



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

**Beholding, following and exalting Jesus**



**“John’s Gospel is deep enough for an elephant to swim and shallow enough for a child not to drown.” Augustine**



The word became flesh and dwelt among us

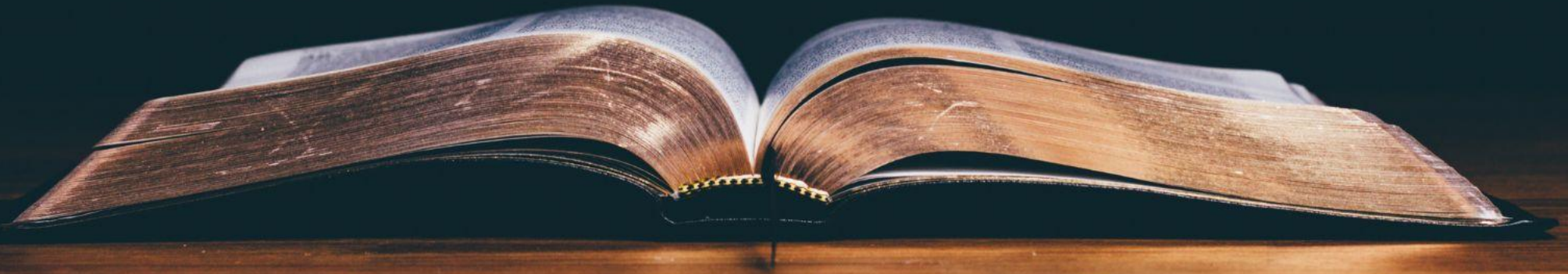
May the Word be *fresh* and dwell *within* us.



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. **JOHN 1:1-18**



# The Power of a Prologue

*Two households, both alike in dignity  
(In fair Verona, where we lay our scene),  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  
A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life;  
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows  
Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.  
The fearful passage of their death-marked love  
And the continuance of their parents' rage,  
Which, but their children's end, naught could remove,  
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;  
The which, if you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.*

Prologue- before the word  
Before the main event

Introduces main characters,  
themes, story or setting. Establishes  
the tone for the play or piece of  
literature

# The Power of a Prologue

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. **JOHN 1:1-18**



Prologue- before the word  
Before the main event

Introduces main characters,  
themes, story or setting.  
Establishes the tone for the play  
or piece of literature

**Doesn't just set  
the scene but it  
also gives us  
reasons to Praise!!**

# Author: John the Disciple

- A fisherman, son of Zebedee, brother of James
- 'Son of Thunder' who became the 'Apostle of love'
- Included in Jesus' inner three (despite probably being the youngest apostle) and the one who was entrusted with caring for Jesus' mother Mary.
- *Theological and missiological* biography rather than *chronological emphasis*
- *Who Jesus is* as a focus rather than *what Jesus did*
- John 20:31 – *But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*
- Probably 'published' in Ephesus after John's exile on Patmos (96AD) and finished before his death around 99AD



# Logos- Word

- **The *reason* and *mind* of God (Greek)**

- Heraclitus 560BC 'Is there any meaning or purpose or pattern in life?' *Logos* was the answer

- **The powerful speech of God (Hebrew)**

- Creative and communicative word of YHWH
- The communicating link between God and humanity

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Jesus' eternal existence

Jesus being in divine community

Jesus' divine identity

Jesus' powerful and central involvement in creation

Jesus as the source of all life

Jesus as the in-extinguishable light

**6** There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. **8** He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. **9** The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. **11** He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. **12** Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—  
**13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

**The true light**

**Recognition: Do we recognise Him?**

**Receive: Have and will we receive Him?**

**Believe: Do we trust in Him?**

**Children of God**

**14** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. **15** (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") **16** Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. **17** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

God among the people

Jesus fully God and full of grace and truth revealed.

Grace upon grace

Grace and truth

God Revealed

Eternal existence

Perfectly joined in the  
godhead

Truth revealed v

Mystery of divinity v1-2



Present in a specific  
time & space

Perfectly joining with  
humanity

Grace embodied

Clarity of his majesty v18