

THE WORD

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Study of John / John 1:1-14

Introduction

There are four inspired Gospel accounts of Jesus' life and ministry. Three of them: Matthew, Mark, and Luke, are what we refer to as the "Synoptic Gospels" because they contain similar content. Each author wrote to teach about the life and ministry of Jesus Christ to different groups of people: 1). Matthew - the Jews. 2). Mark - the Romans. 3). Luke - an individual (Theophilus). And finally, **there is the Gospel of John**. John specifically wrote using a selection of Christ's teachings and miracles so that his readers would "believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God" (John 20:31). Therefore, John is the only Gospel that says its purpose is for readers to believe and be saved. It has an appeal both to Jews and Gentiles. It is a Gospel witness for the world! John begins by focusing on Christ as the eternal "Word."

I. The Word's Beginning. (1-2)

(John 1:1) The New World Translation (Jehovah's Witness) translates this verse, "and the Word was **a god**." They do this because they believe that Jesus Christ is a created being, God's Son but not actually = with God: an ancient heresy called **Arianism**. The Greek reads, "**and God was the Word**." However, that is not a good English translation. The subject in the original is "**the Word**." Therefore, the correct English translation is: "**and the Word was God**." And that is the way it is translated in our Bibles.

II. The Word's Creation. (3)

(John 1:3) "All things were made by him" For example: "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light." ([Genesis 1:3](#)) God (Elohim) is plural in Hebrew. God is a Trinity and Christ was present at the Creation, speaking the world into existence. The Bible says "And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:" ([Hebrews 1:10](#))

III. The Word's Light. (4-5)

IV. The Word's Witness. (6-9)

(John 1:9) “Who lighteth every man’ - By what is vulgarly termed natural conscience, pointing out at least the general lines of good and evil. And this light, if man did not hinder, would shine more and more to the perfect day.” (John Wesley)

“For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;” ([Romans 2:14-15](#))

V. The Word's World. (10)

VI. The Word's Reception. (11-13)

VII. The Word's Home. (14)

(John 1:14) This is called the “Incarnation” that is: when Christ, the eternal Son of God became man without ceasing to be God.