

THE WORD OF GOD (Part III)

To review, the first paragraph in the Gospel of John says this about God's Word, His *logos*: "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God and the word was God. It was in the beginning with God; all things were made through it, and without it was not anything made that was made. In it was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:1-5).

The words *logos*, light and life take on deeper meaning that become apparent when we read the whole section in the context of the rest of God's revelation. When I read this now, many of you will have noticed that I changed something you are familiar with. I do this not to distort the meaning in any way but rather to remove a distortion caused by the English language.

You see, English isn't sexy. By that I mean things that have a sex are called by him and her words. Like people and animals. But things that don't have an obvious sex like plants and tools are called "it".

Most languages give sex to things. Like the Greek language God used when John wrote his part of the Bible. When its translated into English, the translators change the sex words to "it" when that is what is meant. Like in verse 5 it is talking about the "light" when it says "the darkness has not overcome it". The "it" in Greek is actually the word "him". But English is clear only when it is translated as "it"¹.

Translators of the Bible work extra hard to not ever change or distort the meaning of the text. But sometimes they have to fudge to make the text say what the religious experts say it means. The *logos* chapter is one of those times. The experts decided over a thousand years ago that the male gender Greek word meaning word, *logos*, here wasn't an

it “him” but a him “him”. Namely, a Jesus him all the way back to verse one.

Martin Luther made a rule that should always be followed. Namely that the Bible will have enough information to interpret itself². Or, as scholars always say, context rules. The Bible’s context here clearly says that the “it” *logos* becomes a “him” *logos* only when the word, that is the *logos*, becomes flesh and dwells among us.

God made the universe with and through and, even, as, His Word, His *logos*, His actualized will, as He tells us in the Gospel of John. The Gospel goes on to show us that God then miraculously made His universe a home for living things by creating life through that same all powerful drive, His *logos*.

Not to second guess God, but a fantastic universe with fantastic life still just doesn’t seem enough for God to sit back and watch it tick. Accordingly, that passage in John rounds out the *logos* saga with a divine finale that will go on for eternity.

It says “In it (*logos*—it) was life (which we’ve already covered) and the life was the light of men.” (John 1:4 RSV). Now we have the life *logos* being ratcheted up another miraculous notch. First God’s *logos* births the universe then life, and now comes whatever this “light of men” is.

If you look at the parallel Genesis account, it pretty well tells what that light is. The creation chapter says “Then God said ‘let us make man (that is “mankind” or “humanity”) in our own image, after our likeness’” (Genesis 1:26 RSV).

This is why every tribe of men throughout all history has worshipped some kind of god or another. Nothing in the animal kingdom has anything remotely similar or any tendency that could possibly “evolve” into worship. Evolution teaches that behaviors evolve because of

survival advantages³. Worship, especially worship as Jesus taught, creates costs and risks to your survival (Luke 6:27-29 RSV).

Although it's not genetic or any kind of biology, the worship imperative is hard-wired into humans (Psalms 100:3; Romans 1:18-20; 050:016). Every pregnancy, every new baby possesses a subconscious element that will sense the existence of God. That's because humans are the only species enlightened, lit up, with the light that makes us in the image of God.

So, the light John is talking about here is not the light that makes the sun shine but using language to make a simple word picture of a not so simple concept. Fish have fins so they can and do swim. Birds have wings so they can and do fly. Humans, on the other hand, have a light, a spirit, unlike any bird or fish or any other form of life. Only humans have a spiritual element that makes them in the likeness of God. Only we can sense and worship Him.

It's God's big deal because this light thing is not optional and it's not perishable—God's humans will share eternity with Him (Psalms 23:6; Matthew 25:46; 030:050). This reality is the precise correlate with the next verse in the *logos* saga—“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it” says John. (John 1:5)

Our imperishable spiritual *logos* light, like God, cannot die. That light will shine on through the darkness. Darkness here as another word picture for a spiritual/physical concept. Despite the darkness of death, our spirits will be reunited with a similarly immortal body on the other side of the darkness (John 6:40). Every human is a physical spirit. We will all be all, at the resurrection.

But there is a final step in the *logos* chain. The step that lifts us up to God. The step that makes the universe have the best possible reason to exist. . .for us and for God. . .in part 4.

1. Go to: www.hermeneutics.stackexchange.com/questions/22785/in-john-11-3-translated-pronouns-as-him-or-it-neuter-or-masculine
2. Go to: www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sola_scriptura
3. Go to: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Survival_of_the_fittest