

Behold Your King!

John 1.1-18

EVERY MAJOR RELIGION HAS SOME PLACE FOR JESUS

Brahmin / Buddha / Prophet / Rabbi / Teacher / Zen Master / Demiurge

Human / Divine / Spirit of Divine / god with small g / Human & Divine

CAN BE CONFUSING EVEN TO CHRISTIANS > Church in Corinth, Beijing?

Paul the Apostle / their Spiritual Father > I am afraid that...if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached... you put up with it easily enough  
2 Corinthians 11.2-4

Study Gospel of John > PRAYER > SEE, KNOW, and FOLLOW > REAL Jesus

Author of this Book / JOHN, son of Zebedee / Disciple and APOSTLE

4<sup>th</sup> Gospel / written after Matthew, Mark, Luke / between 60 and 90 AD

GOSPEL – more than Biography / Testimony of Faith / GOOD NEWS

John's THEME ANNOUNCED > Evangelistic PURPOSE:

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

1.1-18 / Overture of Symphony: Themes: Word, Life, Light, Faith, Grace, Truth

WONDERFUL – Wonderfully COMPLEX – HARD to Grasp at Beginning

We Tell SEEKERS to Read John & they're CONFUSED at this Starting GATE

(Perhaps MARK is More READILY ACCESSIBLE?)

The other Gospels begin with Bethlehem; John begins with the bosom of the Father. Luke dates his narrative by Roman emperors and Jewish High Priests; John dates his 'in the beginning.' Matthew and Luke take us to the cradle and manger, Mark takes us to the prophecies of old, but John takes us back into the mists of eternity.  
Alexander MacLaren

1. Glory Revealed 2. Grace Received

## 1. Glory Revealed

### a. Fullness of God in Christ

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

OT starts with the Beginning of the World

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth                      Genesis 1.1

### JOHN ECHOES GEN 1 / STRETCHES BACK BEFORE BEGINNING

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us                      1 John 1.1,2

GOD WAS WITH JESUS AND HE WAS ALWAYS LIKE JESUS

GOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT IS GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

God is always Holy and Just always Loving and Forgiving

Everything that can be said about the Father can be said of the Son as well. Is the Father sovereign? So is Jesus. Is the Father omniscient? So is Jesus. Is he omnipresent? So is Jesus. In fact, in Jesus may be found all the wisdom, glory, power, love, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth of God.                      James Boice

Jesus is LIFE GIVER and the LIGHT BEARER

v. 4 “In Him was life, and that life was the light of men”

v 9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world

EVERY PERSON HAS RECEIVED THIS LIGHT

PHYSICAL REALM / WITHOUT LIGHT of SUN / EARTH would DIE

SPIRITUAL Realm / True / Son = Goodness, Joy, Truth, Purity, Hope

The Lord is my light and my salvation                      Psalm 27.1

For with you is the fountain of life; *in your light we see light.* Psalm 36.9

MEANING OF LIGHT? / Complete Absence of Darkness

God is light, in him there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1.5

TOTALLY PURE, GOOD, HOLY, TRUE, JUST, RIGHT / Nothing Evil

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF ALL MEN/ *Have all been saved by Him? No*

CONTEXT/ Light has come to DIVIDE & EXPOSE the Darkness in Us

MOST EXALTED VISION of GOD is PORTRAIT of Carpenter from Nazareth

Took Church 300 years to come to this Conclusion // NICENE CREED

Popular Teacher in Church of Egypt / Arius > great following of people

SPEAKING OF JESUS “there was when he was not” Arius

JESUS NOT FULLY GOD / CREATED / HAD A BEGINNING

NESTORIANS / ARIANS WENT TO ARABIA & CENTRAL ASIA & China

Isa described by Muhammad Quran is Arian Jesus & JW’s & Mormons Today

Far less Popular Deacon in Egyptian Church / Athanasius / Not Good Orator

JESUS “He became what he was not and he continued to be what He was...

there never was when He was not” Athanasius

ETERNAL GOD WHO BECAME MAN

CHOICE: JESUS was CREATOR GOD / or Just A CREATURE made by God

Emperor Constantine called Council in Nicea in 325 AD

“I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made” Nicene Creed

b. Finality of Christ THERE IS NO WHERE TO GO BEYOND JESUS  
 AGE OF PLURALISM / Tone Down our Distinctives / COMMON CENTER  
 BE OPEN TO ANY THOUGHT, LIFESTYLE, OR RELIGION  
 CONVICTIONS ARE SIGN OF INTOLERANCE, EVEN BIGOTRY

In the past God spoke to our forefathers thru the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by His Son. Hebrews 1.1,2

HE IS THE FINAL WORD FROM GOD / FULLNESS OF WORD

HE IS THE PROPHET GREATER THAN MOSES / leads us into All Truth

v. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

NOT Contrast between TRUE and FALSE > Surely the Law of Moses is TRUE  
 CONTRAST > Incomplete & Complete / Imperfect & Perfect / Beginning & End  
 JESUS is Complete / Perfect / End > FULLNESS OF GOD IN HUMAN FLESH  
 MANY RELIGIONS CLAIM ADMIRATION for JESUS> but More Needed

Jesus is a Prophet / but Muhammed has the Last Word in his Quran

Jesus is a Savior / but Joseph Smith has the Last Word in Book of Mormon

Jesus is a god / but the Jehovah's Witness teachings in Watchtower are Final

X is Divine Principle/ but Mary Baker Eddy's Christian Science is Necessary

Post Modern / Jesus is COOL for YOU – but I wanna do my OWN THING!

If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. John 12.26

If Jesus Christ shares the nature of God, we are called to worship Him without cessation, obey him without hesitation, love him without reservation, and serve him without interruption. To Him be all glory forever. Bruce Milne

c. God in Human Flesh > Amazing? Or have you become Bored?

v. 14 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.

From the beginning of time until now it is the only thing which has ever really happened...God becoming man...We may call this doctrine exhilarating or we may call it devastating, we may call it revelation or we may call it rubbish...but if we call it dull then what in heaven's name is worthy to be called exciting?

Dorothy L. Sayers

TITLE > "the Word" = JESUS THE WORD REVEALS GOD

WORDS REVEAL THOUGHTS & IDEAS / JESUS REVEALS GOD

v.18 "No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known"

ETERNALLY BEGOTTEN SON / SON WITH NO BEGINNING OR END

BEGOTTEN = THE ONLY ONE / THE UNIQUE ONE

Jesus is both the Word and the Son. These two metaphors supplement and protect each other. To think of Christ merely as the Word sounds impersonal...as merely the Son sounds like a created being.

W.E. Best

Philip asked Jesus, 'Lord show us the Father & that will be enough for us' Jesus answered 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me, has seen the Father' John 14.8

APART FROM JESUS > CANNOT KNOW GOD

APART FROM SCRIPTURE > CANNOT KNOW JESUS

POWER OF CREATIVE WORD > God Spoke > AND IT WAS SO

By the word of the Lord were the heavens made. Psalm 33.6

JOHN'S WORD FOR WORD > Greek word "Logos"

Slightly different meaning for Hebrews and Greeks

HEBREWS > Once a WORD IS SPOKEN A DEED IS DONE / No Returning

Twin Sons of Isaac and Rebekah / Jacob and Esau

Elderly Isaac ONE LAST SCHAR STICK > sends Esau to get some Meat

Jacob> Dressed like Esau> Tasty MEAT > STEALS BLESSING FROM ESAU

Esau / Did not Shop at WALMART / Went DEEP into Village to Get Meat

CAME BACK TOO LATE / DAD NOT HUNGRY / BLESSING SPOKEN

“Bless me – me too, my father! But he said, “Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing.”  
Genesis 27.34,35

ONCE WORD WAS SPOKEN / BLESSING GIVEN / NO TAKING BACK

Be Careful What YOU SAY / May be Forgiveness / NEVER IS FORGETTING

LOGOS FOR THE GREEKS > Important Philosophical Concept

Heraclitus lived in Ephesus in 6<sup>th</sup> C BC / where John lived as he wrote Gospel??

“It is impossible to step into the same river twice” Heraclitus

World in CONSTANT CHANGE / LOGOS only thing DOES NOT CHANGE

It may be that some day there will come forth from God a Word, a Logos, who will reveal all mysteries and make everything plain.  
Plato

IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME > GOD SENT THE WORLD HIS LOGOS

## 2. Grace Received

v. 16 From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another

### a. Faith

Apostle John presents Gospel like Student should write Well Written Essay

Opening Thesis > Jesus is God - 20 chapters of proofs and examples

Closing Summary > Risen Jesus with Doubting Disciple named Thomas

Thomas > Historic Affirmation / calls Jesus “My Lord and My God” John 20.28

Jesus > Devout Monotheistic Rabbi Rebuke Thomas? Charge Blasphemy??

JUST OPPOSITE > BLESSED!!

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20.29

**HAVE YOU RECEIVED THIS BLESSING??**

v. 12 To all who receive him, to those who believe in his name, God gives the right to become children of God

**FIRST USE OF WORD Faith / Believe in John // uses 36 X's in Gospel**

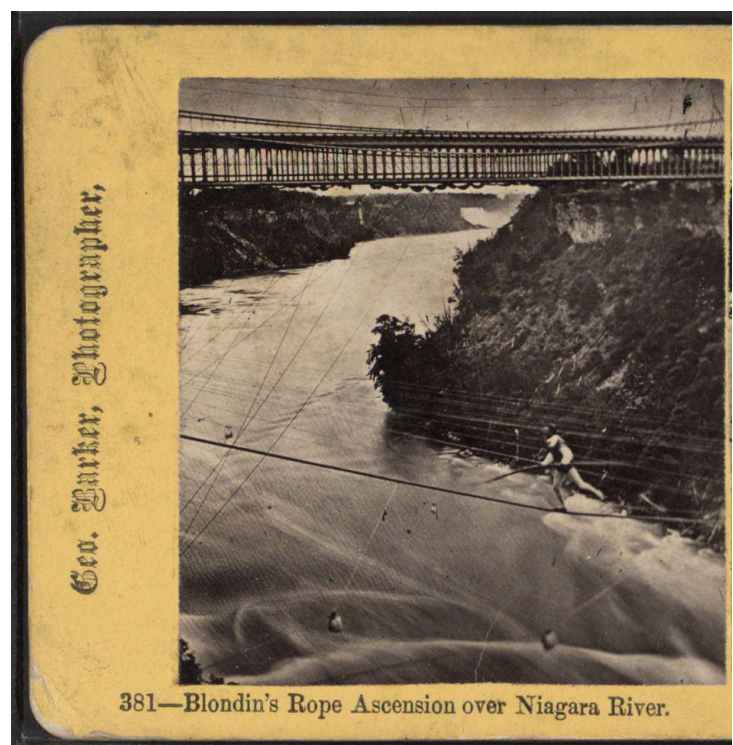
**BELIEVE IN - NOT JUST INTELLECTUAL ASSENT**

**"I believe Barrack Obama is President of the United States"**

**CORRECT FACT – NOT ENOUGH – Have I ever seen him?**

**Do I spend time with him? Have I spoken to him? He spoken to me?**

**LIT. – "Believe INTO" / or "Believe ON TO" / Total Dedication**

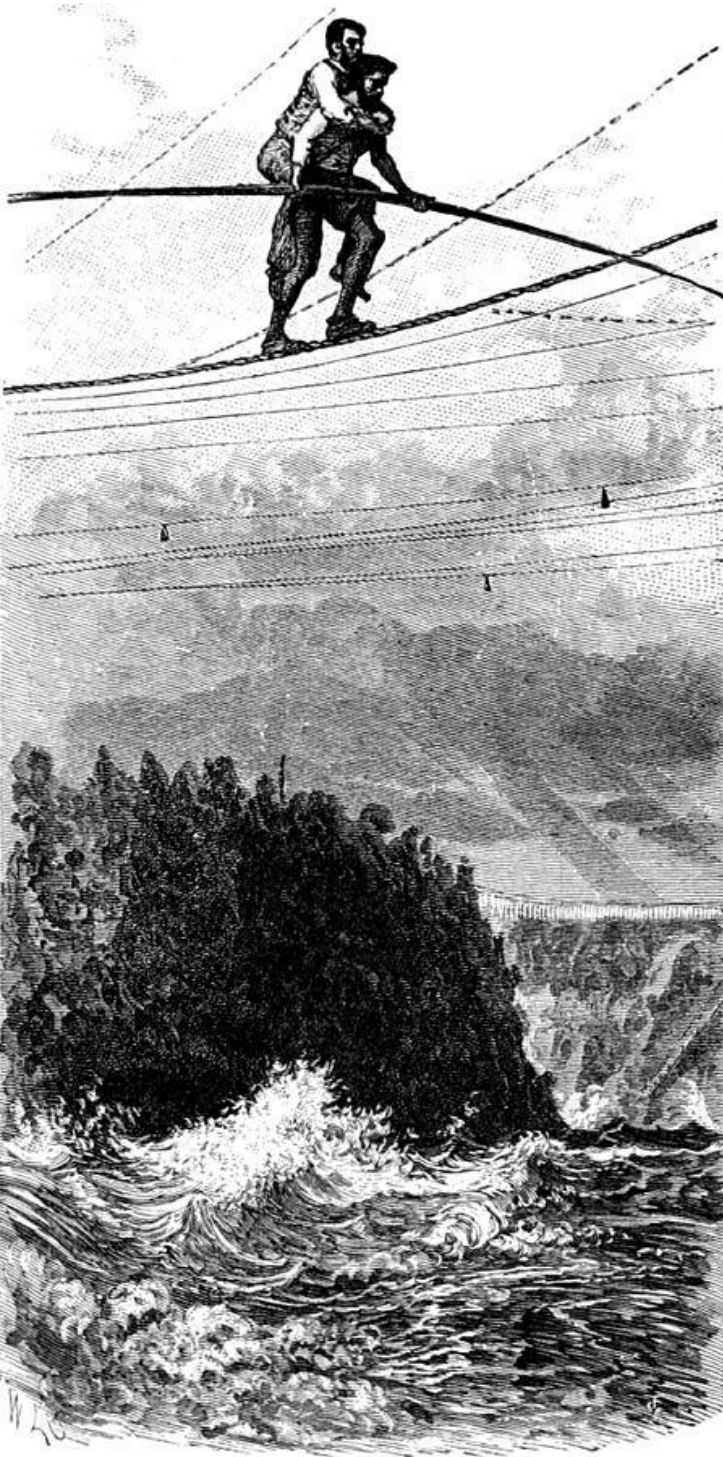


**June 30, 1859 FRENCH TRAPEZE ARTIST / Charles BLONDIN age 31**

**HE CROSSED NIAGRA FALLS ON A TIGHTWIRE CABLE**

**65 meters high / 330 meters long**

**walked across– bicycled– sat at table, ate sandwich– CARRIED Mgr on Back**



ASKED THE HUGE DAZZLED  
CROWD

“Do you believe I can carry a man  
across these falls?”

ALL RESPONDED “Yes, of course,  
we just saw you do it”

BLONDIN ASKED “Who will climb  
in wheelbarrow & be taken across”

BELIEVING IN CHRIST More than  
Intellectual Assent or Agreement

CLIMBING IN /COMPLETELY TRUSTING GOD / CARRIED THRU

b. Favor

ONE TENET OF PLURALISM / All Religions are Equally Able to Help

BIG MUSHY GOD DWELLS ON TOP OF HIS ETHERIAL MOUNTAIN

All Roads will Lead to him / Every Religion has a Different Road



NARROW MINDED MAN lays ROADBLOCK ACROSS ALL PATHS  
EXCEPT HIS OWN

Jesus: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"  
John 14.6

vs. 12-13 ...he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Born of God > WE THINK WE CAN FIND GOD OURSELVES / Worthy  
TRUTH > OUR GOOD WORKS WILL NOT OUTWEIGH BAD  
NO MERIT BEFORE GOD FROM FASTING, RITUALS, WORSHIP

NOT NATURAL DESCENT God has no grandchildren  
IF YOUR PARENTS LOVE GOD, PRAISE GOD— Follow their example  
CANNOT CLAIM THEIR RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE GOD

NOT HUMAN DECISION Jesus "you did not choose me, I chose you"

NOT HUSBANDS WILL some people have many connections here

"Do you know who my husband is?" / "My husband can get me in"

God says, 'I will have mercy on whom I have mercy and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy'  
Romans 9.15-18

c. Family

v. 12 "to ALL who received Him" / without Distinction or Partiality

IF it were MY SALVATION – GIVE IT TO MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY  
SOME PEOPLE I PROBABLY WOULD NEVER INVITE

John inhabited a world which confined its salvation to specific groups. Salvation could be had through philosophy, if one was intelligent; from the mystery cults, if one was among the initiated; by Jewish religion, if one had the right racial pedigree. By contrast, Christianity entered first-century as a faith for everyone, irrespective of intelligence quotient, age, gender, race or religious background.

Bruce Milne

## JESUS CAME INTO WORLD OF CLASS AND STATUS DIVISION

Over half population in Roman Empire were Slaves

WOULD BE INCREDIBLE IF HE OFFERED US TO BE HIS SLAVES  
ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF INVITES us to Become Sons & Daughters

SOVEREIGN KING EXTENDS HIS SCEPTER OF GRACE TO YOU  
LOVING FATHER offers you Ring, Robe, Sandals, of Joyful Sonship  
WOULD YOU REJECT THIS for the OPPORTUNITY TO FEED PIGS

GIVEN THE RIGHT / THE AUTHORITY / AS GOD'S CHILDREN

NOBODIES ARE TRANSFORMED INTO SOMEBODIES

During one Military Campaign / NAPOLEON / on horse, reading report  
HORSE REARED almost threw French Emperor to the Ground

Corporal > Bravely grabbed the Horse and Saved his Commander

Napoleon looked at him and said, "Thank you, Captain"

Young Man "Captain of what company sir?" NAPOL "Capt. of my Guards"

YOUNG MAN- Immediately threw down musket, tore off corporal stripe

BOLDLY WALKED INTO THE OFFICERS HEADQUARTERS

THEY ASKED "What are you doing?" // "I am the Captain of the Guard"

BY WHOSE AUTHORITY / BY ORDER OF THE EMPEROR

If one of his fellow Corporals had called him Captain, they could laugh!

But if the Emperor calls him a Captain, it is an IMMEDIATE REALITY

NOW IN CHRIST, GOD CALLS YOU HIS CHILD

### d. Fight

Focus on FIGHT > Jesus Lived 30 Something Years > Gospel 21 Chapters

2<sup>nd</sup> 1/2 John > LAST WEEK of Life > Fought Sin, Satan, Death > He Won!

v. 10 “though the world was made through him”

FINGER PRINTS OF GOD ALL OVER US /

PRESENCE INESCAPABLE / TRUTH UNDENIABLE

“the world did not recognize him” / Too Busy / Preoccupied with Self

HOW ABOUT THE JEWS / GOD’S COVENANT PEOPLE

2000 YRS OF ANTICIPATION / LONG PROMISED MESSIAH COME

v. 11 “He came to that which was his own” APPLE OF GOD’S EYE

“but his own did not receive him”

SHOUTED TO PILATE “take him away, take him away, crucify him”

vs. 6-7 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe.

John’s Fight ended in HEROD’S DUNGEON > Head on Herodias’ Platter

v. 5 “Light shines in the darkness, darkness cannot.....

...darkness cannot understand it

TRUTHS MOST PRECIOUS TO US, CONFUSING TO THE WORLD

HOW Many FACULTIES of your UNI Confess > Jesus is TRULY GOD

HE is the UNI in UNIVERSITY: TRUTH that HOLDS all Truths TOGETHER

Jesus offers Light of Life / Some prefer to Walk in Darkness

Jesus is True Temple –dwelling of God / Disciples think of Building

Jesus offers New Life / Nicodemus: “How can a man be born when he’s old?”

Jesus offers Living Water / Samaritan woman says “You have nothing to

draw with, and the well is deep”

Jesus offers Healing / Invalid man “No one will lower me into the pool”

Jesus offers Bread of Life / Israel says “Manna” What is it? Who is it?

Jesus is the Truth / Pilate asks “What is truth?”

“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned”  
1 Corinthians 2.14

v. 5 “Light shines in the darkness, darkness CANNOT PUT IT OUT”

**WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THIS JESUS / THE CLAIMS HE MAKES?**

You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool; you can spit on him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. C.S. Lewis

John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) 16 And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.