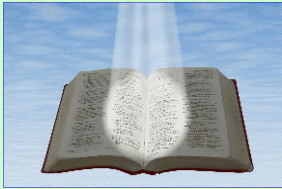


Beholding the Lord through His Word
Part 2



Jim McGowan, Th.D.
Sugar Land Bible Church
05-28-2017.

Beholding the Lord through His Word



Seeing
the Living Word of God
in the written word of God

Beholding the Lord through His word

2 Corinthians 3:18

“But we all... beholding... the glory
of the Lord”

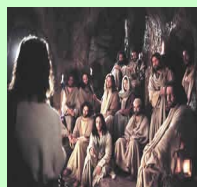
John 1:14

“we saw His glory...full of grace and
truth” (see 1:1-18)



Seeing the Living Word of God
in the written word of God

Beholding the Lord through His word



1 John 1:3
"we have seen with our eyes...the Word of Life" (see 1:1-4)

Hebrews 12:2
"fixing our eyes on Jesus" (see 12:1-2)



**Seeing the Living Word of God
in the written word of God**

John 1:1-18 (NASB95)

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 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. 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, ...




John 1:1-18 (NASB95)

...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. 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.** ¹⁵ John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom..."



John 1:1–18 (NASB95)

...I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.' " ¹⁶ For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.



5 Preliminary Observations

1. John's Use of Chiasm (Chiasmus).
2. John's Use of Old Testament References.
3. John's Unique Use of the phrase, "the Word" as a title for Christ.
4. John Shared Words and Names in His Writings.

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Chiasm (Chiasmus)



A chiasm is an emphatic literary device in which an author presents a sequence of ideas and then repeats them *in reverse order*, resulting in a “mirror” effect. Each idea is related to its “reflection” by a repeated, related, word. The author’s main idea is found in the middle of the chiasm.

The chiasm in John 1:1-18

- A - The Word, in the beginning with God (1-2)
- B - All things came into being through Him (3)
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- E - ...so that all might believe (7c)**
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- B - The world was made through Him (10-13)
- A - The Word existed before (14-18)

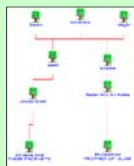
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John 1:1-18 Draws from the Oldest, Old Testament References

- **John 1:1-10 draws from Gen. 1:**
“In the beginning”, “light”, “darkness”, “life”, “the world was made through Him”.
- **John 1:11-13 draws from Gen. 16:**
Abraham, offspring and his descendants.



John 1:1-18 Draws from the Oldest, Old Testament References



- **John 1:14-18 draws from Exodus 33:**
 - ♦ v.7 – presence, tent
 - ♦ vv. 8, 10 – gaze, saw
 - ♦ v. 13 – know God
 - ♦ v. 17 – Moses’ name
 - ♦ vv. 18, 22 – show glory
 - ♦ vv. 20, 23 – cannot see God directly

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Christ "the Word", unique to the Apostle John

- John 1:1 – the Word was God
- John 1:14 – the Word became flesh
- 1 John 1:1 – the Word of Life
- Revelation 19:13b – The Word of God



John 1:1

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

John 1:14

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.



1 John 1:1

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—

Revelation 19:13b

...and His name is called, The Word of God.



5 Preliminary Observations

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John shared words and names like a baton, in his writings



Passing words
from book
to book



Passing names
from verse to
verse

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John 20:30-31

³⁰ Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but 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.



The High Points of John 1:1-18

- John 1:1-5** – The deity of Jesus Christ
- John 1:6-13** – John the Baptist as a witness
- John 1:14-18** – The Word made flesh



The High Points of John 1:1-18

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John 1:1-5 (NASB95)

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 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.



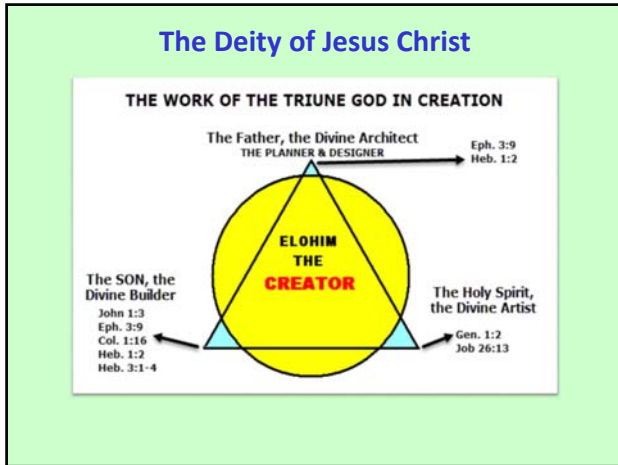
Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1-3

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 [the Word], and apart from Him [the Word] nothing came into being that has come into being. (cf. Col. 1:16-17)





Colossians 1:16-17 (NASB95)

¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

THE WORK OF THE TRIUNE GOD IN CREATION

The Father, the Divine Architect
THE PLANNER & DESIGNER Eph. 3:9
Heb. 1:2

**ELOHIM
THE
CREATOR**

The SON, the
Divine Builder John 1:3
Eph. 3:9
Col. 1:16
Heb. 1:2
Heb. 3:1-4

The Holy Spirit,
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Job 26:13

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The Hebrew Poetry Pattern in John 1:3


First, the *positive* statement:
All things came into being through Him, and

Then, the *negative* statement:
apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.


ABSOLUTE

$|4| = 4$ because $4 \geq 0$
 $|-8| = -(-8) = 8$ because $-8 < 0$
 $|0| = 0$ because $0 \geq 0$


The 'baton handoff' of words in John 1:1-5



Passing words
from book
to book

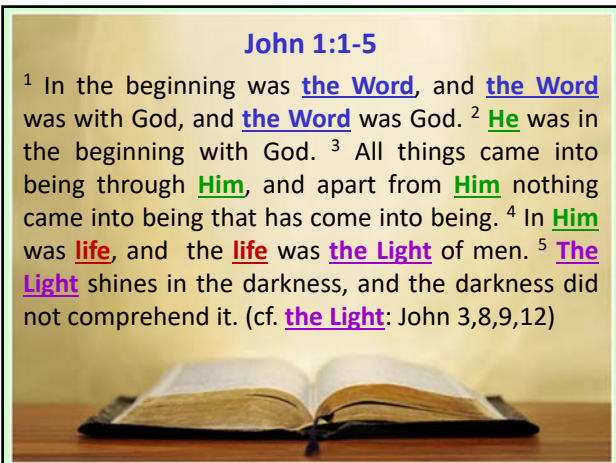


Passing names
from verse to
verse



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 in the beginning with God. 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. (cf. **the Light**: John 3,8,9,12)



The High Points of John 1:1-18

John 1:1-5 – The deity of Jesus Christ

John 1:6-13 – John the Baptist as a witness

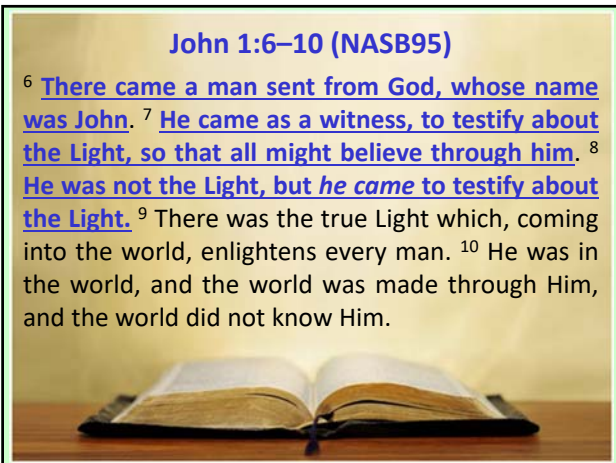
- vv. 6-10
- vv. 11-13

John 1:14-18 – The Word made flesh



John 1:6–10 (NASB95)

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.



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- vv. 6-10
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Receiving = Believing and Believing = Receiving



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What does John mean by 'born'?

John 1:12-13 (NASB95)

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- We have the clue of context in verse 12 that says that those who receive Christ **by believing in Him** become (**ginomai**) children of God.
- were 'born' is **gennaō**, derived from the word **ginomai**

John 1:12-13, let's untie the 'nots'

- Being born a child of God is **not of bloods** (*οὐκ ἐξ αἱμάτων Gk: plural*) – not just from a Jewish bloodline
- Being born a child of God is **not of the will of the flesh** (*οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος σαρκός*) - not of human desire to have offspring

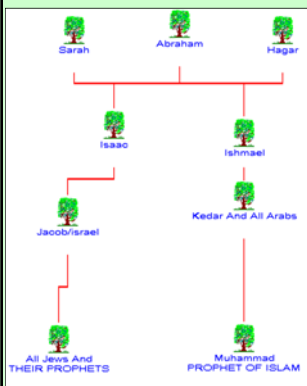


John 1:12-13, let's untie the 'nots'

- Being born a child of God is **'not of the will of man'**, (*οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος ἀνδρός*) – 'man' is **andros**, meaning specifically male, pointing to fathering a child as a strategy, as even Abraham once did (Gen. 16-17).



'nor of the will of man'



John 1:11-13 (NASB95)
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.

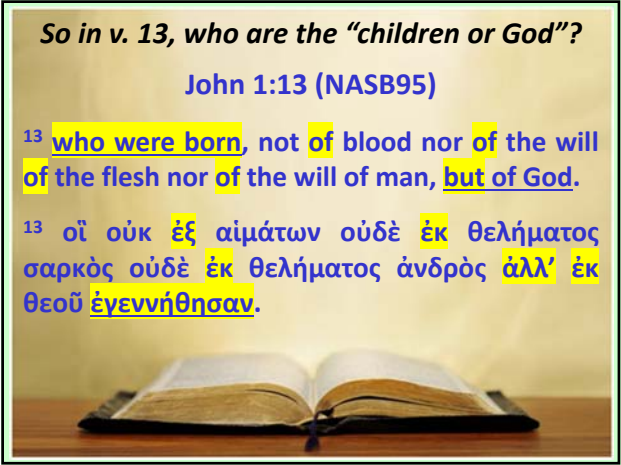


So in v. 13, who are the “children of God”?

John 1:13 (NASB95)

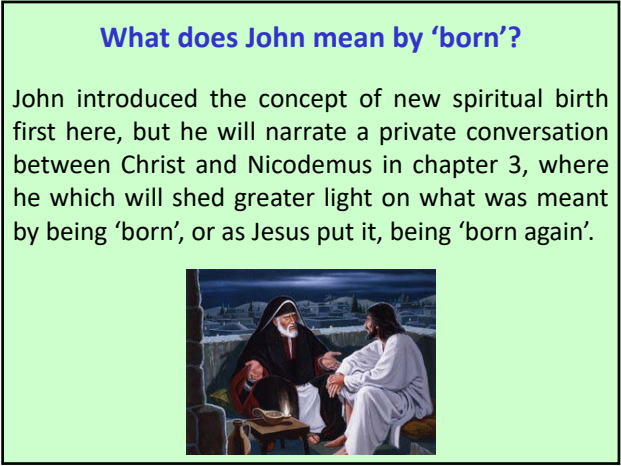
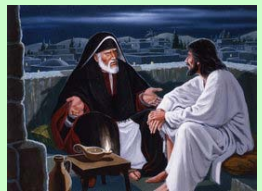
13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

13 οἱ οὐκ ἐξ αἱμάτων οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος σαρκὸς οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος ἀνδρὸς ἀλλ’ ἐκ θεοῦ ἐγεννήθησαν.



What does John mean by ‘born’?

John introduced the concept of new spiritual birth first here, but he will narrate a private conversation between Christ and Nicodemus in chapter 3, where he which will shed greater light on what was meant by being ‘born’, or as Jesus put it, being ‘born again’.



The High Points of John 1:1-18

- John 1:1-5** – The deity of Jesus Christ
- John 1:6-13** – John the Baptist as a witness
- John 1:14-18** – The Word made flesh



John 1:14 (NASB95)

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.



John 1:14 (NASB95)

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. (cf. Rev 7:15; 12:12; 13:6; 21:3)



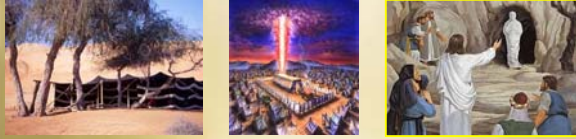
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John 1:15 (NASB95)

¹⁵ John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.' "



John 1:16 (NASB95)

For of His **fullness** we have all received, and **grace upon grace**.



John 1:17 (NASB95)

For **the Law** was **given** through Moses; **the grace and the truth** were **realized** through Jesus Christ.





John 1:14-17(NASB95)

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**. ¹⁵ John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" ¹⁶ For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the Law was given through Moses; **the grace and the truth** were realized through Jesus Christ.




John 1:18 (NASB95)

¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.





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John 1:14

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Beholding the Lord through His Word


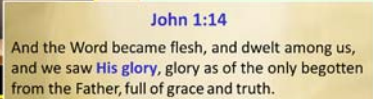

Seeing
the Living Word of God
in the written word of God

CONCLUSION



2 Corinthians 3:18?

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror **the glory** of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.



Beholding the Lord through His Word

So our reading about how John beheld the glory of Christ in His first coming, *is our beholding Christ through the Word*. As we are reading about John's "beholding" *we too are "beholding"* and we *"are being transformed from glory to glory"* and that is a work of the Holy Spirit.



John 1:14

Expanded & Explained in light of 2 Corinthians 3:18

And Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and God's communication of His own personal, essential, being, came so as to be born in human form, and though total deity, *He was dwelling in that human form even while among us, and we beheld, and oh, this is awesome, we beheld His glory, that radiant essence of God Himself*, since Christ is the unique Son of, and expression from, the Father, full of *the* grace and *the* truth, which are God's eternal and infinite character. As we behold John's description of how he and the disciples beheld Christ, we too are beholding Him as well, and as a work of the Holy Spirit, our being made to grow in and into, the glorious character of Christ.



*Seeing
the Living Word of God in
the Written Word of God*