

# *John 1:1*

Who and What is The Word?

1 March 2024

**Let us pray: *Jesus open our minds and are hearts to your Word and bless us with knowledge that you wish your saints to have.***

**[1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

**[2] The same was in the beginning with God.**

**[3] All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.**

What a magnificent opening to the Gospel of John. In it are hidden many truths and many secrets that are kept from most men. These secrets are kept even from most Christian scholars. Are there secrets?

Jesus states in Matthew 11:25:

I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

About the Gospel of John 1 Chapter 1. First of all, the scripture was mistranslated at the end of the first verse. In the original Greek it actually reads:

**[1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and *God was the Word* – – – – not the Word was God.**

You might say what difference does that make? Well, it's the same thing as saying – Nevada *is* the United states – as compared to saying – the United states *is* Nevada. The first statement is more correct than the second statement. It is true that Nevada *is* part of the United States but to say that the United States is equal to one of its small parts

is not reasonable. We will get back to this point later with a definitive statement.

Secondly, Have you ever seen anyone playing a video game? In many video games there are characters in the games – and in order for a person to participate in this artificial reality you must choose an avatar and then you can interact inside this realm of fantasy.

The original and primary definition of the word avatar is the visible manifestation of an invisible spirit or God in human flesh. The root meaning of the word **avatar** is **descent**. Meaning both descent from heaven and descent as in offspring as in son or daughter.

God is a spirit and no man has seen God at any time. **John 4:24 & 1:18**

However, Nebuchadnezzar, after he had thrown three Hebrews into the fiery furnace – he saw a forth figure like as unto the the Son of Man. **Daniel 3:25**

Colossians 1:15 referring to Jesus, states He is the image of the invisible God.

Next, Jesus said, ***before Abraham was I Am. Unless ye believe that I AM he ye shall die in your sins.*** **John 8:24 & 58**

Jesus is that avatar. The pre-existent Christ was the one standing in the furnace with the three Hebrew children.

Jesus also said in John Chapter 17:

[1] These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

[2] As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

[3] **And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**

Jesus is saying many important things here – but relating to John 1:1 – he is saying that we might know **thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent**. In other words – two different entities – one is God and the other is Jesus Christ who is sent from God.

Now, I ask you is it important for us to distinguish between God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ? Again:

**[3] And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**

Basically Jesus said we have to know both in order to have eternal life. And if this is true – then there is a purpose for this lesson.

### **To continue in John Chapter 1 verse 18:**

**[18]** No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

So the Spirit – God the Father created – an image of himself – an avatar – at the beginning of time. Is there scripture for this?

Revelation 3:14

**[14]** And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

Then back to the Gospel of John verse 2:

**[2] The same was in the beginning with God.**

**[3] All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.**

And though this image of himself God the Father created all things.

However – This image was independent from God and was separate from God as the angels were separate from God. That is why the scripture could truthfully say:

***[5] And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.***

Jesus is speaking as an individual person as apart from God. Could Jesus lie? No he could not.

## Now for the second half of the Question about John 1:1

When we look at the book of Isaiah Chapter 44 God says:

[6] Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

But Jesus in the book of Revelation claimed exactly to be the same things “God” is claiming in the book of Isaiah – How can this be?

**God can speak to us directly but he has chosen mainly to speak through his first image of himself in the Old Testament as the:**

I Am

I Am He

The first and the last

The King of Israel

The Holy One of Israel

Mighty One of Israel

The Redeemer of Israel

The I Am of Hosts (Commonly mistranslated as The LORD of Hosts)

Not only did he speak through this his first image as God but occasionally he spoke through the man Christ Jesus – his Second major Avatar or image as God when answering the Apostle Philip when in Matthew Chapter 14 he said:

[8] Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

[9] Jesus saith unto him, **Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?**

[10] Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

Note: another image or avatar of God was Melchisedek Prince of Salem (Peace).

Finally we have in the fifth chapter of the Book of Revelation the image of the

lamb who stands between the throne and the golden lamp stands as slain lamb who was worthy to open the book with seven seals.

So God talks to us directly or through one of his images not contradicting himself nor His Word.

## Application for us:

### **1. Christ was the first born of many Brethren. Romans Chapter 8**

[29] For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

### **2. We are to put on Christ. Romans Chapter 13**

[13] Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

[14] But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

### **3. We are commanded to speak as the oracles of God. 1 Peter Chapter 4**

[11] If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

## Some final thoughts

**So we are to emulate what God did through Christ by being vessels of holiness and channels through which his Word and his Spirit can reach out and save others.**

**For those who question the concept of God using an avatar in order to interact with man. In parlor board games we are often asked to choose an object we will use to represent ourselves to play the game.**

**Is there an example of God doing this in real life?**

## **1st Corinthians Chapter 10**

[1] Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

[2] And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

[3] And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

[4] And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: **and that Rock was Christ.**

**The reason why God used an image or an avatar to represent himself is clear from both the Old and New Testaments:**

**Malachi Chapter 3 verse [6] For I am the LORD, I change not; ...**

**Colossians Chapter 1 verse [15] Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:**

**Since God does not change and he is invisible – he chose to create something else for us to see or hear for efficient communication with us – as we exist in the natural realm.**

**We will let God give the final explanation with the next scriptures:**

**1st Timothy Chapter 3 [16] And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.**

**1st Timothy Chapter 2 [5] For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;**

**John Chapter 3 [17] For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but **that the world through him might be saved.****

**1st Corinthians Chapter 15 verse [28] And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.**

# Hebrews Chapter 1

- [1] **God**, who at sundry times and in divers manners **spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets**,
- [2] **Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;
- [3] **Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person**, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;
- [4] Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.
- [5] For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?
- [6] And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.