

The Word, John 1:1-5

January 11, 2009 - Skip MacMillan

Introduction

How to begin writing an e-mail, or how about a gospel? Mathew lineage, Mark, Luke and John. John begins with God, not man straining to get to God, but God and God coming to man. Jesus is declared to be God, Creator, the light and life of humanity, full of grace and truth. This is how John starts the gospel / good news.

"In the beginning was the Word (Logos)"

What beginning? When, in time or eternity? What was going on "in the beginning?"

Word, who or what is the Word? The Word (Logos) is Jesus Christ, see John 1:14 "The Word became flesh." More next week.

This phrase takes us back to Genesis chapter one.

Genesis 1:1 - "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Where is the Word (Jesus Christ) in Genesis 1? What is John pointing us to?

The Logos was in the beginning, in Genesis:

1. Elohim, Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth."

Elohim is one of two main names for God, the other is YHWH (Yahweh).

Elohim means "Mighty One" speaking of His majesty, plural term for God pointing to the Trinity.

Elohim also emphasizes the transcendent and eternal nature of God.

John is stating that Jesus Christ is Elohim (God), the Mighty One, the transcendent and eternal God.

Jesus is the second person of the Trinity; Elohim - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ is no mere man.

2. "Created the heavens and the earth"

Genesis 1:1 - "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

John 1:3 - "Through Him (Jesus Christ) all things were made."

John 1:10 - "the world was made through Him."

Colossians 1:16 - "For by Him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth."

Hebrews 1:2 - "through whom (Jesus Christ) He (the Father) made the universe."

Jesus created the heavens and the earth. "For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:16-17).

Jesus Christ is no mere man.

3. Created Humanity

Genesis 1:26-27 - "God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, in our likeness So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female He created them."

The "Let us" and "Our image" represent the Trinity in Genesis, along with the name Elohim.

The Father, Son (Word) and Holy Spirit created you in their image.

John is making the point that Jesus Christ is the creator of humanity and we are made in His image.

4. Light, Genesis 1:3 - "And God said, "Let there be light, and there was light."

Genesis 1:14-16 - "And God said let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the lesser to govern the night."

What or who is shining light on the creation process in verse 3 if there is not sun or moon yet? Jesus Christ, light of the world.

John says, "The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it" (John 1:5).

"Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world.' " (John 8:12).

John describes heaven: "I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp" (Revelation 21:22-23).

Jesus (The Word) is the light in Genesis, He is the light of the world in His own words, John 8:12, and He will be the light in heaven along with the Father, Revelation 21:22-23. And He is the light in your life.

Even further back than Genesis 1, John says Jesus existed at another "beginning".

"Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God' " (John 8:42-47).

When could this “beginning” have been?

Genesis 3, when Satan tempts Eve with sin which led to their death?

Or a beginning that reaches further back into eternity, in the time of Satan's fall?

The point is that Jesus was there, knows Satan. He knows he is the father of lies and was a murderer from the beginning.

What John is saying by “In the beginning was the Word”

1. Jesus is the Mighty God (Elohim), transcendent and eternal who has come to earth, to take on flesh, dwell among us and is nearer to you than you can imagine. God came to be with you!
2. Jesus was in the beginning creating the heavens and the earth.
3. Jesus is the creator of humanity; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit created us in their image.
4. Jesus is the Light of the world, literally was the light of world (Gen. 1:3) and will be in the end (Rev. 21:22-23). And He is your light in your world.
5. John wants you to understand: “believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.
6. John's purpose is for you to recognize that Jesus is more than a mere man.

Someone says: “Jesus is a good guy,” “wise man,” “prophet,” “healer,” “just like others in history.”

1. You cannot read John 1:1-5 and walk away without admitting that the Scriptures declare Jesus Christ (the Word) to be God.
2. Muhammad claimed only to be man who was a prophet of God; Jesus claims to be God, the Creator and Sustainer of all things.
3. Buddha claimed to be nothing other than a man who was enlightened; Jesus claims to be God who brings enlightenment to man.
4. Jesus is no religious leader, He is not a religious option, He is the only option because He alone is God.
5. He is the Creator God, the maker of everything good who came to bring you life, life today and life eternal. He came from the Father full of grace and truth. He came that you would believe in Him and become a child of God.