

# **THE WORD**

**A STUNNING, UNFOLDING DRAMA –**

**THE WORD BECAME A HUMAN AND LIVED AMONG US ...**

**(AS PRESENTED BY JOHN THE APOSTLE)**



- Drama ... an exciting, emotional, or unexpected series of events or set of circumstances; any situation or series of events having vivid, emotional, conflicting, or striking interest or results; a state, situation, or series of events involving interesting or intense conflict of forces; a story usually involving conflicts and emotions through action and dialogue and typically designed for theatrical performance.

## THE STUNNING, UNFOLDING DRAMA OF THE WORD ... JOHN 1:1-18

### SCENE 1: THE IDENTITY OF THE WORD—HE IS GOD

#### I. THE WORD IS GOD, 1:1-2.

- (John 1:1–2 ESV) 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.

The Word is pre-existent, co-existent and self-existent—the Word is God.

- (1 John 1:1a NLT) We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands.

#### II. THE WORD IS THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS, 1:3.

- (John 1:3 ESV) All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

### SCENE 2: THE NATURE AND CHARACTER OF THE WORD—HE ALONE IS LIFE AND LIGHT

#### III. THE WORD IS LIFE AND LIGHT, 1:4-9.

- (John 1:4–9 ESV) In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

A. The Word is life and the source of all life.

- (1 John 1:1b-2 NLT) He is the Word of life. 2 This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us.

B. There is no life of which the Word is not the source.

- (Genesis 1:1 ESV) In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

- (Exodus 20:11 ESV) For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

C. God—the Word—is the source of all light.

This life is the light of humans in both the physical/material universe and the spiritual/supernatural universe. We know that the Word created light because he is the Creator of all things.

- (Genesis 1:3–4 ESV) And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

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**MacArthur ... light ...** We experience light in a static way. It is either dark or light or some degree in between. For us, light is on and off, it is present or it is absent. And we look at light as some kind of static condition. ... Light, in fact, is energy. Science defines light as luminous energy, as radiant energy, as electromagnetic energy, and light is moving at a speed of 186,282 miles per second. It is anything but static. It is anything but fixed. It is considered as a wave, as a corpuscular (light consists of material particles sent off in all directions from luminous bodies) or quantum phenomenon. It is, in great measure, indescribable as to the power and the source of that power. **And the quantum idea is a testimony to the fact that it cannot be comprehended as to the source from which it draws its velocity and its very existence.**

Light is a wave ... [when this wave hits] the retina of the eye ... it makes things visible. It illuminates things. All colors depend on light. Where there is light, we see. Where there is no light, we do not see.

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D. God—the Word—not only created light but he is light.

- (1 John 1:5–7 ESV) This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,

we have fellowship with one another,  
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses  
us from all sin.

E. **The exclusivity of light**—True light is found only in  
God through Jesus Christ.

All light—whether it is in the physical/  
material universe or the spiritual/supernatural  
universe—has its source and its continuance in  
God. The entire physical universe is held  
together by the word of his power.

- (Hebrews 1:3a ESV) He [*the Son—the Word*] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and **he upholds the universe by the word of his power.**
- (Colossians 1:16–17 ESV) For by him [*Jesus Christ—the Word*] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, **visible and invisible**, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, **and in him all things hold together.**

If we “walk” anywhere other than in  
fellowship with God—who is the source of and  
force behind light, then we are walking in  
darkness. This is totally exclusive—anything and  
everything outside of God is darkness.

Anyone who does not live in the light of God  
through Jesus Christ lives according to their  
own light which is darkness.

- (Isaiah 50:10–11 NLT) Who among you fears the LORD and obeys his servant? **If you are walking in darkness**, without a ray of light, trust in the LORD and rely on your God. 11 **But watch out, you who live in your own light** and warm yourselves by your own fires. This is the reward you will receive from me: **You will soon fall down in great torment.**

Living in your own light is living in darkness.  
Any plan deviating from Scripture alone and  
Christ alone is darkness.

- (Matthew 6:22–23 ESV) The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, 23 **but if your eye is bad**, your whole body will be full of darkness. **If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!**

*What does it mean—“your eye is bad”?* It means  
that spiritually you cannot receive true light—

light from God that is unadulterated. A “*bad eye*” when receiving the word of God corrupts it by mixing human opinion with divine expression. As a result the words of God are no longer the words of God and can no longer provide the person with light to rescue them from the darkness as they have exchanged truth for the lie. So Matthew writes “how great is the darkness” that the Scriptures have not resulted in light but in darkness.

**SCENE 3: THE WORLD’S RESPONSE TO THE WORD—DID NOT KNOW HIM. DID NOT RECEIVE HIM.**

**IV. THE WORD CAME INTO THE WORLD HE CREATED, BUT THE WORLD NEITHER KNEW NOR RECEIVED HIM, 1:10-11.**

- (John 1:10-11 ESV) He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world **did not know him**. 11 He came to his own, and his own people **did not receive him**.

A. The world did not know the Word **because the only spectrum of light that is visible to the world is darkness.**

- (Psalm 82:5 ESV) **They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness**; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- (Proverbs 2:12–14 ESV) Delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, 13 who forsake the paths of uprightness **to walk in the ways of darkness**, 14 who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil.
- (Ecclesiastes 2:14A ESV) The wise person has his eyes in his head, **but the fool walks in darkness.**
- (Ephesians 5:8 ESV) **For at one time you were darkness**, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.
- (Colossians 1:13 ESV) **He has delivered us from the domain of darkness** and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.
- (1 Thessalonians 5:5 ESV) For you are all children of light, children of the day. **We are not of the night or of the darkness.**
- (1 John 2:11 ESV) **But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness** and **walks in the darkness**, and **does not know where he is going**, because **the darkness has blinded his eyes.**

B. The Word was not received because people love darkness rather than light.

- (John 3:19–21 ESV) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, **and people loved the darkness rather than the light** because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 **But whoever does what is true comes to the light**, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.

C. The Word was not received because people hate the light because it exposes their evil works.

The decision to reject the Word results from the sinful direction of a person's heart—emotion, volition, intellect.

- **loving the darkness and hating the light** [*EMOTION*],
- **choosing your own way contrary to God's way** [*VOLITION*]
- **blinding yourself to the true knowledge of God** [*INTELLECT*]

This is not an intellectual dilemma but a willful decision from a rebellious heart. This person hates God's ways and insists on choosing his or her own way.

- (Jeremiah 6:16–17 ESV) Thus says the Lord: “Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. **But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’** 17 I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Pay attention to the sound of the trumpet!’ **But they said, ‘We will not pay attention.’**

#### SCENE 4: THE PURPOSE OF THE WORD—TO GIVE THOSE WHO DID RECEIVE HIM THE RIGHT TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD

##### V. ALL THOSE WHO RECEIVED THE WORD WERE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD, 1:12-13.

- (John 1:12–13 ESV) But to **all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God**, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

#### SCENE 5: THE PLAN OF THE WORD—REVEAL HIS GLORY AND BRING GRACE AND TRUTH

##### VI. THE WORD LIVED AMONG US TO REVEAL THE GLORY OF GOD IN PERSON AND TO BRING SALVATION THROUGH GRACE AND TRUTH, 1:14-18.

- (John 1:14–18 ESV) **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.** 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.** 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

A. The Word took on flesh and became a human.

B. The Word revealed his glory as the only Son from the Father.

C. The Word is full of grace and truth.

By virtue of being glorious and the only Son of the Father it then follows that he is full of grace and truth—the necessary things to enable those who believe to become children of God.

The glorious Word completed his grace and truth mission on the cross.

- (1 Corinthians 15:3–4 ESV) For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures**, 4 that he was **buried**, that he was **raised** on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

The Word ... being infinite, eternal God ... and being full of grace and truth means he will continue to reveal his grace and truth forever.

- (Ephesians 2:5–7 ESV) Even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—**by grace you have been saved**— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 **so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**