

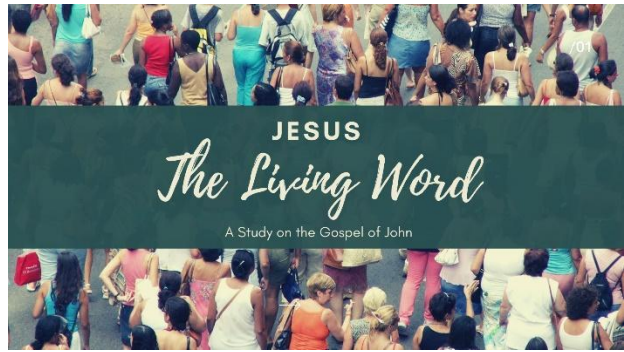
Study: "Jesus the Living Word"

A Study on the Gospel of John

Instructor: Pastor Damian Mericka

Week 2: Gospel of John 1:1-5

Study Notes Jesus- the Word of God



**John 1:1-18. The Prologue.**

- o In the first 18 verses John sets out to provide a map of what will be navigated throughout his narration- particularly that of Jesus being the Messiah and the Son of God. This is central to this Gospel and is developed through terms often used such as life, light, witness, glory, etc. John will build the case with simple yet profound terms that reach beyond the context of creation to the eternal existence of Jesus as part of the Triune God. Jesus is God.

**John 1:1. In the Beginning.**

- o John begins with a reference to the Pentateuch, **Genesis 1:1**. Beginning refers to the creation of life as we know it. Creation of our world; of human beings. *Logos*, the Greek for *Word*, is shown to exist before and independent from the Creation. We refer to this as eternity past.
- o **Was (Greek *eimi*) the word** is used to describe a continuing into from one thing to another. In the imperfect tense here, we see from the Word comes forth creation; the Word is not created but creation comes from the Word.
  - To the Greek audience this connect to the "higher / unknown" philosophical appeal to reason and order.
  - To the Hebrew audience this connects to the "thus sayeth the Lord" phrases networked throughout the entire Old Testament governing their thoughts and actions in accordance with God's Holy character.
- o **The Word was with God (Greek *pros ton theon*)**, the idea of *face-to-face*. John is showing this *logos* shares in the same divine essence as the Father, not as an attribute but Person. It implies deep, personal, and intimate fellowship.
  - **See -> Deuteronomy 34:9-12**
- o **The Word was God. (Greek *theos en ho logos*)** John holds nothing back with this statement. There can be no misunderstanding. Jesus is Deity. Jesus is God.

**John 1:2-5**

- o **V.2** John further develops what our Triune God did through the *logos*; together Creation and life flowed forward through the *logos*.
- o **V.3** From this point forward, the Deity of Jesus is meant to be a given for the narration onward. We see God created all things through the *logos*; Himself the source. Were made, or came into being is the Greek *ginomai*, contrasted with *eimi*. Jesus is not a created being, but the eternal being from which creation (including man) comes forth from.
- o **V.4 Life (Zoe)** is used by John to refer to spiritual life, from which the light is sourced. After sin came into the world, God's Curse over sin, and death we see the Eternal Life stepping into the dark world radiating the light of Eternal Life.
  - **See -> Psalm 36:9 / Luke 20:38**
- o **V.5** The ESV best translates this as *overcome* rather than *comprehend*. It is the idea of not only resisting but trying to put the light out. All through Scripture we see the enemy, Satan trying to stop the Messiah from coming and atoning for sin.
  - **See -> Romans 1:18-21**

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." -**John 20:31** **ESV**

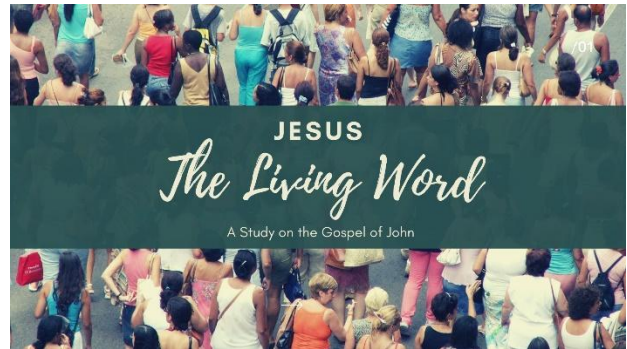
Cornerstone Bible Study Series

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### **Deeper Questions for Application**

- 1) *What do the first 18 verses of John 1 present to the reader? Does each generation have the option of interpreting Jesus for themselves?*
- 2) *How does John 1:1 mirror Genesis 1:1? Why does John use the word logos (Word)? What meaning did this word have for Gentiles? For Jews?*
- 3) *Is Jesus God? Explain His Deity through John 1:1-3.*
- 4) *What does John mean when he refers to Jesus as life and light?*
- 5) **BONUS:**
  - a. *What does **was with God (pros ton theon)** mean and who was a type / example of this in the Old Testament?*
  - b. *What is the difference between eimi and ginomai? Which one describes Jesus? Which one describes us? Why is this important?*

\*Type your answers and send them to me at [damianmericka@live.com](mailto:damianmericka@live.com) or attach through facebook messenger. **\*For Next Time read John Chapter 1 (full chapter).**