

Jesus is the Word

John 1:1-2, 14

“In the beginning was”

- Echoes Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
- “In the beginning was” is meant to help us grasp that...
 - *As God was* in the beginning (Gen. 1:1), so *was the Word*
 - Jesus was before everything, its *origin* or *source* (Gk. archē – beginning, origin, source)
 - Side note/interesting: Jesus is *ruler* of creation (Gk. archē – ruler – Lk. 12:11)

“the Word” (the Logos)

- *Logos* in Greek and Jewish thought/language:
 - Greek philosophy: The eternal principle of order, divine reason ordering the cosmos
 - Jewish philosophy: Mind of God, agent of creation, and mediator between God and creation
 - Jews: The O.T. ideas of God’s creative and sustaining **word** and the **word** of God spoken by the prophets
- Jesus as *the logos* means that what Greeks and Jews speculated about, and Jews read about in the O.T., came to be in human form in Jesus.

Logos Defined

- **BDAG** (477-478) Speaking...word, statement, proclamation (2) the independent, personified 'Word'...the divine 'Word' [that] took on human form...in Jesus
- **Thayer's** (380-382) word uttered by a living voice, a decree...or discourse of God, instruction or doctrine (2) the personal wisdom and power in union with God,...which for... man's salvation put on human nature in the person of Jesus the Messiah
- **Vine's** (683) the expression of thought...as embodying a conception or idea, statement, message from God, discourse, speech, instruction...(2) The personal Word,...the personal manifestation, not of a part of the divine nature, but of the whole deity

Jesus as “the Word” (Logos)

- Jesus is the voice, thought, discourse, instruction, wisdom, power, and deity of God manifested in human form.
- God has spoken to us “**in His Son,**” or **in the person of Jesus** – Heb. 1:1-3
- The fullness of God and His will has been revealed in the form of a man, in Jesus – Jn. 14:9

“The Word was with God”

- The Word being “with God” expresses accompaniment and relationship with God.
 - “With” also means to be directed towards, faced towards, indicating an intimate relationship (with God).
 - “With God” indicates the Word is not an impersonal idea or philosophy revealed by God, but a person.
- “He was in the beginning with God” (1:2) is intended to *amplify* that we must believe that Jesus is eternal and a distinct person from God the Father

“The Word was God”

- Declares Jesus’ divine nature
 - John does not say the Word possessed divine qualities, but that He was partaker of the divine essence—that Jesus was Himself God!
 - “What God was, the Word was also” – 1:14; 14:8-9
- John does not use the article (“the”) before God
 - Some have falsely taken this to mean Jesus, the Word, is “a god,” not “the God”
 - “The” before God would have identified the Word as the same person as God, contradicting Him being “with God” – 1:1, 2
 - Translating this as “a god” destroys the correct interpretation of the text – 1:6, 12, 13

The Word

THE WORLD

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” – Philippians 2:5-11