

# The Word Revealed

John 1:14-28

**Introduction:** What does it take for someone to have saving faith in Christ Jesus? Millions believe in someone named Jesus. All Christian denominations give verbal and mental assent to a person who once existed by the name of Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, for most of them this faith changes nothing about their lives. Their default understanding is that God wants us to believe in Him and if we do He will be pleased and take us to heaven. God just wants to be believed in more than anything else and if you will, then he will save you when you die.

But seriously, is God like Santa Clause who just needs to be believed in? Is that kind of faith what God requires or what the Scripture describes? No!... to all these questions. This is why the world is awash in nominal Christians. They think faith is something they do as a favor toward God. I have lost track of the hopeless, desperate people who have proudly announced to me, "I believe in God!" Their assertion and belief is that this is enough. They acknowledge that there is a God and that should be enough. "Do not press me further!"

If this is all God wanted He could have accomplished it with some mighty displays of power and thundering voices from heaven. In fact, He did do some of those very things in the wilderness of Sinai for Israel. If that is all God requires then He certainly did not need to do the things we are reading about in the first chapter of John. No... Faith in God is a lot more serious than mental assent. If that is all you have you don't have anything more than a person who says they believe there is a country named China or believes there was a historical George Washington. We need to get a better handle on how and then why God revealed the Word to humanity.

The Book of Hebrews opens with some interesting history about how God has revealed Himself to mankind. In fact, in some ways it makes the same point that John is making in this first chapter. Let me read a few verses:

**Hebrews 1:1-4** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, <sup>2</sup> in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. <sup>3</sup> And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

God spoke in the prophets. He did it in many, many places and He spoke in a variety of ways. Still small voice, Thunder and smoke, out of a burning bush, a hand...writing on the wall. God has an endless imagination and knows how to make an impression. BUT...

In these final or "last" days He has spoken to us in His Son. The Prophets were a run up to Christ. In fact, the driving spirit behind God's prophecy was Christ.

**Revelation 19:10** Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

The Prophets spoke to foretell Christ. They spoke to reveal more and more of who Christ would be, where He would be born, how He would enter the world, Whose human descendent he would be, what He would do, How He would speak, How He would live, and love and serve and even how he would die.

God's final and definitive word is Christ. In fact, John tells us The Word is Christ! Just look at Hebrews there for a second:

<b>Hebrews One</b>	<b>John One</b>
Through whom also He made the world	All things came into being through Him
He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature	In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. <sup>5</sup> The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
<i>He</i> upholds all things by the word of His power	In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Today we want to hear God's stated means of revelation in creation. God is good and in the source of all that is good, true and worthy. All that is perfect and desirable in Creation comes from God. Satan is a counterfeiter and liar. God is a creator and truth teller. Man is made in the image of God and was created to experience the Love, Joy and profound goodness of God Himself.

God reveals Himself because He is the greatest good. All life comes from God. All happiness and Joy comes from God. Religion gives guilt and self-justification but God , by Himself alone gives what the soul and heart of man was created for.

Once we know this about God it is impossible to believe that this spectacular life giver, would create us and then not reveal Himself to us. It makes life entirely futile or worse. It asserts that this life is all there is and sets off in mankind a desperate search for fulfillment that cannot be found in creation but only in the creator.

John speaks of the unfolding of God's revelation of Himself to creation. It flickers to life in the Garden of Eden and ultimately explodes in Christ Jesus. There is nothing coming after Jesus. There is not some greater way to reveal Himself. Christ was not, as Islam says, one of God's prophets. He was the living God become a human man.

### **Revealed By Incarnation [14-18]**

**John 1:14-18** <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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.'" <sup>16</sup> For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the Law was given through Moses; grace

and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

**And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us:** Every cult denies this possibility. It is the hallmark of the Jehovah's Witness and the Mormon church. They say they believe in Jesus! They say Jesus is Lord and Savior, but they cannot and will not embrace this reality.

During the first 500 years of the church one theory after another was put forth, examined in the light of Scripture and rejected. Every one of them either diminished His Deity or His humanity. The Scripture affirms that faith in this Christ...The True Christ of Scripture is the only faith that saves.

**1 John 1:1-3** 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-- <sup>2</sup> and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- <sup>3</sup> what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

**1 John 2:22-23** <sup>22</sup> Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup> Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

**1 John 4:1-3** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

But men will say... How could such a thing happen? This is the same question that Mary asked when she was first told about it.

**Luke 1:30-34** <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; <sup>33</sup> and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

Instead of telling her to just accept what is happening, he actually gives her a description of how this is going to take place. God reveals something that neither men nor angels would have imagined.

**Luke 1:35** The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

In this most perfect revelation of the Holy Trinity, all three persons of the Godhead converge on this humble girl. Mary's question is spontaneous. She knew about

conception. She was engaged to be married. The messenger and the message are disturbing, but the answer to her question is infinitely grand.

- The **Holy Spirit** will come upon you

“Come upon you” is a word full of nuances. It is more than a mere arrival. It speaks of taking hold of someone for a specific purpose. It describes someone catching you even if you run. The Holy Spirit will not be operating from a distance. He will take hold of Mary. He will act to create a life in her womb. This is a powerful and vital word.

- The power of the **Most High** will overshadow you

**Acts 7:48** "However, the Most High does not dwell in *houses* made by *human* hands.

This is a synonym for The Father. Men have human power. There are certain things we can do. But....this is “The Power of the Most High.” It is fundamental to His nature and it is this power that will protect Mary.

“Will overshadow you” describes being totally protected and comforted by the Sovereign power of God the Father. This is how the father cared for His Son in His humanity. It is how He cares for you in Christ. It is the same overshadowing that enveloped Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration:

**Luke 9:34-35** <sup>34</sup> While he was saying this, a cloud formed and *began* to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, *My* Chosen One; listen to Him!"

- The **Holy Child**:

The Scripture uses very precise language here. This is how it goes in the Greek. “on account of this [The overcoming of the Spirit and the overshadowing of the Father] “The holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.” NIV

- God The Holy Spirit is acting in strength to create this human life.
- God The Father is acting in love to affirm and protect this human life.
- God The Son is acting in humility to eternally unite with this human life

God chooses His Words carefully here. It is a neuter gender that describes life, but not a person. [The Holy One] Like when God created Adam, then breathed into Him and He became a living person. Adam and Eve and all couples following them have given their children personhood, but that is about to change for Mary. This human person will be unlike any since Adam. He.....

- Will be **called the Son of God**:

Upon His birth He was “The Son of God.” At that moment of conception the Spirit and the Father prepared a human body for Him. The Spirit and the Father fashioned the life. The Son stepped into it for eternity. Listen carefully to what we are saying here. Jesus was not a schizophrenic, lapsing back and forth between human and Divine persons. He was God the Son. He was never anything but God the Son.

**Hebrews 10:5** <sup>5</sup> Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME;

Know this! Jesus Christ was a pure human. His physical body was conceived without the fallen nature and personhood of Adam. It was done supernaturally by the Father and the Spirit and God the Son became that person Jesus in the womb of Mary.

If this leaves you in awe of Christ then consider this as well. God the Son, the creator of the universe, eternally altered His nature to become a human being. He did not make a quick military style sortie into this world and then return as if nothing had happened. He became a man so that the Father could place your sin on Him. The angels had to worship that night. They had to proclaim His coming. They too were in awe that the creator of all things should stoop to save His own fallen and rebellious creatures.

God could have come on a secret mission but he wanted men to see Him. What I mean by this is that God is intent on His own glory. The Glory of God is what God is. It is His substance, His Nature, His character and His attributes.

**We saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father:** God could have come on a secret mission but he wanted men to see Him. What I mean by this is that God is intent on His own glory. The Glory of God is what God is. It is His substance, His Nature, His character and His attributes.

**Full of grace:** You need two things to be saved. You need Grace! God makes you alive through Grace. In Grace God acts to help the helpless. He makes the dead alive through grace. By Grace God makes blind men see. By Grace He gives new birth to men. All these are done by God alone. God acting in Grace is what you need to be saved.

**Ephesians 2:8** <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

**Full of Truth:** Jesus said that He was the truth. We are in the process of seeing what that means right now. God is truth. He cannot lie and He is the origin and definition of all that is true. Truth is always perfectly aligned with God because He created all things. Men discover truth, they never make it. This is why saying you believe in Christ is useless rhetoric unless it is The True Christ. The one who was eternally with the Father and who created all things. The one who became flesh and dwelt among us. The one who bore your sins...not just sins in general, but your sins for which you should die and suffer eternal hell. Those were the ones Christ died for on the Cross. He is the eternal God. He knew you before the creation of the world and therefore He knew He was dying for your sins. He loved You! He died for You!

**Ephesians 1:13** <sup>13</sup> In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

**Of His fullness:** This is the entirety of God the Trinity.

**Colossians 2:9-10** <sup>9</sup> For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

Christ was not some projection of God. He was not an inferior son who would never measure up to the stature of the Father. No...He was what every son is to their father. Made up of the exact same stuff. To be the Son of God is to be equal to God. Sonship was his role not His essence.

**John 10:30** I and the Father are one."

**We have all received, and grace upon grace:** A phrase that speaks of the unending nature of God's grace.

**Romans 5:2** <sup>2</sup> through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

**Ephesians 2:4-8** <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ: The Law can save no one. Its sole purpose was always to condemn you and to that end it is perfect and forceful.

**Galatians 3:21-22** For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. <sup>22</sup> But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

**Romans 3:19-20** <sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; <sup>20</sup> because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.

**No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*:** This is the climax of Scripture...Not the end but the ultimate pinnacle of The Word. It was and still is God's means for revealing Himself to mankind. He would send His own Son into the world as one of their own creatures to pay the slave price for human beings. One human being as a ransom for another. This is the fullest revelation of God to man. The Full revelation of Grace and Truth are in Christ Alone.

## **Revealed By The Prophetic Fulfillment [19-25]**

**John 1:19-23** <sup>19</sup> This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup> And he confessed and did not

deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup> They asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, "Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup> He said, "I am A VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD,' as Isaiah the prophet said."

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?":

**He confessed and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ:** John knew that he was a preacher of Christ. He was doing what every prophet before him had ever done. He was pointing to Christ. He was calling out for men to hope in God and in the Messiah that had been promised to save them.

**Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not:** The Jews thought that Elijah would physically come again since he had not died but went alive into heaven. John was John and knew that he was not Elijah come back to earth. BUT...Jesus explains that the prophecy about Elijah was figurative.

**Matthew 17:10-13** <sup>10</sup> And His disciples asked Him, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" <sup>11</sup> And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things; <sup>12</sup> but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." <sup>13</sup> Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.

**Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No:** Also true in every since. The Prophet was expected based on Moses' prophecy about him.

**Deuteronomy 18:15** <sup>15</sup> "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.

**I am A VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD:** Jesus said that John was the greatest man born to a woman because of things like this. John describes himself as a voice. This is what preachers are supposed to be. The very word preach means to "herald." A herald just tells the words of another. Jesus is the Word...His preachers are His voice.

## CONCLUSION

**John 1:24-28** <sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They asked him, and said to him, "Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup> John answered them saying, "I baptize in water, *but* among you stands One whom you do not know. <sup>27</sup> "It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup> These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

In the beginning Adam and Eve knew God. He fellowshiped with them and walked in the garden with Him, but it all ended when they decided that God was not enough for them. This is the root problem of humanity. We are simply not satisfied with God and what He gives us. Because of that God obliged Adam and Eve and sent them away from His presence to find, in creation, something that would in fact satisfy and fulfill. The history of humanity has been the story of that quest.

God also began immediately after Adam's sin to incrementally reveal His unilateral plan to save helpless men and to identify the man who would do it.

- God told Eve it would be a male human child...nothing more.
- He told Abraham He would descend through he and Sarah's child not just Abraham alone.
- God told Rebecca that the Christ would come through Jacob not Essau
- Messiah would come through a shepherd boy made King and not King Saul
- He would be conceived by a virgin
- He would be born in Bethlehem
- He would be protected in Egypt

When Jesus came into the world it was the worst kept secret in the history of humanity. God Himself had been telling every detail for 8,000 years. The only reason to miss Christ was stubborn and entrenched hatred for God and self-righteousness.

God has revealed Himself in Christ Jesus' incarnation. He stirred up His prophets to speak of it for thousands of years before the event. Why? Because it is the single most important event in human history. It is the only way back to God. Man was barred at the Garden gate after his rebellion. He even placed a guard there to make certain man could never approach Him again. This is the condition of your heart and mine.

God cannot be known unless He reveals Himself and His stated means has been His Word. The Word is not a book. It is the written record of The Word of God. But that was only the beginning. The Word became flesh and lived among us so that we might behold His glory...He is the Son...and He is full of Grace and Truth. Ask God to give you a renewed interest in the Scripture. Not because you need more knowledge to rattle around in your head, But because it is God's complete and sufficient revelation of Himself to mankind. To know God leads to love for God. To know facts about the Scripture leads to pride and self righteousness and vain, judgmental religion. Come to the written word for the Christ approve reason of knowing the living Word. God Incarnate put it this way to the Pharisees. We would do well to heed this as well.

**John 5:37-40** "The Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form. <sup>38</sup> "You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent. <sup>39</sup> "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; <sup>40</sup> and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

Coming to Christ means trust in His sacrifice for your sins and surrender of your will to His. He owns what He has purchased. That makes Him Lord of your life.