

## Who is Jesus? John 1:1-18

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. - John 1:1-3, ESV*

The Gospel of John is distinct, clearly different in content, scope and purpose from Matthew, Mark and Luke. The first three Gospels have been called "synoptic" Gospels, providing a "synopsis" (summary) of the life and ministry of Jesus. John's Gospel is less synopsis and more exposition, less summary and more explanation, less history and more theology, less narrative and more Christology.

What does all this mean? John's driving focus is to exalt the glory of Christ and put the fullness of the person and work of Christ on display for all to see and believe.

John begins his Christ-exalting Gospel with a beautiful, poetic prologue of 18 verses. He begins with a unique title for Christ, "the Word." This is the only place in Scripture where Jesus is so explicitly called "the Word," though John makes it clear that whenever the Bible speaks of "the Word," it is pointing in the direction of Jesus. When John says that Jesus is "the Word," he means . . .

1. **Jesus is the eternal Word.** "He was in the beginning with God."
2. **Jesus is the Word of creation.** When God spoke the universe into existence, Jesus was the creative Word God spoke.
3. **Jesus is the Word who is God.** God's very Word is fully God because He is God's own wisdom, God's own mind.
4. **Jesus is the Word of Life.** "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." (v. 4)
5. **Jesus is the Word that shines the light** of God into darkness and cannot be overcome. (v. 5)
6. **Jesus is the Word made flesh.** Perhaps the most shocking statement in the Prologue for both Jewish and Greek readers is the line proclaiming that the very

Word of God, the "logos" (reason) of the universe, became flesh and dwelt among us. (v. 14)

**7. Jesus is the Word full of grace and truth.** Jesus brings the grace and truth that we need for salvation in Himself. (v. 17)

This is Jesus: eternal, creative, fully God, life, light, incarnate, full of grace and truth.

Do you know Him? Have you received Him? Do you believe in Him?

*"... to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" - John 1:12*