

Lesson 2 – And God Said (Genesis 1:3)

As Moses began his record of our world's origin, so John says that in the beginning was the Word. Since childhood we have been taught that it was with the power of God's spoken word that what we see was spoken into existence. *"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."*(Genesis 1:3). The Hebrew writer says, *"By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."*(Hebrews 11:3). Furthermore, it is the power of God's word that upholds the universe (Hebrew 1:3). The apostle John adds some additional insight to the beginning by saying that the Word was with God and it was God (John 1:1, 2). The Hebrew writer is in agreement with John, that the God responsible for created things is the Son of God (John 1:14; Hebrews 1:1-3).

In our day we are familiar with "shock and awe" and it is staggering the military might that our country has developed and is fully capable of unleashing on our enemies. John uses a similar tactic with his reader by referencing the beginning of time and then in a few short verses says that God became flesh and dwelt among us. He that had spoken light into existence through his word is identified as the light of men today (John 1:4-9). The reader is not held in suspense long before the Word is identified as Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, the Son of God (John 1:17, 29, 34). The God who said, *"Let there be light,"* actually took the form of a mortal man and dwelt among mankind, and the writer says, we saw his glory and it was the glory like God, the Father. Jesus was full of grace and truth. (John 1:14, 16, 17). No man has seen God, but Jesus reveals Him (John 1:18).

There was a time when God walked upon earth as a man. It was during the life span of the author, John the apostle, who witnessed it (I John 1:1, 2). It occurred when John, the baptizer, lived and testified through the Spirit of God that Jesus was in fact the Son of God (John 1:24-27). Jesus is not presented as some mythical character that lived on Mt. Olympus looking down upon mankind. The author says he dwelt among men and interacted with us; yet, he was God and with God in the very beginning. What a fantastic assertion! Nevertheless, evidence is presented to the reader that supports the claim as the author draws us into his account of the Word that became flesh.

We have all experienced young people that were mature at a seemingly early age. They carried themselves in a fashion that exuded confidence, yet with humility. They seem to know what they want to accomplish in life; are on track early dedicated to realizing their goals. It is such a joy to be associated with persons such as this. We are drawn to them. They are not arrogant or conceited with their apparent ease in their rise to recognition and meaningful endeavors. But, when you associate with them, they exert some leadership or influence upon you that is beneficial, yet not condescending. You don't feel intimidated by this person; conversely, you are encouraged by their presence. John says Jesus was such a person; he was full of grace and truth. He had this quality of fullness that those who witnessed him received (John 1:14-16). Therefore, with this grace and aura which Jesus possessed the disciples of John were drawn to him. It is understandable that such a person, the Word made flesh, could attract ordinary men to follow him (John 1:35-42).

Questions:

1. Explain your thoughts on why it is appropriate that Jesus is best described as the Word of God. (John 1:1, 2, 14; 1 John 1:1; Rev 19:13)

2. Describe the author's understanding of the benefits that are derived from the Word (John 1:1-18).

3. Explain where in these first 18 verses of John's gospel the connection is made with Jesus and the Old Testament.

4. John describes one of Jesus' miracles which demonstrate the power associated with the Word of God. Describe the affect of Jesus' spoken word in John 11:43, 44.
