

Setting the Stage

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John's Good News

Chapter 1, verses 1-18

How has God spoken most meaningfully to his people?

First, the Meaning already was. And Meaning was inseparable from God, who already was. And Meaning was this God who already was. Meaning is a Person, and He was inseparable from God from the first.

Everything was made through Meaning. Nothing in all creation was made without Meaning. In Meaning is where life is found. And the life in Him is the light in which we can see all things more clearly, meaningfully. That light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness can't contain it.

In the beginning of the story God spoke to light, and light existed because God spoke to it. That light by which we begin to understand comes from Meaning who has always existed, inseparable from God.

God spoke this world into being, and He spoke people into being in this world. But we ignored the Creator's voice. We shattered our relationship with Him and with His creations. We made war on ourselves.

God raised up ambassadors to call us back into peace with Him. For generations His ambassadors told us that the Prince of Peace was coming.

One day He sent an ambassador named John, a name that means *God is gracious*. John came to bring us news of the Light by which we can understand, so that through this light we can trust God. John was not the Light. The ambassador does not claim to be the King. The one who sees does not claim to be the light. The one who sees gives testimony of what he has seen. The ambassador speaks the message for which he has been sent. But John's message was true: the Light that gives understanding was coming into the world.

Then, He, Meaning in Person, was in the world. It was through Him that the world was made, and yet the world did not know Him. He came to those who belong to Him, but those who belong to Him did not welcome Him. And yet, everyone who did welcome Him, those who trusted in His authentic character, received His affirmation: He called them God's true children. They were His children—not because of their physical birth, not because they came up with the idea on their own, and not because someone else pronounced them to be God's children--but because God birthed them into His family.

So the Meaning who created flesh-and-blood people became a flesh-and-blood Person and lived here with us, in time and space, in human history, in our down-to-earth

neighborhood. We have seen the glory of the only One who has come directly from the Life-Giver who birthed us, the only One whose likeness to the eternal Father is vivid. We have seen His glory in the grace and truth that were present in everything He said and did.

John gave public testimony about Him. He said, "The One I was always talking about? Here He is. He has come after me, but He was before me. He has been the Leader all along." From the overflow of His life we all have received gifts of grace and more grace.

Through a man named Moses God had given us instructions on how to live. But the instructions could not give us life itself. They could not introduce us to Truth in Person. Grace and Truth came to us in the Person of Savior Jesus.

We never could see God. On our own we could never fix Him in our sights, could never get a handle on Him. We are dependent on the only God who is inseparable from the eternal Father to make true God known to us. That is what this story is about.

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