The Prologue of John (1:1-18)

A. His ESSENCE as the Word 1:1-5

B. His EXPRESSION to the World 1:6-13
  • The witness (6-8)
  • The work (9-13)
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• The work (9-13)
  – as the light
  – as the life
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A. His ESSENCE as the Word 1:1-5
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C. His EXPOSITION as the Word 1:14-18
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  • In His Incarnation
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- In His Incarnation
- In His Revelation
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C. His EXPOSITION as the Word 1:14-18
  • In His Incarnation
  • In His Revelation
  • In His Explanation
The life of Christ is the exegesis of the Father.
A Suggested Pattern for the Prologue
(R. Allan Culpepper, "The Pivot of John’s Prologue" In NTS 27 (October 1980: 1-31)

A Word with God, 1-2

B What came to be through the Word, 3

C What we receive through the Word: life, 4-5

D John sent to testify, 6-8

E Incarnation; response of the world, 9-10

F The Word and His own, 11

G Those who accept the Word, 12a

H Become children of God, 12b

G' Those who believed in the Word, 12c

F' The Word and His own, 13

E' Incarnation; response of the community, 14

D' John's testimony, 15

C' What we have received from the Word, grace, 16

B' What came to be through the Word; grace and truth, 17

A' Word with God, 18
“The Word”: LOGOS
Greek: mediation through principle
“The Word”

Greek: LOGOS
mediation
through principle

Hebrew: wisdom
the personification
of truth
Jesus as LOGOS

Mediation? Better!
A Mediator

Revelation? Better!
God Himself

Wisdom? Better!
Full grace and truth in a person
LOGOS (The Word) is the second person of the Trinity become flesh in humanity to reveal deity and to make full contact possible between God and man.
The Theology of John’s Gospel

The Word came from heaven to accomplish His work on earth so that we who are on earth can have a home in heaven.
Jesus as LOGOS

Mediation? Better!
A Mediator

Revelation? Better!
God Himself

Wisdom? Better!
Full grace and truth in a person
The Revelation to Israel

The revelation of the Son of God to Israel was presented by John through his record of the signs which Jesus performed in both his private and his public manifestations (1:19-12:50).
The private manifestations of Jesus were made prior to the official beginning of His ministry to authenticate His identity as the Messiah and the Son of God (1:19-2:11).
Baptismal Site
The Revelation to Israel

A. The private manifestations

1:19-2:11
A. The private manifestations
1:19-2:11

• The clarification of John
1:19-34
Baptismal Site
The Chapel of the Jordan River

The chapels built on the eastern side of the river during the Byzantine period (5th-6th centuries A.D.) include three churches built over each other, and decorated with colored mosaic and marble flooring. A marble staircase links the three churches with “John the Baptist Spring” at the spot where it flows into River Jordan. A stone footing hosting a marble column with a metal cross on top is thought to be the actual baptism site of Jesus Christ according to different historians and travelers. A small chapel and remnants of a stone arch near the river were built over the spot where Jesus Christ supposedly unrobed before entering the water to be baptized by John.
The Revelation to Israel

A. The private manifestations
   1:19-2:11
   • The clarification of John 1:19-34
A. The private manifestations
1:19-2:11

• The clarification of John’s person
1:19-34

  – *Who are you?*
  – *What do you say about yourself?*
  – *Why do you baptize?*
John’s Response

Who are you?

– Not the Christ
– Not Elijah
– Not the prophet of Deut. 18:15
John’s Response

Who are you?

- Not the Christ
- Not Elijah
- Not the prophet of Deut. 18:15
- “I am a voice crying in the wilderness.” (Isaiah 40:3)
John’s Response

Who is Christ?

– The Lamb of God (Isaiah 53)
– The Son of God
OT Passages on the Spirit’s Anointing of the Messiah

Isaiah 11:1
Isaiah 42:1
Isaiah 61:1
John’s Preaching

The Lamb of God 1:29

Witness of John 1:30

Didn’t recognize Him 1:31

I came baptizing in water 1:31

Spirit descends/remains 1:32

Didn’t recognize Him 1:33

Spirit descends/remains 1:33

He who baptizes in the Holy Spirit 1:33

Witness of John 1:34

The Son of God 1:34
The Revelation to Israel

A. The private manifestations
   1:19-2:11
   • The clarification of John
     1:19-34
   • The calling of the disciples
The Disciples’ Names for Jesus

Lamb of God
Rabbi (Teacher)
Messiah (Christ)
Jesus of Nazareth
Son of Joseph
Son of God
King of Israel
Son of Man
Passages: Heaven Opening and Son of Man Revealed

Acts 1:10
Revelation 4:1
Revelation 19:11
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