

The Word became flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^a it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵[John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, 'This is the one I spoke about when I said, "He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me."'] ¹⁶Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but the one and only

^a 5 Or *understood*

Son, who is himself God and^b is in the closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

John the Baptist denies being the Messiah

¹⁹Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders^c in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, 'I am not the Messiah.'

²¹They asked him, 'Then who are you? Are you Elijah?'

He said, 'I am not.'

'Are you the Prophet?'

He answered, 'No.'

²²Finally they said, 'Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'

²³John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Make straight the way for the Lord."' ^d

²⁴Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵questioned him, 'Why then do you baptise if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?'

²⁶'I baptise with^e water,' John replied, 'but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.'

²⁸This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

John testifies about Jesus

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

³⁰This is the one I meant when I said, "A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me." ³¹I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptising with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.'

³²Then John gave this testimony: 'I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³And I myself did not

b 18 Some manuscripts *but the only Son, who*

c 19 The Greek term traditionally translated *the Jews* (*hoi Ioudaioi*) refers here and elsewhere in John's Gospel to those Jewish leaders who opposed Jesus; also in 5:10, 15, 16; 7:1, 11, 13; 9:22; 18:14, 28, 36; 19:7, 12, 31, 38; 20:19.

d 23 Isaiah 40:3

e 26 Or *in*; also in verses 31 and 33 (twice)

know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water told me, “The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.” ³⁴I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.’^f

John’s disciples follow Jesus

³⁵The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God!’

³⁷When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸Turning round, Jesus saw them following and asked, ‘What do you want?’

They said, ‘Rabbi’ (which means ‘Teacher’), ‘where are you staying?’

³⁹‘Come,’ he replied, ‘and you will see.’

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (that is, the Christ). ⁴²And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas’ (which, when translated, is Peter^g).

Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, ‘Follow me.’

⁴⁴Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and told him, ‘We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’

⁴⁶‘Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?’ Nathanael asked.

‘Come and see,’ said Philip.

f 34 See Isaiah 42:1; many manuscripts *is the Son of God*.

g 42 *Cephas* (Aramaic) and *Peter* (Greek) both mean *rock*.

⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, 'Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.'

⁴⁸'How do you know me?' Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, 'I saw you while you were still under the fig-tree before Philip called you.'

⁴⁹Then Nathanael declared, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.'

⁵⁰Jesus said, 'You believe^h because I told you I saw you under the fig-tree. You will see greater things than that.' ⁵¹He then added, 'Very truly I tell you,ⁱ youⁱ will see "heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on"^j the Son of Man.'

Jesus changes water into wine

2 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.'

⁴'Woman,^a why do you involve me?' Jesus replied. 'My hour has not yet come.'

⁵His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

⁶Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from eighty to a hundred and twenty litres.

⁷Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water'; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸Then he told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.'

They did so, ⁹and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰and said, 'Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.'

¹¹What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the

h 50 Or *Do you believe . . . ?* i 51 The Greek is plural. j 51 Genesis 28:12

a 4 The Greek for *Woman* does not denote any disrespect.

signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

¹²After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

Jesus clears the temple courts

¹³When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶To those who sold doves he said, 'Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!' ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it is written: 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'^b

¹⁸The Jews then responded to him, 'What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?'

¹⁹Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.'

²⁰They replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?' ²¹But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

²³Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name.^c

²⁴But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. ²⁵He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

b 17 Psalm 69:9 c 23 Or in him

Jesus teaches Nicodemus

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.’

³Jesus replied, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.’^a

⁴‘How can someone be born when they are old?’ Nicodemus asked. ‘Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!’

⁵Jesus answered, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^b gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, “You^c must be born again.” ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.’^d

⁹‘How can this be?’ Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰‘You are Israel’s teacher,’ said Jesus, ‘and do you not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man.^e ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,^f ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.’^g

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name

a 3 The Greek for *again* also means *from above*; also in verse 7. b 6 Or *but spirit*

c 7 The Greek is plural. d 8 The Greek for *Spirit* is the same as that for *wind*.

e 13 Some manuscripts *Man, who is in heaven* f 14 The Greek for *lifted up* also means *exalted*. g 15 Some interpreters end the quotation with verse 21.

of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

John testifies again about Jesus

²²After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptised. ²³Now John also was baptising at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptised. ²⁴(This was before John was put in prison.) ²⁵An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. ²⁶They came to John and said to him, 'Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan – the one you testified about – look, he is baptising, and everyone is going to him.'

²⁷To this John replied, 'A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves can testify that I said, "I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him." ²⁹The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰He must become greater; I must become less.'^h

³¹The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. ³²He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. ³³Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. ³⁴For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for Godⁱ gives the Spirit without limit. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. ³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

^h 30 Some interpreters end the quotation with verse 36.

ⁱ 34 Greek *he*