

“And The Word Became Flesh”

John 1:1-14

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Teaching Aim: To explore the deity of Jesus Christ and to understand His role as the creator of all things. To recognize the love of the Father in sending His Son to earth to be the Savior of the world. To realize John the Baptist was a light, but his role was to introduce the True Light – Jesus Christ. To recognize Jesus came to His own, but His own received Him not. To understand, as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1-3)

1. Each of the four gospels has a slightly different theme. In Matthew, the theme is “*Christ the King*”; in Mark, “*Christ the Servant*”; in Luke, “*Christ the Son of Man*”; and in John, “*Christ the Son of God*.” Some Bible colleges teach that Matthew wrote primarily to the Jews; Mark to the Romans; Luke to the Greeks; and John to the whole world. Is there a problem with this?

2. Which three gospels are known as “*the synoptic gospels*?” What is a “*synopsis*?” (See Dictionary) In what way is the Gospel of John different from the synoptic gospels? Why do you think Billy Graham always encouraged new believers to read the Gospel of John before reading the rest of the Bible?

3. It is believed that the Apostle John did his writing much later than the other New Testament writers; probably somewhere between A.D. 80-95. What five books in the New Testament did the Apostle John write? Why do you think he decided to write at such an advanced age? What crisis was the young church facing as John wrote? According to **John 20:31**, what was John’s ultimate purpose in writing this gospel?

4. The Gospel of John begins with the three words, “*In the beginning*” (**vs. 1**). What other famous book in the Bible begins with the same three words? In what way is **Gen. 1:1-3** similar to **John 1:1-4**? How are the two accounts different?

5. Jesus is called *“the Word”* (Greek *“logos”*) three times in **John 1:1**. What is the significance of the Greek word *“logos”*? (Hint: Google it) *“Logos”* is used in only four Bible verses: **John 1:1, 14; 1 John 1:1; Rev. 19:13**. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, who wrote each verse? What are some of the common denominators in each Scripture?

6. Why do you think John didn’t include a genealogy for Jesus Christ in his gospel (**vv. 1-2**)? The doctrine of the Trinity is one of the most difficult doctrines in the Bible to understand. Though the word Trinity is not in the Bible, the concept certainly is. Although there are no perfect illustrations, why is an egg a good illustrate the Trinity? The orthodox view of the Trinity is one God revealed in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; equal in essence, but different in role. What is the role of each member of the Godhead?

7. Keith A. Mathison points out that Jesus demonstrated the qualities of deity like only He could; He is Emmanuel or God manifest in the flesh (**vs. 14**). Jesus receives human worship (See **Matt. 2:1-2; John 20:28**); He encourages His disciples to pray to Him (See **John 14:12-14**); He forgives sin (See **Mark 2:5-6**); He is the creator and sustainer of all created things (See **Col. 1:16-17**); He is sovereign over nature (See **Matt. 8:23-27**); and He will be the Judge on the last day (See **John 5:22; Acts 10:42-43**). Could Scripture affirm these things if Jesus were not truly God?

8. What do we learn about Jesus from **verse 3**? (See **1 Cor. 8:5-6; Heb. 1:1-3a**) Jesus is eternal; there never was a time when He was not and there will never be a time when He will not be. How would you explain to a child that God is eternal in a way that we are not?

9. Sometimes the problems of life seem overwhelming to us. How does understanding who Jesus really is personalize the meaning of the great hymn, *“What A Friend We Have In Jesus?”* (Hint: Google It) Is there any problem too big for God to handle?

Part II: In Him was life, and the light was the light of men. (John 1:4-11)

1. What truth do we learn in **verse 4**? John uses the word "*life*" 36 times in his gospel and speaks often of eternal life. Only God can give life, both physically and spiritually. How is this verse yet another affirmation of the deity of Jesus Christ?
2. What is the difference between a match being lit in the daylight and a match being lit in the night? When speaking spiritually, what unusual circumstance do we find in **verse 5** of the New King James Version? Why? (See **2 Cor. 4:3-6**; **Eph. 2:1-5**)
3. What famous Bible character is introduced in **verses 6-7**? What do we learn about the ministry of this individual from **verse 7**? (See **Isa. 40:1-3**; **Mal. 3:1**; **John 1:29b**)
4. Although John was not the Light, what was he sent to do (**vs. 8**)? In **John 8:12**, Jesus said, "*I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.*" What does this Scripture mean to you personally? How do we walk in the light today?
5. The Jews had the light of Moses, the law; the tabernacle or temple and the sacrifices, but most still did not recognize Jesus. The Gentiles and Jews alike had God's general (or natural) revelation through that which is created, but they still could not see. What was and is still needed to open the eyes of a spiritually blind person so that they can see Christ?
6. Sin is a major problem for all of us. (See **Rom. 3:23**; **6:23**) Have you ever seen the sun shine through a window in just the right way so as to reveal all of the dust particles in a room. How is this a good illustration of the way we see our sin after coming to salvation? How is the incredible love of God revealed in **Rom. 5:8-9**?

7. The word “*world*” is used 80 times in the Gospel of John; the world is a major theme in this gospel. Why do you think John put such emphasis on the world? What makes **verses 10 and 11** two of the saddest verses in the Bible?

Part III: Receiving Christ unto salvation (John 1:12-14)

1. **Verse 12** is often used in calling people to faith in Christ. Is there a difference between “*receiving*” and “*inviting*” Christ into our lives? Who initiates the process leading to a person “*receiving*” Christ; the giver or the person who receives? Who takes the initiative when a person “*invites*” Christ to come into their lives? According to **verse 12**, who are the only people who have the right to become “*children of God*?”

2. In **verse 13**, we learn how a person comes to the point of receiving Christ. The verse begins with three negative descriptions: 1) who were born not of blood (you are not a Christian because of the family you were born into); 2) nor of the will of the flesh (you are not born-again through human decision); nor of the will of man (you are not born-again through the decision of another person). The last description is a positive: you are [born] of God (or regenerated). What does **verse 13** teach us about the doctrine of salvation? Today “*decisional regeneration*” is taught from many pulpits. According to **verse 13’s** explanation of **verse 12**, which comes first, regeneration or receiving? Only the supernatural work of God can open a sinner’s eyes and draw a person to saving faith in Christ. (See **John 3:3, 5**)

3. What incredible truth do we learn from **verse 14**? Why should this verse excite every believer in Christ? Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so right now in prayer?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- The Greek "*logos*" (or "*word*") is not only the spoken word, but the Mind behind the word.
- Jesus Christ is the divine Logos; God's final word to mankind in human flesh.
- Jesus is eternal; there never was a time when He was not and there will never be a time when He will not be.
- Jesus is God's creating agent, He is Creator of the heavens and the earth, the visible and the invisible.
- Christians believe in one God revealed in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; equal in deity (or essence), different in role.
- Jesus is the true Light who offers salvation to those who by grace through faith believe in Him.
- The spiritually dead will not see the Light without the Holy Spirit first turning on the light switch.