

# The Word was God

## John 1:1-4

This morning we are going to take a close look at Jesus to determine who He is, why He came to earth, and why it should matter to us. One thing is clear – Jesus of Nazareth is unique! No one has done so much to lift humanity out of sin and into a righteous life as He taught people to repent. No one has taught love, compassion, and forgiveness like He did. Jesus helped us to understand what God is like. In times past, people sought to appease the wrath of God; but because of Jesus, we can know God’s grace and become children of God.

In our reading this morning Stefan read from Jn. 1:1-4, it begins like this: “*In the beginning was the Word.*” “*Beginning*” refers to the time before the creation. To say

the Word was in the beginning means that He was not created, God created man, but the Word has always existed; He was in the beginning. The passage then says, “*and the Word was with God.*” The word “*with*” means that the Word accompanied God and had a relationship with the Father. Next, we read, “*And the Word was God.*” Here we have the Word described as Divine, yet He was with God. What does this then mean? First off, the Greek leaves us with the thought that Jesus is made up of the same stuff as God is – *of the same DNA so to speak.*

Let’s go to **Gen. 1:1** and get a little more information. “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*” In **verse 26** we read something God said, “*Let us make man in our image, after our*

*likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heaven and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”* He we have the

word “*us*” used. Let “*us*” make man in our image. **Does this mean there are Gods?**

No, the Bible never refers to God, as being multiple Gods. But we do read of the

Godhead: That is this one God being made up of the Father, the Son, and the Holy

Spirit. (*This is what I meant, when I said Jesus had the same DNA, so to speak, as*

*God; He and the Holy Spirit are made up of the exact same eternal stuff that the Father*

*is made up of.*) We only see glimpses of this in the O.T., but it is clearly shown in the

N.T.

**Jn. 1:3** says this about Jesus, “*He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.*” God the Father was not alone in creation. The Lord Jesus was with Him and was the means by which everything was made. Nothing was made without Jesus. Paul puts it this way in **Col. 1:15-17**, “*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*” Jesus Christ is the power behind our creation. Everything has come into being through Him and for Him.

There is a false teaching, that takes the phrase, “*Firstborn of all creation,*” and wrongly assumes that Jesus was the first created being who created everything else. Firstborn is a title, a description of His place over all creation. The role of firstborn doesn’t necessarily have anything to do with priority in time but in his place of preeminence. **Col. 1:18** says, “*And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.*” He is first in everything having to do with this world. He created it, and He sustains it by His power. He must have first place in everything!

In spite of His preeminence, Jesus was humble and obedient to His Father, and His example teaches us how to be humble and

obedient as well. In **Phil. 2:5-8** we read, *“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*

Jesus is, and through time has always lived, he has always lived in glory with the Father in Heaven! He lacked for nothing through all those ages. He was unlimited or infinite in Knowledge and power. And everything was and is His. He was in the permanent form of God. He always has been and always will be divine. But the Lord Jesus saw the wickedness of mankind and out of

love chose to empty Himself and become nothing, so that He could save a lost and sinful world. The Bible in **2 Cor. 8:9** says, *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”*

He loves you more than His own life, and He was willing to empty Himself so that you might be saved. He became a man with all the physical limitations of humanity.

Though he existed in the form of God, He took on flesh like a man. In **Jn. 1:14** we read, *“And the Word 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.”* For the time He lived on earth, Jesus lived as both God and man. As a man he suffered death,

and as the Son of God he suffered for our sins that you and I might live forever.

John told us that Jesus was full of both grace and truth. If you think about it, you will realize that only a divine being could be full of grace and truth. He has the grace to forgive us and the truth to show us the right way. **Titus 2:11-14** says, *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.”* The Bible calls



Jesus “*our great God and Savior.*” Only Jesus could offer His body as a sacrifice so that He might purify us, forgiving us of our sins and making us His new people.

It’s not strange to refer to Jesus as God. The prophet Isaiah by inspiration prophesied about John the Baptist in Isa. 40:3, “*A voice calling, ‘Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.’*” John was preparing the way for Jesus, whom Isaiah calls *the LORD* and *our God*.

Likewise, the book of Hebrews directly refers to Jesus as God. The Hebrew writer quotes the inspired psalmist (Ps. 45:6-7) and he says in Hebr. 1:8-9, “*Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated*

*wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”*

The Hebrew writer continues his thought in verses 10-12, *“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years have no end.”*

In Jn. 10:30 Jesus said, *“I and the Father are one.”* Because of this we can know what God is like. Jn 1:18 says, *“No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.”* The Lord Jesus explains the God of Heaven to you and to me. And

because Jesus lived on earth, we can understand better what God is like. Jesus is God in the flesh, and He explains God to us.

Jesus himself tells us in **Jn. 14:7-9**, “***If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.***’ Philip said to Him, ‘***Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.***’ Jesus said to him, ‘***Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘show us the Father’?***” Jesus in his life and actions shows us the character, the love, and the power of Almighty God.

Jesus, when He was talking to the Jewish leaders once said, “***Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad. So, the Jews said to Him, ‘You***

*are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?’ Well, Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.’ (Jn. 8:56-58).* Jesus claimed to be the “*I Am*,” the name God had given the Jews so they could know Him. And in **Heb. 13:8** the Bible makes it clear that Jesus has always existed, “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*”

In the book of Revelation, Jesus proclaimed “*Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades*” (**Rev. 1:17-18**). As Jesus has indeed always lived, death on the cross could not hold him. He conquered death and rose again – so we too can once again rise from the dead to live

with Him always. Truly, Jesus has all the power of a Divine Being.

When Jesus rose from the dead, the disciples were fearful; some doubted the testimony of the women that he had risen. You'll remember that Jesus suddenly appeared to the apostles who had hidden themselves in the upper room, and they saw Him. John tells about Thomas in **Jn. 20:24-29**, ***“But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. So, the other disciples were saying to him, ‘We have seen the Lord!’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.’ after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came and stood in their***

*midst and said, ‘peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Reach here with your finger, and see my hands; and reach here with your hand and put it into my side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.’ Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Because you have seen me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see me, and yet believed.’”*

I hope you noticed the words of Thomas, “*My Lord and my God!*” I hope you also noticed that Jesus did not rebuke or correct Thomas, If He were not God, but only a godly man, He would have corrected Thomas – but He is Jesus, the Son of the Living God. If you remember Paul and Barnabas were in Lystra teaching when Paul healed a lame man, the people who saw

these bowed down and worshiped them calling Paul Zeus and Barnabas Hermes, (**Acts 14:14-15**). Paul stopped them saying, ***“Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you.”***

Paul and Barnabas put a quick stop to the worship – Jesus did not, because He was God. Also, in **Rev. 22:8-9**, Scripture reveals how John fell down to worship an angel. But the angel told John, ***“Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.”*** Now, Jesus did not speak like this angel – He accepted worship from Thomas as Lord and God.

**Colossians 2:9-10** says, ***“For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and***

*in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.”*

Because Jesus emptied himself, took the form of a servant, and died upon the cross, God honored Him. **Phil. 2:9-11** says, *“For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

After His resurrection Jesus said in **Mt. 28:18**, *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”* Jesus now has all authority in Heaven and on earth. He is reigning as King of kings and Lord of lords (**Rev. 17:14**). He is already the one to



whom each of us must give an account for how we have lived in our bodies on this earth. **2 Cor. 5:10** puts it this way, *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”*

*Is your life in order? Are you ready for judgement day?* To become a Christian, believe in Jesus Christ as Lord. Be willing to deny yourself, take up your cross daily and to follow Him. The gospel calls us to love and obey the Lord with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. If you believe Jesus is Lord, you will turn from your sinful life and live for righteousness. This is repentance. With faith and repentance, we should confess Christ and be

baptized in water for the forgiveness of our sins as Peter commanded in the first written gospel sermon in **Acts 2:38**. The Holy Spirit led Peter to say those words and they have not changed since that Day. Won't you obey?