

The Word of God

September 6, 2020

John 1:1-14

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 into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The goal of the Gospel of John is to encourage readers to believe that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God. More than any other gospel John stresses the divinity of Jesus. The gospel starts with a very brief introduction to the nature of Jesus. The divine Savior came into the world, was rejected by many, and gives eternal life to those who accept him.

The gospel starts at the very beginning. This is the author's knowledge of creation. The audience has the Old Testament, they have Genesis, and they know the creation story. The Gospel of John adds more information. The Word was there in the very beginning. The Word was with God. The Word was God and everything came into being through him. What the gospel offers has theological significance. The Word is not simply the spoken word. It is living. It is life. It is able to give life and sustain life. It is the light of the people. It is God coming to us in human form.

The Old Testament tells us that God desires to live among the people. Exodus 25:8 have them make me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them. Ezekiel 37:26-27 I will set my sanctuary among them forever. My dwelling place shall be with them. Zechariah 2:10 I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord (NRSV). We see in the Bible what is very important to God - sanctuary worship and a covenant relationship. Therefore, the people of the covenant build for God a very special place so that God and the people can get close together.

We get theology from the Gospel of John. The Word is knowledge and provides insight. Jesus came to bring us the word of God. Jesus brings the word of God to life. This is revelation, awareness, and enlightenment. This light shines in the darkness. The light overcomes the darkness. The darkness does not overcome the light. Then the Gospel John tells us about John the Baptist. He was sent by God. He was a witness to the light and testified to the light which was involved in creation from the very beginning. The Gospel of John also gives a very brief introduction to the problems that Jesus faced. The world came into being through him but the world did not know him. He came to his very own people but they did not accept him. The Gospel John also gives us the Good News. All who received him and believed are children of God. This is a world view - identity - that is a contrast to being born of the earth. As such you do not live by flesh or the desires of mankind; you live by the will of God. The Word became flesh. The Word lived among us. We witnessed his glory as God's only son full of grace and truth. The gospel introduces Jesus and provides eye witness testimony that he is the Son of God. The word

of God has creating power. By the word of God we have the creation of heaven, earth, and life. Life is a gift from God.

In my opinion, the Bible is the word of God. Thousands of books get listed for sale and most are out of print by the tenth year. But the Bible is entirely different. It is a best seller year after year. What makes it so appealing is that it is a book of faith. The Gospel of John says the Word was God, the Word became flesh and lived with us. The events, people, places, actions of the Bible are all about God and the will of God. The Bible is the Word of God. Personally I do not consider preaching to be the word of God because too many preach their own thing instead of Word of God. The Bible cautions us about this in 2nd Timothy 4:3-4 For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth (NRSV). I see this as being true in today's society. So, I prefer to refer to the Bible as the word of God and I strongly encourage everyone to live by the word of God.