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The Creator John 1:3-5

Intro: The Apostle John begins his Gospel with a prologue that introduces not only the subject of his book (Jesus) but he also presents the themes that will be developed & declared thru-out the book; not the least of which is the fact the **Jesus Christ is God**. We made note that in an effort to paint a word picture of the divinity of Christ, John refers to Jesus as “the Word” or **Logos**. Again, this term is difficult to translate into English and as such, we might wonder: if John’s intention was to make the truth of Jesus Christ’s divinity clearer, why did he use such an enigmatic term? The answer is simple – John’s primary target audience was not mono-lingual, 21st century Americans. John’s Gospel was written primarily to Jews and to Greeks and for both these demographics, the term **logos** was very familiar.

What meaning would Logos have for a 1st century Jew who was just beginning to hear & understand the gospel? The very 1st verse, including the term **logos**, would point the Jewish person back to Genesis where it says that in the beginning God spoke and everything came into being. So, to the Jewish mind, Jesus would somehow be associated with both the creative power of God & the self-revelation of God as found in creation. It would be just like if we were to read an article about a historical document that includes phrases such as: “**When in the course of human events**” or “**We hold these truths to be self-evident**” or mentions “unalienable rights.” We would automatically know that the article is referring to the Declaration of Independence and the founding principles of our American republic.

More than that, the idea of **Word (logos)** would have meant more to the Jewish mind back then than it does to us today. To the Jew a word was something **concrete**, something much closer to what we would call an event or a deed.

A word spoken was a deed done. This idea stemmed from Jewish **OT** theology. What happens when God speaks? Answer: that thing is instantly done! God said, “**Let there be light**,” and there was light (**Gen 1:3**). But it goes further than that (**Isa 55:11**). Thus, the Jew would be open to the idea that the Word of God would be something that could be seen and touched as well as heard & that the **Word** might somehow find expression in this

human experience.

What would **Logos** mean to the Greeks? The answer to that is **not** found in religion but in philosophy. Nearly 700 yrs before John's time, a philosopher named Heraclitus lived in Ephesus. He's the man who said it's impossible to step into the same river twice; meaning: all of life is in a constant state of change. So, although you step into the river once, step out and then step in again; by the time you've taken that 2nd step, the water has flowed on and it's a different river. To Heraclitus & to the philosophers that followed him, all life seemed to be like that. But they asked, "If that's the case, how is it that everything that exists is not in a perpetual state of chaos?" Heraclitus posed that life is not in chaos because the constant change we see is **not** just random change; it is ordered change. This means that there must be a divine "reason" or "word" that controls all this change.

But, the term logos also meant more than this, at least to Heraclitus. See, once he discovered that the controlling principle of all matter was God's logos then it was really just a small step for him to apply this same principle to all the events of history and to the mental order that rules in the minds of men. For Heraclitus then, the **logos** was nothing less than the mind of God controlling this world and all its inhabitants.

Heraclitus' concept of **logos** was so formative to Greek thought and philosophy that it didn't just survive to John's time, it actually thrived! It influenced the philosophy of Plato and Socrates and was so common to the Greek mindset that people discussed it as much then as we might discuss politics, evolution or NFL playoffs: common knowledge. Thus, it was nothing less than divine genius that John seized on this word, one that was as meaningful to the Greeks of his day as it was to the Jews; a word that said, "Hey you Greeks, this **logos** that has occupied your philosophy & writings for centuries – this controlling power of the universe – has come to earth as a man & we have seen Him." John is declaring that the unknown God of the Greeks is not unknown at all. He is fully **revealed** in Jesus Christ. Let's look and see what else John has to say about this divine Word...

3- The language here is clumsy because it is excessively literal. The reason it is so literal is to make John's point clear: God is the Creator; His Word is the **agent** of all creation. The 2 parts of this verse say the same thing, 1st positively & then negatively, covering all possible scenarios. This twofold

message sums up **Gen 1**, where the records of each day of creation begin with the phrase, “**And God said...**” In **Ps 33:6**, it’s the Word that’s seen as the agent of creation.

But, **John 1:3** isn’t the only place in the NT where Jesus is upheld as the sole Agent of all Creation. **Heb 1:2** says concerning Jesus, “**through whom also He made the worlds,**” while in **Rev 3:14**, Jesus refers to Himself as “**the Amen...the beginning of the creation of God.**” There is no ambiguity in Scripture: Jesus is the author of all creation! When we behold the wonder and glory of His creation, we can’t help but worship & honor Him all the more.

- Comets have vapor trails up to 10K miles long. But, if you were to capture all that vapor & put it in a bottle, the amount of vapor actually present in that bottle would only take up 1 cubic inch of space.
- Saturn’s rings are 500K miles in circumference but only about a foot thick.
- The star Antares= 60KXs larger than the sun. If the sun was the size of a softball, Antares would be a house.
- The earth travels around the sun about 8Xs the speed of a bullet fired from a gun.
- A star known as LP 327-186 is called a white dwarf. It is smaller than the state of Texas yet, it is so dense that if just a cubic inch of it were brought to earth, it would weigh more than 1.5 million tons.
- There are more insects in 1 square mile of rural land than there are human beings on the entire planet.

The most instructive reference to Christ as agent of creation is found in Paul’s declaration of the person and work of Jesus in **Col 1:16-17**. This passage not only explains the origin of creation but its purpose as well. Paul makes 3 statements about Jesus’ work of creation in **vs16**: that it was **by Him...thru Him...for Him**. The preposition “**by**” is locative; denoting position. It means more than just everything was created by (or because of) Jesus. It goes way beyond that to state that there isn’t anything that exists outside of or apart from the work & power of Jesus Christ. Do we realize that if the Lamb were not slain before the foundation of the world – human history would never have been rolled out; linear time would not exist. God would never have put into motion a creation that would turn to chaos & dissolve into sin & destruction & victory for the devil. Before anything

existed, God the Father, God the Son & God the Holy Spirit existed in eternity & it was determined there that Jesus would die for the sins of a world yet to be created. So, all creation exists **in** Him & it also exist **thru** Him: **the channel of an act**; He's the **origin** of all creation.

The last preposition **for** is a little misleading. We might assume creation is **for** His pleasure or purposes but that's not quite the case. For actually means **unto or towards**. So, If Jesus is the origin of creation, if everything that exists is in Him & flows from Him (**nothing that was made was made without Him**), if He's the origin of it, it has to have a destiny also. Creation has to be going somewhere because time is linear. Where's it going? What's it all about Alfie? The answer is right here: all creation originates in Jesus, thru Jesus & is ultimately moving towards Jesus.

This is all going somewhere! All the madness you see on the news; all the insanity that surrounds us on all sides – it's enough to depress even the greatest optimist (**clowns**). But, the insanity is not the issue, our troubled world is not the deal – heaven is the deal, the glory of Jesus Christ is the deal. All of creation issued from Him (**salvation is part of that plan**) & all of creation is moving towards Him. One day, He's going to sit in the middle of His creation & every knee shall bow & every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. And we, thru all eternity will find our rightful place in His presence, casting our crowns at His feet, worshipping Him forever – no death, sorrow, pain or suffering. It's all moving towards Him. He's in the middle of it all & He will have it all His way!

Vs17 takes is 1 step further: **in Him all things consist- sunistao**: sustained, held together, it's happening right now. Not only did Jesus create it all, He sustains it all too! If it wasn't for Jesus' power over creation, the universe would cease to exist. Scientists are mystified by the structure of the atom. The nucleus of an atom is made up of a cluster of positively charged protons; rotating around that is a negatively charged electron. We all know that in magnets: opposite charges attract & similar charges repel. How do the protons stay together when they should fly apart? Why doesn't the negative electron collapse into the positive protons? Science has it theories & hypotheses but the answer is right here in **vs17** – it's nothing other than the sustaining power of Jesus Christ. By His power, He brought the atomic structure into existence & by His power He sustains the atomic structure of the entire universe in its current state. Every Christmas, without

fail, you'll hear someone say, "Jesus is the reason for the season." While that is true, the reality is: Jesus is the reason for every season! He's the reason we're all here today. He's the reason that any of us are anywhere at any time. In Him & Thru Him all things were created & it's by Him that they all consist.

That's our Savior, the one who was born in a manger, who set aside His glory & stooped down into His creation. When He worked in that carpenter shop & got a splinter in his hand: He held the wood together that was stuck in His hand, causing Him pain. When His muscles were sore from work or His stomach hurt from hunger: He held His own nerve-endings by His power. In Gethsemane, when they came & took Him; think about it – He's the one who had no trouble rebuking the wind & the waves or cleansing the leper or raising the dead because He was holding it all together & was over it all. As the Roman soldiers spit on Him, He held the spit together in the air as it flew into His face. As they blindfolded Him & beat Him beyond all human recognition – He held the knuckles together in the fists that were bashing into His face, causing Him pain. As they scourged Him, He held together the whip & the sharp pieces that torn His flesh from His body. He held together the thorns that punctured His scalp. By His power, He held together the atoms of the nails that pierced His hands & feet – the very cross He hung on was held together by Him. Do we now begin to understand what really took place at Golgotha? The Creator came into the midst of His own creation & assumed full responsibility for its fallen nature & fallen mankind. He bore the sin of the world as He held it all together

What an amazing love Jesus has for His creation – it's impossible to even fathom the depth of it but good news: we don't have to! We don't have to understand or fully comprehend His love – all we have to do is accept it. How could Jesus love us so much, especially when we were so fantastically rotten towards Him? I don't know how He could love us, I just know that He loves us & I know it because He has demonstrated the depth of His love by dying on the cross.

Here's the thing you need to consider: if Jesus was willing to go to such great lengths of pain & suffering for you while you were still His enemy, imagine the lengths He'll go to when you are His friend, His disciple. Well, we don't have to imagine; the Bible clearly states the lengths He'll go to in **Eph 3:20** "*exceedingly abundantly...according to the power that works*

in us.” If you don’t know Christ as your Savior, this is what you’re missing out on: God’s power leveraged for your benefit. Of course, you can be a believer & may still be missing out on this because you haven’t placed Him at the center of your life, on the throne of your heart. You’re still trying to call the shots & have your own way but Jesus will brook no rivals; not even us. He will be King; there’s no other option.

Have you made Him your Savior? Have you made Him King & Lord of your life? We’re all headed towards Him, it would be best to have it all settled before you get there. 😊