

John 1 Pt 1 vv 1-3

Fear God

Introduction

Date Written: AD 90

Author: John the Apostle

- **BC** Son of Thunder; i.e. Short fuse
- **AD** Apostle of Love/Truth
- **1 of 5 Business Partners** in Galilee Fishing Company
- **Disciple of John** the Baptist
- **Jesus Inner Circle:** Peter, James, and John
- **Pastor: Church of Ephesus** [Founded by Paul]
- **Author:** Gospel of John/1, 2, 3rd John/Revelation. Emphasis on...
 1. **Exalting:** Deity of Jesus
 2. **Exposing** False doctrine
 3. **Encouraging** Love for one another
 4. **Eschatology:** AC/FP, Coming Temple/Devils Demise/Coming Kingdom

John would come to know Jesus as...

Love, Light, and Life

- **Jesus is Love**

1 John 4:8 He who does not love does not know God, **for God is love.**

- **Jesus is Light**

1 John 1:5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that **God is light** and in Him is no darkness at all.

- **Jesus is Life**

John 14:6 I am the way, the truth, **and the life.**

John 11:25 [Life Eternal] I am the **resurrection and the life.** He who believes in Me, **though he may die, he shall live.**

John did not start as the Apostle of Love

- **John the Impulsive Teen**

Mark 3:17 To James and John [Jesus] gave the name..."**Sons of Thunder**"...

Luke 9: 49 Now John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and **we forbade him** because he does not follow with us." [Chill out John, If He's not against us has for us]...**53** [Of those who would not receive Jesus] "Lord, do You want us to **command fire to come down from heaven** and consume them, just as Elijah did?"**55** But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "**You do not know what manner of**

spirit you are of. 56 For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village.

John grew in Intimacy w/Jesus

- **John** came to know *Jesus as Savior*

John 3:16 [He would write...] For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him **might be saved.**

- **John** became *Jesus best friend*

John 13:25 [Peter asked John to ask Jesus who the betrayer was] John leaned back on Jesus' breast..."**Lord, who is it?**" *John listening the very heart of his Creator*

- **John** knew or sure Jesus loved him. "Disciple whom Jesus loved"
- **John** would take care of Jesus' mother Mary after the Cross

John 19:26 [From the cross Jesus said to...] the **disciple whom He loved...** "Woman, behold your son!" 27 Then [Jesus] said to the disciple [John], "**Behold your mother!**" And from that hour that disciple [John] took her [Mary] **to his own home.**

John/Peter had a Playful/Competitive Relationship

John 20:4 ...they both ran together, and the **other disciple outran Peter** and came to the tomb first.

John caught a glimpse of Jesus Deity

Luke 9:28 [Jesus] took Peter, **John**, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.

Jesus called John while John was *still a Son of Thunder*
Angry/Impulsive/Unloving

Romans 5:8b ... God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Ephesians 2:4 ...**you He made alive**, who **were dead** in trespasses and sins ...**4 But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, **made us alive** together with Christ

1 John 4:9 ...**10 In this is love**, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation [wrath taker] for our sins.

Are you a great sinner? Jesus is a Greater Savior

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**, of whom I am chief.

Jesus transformed John: From Anger/Impulsiveness
To having an Unwavering/Unrelenting Fervent Desire to Love Others

- **Only Jesus can...**

1. **Change** a life of utter desperation/chaos to a life of Meaning/Purpose
2. **Change** Hatred to Love/Darkness to Light/Death to Life Eternal
3. **Change** a Zeal for a fist fight into a Passion for the Good Fight

That's what Jesus does...
That's what John wants to tell us in His Gospel

John 20:31... these [words] are written **that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,**
the Son of God, and that believing you **may have life in His name.**

God's desire/John's desire/Our desire is that all people are saved. Period.

1 Timothy 2:3 ...God our Savior, 4 who **desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.** 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus...

- Knowledge of the truth followed by bowing to the truth followed by Salvation

John's Gospel includes specific accounts from Jesus Life
IOWs God-picked verses specifically to lead readers to Faith/Salvation in Jesus

- **John does not include...**

1. Jesus Virgin Birth/Baptism
2. Jesus Temptation
3. Confrontations w/Demons
4. Teaching in Parables
5. The Last Supper
6. Sermon on the Mount
7. Transfiguration
8. Agony in Gethsemane
9. Jesus Ascension

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| 1. Gospel of Matthew | Jesus as King | Jews |
| 2. Gospel of Mark | Jesus as Servant | Romans |
| 3. Gospel of Luke | Jesus as Man | Gentiles |
| 4. Gospel of John | Jesus as God | To All |

IOWs Every Account in Johns Gospel has One Purpose
To Lead Readers to Faith/Salvation in Jesus

John begins with who Jesus is...
Jesus is God

I. Jesus the Eternal Word

1 In the beginning **was the Word...**

Before any/all beginnings *was the Word*
IOWs the Word is Eternal

- **Word:** gr. *Logos*

Logos to the Jews: Jewish Rabbis at times referred to the *Word of God* a *God Himself*

Logos to the Greeks: Power that made sense of world/Set world in order/Kept it going. Translated as word/speech/principle/thought. Also referred to a universal, divine *reason* or *the mind of deity*.

Logos: Greek philosopher Her-ac-litus first used the term Logos around 600 B.C. to designate the *divine reason* or plan which coordinates a changing universe. Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy [2nd ed. Heraclitus, 1999]

Logos: Communication from God to man and the causation of all Creation. E.g. God said, "Let there be Light **and there was Light**" [NJC]

Logos: In John, denotes the essential Word of God, Jesus Christ, the personal wisdom and power in union with God and His administration in creation and governance of the universe, the cause of all the world's life both physical and ethical, Who for the procurement of man's salvation put on human nature in the person of Jesus the Messiah, the second person in the Godhead, and shone forth conspicuously from His [Jesus] words and deeds. [GQ]

Logos: God's expression of Himself to Mankind [Halley's]

IOWs The Word is Jesus who was sent to Communicate God to man
God's Word/Mind made Flesh seen Walking the dusty streets of Isreal

John 1:14 And the **Word became flesh** and **dwelt among us**, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, **full of grace and truth**.

The Mind of God connecting/communicating to man by the living Word of God within all Jesus words and actions. Divine reason [as Greeks might interpret] has now become flesh. [NJC]

Eternality of Jesus Christ: Always was. Always has been. Never did was not.

In the beginning was the Word [Logos]
IOWs Before any/every beginning Jesus *already was*

1b...and the Word was with God...

- **With:** gr. *pros*: Implies personal relationship but also equal status [NKJV Study]

With/Pros: Father and Son in loving relationship with one another. Neither One coming into being but always having been. The Eternal Father and Son have always been and never have not been. They always were, they always are and they always will be as are all Three Persons withing the Godhead. [NJC]

- **Trinity:** One God revealed in three persons... Not modalism; i.e. changing modes. Heresy.
- God the Father/God the Son/God the Holy Spirit

1 John 5:7 ...there are **three that bear witness** in heaven: the **Father**, the **Word**, and the **Holy Spirit; and these three are one.**

Here 2 of 3 Persons of the Trinity: Father and Son
In the beginning was God the Son who has always been *with* God the Father

- In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God...

1c...and the Word was God.

And the Word/Logos/Jesus was God. Period.

The understanding of Jesus being God is what designates/separates true born-again Christians from every cult, religion, ism and philosophy on earth today or at any time in human history. [NJC]

John 8:24 ... if you do not believe that **I am He**, you will die in your sins."

- **Unbelieving Jews:** Our father is Abraham!

John 8:56 Your father Abraham **rejoiced to see My day**, and he saw it and was glad." 57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have **You seen Abraham?**" 58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I AM.**"

Before Abraham I AM
Jesus existed/revealed Himself before His incarnation in Bethlehem

- **Pre-incarnate** appearances of Jesus
 1. **Commander of the Army** of the LORD in Joshua
 2. **Fourth man** in the Furnace in Daniel
 3. **Third man** visiting Abram before Sodom in Genesis
 4. **Wrestler** with Jacob in Genesis
 5. **Melchizedek** communing w/Abram in Genesis in 2000 BC. Abram rejoiced

500 yrs before Abraham...In 1500 BC
Jesus was the voice of God/Logos from the Burning Bush to Moses...

Exodus 3:2 And the **Angel of the Lord** appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." 4 So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, **God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!"** ...13 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" 14 And God said to Moses, **"I AM WHO I AM."**

I AM the I AM who spoke from the Burning Bush
Before Abraham I AM. Before Moses I AM. Before Adam I AM

Micah 5:2b ... Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.

The Jews knew Jesus what Jesus was saying...Claiming to be God...

John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, **making Himself equal with God...**
21 For as the **Father raises the dead and gives life** to them, even **so the Son gives life to whom He will**. **22** For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, **23** that **all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.**

- **God the Father/God the Son:** Grant Eternal Life/To be Worshiped

In the beginning was the Word/The Word was with God

2 He was in the beginning with God.

Before any/all beginnings began the Word was with God
Jesus is the Word

3 All things were made through Him, and **without Him nothing was made that was made.**

Before anything Jesus was
At the beginning of everything Jesus was the Creator

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** 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.

- **God Created:** heb. *Elohiym* plural; 1 God revealed in 3 Persons. Father/Son/Spirit

Genesis 1:26 Then God [*Elohiym*] said, "**Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness**

Who is the Creator? Father/Son or the Holy Spirit?

- **God the Father:** In the beginning **God created** Gen 1:1
- **God the Son:** All things were **made by Him**/ Without Him nothing made John 1:2
- **God the Holy Spirit:** Hovering above the face of the waters at Creation Gen 1:2

Psalms 104:30 [God the Spirit] You send forth Your Spirit, **they are created**; And **You renew the face of the earth.**

Psalms 33:6 [God the Spirit] **By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath [Spirit/ heb. *Ruwach*] of His mouth.**

Colossians 1:15 [God the Son. Logos] He is the **image of the invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation. **16** 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. **17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.**

- **First:** Jesus is God
- **Second:** Jesus is Creator

Jesus the Word. Jesus the Logos
Before all Beginnings. With God. Is God.

Jesus the Creator of All Things
Nothing was ever made apart from what Jesus spoke into existence

- Heavens/Earth/Planets/Stars/Solar Systems
- Mountains/Desserts/Babies and puppies....

All Intimately/Intricately Designed Fashioned in Love

Psalms 139:13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for **I am fearfully and wonderfully made;** Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. 17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

- Together w/the angels let us worship Jesus through His Word

Worship Jesus as the Creator of All Things
Worship Jesus as the Sustainer of All things...Lets stand and worship Him

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 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;** 3 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

Jesus the One who Creates/Sustains the Universe/Forgives our Sin
Jesus the One to be Worshiped w/the Father through the Spirit and by all Creation

...5 [Cont.] [Context: Jesus] For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? 6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: **"Let all the angels of God worship Him."** 7 And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire." 8 But to the Son He says: **"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;** A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions." 10 And: "You, Lord, in the **beginning laid the foundation of the earth,** And the **heavens are the work of Your hands.** 11 They will perish, but **You remain;** And they will all grow old like a garment; 12 Like a cloak You will fold

them up, And they will be changed. But **You are the same**, And Your years will not fail."

Jesus Christ is the same Yesterday, Today, and Forever. Heb. 13:8

John 1:1-3: John reveals what we must believe about Jesus to be saved
#1 Jesus is the Eternal God. #2 Jesus is the Creator of All things. Period.