

“The Gospel of John: Emmanuel”

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Scripture

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.

3All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

4In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

5The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

6There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.

9There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

10He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

11He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

12But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me."

16For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

17For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

18No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.”

Overview of the Gospels

- **Matthew** -> **Jewish flavor to the writing, portraying Jesus as the Christ and King**
- **Mark** -> **Jesus as the “Son of Man”, really Peter’s Gospel for the Gentiles**
- **Luke** -> **Jesus is Human and the Redeemer of Humanity**
- **John** -> **Jesus is the Divine “Son of God”**

Why Write the Gospel?

Matthew, Mark and Luke’s Gospels were already around. Why another one?

The Purpose for John's Gospel

John 20:30-31

"Therefore, **many other signs Jesus also performed** in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that **believing** you may have life in His name."

Many events in John not recorded elsewhere

Many events recorded in the Synoptics not in John -> the Transfiguration, for example

The word "believe" ~100 times in John's Gospel

Emmanuel or Immanuel

Matthew 1:18-25

"**Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows:** when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. **"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."**

22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "**BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,**" which translated means, "**GOD WITH US.**" And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus."

Isaiah 7:13-14 (Israel under Ahaz, continually testing the Lord's patience)

"Listen now, O house of David! **Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well?** **"Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.** "He will eat curds and honey at the time He knows enough to refuse evil and choose good."

His Name would be called **Jesus** -> "What He would Do" -> Save His people from their sins

His Name would be called **Immanuel** -> "How He would do it" -> Come down to be with us

In The Beginning

Greek word is *Arché* -> "origin or inception" – either from a Temporal sense or a Prioritization sense.

In John 1:1, **it is Temporal** and refers to the absolute "beginning of all things"

Mark 3:19 (Speaking of the End Time troubles)

“For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred **since the beginning of the creation which God created** until now, and never will.”

If we're talking about the beginning, we need to go back to which book in the Bible?

Genesis 1:1

“**In the beginning** God created the heavens and the earth.”

2The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and **the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.**

3Then **God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.**

4God **saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.**

5**God called the light day, and the darkness He called night.** And there was evening and there was morning, one day.”

“God created the heavens and the earth” -> **this is a summary statement**

Then, the details are shared -> **“let me tell you how God did that!”**

“The earth was formless and void” -> meaning “not finished in its shape” -> raw materials only

“Darkness was over the surface of the deep”

Deep meaning “the depth of waters”

Darkness meaning “a pitch black” -> **Exodus 10:21** notes it **speaking of locusts covering the sky**

“Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters” -> God, the Holy Spirit was active in Creation

John 4:24

“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”

“Let there be light” -> God spoke light into existence -> **He will be the Light in the future** (Revelation 21:23)

Revelation 21:23 (The New Jerusalem coming down from Heaven)

“And **the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it,** and its lamp is the Lamb.”

Not talking about the sun and the moon (Those were created on the 4th day -> **Genesis 1:14-19**)

Light dispelled the darkness

2 Corinthians 4:6

“For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”
God allowed His light to shine over the earth -> His creation

The Word

What is a Word?

John 1:1

“In the beginning was **the Word**, and the Word **was with God**, and the **Word was God**. He was in the beginning with God.”

“Word” -> Greek word is *Logos* -> “A word is an expression of a thought”

Logos is preeminently used of Christ, expressing the thoughts of the Father through the Spirit

It is a capitalized name (Word) and it must be a Person because:

Genesis 1:2

“He was in the beginning with God”

“The Word was with God” -> He was around before creation in God the Father’s presence

“The Word was God” -> He was Divine in nature, the same substance of God, equal to God the Father

John 1:14

“The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth”

So, with Genesis 1 and John 1, we see the entire Trinity described for us:

God the Father	->	Genesis 1:1; John 1:1
God the Son	->	John 1:1 and John 1:14
God the Spirit	->	Genesis 1:2

John 1:3

“All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”

John writes that Jesus, the Word, was Involved in Creation -> Nothing created apart from His involvement

Paul wrote about Jesus’s role in creation:

Colossians 1:16-17

“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

Light vs. Darkness

John 1:4-5

“In Him was life, and **the life was the Light of men.**

The **Light shines in the darkness**, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”

John loves the terms light and darkness

Last week, we read the Jesus said He was the Light of the world

John 8:12

“Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “**I am the Light of the world**; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

What does Jesus mean?

How can we understand how John uses Light vs. Darkness?

Illumination, n. “the action of illuminating or state of being illuminated: such as

- a) a spiritual or intellectual enlightenment.
- b) a physical lighting up such as a decorative lighting or lighting effects.
- c) A decoration by the art of illuminating.”

John describes illumination as spiritual and intellectual enlightenment:

John 1:9

“There **was the true Light** which, coming into the world, **enlightens every man.**”

1 John 1:5-10

“This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that **God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another**, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. **If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.”

John uses Light as walking in fellowship with Jesus, spiritually enlightened as to the truth and committed to live by the truth.

If, however, we say we understand the Light but continually walk in darkness, John writes that we are “liars,” “deceiving ourselves” and “the truth is not in us”

In short, we’re simply not saved...though we might talk a good game.

John 3:19-21

“This is the judgment, **that the Light has come into the world**, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. **For everyone who does evil hates the Light and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.** "But **he who practices the truth comes to the Light**, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

John 11:9-10

“**If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble**, because he sees the light of this world. "But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

It is not that Light is good and Darkness is evil.

We must understand that John and Jesus use **light** as a metaphor of spiritual enlightenment such that we live a certain way, following a biblical world view and mindset.

The way of Light is the narrow road... Darkness is the wide road that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14).

John 1:10-11

“**10He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.**

11He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.”

When John writes about “the world”, he usually means “in a spiritual sense”

1 John 2:15-17

“**Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”

It is an attitude or a spirit of lust and a prideful spirit

In John 1:10 however, like John 3:16, John means “His creation” -> For God So Loved “the world”

How many of you have said to a child, “I brought you into this world, you don’t behave, and I’ll take you out”

“He was in the world” -> “the world was made through Him” -> He visited His creation

Emmanuel – God with Us

The world did not know Him, though. **We didn't know Who He Was...**

"He came to His own" -> He came to Earth to be among His people

"His own did not receive Him" -> He was rejected by His people

Isaiah 53:3

"He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him."

John 1:12-13

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

It is a rebirth from above, a spiritual, heavenly birth -> **That's what we mean by "Born again"** -> Nicodemus

Have you been born from above?

Full of Grace and Truth

John 1:14-17

14And **the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me."

16**For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.**

17**For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.**

"We saw His glory" -> **Reminds me of Moses wanting to see God but not able to see His glory**

Exodus 33:18-19

"Then Moses said, **"I pray You, show me Your glory!"** And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and **I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."**

The character of God is to be gracious:

Psalm 145:8 -> "The LORD is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness."

Joel 2:12-13

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "Return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping and mourning; And rend your heart and not your garments." Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and relenting of evil."

The grace of God has appeared to mankind in Jesus:

Titus 2:11

“For **the grace of God has appeared**, bringing salvation to all men”

John 1:16

“**For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.**”

“grace upon grace” -> means a **superabundance of grace**

We have received this **grace upon grace**:

Think about all the things that God has provided you...resources, family, and friends

Think about all the mistakes of life that He has overlooked until you came to know Jesus personally...

John 1:17

“For **the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.**”

The Ten Commandments **were never intended to save Israel** -> Israel (and we) still needed a Savior

No one could completely keep the Ten Commandments, despite the Rich Young Ruler's insistence “from birth”

The Law was never meant to save you...just to show you that you needed a Savior

Think of how He brought you to the knowledge of His Son, His Sacrifice, and the possibility of Salvation...

Ephesians 1:5-8

“**He predestined us to adoption as sons** through Jesus Christ to Himself, **according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace**, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, **according to the riches of His grace** which He lavished on us.”

We who believe in Jesus have experienced true grace and understand the Truth, personally.

God Explaining God

Job 9:33

“**Nor is there any mediator** between us, Who may lay his hand on us both.”

That Mediator Job longed for came in the Person of Jesus Christ:

1 Timothy 2:5-6

“For there is one God, and **one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus**, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.”

John 1:18

No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, **He has explained Him.**"

"No one has seen God at any time" -> Moses wanted to truly see God

"He has explained Him" -> KJV says "declared Him"

The Greek word (*exégeomai*) here means "to lead by showing or to intensively show the way"

We would say "to narrate, clarify, interpret or explain" something.

We see from John's description that one of Jesus's reason for coming was to give a living example of Who God Was and show God's character to the world.

Sermon on the Mount -> "You've heard it said" but "I say to you", for example:

Matthew 5:43-44

"You have heard that it was said, YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"

Then, He went to the cross to pay the penalty of our sin in order to allow us to be reconciled to God

That old Gaither song, "Heaven Came Down" comes to mind:

Heaven came down and glory filled my soul
When at the cross the Savior made me whole
My sins were washed away
And my night was turned to day
Heaven came down and glory filled my soul

How great a God do we have...that He came, personally, to explain to us...to show us the way to have eternal fellowship with Him?

He is Jesus, God in the Flesh, the Beautiful One, and the Son of God

Prayer

Benediction