in a sentence composed of words, but in the human life of a divine Person. He is the creating, directing, and guiding power of God. He is the medium by which God promulgates His will and issues His commandments. He is the revealer of God's wisdom and power.
3. "With God" indicates friendship and intimacy with the Father, so as to partake of His glory (John 17:5).
4. Lest it be supposed that Jesus was a different and inferior being, John here states that He was God. There is no more unequivocal declaration in the Bible than this, and there could be no stronger proof that the sacred writer meant to affirm that the Son of God was equal with and yet distinct from the Father. He was identical in essence with the Father.

B. Jesus was in the beginning with God.

1. John now carefully states that this close and intimate union existed from all eternity.
2. This explains the plural pronouns used of God in Genesis 1:26 during the creation process.

C. Jesus created the world.

1. Jesus is Creator (John 1:10; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:2). All things were made by Him, whether spirit or matter, terrestrial or celestial, visible or invisible, mighty or weak.
2. Although the Bible affirms that God spoke the world into existence (Psalm 33:6, 9), God made all things through the agency of His Son. Jesus was not only called God, but He did the works of God.
3. There is no higher proof of omnipotence than the work of creation; and therefore God often appeals to that work to prove that He is the all-powerful, true God (Psalm 24:2; 89:11; Proverbs 3:19). Thus the deity of Jesus is affirmed since He is one who possesses the divine attribute of omnipotence.

D. In Jesus there was life and light.

1. God is declared to be life, or the living God, because He is the source or fountain of life. This attribute here is ascribed to Jesus Christ. He not only made the material world, but He also gave it life. John uses this word 35 times in the gospel to denote spiritual life. Thus, He who is the source of all life came into the world to give eternal life to those who believe.
2. Light is that by which we see objects. Light here involves intellect and understanding. The eternal life that formed and governs the creation around us, enlightens men as to the existence and power of God by that very creation (Acts 14:16-17). The Word is the source of all knowledge, particularly the greatest knowledge which is the pursuit of man's right relationship with God.

E. The darkness did not comprehend the light.

1. In the Bible, darkness commonly denotes ignorance or guilt. The Lord Jesus came to teach an ignorant and wicked world. His efforts to enlighten and save man have been like light struggling to penetrate a thick, dense cloud.
2. The word "comprehend" means to "receive." The darkness did not receive or admit the rays of light. Sin always blinds the mind to the beauty and excellency of the character of Jesus. It blocks the mind to receive His instructions. Darkness has no affinity for light; if the one exists, the other must be displaced.

II. ***The Role Of John The Baptist***

A. John was sent from God.

1. Jesus' formal ministry was preceded by John the Baptist, who was divinely commissioned by God and who announced the coming Messiah (John 1:20-23). Isaiah 40:3 is a prophecy of the coming of the Lord and John claimed to be the Messianic forerunner or "voice in the wilderness" (Matthew 3:3).

2. Therefore, if John the Baptist is the prophesied harbinger, and if John pointed out Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God, then it necessarily follows that Jesus is the coming One or the Lord. The connection here yields proof to the deity of Jesus.
- B. He bore witness of the light.
1. John did not bear witness specifically to the facts of Jesus' history, but to the person of Jesus as the eternal son of God (John 1:15, 34). Thus John the Baptist has come to bear witness to the Word as the light of the world (John 1:8).
 2. John's purpose in being sent from God was to bear witness of Jesus and God equipped Him for that task through revelation (John 1:31-34).
- C. He was not the light.
1. This was an explicit declaration designed to satisfy all the disciples of John who apparently wanted to elevate John the Baptist to a position which would encroach upon that of Jesus Himself.
 2. This gospel is careful to point out that while John's place in the scheme of God's plan is high, he is nevertheless still subordinate to Christ (John 3:25-30).

Conclusion. From the abundant evidence offered in the distinctive words of the prologue of John's gospel and in the proofs offered throughout the account in the words, titles and works, one cannot conclude anything else but that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. May we come to as full a realization of the truths of that statement as is possible for mortal minds, and may we glorify God for the complete revelation of Himself to man in His divine Son!