

John Ch 1:1-5

The Person of Jesus Christ

When was it written? Not real sure, there's quite a little debate about that but it's a point of really no significance, one thing that seems to be agreed on is that it's the last of the gospels written most likely after all the other apostles were long since dead, even as late as 90 A.D. or a few years later. *Why* was it written? The answer is found very practically in Ch 20 where we read there, "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." John 20:30-31 and So John's primary focus isn't so much on chronology, or the order of events, but rather a selectivity of events, he was very careful in selecting the events that he records for us in the pages of this gospel. and The entire purpose of recording the event that he records is so that we might see Jesus as the God Man that He is and as such the Savior of the world that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing we might have life in His name.

You see, in the next Ch John wrote quite candidly, "*And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.*" John 21:25 So as we read this gospel we need to bear in mind that of the things recorded, the Holy Spirit inspired John to be very selective in the report that he gave. and So in many ways it varies from what are considered the "synoptic" gospels, which are Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The word "synoptic" means "see together", which means that those 3 records are written in the same basic format.

Though each has a different emphasis (you know, Matt showing Jesus as the Promised Messiah, Mark as the Suffering Servant, and Luke as the Perfect Man) they're in many ways very similar with many of the same scenarios shared from varying perspectives. and So as to where Matthew, Mark and Luke sort of focus more on what Jesus *taught and did*, John brings the focus in on a bit more of a personal level focusing on who Jesus *is*.

John's primary emphasis is to demonstrate the deity of Jesus, showing Him in fact to be God. Not an emanation from God, not a Christ like consciousness, or one like any of the other famed religious leaders throughout the years, but God Himself come in the flesh. and So the events that John includes in his record have been drafted to lead us to that conclusion.

So in the words of Jon Courson, "If you're looking for wise men, a star and a manger—you won't find them in John's Gospel. If you're looking for Pharisees, Publicans, Parables—don't look here. If you're looking for Jesus' baptism, wilderness temptation, or Gethsemane agony—turn to Matthew Mark or Luke. But if you're looking for the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection, the Way, the Truth, and the Life—look no further."

John doesn't focus on any of those things that our minds are drawn so readily to regarding the accounts of Christ, there's no lineage mentioned, no demoniacs, or debates with the Pharisees, we won't see Jesus' birth or baptism. John calls our attention to only 7 miracles in his record, now we know that Jesus did so many things that if they were written one by one, the world itself couldn't contain them. But it's as if someone said to John, "If out of all the magnanimous and miraculous things that transpired in Jesus life, there was only one message that you could send out about Jesus, and 7 signs to ratify your claim, what would they be?" The message was simple, "That Jesus Christ was God come in the flesh to shed His blood for the sin of the world." The signs may've taken some time, but after careful thought, and filing through the magnitude of miracles in his mind, John selected these 7 for our consideration.

Many of which lead into 1 of the 7 great "Ego Eimi" statements that Jesus made concerning Himself in this book. "Ego Eimi", what's that? It's Greek for "I Am", you recall when Moses was out tending his father in laws sheep and he received the call of God upon his life from the midst of the burning bush. God began to speak to him, and commission him to be the one who would lead the children of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt. and To make a long story short when push came to shove and God had squelched Moses' every excuse that he could think of in order to get out of it, Moses finally said, "*Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?*" Ex 3:13

You recall that that's when that now famous response came forth from the burning bush, "*I AM WHO I AM.*" And He said, "*Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'*" Ex 3:14 and We kinda read that and think, "I am.. what?" and It's as if Jesus comes along all these years later and finally fills in the blank. and Many of the miracles displayed in John's gospel lead into one of these statements, so that He feeds the 5,000 and thereafter shares with the multitudes who seek Him for bread, "*I am the bread of life.*" John 6:48 He's preparing to resurrect Lazarus from the dead and Martha is all panicking because of the situation and Jesus tries to tell her that he'll rise again, and Martha says, "I know he'll rise one day at the resurrection" "*Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.'*" John 11:25

So many of the miraculous things presented to us in this gospel revolve directly around or are seeking to give us insight into His person, the fact that He's God and that He came into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He came to satisfy man's hunger, give to man new life, be both the corrector and the protector of man as the Good Shepherd, to reveal to man that He was the only access to the Father as the door through which we must enter if we're to be saved.

So John has a very specific target he's aiming at through this account, and because of that it's probably the best tract you could ever have on hand, just purchase single little gospels of

John. Encourage people to invest a couple hours of their lives to just read it straight through and ask the Lord that if He's real to reveal Himself to them as they look into His Word. Not because it's the most simple gospel, as a matter of fact it's probably one of the more profound, but because it's been crafted very specifically to give people the assurance, and lead them to believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God, and that by believing they might have life in His name.

Now as for it's authenticity, to me we need to look no further than it's authorship, because as you study the scriptures you come into the realization that John was Jesus' cousin. They were family, probably played together as kids, trekked together to the various feasts growing up, and as family there's a unique perspective that's given to us so as to see the various members flaws and failures that others may never see. and I don't know about you, but I'm not to prepared to stand up and herald any of my cousins as God, and I'm quite certain they're not going to declare that of me! So by the very fact that Jesus' cousin was willing to stand up, leave everything he owned, his business, his dad, and follow Him and never turned back throughout his entire life. Call me shallow, but that's all the veracity, or authenticity I need, and though we're only going to look at the 1st 5 vs today, the introduction to the book is comprised in reality of the 1st 18 vs.

But we should also see them as more than an introduction, David Guzik says of this portion of the gospel of John, "This remarkable, profound portion is not merely a preface or an introduction. It is a summation of the entire book. The remainder of John's gospel will deal with the themes introduced here: the identity of the Word, life, light, regeneration, grace, truth, and the revelation of God the Father in Jesus the Son." So with that let's look at these 1st 5 vs together.

Vs1-5

(Vs1) F.B. Meyer makes this statement regarding this vs, "How amazing is the opening of this Gospel! The writer does not stay to introduce himself, to mention his name, or give proofs of his trustworthiness. With singular abruptness, with no attempt to substantiate his own claims or the claims of his marvelous treatise, he casts it into the teeming world of human thought and life." and I just love the audacity with which John casts forth the reality of who the person of Jesus Christ is, or as He's referred to in these vs; "The Word."

"Wait a minute", one may say, "How can you be certain that this reference to the Word is a reference to Jesus Christ?" Well, there's few references to Jesus as "The Word" in the scriptures, I'll give you the most blatant, and it's found in Rev 19:13 when this same John is

recording the Revelation of Jesus Christ and he's there seeing the 2nd coming of Christ. and He's seeing Him returning on a white horse and we read where he says there, "*He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.*" Rev 19:13 and I love that His name is, "The Word of God" because what is a word except that which gives both *revelation* and *communication*. Because if you and I stand face to face with one another, there's no way that you can know for certain what's taking place in my mind, and in my heart. Oh, you may try and discern certain things by the countenance of my face, but you can't be certain whether or not I'm angry, or frustrated, in a good mood or anything else. But if I begin to open up to you, and give you words, I begin to speak to you, then what happens is that my thoughts and my heart begins to spill out before you and you can know with certainty what's taking place with in me.

What does the bible say, "*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.*" Heb 1:1-2 The Word of God, Jesus Christ became flesh and dwelt among us, and by Jesus Christ (The Word of God) we can now know with certainty what's going on in the heart and mind of God. Jesus has given us both, *revelation* as to who God is, (being Himself the express image of God), and *communication* as to what God has to say to us today. He is the means and the mediator by which we can know God (The Father). How appropriate is His title as "The Word of God", the means of God's communication, and revelation to us.

Now in these 5 vs there is no less than a 5-fold "unveiling" (if you will) as to the person of Jesus Christ Sort of like looking at light through a prism that has revealed varying aspects of that light, these vs show us the "make up" (for lack of a better term) of Jesus Christ in a 5-fold way. If you take notes you might want to jot these down. In these vs that lay before us we see #1 "Jesus as Eternal", #2 We see the deity of Jesus, or, "Jesus as God", #3 in vs 3 we see, "Jesus as Creator", #4 in vs 4 we see, "Jesus as Life" and finally still in vs 4 we see, #5 "Jesus as Light".

#1 Jesus as Eternal, vs 1 begins, "In the beginning was the Word." As I mentioned earlier there's no human lineage of Christ given in the gospel of John because the focus of John is not Jesus' humanity, but rather Jesus' deity, His Godhood. and It's impossible to read this with out sensing the overtones of Gen 1:1, "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*" But what's amazing about this passage is that it actually stretches back to a point that precedes creation, so that it's not really a comparison to Gen 1:1 but rather a contrast. Because Gen 1:1 seeks to establish a point of origin, "In the beginning God *created* the heavens and the earth" it speaks of a specific point in eternity past when time began.

But what this is saying is that be that as it may, whenever it was that time and creation began, the Word was already. Notice it's not, "In the beginning is the Word" it's, "In the beginning was the Word." Or to understand it another way Jesus is not a created being as the

Jehovah's Witnesses assert, because at the point the very 1st aspect of creation was brought into being the Word already was.

This is a difficult aspect for us to comprehend because we're finite beings, we have a beginning and an end, the actual concept of eternity evades us, it's outside our ability to comprehend it. But if you can go back in your mind as far as your intellect will carry you, however many millions, or billions, or trillions upon zillions of years until you come to the vanishing point when you just can't fathom time beyond such a point. and What this is saying is that Jesus Christ comes out of eternity beyond that to meet you there, He has always been, He's the beginning of the beginning.

John begins his 1st epistle with similar words, "*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life.*" 1 John 1:1 Notice again the word "was", it's a past tense word. That's to say that from the beginning the Word already was, He lives from before that point, He's eternal, and it's critically important that we catch that point because how can anyone offer a life that's eternal, if they're a temporal, or a non-eternal being. My children won't be able to live forever physically, because I'm a temporal being, I can't pass on what I don't possess. So if Jesus is to give me eternal life, He must 1st be eternal Himself, and John is making this point clear right from the beginning, "In the beginning was The Word." He lives outside the confines of time and dwells in the realm of the eternal.

"and The Word was (notice) with God", so eternal in nature, Jesus has always been with God, He was not a created being, He has always been, even as the Father has always been. and Jesus was cognizant of that fact when He walked this earth, we read in John 17:5 where as Jesus prayed He said, "*And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*" The Word was with God, "Well," the skeptic might say, "If the Word was with God, then the Word must not be God." John's next statement clarifies the issue and makes for our 2nd observation, "The Word was God."

What's being said here? Maybe it would be better to ask the question, what's being *shown* here? We're beginning to see here that the Godhead is made up more than 1 distinct person, and John wants us to be clear on the fact that Jesus, though with the Father, and equal to the Father, is not the Father. and What's being given here is an insight regarding the Trinity, or the Tri-unity of God. God in 3-persons, now we know that $1+1+1=3$, but we also know that $1*1*1=1$, and so is the compound unity of the Godhead. 1 God, 3 distinct persons, and we see the fingerprints of the Trinity all throughout the scriptures. But if you wrack your brain on it for too long you'll just fry yourself, but the bible teaches emphatically that there's but 1 God, but reveals the reality of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all forming the compound unity of the Godhead, we serve 1 God, represented in 3 persons.

So #2, "Jesus as God", Jesus is as much God as the Father is God, or more plainly, Jesus is fully God, He said in John Ch 10, "*I and My Father are one.*" John 10:30 and We read that

the Jews wanted to stone Him for that statement, but “Jesus answered them, *“Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?”* *The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”* John 10:32-33 But Jesus didn’t “make Himself” God, Jesus is God, and He’s not going to deny the facts, then He would be untrue. and The bible recognizes Jesus as God over and over again, Paul the apostle in speaking of how God had blessed the nation of Israel put it like this, *“From whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.”* Rom 9:5, He tells us in Titus 2:13 that we are to be, *“Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”* In writing his 2nd epistle, Peter said, *“To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.”* 2 Peter 1:1 One more as John writes once again in 1 John 5:20 and says, *“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”*

I know that I’m giving you guys tons of scripture references today, (and there’s more to come) but I want you to really see the consistency in the scriptures pertaining to the person of Jesus Christ His *eternality*, His *equality with* God, His *essence as* God. To say, “The Word was with God” is not only to make a distinction in His person, but places an equality between them, they were there together, as was the Holy Spirit, but we know this is inspired because Jesus said that the Spirit would testify of Him. So the Holy Spirit in this passage isn’t seeking to establish Himself, but the person of Jesus Christ He’s testifying of Jesus, the Word who was *with* God and who *was* God. and If you look at the way vs 1 lays out in the Greek, the deity of Jesus becomes even clearer reading more literally in regards to this 3rd statement of vs 1. “And God was the Word.”

So that we see, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and God was the Word.” So that the emphasis establishes not who God is as the Word, but who the Word is as God. “God was the Word” it can’t be stated more definitively than that. The point is that to say, “God” and to say, “The Word” they’re synonymous terms, because God *is* the Word.

Vs 2-3

What do we see here #3 Jesus as Creator, 2 words to take note of in this vs and they’re words of direct antithesis, #1 “All” and #2 “Nothing”, every ounce of creation was made through Him, and with out Him nothing was made that was made. That’s a radical statement; anything you lay your eyes upon exists ultimately because Christ created it. Now again in Gen 1:1 we read, “In the beginning God created the heaven’s and the earth.” Isa 45:18 declares, *“For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: “I am the LORD, and there is no other.”*”

So the bible is very clear that God created all things, but yet here we’re reading that it was Jesus who made everything, do we have a discrepancy? No, we have harmony, because

Jesus is God, and if you look at the Hebrew word in Gen 1:1 or Isa 45:8 that's been translated "God" you find it's the word "Elohim" which is a plural form of the singular word for "God". Again speaking of the compound unity of the Godhead. So that when you read in Gen 1:26, "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.'" and You realize the Word God there is in the Hebrew "Elohim" suddenly it makes perfect sense as to why we read the words "Us" and "Our" in that passage as we're privileged to listen in on the divine counsels of the compound tri-unity of the Godhead.

The NT tells us that, "*God... created all things through Jesus Christ.*" Eph 3:9 and Again, "*For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is (notice) before all things, and in Him all things consist.*" Col 1:16-17 You might jot down Heb 1:2-3 and Rev 4:11 to go along with those as well. "All things were made through Him, and with out Him nothing was made that was made." How could Jesus Christ be a created being as the J.W.s assert if He made everything and with out Him nothing was made that was made?

I wish we had a little more time to consider this more fully, because when you begin to consider the awesomeness of creation, how the sun is 870,000miles in diameter, and over 1million earths could fit inside the sun and Jesus Christ created it all. But then when you think of the fact that the sun is merely a mediocre star at best it blows your mind. Because the star "Anteres" is 390 times the size of the sun, 64 of our suns could fit into Anteres which each hold over a million earths. If you had a rubber ball the size of Anteres and cut it in 1/2 you could place Venus, Mercury, Mars, the earth and the sun, inside of it all in their nature orbits around the sun and they'd never touch the inside of the ball. Now when you consider that the star "Hercules" could hold 100million stars the size of "Anteres" and that the largest known star, "Epsilon" could easily swallow up several million stars the size of Hercules, it begins to bake your brain.

Because where does that place you and me in the scope of things considering there's over 6 billion of us on the earth? Far from the spectacular things we like to think we are we're at best simply specks. It's no wonder why David under the inspiration of the Spirit would say, "*When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?*" Ps 8:3-4 How big is your God? How awesome is He? and Yet He became a man, just a speck in the universe in order that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, and that by believing you might have life in His name. Because notice vs 4(read).

#4 Jesus as life. Jesus said, "*For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.*" John 5:21 Now how can one give what one doesn't possess, Jesus Christ is the wellspring of eternal life, there are others who seek to promise life, through transcendental meditation, people seek life through Buddhism, Mohammed and all the

rest, but their efforts are futile because no one else can give you life. You see, they're dead, so if they promise me life, they're hypocrites, how can a dead man give true life? I can't offer life to anyone. But I can introduce you to the One who does. Jesus is the Way the Truth and the "Life", He the resurrection and the "Life", he who has the Son has, "Life" because Jesus is Life, and He is the exclusive way to the Father. and Finally #5 Jesus as Light, Jesus said, "*I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.*" John 8:12 The bible says, "*This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*" 1 John 1:5 Well which is it? Is God light or is Jesus, do we have a discrepancy? No, perfect harmony because Jesus is God, and He is light, the bible tells us He dwells in unapproachable light.

So Jesus is life and He is light, apart from Christ there is no life, merely existence, apart from Christ we're in the dark, blind, and with out a guide, and if you're blind, and you have no guide, that can only mean one thing; you're lost.

Now Jesus said regarding His going to the Father and His living in us, "*You are the light of the world.*" Matt 5:14 The point being that you and I are to let the light of Jesus Christ shine through us upon this dark world, we're to let people see Jesus in our lives. Because apart from Jesus Christ people are dead in sin, and blind to the truth, so let people see the reality of the person of Jesus Christ in your life, He is eternal, He is God, He is the Creator, He is life and He is light.

Vs5

People refuse to come to Jesus Christ because they love darkness rather than light, but if we walk in the light as He is in the Light, then we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. Jesus wants to cleanse your life fresh today, His mercies are new every morning, abide in the Light, maybe you've wandered off into darkness, come back to the light, abide in the light, the person of Jesus Christ

If you're walking in darkness having never surrendered your life to Jesus Christ the eternal God who created all things, you need to know that spiritually speaking you're dead in sin, having sinned against God. But God loves you so much that He came to this earth, the mere speck in the universe that it is, in the person of Jesus Christ and suffered the penalty of your sin, taking the responsibility for His creation upon the cross, dying in your place so that you might live forever. That you might believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God and that by believing you might have life in His name, and If God is tugging on your heart today, drawing you to the light of life, to His Son Jesus Christ, Don't harden your heart, surrender today, and you can leave here forgiven, you can leave here alive to God in Christ Jesus having received eternal life through Christ. The choice is yours.