# John 1:1-9 – The Word of Light

The Bible is divided into two major sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament. In most Bibles, the first 80% is Old Testament and the last 20% is New Testament. What we call the Old Testament is the Jews entire Bible. Accounting for translation word in the Jewish Bible is in our Old Testament and every word in our Old Testament is in the Jewish Bible, but they are not the same. The Jewish Bible has 24 books, where our Bible has 39 books. It is important to remember that the words of scripture were inspired, the division into books, chapters and verses were not.

So why do thee Jews have 24 books when we have 39? They treat 1st and 2nd Samuel as one book, 1st and 2nd Kings as one book, and all the Minor Prophets (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi) as one Book, Ezra and Nehemiah are one book and 1st and 2nd Chronicles are one book. The books of the Jewish Bible are also in a different order and logically grouped differently than we have in our Bible. But the important thing is that the inspired words of scripture are all the same.

When it comes to the New Testament, obviously the Jews do not have a New Testament. Christianity fulfills what is left incomplete in Judaism. Our New Testament is divided \_\_ into sections: the gospels and Acts are the history of Jesus’s life and the early church, the general Epistles are letters written to specific churches (but applicable to all churches), the pastoral epistles are written to specific individuals (but applicable to all Christians), finally the Book of Revelation is end times prophecy.

Focusing in further, The Gospels are groups as the synoptic gospels and John. The synoptic gospels are called that because they are a synopsis or short history of the life of Jesus written with a focus on His last year of ministry, the crucifixion and the resurrection, emphasizing what happened and was said. In contrast John focuses on at least three years of Jesus ministry, and as he addresses the Crucifixion and Resurrection, he looks at it in the light of how these events affected people.

John 20:31 tells us why John wrote the book: “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.” At this point I would like to add a new item into our weekly service. Each week we will recite a key verse together. Since we will recite that same verse each week for several months, by the end of the time all of use will have memorized the verse. While we are studying John, John 20:31 is our key verse. Please join me in reciting John 20:31.

“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.” (Joh 20:31 NIV)

The Bible scholars among you probably remember the genealogy in Matthew that goes from Abraham to Jesus, Matthew focuses on Jesus’ role as the Jewish messiah, so His genealogy is the genealogy of a Jew. You also think of the genealogy of Luke that goes from Adam to Jesus, Luke focuses Jesus as the savior of all humanity and so the genealogy showing Jesus is the perfect human. Mark focuses on Jesus as the suffering servant, since servants were not seen as worthy of a genealogy, Mark has no genealogy. John focuses on Jesus’ divinity, so today as we study John 1:1-14, we examine four genealogies of John chapter 1. Genealogy of The Word, Genealogy of Creation, Genealogy of the Gospel, and the Genealogy of Jesus.

## Genealogy of The Word John 1:1-2

“**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.

You can’t help but see the parallel with Genesis 1:1. In the beginning God: In the beginning was the Word. The word “was” is in the imperfect active indicative tense. In languages, imperfect indicates something that has already happened but hasn’t ended. Active indicates that the subject does the action, so in this case the Word causes its own existence. The indicative says that it is a statement of fact. So as hard as it is for us to get our minds around, in the beginning when everything started to exist the Word was already existing before the beginning.

What is this “word”? The Greek word is λòγος which can be translated as word, reason, speech, meaning, standard, principle, and logic. The meaning incorporates all of these. As I said, you can’t help but see the parallel with Genesis 1:1. In the beginning God: In the beginning was the Word, but in case it wasn’t obvious, John goes further and says, the Word WAS with God and the Word WAS God, He WAS in the beginning with God. There is no doubt that the Word is referring to God himself, but by saying the Word was with God and the Word was God, it also gives us an indication that while there is only one God, He exists in more than one person. Through other parts of scripture we know that there is one God who exists in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Think back to Genesis 1. How did God create? In each day of creation Genesis follows a pattern…God said something would exist and it existed. And God said let there be light and there was light. And God said let there be an expanse so God made the expanse. And God said let the waters gather and it was so. And God said let the land produce plants and it was so. And God said let there be lights in the sky and it was so. And God said let there be birds and fish so God created creatures to swim and fly. And God said let there be land animals and it was so. Genesis 1:3,6,9,11,14,20,24. But the most important one is when God said let us make man in our image, so God created mankind in His own image. Genesis 1:26-27.

We have reason, speech, meaning, standards, principle, and logic because we are made in the image of God. The Word’s genealogy is that He is and always has been God. Contrast that to all of creation.

## Genealogy of Creation John 1:3-5

**3** All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. **5** ¶ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

The Word created ALL things. Some of the cults try to modify this by saying all other things were made by Him, implying that Jesus Himself was created, but this is not what it says. It says ALL things were made by Him. The Word was not made, He always existed, even before time existed. The Word did not come into being, He always was.

In like manor, He did not come to life, but life literally came from within Him. But then it says something important that we miss. It says the life was the light of men. In scripture, light is often used as a metaphor for enlightenment, meaning, logic and understanding. The Word was meaning, logic, and understanding and the life that He gave us is the reason we have meaning, logic and understanding. God did not only create us and give us life, He also gave us the ability to understand and experience life in His wisdom.

If light is the wisdom of God enlightening us, then the darkness indicates a lack of God’s wisdom and understanding. Because of the sin in all our lives, those who lack God’s guidance cannot understand it. Take a look at the world around us. Worldly wisdom seeks to make a name for itself, Godly wisdom seeks to glorify God. Worldly wisdom seeks to be safe, Godly wisdom seeks to be faithful. Worldly wisdom trusts in its own understanding, Godly wisdom seeks God’s direction. Look around at our culture. Things that make perfect sense in God’s wisdom are foreign to the world. Protecting the life of unborn babies, seeing gender through the biological and genetic lens instead of seeing it as a fluid choice. Seeing marriage as between a man and a woman and no other possibility. The darkness of the world system does not comprehend it and so rebels against it.

God created us to be enlightened by Him, but the fallen sinful state, outside regeneration from God, denies His enlightenment. Godly wisdom is rejected because the world cannot even understand it. The Word has always existed, we were created to have life and enlightenment from God, but our problem is that sin has caused kept all of humanity from understanding that wisdom. This brings us to the solution to our problem.

## Genealogy of the Gospel John 1:6-13

**6** There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. **9** There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **11** He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. **12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

The Gospel has always started with a man sent from God to testify about the light so that everyone can believe in the Word. “He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the light.” This is the essence of the attitude we must have when we share the gospel. If we are pointing people to ourselves, we are pointing them to darkness, our goal is to point them to the Light. Only the Word is the true light, only the Word enlightens every man.

The Gospel is good news, but it is only good news in context. Think about it, how is God’s son dying the horrible death of a rebellious slave good news? It is only good news when you see that it has paid to pay the penalty for what we did in our darkness. When it says the world was made through Him and the world did not know Him or receive him, it is sharing the horror of our fallen state. It is showing our need for a savior.

The good news becomes meaningful from the context of the bad news, but it does not end with the bad news. As many as received the Word had the right to become God’s children. That is essence of the Gospel…the right to be adopted by God, the right to believe. But we can never believe only because of our heritage or parents, nor can we believe because of our decision or ambition, we can only believe because God wills it.

Throughout church history there has been debate about why God wills it. Some think he chooses because He knows in advance the way we will respond. Others believe he chooses because of His own wisdom and what brings Him the most glory. Some believe that the ability to believe is offered to all people, others believe that it is granted only to those who God chosen. What is clear is that God chooses. Why and how we may not know, but without the move of the Holy Spirit in our lives we will never be saved.

Once we know where the Word came from and where we came from, we can know our fallen state and the hope of salvation, that brings us to how God brought us salvation and hence the Genealogy of Jesus in John chapter 1.

## Genealogy of Jesus John 1:14

**14** And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (Joh 1:1-14 NAS95)

The Word became flesh. While it would not be appealing to us, the phrase in Greek is και ο λογος σαρξ εγενετο. And the word put on meat. We call it the incarnation from the Latin for putting in meat. But that body of meat could not hide the Glory of God. Through the Gospel we can see the Glory of the Word. Jesus is the Word made flesh.

When Moses saw God’s glory, he was hidden in the cleft of a rock with God’s hand over the opening and only allowed to see the trailing edge of God’s glory. For weeks afterward his face glowed so brightly that he had to wear a face covering to allow people to look at him.

It is only through divine providence that anyone could look at Jesus, even while he was wearing a suit of meat, and not be killed by the light of God’s glory. But even though the glory of God didn’t make Jesus physically glow, there was no way to hide the glory of God in His actions, His compassion, His words and His sacrifice. It is there if you allow yourself to see.

## Worldview

The way we view the world is influenced four major factors. How did we get here? Why are we here? What went wrong? And How do we fix it? For the Christian the answers are: We are here because the Word made all things. Our purpose is to have God’s light, wisdom, standards, logic and principle in us and to use it to glorify God. What went wrong is that in sin we extinguished that light and relied on our own wisdom. The solution is that we accept the salvation that comes only through the Word. The word become flesh is Jesus, it is Him that we must turn to for salvation.

How will you respond to His call? He wants to give you life, light and wisdom. Wisdom is a funning thing. It is not just about knowing the right thing to do, wisdom that is not applied is only knowledge. To have wisdom you must apply it to your life by doing what is wise. This is what happens when we let God be Lord of our lives.

While we sing this closing song, I am going to ask \_\_\_ to join me at the front. If you want to surrender your life to Christ, come talk to one of us. One of us will go take you somewhere that we can talk privately while maintaining social distance.

Coming for salvation is the most important aspect of this call, but not the only aspect. Maybe you are a Christian but need to trust the Word more. Maybe you are hurting because of relationships or circumstances. Maybe you are sick and need prayer. Whatever the reason, come forward and we will speak with you.

# John 1:1-9 – The Word of Light

## Genealogy of The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ John 1:1-2

λòγος which can be translated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, reason, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, meaning, standard, principle, and logic.

While there is only \_\_\_\_\_\_ God, He exists in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than one person.

And God said Genesis 1:3,6,9,11,14,20,24

We have reason, speech, meaning, standards, principle, and logic because we are made in the image of God.

## Genealogy of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ John 1:3-5

The Word created \_\_\_\_\_\_ things.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a metaphor for meaning, logic and understanding.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ indicates a lack of God’s wisdom and understanding.

God created us to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by Him.

## Genealogy of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ John 1:6-13

When we share the gospel our goal is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people to the Light.

The good news becomes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the context of the bad news, but it does not end with the bad news.

Without the move of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in our lives we will never be saved.

## Genealogy of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ John 1:14

The Word became \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: we call it the incarnation

There is no way to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the glory of God in His actions, His compassion, His words and His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

## Worldview

How did we get here? The Word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all things.

Why are we here? Τo have God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in us to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God.

What went wrong? In \_\_\_\_\_\_ we relied on our \_\_\_\_\_\_ wisdom.

And How do we fix it? Accept the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that comes only through the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.