

# THE LOGOS MADE FLESH

## DECEMBER 23, 2018

### INTRODUCTION:

Is it possible to tell the Christmas story without mentioning a stable, star, manger, Joseph, Mary, shepherds, Wise Men, or angels? If so, how would it read?

**JOHN 1:1-14** John's account tells it without all the features provided by Matthew and Luke.

### THE MOTIVATION – JOHN 20:29-31

John wrote his gospel to prove that Jesus (humanity), is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God (Deity), so that Jews and Gentiles would believe (faith), and have life (salvation), through His name (authority). He was motivated to present Jesus as God to all people groups, so all would be saved.

### THE EXPLANATION – JOHN 1:1-3

Why does John say the logos and not God, Christ or Jesus? Because logos is filled with meaning for Jews and Greeks. Logos is the lens through which his gospel must be read.

1. Greeks or Gentiles: Logos is about a principle, not a person.
  - A. Heraclitus (560 BC) Greek philosopher who first used logos as a fixed principle in a changing world. Logos was his expression of God.
  - B. Stoicism. A philosophy heavily influenced by Heraclitus and Socrates. Logos is the active reason pervading and activating the universe. It ordered and controlled the world.
2. The Jews. Logos refers to Yahweh.
  - A. Philo, a first century Jew, related logos to Yahweh. When logos is used in the Old Testament it refers to the actions of God in creation, revelation and deliverance.
  - B. By using logos, John was revealing the deity of Jesus to both Jew and Gentile.
3. Jesus' claims.
  - A. **JOHN 8:56-59** – Was and "I am" are different. Was means Abraham was brought into being. "I am" means Jesus always existed, and His existence can't be measured by time. He always was, is and always will be. By quoting **EXODUS 3:14**, He identified Himself as the God of the Jews.

**B. JOHN 10:30-38** – Jesus made His identity clear.

**C. JOHN 14:7-11** – He said He's the Father made visible.

4. Intelligent design. The theory that life, or the universe, cannot not have arisen by chance and was designed and created by some intelligent entity.

**A.** Albert Einstein. "Of course there is a god, of course there is a power behind this, but we could never know it. This is cosmic force, cosmic intelligence, cosmic order, certainly not to be identified as the God of the Bible because if you're going to make it into the God of the Bible in a way that it's revealed in the Bible, then we not only have a creator, we have a judge and an executioner for those who reject Him."

- To the Greek mind, the logos was the most powerful force in the universe. The source of creative power, wisdom, knowledge and intelligence.
- To the Jew, the logos is Yahweh speaking to His people through the Torah.
- To John, the logos is God, and Jesus is the logos made flesh, who entered the world He created in order to save it. **John 3:16-17**

### **THE APPLICATION – JOHN 1:10-14**

**V10** – The logos set aside the glory of His existence to enter earth as a man subject to the flesh, but His world didn't know Him.

**V11** – Almost a century passed and John marvels that His own people still didn't receive Him as their Messiah.

**V12** – Becoming a child of God is the greatest privilege afforded anyone on earth.

**V13** – The New Birth is a work of God, not man. It's not by natural birth, being a descendent of Abraham, or by keeping the law. It's by believing in Christ's finished work.

**V14** – The logos tabernacled among us, and we beheld (involves careful scrutiny and observation) His glory. This involves more than the transfiguration.

### **CONCLUSION: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:15**

Christmas is about more than angels, shepherds and wise men. It's about the logos who preexisted, coexisted and self-existed with God as God, robing Himself in flesh, entering our world, revealing the Father to us

**(JOHN 1:17-18 AMPC)**, dying for our sins, and making Sonship possible for whoever believes.