**Theme**: The Word

**Text:** John 1-4

**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 with God in the beginning.   
3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.   
4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.   
5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood *it.***

1. Jesus Christ is the eternal Word (vv. 1-2
2. Jesus Christ is the creative Word (v. 3
3. Jesus Christ is the life giving Word. (v.4-5
4. **Jesus Christ is the eternal Word (vv. 1-2**

***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 with God in the beginning***

This verse reveals that Christ was preexistent. This means He was there before creation. He had always existed. "in eternity the Word existed."

1. "**In the beginning** [*En archē*[PWS: 2124](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=I\#2124: In The Beginning)]" does not mean *from* the beginning. Jesus Christ was already there. He did not *become*; He was not created; He never had a beginning. He "**was in the beginning with God"**

**Genesis 1:1   
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**

the Hebrew name for God is *Elohim*

The word "Elohim" is a plural noun which suggests the Trinity.

**John 17:5   
And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.**

**John 8:58   
"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"**

***John 1.1***

***In the beginning was the Word***

“ Logos”

The answer lay in the idea of the *Word*, for the *Word* was understood by both Gentile and Jew. John grabbed hold of this common idea of the Jews and Gentiles. He proclaimed that Jesus Christ was the *Word*. (Logos)

1. **The Jews** saw a word as something more than a mere sound. A word was something active and existing. It was power—it possessed the power to express something, to do something. This is seen in the many Old Testament references where *The Word of God* was seen as the creative power of God, the power that made the world and gave light and life to every man. John presented Jesus to his Jewish readers as the incarnation of divine power and revelation. A word is composed of letters, and Jesus Christ is "Alpha and Omega" (Rev. 1:11), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet According to Hebrews 1:1-3, Jesus Christ is God's last Word to mankind, for He is the climax of divine revelation

**Hebrews 1:1-2   
1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,   
2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,**

1. **The Gentiles or Greeks** saw the Word more philosophically.
2. When they looked at the world of nature, they saw that things were not chaotic, but orderly. Everything had its place and moved or grew in an orderly fashion, including the stars above and the vegetation below. Therefore, the Greeks said that behind the world was a mind, a reason, a power that made and kept things in their proper place. This creative and sustaining mind, this supreme reason, this unlimited power was said to be the Word. Jesus as the logos reveals God's mind to us.
3. The *Word* also seen as the power that enabled men to think and reason. It was the power that brought light and understanding to man's mind and enabled him to express his jumbled up thoughts in an orderly fashion.

***1 and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.   
2 He was with God in the beginning.***

**Christ was coexistent**. He was and is face to face with God forever. The word **"with**" (*pros*[PWS: 4367](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=W\#4367: With)) has the idea of both *being with* and *acting toward*. Jesus Christ (the Word) was both with God and acting with God. He was "with God": by God's side, acting, living, and moving in the closest of relationships. Christ had the ideal and perfect relationship *with* God the Father. Their life together—their relationship, communion, fellowship, and connection—was a perfect eternal bond. That phrase means far more than merely that the Word existed with God; it "[gives] the picture of two personal beings facing one another and engaging in intelligent discourse.

**1 John 1:2   
The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.**

***1, and the Word was God.***

**Divinity of Christ**

John was saying that "the Word," Jesus Christ...

·  is of the very nature and character of God the Father, but He is not the identical person of God the Father.

·  is a distinct person from God the Father, but He is of the very being and essence (perfection) of God the Father.

When a man sees Christ, he sees a *distinct person*, but he sees a person who is of the *very substance and character* of God in all of His perfect being.

**Hebrews 1:3   
The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.**

**John 14:9   
9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?**

**Colossians 1:15   
Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.**

**Colossians 2:9   
9 For in Christ the fullness of God lives in a human body,**

**Titus 2:13   
13 while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,**

**John 20:28   
28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"**

1. **Jesus Christ is the creative Word (v. 3**

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

1. "**All things**" (*panta*[PWS: 113](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=A\#113: All Things)) mean every detail of creation—not creation as a whole, but every single detail. Each element and thing, each being and person—whether material or spiritual, angelic or human—has come into being by Christ.

**Colossians 1:16   
16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.**

**1 Corinthians 8:6   
“ There is only one Lord, Jesus Christ. Everything came into being through him, and we live because of him.”**

**Hebrews 1:2   
2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.**

1. The words "**were made**" (*egeneto*[PWS: 4318](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=W\#4318: Were Made)) mean came into being or became. Note what this is saying. Nothing was existing—no substance, no matter whatsoever. Matter is not eternal. God did not take something outside of Himself, something less than perfect (evil) and create the world. Christ, the Word, took nothing but His will and power; and He spoke the Word, and created every single thing out of nothing (*ex nihilo*).

3.The words "**not anything"** (*oude hen*[PWS: 2681](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=N\#2681: Not Any Thing)) mean not even *one* thing, not a single thing, not even a detail was made apart from Him.

**First**, the Creator of all things must Himself be uncreated, and only the eternal God is uncreated.

By stressing the role of the Word in creating the universe, John countered the false teaching that later developed into the dangerous heresy known as Gnosticism. The Gnostics embraced the philosophical dualism common to Greek philosophy that held that spirit was good and matter was evil. They argued that since matter was evil, the good God could not have created the physical universe. Instead, a series of spirit beings emanated from Him until finally one of those descending emanations was evil and foolish enough to create the physical universe. But John rejected that heretical view, strongly affirming that Jesus Christ was the Father's agent in creating everything.

SOMETHING FROM NOTHING

When God created, he made something from nothing. Because he created us, we have no basis for pride. We must remember that we exist only because God made us, and we have special gifts only because God gave them to us. With God we have value and uniqueness; apart from God we have nothing, and if we try to live without him, we will miss the purpose he designed us to fulfill.

1. **Jesus Christ is the life giving Word. (v.4-5**

**4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.**

**Christ is Self-existent**

As noted earlier in this chapter, the themes **life** and **Light** are common in John's gospel. *Zōē* (**life**) refers to spiritual life as opposed to *bios*, which describes physical life.

Creation needs to receive life from the Word—for he is the source of *life.* Christ gives physical life to all. But he also gives eternal life to all those who believe in him. The Greek term used for "**life" is zoe;** it is always used to describe the divine, eternal life in the Gospel of John.

Christ brought unique *light* to people—revealing divine truth and exposing their sin.

the light of Jesus penetrates and enlightens hearts and minds. Everyone who comes into contact with Christ can be enlightened.

So light is God's life manifest in Christ.

**Psalms 36:9   
9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.**

**John 10:10   
10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.**

**John 8:12   
 "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

**John 11:25   
25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;**

**John 12:46   
46 I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.**

**5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

is better translated "overcome." Even a small candle can drive the darkness from a room

**Review**

**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 with God in the beginning.   
3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.   
4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.   
5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood *it.***

1. Jesus Christ is the eternal Word (vv. 1-2
2. Jesus Christ is the creative Word (v. 3
3. Jesus Christ is the life giving Word. (v.4-5