

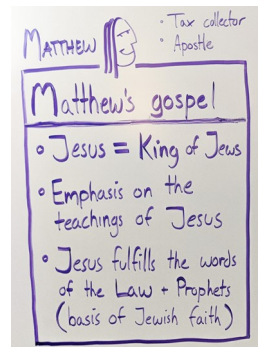
In the Beginning Jesus already Was. John 1: 1-18.

Right on cue this morning at 6.00am the brown honeyeater and other birds began their dawn chorus. They are a very enjoyable alarm clock and it sure encourages one to jump out of bed and begin the days activities.....

1. Beginning at the _____ John 1: 1,2.

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

- We are very privileged to have four Gospels, four eyewitness accounts, .. written for different readers in mind — revealing all we need to know about Jesus, the λόγος. 2 Timothy 3:16,17.
- ♦ **Matthew:** written primarily for _____. Matthew begins by showing that Jesus is a descendant of Abraham - the father of all Jews and a direct descendant of King David fulfilling OT prophecies —so a genealogy of Jesus ancestors begins at Matthew 1:1..
- ♦ **Luke:** The book written by Dr Luke has a _____ reading audience in mind and so has a different approach. Luke (not a direct eye witness—but collated material from eyewitnesses) wrote to reveal Jesus as perfect humanity and divinity—the Saviour of all peoples...Jews and Gentiles...so begins with the birth of Jesus.
- ♦ **Mark:** begins with Jesus _____ and temptation (no Christmas story) . It is an action packed account of the three years of public ministry of Jesus written primarily for the Romans. Jesus Christ is the centre of the Gospels but each Gospel has a different emphasis.
- ♦ **John:** begins at the beginning of _____ showing clearly that Jesus is Son of God. And that He loves all people of the world (John 3:16). In the beginning Jesus already was— eternal... The universe had a beginning.. Jesus had no beginning. Before the universe began Jesus already was. In the beginning was the Word.
- This is a reminder to us that as we share the Gospel... our approach may need to vary according to the people we are speaking to—repentance of sin and faith in Jesus is still central but the “packaging” may vary.... eg ..with “Ed” I began with creation ...



In the beginning was the Word, (λόγος) and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:1-4..

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14..

2. Why is Jesus called the _____ ? John 1:1,14,

Some background to “λόγος

Heraclitus.. Greek Philosopher

- Heraclitus was a man who lived in Ephesus 500 years before the time of Christ. He looked around the world and all he saw was change.. things were in a state of flux . Is there any meaning to all this? Is there any purpose to it all. He was looking for something he called the “logos”, looking for a purpose or principle in the chaos...the eternal order behind things... So in a Greek speaking family where a little boy might ask his dad... “Dad where did everything come from?” Dad might say “from the λόγος”. They did not know what the λόγος was...but they explained it that way...Heraclitus didn't ever find the principle...the logos... .
- Can't we be so grateful to have the whole Bible to read today telling us all we need to know about the “λόγος»? .. eg of Nard..

*In the beginning was the Word, (λόγος) and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
John 1:1-4..*

Philo - Jewish Philosopher

- Centuries later - a Jew named Philo came on the scene . Born 25 BC. He studied Heraclitus's works...he also knew some OT writings such as the Pentateuch. He saw that God created the logos...but what was it? Philo was getting warmer. Philo, he was beginning to think that the connecting link between God and nature was the λόγος

Apostle John..

- Then along came the Apostle John...he could speak to the confused people and say...the λόγος is Jesus Christ. Not a principle or a law but the Son of God. This explains the reason and the pattern of life. So John could now introduce this Jesus to the listeners of His day... and also to us today...Science can't reveal this... only the Lord Himself... Once you find Jesus you find the reason for it all. The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us full of grace and truth.. Jesus is the full expression of Yahweh. He is the eternal order behind all things. Jesus is the full expression of the mind of God. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus is centre of the Christian world view... explaining.. Where have I come from? Why am I here? And Where do I go after I die?

3. Jesus is (eternal) _____ John 1:1,2.

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

- In the beginning was the Word... Jesus had no beginning...He always was...God always was. Notice that John 1:1 does not say... “He began before everything began”... but before there was anything else Jesus already was!
- I was sometimes asked the question in CRE... “Who made God?”...but God was never made. He always was. A bit hard to grasp is it not! A circle does not have a beginning or end...God does not have a beginning or end...He is everlasting to everlasting. Hebrews 13:8...*Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever..* Hebrews 13:8..

4. Jesus is (God) _____ John 1:1,2

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

- When John said the Word was God he was saying something very radical... The society in which John was addressing was very much influenced by Greek thinking and one of the things about Greek thinking is that the natural...the things we can see.... And the supernatural...what we can't see....are poles apart..
- So they could not believe that Jesus, who became incarnate...was born of flesh.... So the Greeks said it was impossible for Jesus to be God... And this is still a problem for many eg the Jehovah's Witnesses... Many other people would say that Jesus is just a good man or a prophet... not Son of God. So just 60 years after the time of Jesus all these false views were coming and John wrote this book to deal with these false views and lead us to the person of Jesus
- John wrote to show that Jesus is both God and man. John 1:1 tells us this...the Word was God and He became flesh. No other Gospel concentrates so much on the real humanity of Jesus...we see presented the fact that at different times Jesus was hungry, thirsty, tired and the shortest verse in the Bible...Jesus wept. The human and the divine are met together in Jesus and when Jesus went back to heaven He took a body with Him.. John wants us to go on believing in this incredible person... Jesus Christ
- Most cults do not recognise Jesus as God...they will say He is a demi god or even not God at all but just a good man. But the Scripture makes it clear Jesus is indeed God.

Colossians 1:19...*For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him* (ie Jesus)

Colossians 2:9...*For in Christ all the fullness of the deity dwells bodily*

- John introduce us to the One to whom every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord....Millions of people now follow this Jesus...in fact around 90,000 people per day are deciding to follow Him.... Jesus said...take up your cross and follow Me.... Living for Jesus will be costly but it is the only way to real peace of heart, joy, purpose and eternity in heaven...

- If Jesus is not God then He cannot forgive sin...only God can forgive sin... and the Pharisees would have been right when they accused Jesus of blasphemy when He said He could forgive sin. But the Pharisees were wrong...because Jesus is God.
- The Word was God.....Why was Jesus called the Word? A word to us is a pattern of sounds .. or writings which expresses the thought of one persons mind and enters the mind of the other. Jesus as the Word expressed the thoughts and actions of God in a physical form and so was able to communicate with the mind of people.
- Jesus is the communicating link between God and sinful people... *For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.* 1 Timothy 2:5..

6. Jesus is _____ John 1: 3

Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. John 1:3..

- Things were made though Jesus and for Him... Jesus made it all first... the seas and the mountains and then He stepped into it. Before Jesus became a carpenter He made the trees, He made the very wood which He used in his dad's carpenters workshop..
- ♦ Scientists tell us that the human brain has as many as 200 billion neurones and with around 1000 connections per neurone this leads to near 200 trillion connections in the brain. The Bible tells us, *We are fearfully and wonderfully made* Psalm 139:14. Professor Andy C. McIntosh: *May many see that the argument from design shouts powerfully of the Creator who spans the Heavens and yet stooped to become Man, in order to be our Saviour..*

7. Jesus is life and _____ John 1: 4

In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. John 1:4..

- In Jesus is “life” (ζωή) and “light” (φῶς) ...

Sir Lionel Luckhoo said of his commitment to the risen Christ.

*“From that day my life changed – I moved from death to life, from **darkness to light**. I was born again. My life took a 180 degree change. I found real peace and happiness and joy”.*



Photo – Eric Koch

Sir Lionel Luckhoo
Guinness Book of Records
World's most successful attorney