

The Living Word is God

John 1:1-5, 14

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While the synoptic Gospels begin with Jesus' incarnation, John begins with Jesus as eternal deity.

I. The beginning is the eternal state existing before this universe was created. (v. 1a)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

II. The Word (Gr. logos) is the fullest conception of God's intent to communicate with mankind. (v. 1b)

In John, logos denotes the essential Word of God, Jesus Christ, the personal wisdom and power in union with God, his minister in creation and government of the universe, the cause of all the world's life both physical and ethical, which for the procurement of man's salvation put on human nature in the person of Jesus the Messiah, the second person in the Godhead, and shone forth conspicuously from His words and deeds. (Greek Lexicon)

Creation:

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth. (Psalm 33:6)

Revelation:

He has revealed his word to Jacob, his laws and decrees to Israel. (Psalm 147:19)

Deliverance:

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress.
He sent out his word and healed them;
he rescued them from the grave. (Psalm 107:19-20)

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. (Hebrews 1:1-4)

III. The Word is distinct from the other members of the trinity. (v. 1c)

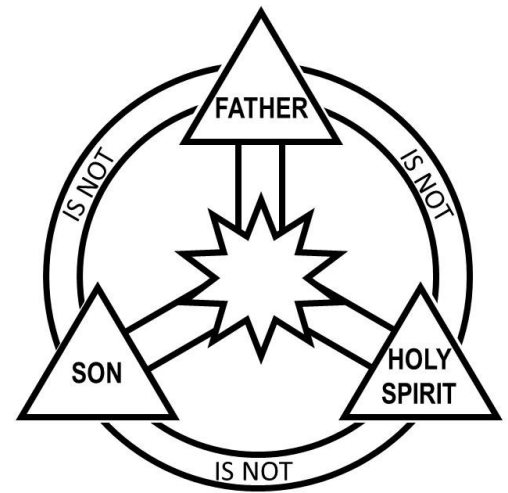
IV. The Word too was God. (v. 1d)

“The Father and I are one” (John 10:30),

“...so that they may be one just as we are one” (John 17:11), and

“...before Abraham came into existence, I Am” (John 8:58)

“Hear, O Israel, Yahweh is our Elohim. Yahweh is one” (Deuteronomy 6:4).



Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...” (Genesis 1:26)

...Who, being in very nature God.. (Philippians 2:6a)

The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. (Hebrews 1:3a)

V. The Word always existed. (v. 2)

VI. The Word was the instrumental cause of all creation. (v. 3)

...yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. (1 Corinthians 8:6)

...but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. (Hebrews 1:2)

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:15-17)

VII. The Word is the source of all life, physical and spiritual. (v. 4a)

VIII. Light is symbolic of life, truth and goodness. (v. 4b)

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. (Genesis 1:3)

How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!

People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from your river of delights.
For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light. (Psalm 36:7-9)

“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people living in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.” (Matthew 4:15-16)

IX. Darkness is contrasted with light and is symbolic of evil, ignorance, and death. (v. 4c)

God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. (Genesis 1:4)

“No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness. See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you.” (Luke 11:33-36)

“Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.” (Luke 22:53)

“They loved darkness rather than light” (John 3:19)

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light.” When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them. (John 12:35-36)

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)

And the light shines on in the darkness, but the darkness has not mastered it. (John 1:5 NET)

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:8-20)

X. John was inspired to wait until verse 14 before beginning to reveal the identity of the Word. (v. 14)

"I the Lord do not change." (Malachi 3:6)

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (James 1:17)

“...grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (Luke 2:52)