

A MIND BOGGLING WORD

Monday, February 27

Reading: John 1:1-18

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it...14 The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

The opening verse of Michael Card's song "The Final Word" goes like this:

"You and me we use so very many clumsy words / The noise of what we often say is not worth being heard
When the Father's wisdom wanted to communicate His love / He spoke it in one final, perfect Word"

As John begins his gospel, he does not begin with Jesus' birth in Bethlehem or His fulfillment of prophecy. He goes further back...back before Genesis...back to eternity past. The Greek term John uses for Word is *Logos*. By calling Jesus "the *Logos*" he is presenting a concept that both his Jewish and Gentile audience would understand.

To the Jews, the Word (*Logos*) of God was alive! It was active! It was the Word of God that created the universe. But the word *Logos* also carried the idea of wisdom or reason. Thus this word also described the purpose of God behind His actions. It entailed all that God is, thinks, and does. The term "word of God" in later Jewish translations (called Targums) would even be used as a substitute for the divine Name.

To the Greek mind, the *Logos* had a similar history of interpretation. Over 500 years before the birth of Christ, an Ephesian philosopher named Heraclitus¹ believed everything was in flux; that the only constant was change. He described the *Logos* as the reason or mind that controlled everything and kept it from flying apart. It was what gave purpose to everything. The *Logos* was what gave people the ability to reason, know truth, and judge between right and wrong.²

The apostle John now boldly proclaims to both Jews and Greeks that Jesus is this *Logos* of God! He is the Word by which all creation came into existence. He is the Wisdom of God that causes everything to make sense. He is the One who gives purpose and meaning to life. And amazingly, this Word became a man!!!

POINTS TO PONDER:

We often forget the magnitude of that simple phrase "and the Word became flesh." It should boggle our minds to think of the eternal Wisdom and Power of God becoming a man like us. It should deepen our adoration and praise for Christ who came to this earth to show us His glory and die in our place. Take some time today to meditate on this great truth. Let's stop taking the Word for granted!

¹ John probably wrote his gospel from Ephesus and would have been familiar with this famous philosopher.

² William Barclay. Daily Study Bible: John 1:1 commentary

READING THE STORY: John 1:1-18