

# John 1 vs 1-18

The Executive Summary:  
God comes to earth

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# God comes to earth

## John 1vs1-18

Welcome to John's Executive Summary, which runs from vs 1 to 18. So don't be surprised that it's going to need some unpacking!

And what a surprising start – no angels, no Bethlehem, no stable, no wise men.....just 53 words in the first 4 verses – simply full of outrageous claims!

JOHN 1 vs 1-4: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

### *Amazing origins!*

Let's take these 4 verses apart:

vs 1 +2:

***In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.  
2 He was in the beginning with God.***

What a claim for THE WORD!

- John begins by hammering home the same point - with the central feature being:

***THE WORD WAS GOD!***

- v 1 ***In the beginning was the WORD***

Here is the answer to Richard Dawkins and the age of 'new atheism'... ALL answers for creation start and end with THE WORD... and that means GOD!

- v 1 ***The Word was with God, and the Word was God***

So John is making it clear immediately at the start of the Gospel – the answer to '***the beginning***' is that if there was a 'Big Bang', ***God*** ordered it!

- v 2 ***He*** was in the beginning with God

***'He'*** ...so in case we were in any doubt – '***The Word***' is a PERSON!

***The Word*** existed before time, before creation, before 'the beginning'!

In short .... **He** IS ETERNAL!

v 3: ***ALL things were made through HIM and without him was not anything made that was made.***

Does God being ***in the beginning*** require a bigger step of faith than saying that all the molecules simply and miraculously came together!?

Who do you think is being talked of in v 3?

- v 1 ***And the WORD was with God***
- v 2 ***He was in the beginning with God***
- And now in v 3: ***ALL things were made through HIM***
  - Surely it has to be Jesus Christ that John is talking about?
  - This is confirmed for us by v 17:

***For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.***

These are claims that are TOTALLY unique to Christianity:

- No one else, NO religion claims such a relationship to:
  - a) Creation and
  - b) God!

But John's claims about Jesus go even further!!

v 4: ***In him was life, and the life was the light of men.***

What relationship... and significance... is claimed by Jesus in relation to men?

- Nothing short of being THE answer to the meaning of life.
- THE answer to a fulfilled life!!
- After all – John has just claimed Jesus is no less than our Creator!!

No wonder John writes:

v 5: *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

Vs 1-4 probably aren't the way we'd expect the Gospel to start – but it does sum up the position of Christ – HE CLAIMS TO BE NOTHING SHORT OF OUR - THE - CREATOR GOD!

- No wonder a relationship with Him brings the fulfillment we as “man” crave... after all He created us... and nothing, nor anyone, will “**overcome**” that!!

### *Next - John the Baptist is introduced... and explained*

vs 6-9: *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*

What was John the Baptist's purpose?

- He had a VERY public and historically chronicled ministry!
- He was the sensation of his day – the prophet in the wilderness.
- John would have been hounded by the BBC or CNN ....On our television news and in all the papers!
- The government and the Church would, and did, send representatives to hear him!

Clearly, through John, God goes out of His way to make sure that Jesus is publicly known about... Why?

v 7: ***... to bear witness about the light, so that ALL might believe through Him***

### *Jesus Snubbed...*

vs 10-11: *He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.*

Yes – what a shock!! ...Who rejected Jesus?

***...Yet the world did not know Him! He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.***

He is GOD... but 'man' (v 10 '**the world**') and v 11 '**his own people**' reject Him!

But that was not the only response....

## ***Incredible offer!!***

vs 12-13: *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Look at the unique and extraordinary offer that awaits all that did receive Him:

v 12: ***But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.***

- What can the world possibly offer that can come close to such an outrageous and awesome offer!?

Were you invited to the Royal wedding of William and Catherine? Well this is a FAR, FAR greater and more serious an invitation than that!

- This is '**the right**' to be a member of THE Royal family of ALL Royal families ...and of ALL time ...for ALL time!
- This is ADOPTION into GOD's own family!
- This is a '**right**' to a family's wealth that is without measure!! Your 'Father' would be beyond being a TRILLION, TRILLION, TRILLIONAIRE!

The phrase in v 12 – '**he gave the right**' - speaks of ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY!

Born how? - By whose will? - Based on what?... Quite simply ...GOD! Just read it again:

v 13: ***who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.***

## ***God's Glory on Earth...***

v 14: *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

This is the summary verse... and it's quite a surprise...

v 14 He '**became flesh and dwelt among us**'

...No one less than God Himself has come to live among us!!

Notice it does not say... 'full of earthly power and might'... but rather words that we simply do not expect: '**grace and truth**'!!

- The Jews were an occupied people – they wanted a mighty, powerful, military, victorious King. A Saviour from Roman tyranny...
- What they got was The Son of God – '**full of Grace**'

Here is a way to remember what the word **Grace** actually represents in the person of Jesus:

God's Riches At Christ's Expense!

- Instead of some Kingly outward show of strength....they got the '**Truth**' from God!

So.... from vs 1-14 **The Word** makes clear that Jesus IS the Creator God !

This is clearly so much more than just the Jesus of the Sunday School picture ....

*'Gentle Jesus - meek and mild'....*

But rather the ALL powerful, Creator God, **full of Grace and Truth**!!

## **The Truth is out**

vs 15-18: (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

In these verses John the Baptist points to Jesus and says:

***"He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me."***

- To the Jews at the time, John was the main attraction. They went out to the wilderness to see him...
- Yet he talks of the Son Of God... who of course '**ranks before me, because he was before me!**'

John (the author of the Gospel) again uses that word “**grace**” - which is such a contrast to the human power that the Jews were wanting:

- v 16 ***And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.***
- v 17 ***For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.***

Hardly the all-conquering, mighty, Jewish King the Jews were hoping for... destined to come and save God’s people from the tyranny of the Romans.

### ***Implications...***

Who has seen God? ...

No mere man - not even Moses, who the Jews so venerated...

v 18 ***No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.***

So... on what do people base their knowledge of God when they say “*I view God as...*”?!

➤ ***‘No one has ever seen God’***

The Answer: The WORD made flesh – ***He (Jesus) has made Him known***

A helpful translation would be: *‘Has declared Him once and for all’.*

So... if I want to know God with confidence ....where should I look?

➤ ***THE WORD***

What... or Who... is ***THE WORD***?

➤ v 18 .... He “***who is at the Father's side***”

What has... ***THE WORD /He...*** come to “do” for us?

➤ ***DIE ON THE CROSS***

What will I find in the book of John?

➤ ***And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.***

Here ends John, the Gospel Writer's, Executive Summary. It's not the start that we all expect is it?

- The claims for Jesus are both unique and quite simply **OUTRAGEOUS!**
- We will see that God's **WORD** is **NO** moral code about what it is 'good' for man to "do"!
- We will see that through His **GRACE**... and nothing of our merit... the **truth** is all about what Jesus has **DONE!**

### ***What comes next?***

We get an insight into the life and times of John the Baptist... before Jesus comes on to the scene.



Here is the whole passage we have just studied:

### *John 1 vs 1-18*

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<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.