

## John 1:1 – 18 / Prologue

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~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God is a sincere, systematic, educated Bible study approach in which we seek to discover the Lord Jesus Christ on every single page of Scripture. I can't promise that I can point Jesus out on every page - but I can assure you that He is there. Only the most serious of Bible students crossed the desert sands of Numbers with me, which we just completed; and, if you are reading this report, we're going to begin to get up-close and personal with the Living Water. Or should I say, He will begin to get up close and personal with US! The section of Scripture we will consider in this report is the prologue to the Gospel. If you have not read our previous introductory report, I highly suggest you go back and do so now. Four earth-shattering and borderline-incomprehensible statements are made in the first two verses....

*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*2 The same was in the beginning with God.*

~ The word "Word" is the most profound title the Lord Jesus Christ possesses. It is, at once, legalistic, authoritative, decisive, condemning, appellate and graceful – all at the same time – and encompasses everything we think, say or do. It's all done in or worked out with words. Determining the exact meaning of a particular word is, actually, a whole lot more difficult than one might imagine. Even so, there's no sense playing word games with Jesus. It's obvious He is not the logos of Greek mythology; but, rather, the Memre of the Hebrew Scriptures! The name "Jehovah" was never uttered by an Israelite – it was simply too holy to be spoken audibly. Let's be clear: they NEVER used that name at all! Christ Jesus is now presented as the One Who was - in the beginning.

Suddenly, we have the very first words in the Bible. We all know the first ten words of Genesis one. That is a beginning that has a date, but man will never know what that date was from man's non-sensical dating methods. It also speaks of a flood without a Noah - but I digress, sort of. I don't think our minds can quite comprehend the times and ages involved in our study at this point. In fact, I know we can't. We are dealing with the God of eternity, friends; and as we travel back in time, we cannot stop at a place that He is not already past tense! God is there, was already there and He is already where we are going next. I don't mind admitting I can't quite either accept or understand that Scriptural truth. God knows I believe. I ask Him for help with my unbelief, which is usually bigger than my belief.

Notice that in the beginning the word "WAS" – NOT "is" – the Word Was – as in, already – as in, it always was before this beginning. This is NOT where something started out, nor was anything begotten at this time of already-ness. The word "was" is considered a "durative imperfect" – technically speaking. All that means is Bible lingo for 'something continues AFTER' it. Our reasonable Scriptural conclusion is that we can go back as far as we want to go with the dates, but we are going to be wrong - because eternity isn't datable. This isn't like picking the lottery numbers where you have a maybe of a chance of being right, it is like picking a number where the selection doesn't exist. I don't know why so many people are so interested in man's boring timeline when they don't care at all about when God created the Heavens and the earth. I'm convinced that most so-called Christians don't fully believe that to begin with! So, this is not where God begins – this is where WE might begin to understand our beginning with God. When we began, God certainly already was. No question about that.

There is not a man alive that can put a date on this event, fathom the facts internally - nor can man adequately express verbally any sort of an insight or explanation, other than supernatural, and of God. It is abundantly clear that Christ is separate and distinctly different from God the Father. Jesus can never be identified as the Father in the Word of God because He is WITH God. The only way this is cleared up is because the word WAS God! This is a clear, emphatic declaration that the Lord Jesus Christ is God. In the

Greek, the language is even more specific than this. In Greek, the subject word is located at the front of the sentence; and it reads, "... God WAS the word." There is no presentation of those four words that drive the point home more definitively. Denying the deity of Christ in Scripture makes the entire thing null and void to any thoughtful consideration; and these first two verses should tie it all together in our thinking....

*3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

*4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

~ Alright, here we see Jesus as the Creator of all things. "In Him was life" doesn't simply describe a viable state of the flesh, although it does do that; but this infers a "life" that spiritually dead people do not have. Those who are dead in trespasses and sins because they continue to reject Christ as their Savior will know exactly what I mean if they are honest with themselves - and if one ever reads this report. Paul began the second chapter to the Ephesians "... ye WERE dead...." You hath He quickened that were dead in trespasses and sins. The life that is in Christ is the light that is in men. Jesus is both of those - and everything else - all at the same time....

*5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

*6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*

*7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.*

*8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.*

*9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*

~ Verse nine is a statement we need to consider carefully and completely. Light only comes through the Word of God, friends. Many have heard me become startlingly dogmatic insisting that God only speaks to us in His Word, and this is one of the main Scriptural passages I base that premise upon. Without the Word of God, there is simply no light in your life. When men come to the Lord Jesus Christ, they get in the light. If they walk in the light, Christ is faithful to receive them. We're talking about the light of the Word of God as is stated here. This light lighteth every man that will come to Christ. The only way to come to Christ is in the Word of God. The sun shines on every man that gets in it; but you can dig way down in a cave and never see sunlight again! You must come into the light and the way we do that is by knowing what God has to say to us - in His Word that He gave us to communicate to us; no other way, friends....

*10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*

~ The same tragedy of the world continues today – they know Him not! The Creator came down to this earth and took upon Himself our humanity and, yet mankind has no clue what it all means. Sure, most people know the facts of the Gospel, but any form of an application to their everyday lives is simply non-existent. The world doesn't know Him, that's for sure; and they ignorantly reject Him out-of-hand. Jesus came unto His own and His own received Him not. You might want to relegate that to Israel, but it widens out to His world and, actually, to His universe! I say that because His rejection is universal....

*11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

*12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

~ Our new life is received when we are born again. This all comes through faith and faith alone – nothing attached to faith gets us here. This is when we see the light that we receive at the new birth by faith; receiving Christ

Who was born not of blood - meaning: natural generation. We won't see the light by the will of our own desires or by the will of the flesh. Understanding is ALL of God, friends. You must be born of the Spirit because we're looking at the direct actions of the Holy Spirit of the True and Living God! We don't comprehend of our own capabilities. Some want to do good works, and others want to will things into place. Those things are worldly education and earthy training. We don't become children of God through education or training. We become children of God by being born-again....

*13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

*14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

~ So, verse fourteen opens another three-statement conundrum for the Greek philosopher who probably made it through verse one but cannot continue with us here by any means. Natural man could NEVER – EVER agree that the Word was made flesh. Again, the Greek allows more specificity and, actually, more accuracy when it says the Word was “born flesh.” We see God coming out from eternity now. He is already the Ancient of Days; but now we see Him as a baby in Bethlehem. This Gospel doesn't even mention Bethlehem! Jesus came along a long, long time before Bethlehem. Coming from eternity and taking our humanity upon Himself is how the Word became flesh!

Here is John's version of the Christmas story - and he doesn't even write one. The fact that Jesus was born flesh can only be possible if He was born through a virgin birth. Hebrews tells us He took not on Himself the nature of angels. Even the angels bow before Him! Jesus took upon Himself the seed of Abraham; meaning He took part in the same blood and flesh we live in. Jesus didn't learn to be God, and Jesus didn't work at something to attain being God. I cannot state this emphatically enough. Also, Jesus didn't

worry about a coup being attempted by, say, Michael, the archangel, while He was away on earth, either. No one can take the place of the Lord Jesus Christ in history, Heaven or in reality! This was done so that through death He might destroy the enemy, Satan, who had the power of death over the flesh.

Some people believe this speaks of the birth of Jesus as well as their own birth. Well, Jesus was born not of blood. Jesus didn't come into this world in a human manner, under effort of the flesh, like you and I did. The birth of Jesus had nothing to do with the will of any man; it was purely the will of God. So, the Word was made flesh; and that is a remarkable statement. The Word also dwelt among them. The Greek word for 'dwelt among them' means, literally, to 'pitch a tent.' Christ came right into the land of the children of Israel and made a home. These bodies we have are just little tents, friends. They happen to be almost equally as frail as any tent, too! Paul used the same imagery and Paul was a tent maker by profession. This tent of a body can easily be blown away in the middle of the night. A good puff of wind can utterly carry it away and over a cliff and the life therein can be snuffed out in one heartbeat. God pitched amongst us to identify and to make sure that we know that He knows how we feel in this world. This may well be the second most tremendous statement in the entire Word of God. At this point the objection has typically been that, if God DID make Himself flesh, then He was certainly limited; no, John says, Jesus was full of grace and truth! The word for "full" means He could not possibly contain any more....

*15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.*

*16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.*

*17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*

*18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

~ Our Spiritual Safari concludes this leg of our expedition with the fulness of the grace of God leading into a third statement of three great and overwhelming truths. One theme that runs all the way through Scripture is that no man has seen God at any time! That is going to be explained thoroughly in this Gospel, friends. The Lord Jesus is going to tell a woman at a well that God is worshipped only in Spirit and in Truth. They that worship God must worship Him that way! No man has seen God at any time because you can't see a spirit. Jesus had to become flesh like us, or we would have NEVER known Him! You aren't going to get into Heaven to understand Him, friends! Jesus had to bring God to us on OUR plane. The appearances of the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament never revealed God to the eyes of man. Jacob said he saw God but what the Bible says is that Jacob saw the Angel of the Lord and wrestled with Him. It was a manifestation, but Jacob didn't see God because God is a Spirit.

Even the German Nestle translated verse eighteen "....only begotten God...." – and that works. Jesus was a servant, but He was God's servant. He isn't down here taking orders and running errands for us. Jesus said He came from Heaven NOT to do His own will but the will of Him that sent Him – He was God's servant. Jesus came to this earth to reveal the heart of God. This passage concludes with *exigesito* = *exegesis*; God declared this to be so. God is now out in the open. Do you think you can know anything bigger than this? Science is as mundane as a dry-cleaning job for God! There is nothing in comparison to what we are learning here that man can break out of his books at some crumbling university. The only way in the world we can ever know the Father is through the Son, and the only way we can know the Son of God is in the Word of God – nowhere else. Jesus came to reveal God because He IS God!

I believe our spirit is intimately related to our soul and yet is wholly unlike it. Likewise, the spirit and the body are intimately related and yet, are also separate. The same goes for the interrelation of the soul, and body and so

forth....These three triangular elements comprise our very existence.....it would be foolish to deny this basic, dim awareness of truth within ourselves, I think most will agree and: can you think of another element of our physical being?

Unbelievers do have a very real sense of many Biblical Truths because the fingerprints of God are everywhere; and this is one of them. Yet it's only an extremely vague sense of God they don't even know they have (and it's just that confusing to them, too). It goes like this:

The world believes "things happen" in threes. Well, that's superstitious and if it were true, it would be supernatural, right? Well, it IS true that things happen in three's, and I can tell you why (because that's just how proud, arrogant, boastful and enlightened I really am, as most of you know)....

**First Set of Three:**

....the Father,  
....the Son  
....and the Holy Spirit....

**Our physical universe consists of three things:**

- A. Time....
- B. Space....
- C. Matter....

*~ There is no fourth element ~*

**A. TIME** consists of:

- 1. Past....
- 2. Present....
- 3. Future....

*~ There is no other time quantum we know of ~*

**B. SPACE** consists in:



1. Length
2. Width
3. Height

~ *There are no other dimensions* ~

C. **MATTER** manifests in:

1. Protons....
2. Neutrons....
3. Electrons....

That's it – that's all there is. That's world, universal and unchanging scientific existential reality ~

There is nothing left to the universe outside of the parameters of our guideline, EXCEPT....

1. **LIGHT:** (*and many consider light to be matter*)

~ the Three-Sided prism cannot be set aside by a proper scientific mind considering the infraction thereof to colors and how we receive light and process it in our sensory perception; to me, that's WAY beyond being more complicated and significant than evolution....and actually goes so far I don't even feel adequate to continue commenting on nor terminating my comments of....I wonder why science chases dark matter today and doesn't do a little more comprehensive investigating of light? They don't seem to know much about it. Do we have something to hide? My questions would continue myriad more paragraphs....

Finally, the incarnation is geared into this entire observation: In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God .... and the Word became flesh – time, space and matter all wrapped into one little sentence. There is, actually, the further division I mentioned of three - and you might want to try to spot them in the next report - because they're there ~

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