

In the Beginning ... the Word?

[In a broader context, I am writing about the holiness of God's Word as revealed in the Scripture that He has given us.]

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

With that statement as a launching pad, we could take off in a thousand different directions from here. Let's pause in Genesis and go over to the New Testament so that we can see for a few minutes where Christ might fit into this story. We (in a parallel passage (more or less) from the book of John) find these verses on Jesus :

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

Looking at the several verses following this, in a nutshell or less, we see that:

- 1) Jesus the Son was with God the Father at Creation (*He was with God in the beginning* (John 1:2).)
- 2) Jesus was involved in the Creation (*Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.* (John 1:3))

I used to wonder why John wasn't the first book of the New Testament. It seems the symmetry would have been nice. In my reading of the Gospels, I've found that Matthew, Mark, and Luke focus a little bit more on the events surrounding (and part of) Jesus' ministry, and John, while covering many of the events, focuses more on the God-side—the spiritual impact, perhaps. I used to think that John demonstrated good balance in writing about Jesus' humanity versus his "I AM" characteristics / nature / reality. But it's not really a balance. It's a fullness. John captures the fullness of Jesus' humanity and the fullness of Jesus' God-stated attributes (I'm thinking Trinity here, and I know you're laughing because the Trinity might be the last thing you'd use to try to simplify an explanation of something else. :-)

Jesus is the Word—the Logos, the picture of God, the picture of God the way he sees himself when he assumes form as a human. Logos is a postcard God sent us so we can see what he looks like without us having to avert our eyes or risk being blinded (or destroyed) because of his glory.

John 1:4-17 explains that Jesus is the life and the light; the world has not accepted or recognized Jesus; and to all who believe in his name, he gives the right to become children of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. (John 1:14)

We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only (or the Only Begotten) (John 1:15)

Think of God's glory being displayed in the burning bush that challenged Moses in his years in the desert after he had fled Egypt (Exodus 3); think of God's holiness being displayed in the healing of the sick (for 12 years) woman who knew if only she could touch the fringes of Jesus' robe, she would be healed (Matthew 9); think of God's glory and holiness being displayed in the transfiguration of Christ on a high mountain as he fellow-shipped with Moses and Elijah.

John 1:16 From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.

John 1:17-18 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only (or Only Begotten), who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

Does the Bible explicitly say that Jesus is God? Yes. You've just read it.
Jesus is fully God. And he is fully man.

"What Child Is This," an old favorite Christmas Carol, puts it like this:

*This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing*

This baby is **wholly vulnerable** to the point that shepherds are driven to protect him; he is **wholly worthy** in the worship offered to him by even the host of angels. Fully human, he is also fully God.

Paul succinctly explains to us what has happened and is happening:

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

*Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God
something to be grasped,
but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross!
(Philippians 2:5-8)*