

John 1:1-18 – 1 February 2026

“Our God Of Light & Life Descends”

Introduction

*In the early 90s AD, John the Apostle wrote his eyewitness account of interacting with Jesus our Lord

*This is brother to James, Son of Zebedee, writer of 3 more letters and the Book of Revelation

*The only Apostle to escape martyrdom, though he was greatly tortured (boiled in oil)

*Synoptics vs John

*Synoptics many actions vs. John's Gospel has long discourses

*Synoptics many parables vs. John's Gospel has metaphors about Jesus

*Synoptics focused in Galilee vs. John's Gospel focused in Jerusalem

*Genealogies – John focuses us on Jesus' divinity

*John Opens describing our great God that's descended to bring His Light & Life

Today, we begin with 3 things God has established thru Jesus for us

#1 – The Word of Life Instituted Creation (Vs 1-5)

Read Vs 1:1-2

1. “In the beginning” – Just as Genesis doesn’t attempt to explain *the beginning* neither does John
2. Notice, the *Word* is the very same thing as God
 - a. Just need further identification of *the Word*
 - b. Becomes abundantly clear the Word is Jesus
3. *Word* is logos, not rhema (spoken word), not graphe (written word), but logos meaning all words
 - a. Logos = message or reason behind the word

Read Vs 3

1. It’s impossible to see this as anything other than the Creator God spoken of in Genesis
 - a. Read Col 1:15-16
2. Notice it says made by *him* not *them*
 - a. Don’t let the Jehovah’s Witness tell you vs 1 should read, “and the Word was *a* God” – lie

- b. The Word and the Creator God are one God

Read Vs 4-5

1. The Word, Jesus, doesn't just contain life & light, but He's the only source of life and light
 - a. **Life** isn't just *bio*, it's *zoe* = principle of life
2. Without a relationship with our Creator, Jesus the Word, there is only death and darkness
 - a. For *unbelievers*, the earth is as close to life/light as they'll ever be
 - b. For *believers*, the earth is as close to death/darkness as we'll ever be
3. "Overtake" = When Jesus, who is the Word, who is Light, came into the world, the darkness could be nothing to Him

#2 – The Witness of Light Instituted a Decision Point (Vs 6-13)

Read Vs 1:6-8

1. Though John was sent by God, he's not the centerpiece of God's activity

- a. Word, the Life, the Light Jesus is the center
2. John is a **witness**, one who testifies of another
 - a. Though John was the first witness, we are in a long line of many more (Read Act 1:8)
 - b. The word **witness** is *marturia*
 - i. To be a witness for Jesus costs something
 - ii. It cost John his life
3. Notice the goal of witnessing for Jesus is so others **believe** on Him
 - a. Are you willing to **expend** so that others may **gain** life?

Read Vs 9-11

1. In chapter 3 we'll get into all the reason for this rejection, but for now we see, the Light is rejected
2. If a creation doesn't receive its creator – there has been corruption of one or the other
 - a. If son rejects father – at least one is corrupt
 - b. If a painting is rejected of its painter – at least one is corrupted
3. We'll come to see the perfection of Jesus, so this speaks of the corruption of mankind

- a. Jesus had the right to be received as if coming home – but wasn't

Read Vs 12-13

1. This is the whole Gospel
 - a. Those that believe & receive the witness of who Jesus is are born into God's family as kids
 - b. Believing give us the authority (*exousia*) to call ourselves a child of God
2. Now what was the process that made us born into the family?
 - a. "Not of blood" – Not the natural process from birth parents
 - b. "Not flesh's will" – Not by my will power
 - c. "Not man's will" – Not another's decision
 - d. "But by God" – We can say "by God I'm born again"!
 - i. When arriving in eternity and asked, "How did you arrive in God's family", the only right answer is in the 3rd person. "He..."

#3 – The Worthy One of the Law Instituted Grace (Vs 14-18)

Read Vs 1:14

1. “The Word became flesh & dwell among us”
 - a. Jesus is the Word, the Creator Himself
 - b. Jesus dwelt with us, as one of us
 - c. The Highest One became low like us
2. Jesus’ substance (glory) is same as the Father
 - a. Read Heb 1:1-3a
3. Though Adam & Jesus are both Sons of God b/c they came directly from God, only Jesus was begotten
 - a. Adam was created w/ an uncorrupted human nature
 - b. Jesus was born of God & humanity; w/ a human nature *and* the nature of God
4. Though Col 1 and Rev 1 speak of Jesus being the ‘1st begotten of the dead’, this verse speaks of Jesus being the only begotten Son of God
 - a. 1st begotten of the dead – is the 1st raised to everlasting life
 - b. Only begotten of the Father – is the only one born straight from God

5. Jesus is full of *grace and truth*
 - a. Mosaic Law is the complete picture of *truth*
 - b. Yet Jesus also offers *grace*—unmerited favor
 - c. Read Psm 116:5 – How can both be truth?
 - d. Jesus lived truth, died & rose b/c He was truth then graciously offers us His life
 - e. Read Psm 85:9-11 – The righteous God of heaven is born as a man & springs up from the earth to offer us His grace

Read Vs 15

1. John again emphasizes that Jesus is greater specifically b/c He existed since eternity

Read Vs 16-17

1. We know the truth...it is the Mosaic Law
 - a. God's Law is perfect converting the soul
2. We can now receive grace...it is given by Jesus
3. Now what is the quality of this grace?
 - a. It's inexhaustible grace—there's no end to it
 - b. Jesus has a *plethora* of grace - literally

Read Vs 18

1. Isn't about visions in heaven like Isa & Eze
 - a. People bring up Moses – God put Moses in rock's cleft & passed by to see God's after glow
 - i. This is like being shielded from the sun
2. Emphasis here is - it's *only thru the Son* Jesus that you can have God the Father revealed to you
 - a. In John 14:8 Philip asked Jesus to show the Father and Jesus replied, 'If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father'

Conclusion

So look what God has established & instituted

1. **The Word of Life Instituted Creation**
2. **The Witness of Light Instituted A Decision Point**
3. **The Worthy One of the Law Instituted Grace**

Read Psm 119:105 – Jesus is the Word, Jesus is our Light – Our God has come to with the Sword of the Word – to make everyone decision – will you choose grace?