The Essence of God

John 1:1-5

Introduction to John’s Gospel:

Writer: The Apostle John

Brother of James – They were sons of Zebedee.

Mark 1:19

“Going on a little farther, He saw ﻿﻿James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother,”

Date:

Tradition says A.D. 85-95

Recently, (Middle 1950’s) before A.D. 70’s

John 5:2

“Now there is in Jerusalem by ﻿﻿the sheep *gate* a pool, which is called ﻿﻿in ﻿﻿Hebrew ﻿﻿Bethesda, having five porticoes.”

This was not true in A.D. 85-95.

But, it was true before A.D. 70

John does not mention the destruction of Jerusalem.

Purpose:

John 20:30-31

﻿﻿“Therefore many other ﻿﻿﻿﻿signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written ﻿﻿so…

1. “that you may believe that Jesus is ﻿﻿the Christ, ﻿﻿the Son of God; and
2. “that ﻿﻿believing you may have life in His name.

So John’s purpose is to tell his readers how they may receive eternal life.

Distinctive Features:

Seven Signs

1. Water into wine - 2

2. Healing of nobleman's son - 4

3. Healing of man at pool of Bethesda - 5

4. Feeding of 5,000 - 6

5. Walking on water - 6

6. Healing of blind man - 9

7. Raising of Lazarus - 11

(8. Could add the catch of fish - 21)

Seven "I AM'S"

1. The bread - 6

2. The light - 8

3. The door - 10

4. The good shepherd - 10

5. The resurrection and life - 11

6. The way, truth, life -14

7. The true vine – 15

The Use of the Word “Believe”

Matthew – 11 times

Mark –15 times

Luke –10 times

John - 99 times

Things Excluded John –

Genealogy – birth – boyhood – (God does not have these.)

Baptism- temptation – transfiguration – Lord’s supper

Things Included in John –

1. Wedding in Cana – 2

2. Resurrection of Lazarus – 11

3. Washing of the disciples’ feet and most of the upper Room discourse - 13-17

4. Jesus’ “High priestly prayer” - 17

Those distinctives should give us a feel for John’s Gospel and some ability to arrive at an accurate interpretation of the revelation we find there.

And, having found the Interpretation of that Revelation, we will be able to discern the proper Application for our life and service for the Lord.

I. The Lord’s Indescribable Person – 1:1-2

* Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus that connects Him to David and Abraham.
* Mark starts with the preaching of John the Baptist.
* Luke has a dedication of his work to Theophilus and follows that with a prediction of the birth of John the Baptist.
* But John begins with a theological prologue.

It is almost as if John had said, “I want you to consider Jesus in His teaching and deeds. But you will not understand the good news of Jesus in its fullest sense unless you view Him from this point of view. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, and His words and deeds are those of the God-Man.”

A. He Has Always Been God – 1:1a

﻿“In the beginning was (ἦν) ﻿﻿the Word”

First, we need to understand who this “Word’ is referring to.

Verse 14 states, “And ﻿﻿the Word ﻿﻿became flesh, and ﻿﻿﻿﻿dwelt (tented) among us, and ﻿﻿we saw His glory, glory as of ﻿﻿the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and ﻿﻿truth.”

B. He Is All That God Is – 1:1b

“and the Word was ﻿﻿ (ἦν) with God,”

“with” is πρὸς “to be face to face with”

He was not bowing down to the Father as all other beings in heaven and on earth must do. He is not below the Father nor is He above the Father. They were together in perfect fellowship.

C. He Is Absolutely God – 1:1c - 2

“and ﻿﻿the Word was (ἦν) God.”

This is a definite statement, The Word, Jesus Christ, was God.

He was the eternal God of the Old Testament. Along with the Holy Spirit they make up what theologians call the Trinity or Tri-unity of God. Neither term is found in the Bible. They are descriptive of the information that we find in the Word about God. It is a revealed doctrine.

A Short Version of the Doctrine of the Trinity of God

I. There is one God – Deut. 6:4

“Hear, O Israel: ﻿﻿The Lord our God, the Lord *is* one!”

II. There are three Who are called God.

1. The Father is called God - John 6:27

God the Father has set His seal on Him.

B. God the Son – John 1:1

C. God the Holy Spirit – Acts 5:3-4

“But Peter said, “Ananias, why has ﻿﻿Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit. You have not lied to men but to God.”

Note: “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

“He was (ἦν) in the beginning with God.”

This One, the Word, Jesus the Christ, was in the Beginning with God.

Jehovah’s Witnesses Text – “The New World Translation”

“In the beginning ﻿﻿ the Word was, and the ﻿﻿Word was ﻿﻿with (the) God, and the Word was (n) a god. ﻿﻿﻿This one was in the beginning with (the) God.

v. 6. – “There arose a ﻿﻿man that was sent forth as a representative of (n) God, whose name *was* John.

v. 12 – “But ﻿﻿as many as received Him, to them He gave the ﻿﻿authority to become (n) God’s children.”

v. 13 - “… or from man’s will, but from (n) God.”

v. 18 – “No man has seen (n) God at any time.

The New World Translation made a rule: If a noun is not preceded by an article (the)in Greek, It must be preceded by an the indefinite pronoun ‘a’ in English.

They violated that rule in the above 4 verses. And they violated it 94% of the time in their translation of the New Testament.[[1]](#footnote-1)

II. The Lord’s Infinite Power– 1:3-5

A. His Power In Creation – 1:3

“All things were made by Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

Question: Why is there something rather than nothing?

Answer: Philosophers and scientists have their answers which are all hypothetical.

The Christian’s answer is based on revelation from the eye-witness, God. The Word made all things. No other explanation holds water.

Theistic Scientists do a great job in showing that, while the Bible is not a textbook on science, what it does say about science is absolutely correct.

The only possible answer to cosmogony (ultimate origins) is a Divine creation as recorded in the Bible.

B. His Power In Communication – 1:4-5

1. Communicating Life – 1:4

﻿﻿

“In Him was life, and ﻿﻿the life was the light of men.”

Life is man’s most prized possession. Satan said to God about Job: “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.”

Job proved him wrong, but that was just the exception that proves the rule.

Or

The exception that proves the existence of the rule.

Physical life came from the Word in creation. Spiritual life also comes from the Word in salvation. Without Him there would be no life at all.

2. Communication Light – 1:5

﻿ “And ﻿﻿the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not ﻿﻿comprehend it.”

Darkness is almost personified here:

1. Light will invade the dominion of darkness.

(b) Satan the ruler and his subjects will resist the light, but they will be unable to frustrate its power.

(c) The Word will be victorious in spite of opposition. (BKC – DTS)

1. “Apostles of Denial” Charles Gruss. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)