

Jesus the Eternal Word

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John 1:1-18

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Introduction

- Gospel of John - 4th Gospel... so different than other Gospels
- John is author^{Jn21:24}; John not named but one whom Jesus loved^{Jn13:23;21:7}; Irenaeus^{Against Heresies 3.1.1} names John as author.
- Written late 1st century after other Gospels to provide further truth
- John makes this Gospel accessible to the Greek mindset rather than Jewish
- How to make Jesus' message accessible to non-Jews? Jn1:11-13
- Jesus' message was for the world^{Jn11:49-52} of God's chosen
- John wisely uses concept of *logos* to bridge Jewish & Greek ideas

Jesus the Divine Word

- Jesus is Eternal. Jesus already 'was' at creation^{1:1}
- this was to offset heresy that Jesus was less than God
- Jesus was with God. John shows us Jesus was with God and was God^{1:1}
- At Creation, God said^{Gen1:6,9,11,14,20,24,26} Jesus, Word was this Creator!
- God's Word does God's Will: Ps 33:6; 107:20 in creation & salvation
- John wants us to know the Word is a person - not a force or idea
- Against Modalism heresy: 3 persons One God. WCF 2.3
- John says while a person can be by himself, he is never WITH himself
- Jesus is God. Not just a man close to God.
- John clearly presents Jesus, the Word as God. He is Divine

Jesus the Saving Word

- John also wants us to understand the WORK of Jesus^{Jn20:31}
- John uses a Greek Word **logos** - a significant term in Greek philosophy
- Heraclitus^{6th century BC} "*you can't step into the same river twice*" was fascinated with change and how there could be order in the world. He said **logos**
- Greek philosophers played with this idea - Socrates, Plato, etc...
- Now John declares the glorious Gospel message by answering **logos**.
- God sent the **logos** - the One you've been looking for in Jesus^{Jn1:14}
- The Word who created all things has made us in the image of God^{Gen1:26; Jn1:3}
- Only by knowing Jesus, the **logos** can we know God!

Jesus, God's Salvation for Us

- So will you answer the question of who this Jesus is?
- Our calendar counts off the years since Christ... He is important!
- Read the Gospel of John - listen to John's words, consider them
- BOLD CLAIMS:
 - Jesus is eternal
 - Jesus is the 2nd person of the Triune God
 - Jesus is God come in the flesh
 - Jesus is God
 - We are called to receive Him, to believe in His name, so that we might become children of God^{1:12}