

The author of John's Gospel was John the Apostle who was the brother of James (Matthew 17:1), and the son of Zebedee (Mark 1:19-20.) (It has been argued that he was not the author, but the arguments are weak.) He was on the inner circle of apostles. He went up to the Mount of Transfiguration with Christ. He was in the room when Christ resurrected the dead girl. He was with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. He went into the city with Jesus at the time of his crucifixion. He also wrote First, Second and Third John and the book of Revelation. He is the only apostle that wasn't martyred, but he was exiled to the rocky island of Patmos, where he lived for a year and a half and was inspired by God to write the book of Revelation. (The word revelation means the uncovering, or the unveiling of something hidden.) So, John knows a lot about the person of Christ. He was a rugged individual, but when God got through with him, he had a heart of love that surpasses what most of us understand.

The first three New Testament gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke are referred to as the synoptic gospels. Synoptic comes from a word that means to look alike or look the same as, or similar to. The gospel of John is different. It stands alone. The book of Matthew was written to the Jews, who were religious men, and presents Jesus Christ as the coming Messiah. Mark was written to the Romans and was written to portray Jesus Christ as a servant to mankind. Luke wrote to the Gentiles and portrayed Jesus as human.

John wrote to the world, and he portrays Jesus Christ as God. The whole time Jesus was on earth he was all God and he was all man. In theological terms this is known as the hypostatic union. As God, he could have spoken the world out of existence, but he chose not to. Jesus set aside the rights of being God while he was on the earth. For example, when the disciples asked Him, "*When is the Second Coming going to occur? When are you going to come back and set up your kingdom?*" He said, "*I don't know when that's going to happen, only my father in heaven knows.*" Did he know? Jesus laid aside the privilege of knowing that answer when he became a man. He emptied Himself and became a man. John writes about this process. The Gospel of John is the hardest gospel to understand. Matthew Mark and Luke talk about what happened, but John explains why it happened. For instance, me and you, and you and me, those are real small words, but what do they mean? That's big theology. The Gospel of John is the most complicated account of the gospel that we have.

The last verse in the book of John says this: *John 21:25* *Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.*

None of the gospels, (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) shows everything about Jesus Christ by themselves or even together. The things that are written are the things we need to know, not everything that he did. If you have the idea that Christ healed somebody over here then healed somebody over there and then healed someone over way over there, that's not the way he healed people. He healed **everyone** that came around. If there had been hospitals, as we have today, they would have been bankrupted by the time he got through.

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

In the beginning was the Word. We will find out as we go through this study, that the Word is another name for the person of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 19:11-13 *I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. (12) His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. (13) He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.*

There are many people in today's world who are named Jesus and the name Jesus was also a popular name in that time. The name Joshua is actually the name Jesus in Hebrew. But, there is only one Jesus who is the **Word**, and the only one who has died for your sins. You can believe in any Jesus you want to believe in, but if you don't believe in the one in this Bible, that's a serious problem because He's the only one who was able to die for your sins. The cults cannot understand this principle of Jesus. This is one of Satan's ways to deceive people in believing in the wrong Jesus. Paul talks about this when he says this: *2Corinthians 11:3-4* *But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (4) For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.*

In other words, the Corinthians thought it was okay to tolerate false teachers. Listen to me carefully when I say that the Jesus the Mormons believe in is not the Jesus Christ of the Bible. The Jesus the Jehovah's Witnesses believe in is not the Jesus Christ of the Bible, and the Jesus the Moonies believe in is not the Jesus of the Bible. The Jesus they believe in did not die for your sins. I have talked to many Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses. When I first decided to become a believer, I invited each group (separately) to come and explain what they believed in, because I did not know who had the truth. I wanted to know for sure what the truth was, so I spent time with each group. The Moonies were a different story. When I finally met one, and of course she wanted to sell me a flower, I asked, "*Do you believe that Jesus rose from the dead?*" She said "*Absolutely.*" I then asked: "*Do you believe he was the son of God?*" She said "Yes." We talked back and forth in a polite way, for perhaps 40 minutes, and I thought, Gee, I don't think they're right, but I'm not finding anything wrong here. Then I asked, "*Oh, by the way, do you believe that Jesus Christ was God?*" She answered - "*No, he was just a man.*"

Folks, that's not the Jesus in the Bible The one they believe in will send them to hell. Read what Paul writes in [Galatians 1:8-9](#) *But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!* [anathema - damned to go to hell] (9) *As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!*

That's how serious it is that we only believe in **this** gospel. [Acts 4:12](#) *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

In the beginning was the Word, and we know that the Word is Jesus Christ. Matthew starts his account of the gospel with the ancestry of Joseph, the stepfather of Jesus Christ. Mark begins with Jesus' public service. Luke begins with the ancestry of Mary, his biological mom. But not John. John says *In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

The 'beginning' as written by John is not a point in time, like the beginning of creation, but a beginning that had no beginning! In other words, the Word and God has had eternal pre-existence instead of coming into being. God existed before any creation. It has been described as the eternity preceding time. The beginning in John 1:1 is not the beginning in Genesis 1:1, which was the beginning of creation - the heavens and the earth. This will always be a mystery to us as humans, as our finite minds cannot understand infinite concepts.

I believe the Bible indicates that there is a tremendous time gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2,. Some Christians believe this earth is only six thousand years old and that they get that from the Bible, but it's not in the Bible. *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.* When did he do that? We don't know, because verse two says: "*and the earth **became** without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep.*" I checked last week and the cosmologists believe the Earth is 73 billion years old. This week it must be 73 billion and one week old! Twenty years ago, they thought the earth was only 2 billion years old. Wow, how time flies. But I believe the earth is older than any number we can think of because God has been here forever. I don't know when he made it, but it could be zillions of years old. Scientists theorize the universe's age by calculating how old light is. I say they don't know how old light is they just think they do. When they calculate it one way the age is 73 billion years, but when they calculate it another way the answer is only 19 billion years, so I think they just don't know. The truth is, God has always existed. Think back as far as you can, go back in your mind before time began, before God created the universe, before there was anything. Then go back that much farther again. If you wanted to drive a stake into something you could not, because there would be nothing to drive it into. (There would not even be a stake!) But, if you were able to scratch your line on something, Jesus Christ would have already been the Ancient of Days at that point in time.

In the beginning, (past tense) was the Word. Jesus Christ has always existed. People come to me and they say "*I don't believe in the Trinity, how can there be a Trinity?*" That's a small problem compared with the fact that God has no beginning. In my way of thinking, everything has to start somewhere. But you see, God isn't like us. With Him, everything does not have to start somewhere.

We just can't grasp how big he is. In Genesis 1:1 there are two things that are very noteworthy in their absence.

Number one: God does not try to defend his own existence. Scripture says, *The fool has said in his heart, there is no God.* Every true evolutionist is a fool because they do not believe in God. Then there is theistic evolution, which is wrong. God reconstructed everything in six 24 hour days. When he brought solar days into the picture after the second day of creation, the language did not change, so these had to be 24-hour days. Everything was done in a week of 24 hour days, a week's work. Christ who has been gone 2,000 years, said "*I go to prepare a place for you. And when I'm ready, I'll come again and receive you unto Myself that where I am there you may be also.*" If what is described in Genesis is week's work, I cannot wait till I get to

heaven to see what 2,000 years of Christ's work looks like.

Number two: God does not put a date on the creation. We don't know when he did it, no one knows! Look at John 1:1 again. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* The intrinsic nature of who God is, says this: God is self-existent. Nothing else has any bearing on who he is. He is the only one who can define what he is, who he is and what he's done.

Have you thought about what it would be like if God were an angry God, a vindictive God? When I was a kid, I used to make models. When I got a little older, and I lived in the country (In the country, you could have guns and stuff.). I would build a model boat and float it out into a creek. Then I'd shoot it all to pieces and watch it sink. What if God was like that? What if God built man and decided to torture him? Or what if God changed and decided he didn't want you anymore? When was the last time you got on your knees and thanked God for who he is?

God, in the beginning, was the Word and the Word was with God. That tells us that not only is the *Word* Jesus, but however back your mind can go, Jesus was the Ancient of Days. There is also the fact that he was with God. He is a separate entity from the Father. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, the Father.

The Trinity is all through the Bible. They function as one, but Christ is one, God is one, and the Holy Spirit is one. This is beyond us. It's more than we can understand. For example, Galatians 1:1 says God **the Father** raised Jesus from the dead:

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—

Then we read in John that Jesus Christ said that he was going to **raise himself** from the dead:

John 2:13-22 When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. (14) In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. (15) So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. (16) To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!" (17) His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." (18) Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove

your authority to do all this?" (19) Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." (20) The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" (21) But the temple he had spoken of was his body. (22) After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

But then we read in Romans that the **Holy Spirit raised Jesus** from the dead.

Romans 8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

So, who really did raise Jesus from the dead? **God** did.

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Galatians 3:20 A mediator, however, does not represent just one party; but God is one.

I Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

God is one. God is a Trinity. You may ask, "How can that be?" I remember when Jehovah's Witnesses came to me, and brought their elders. (This was not when I was trying to learn about them but another time when they wanted to convert me.) I said, "I want you to know that I believe that Jesus Christ is 100%, man." They were surprised and said: "You do!? Then you believe just like we do." I responded: "Wait, I'm not through. I believe he's also God. One hundred per cent God." They asked: "Well, how can that be?" I answered: "I don't know, but just because I don't understand something, doesn't void the truth of it." God is too big for our understanding. God is one, but God is somehow more than one.

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning God [Elohim] created the heavens and the earth. (2) Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Elohim is a plural word for God. In the following passage God is refers to himself in the plural.

*Genesis 1:26-28 Then God said, "Let **us** make man in **our** image, in **our** likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." (27) So God created man in*

his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (28) God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Some folks say that "us" and "our," is referring to angels. However, verse twenty-seven, says *So God created man in His own image*, - the image of God, not the image of angels. What does this mean to us? It means that God is too grand to understand. I don't want a God that is so small that I can figure him out. We live in a dangerous world, and Satan, like a roaring lion goes about seeking whom he may devour. You have an enemy that would have destroyed you long ago if were not for God's protection. (It takes a big God to keep some of you safe.)

We serve a God who is incomprehensible. He is unfathomable.

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. (9) "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Do you know what that says? That says, when you think of God, in some irreverent, lackadaisical, or lethargic manner, when you try to bring God down to man's level, you sin in doing so. God is so grand, no one in with a right mind would ever use His name in vain. Only a fool (or someone acting like a fool) would do that. Our God is grand, he's great, and he is more than puny man can even begin to comprehend, and that is fantastic. I think life would be terribly boring if we could ever learn everything there is to know. After you have lived in heaven for one trillion years, you will have just scratched the surface of understanding who God is. There will always be things to know about God and we will just beginning to live when that time comes.

*In the beginning **was the Word**, and the Word was **with God**, [He was separate from him, not the same.] and the Word was God. Go back in time as far as you can, and then go back some more. He was already in existence then. Jesus Christ has always existed as Christ. (The name Christ means the anointed one. Jesus was his earthly name told to his mother Mary before his birth at Bethlehem.) *In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God. [He's the second member of the Trinity], and the **Word was God** or **is** God. I've had people tell me that nowhere does the Bible say that Jesus Christ is God? That's nuts! That's like arguing that the sun shines at midnight in the Sahara Desert.**

We read about Jesus' disciple Thomas when Thomas sees Him for the first time after the resurrection in John 20:24-29. (The other disciples had seen Jesus by then but not Thomas.)

John 20:24-29 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. (25) So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." (26) A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" (27) Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." (28) Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

[It has been said that Thomas was cursing or just taking the Lord's name in vain when he said, "My Lord and my God!", or that it was like an exclamation point. But Jesus did not correct him, because it was a true statement. Thomas was not cursing, he was not making an exclamation, he was stating the fact that Jesus Christ is God.]

(29) Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

How much do you comprehend about the person of Christ? I hope your comprehension is deeper now than it was when we began this study. Because our God is so big, he is so big, never ever, are you going to completely understand him. But if you begin to grasp the size of who God is you will not be a casual Christian. Your God is God. There are all kinds of gods out here, but they're not real gods.

1Corinthians 8:5-6 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), (6) yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

God is self-existent, and your God is really God. If you have put your trust in Christ, what has that done for your life? How has that changed you? If you haven't changed, I'm going to tell you that you still don't understand who he is.

The world has chosen a path to not to believe in God. We are a secular society. God spoke about this when men chose not to believe in the true and living God. They made animals god, they made people god. (The Romans turned Caesar himself into a god. When they were trying to unite the Roman government, they even turned his dog into a god!) If you go to India today, you will find a myriad of gods. Everything's a god over there.

God has had enough of This.

Romans 1:18-20 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, (19) since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. (20) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

In other words, all a person has to do is walk outside and look into space. He will see that somebody had to have created all this. God exists and he is magnificent. Man says "I believe it all came from nothing." They talk about how many billion light years it is from one side of the universe to the other and yet they say it started with nothing at all. Something just appeared from nothing. Man does not want to admit that someday he is going to stand before a holy, omnipotent God and give an account for his life.

Romans 1:21-28 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. (22) Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools (23) and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. (24) Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. (25) They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. (26) Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. (27) In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. (28) Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

The word depraved means corrupt, perverted, reprobate, undiscerning. The leaders of our country have been given over to a depraved mind, the world has been given over to a depraved mind. It is like putting what's right and wrong side by side and not being able to tell which one is right and which one is wrong. God has taken away our leaders ability to understand what is the right thing and what is the wrong thing to do in their decision making. Do want to know why they are making crazy decisions? Do you want to know why the world's starving? Would you like to know why cattle walk the streets in India while people are starving to death? It is because they've been given a depraved mind. They cannot see what's right and what's wrong. God has taken away that ability and he's judging the world today.

Romans 1:29-32 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, (30) slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; (31) they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. (32) Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

This describes movies, television and about everything that goes on in our society. My friend, if you're just an average person, you don't understand how big God is. You and I serve an awesome God. Each one of us one day, by ourselves, will stand before Him and give an account of our life. With that in mind, I say to each of you:

Ephesians 5:15-17 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, (16) making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. (17) Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

If you're a believer and you haven't been living as described in Ephesians, the good news is that God can start fresh with you today. He says if we draw a line in the sand, he will let us start over and he will be by our side. *If we confess our sins, He's faithful and just to forgive us of our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* Never again, if you're a believer, never again, live like a normal person. Never again take God lightly and his calling for you. God called you for a reason. You're here for a purpose.

If you are without Jesus Christ, there is no hope for you, outside of putting your trust in Him, I encourage you to do this where you are right now. You can turn to God and ask for him. Ask him to have mercy on your soul for Christ's sake and for what Christ has done for you, and he will do it. He is gracious, and he loves us, and is not willing that any man should perish, but that all should come to him. I want you to think about who you are. This business of life is serious. *In the beginning was a Word. Word was with God. The Word was God.*

Let's pray. Father, we thank you so much for your word for your spirit, revealing to us the tremendous truth about who you are. I pray that you will help us to never be the same again because of what your son has accomplished on the cross for us. We give you all the praise, the honor, and the glory forever and ever and ever. In Jesus name. Amen.