

# A Study of John's Gospel

## Lesson 1: Introduction and Prologue (1:1-18)

December 4, 2011

### The Word in the Beginning (1:1-4)

Both Genesis 1 and John 1 start with the phrase, "In the beginning." The first book of the Bible describes the establishment of time, the organization of the earth and how God spoke man into existence. John, the apostle, informs us what existed before the foundation of the world and how God came and lived amongst His creation. The power of *His Word* is present in both.

### The Light of Men (1:5-13)

The contrast between darkness and light depicts an obvious picture of truth being exposed to a lost world. Light, to honest hearts yearning for salvation, offers hope. Men satisfied with being entangled in sin shun the light and sink deeper in darkness. These verses show how this *light* was prophetically announced, how it was rejected by some but received by others.

### This Word Became Flesh (1:14-18)

God dwelt among men. As Matthew and Luke record details of how Jesus was conceived and physically born into the world, John emphasizes Jesus' deity and the spiritual impact of God dwelling among His creation.

## Questions:

1. John's gospel opens with a discussion focused upon the Greek word, *logos*; translated as "*the Word*" in almost all of the English versions of the Bible.
  - a. Using a Bible dictionary, what does the word *logos* mean?
  - b. From verse 14, this "*Word*" seems to be describing someone. Who is described as *logos*?
  - c. From the Greek definition, why do you think He is referred to as "*the Word*"?
2. In verses 1-4, list at least six descriptions of "*the Word*".
3. Verses 6-8, mention a man named John.
  - a. Was this the author or someone else?
  - b. What does it say this man named John did (what was his mission)?
4. What effect does light have on total darkness?
  - a. What was the reaction of the world to the coming of this light (vs. 4-10)?
  - b. What importance does this same author (the apostle John) give to "walking in the light" in his first epistle (1 John 1:5-7)?
5. John writes about two different responses to this light (vs. 11-12).
  - a. Who did not receive this light?
  - b. What was given to those who did believe in His name?
6. Verse 14 states that this "Word became flesh and dwelt among men". The word "dwelt", actually means an "abode", "tent" or "tabernacle." What was the significance of the "tabernacle" to the Jews (Exodus 40:34-38; 29:46; 25:8)?