

The Book of Signs



I. The _____ Son of God

- ^{1:1} In the beginning was the Word, (_____)
 and the Word was with God, (_____ *but in relationship w/God*)
 and the Word was God. (*having the same _____ as God*)
- ² He was with God in the beginning. (_____ *preexistence and distinction from God*)

Why is Jesus called “The Word”? John chooses to explain who Jesus is using a term and concept commonly used his day among philosophers and religious teachers. This term was helpful to explain to both the Greek world and the Jewish world how Jesus is by *nature* God but a *distinct person* from God.

- The Greek term here for “word” (*logos*) was widely used in the Greek world to refer to the underlying principle of reason that pervaded the universe, a kind of impersonal, divine world-soul that originated, permeated, and directed everything (kind of like “the Force” in Star Wars). This concept of the *logos* was especially common among Stoics, the most popular philosophical school of the first century. See Heraclitus, *Fragments* 1; Diogenes Laertius, *Lives*. XII, 68; Tertullian, *Apology* 21.
- In Jewish thinking and writing, the concept of God’s “Word” and “Wisdom” had become personified almost like living things. In this usage God’s “Word,” while distinct from God, could also almost be spoken of like God himself. See Psalm 33:6; Proverbs 8:22; Wisdom of Solomon 18:15; Targum Onkelos on Exod 19:17.

Thus by using the term “Word” (*logos*), John can take a term familiar to his audience that expresses the starting point of all things and fill it with his own meaning to describe the preexistent Son of God. While the Greek philosophical *logos* is impersonal and all-pervading, Jesus is personal and loving and enters the world in a particular human form (John 1:14). While the Jews understood that God’s spoken “Word” were chiefly the Old

Testament Scriptures, Jesus as the “Word” was now the final and full expression of God (see John 1:17).

II. The _____ Son of God

- ³ Through him all things were made; (_____ *of creation*)
 without him nothing was made that has been made. (_____ *repetition*)

III. The _____ Son of God

- ⁴ In him was life, (*life = _____ life in John*)
 and that life was the light of all mankind. (*said of _____ in Ps 36:9*)
- ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, (_____ *of Gen 1:2-3*)
 and the darkness has not overcome* it. (_____ *meaning shows the complete failure of evil*)

(*NIV footnote: “or *understood*”)

The Bottom Line

- _____ Jesus as your _____, _____, and _____.
- ...by _____ Jesus the Son is by nature God but still a distinct person from the Father and the Spirit.
- ...by realizing Jesus is your _____ of _____ life—_____ is defeated!
- ...by delighting in Christ as the _____ that makes your _____.