

IN THE BEGINNING
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John 1:1-18

1. Today we are going to begin a two-year, chronological study of the life of Christ as recorded in the Gospels.
2. We will follow the chronology outlined by Arthur Markve in [A New Harmony of the Gospels](#).
3. To understand the life of Christ we need to know who He is and why He came.
4. John's prologue, or thesis, clearly declares these important, introductory truths.
5. John made it clear that the Gospels do not contain all that could have been written about Jesus. John 21:25

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.

6. The Holy Spirit was selective in what He led the Gospel writers to record, but what was recorded is all that we need to know. John 20:30-31

Therefore many other signs (proofs) Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

7. John's objective was clear.

1. He wanted his readers to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
2. And that through believing they might have life in His name.

NOTE: There is a subtle difference between intellectual agreement and believing unto life eternal. 1 John 5:13

These things I have written to you who (profess to) believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

8. John made it clear that Jesus is the subject, the focus, of his Gospel, and his purpose for writing is that those who read it might believe that Jesus is who John declared Him to be, and that through believing they might have life in and through God's Anointed Savior and Lord.
9. In this introductory message I want to examine three statements John made in the passage we just read that provide us clear insight into who Jesus is and why He came.

I. In the beginning. 1

- A. Many want to discuss and argue about that which simply needs to be accepted by faith.

NOTE: There is something to be said for simply accepting the Biblical Record as it is written.

1 Timothy 1:3-7

As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, 4 nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to **mere speculation** rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. 5 But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 6 For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to **fruitless discussion**, 7 wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make **confident assertions**.

B. In the beginning was the Word (wisdom personified), and the Word was with God (nothing else existed), and the Word was God (or God was the Word).

C. In the beginning—before anything else existed including time.

D. Was (continuously and constantly in existence).

E. John was obviously talking about someone because in verse two he wrote, “He was in the beginning (before anything existed including time) with God.”

F. If I were going to paraphrase this verse I would simply say, “In the beginning was the Godhead; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, **incomprehensible and unknowable.**”

1. In the beginning...the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.”

Genesis 1:2

2. And God said, “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.”

Genesis 1:26

NOTE: Adam and Eve were created with the capacity to comprehend and know God to some degree, which implies that God wants to be understood and known.

II. And the Word became flesh. 14

A. Through the agency of Jesus Christ God brought into being all things, referring to the Creation.

NOTE: The Apostle Paul clearly restated this fact in Colossians 1:15-17

He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

B. The incomprehensible God progressively revealed Himself to mankind; the history of which we have in the Old Testament.

1. First there was the Creation. Psalm 19:1-2

The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

NOTE: That is why all people are without an excuse. Rom 1:18-21

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

2. Secondly there was God’s Word. Psalm 19:7

The law of the Lord is perfect (blameless), restoring (bringing back) the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”

C. That self-revelation was finalized when the Word became flesh (that which continuously existed became flesh—took on a new form).

D. And dwelt among us (pitched a tent).

E. And we beheld His glory.

1. As of the only begotten from the Father—the One who became the sole representative of the Being and Character of the One who sent Him.

2. Full of grace and truth because God is both grace and truth.

III. That mankind may see and know God. 18

A. No man has seen God (in His totality) at any time.

B. The only begotten God (the Son), who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

1. As the “only begotten,” the sole representative of the being and character of God, Jesus explained Him (declared, made God visible and comprehensible). John 14:8-9

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

2. Christ, Who is in the bosom (the intimate presence) of the Father, not only explains God; He also reconciles us to God.

APPLICATION:

1. Many have tried to comprehend, understand, and explain God in and through human wisdom leading to all kinds of false religions and wrong perceptions about God. 1 Corinthians 1:21

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

2. Here John stated that God can be understood and known only through the person of Jesus Christ.

3. Jesus stated, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” John 14:6