

## John 1:1-3

John, the youngest of Jesus' disciples, was the last disciple to author a Gospel. John only refers to himself in his Gospel as the disciple whom Jesus loved, so some skeptics argue that John was not the author. John's disciple Polycarp, before his death as a martyr, confirmed that it was John who wrote it. Most scholars believe it was written in the AD 90s. He was the last living apostle.

John has several accounts which are not in the other Gospels and organizes his in a unique way. He focusses on the signs performed by Jesus that show that He is the Messiah. I imagine people often asked about accounts of Jesus that were not written in the other Gospels, so he chose to put those in writing. John also emphasizes the I Am statements of Jesus to a much greater extent than the other Gospels, connecting Jesus with many Old Testament statements about God (YHWH – The Lord of Hosts).

The prologue is one of the richest theological treatises ever written. He drew from the Jewish writings and traditions but wrote in a way that spoke to the Greek mind as well. Remember that he was a simple fisherman when Jesus called him to follow. By the time he wrote, most of the church was Gentile.

*<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.*

1,2 His opening statement is a verbal parallel with Genesis 1:1. The “Word” parallels “and God said” in Genesis 1:3. Since God is a spirit and does not have vocal chords, John concludes that the voice of God is the manifestation of God. The Apostle Paul calls the manifestation of God Jesus (Colossians 1:15). That manifestation is referred to as the Greek word *logos* translated as “Word.” Greeks thought of *logos* as the original idea or cause behind every physical thing. We find in verse 14 that the Word is Jesus, whose body was like a tent, camping out here with us.

It also stands to reason that a perfect and pure One would be the same as his word. If you cannot lie (Titus 1:2), then what you speak is consistent with who and what you are. The word is God. Jesus said that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Since Jesus is the word of God, He is then the abundance of the heart of God (Luke 6:45; Hebrews 1:1-3).

“Word” in Hebrew is *Debar* and *Mimra* in the Targums (ancient Jewish commentaries/translations on the Scriptures) and Hebrew Bible. In the Targums it is usually personified as a living being. So the idea was not foreign to Jews.

Where we see “Word,” we can, because of verse 14, substitute “Jesus.” Jesus was in the beginning and with God and one with God. We find in other passages that there is a third member of this united oneness referred to as the Holy Spirit. The three are separate persons but one in essence. Our attempts at comparing their triune oneness with anything we can relate to falls short. They were throughout eternity satisfied with their oneness and perfection.

*<sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

3 The “Him” in verse 3 is Jesus, the Word. Through Him all things were made. Jesus is the instrument of creation (Colossians 1:16). Without Him nothing was made that has been made. If it exists, it came about through Jesus.

Now you may think that sounds like mythology, but it makes a whole lot more sense to me than current scientific theories of naturalism. An eternally existent God who spoke (and remember sound is a form of energy) matter and space into existence does take faith to believe (Hebrews 11:3). The current natural alternative is that matter always was and that we have incredible order out of an explosion. If you blew up a junk yard a million times you just get more disorder. If time and chance creating all we see does not sound plausible to you, you might consider the latest explanation from Dr. Dawkins and other leaders in the field of evolution. They look at the complexity that scientists are discovering within a single cell and realizing it was designed. So now they propose that an alien designed the first earthly life forms and planted them here and everything evolved from that. That prompts a few questions like who made the alien, or could the alien be God? And they still haven’t explained how mutations could create higher life forms.

To illustrate the marvel of what Jesus did in creating space, matter, and life, lets take forty minutes to watch Loui Giglio giving a sermon on the greatness of God. I was thinking about showing this to you. I took a break and started Pandora music app and the song that came on was the theme song for this sermon, How Great is Our God. God is in the details.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atUGBua2AzE>

Questions

Who was John the Beloved?

What does *logos* mean?

What is the source of physical thing?

How small are we?

What makes us of any significance?

How great is our God?