

## **That You May Have Life In His Name**

John 1:1-5

Pastor Matt Dean

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

(Jn 1:1–5).

>> Illustration: the very real challenge of explaining the Trinity to children... and even for us as adults.

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God

*"But how sadly incapacitated are we for meditating upon the relations which exist between the different Persons of the Godhead. "And God was the word." Not only was Christ the Revealer of God, but He always was, and ever remains, none other than God Himself. Not only was our Savior the One through whom, and by whom, the Deity expressed itself in audible terms, but He was Himself co-equal with the Father and the Spirit.... Christ, as the Word, reveals the attributes and perfections of God. How fully has Christ revealed God! He displayed His power, He manifested His wisdom, He exhibited His holiness, He made known His grace, He unveiled His heart. In Christ, and nowhere else, is God fully and finally told out. (Arthur Pink)*

### **In The Beginning**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.  
(Ge 1:1–2)

**15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.  
(Col 1:15–17)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— **2** the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— **3**  
(1 Jn 1:1–3)

**13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."  
(Re 22:13)

In the beginning –

God was never created, but has always existed.

Jesus was never created, but has always existed – and all things were created through him and for him. The Spirit of God was never created, but has always existed with the Father and the Son.

**... was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (lit. “God was the Word”).**

The Word **λόγος**

(a title for Jesus in the Gospel of John as a reference to the content of God’s revelation and as a verbal echo of the use of the verbs meaning ‘to speak’ in Genesis 1<sup>1</sup>)

The Word - logos - would resonate with both the Jewish and Greek audience in the first century. The Greek mindset would see the kosmos / universe as a place of order and the logos is the reason why order exists. The Jewish perspective held to creation was through the “let there be” speech “word” of God.

This Word of God - with God - was God – and reveals the power, authority, and will of God. The Word speaks and thus what is spoken exists and is sustained by the word of His power.

RC Sproul summarized John 1:1 like this – John is saying from the beginning “The One I’m going to tell you about, the One in whom there is life, the One in whom I want you to believe, is the One who created you in the first place. Nothing was made apart from Him.”

- <sup>4</sup> For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.<sup>5</sup> He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. <sup>6</sup> By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.  
(Ps 33:4–6)

In Genesis 1 we see God said:

Let there be light – and there was light.

Let there be sky and there was sky.

Let there be land and there was land.

Let there be seas and there were seas.

Let there be plants and animals on the land and in the seas and this came to be.

Let there be lights in the sky, stars and moons, suns and planets – and it was so.

And then God said...

- <sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”  
(Ge 1:26–28).

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<sup>1</sup> Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996).

**<sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.**

- <sup>5</sup>For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— <sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist  
(1 Co 8:5–6)
- Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>  
(Heb 1:1–4)

“Everything that can be said about God the Father can be said about God the Son. In Jesus dwells all the wisdom, glory, power, love, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth of the Father. In Him, God the Father is known.” (Boice)

**<sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men.  
(Jn 1:4)**

- <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.  
(1 Jn 5:11–13)
- <sup>12</sup> Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.  
(Jn 8:12)
- <sup>46</sup> I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.  
(Jn 12:46)

**<sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.  
(Jn 1:5) (darkness → the realm of sin and evil, the evil world)**

This Word of God – Jesus – is powerful, and if you think darkness can overcome the light, I want to remind you of what is true. The cross wasn’t the end. Jesus wasn’t buried and forgotten about. Jesus put death to death and offers eternal life to those who trust him.

**The Rider on a White Horse**

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. <sup>13</sup> He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

(Re 19:11–16)

### For God So Loved the World

- <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.” (Jn 3:16–21)

### What do we see today?

- God has always eternally existed. Father, Son, Holy Spirit. We have eternal life because He is eternal. He always has been and He always will be. We are alive because He says so. We are redeemed because He chose to do so. We are His because He chose us and loves us.
- The Word of God is powerful. The Word of God is Jesus. The word of the Lord is upright. The word of the Lord made the heavens and earth and all we can see in creation. Creation is sustained by the word of His power. God speaks words and these words are true, definitive.
- *“John calls Jesus the Word because he had come to see the words of Jesus as the truth of God and the person of Jesus as the truth of God in such a unified way that Jesus himself — in his coming, and working, and teaching, and dying and rising — was the final and decisive message of God. Or to put it more simply: what God had to say to us was not only or mainly what Jesus said, but who Jesus was and what he did.” John Piper*
- All of creation is because of Jesus. We are because of Jesus. He made us for himself. We are made in his image and likeness. In Jesus is light and life – His light and life has come into a dark and dying world to bring light and eternal life. The light shines in the darkness – and this is what you need to know. The darkness has NOT overcome it. If you are facing darkness or feeling like you live in a broken world – it’s true. We do live in a dark and dying world, but that evil and that darkness has not overcome Jesus. Light shines brightest in the darkest nights.
- Imagine if God had chosen not to intervene, imagine that life was only the “here and now”, that forgiveness and grace and mercy didn’t exist, that right and wrong was up to man, imagine if love was defined only by humanity, imagine if there wasn’t life after death on earth...
- But God did choose to intervene – and He made that choice before the world was created. He chose you before the foundation of the world to belong to Him. He chose you to be holy and blameless before Him and He made sure your holiness and blamelessness would be because of your trust in Jesus. He determined that there is more than the here and now of life on earth, He determined that for we could be alive forever, that we will have eternal life by grace through faith in Jesus, He determined that we would be for the praise of His glory.
- What does it mean to have life in His name? It means we believe this.

