

“In the Beginning was the Word”

Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. The Gospel of John was the last of the four Gospel accounts to be written. By the time this book was circulated among the Christians, the other Gospels were widely known.
 - 1. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called the Synoptic Gospels, meaning "to see together." They contain many of the same events and instructions, but told from a different angle.
 - 2. John's Gospel is different, showing aspects of the Christ that the other writers did not address. John was part of the inner circle.
- B. John 1:1-18 - "In the beginning was the Word..."

I. Vss. 1-3 -- JESUS IS THE PREEXISTENT WORD

- A. Vs. 1 - He is the continuing word.
 - 1. According to this verse, Jesus has always existed. He didn't come into being in Bethlehem, but He has been from before the beginning.
 - 2. Heb. 13:5, 8; John 8:58; Heb. 1:12; Rev. 1:4
- B. Vs. 1 - He is the connecting word - Jesus "was with God." That is, Jesus is God, yet He is still a unique, and autonomous being.
 - 1. Gen. 1:26; Rev. 13:8; Eph. 1:4
 - 2. Before time began Jesus was with the Father in Heaven, and was chosen for the purpose of being our offering.
- C. Vs. 1 - He is the controversial word.
 - 1. When Jesus came preaching repentance, men thought He was strange
 - a. Mark 1:15
 - 2. When He began to heal and perform miracles, men thought He was a prophet sent by God - John 3:2.
 - 3. When He spoke the Word of God with power, men thought He was amazing - Luke 4:36.
 - 4. However, when Jesus claimed equality with God, men thought He was crazy - John 19:7.
 - 5. He stopped being a blessing and became a controversy when He claimed to be God - John 14:9
 - 6. Phil. 2:5-8 - Regardless of what humankind may think of Him, He is God in the flesh.
- D. Vs. 3 - He is the creative word - Col. 1:16-17; Matt. 28:18

II. Vs. 14 -- JESUS IS THE PERSONIFIED WORD

- A. Manner of His incarnation - "The Word became flesh and dwelled among us."
 - 1. The manner of His incarnation is a mystery. The answer lies in the mind of God alone. All we know is what is written.
 - 2. God "dwelled" among us. It literally means that Jesus pitched His tent among mortals. He lived among us, worked among us, prayed among us, suffered among us, and died among us.

3. God walked upon the earth and went unrecognized by most that came into contact with Him.
- B. Mystery of His incarnation - The word was "made" flesh.
 1. 1John 1:1; Heb. 10:5; John 20:24-29 - Thomas Didymus
- C. Majesty of His incarnation - "We beheld His glory"
 1. Matt. 17:1-7

III. Vs. 18 -- JESUS IS THE PROCLAIMING WORD

- A. Vs. 18 - He came to proclaim the Living God.
 1. John 14:7-9; Col. 1:15, 2:9; Heb. 1:3
- B. Vs. 4-9 - He came to proclaim the light of God.
- C. Vs. 10-13 - He came to proclaim eternal life in God.
 1. John 6:36-40, 10:9, 14:6