

JOHN

John: The Gospel of Gospels

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John 1:2-5

Lesson 6: The Role of the Word in Creation

There can be no knowledge of the invisible God, until there is knowledge of the visible God. To know the Son, the visible God is to know the Father, the invisible God. True worship of the invisible God is unattainable until the worshipper had come into relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ.

Now, buckle your seat belts. Imagine that the apostle John is on deck as the Lord's pilot. He has everyone onboard the *Great Mystery Airline*. As he takes off, he announces, "In the beginning was the Word." Reaching a cruising altitude, he makes his second announcement, "the Word was with God." He leaves his passengers pondering on those two announcements, as he cruises on.

Having been cleared for landing, just as he was about to touch the ground, he makes his final announcement: "the Word was God!"

Realizing that what he said on the plane might be a little clumsy for many and unsettled for others, he makes an unambiguous statement, "He was in the beginning with God" (John 1:2).

Observe: John, for the first time, refers to 'the Word' in verse 1 with a personal pronoun 'He.' With that observation, you can substitute 'the Word' in John 1:1 with the pronoun 'He.' It would read like this: "In the beginning was [He], and [He] was with God, and [He] was God."

"He was in the beginning with God." What a revelation!

The apostle John wants everyone that hears him to know that He, who was "the Word" the uncreated One, was in the beginning with God the Father. In other

words, there never was a moment when He was not in close, loving relationship with the Father. They both are God, but not separate Gods.

Having defined his premise, John sets to construct a wall of airtight, undeniable, inescapable truths around his major premise, namely that “the Word,” which is God’s Son, is equally God. From verses 1 and 2, he moves on to v. 3 where he systematically connects ‘the Word’ to creation.

John carefully and skillfully links “the Word was God” to the Word being the agent of creation in v. 3.

“All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him [i.e. ‘the Word’] nothing came into being that has come into being.”

It makes sense to credit creation to God’s Son. Why is that? Our answer is not farfetched. Remember the two-fold purpose of Christ’s incarnation? He came to reveal the Father to man and consequently to bring the individual to eternal relationship with the Father. John 1:18

So, creation of the universe is Christ’s first revelation of the Father to the world. This truth is delineated in Ps. 19:1-6 and Romans 1:19-20.

Do not miss this: “all things came into being through Him.” Remember we have said “He” and “the Word” are interchangeable. With that in mind, go back to v. 3 and substitute the pronoun ‘Him’ with the phrase ‘the Word.’ ***“All things came into being through the Word.”*** Now we can see, the Word is the agent of creation! Remember the Father is the Designer, the Word, His Son, was the means whereby the Father brought His thoughts to fruition. F. F. Bruce says, “God is the Creator; his Word is the agent.”¹ Jesus Christ is God’s agent unparalleled.

The phrase “through Him” means that the Father created everything through Jesus Christ. Capture the truth in Heb. 1:2b: “through the Son he [the Father] created the universe” (NLT). But how? By ‘the Word.’ Heb. 11:3a, “By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God.” (BSB). ‘The Word’ God’s Son is God’s agent of creation. Jesus Christ is the Creator-in-Chief. Remember that!

John goes on in v. 3 to state it two ways: positively, “All things came into being through Him” and negatively, “nothing came into being that has come into being.” This is as blunt as he can get in declaring that **“the Word”** in v. 1 is the agent of

¹ F. F. Bruce, The Gospel of John, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company (Grand Rapids: Michigan, 1983), p. 12

God's creation. Every creature has the Creator's creative mark. The apostle Paul said the same thing in Col. 1:16 "For by Him [the Word] all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created **through Him** and for Him."

Again, our passage, verse 3 says, "**all things have been created through Him.**" He is the agent through whom the Father brought everything into existence. Scholar Leon Morris said, "The Father created, but He did it "through" the Word."² God the Father was and is the Chief actor behind creation, both in physical and spiritual realm. Oh, how unsearchable is the depth of His infinite wisdom.

Let us consider two important creations:

1. Physical Creation

Now let us read Gen. 1:3 anew, "Then God [Elohim-plural] said, "Let there be light." The Father spoke, His Word, the Son acted on it and "there was light." The Father was involved, and the Word was the means of creation. **Ps. 33:6**, "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth." Who is 'the Word of the LORD' in Ps. 33:6? You are correct, God's Son.

The apostle Paul binds the truth succinctly in **1 Cor. 8:6**, "yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ [who is God Himself], by whom are all things, and we exist through Him."

Wow! Let this amazing truth sink. Both Father and Son are said to be the source of all things. The Father is the director behind creation and the Son is the executioner, the Creator-in-Chief.

2. Spiritual Creation

Let there be no misunderstanding, spiritual creation was the main thrust of John's dissertation. He carefully connects v. 3 to verses 4 and 5.

"In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

² Leon Morris, The International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids: Michigan 1987), p. 80

In Gen. 1:2, we read, “the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the deep; and the [Holy] Spirit of God was moving over the waters.”

Moses describes total chaos before the movement of the Holy Spirit. So, it is with the unregenerate—he is confused, restless, with total darkness in the soul until the Spirit shines light within. The Holy Spirit begins every creation, physical or spiritual.

What is more, all three members are involved in creation. The Father (Isa. 40:12; Eph. 3:9; Heb. 1:2), the Son (Pro. 8:27; John 1:3; Col. 1:16) and the Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:2; Job 26:13; John 3:5).

God the Father was involved in physical creation as we noted, and he was also involved in the spiritual aspect of creation. This phenomenal truth is brought to light in 2 Corinthians 5:18, 19, “Now all these things [spiritual creation] are from God [the Father], who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that ***God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself***“ [emphasis added].

Therefore, “The Word,” namely God’s Son, His agent in creation accomplishes the work of regeneration and restoration. God the Father was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself through the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit. 2 Cor. 4:4-6

1. The Father is the Designer of the eternal plan of God.
2. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are involved in creation and recreation or regeneration.
3. The Son is the agent through whom physical and spiritual creation is consummated.
4. The Son is the Creator-in-Chief.

The apostle John introduces the concept of light. Interestingly, light was the first thing mentioned in the Genesis creation account. Darkness covered the earth (Gen. 1:2), and the Holy Spirit of God hovered over it. But in John 1:4 and 5, light and darkness are mentioned, but in a spiritual sense.

Thank God, for in Him exists life Ps. 36:9. His life is also in His Son—John 5:26. Meaning there can be no life in anything apart from the Son, who gives life. Therefore, Scripture abundantly associates life with Jesus Christ. John 3:16, who believes has eternal life. John 10:10, “I come that they may have life.” John 6:51,

“My flesh is life.” John 5:40 He gives life to those who come to Him. John 14:6, “I am the life.” John 11:25, He is the resurrection; He is the life.

John is laying the groundwork to present Jesus Christ as both life and the light. John 8:12, He is the Light of the world. 9:3, “I am the Light of the world.” 12:46, “I have come into the world as Light.” He is both life giver and light bearer of the world.

The presence of “the Light of the world” was bad news to Satan, the god of this age (2 Cor 4:4), who opposes him head-on. Satan mounted an intense opposition to overcome the light but failed. He did not overcome it. John 1:4, 5 “In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” He cannot overcome it. “I will build My church and the gates of hell will not overcome it” (Matt. 16:18).

I say it again, Satan mounted a fierce battle to extinguish the light of the incarnate God, Jesus, God’s Light bearer. He failed. He could not extinguish Him; he could not overcome Him. The light continues to shine brighter and brighter and will continue to shine forever and ever throughout eternity!

In conclusion, I want us to take a deep breath and appreciate our amazing God, the great designer of the universe. Inherent in Him is that He is an intelligent designer. A perfect universe could only be created by an intelligent designer, not by chance. Hugh Ross describes our universe is a “just-right universe.” in his book *The Fingerprint of God*:

- The universe has a just-right gravitational force.

If it were larger, the stars would be too hot and would burn up too quickly and too unevenly to support life.

If it were smaller, the stars would remain so cool, nuclear fusion would never ignite, and there would be no heat and light.

- The universe has a just-right speed of light.

If it were larger, stars would send out too much light.

If it were smaller, stars would not send out enough light.

- The universe has a just-right average distance between the stars.

If it were larger, the heavy element density would be too thin for rocky planets to form, and there would only be gaseous planets.

If it were smaller, planetary orbits would become destabilized because of the gravitational pull from other stars.

- The universe has a just-right polarity of the water molecule.

If it were greater, the heat of fusion and vaporization would be too great for life to exist.

If it were smaller, the heat of fusion and vaporization would be too small for life's existence, liquid water would become too inferior a solvent for life chemistry to proceed, ice would not float, leading to a runaway freeze-up.

We could conclude that our universe has God's fingerprints. It could not have happened by chance, nor could it have created itself, apart from an intelligent designer—the Father-God.

Now, He who designed and created all these things through His agent—His Son, how can He not do all things for us through Him? What problem can there be that God cannot handle? He who created the universe can also solve our little problems. We simply must trust Him in the same way we have trusted His Son to forgive our sins and grant us eternal life. God is able!

Our God is awesome! He who brought everything into existence can equally see us through in our troubled times. Celebrate Jesus Christ, our Savior, the Creator-in-Chief!