

the Gospel according to

JOHN



SESSION 02:

Prologue pt 1: John 1:1-11

Prologue

Overview:

The first eighteen verses of the gospel of John are the introduction to the book. These verses contain key information and understanding that will be opened up in the rest of John. These verses contain truths that are very deep and are certainly difficult to grasp the first time reading through. This passage must be read over and over through-out your years as a Christian to really begin to get a full understanding of them. However, in this lesson, we will try to identify and open up some of the key points that will help you to know who the true God is, his work in the world, and how a person can become his child.

JOHN 1:1-5

- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- The same was in the beginning with God.
- All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
- And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”

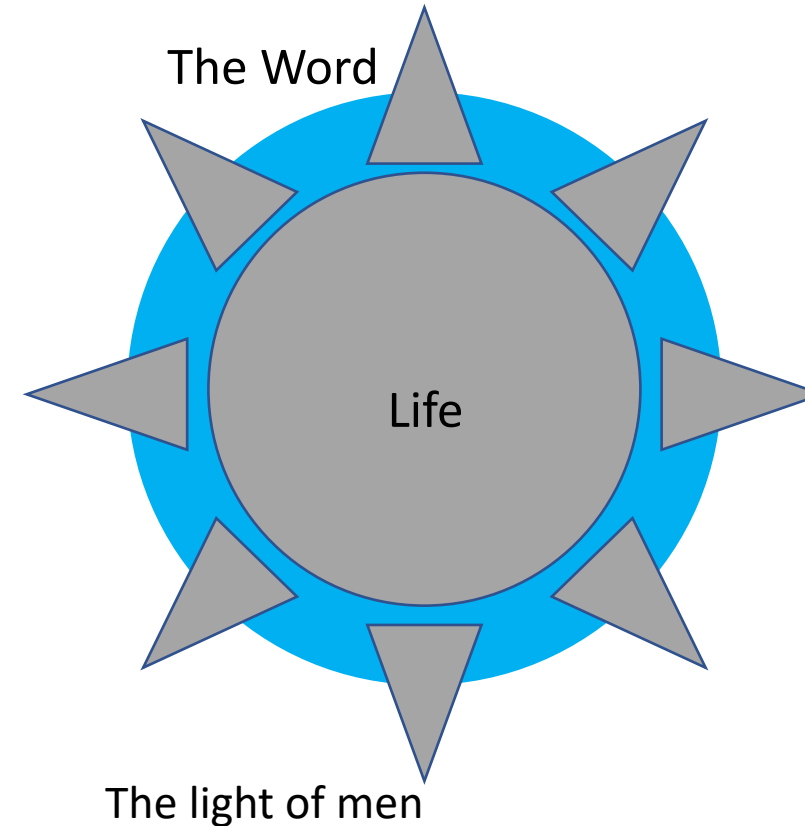
❖ NOTE: What are some of the key words in this passage?

KEY POINTS:

- **Only two books of the Bible begin with “In the beginning...”:** Genesis and John. Genesis begins looking at the natural (earthly) realm. John is going to begin to open up the spiritual (heavenly/eternal) realm.
- **The eternal name for Jesus is the Word.** Long before he ever became flesh and entered the world as a man, his name was the Word.
- **The Word was with God in the beginning, and he was God.** So it appears that God is not a singular being. God was in the beginning, but he wasn't there alone, somebody else was there with him: the Word. The Word is not a created being, but he too is God.

KEY POINTS:

- **All things were made by the Word** (not by the Father directly).
- **In the Word is life.** This life is clearly eternal life as the Word is eternal. And this life (that is inside of the Word), is the light of men.
- **This light shines in the darkness.** The darkness does not put out the light. The light maintains it's identity in the darkness. But the darkness cannot comprehend (receive/embrace/ assimilate) the light. God divided light and darkness back in the beginning (Genesis 1:4) and they have nothing to do with each other (see 2 Corinthians 6:14).



JOHN 1:6-13

- “There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.
- The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all *men* through him might believe.
- He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.
- *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
- He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
- He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
- But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:
- Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

❖ NOTE: What are some of the key words in this passage?

KEY POINTS:

- **John the Baptist was a man sent from God.** He was sent to bear witness to the Light (Christ) so that all might come to faith in the Light. He was not the Light, he just bore witness (testified) of the Light.
- **The true Light is the One** who lights every one who comes into the world. The true Light is the Word from the beginning.
- **When the true Light entered the world that he made** the world didn't even know him (completely oblivious). When he came to his own (Israel and the Jews of Jerusalem) they did not receive him (which is proof that they were in darkness, see verse 5).

An unknown 2-letter word:
"Aleph/Tau"
(first & last letter of Hebrew Alphabet)

Genesis 1:1

בראשית ברא אלהים את הארץ
In the beginning created God the heavens and the earth
The word "את" (Aleph/Tau) is circled in orange, with an arrow pointing to it from the text above.

All through the Old Testament there is this "Word" that no one knew what it was or why it was there... Jesus is "The Word" from the beginning all through the OT. He is the one right there "with God" that made all things. He is the "Aleph-Tau" or in Greek: "Alpha-Omega"