

John 1 Pt 3 The Word Became Flesh vv 14-28

Fear God

- vv 4-12 Jesus is Life/Light to a world Dying/Dark

Light is made up of both Waves/Particles

Do light particles [photons] have mass/weight as mentioned last week?

- **Photons have zero rest mass:** They do not weigh anything when standing still. But...
- **Photons never stand still:** No resting state because light cannot stand still; it must always move at top speed
- **Photons do have Energy/Momentum:** Even w/out mass, light carries energy/pushes on things using momentum

Conclusion? Individual particles of light [photons] have zero rest mass...but never rest. E.g. When light photons bounce around inside a closed mirrored box, their energy stays trapped inside adding extra energy to the system which **increases the total mass and weight of the box**. IOWs Light through energy/momentum can display characteristics of mass/weight but in actuality have neither. *At least as far as we know now...*

Acts 17:11 The Bereans were more fair-minded [noble] than those in Thessalonica, in that they **received the word with all readiness**, and **searched the Scriptures daily** to find out **whether these things were so**.

- **Receive then Search**

1. **Receive** the Word [Take w/the hand] w/**Readiness**. w/Zeal/Eagerness
2. **Search** the Scriptures Daily/Double check what you hear/learn more

IOWs Don't just listen. Dig deep to find the most precious jewels in Scripture...

III. The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and **the Word was God**.

14 And **the Word became flesh...**

- **Truth:** Word and Deed become one

The Logos became Flesh: God became Man

1 Timothy 3:16 ...without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifested in the flesh...**

The Eternal Son of God, the Word, now born flesh. [McGee]

14 The Word became Flesh and **dwelt among us...**

- God became man and dwelt among us
- **Dwelt** Lit. Tabernacled

At the First Coming/In the Person of Jesus
God Pitched His Tent w/Man

14b ...and **we beheld His glory**, the glory as of the **only begotten** of the Father, **full of grace and truth**.

- **John beheld His glory:** lit. Weight/Awe beholding God
- **We Beheld:** Lit. Carefully look upon/study/touch...

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which **we have looked upon**, and our **hands have handled**, concerning the **Word of life...**

Jesus is the Only Begotten Son of God

- **Begotten:** gr. *monogenēs* lit. Single of its kind. No other like it
- **Full of Grace:** gr. *plērēs* Filled up. Covered in every part
- Full of **Grace:** gr. *khā'-rēs* That which gives joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness. IOWs God's favor upon us/**What we are saved by...**

Ephesians 2:8 ...by **grace you have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God...

- Full of **Grace:** God's sweet favor to us
- Full of **Truth:** gr. *ā-lā'-thā-ā* What is true in any matter under consideration.

What is Truth? Jesus is Truth.

The highest title of Deity is the Logos. Truth is when the Word [Logos] and Deed become One. [Missler]

- E.g. Genesis 3:15 Prophecy of Jesus as Messiah fulfilled at 1st coming

Jesus is full of Grace AND Truth

Ephesians 4:15 [Speak...] the **truth in love...**

Love without truth is sentimentality...Truth without love is harshness [Keller]

Love without truth is empty. Truth without love is damaging. Neither extreme reflects the heart of Jesus [Anon.]

Jesus is full of grace and full of truth...there is everything in Him that you need: You shall not be deceived for He is *full of truth*; you shall not be rejected for *He is full of grace*. [Spurgeon]

Jesus is the Perfection/Fullness of both Grace and Truth

15 John [Baptist] bore witness of [Jesus] and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'"

Though I was born first...Jesus was before me...because He is Eternal

16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

NLT We have all benefited from the rich blessings he brought to us—blessing upon blessing heaped upon us!

Every Blessing to Each/Every Human throughout All Time
Originated from the Kindness of Jesus...Heart of God

Matthew 5:45 ...He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

The Kindness of Jesus now arrives In-Person

17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Lit. Grace and Truth were realized through Jesus Christ
The Cross is the Greatest Manifestation of Grace/Truth

- **Old Covenant of the Law:** *If/Then Bilateral Contract*
- **New Covenant of Grace:** *It is finished Unilateral Promise accepted by faith*

Great Exchange: God becoming man to die in our place
Taking our sin in exchange for His righteousness

2 Corinthians 5:21 For [God] made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the **righteousness of God in Him.**

Jesus came to Declare the Father's Heart to us...

18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

No one on earth has ever seen God as He is
The Son who is [present tense] in the Bosom of the Father Declares Him Perfectly

- **Jesus loves** exactly how the Father loves us
- **Jesus speaks** exactly what the Father speaks
- **Jesus does** exactly the work the Father is doing
- **Jesus cares** exactly as the Father in compassion

The way Jesus saves, restores, sustains and gives us daily victory is directly from the Father's bosom; i.e. the heart of our heavenly Father and declared perfectly to us in real time by the Son incarnate. [NJC]

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God

Hebrews 1:3 [Jesus is] ...the **brightness of His [Father's] glory and the express image of His person**, and upholding all things by the word of His power

John 14:7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." 8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father...**

Hebrews 11:27 By faith Moses forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as **seeing Him who is invisible.**

1 Timothy 6:16 God ...who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

1 Peter 1:8 Jesus...whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

- No one can see God and live? Ex 33:20 Moses saw His afterglow

God had to put on flesh for us to see Him and not be vaporized
When Jesus brings us home in new bodies we will see God in His fullness of Glory

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that **when He is revealed**, we shall be like Him, for **we shall see Him as He is.**

IV. The Voice in the Wilderness

19 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, **"Who are you?"** 20 [John] confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, **"I am not the Christ."** 21 And they asked him, **"What then? Are you Elijah?"** He said, **"I am not."** **"Are you the Prophet?"** And he answered, **"No."** 22 Then they said to him, **"Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?"**

- Who is this guy popping honey-dipped grasshoppers?
- Who is this screaming hippie dunking people in the Jordan...

A. John the Baptist: The Law preparing the Way for Grace through Repentance

Matthew 3:1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: **'Prepare the way of the Lord;** Make His paths straight.'" 4 Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

Jealous Religious Leaders: Who are you?
John confessed he was not the Messiah

- **Not the Prophet** Moses was told would come[Deut. 18:15]
- **Not the Prophet Elijah** by prophesied to return...

Malachi 4:5 Behold, **I will send you Elijah** the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

John confessed: I am not Elijah

Matthew 11:14 ... if you are willing to receive it, [John the Baptist] is Elijah who is to come. 15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

- John said he *was not Elijah*
- Jesus said John *is Elijah...to those are willing to receive it*

How do we reconcile what John said w/what Jesus said?
Is John literally Elijah?

- John knew who he was/Who he was not
- Jesus certainly knew who John was/Was not

Luke 1:17 [Angel prophesying J the B] He will also go before Him in the **spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."**

If we will receive the message from John in the **Power of Elijah** at 1st coming
We will not have to endure the message of the **Actual Elijah** at 2nd Coming

The OT Prophet Elijah will return to Earth
1 of 2 Witnesses God during the 1st Half of Tribulation

Revelation 11:3 And I will give power to my **two witnesses**, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that **no rain falls** in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to **turn them to blood**, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

- **Moses** turn water into blood [Ex 7]
- **Elijah** stop rain for 3 years [1 Kings 18]

...7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, **and kill them.**

- Satan booted from access to Heaven by Michael mid-tribulation
- AC possessed by Satan mid-tribulation/Given power to kill 2 witnesses

...8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. 10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, **make merry, and send gifts** to one another, because these two prophets **tormented those who dwell on the earth.**

- Their death will unite this evil planet
 1. Live CNN coverage of both bodies in street 3.5 days
 2. Sending gifts to each other

...11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

- **God's Passive Wrath**; i.e. HS restraining power taken/All hell breaks loose
- **God's Active Wrath** begins; i.e. Seal. Trumpet, Bowl Judgments begin

Is John the Baptist Elijah reincarnated? No.
John came in the Power of Elijah. Elijah will come in actuality during the Tribulation

IOWs Receive John's message given in spirit/power of Elijah now at 1st coming and be saved. Don't wait for actual Prophet Elijah to return at the "Great/dreadful Day of the Lord" [Mal 11]

- **Not Elijah**, and **not Prophet** ...
- Not Messiah as this coming is not the Great/Dreadful Day of the LORD to come

Who are you?
I am the one Isaiah prophesied about 700 Years Ago...

23 [John said...] "I am 'The **voice** of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the Lord,"" as the prophet Isaiah said."

- Jesus is the Word. John is the voice...

Isaiah 40:3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "**Prepare the way of the Lord**; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; 5 **The glory of the Lord shall be revealed...**

Prepare the way of the Lord/Salvation by Repentance
IOWs Begin w/a sober understanding of our need

- Some came to the Jordan to Confess/Some to watch/Find fault...

Matthew 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "**Brood of vipers!** Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 [Don't] think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as *our* father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. [c.f. *John 1:13 not by blood*] 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **11** I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.** 12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

The One who Pardons sinners now
Is the same One who will Judge sinners later

Hebrews 4:13 ...there is no creature hidden from His [Jesus] sight, but all things are naked and open to the **eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**

IOWs Jesus will personally separate wheat/chaff

Matthew 25:31 When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will **sit on the throne of His glory**. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. **46** ...Goats will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

So? Receive John's Message of Repentance/Faith
IOWs Receive the Grace of the Lamb before the Wrath of the Lamb

1 Thessalonians 1:10 [We] wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, **even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.**

Religious Leaders are threatened by John's following

24 Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, saying, "**Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?**"

What Authority do you have?
IOWs What Seminary did you graduate?

- You're not Messiah/Elijah/Prophet

You're a leather belt/Hairy vest wearing honey-dipped locust eating Hippie
Who do you think you are speaking the Word of God w/such Authority?

Mark 11:27 [Same question to Jesus] ..."By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority to do these things?" 29 But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one question; then answer Me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things: **30 The baptism of John—was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me.**" 31 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?' 32 But if we say, 'From men' "—they feared the people, for all counted John to have been a prophet indeed. 33 So they answered and said to Jesus, "We do not know." And Jesus answered and said to them, "**Neither will I tell you** by what authority I do these things."

We are a Peculiar People Preaching an Awesome God

1 Corinthians 1:27 But **God has chosen the foolish things** of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has **chosen the weak things** of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the **base things of the world** and the things which are despised God has chosen

- God uses unlikely characters to point to people to Jesus

26 John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands **One among you whom you do not know**. 27 It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose."

Not about me, but...
You're standing next to the One Everything is about

28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

- John preached repentance to prepare for grace in Bethabara
- **Bethabara:** lit. House of the Ford: Shallow place in a river able to walk across...

On the Other side of Repentance...

1. **Grace** is there
2. **Hope** is there
3. **Salvation** is there
4. **Healing** is there
5. **Deliverance** is there

The Word became Flesh and Continues to Dwell Among us by His Holy Spirit
Realize your need for Jesus, and If you are willing Turn/Receive His Grace