

## WHEN GOD BECAME A MAN: THE PROLOGUE TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

### INTRODUCTION

John does not begin his Gospel by talking about the birth of Christ or His genealogy. Instead, he starts out by discussing His deity because He wants to let you know that Jesus was more than just a sweet little baby in a manger that we celebrate at Christmas time. He is the Lord of Heaven and earth. In order to explain that, there are “4 Ways that John Presents Jesus to Us in the Prologue of this Book.”

#### **1. John Presents Jesus to Us as God (verses 1-3).**

Not Godly or Godlike. Jesus Christ is God Himself. To the point everything you could say about Yahweh, you could say about Him. Verse 1 says “In the beginning... [He] was with God” in eternity past. Verse 3 says, “All things came into being through Him” because He created them.

(Discussion Question: Why does John use the term “Word” here to describe Jesus’ deity? What significance did that term have on the audience who first heard it and what does it have to do with our salvation today?)

#### **2. John Presents Jesus to Us as the Life and Light (verses 4-13).**

Not lively or lifelike. Jesus Christ is the life itself. To the point that Jesus does not have to go somewhere outside of Himself to get life. He already has it in His person and can give it to us when we believe in Him. Verses 4-5 says, “In Him was life and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not [overpower] it.”

(Discussion Question: What does it mean to say that the darkness did not [overpower] Jesus? How has this been displayed throughout history? How does that encourage you today?)

### **3. John Presents Jesus to Us as a Man (verses 14-16).**

Not a ghost or a phantom. Verse 14 says, “And the Word became flesh” which means that Jesus took on human flesh and joined the human race. To the point that He did everything we do yet He was without sin. For example, He slept, He breathed, He ate, He drank, He walked, He talked, He grew, He was tempted, He was tried, and even went to the cross in order to give us grace.

(Discussion Question: What does Jesus’ humanity have to do with our salvation? What would have happened if He never “became flesh?”)

### **4. John Presents Jesus to Us as the One Who Supersedes the Law (verses 17-18).**

Not because the Law is bad. On the contrary, the Law is good but Jesus came to give us something better. Verse 17 says, “For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.”

(Discussion Question: How were the Jews forgiven under the Law? How are we forgiven today? How does that distinction help to explain what John is saying in verse 17?)