

Sunday School March 2008

The Gospels Parralleled – John’s Theological Introduction of Jesus

John is trying to show us the JC as no one has before. His goal as an entire work is to demonstrate the good news through various ways. First he demonstrates the Lordship of JC by demonstrating his claim to being G himself. Right up front J shows us the plan of S. We have a “right” but that “right” has strings in that “we must believe”.

J starts off with a description of JC as G that only a JW could deny. Compare this with the dissertation of the writer of Heb.

John 1:1-18 (New International Version)

The Word Became Flesh

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was with God in the beginning.

God is outside of his creation. He is not part of his creation. He is the creator and sustainer of his creation. He maintains its very life and existence. Clearly, JC was with G at the start of all things. The start of time, the start of the Big Bang, at the start of the creation and at the start of G’s plan to redeem the creation. JC is often called the Logos. The living and active Logos, sharper than a two edged sword separating bone from marrow. JC makes us live by separating the living from the dead. Bone is dead and Marrow is alive. Clearly it states that JC as the Logos IS G. This is the hard part of understanding the Trinity. How can 3 be one and One be G and at the same time be with G. This is the beauty of the domain of G. It is incomprehensible as Paul made very clear in that he could not even describe it in human words. John did the best he could to describe the heavenly view but falls far short of justice with words. The best I can do is to tell you that JC as a man-G is being described in both states as 100% G and 100% man in first century Greek to the best of human ability. This is John’s attempt at telling us humans in human terms the nature of the incarnation.

3Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4In him was life, and that life was the light of men. JC is the light, life, savior. He is all in all to us. Colossians supports this statement very well. Realize that JWs state that JC was the first thing made. This is a very illogical statement as it clearly says that through him ALL things were made. If he is an angel, as they say, he is a thing and they are in contradiction of their own statements.

5The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood^[a] it. Those whom do not embrace the real JC are in darkness. Those that do not embrace G at all are in even worse darkness. JC is the light and many have not comprehended why he came or even accept his claims and thus miss the real JC and his salvation. This is the plight of many that worship one of the false JCs.

6There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

John the Baptist came before Jesus to show the way to Jesus. Even John recognized the preeminence of JC in stating that Jesus existed before him (see verse 15). This really upsets the theology of some denominations that claim a modalistic Jesus. God came to earth, God died, God went back to heaven, God came to earth as the Holy Spirit. A modalistic view of JC excludes the trinity concepts so essential to Christianity.

I am bringing in many false JC concepts so that you can realize that there are many groups out there that seem very Christian in action but are not in acceptance and worship of God in Spirit and Truth. Remember, that JC made it clear that only those that worship God in Spirit and TRUTH are His. Paul spoke of the belief in false JCs' so there has to be a distinction that is being made. The Christian cult groups of today exemplify this distinction in many ways. This is why theologians fight for the truth as many follow a lie. This had gone on from the very start of the church as exemplified by Paul and James to state a few. It is very questionable if a person that names the name of Jesus in a lie is saved. This is why it is important and why I keep making the point. The OT makes it clear that God's people perish due to a lack of knowledge. God has not left us without enough knowledge to make a clear conscious and correct conclusion about who the real JC is.

9The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.^[b] John the Baptist was sent to show who the "true light" is. And John the disciple also went to great lengths to make it clear whom he is. This is an important issue and I hope you realize this.

10He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13children born not of natural descent,^[c] nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

We have a "right" to become children of God. That right is given to us through grace and we are without excuse to ignore it. Examine yourselves to see if you

are even in the faith. The Holy Spirit will make it clear. If there is any doubt let's settle it now. Your salvation is important to me so I ask you to be sure.

14The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,^[d] who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

A clear statement to say the least. The Logos becomes a man (incarnation) to live here and show us the way to eternal life. His presence is awesome and is truth. We are without excuse to know God.

15John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' "

16From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.
17For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only,^{[e][f]} who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

We certainly saw the Man JC but is this what is being discussed? Jesus made known to us our God. God the Father, God the Son, and God the holy Spirit. This is the God Jesus has shown us but we have never physically seen him. It is only saying that no one has seen the complete Trinity but Jesus has shown the complete Trinity to us. He explained the father as spirit and we worship in spirit and truth. He claimed personally to be God and no one was confused about what he was saying. He told us about the ministry of the spirit that would come after he left to empower the church. This is the God you must acknowledge and worship. No others.

Footnotes:

- a. [John 1:5](#) Or darkness, and the darkness has not overcome
- b. [John 1:9](#) Or This was the true light that gives light to every man who comes into the world
- c. [John 1:13](#) Greek of bloods
- d. [John 1:14](#) Or the Only Begotten
- e. [John 1:18](#) Or the Only Begotten
- f. [John 1:18](#) Some manuscripts but the only (or only begotten) Son