

The Logos Revealed: Jesus as the Eternal Word

The Nature of John's Gospel

- **The "Theological" Gospel:** While the Synoptics provide a synopsis (an overview of events), John is more concerned with the identity and deity of Jesus.
- **Unique Content:** Approximately 90% of John's material is not found in the other three Gospels. He devotes nearly two-thirds of his account to the final week of Jesus' life.
- **The Purpose:** John's writing is not just a chronicle of history; it is a legal and spiritual case built so that the reader may believe and have eternal life (John 20:31).

Jesus as the "Logos" (The Word)

- John bypasses the birth narrative (the manger) to start in eternity. He uses the term **Logos** to bridge the gap between Jewish and Greek thought:
- **For the Jew:** It addressed Monotheism. How can Jesus be God if there is only one God? John 1:1 answers: "The Word was **with God** [distinct Person] and the Word **was God** [same Essence]."
- **For the Greek:** It addressed the "dirty" physical world. How can a perfect God touch matter? John 1:3 answers: Jesus is the **Creator/Mediator** through whom all physical things were made.

The Meaning of Jesus' Titles

- **Jesus Christ:** "Jesus" is His personal name; "Christ" (Messiah) is His official title as the promised Prophet, Priest, and King.
- **Son of Man:** This was Jesus' favorite self-designation. While it hints at His humanity, its primary meaning comes from Daniel 7. It identifies Him as the Heavenly Being who comes from the throne of God with authority to judge and forgive sins.
- **Lord of the Sabbath:** By claiming this title, Jesus identified Himself as the Creator who instituted the Sabbath, not merely a man following its rules.

The Metaphors of "Life" and "Light"

- John introduces **two repeating themes** that define the Christian experience:
- **The Source of Life:** Jesus is the "Arche" (the Beginning/Ruler). He existed before time and is the source of all biological and spiritual life.
- **The Revelation of Light:** Light represents divine truth. John teaches that:
 - a. **Light is Revealed:** Spiritual understanding isn't "discovered" by human genius; it is imparted by God.
 - b. **Light is Rejected:** Men naturally love darkness because their deeds are evil (John 3:19) The darkness could not overcome or understand the light.

The Identity of Jesus: Who is the "Word"?

1. His Eternal Pre-existence

- **Before Time:** John 1:1 begins "**In the beginning,**" mirroring Genesis 1:1. Jesus was not a created being; He was already in existence when the universe was formed.
- **The Deity of the Son:** John makes a radical claim—the Word was distinct from the Father ("with God") yet identical in essence ("was God").
- **The Creator:** Everything in the material world was made through Him (John 1:3). Nothing exists that He did not bring into being.

2. His Names and Authority

- **The Logos (The Word):** Jesus is the perfect expression of the Father, who came into this world. He is the bridge and "The Way" between a transcendent God and a finite world.
- **Son of Man:** This was Jesus' favorite title for Himself. It refers to the "Heavenly Being" in Daniel 7 who has the divine authority to judge the world and forgive sins.
- **Lord of the Sabbath:** By claiming this title, Jesus asserted that He is the Creator who originally instituted the Sabbath, placing Him above religious tradition.

3. His Incarnation (God in Flesh)

- **The Self-Emptying:** The infinite God "emptied Himself" to take the form of a bondservant (Philippians 2). John stresses that the eternal Light entered into our darkness so that we could see His glory.
- **The "Only Begotten":** John highlights the unique relationship between the Father and the Son.

4. The Source of Life and Light

- **The Light of Men:** Jesus is the "fountain of all truth." Any truth or "light" found by philosophers or thinkers is ultimately "borrowed light" from Him.
- **The Giver of Life:** John uses the word "life" 36 times. He presents Jesus as the only source of eternal life—a gift received only by those who come to a "verdict" and believe in Him.
- **"He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace! Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race." — Charles Wesley**