



# 9:00 Live Sunday School at FBJ

## Lessons 4 and 5: The Word is the Fullness Luke 1:1-4; John 1:1-18

I. Our “textbook” – The Harmony of the Gospels by Robert L. Thomas and Stanly N. Guidry

A. Built upon the work of John Albert Broadus and A.T. Robertson of Southern Baptist Seminary

B. The Broadman Hymnal and B&H Publishing

### II. Luke 1:1-4

A. Two-fold purpose of Luke’s gospel:

1. Historical accuracy - “eyewitnesses” and “ministers” of the word
2. Presenting the perfect, divine Son of God – Luke 2:52

### III. John 1:1-18

A. John is making major theological statements:

1. God entered humanity through His Son
2. The Son was the Word
3. His Son became flesh
4. The Word was the completion of truth and grace

B. The Prologue of vv. 1-18 - Only uses these words in the Prologue:

- *Logos* (Word) – as a title, Fullness, Grace, Only Son, Tabernacle
- Most likely written after the gospel was completed and added later

C. v.1 - Three basic affirmations in v.1:

1. The *Logos* (Greek for the Word) has been in existence since the beginning of time
2. The *Logos* was with God
3. The *Logos* was God – this was debated for centuries
  - The Council of Nicea – 325 AD

D. Greek word “to be”: *eimi* and past tense “*en*” translated as “was”

- Used 11 times in vv.1-15
- Not the same as “was made” like v.14

E. The “Jewishness” of the *Logos* as the “word of the LORD” - Hebrew is *debar YHWH*

1. Genesis 15:1 – established the covenant with Abraham
2. Exodus 24:3-3 – Giving the 10 Commandments
3. Source of words from many prophets
4. Psalms 119:105 – They Word is a lamp unto my feet...”

F. Greek/Jewish Harmonizing

- In Greek philosophical thought, the *logos* (where word logic comes from) brings order to the *kosmos* (world)
- John is saying the Logos has always been and thus the *kosmos* has order

G. vv.2-5

1. v.2 – This affirms v.1
2. v.3 – Best translation (CSB) is “not any thing” as compared to “nothing”
3. vv.4-5 – The Light was a gift to humanity that came from God
4. Light vs. darkness: Light wins - John 3:16-21

H. vv.6-8

1. John may have preferred to call JTB John the Witness
  - v.7 – “He came as a witness (Greek *martyria*) - Where the English word martyr comes from
  - In the NT 37 times – 26 used by John and 14 in the gospel
2. JTB still had disciples long after his death: Acts 19:1-7

I. vv.9-13

1. v.9 – Coming “into the world” was a Messianic acknowledgement
  2. v.10 – This speaks to the *Logos* being Creator not created
    - “know” is the same context as sexual intimacy
    - He’s not concerned with head knowledge (plenty had that) it’s heart knowledge
  3. v.11 – Another Messiah nod
  4. v.12 – “But...” whoever did receive/really know Him had the right (KJV says power) to become God’s children
    - The Jews should have known, the world did not know but some did, and they have the right to be children
    - This comes about IF they believe and intimately know Him
    - It’s a precursor to sanctification
  5. v.13 – IF in v.12 I have believed (free will) its NOT because:
    1. It’s my bloodline like the Jews and the covenant
    2. It’s not because I’m good enough (the flesh has been tamed) or
    3. I have “willed it” to happen (works)
- It’s because of Jesus calling

6. Dr. Gerald Borchert's NAC commentary:

- It's not human relationships
- It's not human achievement
- It's not human determination
- "Jesus sought me when a stranger..."

J. vv.14-18 - The 2nd Logos focus comes in

1. Thus far we've seen the Logos:

- a. Co-exists with God (v.1)
- b. Is the Source of life (v.8)
- c. Is in the world He created that knew Him not (v.9)

2. 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:1-13

3. "dwelt" in the Greek comes from the Hebrew word for tabernacle - "We" have seen His glory as only the Son from the Father could shine – Like the Shekinah glory

4. The Word in flesh was full of grace and truth

5. v.15 - The was keeping JTB's disciples in line and maybe Gnostics

6. v.16 – "We" (those who have believed in Him and know Him) have received the fullness of the *Logos* which is grace upon grace

- "fullness" – Gr. *pleroma* – describes baskets at feeding of 4,000

7. What is the fullness? (hang on)

- Part of it is "grace upon grace" which is Hebrew way of using terms like "Holy of Holies" of "Song of Songs"

8. v.17 – This does NOT mean grace/truth have superseded the Law but the Law could only get you so far

- Like Paul, John knew the Law of the Old Covenant was a first stage of grace
- The "fullness" is the completion of the Messiah/*Logos* that is grace and truth
- John tells us who the *Logos* is: Jesus Christ

9. John's gospel shows the "fullness":

- a. Virgin birth of the *Logos* announced through JTB
- b. The sinless life of the *Logos* in the flesh
- c. The nailing of the *Logos* to the cross
- d. The resurrected *Logos* in the flesh

10. v.18 and summary: Even though no one has seen God, God made Himself known through the *Logos* who is Jesus Christ. Jesus was not created – He is the Creator. Jesus is the fullness of all truth/grace and completes the Law. He was here for a short time so that all who believed in Him and knew Him could become God's children. JTB was aware of all this because he knew Jesus not only surpassed him but was before him Jesus Christ was the Light and for those of us who believed we received multiple blessings and grace upon grace.

Thoughts? Questions? Comments? [nick@nickwalters.org](mailto:nick@nickwalters.org)