

The Gospel of **JOHN**

Prologue
John 1:1-18



Foundational Theology

John 1:1-5

Theology: the study of what is true about God.

“There is nothing as practical as good theology.” -- Haddon Robinson

“Practice without theology is blind, just as theology without practice is lame.”

--Ronnie Collier Stevens

The Word (λόγος)

John 1:1-2

- The Word is eternal

There never was a time when the Word was not.

- The Word was with God.

The Word always existed in closest relationship to God.

- The Word was God.

God exists eternally as a plurality of Persons.

The Word (λόγος)

John 1:3-4

Why is there something instead of nothing?

- *For by Him [God's Son] all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible...all things have been created by Him and for Him. --Colossians 1:16*
- *God...in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. --Hebrews 1:1-2*

The Word (λόγος)

John 1:3-4

- The divine Word has the power of life and being within Himself.
- The life of the Word enlightens mankind with what is morally right.

The Battle: light vs. darkness

John 1:5



Foundational Theology

John 1:1-5 Summary

The Word, who is eternal God and our Creator, shines the light of His truth and righteousness in our dark world, and He will prevail.



John's Witness to the Light

John 1:6-8

- John was sent from God.
- He came as a witness to the Light.
- But he was not the Light.
- *Only the blind need a witness to the light!*



Rejection/reception of the Light

John 1:9-13

- Christmas in John (1:9-14)
- The true Light shines on all who will receive it
- *World 3x* (v. 10)
 - He was in it
 - He made it
 - It did not know Him
- Even His own (the Jews) did not receive Him
- **BUT** those who did receive/believe were born as God's children

Rejection/Reception of the Light

John 1:9-13 Summary

When the True Light came into the world He had made, to His own ethnic group, the majority did not embrace Him. But some did receive Him by believing into His name. Humanly speaking, they entrusted their lives to Him, receiving His salvation. But from another, more fundamental perspective, God gave them new life!

The Word Became Flesh to Show Us the Father

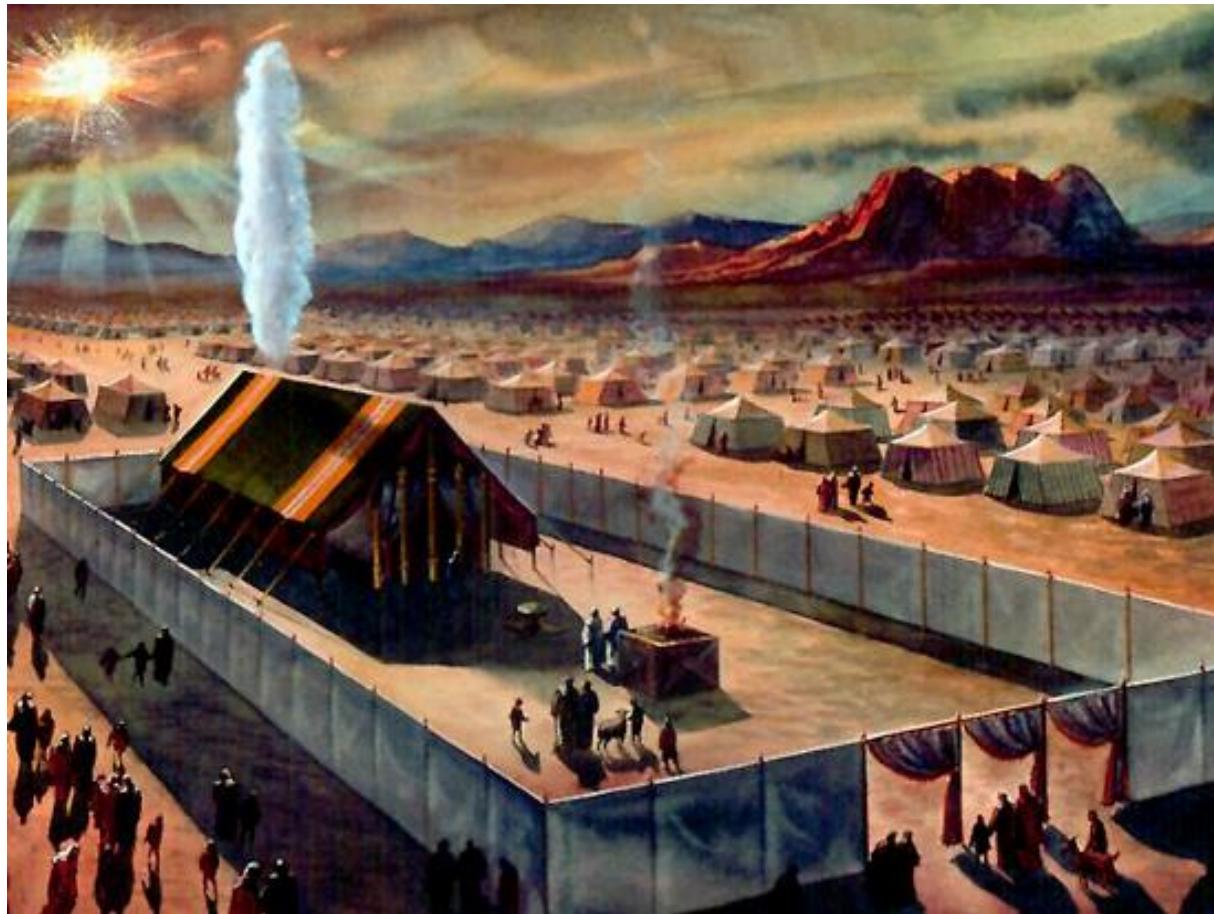
John 1:14-18



Colossians 2:9

For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form. [NAS]

Old Testament Tabernacle



grace in place of grace



John 1:18 Paraphrase

- No one has seen God in His essential being because God is spirit; but the unique One, God the eternal Son, who is in closest fellowship with God the Father, He has come to explain (or show us) what God is like.



John Bellamy

The Word Became Flesh to Show Us the Father

John 1:1-18 Summary

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, leaving eternal glory at His Father's side, to enter 'this present darkness' to explain God in all His grace and truth, to warn us of impending danger because of our sin, and to tell us that He is the way, the truth and the life, and that no one can come to the Father, except through faith in Him (see John 14:6).

*“Rise up O men of God!
Have done with lesser things.
Give heart and mind and soul and strength
To serve the King of kings.”*

--William Merrill (1911)

The Gospel of
JOHN

1:19-51

Behold the Lamb!

