

Lesson 1

Prologue John 1:1-18

Note: These first 18 verses can be divided into three sections: Vs. 1-5 gives Christ's relation to God, creation, the spiritual life and light. Vs. 6-11 gives Christ after His incarnation. Vs. 12-18 gives the privileges given to those individuals who choose to receive Him by faith

1. Matthew and Luke begin their Gospels with Jesus' birth. Mark begins with His baptism. Why do you think John chose to begin his Gospel with the opening words of the Creation account in Genesis?

2. In what way do each of these passages relate to John 1:1-5?

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be

4 through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race;

5 the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

A. Genesis 1:1

1 In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth,

B. Colossians 1:15-17

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

16 For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him.

17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

C. Hebrews 1:2-3

2 in these last days, he spoke to us through a son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe,

3 who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

3. From vs.1-2, what information can you give about "The Word" before He was "made flesh" by His incarnation?

4. Compare vs. 3 with Colossians 1:16. For what reason were "all things made by Christ"? What must we do to fulfill this?

16 For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him.

5. Light and darkness are major symbols in John's Gospel. What do you think are meant by these words?

Consider the following references:

A. Psalm 36:10

10 For with you is the fountain of life, and in your light we see light

B. Psalm 82:5

5 The gods neither know nor understand, wandering about in darkness, and all the world's foundations shake.

C. Psalm 119:105&130

105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path.

130 The revelation of your words sheds light, gives understanding to the simple.

D. Isaiah 60:1-2

1 Rise up in splendor! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.

2 See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; But upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory.

E. John 3:19-21

19 And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.

20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed.

21 But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

F. Acts 26:18

18 to open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may obtain forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been consecrated by faith in me.'

G. Romans 13:12-14

12 the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness (and) put on the armor of light;

13 let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day,⁴ not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and licentiousness, not in rivalry and jealousy.

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.

H. Ephesians 5:8-14

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light,

9 for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.

10 Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

11 Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them,

12 for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret;

13 but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,

14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

6. In what sense is becoming a child of God a matter not of a person's will but of God's (vs.13)?

13 who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.

7. In verses 16-18, what does the phrase, "His fullness" mean to you?

16 From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace,

17 because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

8. Explain the following phrases in vs.17:

A.

A. The Law given by Moses

B. Grace came by Christ

C. Truth came by Jesus Christ

9. Which phrase in vs.18 best expresses the intimacy and affection that existed between Jesus and His Father long before Jesus was born into this world?