

Story #8 - The Hinge of History

Memorize John 1:1-18

The **Hebrew Scriptures**, commonly called the **Old Testament**, are the essential foundation for the **New Testament**. While the terms "old" and "new" often imply that the former is outdated and the latter is a superior replacement, this perception is sadly inaccurate and leads many, including Christians, to neglect the Old Testament.

The Bible, though not a technical history book, presents accounts of actual events spanning approximately 6,000 years. The history of humanity recorded in the Bible has never been proven false; in fact, **scientific and archaeological discoveries continually affirm the precision of its inspired authors.**

In the early years of the Church, the Hebrew Bible was the only Scripture available. After His resurrection, Yeshua (Jesus) appeared to His disciples, as recorded in Luke 24, and explained all that the **Tanakh** (Law, Prophets, Writings) foretold concerning His first coming.

John's prologue (1:1-18) explicitly connects the Hebrew Bible to the life of Jesus, the Messiah. Memorizing and quoting this entire passage as a story helps validate the Bible's historical narrative, making God's story the account of mankind's HIStory.

Main Talking Points

1. The **Word** (*Logos / Memra*) became a visible man of flesh and blood.
2. Humanity, in general, **did not recognize** Jesus as the Light of the World.
3. Jesus' own people, **Israel, rejected** Him as their Messiah.
4. Some individuals, both Jews and Gentiles, **recognized and believed** in Him.
5. Those who believed **received salvation** and became the **children of God**.

Things To Think About

Davar --> **Memra** --> **Logos** --> **Word**
Hebrew Aramaic Greek English

Abstract vs Concrete: The **Word** in John 1:1 is translated from the Greek **Logos**. While Greek philosophy viewed the *Logos* abstractly, (logic / reason), John—a Jewish fisherman—thought in distinctly Jewish ways. By the time of Jesus, Rabbinic Judaism utilized the Aramaic term **Memra**, which equals the Hebrew **Davar** (Word), to express concrete concepts about God's active presence.

“Memra” was a theological term used by Rabbinic Judaism to refute the growing absorption of abstract ideas within Greek philosophy/religion in the world of the Jewish people and their faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

1. Same As / Distinct From God
2. Agent of Creation
3. Agent of Salvation
4. Visible Manifestation of God
5. Agent of Revelation
6. Seal of the Covenants

Notes:
