**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.

* **Within the first five verses are key elements to God’s plan of salvation for mankind which He purposed before the world’s foundation.**

1. In The Beginning… **(John 1:1-2**)
2. Jesus is God (**cf. John 1:14**) **(cf. v. 1-2**).

* The man Jesus is the Son of God – incarnate God.
* The Word is God – Jesus is God (**cf. John 5:16-18** – After healing a man on the Sabbath).
  + Revealing His equality with God was a key facet of Jesus’ ministry.
  + God is living and active. He is continually ***“upholding all things by the word of His power”* (Hebrews 1:3**).
    - **The Sabbath was binding on God’s people, not God. Thus Jesus, working good on the Sabbath, made Himself equal with God.**
* 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).*
* ***The Word’s presence in the creation account is of vital importance for without Him the creation was not. 🡪***

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.)
        + **Man has a connection with the Divine like no other created being.**
        + **He is closest in proximity with the Creator for he has been given a spirit that will continue for eternity. 🡪**
  + 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 the 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!
  + **The connection of the Word with creation is vital. What was given in the beginning by God through the agent of Creation – spiritual life – was forfeited by man.**
  + **The Giver of Life manifesting Himself to us, and unveiling a plan, was and is the only way to repossess that which we willfully forfeited.**
  + 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**).
  + **If you decide not to walk in the light – obeying Jesus’ words – you will be exposed by it by being judged by it in the end.**
* 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.
  + **Some suppose this suggests that some do not grab hold of the light because of their rejection of it. This is accurate. However, it could also mean the light is not contained by the darkness in a controlling, defeating sense 🡪**
  + 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?