

THE WORD MADE FLESH

BIBLE TEXT : John 1:1-34.

LESSON 27 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

John 1:1-34

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 The same was in the beginning with God.
3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.
7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all *men* through him might believe.
8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.
9 *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
12 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:
13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me:

Bible References:

I The Word in the Beginning of the Creation

1. Before ever the world was, the Word was; for the Word is the eternal God, John 1:1;

John 17:5

5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

1 John 1:1

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

1 John 5:7

7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

Revelation 19:13

13 And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

2. The Word was with God in the creation of the Heaven and the earth, John 1:2;

Hebrews 1:1

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Hebrews 1:2

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3. The Word is the Creator of all that is, visible and invisible, John 1:3;

Colossians 1:16

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Romans 1:20

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

II The Word the Life and the Light of Men

1. The Light of men shone in spiritual darkness, and was not comprehended, John 1:4, 5;

John 3:19

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

1 John 1:5-6

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

2 Timothy 1:10

10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

2. The mission of John the Baptist was to bear witness of the Light, John 1:6-8,

Isaiah 40:3-5

3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

for he was before me.
 16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.
 17 For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.
 18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.
 19 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?
 20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.
 21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.
 22 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?
 23 He said, I *am* the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.
 24 And they which were sent were of the Pharisees.
 25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?
 26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;
 27 He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.
 28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.
 29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.
 30 This is he of whom I said,

4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:
 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see *it* together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

3. The Word is the true Light, lighting every man coming into the world, John 1:9;

John 8:12

12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Matthew 4:16

16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

III The Word Made Flesh When Jesus Was Born

1. He was in the world which He created, but unknown by even His own, John 1:10, 11;

Matthew 1:23

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Isaiah 1:3

3 The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: *but* Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

Ephesians 4:18

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

2. But those who believed on Him were born again and made the sons of God, John 1:12, 13;

John 3:3

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Philippians 2:15

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

1 John 3:1

1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2. The Word was made flesh when the angels announced His birth in Bethlehem, John 1:14;

Matthew 1:23

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Luke 2:10-11

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

IV John's Witness of the Incarnate Word

1. He Who came after John was preferred before him, for He was before him, John 1:15;

John 3:30

30 He must increase, but I *must* decrease.

2. Moses was the lawgiver, but Jesus Christ is the Life-Giver, John 1:16, 17;

John 11:25

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believet

1 Corinthians 15:45

After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit.

3. The Word is the revelation of God to man -- the express image of His person, John 1:18;

John 14:9

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father?

Hebrews 1:3

3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

V John's Testimony to the Jews

1. Their inquiries: Art thou the Christ? Elias? that Prophet? John 1:19-22;

Malachi 4:5-6

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

3. John's denial and confession: "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness," John 1:23;

Luke 1:17

17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Luke 16:16

16 The law and the prophets *were* until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

4. John's testimony that he baptises with water, but Christ baptises with the Holy Ghost, John 1:24-28;

Matthew 3:11

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with fire*:

VI John's Testimony to Jesus' Baptism

1. His testimony when Jesus appeared: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world," John 1:29-31;

Matthew 1:21

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

2. At the baptism of Jesus, John saw the Spirit descending like a dove, John 1:32, 33;

Isaiah 61:1

1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are bound*;

Luke 4:18-21

18 The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20 And he closed the book, and he gave *it* again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

3. And having been informed ahead, John bare record that Jesus was the Son of God, John 1:34,

Hebrews 7:3

3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

Notes:

John's Gospel is noted for its simplicity of language, yet here in the opening chapter this beloved disciple, who rested his head upon his Master's bosom, leads you into heights and depths in Christ that amaze the human mind.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The Babe Who was born in Bethlehem's manger that memorable night, Who grew into manhood, and with Whom John and the other disciples walked and talked -- this Galilean, the carpenter's son -- before time began, before there was a Heaven and an earth, He was with God. He was God! He was the One Who by the word of His power spoke the worlds into existence. The flowers, the trees, the hills and the mountains, the seas and the land, are all the work of His hand. Somewhere far beyond the sun, moon, and stars He was enthroned amid the glory He had with the Father (**John 17:5** 5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.). But the time came when He left that throne. And why did He leave it? To come down to this world of woe for the express purpose of saving a lost humanity -- for no other reason. "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." "Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

The term **Word** in this chapter is translated from the expression **Logos**, which possesses a far deeper meaning than the former usually conveys. **Logos** means much more than the spoken or written Word. At any rate there is no mistaking John's use of this term. He means none other than Jesus Christ (**John 1:14** 14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.), the eternal Son of God (**John 17:5** 5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.), the second Person of the Trinity (I John 5:7).

The prophets of old spoke God's message, but Jesus Christ came with more than a message. We are all familiar with John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." And a certain evangelist has said, "God's real message of love to this world is His only begotten Son." We may say that He in fact was the **Message** of the prophets; for they all, from Moses on down, pointed to Him. Even the patriarch Abraham may be reckoned among their number, for of him the Lord said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad." The great, central **Theme** of the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms is the coming Messiah. And of His day also spoke the Apostle Paul: "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds" (Hebrews 1:1, 2). Jesus Christ is God's Message to this world, the **Logos** of Whom John wrote. And God commands us to heed His Word: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

Jesus Christ is also the **Life**. "In him was life; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4). To doubting Thomas Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." To Martha in her bereavement He said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." To the multitudes He said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

Jesus Christ came to this earth to bring more than a religion, more than a code of teachings, more than a system of Christian living. He came above all to offer Himself a sacrifice for sin, that men through Him might have **Life**, and have it more abundantly. Jesus' teachings are pure and holy convincing every man's conscience of the truth. The standards of Christian living which He set are high, persuading the conscience that men ought thus to live. But no teachings, no Christian standards, no mode of life set forth, can make a man alive who is dead in trespasses and sins. What men need is Christ Who is the **Resurrection** and the **Life**, the **Logos** Who was with God, and Who is God.

QUESTIONS

1. To whom was John referring when he said, "In the beginning was the Word"?
2. What verse in this chapter indicates to whom he was referring?
3. In what verses of his other writings does John refer to this great truth?
4. What was the central theme of the Old Testament prophets?
5. To what do the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms point?
6. What was the difference between Moses' mission and Christ's mission to this world?
7. When John said, "The Word was made flesh," to whom did he refer? and to what great day does this statement point?
8. After revealing that Jesus Christ is the Word, what other great truths does John here reveal concerning Whom Jesus is?
9. To whom does John refer when he says, "All things were made by him"?
10. Quote two other Scriptures, which verify the fact that "all things were made by him."
11. What was the mission of John the Baptist in relation to Jesus Christ?
12. Quote a statement by John the Baptist, which indicates that Jesus came to offer Himself a sacrifice