

Hitchhiker's Guide to Everything

John 1:1-18,
and Genesis through Revelation

John 1:1–18 (ESV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. **15** (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) **16** For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

John 1:1-18

- John 1:1-5 Focus is on Jesus, the Word
- John 1:6-8 Focus shifts to John the Baptist
- John 1:9-14 Focus shifts back to Jesus
- John 1:15 Focus shifts back to John the Baptist
- John 1:16-18 Focus shifts back to Jesus

Parallelism – A very Hebrew/Jewish literary feature

- The Apostle John – the most Jewish of Gospel writers
- Parallelism in Hebrew poetry and stories
- Purpose of parallelism – Contrast, emphasize, expand upon
- Purpose of repetition

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

- What is the nature of a word?

- Unexpressed:

- Thoughts
 - Desires
 - Plans - purpose

- Expressed: (Words put into action...)

- Reveals our innermost being
 - Programming, 3d printing, Artificial Intelligence ...

John 1:2-3 ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

- The Word's fingerprint in nature
 - Physics and Chemistry – Mathematics is the language of science (Galileo)
 - Biology – DNA is the language of life

Romans 1:19-20 ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made...

John 1:1-3, 15 ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was **in the beginning** with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made... ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’ ”)

- Ex 3:14, NIV God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”
- YHVH (*Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh*)
 - “I Am That I Am,” “I Am Who I Am,” and “I Will Be What I Will Be.”
 - Self-existent, pre-existent
 - “He causes to be.”

(Sarna, N. M. (1991). Exodus (pp. 17–18). Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society)

John 1:2-3 ² He was **in the beginning** with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

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

- God said (spoke) and it was
- First six days are bracketed by “the heavens and the earth”
 - Gen 1:1 “God created **the heavens and the earth**”
 - Gen 2:1 “**the heavens and the earth** were finished”
 - God speaks and it is created
- Seventh day is set apart
 - God rests
 - He reigns
 - The Sabbath

Col 1:15-17 ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

- Holding all things together = He is ruling!

John 1:4-5 ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

- Gen 1:3-5 ³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.
⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.
- Gen 1:14-19 And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night...’
- Is John talking about the same light and darkness? What about life?

Gen 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Gen 2:4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

the heavens and the earth when they were created
the Lord God made the earth and the heavens

heavens

earth

created

made

earth

heavens

- Chiasm, full word correspondence, fully inversely parallelled
- Gen 1:1 matches Gen 2:4a
 - Introductory and summary statements for the Genesis 1 creation
 - Full parallelism – hinge – compare what precedes it with what follows
 - Gen 2:4c is the introductory statement for what follows

- Gen 1 – God speaks, it happens – The sovereignty of God
- Gen 2+ – God speaks, mankind ignores – Human free-will
 - Gen 2:16-17 ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”
- Rom 5:12, 18 ¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned. ... ¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

John 1:1–5

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Heb 12:2 [In our new life] looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Is this the end of the story? The end of Genesis 2+?

John 1:9–13 ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

- Acts 1:1 “all that Jesus began to do and teach”

How does Genesis 2+ end?

- Jesus rose from the dead and reigns with the Father
- Eph 2:4-6 ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...

John 1:14–18 ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth... ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Rev 22:17 The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.