

Light of the World

Thomas Robinson, *Light of the World 1*, April 8, 2018

John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning **was the Word** (*logos*, Wisdom, Rationality), and **the Word was with God**, and **the Word was God**. ² He was in the beginning with God.

³ **All things came to be through him**, and without him not even one thing came to be. **What has come to be⁴ in him was life**, and **for humans, that life was light/illumination**.

⁵ And **that light is shining in the darkness**, and the **darkness did not overcome it**.

⁶ **A human** came to be, sent from God, whose name was **John**. ⁷ He came for **testimony**, that he may **testify concerning the light**, in order that all may **believe** through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but came that he may **testify concerning the light**.

⁹ The **true light**, which **enlightens every human**, was **coming into the world** (*kosmos*). ¹⁰ He was **in the world**, and the world **came to be through him**; and the world **did not know him**. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people **did not accept** him. ¹² But **all who did receive him**, to these he **gave an authority to become children of God**, to those **believing in his name**. ¹³ They – not from blood nor from a will belonging to flesh nor from a husband's will – rather they were **begotten from God**.

¹⁴ And **the Word** (*logos*) **came to be flesh** and built his **tabernacle among us**, and we have watched **his glory**, glory as of a **father's one-and-only**, full of **grace** and **truth**.

Genesis 1:1-5

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Psalms 36:9

⁹ With You is the fountain-spring of life: in your light do we see light.

Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴ [Jesus said,] "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

John 8:12

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 5:24-29a

²⁴ "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word (*logos*) and believes him who sent me has life of the age to come, and does not come under judgment, but has passed out of death into life. ²⁵ "Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ "Just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; ²⁷ and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and will come forth...."

John 9:4-7a

⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.

⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam"....

John 10:10b

¹⁰ "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 20:30-31

³⁰ Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

How Light broke forth for Humanity

Jesus told his disciples and crowds, "*You are the light of the world!*" Amazing! How? Shine the light in beautiful/excellent works that show God's glory: live the Sermon on the Mount.

John sets that process within the great event that God has accomplished in Jesus. Last week we looked at the Foolish Cross/Resurrection as God's Wisdom/Power that unites physical & spiritual, heaven & earth. Human life & work matters ('not vain') toward new creation.

John's intro overviews the grand event all the way back to the Beginning (Gen 1). The Logos (Word, Reason, Wisdom), the depth of God: "with God" relationship, "was God" identity. From "being" to "becoming." Creation through Logos. "In him," life comes to be as the place where Logos is shared. For humans that life becomes illumination, Light : a physical image for a life of purpose, relationship, meaning. That's the event: Light is shining... bringing the "being" of God/Logos into the "becoming" created world. Not stopped.

How Light transforms our world

John shows this unfolds with a human, part of the "becoming" creation: God sends John Bap. with testimony (human-directed logos) that point to the Light-Life-Word. John shows the purpose of the Gospel – signs that point to Light-Life for humans. We learn to trust.

But this is not just words of guidance, advice. The Light (Life-Logos-Creator) himself was coming into the created cosmos – the fundamental illumination of all that human life is/means. This "coming" was not movement but manifestation: The profound irony that the Creator was in his own creation but unknown (–the darkness). His "coming" opens knowledge, recognition, believing, trusting. He calls forth our human response.

God's gift of human freedom works negatively and positively. Many don't accept. Those who receive him, learn his true reality, see themselves in that Light, receive the gracious gift to become God's children, begotten by God, sharing God's unbreakable, ultimate life. This is the goal of the great event. The purpose of the Gospel is to share in that process (Jn 20:31).

Crossing the Line – God's Presence among Us

But in order for us to share God's life, God became one of us, sharing our life. Being became Word became flesh. God broke through all our ideas that (1) the spiritual must escape the physical or that (2) the physical alone is real without spirit, real mind, or purpose. The Logos broke through the impenetrable barrier between creator and created. A new Tabernacle.

His life, work, compassion, service, love, resurrection, revealed what the union of physical and Spirit means. We watch his glory: loving, serving. We trust, practice, grow into his Life.