

Foundations For Your Faith - Lesson 15 NIV
The Person and Work of Christ John 1:1-14

Read John 1:1-14 carefully, several times, and then answer the following questions from the verses as noted.

Vs. 1 What is “the beginning”? What began?

Vs. 2 Who is the One called “The Word”? Prove your answer.

Did “the Word” come into being at the beginning? Why or why not?

Vs. 3 Who created all things? See also Col. 1:14-18 & Heb. 1:2-3

Vs. 4-5 Explain “the Light” in these verses. What was “the light” in Gen. 1:3?

Vs. 9 The Light was _____ into the world

Vs. 10 The Light was _____ the world

The Light was _____ by the world

Vs. 11 The Light was _____ by the world

Vs. 12-13 What does it mean to “receive Him”?

Believers are born of _____. List the 3 things mentioned do not produce this new birth.

1

2

3

Vs. 14 When did the Word become flesh?

Who had the conversation recorded in Heb. 10:5-7? (See also Psalm 40:6-8)

When did this conversation take place?

Quiz on Lesson 15 NIV
Foundations for Your Faith John 1:1-14 (Christology)

1. **What 3 things began in Genesis 1:1?**
Beginning _____
Heavens _____
Earth _____

2. **What two terms refer to Christ in John 1:1 & 8**

3. **The word “incarnation” means _____**

4. **Fill in key chapter & verse for the following.....**
Inspiration:
The Word is alive:
Confession of sin:
God’s sovereign plan:
Chapter on foreknowledge, predestination, calling, justification, glorification:

5. **Matching**
_____ To determine the end of the elect a. Mercy
_____ Getting what we don’t deserve b. Foreknowledge
_____ Not getting what we do deserve c. Predestination
_____ To enter into a predetermined,
covenant relationship d. Grace

5 key chapters on the deity of Christ

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Teacher's Guide - Foundations For Your Faith - Lesson 15 NIV The Person and Work of Christ John 1:1-14

Read John 1:1-14 carefully, several times, and then answer the following questions from the verses as noted.

Vs. 1 What is "the beginning"?

- When was the *beginning?
- Which verse is earlier, Gen. 1 or John 1?
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The John 1 "in the beginning" the Word already was; it existed previous to time.

The Word already existed when creation took place.

The Genesis 1 "in the beginning" records the beginning of creation

John 1:1 takes us to the One who was there already before the beginning of Gen. 1:1

- The beginning obviously is the beginning of anything that began; that is, that came into being, that had a point of origin and did not exist before that point of origin. We can only talk about "time" or "age" when we have fixed points to measure; a beginning and an end. God is eternal; outside of time; before time – no origin, no beginning.

- Gk word for "beginning; to come into being is *ginomai* – to come into being...to begin to be...to become

There is a contrast between the Greek words *ginomai* and *eimi* throughout John 1

Ginomai = to become, to come into being, to begin to be, to become to be,

It emphasizes origin, not just existence

Eimi = to be, to exist (*it does not refer to origin, but to existence*)

God never began; He is eternal; He is the $\alpha\mu\theta$ δ He is not the $\alpha\mu\theta$ came to be+

What began?

- **Creation of time, space & matter.**

Whenever any thing came into being, it could be dated; measured in relation to time. We have a beginning. Created things have a beginning; a point of origin. God cannot be measured, since He has no origin, no beginning.

Time began concurrently, of necessity, with the origin of created things

God created the heavens – "space". nothing existed in the heavens initially . just space

God created the earth – "matter" . physical substance . the unformed chaotic earth

Space, time, and matter δ .. the earth began in its chaotic form and darkness was upon it.

God created space into which He would fling the stars and planets on the fourth day.

2 Cor. 4:3-6 - uses creation as an illustration of salvation.

Genesis = *ginomai* (the beginning of things)

John 1:1-2 = *eimi* *The Word was...* John 1:3 = *ginomai* *All things came into being*

Vs. 2 Who is the One called "The Word"? Prove your answer. (see verse 14)
Where in Gen. 1 do you first see the "Word"? Gen. 1:3 (And **God said**.....)
Jesus is the Word, He is the expression, He is the communication of the Father.
Word (logos) = the fullness of all wisdom and knowledge in the entire universe.
The Word was with the Father, the Word was Divine, the Word was made flesh

Did "the Word" come into being at the beginning? Why or why not? NO.
It does not say "in the beginning the Word began" it says, "in the beginning the Word was....."
Two Greek words in John 1:1-14
eimi = to be; to exist
ginomai = to become; come into existence, to become to be, to begin to be

Did Jesus come into being as God? No. He is *eternally God*, never began to be
Did His human nature have an origin? Yes. He became *flesh* .

***He was not always a man, His humanity came into being as the God-man.
This is the greatest of all miracles!***

The incarnation is the greatest miracle of all.
When He made Himself flesh, He became a man forever.
He joined Himself to our humanity for eternity.
He did not just become a man for a little while; but when He chose to become one of us,
He chose to do so throughout all the ages of eternity to come. He will always be a man.
This was necessary to save us from our sins. Eternal identification! *the man, Christ Jesus!*+ I Tim. 2:5

Vs. 3 Who created all things? See also Col. 1:14-18 & Heb. 1:2-3
Christ! "All things were made by (through) Him.....
And nothing that came into being came into being apart from Him!

***Col. 1 & John 1 - all things were made by Him.
Col. 1:16 - all things were created by Him and for Him.
Christ is Creator and Heir!***

Vs. 4-5 Explain "the Light". What was the light in Gen. 1:3?
How do these verses compare with Genesis 1:3?
Christ is the source of both spiritual and physical life and light
Here John declares that Christ is the "life" and the "life" was the light of men.
Light dispels the darkness; (See also John 3:16-20)
Darkness may resist, but the light will dispel it and cast it off.
In Genesis darkness was upon the earth;
When the light appeared it dispelled the darkness. Day & Night.

***What is the light in Gen. 1:3 This is the light that was from the beginning
(Christ) The glory of Christ shining upon the earth***

In 1:14-19; these are the lights that were used to divide the night from the day; signs,
seasons, and for days and years . ***but not until day four*** . on day 1 it was Christ.

- See 2 Cor. 4:4-8

What was John the Baptist's job?

He was sent as a witness to the Light; sent for the people's benefit to be an additional witness to the truth of Jesus. His goal was that all men might come to trust in Jesus Christ. See John 3:30 ..

- Vs. 9 The Light was coming into the world
- Vs. 10 The Light was in the world
- The Light was unrecognized by the world
- Vs. 11 The Light was rejected by the world

Vs. 12-13 What does it mean to “receive Him”?

To make their very own.....to embrace, to personally take unto one's self

Receiving and believing are not two separate things.

vs. 12 . **to receive is to believe on His name** . it is defined by the second phrase

To believe **on His name** is like sitting **on a chair**;

moving myself over unto something else to support me . *to rely, to depend fully upon*

They did not believe *about* the name, they believed *on* the name.

Resting on the name.

The Name is identification of the person – to believe on the Name is to believe in the bearer of that name

Believers are born of GOD . List the 3 things mentioned do not produce this new birth.

1 natural descent . human ancestry; decendency, genealogy, family; race . not your lineage

2 human decision - human decisions based on natural drives or desires; a desire that arose within you and your own corrupt nature - **nothing in man at all**; nothing that existed within the sinful natureõ *left to our own nature we always reject God's truth*. We will never receive+ Christ if left to ourselves . we must experience a new birthõ a birth from God (born of God)

3 a husband's will - Not of the desire of the male . men may decide to produce offspring and force their will on a woman . but there is no ability within man to create this spiritual birth . this is the work of God from beginning to end! We are both impotent and opposed to this new birth. God does a miracle when He saves a soul!

- ***It was a work of the Grace of God; a work of God....born of God!***
- ***I experience the birth, but I do not originate or initiate the birth.***

Do I believe and then as a result of my faith am born again, or am I born again and as a result of my new birth I believe?

- ***Which is the cause and which is the effect? The New Birth is the cause; faith is the effect! We believe; we who were born of God!***

Vs. 14 When did the Word become flesh?

When Mary conceived through the work of the Holy Spirit. He became visible flesh at His birth. But He became the God-man at His conception.

**Who had the conversation recorded in Heb. 10:5-7? (See also Psalm 40:6-8)
Christ and His Father – The Pre-incarnate Son of God and God the Father**

When did this conversation take place?

When He was coming into the world, being conceived....

The conscious deity of Christ at His conception.

Heō .existing eternally with the Father in heavenō was now being sent down here into the womb of Mary.

When He was in the act of coming into the world,

“**when**”... at the moment that the Father said, as it wereō paraphrasedō

"Son it is time for you now to take up residence in the womb,"he saidō

at that moment, as He stood to leave heaven... at that very moment,

when He comes into the world, at that moment He said, (he is looking down from heaven and he sees the Holy Spirit ready now to create in the womb of Mary, a body, and he says to the Father, "All the sacrifices that have been made over the centuries have never accomplished redemption and have never brought you pleasure, because they can never take away sins and restore your peopleō and you have prepared a body and I come to do your will.+

And he took up residence in the womb of Mary. Now this tells us that as God becoming flesh, he was conscious of who he was even as he was coming into the womb of Mary. As the God-man, at twelve years of age, he said, "don't you know that I must be about my Father's business." He knew Who he was. He always knew who he was.

Some ask: When did he come to the recognition that he was the Son of God and that he had a special mission? Did he know it when he was being baptized or did he just think it

was the right thing to do. John the Baptist knewō .. Christ knew! %You have prepared a body for me so I come to do your will, O God.+ He always knew who he was.

This is an actual conversation that took place between the Father and the Son before the incarnation; Christ in His deity, about to take on humanity.

- **Think of the glory of the Son of God...the humility.....the sacrifice...the willingness to come, suffer and die.....the willingness to join Himself to our humanity for eternity...to become one of us forever and ever and ever.....wonder of wonders.....so Awesome, so Great, so Holy, so yielded, so willing, so humble,,,,,,,"I pour contempt on all my pride....!"**

- **Check out some of the hymns of the church on this theme...**

I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene and wonder how He could love meō \ And can it be that I should gainō ò

Hail the Heaven born Prince of Peace..Mild He lays His glory byō .

Hypostatic Union

This is the union of the two natures (Divine and human) in the person of Jesus. Jesus is God in flesh (John 1:1,14; Colossians 2:9; John 8:58; 10:30-34; Hebrews 1:8). **He is fully God and fully man (Colossians 2:9); thus, He has two natures: God and man. These natures are not compromised or mixed. These two natures are distinct yet joined; unmixed yet possessed by only one person. He is not half-God and half-man. He is 100% God and 100% sinless man. He never lost his divinity.**¹ He continued to exist as God when He became man and added a human nature to His divine nature. See word "nature" or "form" (KJV) in **Philippians 2:5-11. Same word describing both essences – God and human. Therefore, there is a "union in one person of a full, sinless, human nature and a full divine nature."**² Right now in heaven there is a God-man, Jesus, who is our Mediator; between us and God the Father, the man Christ Jesus.+(1 Timothy 2:5).

(For related information on Jesus and His two natures; See [Incarnation](#), and the errors concerning His natures known as [Eutychianism](#), [Monophysitism](#), and [Nestorianism](#).)

Jesus as God	Jesus as Man
He is worshiped (Matthew 2:2,11; 14:33).	He worshiped the Father (John 17).
He is prayed to (Acts 7:59).	He prayed to the Father (John 17:1).
He is sinless (1 Peter 2:22; Hebrews 4:15).	He was tempted (Matthew 4:1).
He knows all things (John 21:17).	He grew in wisdom (Luke 2:52).
He gives eternal life (John 10:28).	He died (Romans 5:8).
All the fullness of deity dwells in Him (Colossians 2:9).	He has a body of flesh and bones (Luke 24:39).

1. Divinity means the quality of being God. Jesus was always God. There are people within the Christian church who are teaching that after Jesus died on the cross, He lost His divinity and suffered in hell at the hands of Satan for three days and nights. This is absolutely wrong. See, *A Different Gospel* by D. R. McConnell, Peabody Mass., Hendrickson Publishers, 1988 and **Christianity in Crisis**, by **Hank Hannegraff**. Harvest House Publishers, 1993. (Also ó Foundations lesson 23 for further study on this subject) 2. B. Milne, *Know the Truth* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1982, p. 145.