

SS-Q4-L3–The Backstory: The Prologue

October 12-18, 2024

Adult
Sabbath School Lesson
Meat in Due Season
Oct Nov Dec 2024

Themes in the
GOSPEL of JOHN
4th Quarter



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Lesson 3 for October 19, 2024

Sabbath Afternoon–October 12, 2024

Scripture Reading for the Week:

[John 1:1-5](#); [Genesis 1:1](#); [John 1:9-13](#); [John 3:16-21](#); [John 9:35-41](#); [Matthew 7:21-23](#); [John 17:1-5](#).

Thought for Meditation:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehendeth it not. . . . And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth." These ringing words come sounding down the line to our time. They are full of assurance; for John meant every word that he uttered. Inspired by God, these words possess a power that

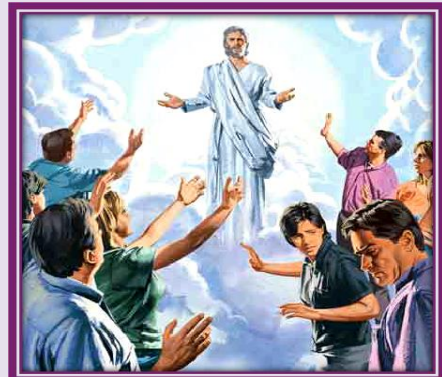
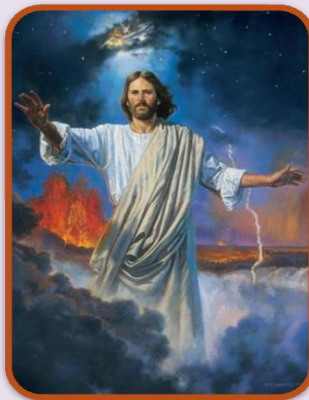
none can estimate who does not believe in Christ as his personal Saviour. They have a deep meaning, and a broad compass, and are eternal truth to all who believe them. {ST, June 17, 1897 par. 1}

John is calling the attention of the world to Christ as the life and light of men. Life and light, possessed by no other being that has ever breathed, are found in Christ. A human being lives, but his is a given life, a life that will be quenched. {ST, June 17, 1897 par. 2} *The Signs of the Times*

Memory Verse

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).

This week's SS Lesson will look at the Book of John's major objective on how He considers Jesus as the Son of God. This includes the everlasting power that creates everything, His WORDS!



Outline of the Study

Sunday - October 13, 2024

In the Beginning - The Divine Logos

[John 1:1-5](#); [John 1:18](#).

Monday - October 14, 2024

The Word Made Flesh

[John 1:1-3](#); [John 1:14](#); [Exodus 25:8](#).

Tuesday - October 15, 2024

Hearing or Not Hearing the Word

[John 1:9-13](#); [John 20:31](#); [Romans 9:1-11:36](#).

Wednesday - October 16, 2024

Reappearing Themes - Belief and Unbelief

[John 3:16-21](#); [John 9:35-41](#); [John 12:36-46](#); [James 2:19](#);

[Matthew 7:21-23](#).

Thursday - October 17, 2024

Reappearing Themes - Glory

[John 17:1-5](#); [John 2:4](#); [John 7:30](#); [John 8:20](#); [John 12:23-27](#);

[John 13:1](#); [John 16:32](#); [John 17:1](#).

Friday - October 18, 2024

Insights and Further Study

From the Pen of Inspiration

Points to Ponder Upon

Sunday - October 13, 2024
In the Beginning - The Divine Logos (His Divinity)
[John 1:1-5](#); [John 1:18](#).

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1)



Christ, the Word, the Only Begotten of God—One with the Father—in nature, in character, and, in purpose

The Sovereign of the universe was not alone in His work of beneficence. He had an associate—a coworker who could appreciate His purposes, and could share His joy in giving happiness to created beings. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” . . . Christ, the Word, the only begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father—one in nature, in character, in purpose—the only being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God. . . . {CTr 7.4}

The Father wrought by His Son in the creation of all heavenly beings. “By him were all things created . . . whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.” . . . The Son, the anointed of God, the “express image of his person,” “the brightness of his glory,” “upholding all things by the word of his power,” holds supremacy over them all. . . . {CTr 7.5} *Christ Triumphant, 1999*

Christ Met Satan with the Word of God - It is Written

The Lord Jesus came into our world and was tempted by the same enemy. He passed over the ground where Adam fell, but He was steadfast. He resisted the devil, and in behalf of the human race was Conqueror. The universe of heaven triumphed. Satan came to Christ with his specious temptations to induce Him to question the plans and law of God, and to

make Him occupy an independent position; but the tempter was foiled. Christ would enter into no controversy with Satan. He met the enemy of God with the Word of God—"It is written." **{CTr 22.5}** *Christ Triumphant, 1999*

Christ as Creator made the Sabbath as a token of His Love and Power

All things were created by the Son of God. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. . . . All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made." **John 1:1-3**. And since the Sabbath is a memorial of the work of creation, it is a token of the love and power of Christ. **{DA 281.3}**

The Sabbath calls our thoughts to nature, and brings us into communion with the Creator. In the song of the bird, the sighing of the trees, and the music of the sea, we still may hear His voice who talked with Adam in Eden in the cool of the day. And as we behold His power in nature we find comfort, for the word that created all things is that which speaks life to the soul. He "who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." **2 Corinthians 4:6**. **{DA 281.4}** *The Desire of Ages, 1898*

Consider the Following

❖ John begins by declaring four fundamental truths about the Word, Jesus (**Jn. 1:1-3**):

- His preexistence ("in the beginning")
- His intimacy with the Father ("was with God")
- His divinity ("he was God")
- His creative power ("all things were made through him")

❖ The apparent contradiction between these two statements is evident. Was he *WITH* God or *WAS* he God?

❖ Let us analyze the Greek text grammatically:

- "The verb was with τὸν "θεόν (the God)": The article "the" defines a concrete entity, a person called "God." Jesus was with God the Father.
- "θεόν (God) was the Word": Lacking a definite article, it refers to a concept. It declares the divine nature of Jesus. He is God. Likewise, it is said that "he became σαρξ (flesh)" (**Jn. 1:14**), without a definite article, declaring his human nature. He is man.

Monday - October 14, 2024

The Word Made Flesh - The Humanity of Jesus

[John 1:1-3](#); [John 1:14](#); [Exodus 25:8](#).

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1:14)



Christ Clothed His Divinity with Humanity that we May be Partaker of His Divine Nature

Jesus left the glory of heaven, laid aside his royal robes, and clothed his divinity with humanity, that he might uplift fallen man, and make him a partaker of the divine nature. The heart of Infinite Love was touched with the sorrows of man. As Jesus looked upon the lost race, his heart was stirred with pity, for he saw them bound in cruel captivity to the prince of evil. Jesus freely devoted all his power and majesty to the cause of fallen humanity, that a plan might be worked out that would make the salvation of man possible, and bring the ruined race back to allegiance to God. **{ST, May 18, 1891 par. 1}**

The Only way to Reach Humanity is through Incarnation.

This was the only way in which he could reach humanity. Jesus enters into humanity, that through his power and grace humanity may become partaker of the divine nature. "Ye are laborers together with God." Man must cooperate with Jesus Christ, and through earnest endeavor work out his own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God that worketh in us to will and to do of his good pleasure. Man works out what God works in, not by means of finite endeavor, but by the strength imparted through the divine nature. Those who are building up a Christlike character, will not, cannot, withhold their interest from the work of aiding Christ in seeking and saving that which is lost. **{ST, January 1, 1894 par. 4}** *The Signs of the Times*

Through the Agency of the Holy Spirit Man Becomes Partaker of His Divine Nature

The connection of the branch with the vine, Christ said to His disciples, represents the relation you are to sustain to Me. The scion is grafted into the living vine, and fibre by fibre, vein by vein, it grows into the vine-stock. The life of the vine becomes the life of the branch. So the soul, dead in trespasses and sins, receives life through connection with Christ. By faith in Him as a personal Saviour the union is formed. The sinner unites his weakness to Christ's strength, his emptiness to Christ's fulness, his frailty to Christ's enduring might. Then he has the mind of Christ. The humanity of Christ has touched our humanity, and our humanity has touched Divinity. Thus, through the agency of the Holy Spirit, man becomes a partaker of the divine nature. He is accepted in the Beloved. {ST, September 7, 1904 par. 3}

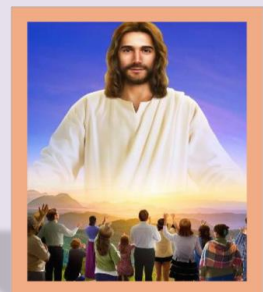
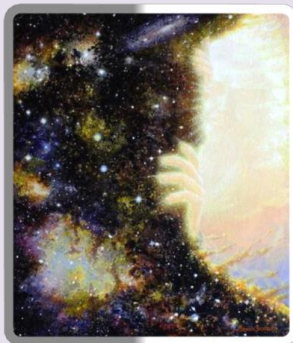
Consider the Following

- ❖ Another Greek word we must keep in mind is the one John uses to refer to Jesus in his prologue: *λογος*. Its translation is: "Word." Jesus is the Word. What word?
- ❖ The opening sentence itself brings to mind the first words of Genesis: "In the beginning God created" (**Gen. 1:1**). And how did God create? With the word (**Gen. 1:3, 6, ...**)
- ❖ The New Testament repeatedly affirms that Jesus is the creator of all that exists. He is the Word who gave form and existence to the entire universe (**John 1:3; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2**).
- ❖ In the Old Testament, the Creator expressed His desire to dwell among us (**Ex. 25:8**). Now, the Creator does so in physical form. He "dwelt" among us (literally, "pitched his tent" among us).
- ❖ Almighty God left Heaven and became a powerless creature. Why? Because he loved these powerless creatures (us) so much that he wanted to free us from sin and give us a future at his side.

Tuesday - October 15, 2024
Hearing or Not Hearing the Word-The Acceptance
or Rejection of Jesus 1

[John 1:9-13](#); [John 20:31](#); [Romans 9:1-11:36](#).

"He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:11-12)



They Need to Hear the Word of God Teaching them Line upon Line.

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. **{Romans 10:16, 17}**

Teach them line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little. Bear in mind that your children belong to God, and are to become His sons and daughters. He designs that the families on earth shall be samples of the family in heaven. **{AUCR, September 6, 1909 par. 6}** *Australian Union Conference Record.*

The Faith in Christ's Name -Sons of Adam Become the Sons of God

Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." What a value this places upon man. Through transgression, the sons of men became subjects of Satan. Through the infinite sacrifice of Christ, and faith in his name, the sons of Adam become the sons of God. By assuming human nature, Christ elevates humanity. Fallen men are granted another trial, and are placed where, through connection with Christ, they may educate, improve, and

elevate themselves, so that they may indeed become worthy of the name, sons of God. **{PH100 41.2}** *Pamphlets - Testimony for the Physicians and Helpers of the Sanitarium, 1879.*

God Supplies the Vacuum and Abide in the Heart

The soul hunger will be satisfied when our hearts are emptied of pride, vanity, and selfishness; for faith will then appropriate the promises of God, and Christ will supply the vacuum, and abide in the heart. There will be a new song in the mouth, for the word will be fulfilled, "A new heart also will I give you." The testimony of the believer will be: "Of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace. . . . No man hath seen God at any time; the only-begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." **{ST, August 29, 1895 par. 5}** *The Signs of the Times*

Consider the following

- ❖ In the beginning, the world was surrounded by physical darkness (**Gen. 1:2**). Then, God—through His Word—physically illuminated the world, separating the light from the darkness (**Gen. 1:3-4**).
- ❖ Now, God himself, in the person of Jesus (the Word), came to a world surrounded by spiritual darkness, to illuminate it with his light (**Jn. 1:4-5**).
- ❖ But the world He created did not recognize Him, nor did it want to be enlightened by Him (**Jn. 1:9-11**).
- ❖ The good news is that to all who received Him, and to all of us who believe in Him today, He gives us a beautiful gift: to become sons and daughters of God (**Jn. 1:12**).
- ❖ In the Gospel of John, the division of humanity into two large groups is evident: those who accept and those who reject Jesus.

Our belief in Christ is not to be a casual belief, but a belief that enters into every part of the life. Such a belief leads us to ask for his help because we realize that he is our only dependence. A casual belief admits that he is the Redeemer, but does not honor him by receiving him as a friend, a helper. Those who have such a belief work at a great disadvantage; for they do not take Christ into their confidence. **{RH, May 5, 1904 par. 17}** *The Review and Herald*

Wednesday - October 15, 2024

**Reappearing Themes-Belief and Unbelief-The Acceptance
or Rejection of Jesus 2**

[John 3:16-21](#); [John 9:35-41](#); [John 12:36-46](#); [James 2:19](#);
[Matthew 7:21-23](#).

*"Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But 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 3:20-21)*



Purify the Soul through a Belief in the Truth.

There is in error and unbelief that which bewilders and bewitches the mind. To question and doubt and cherish unbelief in order to excuse ourselves in stepping aside from the straight path is a far easier matter than to purify the soul through a belief of the truth, and obedience thereto. But when better influences lead one to desire to return, he finds himself entangled in such a network of Satan, like a fly in a spider's web, that it seems a hopeless task to him, and he seldom recovers himself from the snare laid for him by the wily foe. **{1SM 46.1}** *Selected Messages Book 1, 1958*

The Spirit of Belief and Unbelief in the Last Days

There is in our world a spirit of belief and also a spirit of unbelief. In the latter days some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We expect that those who refuse to harmonize with Christ will develop into a warring element; but we should not think that this will do us harm. We must remember that they that are for us are more than

they that can be against us. This is my hope and strength and power. I believe in God. I know in whom I believe. I believe the messages that God has given to His remnant church. From childhood I have had many, many experiences that have strengthened my faith in the work that God has given me to do. **{3SM 37.3}** *Selected Messages Book 3, 1980*

No Earthly Ties and Consideration Hinders the Cause and Work of God

But if the contracting parties are agreed in religious belief and practise, and everything is consistent, and the ceremony be conducted without display and extravagance, marriage at this time need not be displeasing to God. "But this I say, brethren, the time is short; it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; and they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; and they that use this world, as not abusing it; for the fashion of this world passeth away."--**Review and Herald, No. 39, 1888. {PH048 26.2}**

The Lord requires a loyalty so supreme and undivided that the most sacred relationship is to be subordinate to it.--**Unpub. Test. PH048 26.3}**

Luke 14:20: And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. **{PH048 27.1}**

The pleadings of affection and love, the yearnings of friendship, will not move you to turn aside from truth and duty; you will not sacrifice duty to inclination.--**Test., Vol. III, p. 44. {PH048 27.2}**

No earthly ties, no earthly considerations, should weigh one moment in the scale against duty to the cause and work of God.--**Test., Vol. III, p. 500. {PH048 27.3}** *Pamphlets, Living by Principle, 1898*

Consider the following

— Those who accept:

- (1) They are not condemned (**Jn. 3:18a**)
- (2) They come to the light (**Jn. 3:21a**)
- (3) Their works are done in God (**Jn. 3:21b**)
- (4) They receive sight (**Jn. 9:39b**)
- (5) They become children of light and are not in darkness (**Jn. 12:36a, 46**)

— Those who reject

- (1) They are condemned (**Jn. 3:18b**)
- (2) They do not come to the light (**Jn. 3:20a**)
- (3) They do not want their works to be rebuked (**Jn. 3:20b**)
- (4) They are blinded (**Jn. 9:39c**)
- (5) They will be judged for their rejection (**Jn. 12:48**)

Thursday - October 17, 2024

Reappearing Themes - The Glory of Jesus

[John 17:1-5](#); [John 2:4](#); [John 7:30](#); [John 8:20](#); [John 12:23-27](#); [John 13:1](#); [John 16:32](#); [John 17:1](#).

"We beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14b)



Changed from Glory to glory, by the Spirit of the Lord

The work of God would go deeper than it now does, and the soul would be changed into the likeness of Christ. "It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing." "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed in the same image from glory to glory, even by the Spirit of the Lord." "For as much as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart. . . . The letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life. But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: how shall not the ministration of the Spirit be rather glorious? . . . Now the Lord is that Spirit. And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." "Wherefore also we pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power; that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God, and the Lord Jesus Christ." {ST, July 10, 1893 par. 6} *The Signs of the Times*



Obedience to His Word, Changes Into His Likeness- Enlightened by His Spirit



As we near the close of earth's history, Satan redoubles his efforts to cast his hellish shadow over us, in order that he may cause us to turn our eyes away from Christ. If he can prevent us from beholding Jesus, we shall be overcome; but we must not permit him to do this; for "we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." What is the glory of the Lord? Moses prayed, "I beseech thee, show me thy glory." And the Lord said, "I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy." "And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed. The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty." The glory of God is his character, and it is manifested to us in Christ. Therefore it is by beholding Christ, by contemplating his character, by learning his lessons, by obeying his words, that we become changed into his likeness. As we are enlightened by his Spirit, we see no virtue or merit in ourselves. We realize there is naught in us but deformity. But the glory of the Redeemer, manifested in his atoning sacrifice, in his justifying righteousness, in his fullness of grace, whereby we not only obtain pardon but receive sanctification, fills the whole soul with love and adoration, and in contemplating the goodness, mercy, and love of God, we become transformed in character. Jesus said, "The glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one." On him who receives Christ, the glory of the Lord has risen, the Sun of Righteousness has shined, and, rising from his low and worldly state, the believer reflects the light of Christ's glory. As he continually looks to Jesus and contemplates his beauty, he is more and more transformed into the child of light. **{SSW, July 1, 1894 par. 5}** *Sabbath-School Worker*

A Need to Die to Obtain the Kingdoms of this World from Satan

Satan exulted when Jesus left heaven, and left his power and glory there. He thought that the Son of God was placed in his power. The temptation took so easily with the holy pair in Eden, that he hoped he could with his

satanic cunning and power overthrow even the Son of God, and thereby save his life and kingdom. If he could tempt Jesus to depart from the will of his Father, then his object would be gained. Jesus bid Satan get behind him. He was to bow only to his Father. The time was to come when Jesus should redeem the possessions of Satan by his own life, and, after a season, all in heaven and earth should submit to him. Satan claimed the kingdoms of earth as his, and he insinuated to Jesus that all his sufferings might be saved. He need not die to obtain the kingdoms of this world. But he might have the entire possessions of earth, and the glory of reigning over them, if he would worship him. Jesus was steadfast. He chose his life of suffering, his dreadful death, and, in the way appointed by his Father, to become a lawful heir to the kingdoms of earth, and have them given into his hands as an everlasting possession. Satan also will be given into his hands to be destroyed by death, never more to annoy Jesus, or the saints in glory. {1SG 34.1} *Spiritual Gifts, Volume 1, 1858*

Consider the following

❖ What is the glory of Jesus?

— First, the glory (honor) that He enjoyed with the Father before becoming incarnate, and which He recovered after His ascension (**John 17:5**).

— Secondly, the glory of becoming a human being. A glory that was not appreciated at the time by men, but was seen with admiration by Heaven (**John 1:14**).

— Third, the glory of the cross. On the cross, Jesus achieved his ultimate glory, for he demonstrated beyond a doubt the love of God for all his creatures (**John 12:23-24**).

❖ On the cross, Jesus was glorified by the Father, and the Father was glorified by Jesus (**John 17:1**). All of Divinity participated in the supreme sacrifice made for man (**John 3:16**)

In the last days, He will establish His Kingdom, the Kingdom of Glory!

Visit the site:

[Meat In Due Season - 6. The Establishment of the Kingdom of Glory \(google.com\)](http://www.google.com)

Friday - October 18, 2024

Insights and Further Study

The Word has made the statement "I am the Lord that do sanctify you" if you observe the Sabbath. This is the only true sanctification in the Scriptures--that which comes from God because of obedience to His commandments. Then we may know that the little companies assembled together to worship the Lord on the day which He has blessed and made holy, have a right to claim the rich blessings of Jehovah. He who has declared that His words are spirit and life, should have their faith in strong exercise, that the Lord Jesus is an honored guest in their assemblies.-- **Letter 8, 1898, pp. 2, 3. (To Sister Josephine Gotzian, February 11, 1898.) {5MR 121.3}**

From the Pen of Inspiration

"But while God's Word speaks of the humanity of Christ when upon this earth, it also speaks decidedly regarding His pre-existence. The Word existed as a divine being, even as the eternal Son of God, in union and oneness with His Father. [...]

The Lord Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, existed from eternity, a distinct person, yet one with the Father. He was the surpassing glory of heaven. He was the commander of the heavenly intelligences, and the adoring homage of the angels was received by Him. [...]

There are light and glory in the truth that Christ was one with the Father before the foundation of the world was laid." **EGW (Selected Messages, Book 1, pg. 247-248)**

Questions to Ponder upon

1. What are the major themes presented in this lesson?
2. Why is it so important to understand the WORD as logos? What does it signify?
3. How should we deal with people who don't believe in Jesus' deity?
4. How does the truth comfort us, when we face trials and sufferings?

5. How does the truth about Jesus' dual nature change our perspective as sons and daughters of God?
 6. What are the different consequences of belief and disbelief that will affect latter-day people?
 7. Based upon the statement above {5MR 121.3}, what does it mean, "His words are spirit and life" Is it referring to the changes brought about by studying the scripture?
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Disclaimer

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Glory be to the Lord Jesus Christ, Our Coming King of kings!