

The Gospel of St. John 1:1-18

Chiastic Structure

Paraphrase by C. Baxter Kruger, Ph.D.

Before the time of the beginning, the Word was face to face with God. He was there before the ages in intimate union with God, and fully God. Everything that is came to be in Him. And not one thing has existence apart from Him. In the Word life was and came to be, and this life is light, the true origin and meaning of human life. And the light of life shines in the gloom of darkness, and the darkness does not understand the light, neither can it stop it shining.

Suddenly in the darkness a man appeared, sent out from the presence of God. His name was John. He came to be the witness, the witness to the Light of life, that everyone might see and believe. John was not the Light, but its witness.

The true Light who enlightens every person born into the world was already in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world was unaware and did not perceive Him. He came to His own people, and they did not recognize Him or receive Him.

Yet those who embrace Him, who trust in His name, experience His Light, His I AM setting them free to become their true selves, free to live as children of God in the darkness, discovering their origin beyond their earthly parents in the Word in God.

And so the Word became flesh and entered the darkness in person, and found His way within us. And we perceived His true identity, His glory as the only begotten out of the Father, an overflowing fountain of Spirit and reality.

This is what John was sent to show us about Jesus, that He existed from the beginning, ages before John himself. For out of His fullness we were born and now are being liberated. For the Law came through Moses. Through Jesus Christ has come the true exodus into Spirit-filled new covenant.

No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son of God, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has led us to the Father's face.