

The Eternal Son 5-11-08

John 1:1-3

Big bang DVD – before the songs –

The Gospel of John was the last gospel to be written. It is unique in that for the most part it doesn't go over the same stories that the first three gospels covered. I have always imagined that John, the longest living of the disciples, kept being asked to repeat the stories and sayings that weren't written down. Finally, he compiled the most important stories that were overlooked by the other writers in his Gospel.

We are going to jump right into the text without dealing with the author, as he will be introduced. Instead of beginning by writing about the birth of Jesus and His human ancestry, the Apostle John starts even further back and tells us of the eternal Son of God. This first 18 verses is said to be one of the most concise and intellectual presentations of the Creator ever written. It presents some ideas that are so large that they are difficult for us to grasp. Some commentators think that this was an early hymn of the church.

John begins with a bang (pun intended) by describing the eternal Son of God, Jesus. *In the beginning was the Word.* It all started with the Word. Stick with me as I try to explain this to you as it is very important for us to understand this concept.

Logos is translated as the Word, but *logos* is much more than simply "word". *Logos* is a very Greek idea and John was writing to the Greek mind. The Greeks saw *logos* as the principle or standard behind what we see. The word comes from the verb *lego*, to tell or speak. My grandsons love their *legos*. They were aptly named because the idea behind the word is building blocks. We also get the word logic from *logos*.

The word is used in philosophy by Aristotle to mean discourse. The Greeks would enter into a discussion of things until they reached some a consensus of what they believed was truth. John took that Greek word and applied it to Genesis when God spoke and it was. (Genesis 1:3) God uttered a command and the command was the building blocks of what we see, the reality behind all created things. It was the truth, the final word of how things are. In the beginning was *logos*. The verb tense could be translated "was continuing" in each place we read "was". We could say *logos* was always "wasing" which isn't correct English but conveys the idea of the verb tense. It isn't just past but is continuing on. That's important! *Logos* wasn't just in the past but was in the past and continues.

We must jump to verse 14 to understand what John is trying to tell us. ¹⁴ *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. Logos* was manifest as Jesus. Expanding on that word, *logos*, brings us to a fuller definition of what John was saying Jesus is: truth, the reasoning of God, the principles and reality behind creation. In the beginning was *Logos*.

Commented [notes1]: 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
Gen 1:3 (NIV)

The Word was with God and the Word was God. Jesus is eternally existent with God. He is God. No wonder He could say they were one. (John 10:30) God does not live in time. He inhabits eternity. (Isaiah 41:4) We are bound by a dimension of time and cannot see ourselves in the future. Our knowledge of the past is limited to our own short life and limited locations. We can never be certain of what we read of the past as we have not personally experienced it, but God lives everywhere and throughout time right now. There is not a place or a time in which He is not currently present. That will stretch your mind because it is something outside of our experience. This is why God knows the future with certainty. He's there. This is why every Bible prophecy is sure. He sees its fulfillment when He spoke it to the prophet that wrote it down. (Jeremiah 7:1) This is why His history is exact and unquestionable. He is the One there. *Logos* was and continues to be with God and *logos* was and continues to be God.

Commented [notes2]: 30 I and the Father are one." John 10:30 (NIV)

Commented [notes3]: 4 Who has done this and carried it through, calling forth the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD--with the first of them and with the last--I am he." Isaiah 41:4 (NIV)

Commented [notes4]: 1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: Jer 7:1 (NIV)

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)

Commented [notes5]: 2 a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, Titus 1:2 (NIV)

Commented [notes6]: 45 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks. Luke 6:45 (NIV)

The expression "with God" in Greek implies a continually movement toward. We could say "face to face and ever closer". The Father and the Son dwell in eternity past, present and future and are in complete unity. There is never an argument in the Godhead. Their heart is the same. (John 8:29)

Commented [notes7]: 29 The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." John 8:29 (NIV)

This first verse is the clearest description in Scripture of the idea behind the Trinity. It is packed with theological significance. (1) *Logos* has an origin that supersedes the created order of time and space, (2) that this *Logos* has an identity distinct from the previously understood designations for God, and (3) that the *Logos* must also be understood as part of the unity of God. — New American Commentary This is fundamental to Christian doctrine of who Jesus is and what His coming meant.

In case we didn't quite get it, John repeats the thought with a slightly different wording in verse 2. *He was with God in the beginning.* And suddenly we are back in Genesis 1:1, *In the beginning Elohim ...*— the plural for God. You thought we finished Genesis and here we are right back in Genesis chapter one. *In the beginning God created...*³ *Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.* God spoke the Word. The Word is Jesus. He brought everything into being. The New Testament counterpart of Genesis is this book of John, and that is one reason we are following Genesis with John.

The "Him" in verse 3 is Jesus, the Word. Through Him all things were made. Jesus is the instrument of creation. Without Him nothing was made that was 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 that 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 that doesn't sound plausible to you, you can try the latest explanation from Dr. Dawkins and other leaders in the field of evolution. They look at the complexity that scientists are discovering lies in a single cell and now propose that an alien designed the first earthly life forms and planted them here. That prompts a few questions like who made the alien, or could the alien be God?

Commented [notes8]: 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. Heb 11:3 (NIV)

What John was doing was explaining to the Greek mind the story of Genesis chapter one in a way that he had come to understand it after living with Jesus for three years. He wasn't alone in this perception; the Apostle Paul understood the same truth. The context shows the "him" in this passage is referring to Jesus. ¹⁶ *For by him (Jesus) all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.* ¹⁷ *He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.* ¹⁸ *And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.* ¹⁹ *For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,* Colossians 1:16-19 (NIV)

John and Paul were singing the same tune, just slightly different words. The fullness of God is in Jesus. He made everything, visible and invisible. He came before it all. He holds it all together.

We have to get a Gospel size Jesus in our hearts and minds. Too often we have a little Jesus that is just a little bigger than us, just a little wiser, just a little more powerful, just a little purer. That is not Jesus at all. The real Jesus made it all! It all exists for Him, by Him, and because of Him. That's the real Jesus, in whom dwells all the fullness of God and who lives in the eternal now.

A man I never met dropped off a set of DVDs and CDs in front of the church last week, and one of them just happened to be a DVD from a Christ Tomlin concert on the greatness of our Creator. Of course it was just a coincidence that it arrived right in time for this message on John chapter one. You don't think God is so big, so all knowing that He would bother to touch someone's heart to drop off a DVD to illustrate the message that I had already planned to preach this Sunday do you? Do you?

The speaker, Louie Giglio, will share a verse from Psalm 33. Listen for a little different way the psalmist expresses the concept of The Word. (Psalm 33:6) Let's get a bigger vision for the greatness of our Savior as we watch just a portion of what John meant when he said, "*All things were made by Him...*"

Commented [notes9]: 6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. Psalms 33:6 (NIV)

Part of Louie Giglio's message from the How Great is our God tour: 4:50- 15:30

(For those who can't see this DVD you can purchase a copy at www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=2324 Portions of it also appear on youtube. To give you just an idea of what the congregation will see on the video, Louie shows that the earth fits into the sun 960,000 times. He speaks of progressively larger stars until he gets to Canis Major. The earth would fit into it 7

quadrillion times. If the earth were the size of a golf ball, Canis Major would be the size of Mt. Everest! He suggests climbing Everest with a golf ball in your parka just to get a feel for the enormity of that one star.)

Did you find yourself on that golf ball? Well, that could make you feel pretty insignificant, but let me jump to the end of John's gospel to give you some insight into why he wrote of the greatness of Jesus in these first three verses.

³⁰ *Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.* ³¹ *But these are written **that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing **you may have life** in his name.* John 20:30-31 (NIV) He is telling us of the greatness of Jesus so that we might appreciate and desire a relationship with Him. He is telling us so that we will go to Him for life. As flawed and sinful as we are now, we were originally made in the image of God. Jesus sees the potential to restore that image and make you into what He originally intended. That is life! Why would you look to self, or anywhere else, when the Master Creator desires to have a relationship with you? Considering His greatness, it is no wonder every other relationship should pale in comparison. Would you really rather have a relationship with money, or entertainment, or drugs, or your selfish pride?

The One that formed Canis Major and every other star and even space in which stars exist, formed your soul. That incredible mind boggling God is love, and as great as He is, He wants you to receive His love. (1John 4:8) He made it all, performed miracle after miracle, *that you may believe, that you may have life.* What arrogance we profess when we refuse such an amazing God! He stands at the door of your heart and knocks. Won't you humbly receive Him today?

Yes, when you look at creation, we're insignificantly miniscule. Our significance comes from the fact that the Creator of all wants a relationship with us. That makes us very significant for His glory!

Commented [notes10]: 1 John 4:8 (NIV)
8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.