

John 1: Who is Jesus? 1-10-16 PM

John 1 is the story of two men. One of the most important man of the Old Testament, the second is the most important man of the New Testament. One is John the Baptist, the other is Jesus the Christ. John tells us that the overall purpose of the Gospel of John is to identify Jesus as the Christ and the Son of God (God Himself).

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.
John 20:30-31

There are four particular points to be made about Jesus' identity from the first chapter: He is God in the Flesh; He is the Word of God; He is the Light of God; He is the Grace of God.

Jesus is God in the Flesh: An important passage in the New Testament is 1 Timothy 3:16 – *“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.”* The mystery of the identity of Jesus as God in the flesh was alluded to by the prophets (e.g. Isaiah 9:6). Jesus said that it was “necessary” that God come in the flesh to die (Luke 24:26). This necessity can be understood in places like Romans 7:1-2 and Hebrews 9:6, which tell us that the only way a new covenant could be instituted between God and mankind was that the first covenant make should die; the only way that God could die was to become flesh.

Jesus is the Word of God: The word that is translated as “Word” in John 1 is the Greek word “Logos”. It refers to both the idea and the meaning of a word. Therefore, what John is saying is that Jesus was the communication of the very mind of God to man. Jesus would repeatedly tell us that if we know Him, we know the Father (John 14:7). When God created all things He spoke them into existence; thus through God's Word the worlds were created.

Jesus is the Light of God: The text of John 1:1 begins in parallel to Genesis 1:1. Indeed, there are a number of similarities in the texts; they both point to the introduction of light to the world to dispel darkness. God's first words (the First Word) to the world was “let their be light”; here John tells us that Jesus was the light of men.

Jesus is the Grace of God: Grace is described as the measure of action God was willing to take out of His affection for us. It was not revealed in the past, but only through Jesus Christ. Jesus embodies the Grace of God as He is the embodiment of God.

John the Baptist was a man who represented all the good things of the Old Testament. In summary, they merely pointed to Christ. Jesus was not a man, but God in the Flesh, and would change the nature of the world from hopeless to hopeful.