**The Word Tabernacled Among Us**

*John 1:14*

**Introduction**

1. A central focus to the gospel of Christ is the fact of Jesus’ deity – **John 1:1-3, 14** (Word, God, became flesh)
   1. **John 8:23-24** – not “I am He,” but “I am” – **John 8:58**
   2. **John 20:30-31** – gospel record to incite faith in the fact of His divinity.
2. Spiritual life is in fellowship with the Divine nature – **John 17:3**
3. For this reason, God has revealed Himself to us in part throughout the annals of inspiration, and fully in His Son.
4. John 1:14 is a weighty verse revealing such deep spiritual truth which reaches back to the revelation of God in the OT and unveils the realization of such shadows in the figure of the incarnate Word, Jesus Christ.
   1. Dwelt – *skēnoō* – to fix one’s tabernacle, have one’s tabernacle, abide (or live) in a tabernacle (or tent), tabernacle (THAYER)
   2. ***“And the Word became flesh, and did tabernacle among us” (YLT)***
   3. ﻿“The Greek means to “tabernacle” or “pitch a tent.” It represents both a colorful figure and an important connection with the OT. God had “tabernacled” with his people in the days of the wilderness wanderings, manifesting his presence among them and caring for them (Exod. 25:8; 2 Sam. 7:6). Christ is seen as having taken up a temporary dwelling in human flesh.” (Daniel H. King, Sr., Edited by Mike Willis. Truth Commentary - John (Kindle Locations 1547-1549)
5. Tabernacled – Jehovah and the Word
6. The Tabernacle in the Wilderness
   1. God’s covenant with Israel – **Exodus 19:3-6** – He would be their God, and they His people.
   2. Commanded a sanctuary to be made for God’s dwelling place among the Israelites – **Exodus 25:8-9** (the tabernacle)
      1. Dwelling of God, and relationship w/ people in tabernacle – **Leviticus 26:11-13**
   3. God’s will was the tabernacle – **2 Samuel 7:5-7** (when David thought to build God a house – Solomon would build the temple)
7. The Glory of God
   1. The Glory of the Lord with Israel – **Exodus 13:21-22; 16:7, 10** (in the cloud); **Exodus 24:16-18** (at Sinai)
   2. Tabernacle would be sanctified by God’s glorious presence – **Exodus 29:43**
   3. The Glory of God in the tabernacle – **Exodus 25:9; 40:33-38** (when the tabernacle was finished according to the pattern); **Leviticus 9:5-6, 22-24** (in the offerings of the tabernacle in the priestly service)
   4. By the glory of God in the tabernacle the children of Israel knew God was with them – **Exodus 29:45-46**
8. The Fullness of God in the Incarnate Word
   1. **John 1:14** – the incarnate Word manifested the glory of God.
      1. ***“we beheld”*** – those (John included) who witnessed Him – **cf. 1 John 1:1**
   2. ***“His glory…as of the only begotten of the Father”***
      1. ***“only begotten”*** – *monogenēs* – *monos* (sole or single) *ginomai* (to be) – pert. to being the only one of its kind or class, unique (in kind) (BDAG)
      2. Emphasizing Him as the only one to share the Divine Nature – **John 1:1-3** (He is God)
      3. ***“of the Father”*** – that connection with Jehovah, who appeared in the cloud of glory in the tabernacle.
      4. I.e. Jesus, the incarnate Word, IS THE MANIFESTATION OF THE GLORY OF GOD.
   3. ***“brightness of His glory and the express image of His person” (Hebrews 1:3)***
   4. ***“He is the image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15)***
   5. ***“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Colossians 2:9)***
   6. Jesus explained to Philip when he asked to be shown the Father – **John 14:8-9**
      1. **John 12:44-45** – believe in Jesus, believe in God, see Jesus, see God.
   7. “The glory which shone in the tabernacle and temple, veiled in the mysterious cloud, was but the foreglow of that excelling glory which shone in the incarnate Word.” (F.F. Bruce, “The Gospel and Epistles of John,” pg. 41)
9. The Glory Beheld
10. God Declared by the Tabernacled Word
    1. **John 1:18** – Jesus has declared Him.
       1. This was His work on the earth.
11. God’s Name Declared by the Tabernacled Word
    1. **John 17:4-6, 20, 26** – manifested/declared the Father’s name to the apostles, and all believers through them.
    2. Moses to God – **Exodus 33:18** – show your glory.
       1. God’s reply – **Exodus 33:19** – goodness, proclaim the name of the Lord.
       2. Fulfillment – **Exodus 34:5-9**
          1. God’s name associated with compassion, mercy, longsuffering, forgiveness, pardon of sin.
    3. The name of the Lord proclaimed – **Exodus 34:6** – ***“abounding in goodness and truth”***
       1. “What Moses saw we are not told, but simply the words in which Jehovah proclaimed all the glory of His being… This ‘sermon on the name of the Lord,’…disclosed to Moses the most hidden nature of Jehovah. It proclaimed that God is love, but that kind of love in which mercy, grace, long-suffering, goodness, and truth are united with holiness and justice. As the merciful One, who is great in goodness and truth, Jehovah shows mercy to the thousandth, forgiving sin and iniquity in long-suffering and grace” (Keil & Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament, Exodus 34:6)
       2. **Goodness** – *ḥeseḏ* – faithfulness, goodness, graciousness (Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament). (“Mercy” 149x, AV)
          1. “the grace, favor, and mercy of God towards men” (Gesenius’ Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon)
          2. IN THE TABERNACLE – **Hebrews 9:6-7** – atonement made for sin.
       3. **Truth** – *’emeṯ* – stability; (figuratively) certainty, truth, trustworthiness. (STRONG)
          1. IN THE TABERNACLE – **Exodus 29:42; 33:7-9** – tabernacle of meeting, speak with them.
    4. The glory of the tabernacled word – the glory of the Father (**John 1:14**):
       1. **Grace** – **John 3:13-17** (came to save); Lifted up, i.e. in His death on the cross (**John 12:32-33; Hebrews 9:11-12**)
       2. **Truth** – **John 1:4-5** (life, the light of men); **John 14:6** (He is the truth); **John 18:37** (bears witness to truth)
12. The Glory Shared
13. The Tabernacle of Prophecy
    1. The tabernacle erected in the wilderness was merely a type of the one to come – **cf. Hebrews 8:3-6**
    2. The tabernacle of Messianic prophecy – **Ezekiel 37:26-28**
       1. “The sanctuary which God will place for ever among His people is the sanctuary seen by Ezekiel in Ezekiel 40ff.; and this is merely a figurative representation of the “dwelling of God in the midst of His people through His Son and Holy Spirit” (cf. Vitringa, *Observv*. I. p. 161), which began to be realized in the incarnation of the Logos, who is set forth in [Joh 1:14](ref:Joh.1.14) as the true ‘tabernacle,’ in the words ‘dwelt among us,’ and is continued in the spiritual dwelling of God in the heart of believers” (Keil & Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament, Ezekiel 37:26-28)
    3. I.e. God will “be our God, and we shall be His people” and be “in our midst forevermore” through His Son, Jesus Christ.
14. Fellowship with God Through the Word of Christ
    1. John is speaking of “us” and “we” in reference to those who experienced Jesus firsthand – **John 1:14, 16** – have received His fullness.
       1. **1 John 1:1** – not all had witnessed the incarnate Word, but they had.
       2. **2 Corinthians 5:16** – He is not known according to the flesh any longer.
    2. But as Jehovah’s glory was not visibly displayed in full to Moses, but declared in word, so it is of the manifestation of the glory of the Father through the Word become flesh – **1 John 1:1-4** – while we have not experienced Him with our physical senses, we have Him manifested through faith in the word of God (**cf. Romans 10:17**).
       1. As Jesus noted to Thomas – **John 20:29**
       2. John continued – **John 20:30-31** (what is referred to in 1 John 1)
    3. We receive spiritual life, and experience a relationship with God through Jesus, i.e. the knowledge of Jesus in His word – **2 Peter 1:2-4**
    4. God and Christ dwell in us (i.e. have fellowship with us) as we adhere to Christ’s word – **John 14:20-21, 23-24**
       1. Such will be consummated in eternal glory – **John 17:20-26** – it is through Jesus that we are made one with the Father and are able to behold His glory in the end.

**Conclusion**

1. It has been God’s will to manifest Himself to man so that the two can sustain an eternal relationship.
2. Sin has been the thorn in that relationship, and God has devised an eternal plan as a remedy.
3. It was the tabernacle as a symbol which allowed God to manifest Himself to sinful man, and dwell among them.
4. Jesus, the incarnate Word, was the fulfillment of that promise of full manifestation of God to His creatures, and the reconciliation of a broken relationship wherein God could once again dwell with, and in His chosen people in Christ.
5. It is through the word of Christ that we have life, and we must give heed to it. (**cf. Romans 1:16**)