

In the Beginning: Why John 1 Sounds Like Genesis 1

John 1:1-18

Today we continue our series entitled "We Have Seen His Glory." These words come from John 1:14, which is part of our passage today. We will see how John begins his gospel with words that both echo and advance the words of Genesis 1.

God, Light, Humanity

(1) God

Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning, God..."

John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word [*logos*], and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

- Confused? That's okay. John just said something deeply mysterious and profound! But let's try to understand it...

Who is God? The Creator.

- Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God, created the heavens and the earth."
- John 1:3: "All things were made through him [the Word]."

(2) Light

Genesis 1:3: "And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light."

John 1:4-5, 9: "In him [the Word] was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world."

(3) Humanity

Genesis 1:27: "So God created man in his own image..."

John 1:12: "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God..."

To the Lord's Supper:

- John 1:14: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Read John 1:1-18. Why is John 1:1 hard to understand? What exactly is it teaching?
2. Jesus is called "The true light" in 1:9. How do you think this is true in your life? In what way?
3. Who are the children of God according to 1:12? What "qualifies" them for this title?
4. The incarnation: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." The Creator becomes a creature! According to this passage, why?