**In The Beginning Was The Word: A Plan For Mankind**

*John 1:1-5*

**Introduction**

1. John’s gospel was written so that we might believe (cf. John 20:30-31).
2. In order for it to accomplish such, the inspired apostle starts at the beginning.
3. Understanding the description of Jesus in the first 5 verses is essential to our understanding of, and faith in, the plan of God for mankind.
4. In The Beginning… (John 1:1-2)
5. Jesus is God (cf. John 1:14) (cf. v. 1-2).

* The Word is God – Jesus is God (cf. John 5:16-18 – After healing a man on the Sabbath).
* Jesus is the Word and was in the beginning (cf. John 8:58 – Speaking to the Jews).
* The Genesis account corroborates this (cf. Genesis 1:3 – *“Then God said”*)
  + God – *eloheem* – plural for the supreme God; only God.
    - *God (cf. Gen. 1:1); Spirit (cf. Gen. 1:2); Word (cf. Gen. 1:3).*
  + This holds great significance in that only God’s Son would be a sufficient sacrifice for the sins of mankind (cf. Hebrews 9:13-16 – The old law could not take care of sin. There had to be different blood to purify, and a different covenant/blood to save.)
    - If Jesus is not God (who He claimed He was) He would not be without blemish.
    - If He is not God He cannot serve in the true Holiest of All as our mediator (cf. Hebrews 9:24).

1. The Word (Jesus) was the agent of creation (cf. John 1:3; Genesis 1-2).

* Everything that was made was made through Jesus (cf. Colossians 1:16).
  + *“in Him all things consist”* (v. 17) 🡪
* Everything that was made is sustained by Him (cf. Hebrews 1:2-3).
  + *“in Him we live and move and have our being”* (Acts 17:28)
* John obviously alludes to the creation account (cf. Genesis 1:1-3, *“Then God said”*).
  + Day 1 = heavens and the earth (1:1-5)
  + Day 2 = firmament (1:6-8)
  + Day 3 = earth and sea, plants (1:9-13)
  + Day 4 = lights in the firmament (1:14-19)
  + Day 5 = sea creatures and birds (1:20-23)
  + Day 6 = beast of the earth (1:24-25)
  + Day 6 = Man (1:26-31) (READ 26-28)
    - In God’s image, according to His likeness.
      * Not possibly physical appearance. God is Spirit (cf. John 4:24).
      * Intelligence, reason, love, hate, dominion, will (free-will). (Without these man is not separate from animal.)
  + Day 7 = rest (2:2)
* Genesis 2:7 – This is not said of any animal. Human life is sacred and precious. It is far above the value of any animal (cf. Psalm 8:3-5).
  + This this Psalmist called attention to (cf. Psalm 139:13-14).

1. The Life Was The Light Of Men… (John 1:4-5; Genesis 3)
2. Life different from physical life (spiritual life/image of God – thought, will, reason).

* Self-existent life belonging to creator and not creation (cf. John 5:26).
  + *“In Him was life”* – by having self-existent life as a creator, the Word has the ability, and authority, to impart life to others. Why is this important? 🡪
* Man sinned (cf. Genesis 2:15-17; 3:6).
  + Physical death entered the world upon the first sin. However, more tragically, spiritual death occurred for Adam and Eve.
* This spiritual death occurs with all men (cf. Romans 3:23; 6:23).
* However, by Jesus (the Word) coming into the world eternal life is offered once again!
  + How is it offered? And how is it received? 🡪

1. Life offered to man via the Light (Word/Jesus – enlightenment – Hebrews 6:4).

* Through the Word (cf. John 5:24-27)!
* Jesus offers light to all men (cf. John 1:9; 8:12).
* The only way to escape darkness is to walk in the light (cf. John 12:35-36, 46).
* Those who believe in the light are enlightened (cf. 2 Corinthians 4:1-6). *(“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened…”* Hebrews 6:4)
  + That enlightenment is through the Word (Jesus)!

1. The light, and those in the light, cannot be overcome! (v. 5)

* Comprehend – *katalambanō* – seize; overcome or subdue.
  + In other words, the darkness cannot defeat the light!
* Despite how it looked on the day of Christ’s death, He overcame! Darkness did not overcome (cf. Acts 2:22-24).
* We overcome by being in Christ, the darkness (the world) can never overcome (cf. 1 John 5:4-5).

**Conclusion**

1. God, in His infinite wisdom, created an infallible, and indestructible plan.
2. That plan is offered to all of man through the light of the Word.
3. Will you partake of the Word of God, and thus become part of the light?