

In Him Was Life

John 1.3-5

The stunning revelation in John 1.1-2 that Jesus is “the Word,” and that He is eternal God, has mind-boggling implications. In rapid succession, John lays out three of them: The Word is the Creator, the Word is Life, and the Word is light. And best of all, the darkness did not overcome it!

- “The Word” is the Creator (3)
 - *Jesus was the means of creation*
 - *God’s self-revelation occurs first in creation*
- “The Word” is Life (4a)
 - *He is the source of natural life*
 - *He is the source of spiritual (eternal) life*
- “The Word” is Light (4b-5)
 - *The light shines in the darkness (see Gen. 1.3)*
 - *Darkness did not overcome His light*



1. John’s ‘portrait’ of Jesus begins in John 1.1-2, where he describes Him as “the Word” who was in the beginning with God, and was God! His statement is remarkably matter-of-fact and brief, but the implications of it are staggering! It’s hard for us to ‘wrap our brains around’ this truth. How does the fact that Jesus is the eternal God impact you?
2. If Jesus is God, then He is the Creator – and John affirms this fact in John 1.3: *All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.* We usually think of God the Father as Creator, but what evidence of “the Word” is there in Genesis 1? For further expressions of Jesus as the Creator, see Rom. 11.36; 1 Cor. 8.6; Col. 1.16; Heb. 1.2; 11.3.
3. The description of Jesus as “the Word” identifies Him as God’s self-revelation to man. As the Creator (1.3), He also reveals God to us. What does creation reveal about God (Rom. 1.19-20; Ps. 19.1-6)?
4. The phrase “In Him was life” is a central theme in John’s Gospel. In the context of creation, it means natural life, but in John, Jesus is the source of *eternal life*. In its broadest sense, this means that in Christ there is life, and apart from Him there is no life – natural or spiritual. Here are some verses in the Gospel of John that speak of the life that is in Christ: John 3.15-16; 3.36; 5.24-29, 39-40; 6.35, 40, 47-51, 63, 68; 8.12; 10.10, 17, 28; 11.25-26; 14.6; 17.3; 20.31.
5. John’s statement that “the life was the light of man” (4b) can apply in many ways. In Genesis 1, the Word is the source of both life and light. But in John, Jesus is the Light of the world (8.12), and coming into the world, He enlightens everyone (1.9). How is the ‘new life’ you have in Jesus enlightening you?
6. In v 5, “shines” is in the present tense, but “did not overcome” is in the aorist (past) tense. When did darkness fail to overcome the light? How does the light shining relate to Christ (see John 3.19)? What do you think John is seeking to communicate in this verse?