

In the beginning
was the Word...

Who is He? Why does He matter?



These words were written by someone who lived with Jesus for three years... his name was John.

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

² He was with God in the beginning.

³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

The God who made everything

John introduces us to 'the Word':

- Twice he tells us that the Word was already there 'in the beginning!' (**vv. 1, 2**)
- So the Word existed before time, before the beginning... in short, the Word is eternal.

But who or what is the Word?

- The Word is God. (**v. 1**)
- The Word is a person (called Him). (**v. 3**)
- He made absolutely everything, no exceptions.

Already we're being introduced to the Creator!

But John's claims for the Word go even further...

A photograph of a clear blue sky with several wispy white clouds scattered across it. The clouds are most prominent in the lower-left and lower-right corners, with some smaller ones in the upper-right.

In him was life...

...and that life was the
light of all mankind.

⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

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

Life and light

But what difference does the Word make for life?

- As Creator, the Word is the source of all life... (v. 4)
- ...and He is the source of understanding (light) for all people.

The darkness in our world can't stop Him bringing life and light to mankind. (v. 5)

For 2,000 years His message has been going out across our world unchanged. In fact...

The light of the Word continues to shine today.

Life: In John's book, the word usually means spiritual life – eternal life that starts now and lasts forever.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

Preparing the way

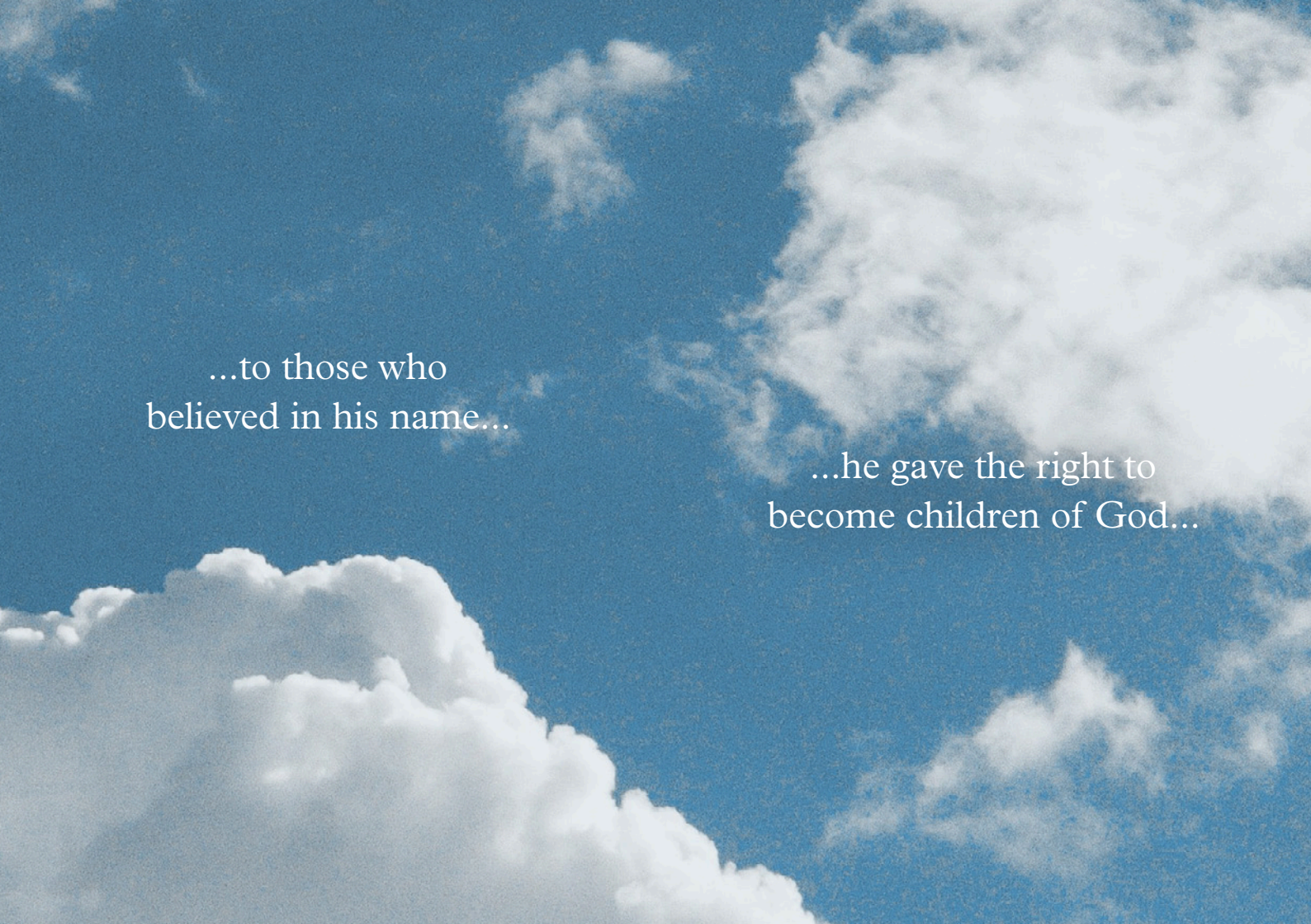
John (the writer) now introduces us to John the Baptist. He was the sensation of his day – drawing huge crowds to the desert with his preaching. (v. 6)

Just look at the job God gives him:

- He testifies, like a witness in a court... (v. 7)
- ...preparing people to believe in the Word, now called the light, who was soon to come into the world. (v. 8)

John the Baptist is the warm-up act. Through him God makes sure that the arrival of the Word is publicly known.

But we still haven't been told who the Word is... →

A photograph of a bright blue sky filled with white, fluffy clouds. The clouds are scattered across the frame, with a large, prominent cloud in the bottom left corner and another large one in the top right corner. The sky is a deep, clear blue.

...to those who
believed in his name...

...he gave the right to
become children of God...

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him.

¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God –

Responses...

What was the response when the 'light' came?

- The world did not recognise its Creator. **(v. 10)**
- Born a Jew, even His own people rejected Him. **(v. 11)**

But look at this mind-blowing gift for those who accept Him:

- He adopts them into God's own family... **(v. 12)**
- ...with all the privileges of being a child of God.

Imagine an orphan adopted into the wealthiest family on the planet. God's gift is much bigger even than that!

¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Who gets this extraordinary gift?

- Not people born into a religious family (natural descent).
- Not people who somehow became religious (human decision).
- But people adopted into God's family (born of God).

What is on offer through the Word is a new life. A living relationship with God for ever as a loving Father.

A blue sky with scattered white clouds. The clouds are mostly in the upper and lower portions of the frame, leaving a clear blue area in the center where the text is located.

The Word became flesh...

...and made his dwelling
among us...

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, “He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.””)

Grace: God's undeserved kindness and love, freely given.

Truth: all that is real, the answer to our searching

God on earth

Here is the amazing claim: God became human and moved into the neighbourhood. **(v. 14)**

What evidence is given to back this up?

- John (the writer) and many others knew the Word personally. **(v. 14)**
- They came to the conclusion that He was God's Son, here on earth - 'full of grace and truth!'
- So did John the Baptist, who says that the person he will introduce is his Creator. **(v. 15)**

These witnesses say that they saw God's Son, the Creator, come to live on earth... and they want to tell us about Him.

But what is His name?

¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in the closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Making God known

Look at what John (the writer) tells us:

- The Son is overflowing with grace (v. 16)
- God's good law, given through Moses long ago, is now fulfilled in Jesus... He doesn't burden life with rules but brings grace and truth (v. 17)
- He makes God known today. (v. 18)

At last John tells us: the Word is Jesus Christ, the Creator, the eternal Son of God, who makes His Father known today.

Moses: the greatest Old Testament prophet (around 1300 BC). God gave His law to the Israelites through him.

*Perhaps what you've read has
begun to raise questions in
your mind.*

*The book of John is full of
amazing answers, showing
Jesus Christ to be much more
than just a religious figure
from history.*

The Word One to One helps
you explore what the Bible says
about Jesus.

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info@theword121.com

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me this before?”*

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