

Adult Sunday School Class

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Date: January 10, 2021

I. Introduction

The Gospel of John is introduced and emphasizes the identity of Jesus Christ revealed in these verses. Nowhere in Scripture is Jesus more clearly seen as both God and man than in these verses. Jesus came as the incarnate Word and was born the perfect Son of Man. He came from the Father to show us the Father's Will; for whoever has seen the Son has seen the Father (John 14:9), and whoever has the Son in their heart, has the Father also... for Christ is the visible image of the invisible God, and God sent His Son into the world to reveal Himself to us. "Gospel" means "good news;" in the New Testament -- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John announce the good news, that is, Christ came so that we might believe in Him and have our sins forgiven for eternal life. John is the Apostle who was one of the twelve Apostles, a leader among the early church and also known in this book as the disciples whom Jesus loved (John 21:20-24).

II. The Lesson: Nothing Was Made Without Him. John 1:1-3

vv. 1:1-2

As we study the Gospel of John, we see that the purpose of God's word is to teach us that Jesus is much more than a great teacher. He is the true Son of God and the Savior God promised us. "Behold, my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles" (Is. 42:1). Calling Jesus the "Word" indicates that He is the One God promised to send. Jesus fulfills everything God promised about the Savior in His Word. The Bible tells us that God is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There is one God and yet three persons. We call God the "triune God". Triune is a word that means three in one. We cannot humanly explain how this is true. We simply must trust what God has told us.

The opening statement of John's Gospel lays out who Jesus is and why He came. The LORD Jesus Christ is the Word of the most High God, who existed from eternity past and is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit. God is Spirit ("God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth", John 4:24), but Christ came to earth as a mortal Man to become our Kinsman Redeemer.

Another major teaching from these verses is the pre-existence of Christ. He is with God in the beginning of creation. He became flesh, but that is not the beginning of His existence (1:14). Jesus pre-existed with God, Jesus was with God, and most importantly, Jesus is God! He did not have His origin in Genesis 1-2. When the world was created, Jesus was already there with God and as God. It is important for us to grasp this fact. Our LORD is God. He is eternal. He existed in the very beginning, and He has ever existed with the Father. Although Jesus lived

as a man, He never ceased to be the eternal God. Jesus is the Word, and the Word is God. The Word became a human being, revealing the ultimate and living picture of God.

V. 3

Having affirmed the divine and uncreated nature of the Word, John now proceeds to tell of His relation to the Creation. God is the Creator of all things; apart from Him, there would be nothing. The LORD who created the universe is the One found lying in a Bethlehem manger. The Word created all things that were created. Therefore, He Himself is an uncreated Being as the Apostle Paul wrote in **Colossians 1:16**. “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”. The universe is not the product of mindless matter, but an intelligent Creator. He is the very source, the very well spring and the very fountainhead of life itself in all things. All things, the world and all it contains, and the whole universe, were made by or through Him. “God, who at sundry times and in diverse 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). All things that were made were spoken into being or through the Word. The point is Jesus who spoke all things into being spoke that which is seen and unseen, the realms of men and angels. One of the most used phrases in the Genesis account of Creation is, “And God said...” When God spoke, it became so. In the Creation, we witness the power, majesty and wisdom of God. The creative force which acted to bring all things into existence was not impersonal, but rather a living Being. He is called the Word, and He is eternal. He is with God and He is God. All things are under His authority. In Colossians 1:17, it says “He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together”. That is, by Him all things are held together; Christ now preserves all that He made in Creation. Many times when we as Christians face great obstacles or learn about difficult situations in the world and life, we can be heard saying that it’s in the LORD’s hand, or Jesus will work it out!

III. Conclusion

The quoted Scriptures show that the Son or Word of God is the source of all Creation. Nothing has come into being apart from Him. Jesus is the Word because He is the means through which the Father brought all physical reality into existence and because He is the One who represents the Father’s invisible nature and character to that Creation. Just, as our spoken word is the physical manifestation of our thoughts and personality, Jesus is the Incarnate Word of the invisible God.