

IKD CHRISTOS EXPOSITORY BIBLE COMMENTARY

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TEXT: JOHN 1:1-12

1:1 In the beginning: This is referring to the beginning of the creation of the world and the things in it (Genesis 1:1 ; Proverbs 8:22-23; John 17:5; Ephesians 1:4; 1John 1:1; Revelation 5:14). John the Apostle was the writer of the gospel of John. He started writing his gospel through manifesting the nature of Jesus Christ. He declares the purpose of creation. Before we will know the purpose of creation, we should understand what he is saying about the creator of the universe. All things were made by and for Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:16). **Was:** That is, Greek verb which is not perfect tense but it is progressive in the past. The word was alive before the world came into being. The word was not part of creation. Through the word, the world was created. **The word:** The "word" is Jesus Christ and He is the divine message to humanity (John 1:14,18; Revelation 19:13; Psalms 33:6). The "word" is derived from the Greek word called "Logos". The "Logos" was used by ancient philosophers as "Philo" in 30Bc-40AD. They used "the word" as

mediator between man and god. They believed "the word" was ultimate purity, reason and intelligence. John is not introducing unbelieving philosophers who have not experienced the true living God. He is describing Jesus Christ as a person and divine who made all things. No one can describe the essence and character of Jesus Christ before He was born as a man. John used "Logos" to express the implication of divine revelation to man and to signify that He is the divine message to humanity. The incarnation is the main divine message to man including His plan to save the human race. He is the truth and the image of God to portray His grace (John 1:17; 14:9; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:1-3; Philippians 2:5-8). **With God:** The word (Jesus) was residing with God before creation began. He was and is co-equal to God in terms of character and essence (John 1:18, 17:5; Philippians 2:6-7). The word was dwelling with God because He was God. **The word was God:** Before Jesus was born as a man, Jesus said He was God. God reveals Himself in Jesus so that He can complete His

final revelation of salvation for man.

1:2 In the beginning with God: The eternal word was classified among God which could be describe in the Hebrew plural word called "Elohim" (Genesis 1:1). Elohim made the heaven and the earth. Jesus Christ being the eternal word was involved in the creation of the world. After creation of the universe, Moses wrote that Elohim made man in His image (Genesis 1:26-27). The everlasting word took part in the creation of man. Through this, God began to explain the revelation of the word so that He could deliver the message of salvation to mankind.

1:3 All things were made by Him: God made all things in the physical world through His power. He made them out of nothing (1Chronicles 1:16; Psalms 33:6; 1Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:9; Hebrews 1:2-10). These were created by the power of the word.

Were made: This is Greek verb known as "aorist tense". The emphasis is all about an event that occurred in the past. Through the Greek verb (aorist), John explain the sudden creation of all things at one time in the past. There was no evidence of evolutionary development of the geological and biological world. God called all things to appear life by the power of His word (Genesis 1; Psalms 33:6).

By Him: It was the duty of the Son of God to made all things in the world - God and the Holy Spirit

manifested themselves in Jesus to made all things that existed (Hebrews 1:12). God used the word to made all things. There is superiority among the Trinity.

Without Him: John wanted us to know that there were no record of the things which now exist. Without the word, nothing was made. The world exist because it made out of nothing. He declares his main objective of writing the gospel of John before he generalized his gospel in John 20:30. He records seven miracles of Jesus that show that He is the Son of God and the Lord over creation. Because He is creator, He rules all creation (Ephesians 1:20-22; Hebrews 1:3).

1:4 In Him was life: This refer to eternal life that resides in Jesus and the same life dwells in His Father (God) and the Holy Spirit. He did not obtain this life by gift or derivation but He is the eternal life from eternity. He was alive before He became Mediator and Redeemer. Job knew Him as his Redeemer during His era. Because of this, He is accepted as the word and living God and differentiate from the written word but portrays that He is genuinely divine person. He is the source of natural life, the cause and preserver of this life. He was alive before He came in the form of flesh. Creatures receive this life from Him and He possess spiritual life. His followers are not under the power of sin.

He has given them life and has deposited the life in them. Through Him, we are justified and sanctified. The key word for the gospel of John is "life" and John uses it thirty-six times. He is the source of Human existence on the earth. **And the life was the Light of men:** Through Jesus Christ, God save mankind. Without Him, there is no source of life and salvation. The "life" implies natural life and salvation refers to eternal life. The "light of men" comprises of knowledge, integrity, intelligence, submissive to God, love to Him, fellow neighbors, wisdom, holy, joy. **1:5 The Light shines in darkness:** In the Scriptures "darkness" means "ignorance", "guilt" or "misery" (Isaiah 9:1-2; Matthew 4:16; Acts 26:18; Ephesians 5:8,11; Romans 13:12). It is referring to wicked and ignorant people. His efforts to redeem man from the bondage of sin symbolized "Light" Without Jesus Christ, all men are condemned as sinners and spiritually dead. He came into the world to bring grace through that men will be redeemed from the problem of sin and death. He revealed the righteousness of God to men who could not save themselves from sin (John 8:19; 12:46; Matthew 4:15-16; Acts 26:18; Ephesians 3:1-4; 5:8-11). **Comprehend it not:** The word "comprehend" implies "admitted" or "received". That is, ignorant and

wicked people did not receive the truth. They did not value His doctrines rather rejected Him. **1:6 There was a man sent from God:** This man was not the promised Messiah and not an angel of God but a man born of a woman. He did not prepare the way of the Messiah by his own will and strength. It was Theos who sent him to prepare the way of the Messiah. He prepared the way of Messiah based on the authority of God (Malachi 3:1; Luke 7:27). It was not man who sent him. **Whose name was John:** The man's name was announced by an angel of God before he was born (Luke 1:60,63). His name "John" implies "grace" because he was the first and famous preacher of the grace of God that came into the world. **1:7 The same came for a witness:** Christ is the originator of the "light, natural, spiritual and eternal". This was one of the names of Christ (Daniel 2:22; Psalms 43:3). Philo who is Jew confirms that Christ is light and calls Him "intelligible Light", "the universal light", "the most perfect Light". The above titles implies that He is filled with divine Light. According to Philo He is known as the Sun. John testified about Him and declared that He existed with His Father and was divine Son before He was born as a man. He was full of grace and came from Heaven. Philo speaks about His relationship with His church and He is the promised Messiah. **That all men**

through Him might believe: John testified about the Messiah to the Jews so that they would believe He was the Light and the Messiah. 1:8-9 - John testified about Jesus Christ that He was the Light by divine authority. He was the "true Light" because God sent him into the world. It is only Jesus Christ that the Scripture confirms that He come directly from God. We cannot compare Him with Moses, Elijah and John himself. He is the only Son of God who proceeds from above. He was the only begotten Son of God that came into the world as "Light" of the world. He is the Son of God who came from Heaven to manifest God to man as the one true God. **1:10-11 The world did not know Him:** The world ought to know Him since He made the world. Man lost the moral perfection of our creator (Acts 13:27; 1Corinthians 8:6; Chronicles 1:16; Hebrews 1:2). **His own:** Jesus Christ was sent to the Jews who had covenant with God and had been given the Sinai law (Romans 3:1-2). During Jesus' era, a lot of the Jews had established a religion after their traditions (Isaiah 53:1; Matthew 13:13-15; 15:1-9; Mark 7:1-9). Jews did not regard Him as the promised Messiah because He failed to live up to their expectations as their religious traditions demanded. Due to this, many Jews rejected Him (Matthew 21:33-43; Luke 19:12-27). **1:12 As many as received**

Him: This could be either Jews or Gentiles. The word "received" means "to take hold of", "obtain". That is, to accept personally. **To them He gave the right:** Jesus Christ grant authority to those who take His word to become the children of God. They are right to declare themselves as the children of God. The word "gave" denotes "a word of grace". This is something that God offers but not something we earn. "Give" is emphatic in Greek. Salvation is a gift fro God. "Received" and "give" occur suddenly. As soon as we obtain salvation, God adopts our His Children. **To become children: That means,** the saved souls now have something previously we did not possess. We belong to Heavenly family through our faith in Christ Jesus. **"Right"** - This implies "authority". Those who believe in Christ have right to appear before the throne of grace. **"Of God"**- This means that if God does not take part in the salvation process, it is impossible to man to receive salvation in Christ. **To those who believe in His name:** In the passage the words "receive" and "believe" carry the same meaning. To admit a gift shows one's level of confidence. **Believe in:** The phrase "believe in" appears 35 times in the gospel of John and it denotes "strong believe" in something. The phrase "believe in His name" can only be seen in the books written by Apostle John.

Author's profile



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