

Introduction

- *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (v.1)*
- *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (v.14)*
- Logos is the Greek word we translate as "word":
 - but logos is also God's translation of himself for a world that couldn't understand Him
 - it is a demonstration of God in Christ, so we could know God
 - it is the Word of gracious condescension for people who can't speak heaven's language
 - we are far from His level, so He came down to ours!
- In the first few verses of John's Gospel, there is symmetry of thought which - when coupled appropriately - expresses critical truth about the incarnation of Jesus. To understand this, a brief word about or word is in order. The old saying has it, What's in a name? The answer is: Everything if it is your name, and it describes who you are, your nature, and your character.
- To the ancients a word was not simply head knowledge transferred to sound waves, indicating a concept
 - the word was an active event - inherently powerful
 - a word is the same as a deed!
- So, describing Jesus Christ as the **Word of God** is expressing that He is indeed God
 - Jesus describes - displays the very character (logos) - of God
 - men didn't really know what to think of God - so God explained himself
 - as G Campbell Morgan put it, *In Christ, the long long silence became speech*
- Have you ever had the experience of someone trying to describe something:
 - a move at football, how to tie a knot or make a paper aeroplane...
 - their words are good, but aren't clear...
 - then they say, *let me show you...*
 - they let us see the words translated into living reality
- That is the way with **logos**; Jesus was God's way of saying "*let me show you...*"
 - Jesus showed us The Father
- Going to look at pairs of phrases, couplets, in John 1:1 and 1:14:
 - words which fit-together, and tell us who this Word (Jesus) was, is, will be...

Jesus was eternity entering time

- v.1: *In the beginning was the Word*
- v.14: *And the Word was made flesh,*
- The Bible here states an unqualified fact - Jesus is eternal God! He is The Word, and He has always existed. When he became flesh, it was eternity entering the realm of time. One author put it this way:
 - *Jesus' incarnation was... He who never began to be, but eternally existed, and who continued to be what he eternally was, began to be what he eternally was not.*
- Jesus said to the Pharisees:
 - *"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" (John 8:58)*
- Christ used the same expression as when the Father spoke to Moses at the

burning bush... I AM. The eternal nature of Jesus was prophesied by the prophets:
 - *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."* (Micah 5:2)

- Besides the eternal nature, there is the creative nature of Jesus:
 - *For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.* (Colossians 1:16-17)
- Cloning is one of the hot items in the news these days:
 - many speak of creating life...
 - what a textbook case of missing the mark!
 - man may mess around with DNA, rearranging the order of things - but only God can **create**
- The Bible says that God created ex-nihilo (**something out of nothing**)
- So this Jesus **did not begin to exist 2,000 years ago in a manger**:
 - this babe cradled in Mary's arms was the one whose goings and comings were from everlasting - He was eternity entering time!

Jesus was destination entering the journey

- v. 1: *and the Word was with God*
- v. 14: *and dwelt among us,*
- Genesis tells us that the broken fellowship between man and God, by sin in the Garden of Eden, also broke the intended **destination of mankind**:
 - we are created for **relationship** and **residence** in the presence of God
- We are His **family**.
- Jesus had that:
 - as the **Word**, Jesus was with God.
 - Jesus was always at the Father's side in unbroken fellowship since before time began
 - but it was interrupted on **the cross of Calvary**
 - he came to **dwell among us**, and **die for us**
 - fellowship with God was our intended destination - when sin shut down man's journey, Jesus came to enter and walk the journey with us
- The Bible tells us that Jesus promised that:
 - *"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."* (Hebrews 13:5)
- The main issue here is one of **faithfulness**:
 - Jesus is eternal, and yet he walks this temporary journey with us
 - when He says, I'll never leave you, He isn't just talking about this week, or as long as you do everything right
 - this is an **eternal commitment** for Him
- How comforting is that thought!
 - it's good to know you have something you can count on during this difficult and uncertain journey we call life
- Jesus came to walk this valley journey with us
 - **he is the destination for which our souls were created**, and that for which we crave
 - but Jesus does not make us wait to get there - **he has entered the journey to run the race with us**
- **What a joy!**
- He was eternity entering time, our destination entering the journey, and ...

Jesus was reality becoming a road sign

- v. 1: *and the Word was God*
- v. 14: *full of grace and truth.*
- Max Lucado said this was The Author entering his own story:
- Jesus Christ was in every way conceivable the God of the universe. He is not God the Father, nor God the Holy Spirit - but He is God
 - some groups translate the end of John 1.1: *...and the Word was a god.*
 - if that was the thought God wanted to communicate to us, there is a different and very precise phrase in the Greek language to state it with no ambiguity
- But **God does not stutter**
 - he said, the Word **WAS GOD!**
 - Jesus was and is the reality of God
 - yet, He chose to become a man that we might have God revealed to us
 - he became a road sign, pointing to the destination
 - that road sign is grace and truth
- It is an odd thing we contemplate here:
 - Jesus as both the **picture** and **reality of God**, being God, and His own picture!
 - he displayed His God-nature in human flesh
 - the theologians call Him the God-Man, fully God, fully man
- He was full of grace and truth

Jesus is grace

- As the One full of grace, Jesus brought the forgiveness of God, dying on the cross that we might live. He was both the perfection of Godly living, and the One who perfects those who trust in him (**Romans 3.26**)

Jesus is truth

- Truth is the righteousness of God's nature. As the Word of Truth, Jesus declared the righteousness of God against sin. This is the holiness of God that cannot have anything corrupt in His presence.

Epilogue

- So, what then? What does all this mean? What shall I do about it? Consider:
- *"Jesus is Eternity entering time. We are moving in time, headed towards eternity."*
 - Jesus wants to make certain we are prepared
- *"Jesus is Destination entering journey. We must walk through this journey called life."*
 - Jesus knows the strength we will need - for he not only is the destination - he has walked the trail as one of us, and still walks with us
- *"Jesus is Reality as well as Road sign."*
 - as mere humans, we have lots of ideas about our universe. Jesus wanted us to have the right idea about what is real, and what will crumble. So, he became the human picture of reality. He became our road sign...
 - pointing the way, becoming the way,
 - pointing to truth, being the truth,
 - pointing to life, giving life.
- John wrote this gospel (Good News) for one reason:
 - *But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31)*
- This is the response for which God is waiting. He wants us to believe in Jesus - trust in Jesus by committing our lives to Him as the God of eternity, destiny and reality.
 - *"Give your life - all that you know of you to all you know of Him."*
 - Give Him all your thoughts, dreams, plans, actions and attitudes - that is believing in Jesus. *And that brings life through His name.*

- *Kids talk...*

Who would you rather be?

- Managing Director or the cleaner?
- In an executive box or on the terracing?
- Five star or motel?
- Personal shopper, or Tesco on a Saturday afternoon?
- Pupil of the week or losing all your golden time?
 - suggestions for other comparisons?

- Creator of the universe, enthroned in heaven, with all the joy of God's presence - or baby in a manger, in danger of your life?

- Why did God in Christ choose to enter our world?
 - what advantage did it bring?