10/29/95

The Eternal "Logos", Jesus Jn. 1:1-5, Pt. 2

In our previous study we declared that the opening five verses of John's prologue is the Grand Canyon of Scriptures regarding the person of Jesus Christ. It is so pact, concentrated and deep in it's theological truths that it would take all of eternity to mind it's riches.

We also said that John is neither using the Targums nor the Greek concept of the "Logos", but is revealing Jesus under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as the "Logos" who existed from all eternity and became flesh.

The three ways in which John presents the "Logos" in his opening verses forms a unit.

- **I.** The word and eternity. $\underline{vs. 1-2}$
- **II.** The word and creation. $\underline{vs. 3}$
- **III.** The word and salvation. $\underline{vs. 4-5}$

In our previous study we looked at the first, "The Word and eternity" and learned four things about Jesus the 'Logos". <u>vs. 1-2</u>

- I. The Word existed before time
- **II.** The Word existed with God but was distinct from God
- **III.** The Word existed as God before time

IV. The Word existed with God in the beginning of time

We have established that Jesus is the "Logos" that has pre-existed from all eternity, He has always been!

So we want to look at the remaining two.

- **II.** The word and creation. $\underline{vs. 3}$
- **III.** The Word and salvation. <u>vs. 4-5</u>

II. The word and creation.

* "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made". <u>vs. 3</u>

- **A.** The "Word", Jesus was the channel through which creation took place.
 - * "All things were made through Him". <u>vs.</u> <u>2a</u>
 - **1**. The qualifying article "all" is all inclusive, describing creation from the positive side.
 - 2. The word made "egeneto" means became, describing an event, creation was spoken into existance rather than a process.
 - **a.** The first day God said, "Let there be light; and there was light. <u>Gen. 1:3</u>
 - b. The second day God said, "Let there be a expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters" describing the

division of the heavens and the earth. Gen. 1:6-8

- c. The third day God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear", He separated the land from the seas, calling the earth to bring forth vegetation. <u>Gen. 1:9-13</u>
- **d.** The fourth day God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth", the sun, moon and stars. <u>Gen. 1:14-16</u>
- e. The fifth day God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, birds to fly above the earth" all according to their kind. <u>Gen.</u> <u>1:20-23</u>
- f. The sixth day God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creatures according to their kind: cattle, creeping things and beasts according to their kind. And God also said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness", and He gave man dominion of all on the earth. <u>Gen. 1:24-31</u>

g. The seventh day God rested from all His works, the heavens, the earth and all the host of them.

 He desisted to admire their beauty, design and purpose as He created them, for they were very good.
 He desisted from His work because

He was done, not because He was tired.

- **3.** The scriptures affirm Jesus as the channel of creation.
 - a. By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them *by the breath of His mouth..* He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. <u>Ps. 33:6, 9</u>
 - **b.** Paul tells the Corinthians, "Yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, *through whom are all things*, and through whom we live. <u>1Cor. 8:6</u>
 - c. Paul tells the Ephesians, " To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. And to make all see what is the fellowship of

the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things *through Jesus Christ*". Eph. 3:8-9

- d. The Colossians are told that, "*He*, *Jesus is the image of the invisible God*, the firstborn (in rank) over all creation. *For by Him all things were created* that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. *All things were created through Him and for Him*. And He is before all things, and in Him all things *consist* or literally are held together". <u>Col. 1:15-17</u>
- e. The author to the Hebrews says that , "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, *through whom also He made the worlds;* who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and *upholding all things by the word of His power*, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high". <u>Heb. 1:1-3</u>

1) Do you know that everything that is visible is made up of invisible things, they are called atoms which you cannot see. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" and all are temporal. <u>Heb. 11:3</u>

B. The "Word", Jesus was responsible for all of creation without exception.

* "And without Him nothing was made that was made". vs. <u>3b</u>

- 1. All things were made through Him is the posotive side of creation but the statement, "And without Him nothing was made" is from the negative side, nothing is the exception.
- 2. All the Trinity was involved in creation, a mystery that can not be understood in it's entirety and any illustration will break down if pushed too far.
 - a. The Father is the source and was certainly involved in creation, "God created the heavens and the earth". <u>Gen. 1:1</u>
 - **b.** The Son is the channel through which all things were created, " The world was made through Him". Jn. 1:10b

- 15
- c. The Holy Spirit is the agent in creation, " The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters". <u>Gen. 1:2</u>
- **3**. All that was created by the "Word" is separate and distinct from Him.

1) The creation is not Him, this is usually called Pantheism, that god is all, all is god therefore the tree, plant even man are a form of god.

2) The creation is the product of Him who is all powerful.

3) The creation is Physical and was created from nothing yet God is spirit. Jn. <u>4:24</u>

* The word in the Hebrew created is "bara" God created by speaking the world into existence from nothing in contrast to man who builds from existing materials. <u>Gen. 1:1</u>

- 4. The Word existed before all creation.
 - **a.** He pre-existed from timeless eternity.
 - **b.** He was already in existence before the creation.
 - **c.** He was the cause of creation.
 - **d.** He leaves no exception for anything in creation apart from Him.

- **C** The creation of the "Word", Jesus, is somehting to behold.
 - The sun is so large that, if it were hollow, it could contain more than one million worlds the size of our earth. There are stars in space so large that they easily hold 500 million suns the size of ours. There are about 100 billion stars in the average galaxy. And there are at least 100 million galaxies in the known universe.
 - 2. Do you realize that the sun radiates more energy in one second than man has used since the beginning of civilization. In one second, a typical quasar throws out enough energy to supply all the earth's electrical needs for billions of years.
 - 3. We learn from the astronomers that the Milky Way the disc-shaped galaxy to which our sun belongs, is a family of more than 100 billion stars. And these scientists say there may be as many as 100 billion other galaxies in the universe. And they believe that the billions of these galaxies' billion stars may have hundreds of millions of planets like our earth.
 * Think about it, this is God's creation from a one-sentence command!
 - **4.** One of the most inspiring, thrilling and recent disclosures of astronomers is that there is a great empty space in the north

in the nebula of the constellation of Orion, a heavenly cavern so gigantic that the mind of man cannot comprehend it and so brilliantly beautiful that words cannot adequately describe it. * All astronomers agree there is a huge opening in Orion which is perhaps more than 16,740,000,000,000 miles in diameter. The diameter of earth's orbit is 186,000,000 miles, which in itself is incomprehensible to man. Yet the opening into this heavenly cavern of Orion is 90,000 times as wide. In other words, there could be 30,000 solar systems like ours with a sun in the middle of each, across the entrance of the opening in the north, and still have room to spare.

All things were created through Him the "Logos", who is Jesus!

III. The word and salvation. <u>vs. 4-5</u>

* "In Him was life, and the life was the light of man. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it". <u>vs. 4-5</u>

- A. The "Word" was the source of life. * "*In Him was life*". vs. 4a
 - 1. The phrase "in Him" refers to the "Logos", who is Jesus the very essence

and principle of life in all that He created by virtue of being the source and cause of all things.

2. The word life "zoe" means the life principle of both man and animal, for Paul tells the Athenians, "He gives to all life". <u>Act 17:25c.</u>

* We have already seen how animal and man had their beginning at a point and time at the creation!

- **3.** The word gives us our English word zoology.
- **4.** The word is also used to describe the quality of life that God possesses, age abiding life.
 - **a.** It is used a total of thirty-five times in the gospel of John.
 - b. It is used in association with "eternal life" or "everlasting life"seventeen times of the thirty-five times. <u>3:15</u>, <u>16, 36, 4:14, 36, 5:24, 40, 6:27, 40</u>, <u>47, 54, 68, 10:28, 12:25, 50, 17:2, 3</u>
 * The remaining eighteen others imlpy "eternal life " in the context!
- 5. The gospel of John begins and ends with "life" and Jesus is clearly that "life". <u>1:4a</u>, <u>20:31</u>

* I am the way m the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father but by Me". Jn. 14:6

B. The "Word's" life was the light of man.

- * "And the life was the light of man". vs. 4b
- 1. We once again see this stair-step progression as in verse one by beginning the next statement with the last word used, thereby accomplishing not only progression but identification and relationship!.
 - **a.** In the beginning was the **Word**.
 - **b.** The Word was with God.
 - c. And God was the Word.
 - d. In Him was life.
 - e. And the life was the light of man.
- 2. The word light "Phos" means to shine.
 - **a.** It is used of light itself, be it emitted from a candle, the sun or moon etc.
 - **b.** It is used to represent man's conscience. <u>Matt. 6:23</u>
 - **c.** It is used in a moral and spiritual sense as in our context for the purpose of salvation.

1) Jesus created man with a moral capacity and a conscience to hold him accountable, distinct from the animals. <u>Rom. 2:15</u>

2) Jesus created man with a spiritual capacity to fellowship with God by making him a living soul, with intellect, emotions and a will. <u>Gen.</u> 2:7

d. Jesus who is God, the very guiding influence of right and wrong, for He

made man after His image and according to His likeness. <u>Gen. 1:26</u>
1) Jesus is the genuine light that gives moral and spiritual light to every man and woman that comes into the world. Jn. 1:9

2) John the Baptist came to give witness of the "Light" that through him people might believe on Jesus. Jn. 1:6-7, 15-16, 20

2) Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but gave the light of life. Jn. 8:12c

* The Psalmist declares, "For with You is the fountain of life; In your light we see light". <u>Ps. 36:9</u>

C. The "Word's" light has always been in the world.

* "And the light shines in the darkness". <u>vs.</u> <u>5a</u>

- 1. The phrase "light shines" is in the present tense, the moral and spiritual light has been shining continuously from the beginning of time of man's creation and continues to shine at the present time in three different ways.
 - **a.** Creation attests to God's eternal power and Godhead so that man is without excuse. <u>Rom. 1:20</u>

- **b.** Conscience bears witness to a written law in man's heart evident by their conscience accusing or excusing one another. <u>Rom. 2:15</u>
- c. Clear revelation of Scripture attests to the shinning light, the expressed will of God through the prophets.
 * In the Garden God first expressed to Adam His will to not eat of the one tree!
- **2**. The place it has shined and continues to shine is "in the darkness".
 - **a.** The reference is to the fallen world as we know it ever since Adam disobeyed God's command. <u>Gen. 3</u>
 - **b.** The fallen world of mankind is in rebellion to God, can not please God nor be subject to Him, in fact is an enemy of God. <u>Rom. 8:7</u>
 - c. Satan a most beautiful Cherub, who lead worship in heaven rebelled against God and drew 1/3 of the angels with him. <u>Is. 14:12-17, Ezk.</u> <u>28:11-19, Rev. 12:4</u>
 - d. Satan is the god of this world and the prince of the power of the air that now is working in the children of disobedience who are by nature children of wrath. <u>2Cor. 4:4, Eph. 2:2-3</u>

e. Satan is the father of lies and a murderer from the beginning who has come to kill, steal and destroy and he roams about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Jn. 8:44, 10:10, <u>1Pet. 5:8</u>

* From the beginning the ligh has been shinning!

D. The "Word's" light has not been excepted by the darkness.

* "And the darkness did not comperhend it". vs. 5b

- 1. The word "and" in the middle of verse five communicates a contrast to the offer of the light and is translated "yet" in other places. <u>7:19, 16:32, 20:29</u>
- 2. The darkness has not comprehended the light.
 - **a.** The word comprehend "katalambano" is an intense form of the word "take" and could be translated perceive, appropriate, grasp or take in.

1) It is used to lay hold or seize with eagerness such as the woman taken in adultery. Jn. 8:3-4

2) It is used to communicate an athletic strenuous exertion to achieve the goal. <u>Phil.3:12-13</u>

3) It is uses figuratively to seize with the mind to permit, admit or allow the

light of God's revelation which is the way it is used in our text..

b. The clear communication is that this dark world of fallen man has not only resisted the light of God's revelation in the past, present and will in the future but that it will not welcome the message due to it's fallenness and depravity.

* Some attempt to interpret this to say that the darkness did not extinguish the light form the beginning, though this is true, this is not what it is saying!

1) The system of the fallen world did not welcome nor apprehend the light. 1:5b

2) The world of fallen humanity did not known Him. <u>1:10b</u>

3) The Creator came to His own and His own received Him not. 1:11

4) The condemnation of the world is that the light has come into the world but men love darkness rather than light. 3:19

5) Those who do evil hate the light because the light exposes the evil they practice. 3:20

- **E.** The "Word's" light through creation is sufficient to condemn us not to speak of the word of God.
 - **1.** The sun is a great power plant. If you were to mark off one square yard on the sun you would find that it is giving off 70,000 horsepower of energy continuously. There are a tremendous number of square yards on the sun's surface: more than 10,000 times the number of square yards on the surface of the earth. Suppose that we decide to buy the energy that the sun gives off for a period of twenty-four hours. Suppose we can buy this energy for one fourth cent per kilowatt-hour. To pay for this energy in silver dollars would require enough money to cover the United States four miles deep. This represents a tremendous amount of energy. Yet when God created the sun, He had to put into that act of creation all of the energy that has come from the sun and all that which may yet to come from the sun. There is still enough energy in the sun to last for some thirty billion years.
 - 2. Do you realize that every year a layer of the sea fourteen feet thick is taken up into the clouds. The winds bear their burden into the land, and the water comes down in rain upon the fields, to

flow back through rivers. and we question if the power of God is able to keep us, just examine creation!.

- **3.** The moon is 240,000 miles away, and the tides twice a day are usually a gentle reminder of its presence. Tides of the ocean run as high as 60 feet in some places, and even the crust of the earth is twice a day bent outward several inches by the moon's attraction. All seems so regular that we do not grasp to any degree the vast power that lifts the whole area of the ocean several feet and bends the crust of the earth, seemingly so solid. (Without the moon's effect, the seas would inundate the land!)
- 4. Do you know that anything may be reproduced on scale model except the universe. The impossibility of making such a model accurately is shown by the fact that, if the earth were represented by a ball only one inch in diameter, the nearest star, Alpha Centaury, would have to be placed nearly 51,000 miles away.
 * All that power and yet He will not violate your free-will, He will not force you to be saved, you must ask Him into your heart by faith!

All the light that man has received for salvation is from the "Logos" who is Jesus!

<u>Conclusion</u>

John presents the "Logos" Jesus in three ways in his opening verses.

- **I.** The word and eternity.
- **II.** The word and creation.
- **III.** The word and salvation.