

John 1: 14-51

1. THE WORD MADE FLESH (John 1:14-18)

14And 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. 15John *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.'" 16For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. 17For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. 18No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*. **John 1:14-18 NASB**

- Jesus, the Word made flesh...the Son of God in flesh and blood.

14 And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled (fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us; and we [actually] saw His glory (His honor, His majesty), such glory as an only begotten son receives from his father, full of grace (favor, loving-kindness) and truth. [Isa. 40:5.]
15 John testified about Him and cried out, this was He of Whom I said, He Who comes after me has priority over me, for He was before me. [He takes rank above me, for He existed before I did. He has advanced before me, because He is my Chief.] **John 1: 14-15 AMPC**

This Word, the agent of creation, has become a creature. He who brought the universe into existence is now born within the universe as a human being. This thought is so familiar in Christianity we may no longer be staggered by it. A prayer of the Eastern churches conveys well the breathtaking wonder: "We see most eloquent orators voiceless as fish when they must speak of Thee, O Jesus our Savior. For it is beyond their power to tell how Thou art both perfect man and immutable God at the same time."

When we look at this Word become flesh John says we see glory (**v14**). Often in John the "flesh" is that which is natural, powerless, and superficial (cf. **v13**). But now the flesh becomes the sphere of the supernatural, the all-powerful, the real. Matter becomes spirit bearing, and we see the divine glory not through the flesh but precisely in the flesh. (Bultmann 1971:63).

- ...The law was given by Moses, grace and truth came to be 'through Jesus Christ'.
- Moses commanded righteousness...Jesus produced righteousness.
- Moses forbids sin...Jesus saves us from sin.
- No one has ever seen God at any time but Jesus..." He has declared Him, He has revealed Him, and brought Him out where He can be seen' He has interpreted Him, and He has made Him known. **John 1:18b AMPC**

John's intense desire is that we would truly believe, receive, and intimately know Jesus; may that be our true desire, too.

2. The Testimony of John the Baptist

19 This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites to him from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 And he confessed and did not deny; and this is what he confessed: "I am not the Christ." 21 And so they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you? Tell us, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am the voice of one calling out in the wilderness, 'Make the way of the Lord straight,' as Isaiah the prophet said."

24 And the messengers had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 They asked him, and said to him, "Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, saying, "I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. 27 It is He who comes after me, of whom I am not worthy even to untie the strap of His sandal." 28 These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing people.

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is He in behalf of whom I said, 'After me is coming a Man who has proved to be my superior, because He existed before me.' 31 And I did not recognize Him, but so that He would be revealed to Israel, I came baptizing in water." 32 And John testified, saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. 33 And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." **John 1:19-36 NASB**

- The Priests and the Levites ask John the Baptist.... "Who are you? Why do you do (baptizing) the way you do? **(v 19-25)**
 - John replies.... "I am not THE CHRIST!"
 - I am not Elijah.
 - I am not the Prophet.
 - I am a voice... crying in the wilderness. Make straight the way of the Lord.
 - Knowing your identity is so important.
 - We must know who we are and whose we are so we can better understand each other and the things we do.
 - John knew that he was called by God and that he was not un-valued or un-important but he also was unworthy to be the Messiah **(v 26-28)**

John proclaims the Deity of Jesus **(v 29-36)**

- John sees Jesus **(v 29)** and declares... "BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD!"

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. **I Peter 1:18-19 NASB**

- He has a higher rank. He existed before me. **(v 30-31)**
- I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of Heaven and He remained on Him.
- John's humility.... he didn't recognize Jesus at first but THE FATHER tells him that the ONE he sees the dove descend upon is the ONE who baptizes in the Holy Spirit. **(v 33)**
- John's remarkable proclamation... "I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."
- The next day John is with two of his disciples and he sees Jesus and says, "Behold, The Lamb of God!"
 - V 26 Focuses on what Jesus did
 - V36 Focuses on who He is.

18 The disciples of John also reported to him about all these things. 19 And after summoning two of his disciples, John sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or are we to look for another?" 20 When the men came to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, to ask, 'Are You the Coming One, or are we to look for another?'" 21 At that very time He cured many people of diseases and afflictions and evil spirits; and He gave sight to many who were blind. 22 And He answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: people who were blind receive sight, people who limped walk, people with leprosy are cleansed and people who were deaf hear, dead people are raised up, and people who are poor have the gospel preached to them. 23 And blessed is anyone who does not take offense at Me." **Luke 7: 18-23 NASB**

3. John loses two of his disciples and Jesus calls several of His.

37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. 38 And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, "What are you seeking?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day; it was about the tenth hour. 40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

43 The next day He decided to go to Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me." 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses wrote in the Law, and the prophets also wrote: Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth!" 46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good be from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite, in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these." 51 And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." **John 1:37-51 NASB**

- Andrew and another disciple ask Jesus where He is staying and He says, "Come and you will see" **(v 37-39)**
- Peter comes "to see" and gets a name change. **(v 40-42)**
- Phillip comes to Jesus' invitation to "follow me" and he testifies to Nathanael who is quite skeptical. Phillip simply says, "come and see" **(V 43-46)**
- Jesus' prophecies to Nathanael and Nathanael believes and testifies that Jesus is the Son of God and King of Israel. **(v 46-49)**
- Jesus makes a proclamation to Nathanael (and to each of us) "You will see greater things than these" **(v 50)**
- The Heavens will be open up and there will be much angelic activity centered around Jesus. **(v 51)**