



THE BACKSTORY: THE PROLOGUE

Lesson 3 for October 19, 2024

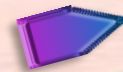


“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” John 1:1

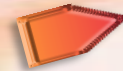
John does not refer to the circumstances of Jesus' birth. He is content to tell us that Jesus became incarnate. But before that, he tells us about the preexistence of Jesus, whom he presents as “*Logos*” (the Word), the Creator.

In the prologue of John's Gospel we see Jesus fully divine and fully human. God revealed to humanity. Pure light shining in the darkness of this world.

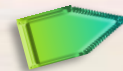
A Light that was accepted by some and rejected by others. Today, this Light continues to shine in the world. Will you receive it? Will you share with Jesus his glory?



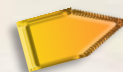
His divinity (John 1:1-5).



His humanity (John 1:14a).



His acceptance or rejection (John 1:9-13).



His glory (John 1:14b).

THE DIVINITY OF JESUS

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1)

John begins by declaring four fundamental truths about the Word, Jesus (Jn. 1:1-3):

- His preexistence (“in the beginning”)
- His intimacy with the Father (“was with God”)
- His divinity (“he was God”)
- His creative power (“all things were made through him”)

The apparent contradiction between these two statements is evident. Was he WITH God or WAS he God?

Let us analyze the Greek text grammatically:



“The verb was with **τον θεον** (the God)”

The article “the” defines a specific entity, a person called “God.” Jesus was with God the Father.

“**θεον** (God) was the Word”

Lacking a definite article, it refers to a concept. It declares Jesus’ divine nature. He is God. Likewise, it is said that “he became σαρξ (flesh)” (Jn. 1:14), without a definite article, declaring his human nature. He is man.

THE HUMANITY OF JESUS

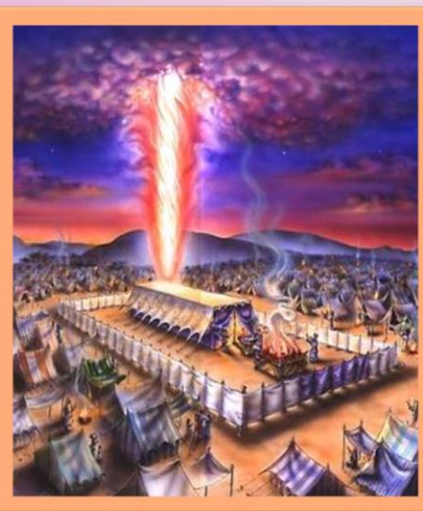
"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1:14 DRA)

Another Greek word we must keep in mind is the one John uses to refer to Jesus in his prologue: **λογος** . Its translation is: "Word." Jesus is the Word. What word?

The opening phrase itself brings to mind the first words of Genesis: "In the beginning God created" (Gen 1:1). And how did God create? With the word (Gen 1:3, 6, ...)

The New Testament repeatedly affirms that Jesus is the creator of all that exists. He is the Word who gave form and existence to the entire universe (Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16 ; Heb. 1:2).

In the Old Testament, the Creator expressed His desire to dwell among us (Ex. 25:8). Now, the Creator does so in physical form. He "dwelt" among us (literally, "camped," pitched His tent among us).



Almighty God left Heaven and became a powerless creature. Why? Because he loved these powerless creatures (us) so much that he wanted to free us from sin and give us a future at his side.

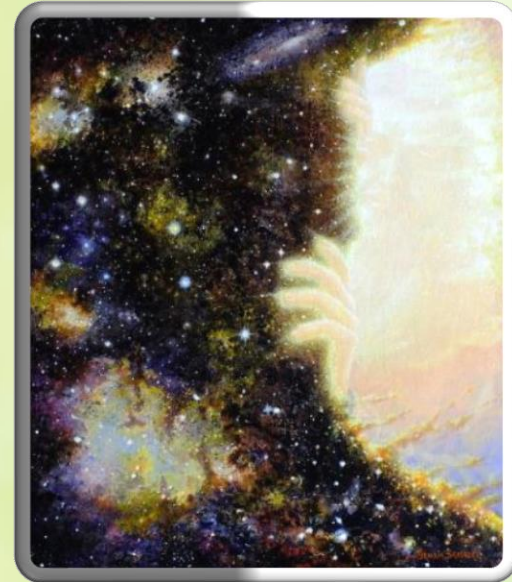


THE ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF JESUS (1)

"He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God"
(John 1:11-12)

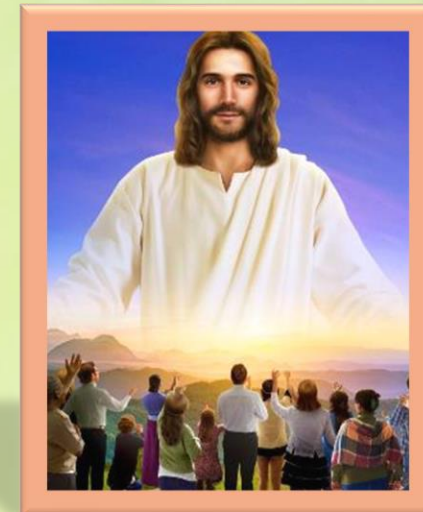
In the beginning, the world was surrounded by physical darkness (Gen. 1:2). Then, God—through His Word—physically illuminated the world, separating the light from the darkness (Gen. 1:3-4).

Now, God himself, in the person of Jesus (the Word), came to a world surrounded by spiritual darkness, to illuminate it with his light (Jn . 1:4-5).



But the world He created did not recognize Him, nor did it want to be enlightened by Him (Jn. 1:9-11).

However, not all rejected the light. Some received Him and accepted Him as their Savior.



The good news is that to all who received Him, and to all of us who believe in Him today, He gives us a beautiful gift: to become sons and daughters of God (Jn. 1:12).

THE ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF JESUS (2)

"Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God." (John 3:20-21)

In the Gospel of John, the division of humanity into two large groups is evident: those who accept and those who reject Jesus.



Those who accept

They are not condemned (Jn. 3:18a)

They come to the light (Jn. 3:21a)

Their works are done in God (Jn. 3:21b)

They receive sight (Jn. 9:39b)

They become children of light and are not in darkness (Jn. 12:36a, 46)

Those who reject

They are condemned (Jn. 3:18b)

They do not come to the light (Jn. 3:20a)

They do not want their works to be rebuked (Jn. 3:20b)

They are blinded (Jn. 9:39c)

They will be judged for their rejection (Jn. 12:48)

THE GLORY OF JESUS

"We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14b NIV)

What is the glory of Jesus?

John 17:5



First of all, the glory (honor) that he enjoyed with the Father before being incarnated, and which he recovered after his ascension.

John 1:14



Secondly, the glory of becoming a human being. A glory that was not appreciated at the time by men, but was seen with admiration by Heaven.

John 12:23-24



Third, the glory of the cross. On the cross, Jesus achieved his greatest glory, for he demonstrated beyond a doubt the love of God for all his creatures.

On the cross, Jesus was glorified by the Father, and the Father was glorified by Jesus (Jn. 17:1). All of Divinity participated in the supreme sacrifice made for man (Jn. 3:16).

“But while God's Word speaks of the humanity of Christ when upon this earth, it also speaks decidedly regarding His pre-existence. The Word existed as a divine being, even as the eternal Son of God, in union and oneness with His Father. [...]

The Lord Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, existed from eternity, a distinct person, yet one with the Father. He was the surpassing glory of heaven. He was the commander of the heavenly intelligences, and the adoring homage of the angels was received by Him. [...]

There are light and glory in the truth that Christ was one with the Father before the foundation of the world was laid.”

EGW (Selected Messages, Book 1, pg. 247-248)