

The Gospel Of John

ICEBREAKER

Do you tent camp or do you prefer glamping? Why?

CONTEXT

In this passage, John concludes his prologue by referring to Jesus as the “Word” one final time. In verses 1-2, He is the eternal Word and in verse 3 He is the creative Word. But here we discover that He is also the incarnate Word, the Word made flesh.

PASSAGE

John 1:14-18

DISCUSS

What does it mean that the Word became flesh? Why is it important that He “became” flesh and not just “appeared” in the flesh? (Phil. 2:5-9; Heb. 7:26)

What attributes of God did Jesus have to set aside in order to “become flesh”? What attributes of man did He take up in becoming flesh? Read the following verses (John 4:6-7; 11:33,35; 19:28,30,34).

DISCUSS CONTINUED

In verse 14, it says that the Word also “dwelt” among us. The word tabernacle from the Old Testament means “dwell, or dwelling place”. What similarities do you see between Jesus and the Tabernacle? (see supplemental resource on page 2)

In verse 16 it says, “For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.” What does this mean (vs. 17; Heb 8:1-7)? What does this tell us about God?

In verse 18, it says that “No one has ever seen God..” and yet He does make Himself known. How does God make Himself known if no one can see Him? (1 John 4:9-12)

NEXT STEPS

As we conclude this section of John 1 and consider everything we know about Jesus’ deity, the appropriate response is worship.

“In the beginning was the word,” and that is something that transcends our comprehension; but “and the word became flesh” brings Him within reach of our sense.” - Arthur W. Pink

What do you need to praise God for? Spend your time in prayer thanking God for who He is and what He has done.

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

Arthur W. Pink

The "tabernacle" was **temporary**. A tent that could be moved from place to place during Israel's journeys. Similar to Jesus, whose stay here on earth was brief and he did not reside long in one place, constantly on the move.

The "tabernacle" was **for use in the wilderness**. It was used for 35 years while in the wilderness. Similar to the manger-cradle, the "nowhere" for the Son of man to lay his head, and his borrowed tomb.

The "tabernacle" was **humble and unattractive in appearance**. There was nothing in the tabernacle to please the carnal eye. Nothing but plain boards and skins. So it was at the Incarnation. The Divine majesty of our Lord was hidden beneath a veil of flesh. He came, unattended by any imposing retinue of angels. To the unbelieving gaze of Israel He had no form nor comeliness; and when they beheld Him, their unanointed eyes saw in Him no beauty that they should desire Him.

The "tabernacle" was God's **dwelling place**. He took up residence in the midst of Israel's camp. Between the cherubim on the mercy-seat He made His throne. In the holy of holies He manifested His presence by means of the Shekinah glory. And during the thirty-three years that the Word tabernacled among men, God had His dwelling place in Palestine.

The "tabernacle" was the **place where God met with men**. Termed the "tent of meeting" (Exodus 25:21,22) Christ is the meeting place between God and men. (1Tim2:5)

The "tabernacle" was the **center of Israel's camp**. (Num. 1:50, Num. 2:17, Num. 11:24-25) The tabernacle was the great gathering center. Jesus is our great gathering center today and his precious promise in Matt. 18:20 "where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am in the midst of them."

The "tabernacle" was the **place where the law was preserved**. (Deut. 10:2-5)

The "tabernacle" was the **place where sacrifice was made**. The brazen altar, where animals were slain and their blood was shed to atone for sin. So it was with Our Savior, Jesus. The body in which he "tabernacled" on earth was nailed to the cross; the altar God's Lamb was slain, where His precious blood was shed, and where complete atonement was made for sin.

The "tabernacle" was the **place where the priestly family was fed**. (Lev. 6:16, 26) These verses speak to us of Christ as the food of God's priestly family today, that is, all believers (1Peter 2:5)

The "tabernacle" was the **place of worship**. The Israelite brought his offerings, and turned to the tabernacle when he desired to worship Jehovah.