

# John 01 - Understanding the Logos: Hymn of Grace

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John 1:1-18

## Hymn - Teaching Theology

- In the beginning was the *Logos*, and the *Logos* was with God, and *Divine* was the *Logos*. He was with God in the beginning. All was made by him and without him nothing was made. In him is life, and the life is the light of men. The light shines in the darkness but the darkness knows it not.
- There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

## Hymn - Teaching Theology

- He was the true light. He alone comes into the world revealing man. He was in the world and the world was created through him but the world refused to know him. He came to his own but his own rejected Him.
- But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

## Hymn – Teaching Theology

- And the *Logos* 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.
- 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.”

## Hymn – Teaching Theology

- For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came only through Jesus Christ.
- No one has ever seen God; the only Divine, who is in the Father, he alone reveals Him.

## John’s Gospel is this Hymn

- John writes his Gospel to explain the elements of this hymn
  - Preexistent Logos - Light of the Father came into the World, took on Flesh of Man to bring life to sinful man who rejected the Wisdom of God shown in His Law
  - Law - Intensified the sinfulness of man and need of a sinless sacrifice: God provided Himself as that sacrifice

## Old Testament Equivalent

### Logos

- With God before Creation  
(J= 1:1-9)
- Brings Light of Grace  
(J= 1:9-11)
- Logos became flesh, Son  
(J= 1:14)
- Grace comes by Christ (J= 1:17)

### Wisdom

- With God before Creation  
(Pr 8:22-31)
- Heralds Truth (Son) of God  
(Pr 8:1-21)
- Wisdom points to Life  
(Pr 8:12-16)
- Bread & Wine sacrifice  
(Pr 9:1-6, 1Co 11:23-29)

## John Refutes Heresy

- Jews and Islam - Accuse Christianity of polytheism
  - Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Trinity rejected
  - John reveals "only Divine" who alone reveals the Father
- John uses Scripture to prove preexistence of Christ
  - Wisdom personified, existing before Creation
  - Wisdom with God, points man to truth of God's word

## Defining Wisdom and Logos

- Neither can be defined simply in a few words
  - Wisdom is the application of God's truth to life
  - Logos is the embodiment of God apart from the Father
- John builds on Jewish acceptance of wisdom to build the concept of *Logos* which is defined as the *fullness of God bodily in Christ Who is in us* (JG 1:15-20, 24:27)

## Logos is Divine and from God

- Wisdom did not bring life but pointed to life via the sacrifices and presages the Eucharist: Bread & Wine
- Logos completes Wisdom as the Light which was present at Creation bringing order out of Chaos (Jn 1:3-5)
  - This is not energy light (Day 4) but Christ come into this Creation as Father's agent of Creation {Father Infinite}
  - Thus, He becomes *the only*, author of our salvation (Jn 12:1-2)

## He is Of God, Not Another God

- Christ {Logos - *Fullness of God*} is the *image* of the infinite Father and not another God; thus, *Light of Life*
  - Christ - Father and I are one (Jn 10:30)
  - Christ - Who has seen me has seen the Father (Jn 14:9)
  - Once in a body, He spends eternity in a body with us (Jk 24:36-43; 1Co 15:42-49; 2Co 5:1-5; Rm 2:12-27)
- Lucifer mocks this by creating the lie of Athena coming from Zeus' forehead: from Zeus but a separate entity

## Christ Not Equal to Father

- Christ and the Father are one in essence {*fullness of God*} but not in authority {Father → Christ → Spirit}
  - Christ came to do the Father's will (Jn 5:29, 6:38)
  - Christ gave His life to the Father, paid sin debt (Jk 25:40)
  - Christ did not seek to be equal to or greater than Father (Jn 2:1-8)
  - Lucifer and man seeks to be equal to or above God (Jk 3:5, 14:12-18)

## Christ Did Not Replace Law

- Old Testament witnesses to salvation in Christ (Ro. 3:21-26)
  - Wisdom (Law) could not bring Life but it could point to the only One Who would: Logos, Light of God, is Life
  - Law is righteous and good (only from God) (Ro. 7:14)
  - Christ did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it; Creation will pass away before the Law (Ro. 5:17-20)

## Why Man not Sacrifice for Sin

- Man, in the flesh, must control sin (Co. 4:6-7)
  - Adam failed to control the flesh, and sinned (Co. 5:6, IT 2:13-14)
  - All men are tainted with sin, demonstrated by sins (Ro. 3:23)
  - Man must pay penalty for his own sin (Ro. 3:10-18, 5:12-14)
  - Sinless angels are finite, not men & do not understand (IT 1:30-32)
  - Only Christ (Divine) could, in the form of fleshly (sinful) man, satisfy infinite God's wrath of sin (1Co. 15:20-28, IT 1:7)

## Hersey – Deny Christ in Flesh

- Christ is the Cornerstone of Salvation: Destroying His sacrifice destroys your salvation (IT 4:1-3, IT 1:7-8)
  - Lucifer (Demons-Fallen Angels) deny Christ came in the flesh
  - False teachers also deny Christ came and died in the flesh
  - These are the antithesis of Christ (Antichrists)

## Various Denials of Biblical Christ

- Adoptionism - Born as mere man but later *adopted* as son of God: Refuted by 268
- Apolinarism - Born as a man but had a divine mind: Refuted 381
- Arianism - Denied eternal coexistence with the Father: Refuted 381

## Various Denials of Biblical Christ

- Docetism - Not a real man nor a real death; only a spiritual illusion: Refuted but continues as Gnosticism
- Patripassianism - Father & Son were same entity: Refuted but continues
- Sabellianism - Father, Son & Spirit three modes of same entity: Refuted but continues as Modalism

## John's Gospel – Christ is Son

- John does not repeat the historical narratives that depict Christ as:
  - King of the Jews - Matthew
  - Slave of God - Mark
  - Son of Man to Gentiles - Luke
- John - Son of God, divine from eternity, co-creator of this creation and only holy sacrifice for sin

## John's Gospel Supports His Thesis

- John designed his Gospel to support each point of the thesis contained in this opening hymn
  - This hymn links Christ to the Father in eternity past
  - Christ is a continuation of Old Testament revelation, not a new or different religion
- Christ is not a new god nor is salvation a new faith; both He and the New Covenant were in the OT

## Common Modern Thesis

- Modern Arianism {Free Will} evangelical theology assumes:
  - God made man and creation perfect, complete
  - Despite God's omniscience, man sinned destroying God's perfection
  - God had to go *back to work* to fix the damage requiring the death of Christ so man could enjoy a new, perfect creation {unless man defies God's omniscience again}

## Gospel Refutes Arminianism

- John shows God's Plan from the beginning *before* creation was the sacrifice of Christ to make some people in His complete image
  - All people have some essence of God's image seen as moral self-aware beings who justify their sin
  - All people without God's direct intervention, reject life
  - Christ only source of life by Father via the Spirit

No Trinity  
No Salvation