

God declares that He desires to be known

How you view God determines what you do next.

No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. Jn 1:18

Bosom = Inseparable from Him

Exegeomai – (ex/coming out of) to consider (aloud), unfold:- declare, tell
Explanation = LIKENESS

DO YOU WANT TO SEE GOD'S likeness? Start at the beginning

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Genesis 1:26

Image - **Selem** tseh'-lem - shade; resemblance; representative figure

Likeness - **Demût** dem-ooth' - shape:- fashion, similitude

When people see you, do they see the likeness of God? **where ever you turn on planet earth, when you see another living person, you see reality- the image of God... the likeness of the almighty – the silhouette; an image of the almighty God. When people see you, do they see the likeness of Jesus?

What portions do you resemble?

ON OUR JOURNEY through this fascinating book... we'll discover things about the God-man who walked our planet ...his planet; -evidence of how he intercepted humanity-

WE'LL SEE HIM SPEAK TO HIS CREATION, CALL LIFE FROM DEATH

HEAL BROKEN HEARTS AND ULTIMATELY CONQUER!

MORE THAN a GLIMPSE – Abraham, Moses, Elijah, saw glimpses.

At the end of the study... we'll have "**the portrait**"

Background/Biography - Irenaeus (AD 200) first/explicitly name John

"...John, the disciple of the Lord, who also had leaned upon Him, did himself publish a Gospel during his residence at Ephesus in Asia" Irenaeus c169AD

Especially valuable – Irenaeus was a disciple of Polycarp, he in turn was a disciple of John. A direct line from Irenaeus to John

Early church fathers after Irenaeus consistently held John authored this gospel

John- banished/Patmos -- last of his life at Ephesus

Lived until the time of Caesar Trajan [A.D. 98–117]

As John aged he mellowed, but never lost his passion for truth-

"John, the disciple of the Lord, going to bathe at Ephesus, and perceiving [the heretic] Cerinthus within, rushed out of the bath-house without bathing, exclaiming, 'Let us fly, lest even the bath-house fall down, because Cerinthus, the enemy of the truth, is within'" Polycarp c125 AD

Looking back as an aged, Grandfatherly figure, takes us back to his youth... but then carries our thinking to the beginning of time.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. John 1:1

Parallel between Jn 1:1- Gen 1:1 - "new creation" - "old creation"
In the beginning- Architect

Arche (ar-khay') source, or origin, a commencement, or chief one in authority:- beginning, corner, (at the) first (estate), power, principality, rule
BOTH ARE TRUE – CREATOR AND RULER. Here - Arche refers to the beginning of the universe Gen 1:1

Rev 3:14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God..."

* We see Jesus already in existence before the heavens/earth...not a created being, but existing from all eternity.

**Time began w/creation of universe, whatever before; is eternal
At the point at which all else began to be, He already was

Truth - definitive proof of Jesus deity... only God is eternal

16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities —all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. Colossians 1

There was a point... when the universe did not exist

There has never been a point when GOD did not exist

He is self-existence - I am who I am Ex 3:14 ...everlasting to everlasting

He commanded, and it stood fast Ps 33:9

Verb eimi (was) describes continuing action in the past
Continuous existence before the beginning

*****Significant- use of Eimi instead of Ginomai** (became)

-latter refers to things that come into existence 1:3

Had John used Ginomai, he would have implied that the Word came into existence at the beginning along with the rest of creation.

Eimi stresses the Word always existed; never a point of beginning

**Remember where John is- looking back over the distant past, summarizing his personal experience with Jesus... having been on the Island of Patmos... having seen the Revelation of Jesus in Heaven – now within the walls of Ephesus

Logos (Word) - something said (including thought); also reasoning

To the average Greek, this was the most important principle in the universe
 Heraclites- predated Socrates/Plato/Aristotle/Alexander the Great, and Cicero
 Taught - the world was in a constant change- there was tremendous chaos within the world--- he tried to find a way to explain how there could still be harmony, how there could be order, how things could still be brought together - Gave thought to this concept of the Word/Logos- he said Logos was really the essence of the study of philosophy and of all things in the natural order - it was the Logos which governed all of human affairs, and governed all things that existed within creation - Any order brought out of chaos was because of the Word - He developed this very extensive theory of the Logos --- he came from a city called Ephesus

Greek concept- LOGOS = an impersonal force

Logos - not just Grk concept Hebrew- foundation of their thinking, the Word of God was paramount - every time God acted in the world, that was his Word

Word of God was paramount- memorize Scripture, and they would study Scripture, and their theologians would commit their lives to understanding the books of the OT. Understood- the Word/active agent through which God accomplished his will

In a sense, God's Word did things... action in orientation. In Genesis, we find that God speaks, and it's through God's Word that creation comes into existence.

By His WORD - Abrahamic covenant

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.

Genesis 15:1

As for God, His way is blameless; The word of the LORD is tested; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him. ³² "For who is God, besides the LORD? And who is a rock, besides our God? ³³ "God is my strong fortress...

2 Samuel 22:31

** WHY IS THIS SO SIGNIFICANT? HIS WORD HE PROMISED FORGIVENESS OF SIN

John begins at a place of common ground- "In the beginning was the Word," – he gets them joined, but then makes a tremendous transition. The Word is not just this understanding of a force, it's not just the Hebrew understanding of God's action, the Word is not removed from God, but the Word is himself God.

John launches into the doctrine of the Trinity

The Word is not an attribute of the Father- He is the same essence as the Father
 English does not bring out the full richness -means far more than merely that the Word existed; it "[gives] the picture of two personal beings facing one another and engaging in intelligent discourse"

Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ² even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. ³ This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me

to do. ⁵ Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. John 17:1

Jesus left heaven... the privilege of face-to-face communion w/His Father - *He willingly "emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.... He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" Phil 2:7-8*

He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father Jn 14:9

³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Literal Greek- through him – Word/the agent of creation

Hebrews 1.2 - through whom He created the world

Previously- John used eimi (to be) -state of being

Here, speaking of the creation Ginomai (came into being)

**Present world- radically different from original creation

➤ Catastrophic results of the fall

➤ Cataclysmic results of the flood

ONLY affected human race, but all creation

Jesus will one day redeem not only believers ...but also the material world

For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. Romans 8:19

It took John more than three years to figure out who Jesus was... LIFETIME to articulate - But he wants us to have it clear, from the start -the eternal majesty... and the awesome wonder of the Creator

Four things about God in the first 3 vs of John

1) Time of His Existence – before all time ...**In the beginning**

2) Essence of His Identity - **Word was God** Can not get simpler, nor weightier

3) Relationship to God - **The Word was with God**

-heart of the doctrine of the Trinity --- standing forth from all eternity

One Essence/three Persons - Father and Son and Holy Spirit

4) Relationship to the World **All things were made through him**