

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**JOHN 1****John 1**

John, the beloved disciple, was the last of the Apostles. He outlived all the other Apostles and was undoubtedly the youngest of all. He was given care of Mary, the mother of Jesus, at the crucifixion just before the Lord died. John took Mary with him in his travels and ministry as though she were his earthly mother. John was the pastor of the great church at Ephesus, the epicenter of Christianity at the close of the first century. Mary would have died while living with John at Ephesus. Her grave is located there today. John ended his ministry on an island in the Aegean Sea called Patmos, and he was there for his witness of Jesus, the Messiah.

John one does not start with an earthly lineage or the visit of the Magi as Matthew does. He does not begin with Mark at the beginning of the ministry of Jesus at His baptism. Luke begins with the story of the forerunner of Messiah, or His earthly birth. John begins in eternity past before the creation of the universe. He begins by identifying the God who made everything. This he identifies as the Word. Space would fail to begin to explain how this term spoke of Divinity both to the Jew and the Greek; however, we must at least identify the Word as the very God of creation as follows in verse three. The phrase **"The Word was with God, and the Word was God"** speaks of both the intimate relationship with the Father and equal status with the Father of heaven and earth and all creation anywhere and at any time.

After a short digression to speak of **"the voice crying in the wilderness,"** John the Baptist, because John the Baptist plays a pivotal role in the early ministry of Jesus. The Apostle John immediately begins to talk about the Word's relationship to His creation and His people in relation to redemption. **"He came unto His own and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him., to them He gave the right to become the children of God, to those who believe in His name."** (John 1:11-12)

Notice the progression of John's message about who Jesus is in this introduction of Him to the Greco-Roman Audience.

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

And the Word became 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. (John 1:14)

No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. (John 1:18)

John 1:1 identifies the Word as God, Co-equal, the very God of eternity. In John 1:14, the Word is said to have become incarnate, become flesh, became a man. This Word was called the **"Mono-Genes of the Father."** **Monogenes** is translated in our English Bibles as **"only begotten."** **"Mono"** is the word for **one**, as in **only**. The word **"Genes"** is brought over directly into English, **"Gene."** This term has to do with what we call **DNA**. What John said very plainly is that Jesus is God, He is co-equal with God the Father, He is eternal, same essence, and literally is face-to-face with Him. In the ancient world, this term spoke of the equality of essence and relationship.

The term **only begotten** is not usually explained due primarily to ignorance of the language in which the New Testament was written, Koine Greek, the world trade language of the first century. This Word is identified as God coming to earth as a man, the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. He was both God and Man, fully God, fully man. John goes on to say that no man has ever seen God. This is true because, in John four, Jesus declared that **"God is Spirit."** No man has seen God, but the "Monogenes" has come to **"explain Him."** The word for explain or declare in the Greek word, **"exegete,"** as Jesus is the very explanation of who God is.

Prayer and Action Steps

Jesus is God walking, God talking, God healing, the very presence of God on earth. The best word to translate Monogenes is the word "unique." Unique has no qualifiers. It stands alone. No adjective or other modifier is needed. It stands alone. Jesus is God's one-of-a-kind Son. Thank You, Father, for sending Your unique Son to die for our sins. Amen